

**EDITORIAL**  
STEWARDS OF GRACE

**PERSPECTIVE**  
AUTHENTIC STEWARDSHIP

**JUST FOR KIDS**  
GIVING IS FUN

# gleaner

NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS IN ACTION



ENTRUSTED

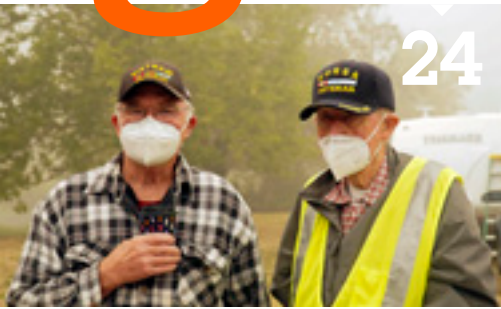
# Gifts



NOV/DEC  
2020  
VOL. 115, N° 6



The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying:  
"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I  
have drawn you with unfailing kindness."  
Jeremiah 31:3



24



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JOHN FREEDMAN

**gleaner**

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**Gleaner STAFF**  
**Editor:** Jay Wintermeyer  
**Digital Editor:** Anthony White  
**Managing Editor:** Desiree Lockwood  
**Copy Editor:** Laurel Rogers  
**Design:** GUILDHOUSE Group

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*“Washed Ashore,”  
 in Columbia River  
 Gorge, Oregon,  
 by Scott Knight,  
 of Battle Ground,  
 Washington.*



# *Stewards of Grace*

JOHN FREEDMAN  
*North Pacific Union president*

**I WAS READING** John 20 recently. Some scholars say the church's mission first appears here when Jesus gave Mary Magdalene the first commission after His resurrection. Three things stood out to me this time, three things that have become uncomfortably familiar to us during 2020. I

noticed the familiar themes of sorrow and tears, fear and closed doors, and finally doubt and unbelief.

Early in the morning on the third day, Mary Magdalene was weeping in the garden outside an empty tomb (John 20:1-18).

Jesus met her there, spoke to her and sent her to tell the disciples

He was  
alive.

Jesus  
was  
about

to be

enthroned as the  
Lord of the world,

but the disciples

were, at that time,

hiding behind closed

doors, afraid for their

lives.

That same evening, the disciples were still hiding behind closed doors (John 20:19-23). They were naturally afraid those who put Jesus to death would soon be looking for them. In spite of the locked door, Jesus went to them. He stood with them, shared a meal and gave them a commission: "As the father



has sent me, so I'm sending you." Hope was restored in the disciples.

The next week the disciples were in the same room and still behind closed doors. Thomas, who was not there the first time Jesus appeared to the disciples, was filled with doubt, telling the others he would not believe Jesus was resurrected from the tomb unless he saw Jesus with his own eyes (John 20:24-29). Jesus revealed Himself again and invited Thomas to touch His scars and wounds. The scars and wounds proved Jesus' identity, and Thomas moved from unbelief and doubt to a confidence and belief in Christ.

Sorrow and tears, fear and closed doors, and doubt and unbelief seem to go together, then and now. These three things sum up so much of what we are experiencing in America today. With more than 225,000 coronavirus deaths in the United States alone, sorrow and tears are plentiful. We are also living behind closed doors, fearful of crowds, not knowing who might be carrying a very infectious and deadly virus. Our country has been in various degrees of lockdown—closed businesses and orders to stay home—that has created economic and personal financial fears. Finally, there is unbelief that this is actually happening and a nagging doubt. People are

asking, "What is this all about and when will it all be over? What does faith and hope look like now? Where is God in a pandemic?"

I'm encouraged by how Jesus met His disciples in that upper room. He commissioned His tearful, fearful and doubting disciples to minister to the world. "As the father has sent me, so I'm sending you." Jesus came into the world to save it by revealing the truth about God. He came to heal the sick, to give bread to the hungry, sight to the blind and life to the dead. As Jesus revealed God's love to the world, we are called to reveal Jesus' love to the world, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in.

The disciples preached the truth about God, but what really got people's attention was how they lived out that truth. When faced with a plague, the pagan families and communities would abandon the sick out of fear of dying from the disease. However, the early Christians would work together to care for and nurse back to health, if possible, the sick and dying. Many lost their own lives. Yet, they mostly remained cheerful in the face of these challenges. People noticed the self-sacrifice and wondered why these Christians were so different from themselves.

Christians were the ones who built hospitals,

orphanages and hospices, as well as educational institutions. They have gone out from locked doors and faced the fear—visiting the prisoners, caring for the wounded, welcoming strangers, feeding the hungry, and nursing the sick. In the Black Death and bubonic plague, in war and peace, and in the slums of the city, Christians have worked hard in the name of Jesus. Clergy and laity have ministered side by side, at considerable and often fatal risk to themselves. They bring hope to a hopeless world.

What should our response be to the sorrow and tears, fear and closed doors, and doubt and unbelief we see all around us today? The mission of the North Pacific Union is to share the distinct, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness in the Pacific Northwest and

Adventist Church, we have gone forth to care for the sick and dying, the widows and orphans, the hungry and thirsty, the poor and distressed—despite the circumstances and sometimes with great risk. We have built hospitals, orphanages and elder care facilities. Following Jesus' example, we have been called to meet the needs of people and then point them to Jesus, who alone can meet their deepest needs.

People in the Northwest need hope in 2020. If you are asking how to be involved, rest assured the Holy Spirit will guide and direct you into a ministry, if you only ask. I'm encouraged to hear of hundreds of examples of Northwest Adventists actively involved in caring for the needs of those affected by COVID-19, as well as by wildfires, floods and social unrest.

## WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE TO THE SORROW AND TEARS, FEAR AND CLOSED DOORS, AND DOUBT AND UNBELIEF WE SEE ALL AROUND US TODAY?

the world. Jesus' message to us is, "As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you."

God is inviting us to be stewards of His grace. Stewards share what they have received. They do not hide behind closed doors out of fear. Since the foundation of the Seventh-day

We are invited and commissioned to be the hands and feet and face of Jesus. Are you making a difference as a steward of God's grace today?



ENTRUSTED

# Gifts

JAY WINTERMEYER

LOLA AND ROBERT LAY IN BED, FAR APART. IT WAS THEIR 10TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AND THEY WEREN'T TALKING TO EACH OTHER. THE PREDICAMENT WAS INEVITABLE, GIVEN THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THEIR MARRIAGE.

They married in California and moved to Oklahoma for graduate school three weeks after the ceremony. There was a small Adventist congregation in the university town where they settled. The members welcomed them with open hearts and immediately involved them in the nominated them to church offices.

Up to this point, the couple had attended very large congregations where they simply attended services each Sabbath. Having several jobs in a very small church was novel.

Every year, the little church would ask Robert and Lola to hold two or three positions. They conducted Wednesday evening prayer meeting for several years. They served on the church board and as elder, deaconess, communication secretary and personal ministries secretary. They were even church janitors for a year.

For a time, Lola served as adult Sabbath school superintendent, while Robert taught the adult lesson. One day, the members who had kept the children's divisions going for years needed a break, and so Robert and Lola took on a new role. Lola taught primary, and Robert managed the juniors. They often took the children on Sabbath afternoon outings, making them happy and giving their parents a true Sabbath rest.

The couple was happy and yet incredibly busy – writing dissertations, working full-time jobs, working for their church. In spite of having little free time, their foray into children's Sabbath School whet their appetite for working with kids. They became Pathfinder leaders, which led directly to the situation on their 10th anniversary.

They had worked with the Pathfinders all year and came to the beginning of summer. Both Robert and Lola had completed their graduate work and were anticipating a move to Kentucky for new jobs. However, the Pathfinder kids reminded them they had promised them a campout before they left the state.

Robert and Lola scoured their calendars to find a free weekend for the camping trip in the little time they had left before the move. Finally, they found a weekend.

# ENTRUSTED Gifts



So, on the night of their milestone anniversary, they lay in bed, far apart, not even speaking to each other – Robert in the boys' tent and Lola in the girls' tent.<sup>1</sup>

Does their dedication seem a bit extreme? Are we called to give of ourselves to the point of camping during milestone events in our lives? Are we asked to give past the point of hurting ourselves? The answer isn't always clear cut, but it seems to come down to our motivation.

Stewardship is the conducting, supervising or managing of something, especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. It's the idea that everything I have is from God and I will treat those resources with respect.

Robert and Lola are a living example of this important biblical principle. They practiced stewardship with their time and how they worked with others, living out what Jesus talked about in Matthew 25. He says, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40, NIV).

In this passage, Jesus is inviting us to be caretakers of His people, His creation and all the gifts He has entrusted to each of us. We live in a culture where the world around us distracts from the God who holds it together. But God has given us the freedom to choose how we will manage all He's given us.



## STEWARDING MY TIME



I WAS RECENTLY AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF A COUSIN. HE WAS VERY CLOSE TO ME IN AGE, WITH TWO CHILDREN. LIFE FOR THAT FAMILY CHANGED IN AN INSTANT. IT IS DEEPLY SOBERING TO REALIZE HOW QUICKLY THIS TEMPORARY LIFE CAN COME TO AN END.

I've repeatedly heard the clichés "time is precious" and "time is money." The truth hidden in those sayings is that time is a commodity, a limited resource I have been given. My cousin's death was a stark reminder that each day is a gift.

Even as I write this, I recognize time is probably one of my weakest areas as a steward. At the end of my life, will my time have simply passed, or will I have used the time to make much of God and love His people? How am I using those hours in which God has kept me alive?

This summer, I've spent a lot of time thinking about the dreams and plans God has given me. I asked myself what it would take to bring those to fruition and then set a specific plan for prioritizing what He has kindled in me, to be proactive in obeying His calling in my life. I'm doing my best (and asking for His help all along the way) to make good use of the time He's given me.

If you're like me it's easy to get caught in the details of life. It's easy to stay busy and not stop and take the needed time to evaluate and plan. I encourage you, if God has sparked an idea in you, to make it happen. Don't let another month or year go by without acting on what He's ignited in you.

## PRINCIPLES of STEWARDSHIP

- » All we have belongs to God. Our blessings are gifts from God, our generous Creator.
- » We are lifelong stewards of the gifts God gives us.
- » God invites us to practice stewardship in ways that glorify Him and strengthen His earthly kingdom.





## STEWARDING MY HEALTH



NOT LONG AGO I WAS GETTING READY FOR WORK. I WENT TO THE CLOSET TO GRAB MY FAVORITE SHIRT AND DISCOVERED AN ALARMING FACT. I HAD ONLY THREE DRESS SHIRTS THAT FIT. I WISH I COULD TELL YOU THE OTHERS HAD SIMPLY WORN OUT. SADLY, I HAD OUTGROWN THEM, AND NOT IN THE BEST SENSE OF THE WORD.

In that moment, I came to the harsh realization that I have work to do if I am going to take care of the body God has given me. Over time, this realization has grown into a conviction. I need to be a good steward of my body (1 Cor. 6:20).

Subsequently, I've worked hard toward a healthy weight by exercising consistently, eating right and drinking enough water every day. Only when I am healthy can I pick up my ever-growing grandson, work the ground in my garden or help an elderly neighbor with a yard project.

Learning to take care of my body has not been easy – it has been a long journey and a lot of hard work, and maintaining it sometimes feels like the hardest part. But it is worth it because the body God has given me is a gift, and I believe He has work for me to do with it.

- » Our stewardship decisions reveal the relative importance of God in our lives.
- » Stewardship greatly impacts the depth of our relationship with God and the quality of our relationships with others.
- » As good stewards, we have the opportunity to use our gifts of

time, talents and treasure in places that best further God's kingdom.

- » The practice of stewardship changes hearts and strengthens relationships with God. Stewardship is a tie that binds us to God.



## STEWARDING MY LIFE



IN MATT. 5:13-16, JESUS TALKS ABOUT BEING SALT AND LIGHT IN THE WORLD. EUGENE PETERSON PARAPHRASES VERSE 16 THIS WAY IN *THE MESSAGE* TRANSLATION: "KEEP OPEN HOUSE; BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR LIVES."

The concept of being open and generous is one I've seen yield rewards through the years. I have many friends who are teachers. Sometimes they get a class difficult to connect with. A few years ago, a friend took on a class like this. It was one of the more difficult teaching assignments of her career. The students simply couldn't get along. Additionally they had made up their minds not to like their new teacher.

My friend spent considerable amounts of time praying for those quarrelsome students. In addition, she was generous with the amount of time she invested in each student. During recess and lunch, my friend would talk individually with different students. The job description didn't require that effort, but she chose to be generous with those kids.

At the end of the year, students were in tears because they were moving on to a new classroom and had grown to deeply love my friend. They knew my friend cared for them and wanted them to succeed in all areas of life.

My teacher friend doesn't even really remember all she said to the students in the course of that year. However, one thing stands out with clarity: Investing in those children and caring about the details of their life made an eternal difference. To this day, the students text or call and chat with my friend. A deep bond was formed because my friend chose to use her life as an instrument of grace toward an angry bunch of kids. When we live out His generosity, we bear God's image and allow others to see Him more clearly.



## STEWARDING MY RESOURCES



SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I MOVED TO MICHIGAN FOR WORK. LIVING FAR FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS WAS DEEPLY CHALLENGING. FOLLOWING VISITS HOME, I WOULD SIT IN THE AIRPORT WAITING TO BOARD MY PLANE BACK TO THE MIDWEST AND CRY.

A dear couple back home in Washington took it upon themselves to send me care packages. Jerry and Carol loved me, and it showed. I still remember the joy of opening boxes they had lovingly filled with thoughtful things I would enjoy reading or that would brighten my home.

Once when I thanked them for their loving generosity, they said, "Oh, it's not ours. God has blessed us, and we are thankful we can do this."

This happened years ago, and I still think about their kindness. How easy it is for us to hoard our possessions in the name of "taking care of them." How ungenerous I have been with things like my car, my home or my computer.

After the conversation with Jerry and Carol, I began reframing my thinking and asking myself how I could use what I have to bless God's children—and thus bless Him. I remember when I bought my first home, I thought about my home with the same mindset. It was a gift from Him, and I wanted to use the home to bless those God brought my way.

That attitude of stewardship allowed me to use that little house to bless a lot of people through the years. I was just talking with a friend who was a regular visitor for Tuesday taco nights. We reminisced how we grew and learned as we shared time together. God was richly blessing me as I was blessing others.



## ENTRUSTED GIFTS FROM HIM



MY LITTLE GRANDSON TURNED 2 JUST A FEW SHORT DAYS AGO. LIKE MOST 2-YEAR-OLDS, I'M SURE THE PHRASE "MINE!" WILL LIKELY APPEAR IN HIS VOCABULARY BEFORE LONG.

I wonder where we learn to pick up this need to stake our claim on our toys and possessions. Even as an adult I realize I have the tendency to do the same. I believe this desire to cling to and hold on to what we have is an innate sin marker in all of us. It just doesn't match up with the character of God I find in the Bible.

What does Scripture have to say about this? Prevalent as a theme in Scripture, stewardship seems to be the resounding answer to that topic.

The psalmist reminds us, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). All my "possessions" aren't really mine to begin with—they are on loan to me from a gracious God who gives me more than I could ever deserve.

Remember the parable of the bags of gold? Jesus tells His disciples a story in Matthew 25: Before a man goes away on a journey, he gives one servant five bags of gold, another servant two bags and yet another servant just

With the end of the year approaching, prayerfully consider how you can use your resources to support your local church, school and conference. Donations may be made any time via [AdventistGiving.org](http://AdventistGiving.org).



# ENTRUSTED Gifts

SEVEN SIMPLE WAYS  
TO GIVE

one bag. The first two men use what was given to them to make something more, while the third servant hides away his one bag of gold.

When the master returns, the first two show the master all they earned during his absence. They'd used their time and resources well; they had been good stewards of the gold given them. But the third servant has only the original bag of gold to offer back. He had been stingy and ungenerous; he'd protected his resources instead of using them.

Let me be clear. God's pleasure is not based on how much we can produce or earn. No amount of good works can earn God's approval (Eph. 2:8-9). But this parable leads us to ask important questions. If everything we have is a gift, how can we use what we've been given to further the announcement of God's kingdom? How can we value all He's given us by making much of Him?

As we approach the end of a disturbing and volatile year, I hope and pray we will continue to recognize God as the Gift-Giver and endeavor, with great anticipation and pleasure, to make much of Him by employing the many resources He's granted us.

<sup>1</sup> ADAPTED FROM THE OUT OF PRINT BOOK *OVER & OVER AGAIN, VOLUME ONE*. NWADVENT.ST/115-6-STEWARDSHIP

.....  
JAY WINTERMEYER  
Gleaner editor

# 1

Make someone laugh

# 2

Spend time with others

# 3

Volunteer

# 4

Be emotionally available

# 5

Perform acts of kindness

# 6

Compliment someone

# 7

Spend money on others: your church,  
your school, those in need, etc.

# CONNECT WITH NORTHWEST ADVENTISTS ONLINE

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**Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists** 2d · 🌐

The theme of the 6th annual prayer conference at Camp Ida-Haven is *The Time is Now!* Randy Maxwell is the keynote speaker. Early bird registration is now open through October 15. To find out more, visit [www.idahoadventist.org](http://www.idahoadventist.org). Space is limited. #PrayWithoutCeasing

**Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists** 1d · 🌐

**Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists** 1d · 🌐

207.5K total minutes viewed, 25 churches, 15 presentations. Thank you [John T. Boston II](#) for sharing "Your Story... Beyond the Pain" with our conference family. To ... [See More](#)

**Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists** Ad · 🌐

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**Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists** 2d · 🌐

**Gem State Adventist Academy Church** 3d · 🌐

We had a great time doing a few projects at Lake Lowell Animal Rescue today during our Jeans Sabbath activity.

**Walla Walla University** is at Walla Walla University. 6d · College Place, WA · 🌐

Chaplain Albert Handal on why we wear masks: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples—that you have love for one another." Together, we are safe and strong, WWU! Spread compassion. ... [See More](#)

How we treat other people is very, very important to us.

**Northwest Adventists**  
5d · 🌐

Bible verse of the day, Psalm 46:10  
#NWAAdventists #verseoftheday #Godsgood #Faith #Love

**BE STILL**  
*and know that I am God*  
Psalm 46:10

**Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
September 28 at 7:31 AM · 🌐

We invite you to register and participate of this free online Bible seminar. We trust it will be a blessing to you and your loved ones.  
[https://www.facebook.com/19068386628/posts/10157503892935629/?fb\\_e8extid=vYuArRZ3A4CkGcl&id=in](https://www.facebook.com/19068386628/posts/10157503892935629/?fb_e8extid=vYuArRZ3A4CkGcl&id=in)

ANDWERSINPROPHECY.COM  
**Register Today** [Learn More](#)

**It Is Written** 🌐  
September 24 at 9:13 AM · 🌐  
Discover what the Bible says about events taking place right now.

**Upper Columbia Conference**  
August 22 · 🌐

Today please join the whole Conference to pray for our kids, our teachers, our schools, our Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs and their staff. Join your conference family in prayer and seeking God's hand to move on behalf of our kids and those who serve them.  
Learn more at <https://www.uccida.org/unite-4-kids-on-august-22>

**UNITE 4 KIDS!**  
**AUGUST 22**  
**UCC DAY OF FASTING & PRAYER**  
**FOR OUR KIDS & THOSE WHO SERVE THEM**

**Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
1d · 🌐

21 people took a FREE class yesterday to learn how to manage disaster response warehouses that will be opening in Oregon! A repeated training class will be offered on Sunday, October 11. Sign up now at: <http://acswarehousegmt.eventbrite.com>

Warehouses are opening in response to the Oregon wildfires to receive donated good and make them available to community distribution sites. This training is open to any volunteer designed for those who will be serv... [See More](#)

**ADVENTIST DISASTER RESPONSE WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT CLASS**

**Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
1d · 🌐

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."  
1 Chronicles 16:11

**SEEK THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH**  
1 CHRONICLES 16:11

**Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
17h · 🌐

There's heavenly celebration at White Center Hispanic Burien! They "started" their new Adventurer Club year! May the children of the church continue to grow in the...  
as shared by Pastor Jim Leon  
[#washingtontacts](#)

**Northwest Adventists**  
4d · 🌐

Northwest Adventists Provide Support to Fire-hit Communities  
#NWAAdventists  
<http://mailchi.mp/nwadventists/20201001>

MAILCHIMP  
Northwest Adventists Provide Support to Fire-hit Communities

Sermons, music and more available at  
**GLEANERNOW.COM**



# Triple Spiced Gingersnaps

## INGREDIENTS:

2 tablespoons finely grated, peeled fresh ginger  
1 tablespoon finely chopped moist, pliable crystallized ginger  
1 teaspoon plus 1 cup (200 grams) sugar  
2 cups (272 grams) all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon ground cloves  
1 teaspoon ground ginger  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon fine sea salt  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  sticks (12 tablespoons; 6 ounces; 170 grams) unsalted butter, cut into chunks, at room temperature  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup (60 milliliters) unsulfured molasses  
1 large egg, lightly beaten, at room temperature  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
Sugar, for dredging

**FALL IS TURNING TOWARD WINTER ACROSS THE NORTHWEST. AS THE AIR COOLS, MY HEART TURNS TOWARD THE COZY COMFORTS OF HEARTH AND HOME. WHEN IT COMES TO HEARTWARMING TREATS, I OFTEN TURN TO A FAMILY FAVORITE, GINGERSNAP COOKIES.**

Gingersnaps embody the tastes and smells of the holiday season, but they are perfect for any fall or winter gathering. I enjoy the blend of cloves, ginger and cinnamon in this delicious cookie. These crunchy, spicy rounds with their sparkling sugary tops are frequently enjoyed in my family during November and December.



## INSTRUCTIONS:

- » Put the fresh ginger in a small bowl. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon over the ginger and let stand for about 10 minutes.
- » Whisk together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, ground ginger and salt.
- » Toss the butter into a food processor, add the remaining 1 cup (200 grams) sugar and the molasses and whirl until fully blended. Add the sugared fresh ginger and pulse to incorporate.
- » With the machine running, add the egg and vanilla, then continue to process until blended.
- » Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl, add the dry ingredients and pulse to incorporate the flour mixture; scrape the bowl as needed. When the flour is no longer visible, you're done.
- » Scrape the dough out onto a work surface, pull it together into a ball and wrap well in plastic.
- » Refrigerate for at least two hours.

## Getting Ready to Bake

- » Position the racks to divide the oven into thirds and preheat it to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Put some sugar into a small bowl.
- » Cut off a hunk of dough — leave the rest in the refrigerator until needed. Using a

small cookie scoop, scoop out level portions of dough or use a teaspoon to get rounded spoonfuls. Roll each between your palms to form a ball. One by one, drop the balls into the sugar bowl, roll them around to coat and then place at least 2 inches apart on the baking sheets — these cookies will spread, so don't press them.

- » Bake the cookies for 14 to 19 minutes, rotating the baking sheets top to bottom and front to back after 8 minutes. Baking time depends on whether you'd like the cookies mostly soft and

chewy (14–15 min.), slightly more chewy than crisp (16–17 min.) or chewy just at the center (18–19 min.).

- » Allow the cookies to cool for a minute or two on the baking sheets and then transfer them to cooling racks to cool completely (or not — these are awfully good still warm). The cookies firm as they cool.
- » Continue baking cookies, making certain your baking sheets are cool before using again.

## NOTES:

The dough can be refrigerated for up to two days or frozen, well wrapped, for up to two months. While these cookies keep very nicely for two to three days in a tightly covered container or zipper-lock bag, they are at their best the day they are made. The cookies can be frozen for up to two months.

## Let's eat!

Adapted from "Dorie's Cookies" by Dorie Greenspan.

JENNIFER WINTERMEYER  
NPUC food editor and columnist

OUR TABLE +





# Diseñados Para Dar: La Generosidad Aumenta Nuestra Felicidad

*“Pero esto digo: El que siembra escasamente también segará escasamente, y el que siembra generosamente, generosamente también segará.” 2 Cor. 9:6*

**¡ES LA ESTACIÓN ...! LAS EXHIBICIONES NAVIDEÑAS SALEN CADA AÑO MÁS Y MÁS TEMPRANO, EN LO QUE SOSPECHAMOS SER INTENTOS DE ESTIMULAR EL “ESPÍRITU DE DADIVOSIDAD” CADA VEZ MÁS TEMPRANO.**

¿Sabías que las personas que son generosas son más felices que sus contrapartes tacañas?

Nos emociona mucho cuando los estudios científicos confirman principios bíblicos. En este estudio, investigadores de la Universidad de Zúrich lograron ligar la generosidad con la felicidad. En este estudio, 50 voluntarios fueron divididos en dos grupos y se les dijo que se les daría una cantidad modesta de dinero. A un grupo se le dijo que gastaran el dinero en sí mismos y al otro grupo se le pidió que regalaran algo de su dinero a alguien que conocieran.

Mientras cada persona – en ambos grupos – estaba decidiendo cómo gastar el dinero, los investigadores midieron la actividad cerebral de cada una de las tres áreas del cerebro: un área donde se procesan el comportamiento pro social y la generosidad; otra área (en el estriado ventral), que está relacionada con la felicidad; y en la corteza frontal, donde se evalúan los costos/beneficios en los procesos de toma de decisiones. Después de realizar las mediciones, se pidió a los sujetos que calificaran su felicidad antes y después del experimento.

Los resultados mostraron que aquellas personas que fueron generosas en sus donaciones informaron ser más felices que antes de que comenzara el experimento.

Además, reportaron mayor felicidad que el grupo de control que tenía la intención de gastar el dinero en sí mismos.

Como se informó en *Science News*, Philippe Tobler dijo: “No necesitas convertirte en un mártir abnegado para sentirte más feliz. Sólo ser un poco más generoso será suficiente.” Si bien este estudio específico involucró dinero, como cristianos, sabemos que la mayordomía también implica el compartir nuestra energía física, nuestro tiempo, alimentos, artículos hecho a mano, y la plétora de recursos humanos, como lo son nuestras sonrisas, abrazos o aún nuestra presencia compasiva.

Algunos de nosotros crecimos escuchando la frase familiar “... Es más bendecido dar que recibir” (Hechos 20:35). Sin embargo, el dar generosamente es mucho más que un refrán religioso que lastimosamente es utilizada y abusada por organizaciones “religiosas” poco éticas. Afortunadamente, nuestro Creador altruista nos diseñó para disfrutar plenamente de los beneficios fisiológicos y psicológicos cuando elegimos vivir en obediencia al principio divino de la dadivosidad que Jesús ejemplificó tan hermosamente. ¡Dios se glorifica cuando gozamos de felicidad genuina!

Alabamos a Dios por la fidelidad y

generosidad de nuestro pueblo hispano y por las inmensurables horas de ministerio voluntario que muchos han ofrecido generosamente este año. La promesa dada, continúa desarrollándose “... Probadme ahora en esto, dice Jehová de los ejércitos, si no os abriré las ventanas de los cielos, y derramaré sobre vosotros bendición hasta que sobreabunde” (Malaquías 3:10).

CÉSAR DE LEÓN

*North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries*

CAROLANN DE LEÓN

*North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic and family ministries assistant director*





# Wired to Give: Generosity Increases Our Happiness

CHURCH

*“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Cor. 9:6, NKJ)*

**‘TIS THE SEASON. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DISPLAYS GO UP EARLIER EVERY YEAR IN WHAT WE SUSPECT MAY BE ATTEMPTS TO STIMULATE THE “SPIRIT OF GIVING” INCREASINGLY EARLY IN THE SEASON.**

As it turns out, holiday giving—or any other kind of giving—isn’t just a blessing for the recipients, but actually benefits the giver.

Did you know that people who are generous are happier than their stingier counterparts?

We get pretty excited when scientific studies confirm biblical principles. Researchers at the University of Zurich (Tobler et al.) connected generosity to living a happier life. In their study, 50 volunteers were divided into two groups and were told they would be given a modest amount of money. One group was told to spend the money on themselves, and the other group was asked to give a gift of some money to someone they knew.

As each person—in both groups—was deciding how to spend the money, the researchers measured each one’s brain activity in three areas: one area where prosocial behavior and generosity are processed; another area (in the ventral striatum), which is related to happiness; and in the orbitofrontal cortex, where cost/benefits are evaluated in the decision-making processes. After the measurements were made the subjects were asked to rate their happiness before and after the experiment.

The results showed that those people who were generous in their gifting reported being happier than before the

experiment began. Also, they reported greater happiness than the control group who intended to spend the money on themselves.

As reported in *Science News*, the lead researcher, Philippe Tobler, said, “You don’t need to become a self-sacrificing martyr to feel happier. Just being a little more generous will suffice.” While this specific study involved the giving of money, as Christian stewards, we understand that generous giving also involves giving of one’s time, life-force energy, food or other handmade items, and the plethora of human resources, like smiles, hugs or compassionate presence.

Some of us were raised hearing the familiar phrase “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35, NKJ). While it has taken science some time to discover that generous giving is much more than a religious platitude that is sadly, frequently misused and abused by less than ethical “religious” organizations, it would seem we were genetically wired by our altruistic Creator to enjoy tangible physiological as well as psychological benefits when we choose to live in obedience to the kingdom principle of “giving” that Jesus exemplified so beautifully.

We praise God for the faithfulness and generosity of our Hispanic constituency in their tithe and offerings as well as the immeasurable hours of volunteer ministry



so many have the generously offered this year. The promise given, continues to play out: “‘Try me now in this,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it’” (Mal. 3:10, NKJV).

It is our prayer that God will continue to receive extravagant glory as we commit to reflect heaven’s law of giving as we joyfully give, from grateful hearts ... our life energy, time, spiritual gifts and financial resources to building up the kingdom of God. Maranatha!

Tobler, Philippe, et al., “A Neural Link Between Generosity and Happiness,” *Nature Communications* (2017).

CÉSAR DE LEÓN

*North Pacific Union vice president for Hispanic ministries*

CAROLANN DE LEÓN

*North Pacific Union Conference Hispanic and family ministries assistant director*

# Alaska Adventists Reelect Leadership Team

**DELEGATES TO THE 18TH REGULAR ALASKA CONFERENCE  
CONSTITUENCY SESSION VOTED SUNDAY, SEPT. 20, TO REELECT  
CONFERENCE PRESIDENT KEVIN MILLER AND THE ENTIRE  
LEADERSHIP TEAM.**

JAY WINTERMEYER  
Gleaner editor



The Alaska Conference delegates overwhelmingly voted to reelect all three conference officers and their team of directors. Kevin Miller will continue as president, Melvin Santos as vice president for administration and Jim Jensen as vice president for finance. Following his reelection, Miller said, "This role is something I don't take lightly. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you."

During the session, held in Palmer, 168 delegates gathered in person and via video conference to conduct the business of the Adventist Church in Alaska. The body overwhelmingly voted to reelect all three conference officers and their team of directors.

The delegates, who traveled from all across the state, including some from the northernmost Adventist church in the world, received reports from the conference on the previous four years and plans for the future. They also spent time amending and updating the conference constitution and bylaws.

North Pacific Union Conference president John Freedman's devotional message to begin the session charged delegates with the sacred calling to prayerful service. Referencing the counsel to the Laodiceans in Revelation, Freedman said, "God needs a group people fully devoted to Him, on fire to serve in the midst of these trying times. You have been called to serve at this critical point in Earth's history."

Delegates voted a new conference executive committee and a new constitution and bylaws committee. These committees will serve and conduct conference business for the next four years.

## CONFERENCE OFFICERS 2020-2024

- » Kevin Miller, president
- » Melvin Santos, vice president of administration
- » Jim Jensen, vice president of finance

## DEPARTMENTAL

### DIRECTORS 2020-2024

- » Tobin Dodge, Arctic Mission Adventure/youth and young adult director
- » Steve Evenson, ministerial director
- » Brenda Johnson, communication director
- » Tandi Perkins, development director
- » Rod Rau, education director

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020-2024

### CONFERENCE OFFICERS

- » Kevin Miller, president
- » Melvin Santos, vice president of administration
- » Jim Jensen, vice president of finance

### CONFERENCE EMPLOYEES

- » Chad Angasan, pastor
- » Celesta Babb, pastor
- » Kallie McCutcheon, teacher
- » Ryan Rogers, pastor

### LAY MEMBERS

- » Mally Concepcion
- » Elford Joseph
- » David King
- » Danya Nicketa-Kiljoa
- » Tina Steenmeyer
- » Tiffany Tago
- » Ryan Woehler
- » Jessica Yun

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

### COMMITTEE 2020-2024

- » Melvin Santos
- » Kenn Albertsen
- » James Cazort
- » Jim Kincaid
- » Brenda Rau

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-AK-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-AK-1)

## ALASKA ORDAINS NEUFELDT



Lonatana and Loruama "Nama" Neufeldt appreciate those who gathered for their high Sabbath in September.

**MORE ONLINE AT**  
[NWADVENT.ST/115-6-AK-2](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-AK-2)

## AMAZING GRACE ACADEMY OPENS TO SERVE COMMUNITY

**Amazing Grace Academy's school board, after many hours of researching the pros and cons of reopening, developed a successful plan for in-person and distancing learning with the aim of keeping everyone safe from the coronavirus.**

The Palmer school created a strategy for blending the vital need of hands-on learning and being part of a fellowship with being prudent for the safety of students and families. The Department of Public Health said the school's sanitation and mitigation plan far exceeded that of other schools.

AGA has always been at the forefront of giving back to the community it serves, and this year was no exception. The academy continues to partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit

organization that builds beds for disadvantaged youth so they get a good night's sleep before school.

Amazing Grace Academy is the only senior academy in Alaska. To learn more and perhaps be a part of a mission for hearts and minds, visit [amazinggraceacademy.org](http://amazinggraceacademy.org).

TAMMY LESLIE  
*AGA administrative assistant*

**MORE ONLINE AT**  
[NWADVENT.ST/115-6-AK-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-AK-3)

## FAIRBANKS STUDENTS ENJOY OUTDOOR FUN

**Golden Heart Christian School welcomed 16 students to in-person learning on Aug. 17. The Fairbanks school has students ranging between first and seventh grade, half of whom are new to the school.**

Physical education is a favorite class at GHCS, especially the twice-yearly bike riding activity. Each fall and spring, students bring bikes and helmets to participate. Helen Norton, a retired GHCS teacher and now volunteer, agreed to lead the advanced group on trail rides.

Norton was surprised she could still out-bike everyone, even uphill. Becca, a fifth grade student, relished the wind on her face and passing by goats, while classmate Anika loved coasting down hills. The students gradually increased their distance to finish a 7-mile ride in 45 minutes.

Beginner riders practiced their bike riding skills in the empty school parking lot, most with training wheels. When the weather became too cold to ride comfortably, riding was paused until the new year, with GHCS students looking forward to the spring session.

JANE BADOR  
*GHCS teacher assistant*



**BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR**

<b>\$5,000 = CONNECTION</b> Send a ministry outreach to a village	<b>\$1,500 = RELATIONSHIP</b> Provide one month of AMA worker's living expenses
<b>\$500 = COMMUNITY</b> Purchase a VBS program and supplies; help local food banks; or Bible studies	<b>\$100 = HOPE</b> Place an audio Bible in an Arctic home; send a care package to a village family; provide a personal radio

Sign-up for monthly giving at  
[www.arcticmissionadventure.org](http://www.arcticmissionadventure.org)



CHURCH

• 2020 Vision Women's Retreat attendees met in person, complete with glasses and many masks.

# Idaho Women Enjoy COVID-Conscious Retreat

**“WE NEED TO DO THIS.” THAT’S WHAT THE IDAHO CONFERENCE WOMEN’S MINISTRIES TEAM DECIDED WHEN PLANNING THE 2020 WOMEN’S RETREAT AT CAMP IDA-HAVEN IN MCCALL.**



• Cheri Gatton, Idaho Conference women's ministries leader, was one of the weekend's speakers.

After six months of semi-quarantine and not-quite-the-same church activities, the conference ladies were restless. But how do you plan in the midst of such tentative circumstances?

Thankfully, state and local conference administrations were willing to let the conference planning team try if they limited the numbers to about 75% of the normal crowd and followed masking, distancing and cleaning protocols.

Almost every spot was filled a month before the retreat. Attendees came from all over Idaho, as well as from California, Utah, Washington and as far away as North Carolina. Unfortunately, some were not able to attend due to sickness or being exposed to others who had been COVID-positive. They were missed, and their carefulness was appreciated.

Why are retreats important? Well, it's certainly for fellowship and spiritual enrichment for church members. It is also an important opportunity for neighbors to bring friends. One non-Adventist lady

came with her neighbor to check out what these Adventists believed. She heard how much Jesus loves her, and she asked for Bible studies right after the event.

The conference speakers had not talked with each other about their topics. Yet each one built on the others and shared the same message, that God loves each of us and wants to have a relationship with each of us. The Holy Spirit was working.





More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-ID-1](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/115-6-ID-1) 

The retreat team worked to make it fun in spite of the requirement for face coverings. Sometimes one needs to deal with a serious situation with humor. On Saturday night, there was a PPE (personal protective equipment) fashion show. Perhaps the most covered of all was the retreat leader, Cheri Gattton, in a polar bear onesie with a motorcycle helmet and gloves.

Of course, there is always something to contend with when God's people are moving in faith, and the Oregon, Washington and Idaho fires provided plenty of smoke for the weekend. The attendees praise God that the retreat was a success and know God protected His girls through pandemic and fires to make it happen.

Retreat attendees learned that God sees and adores His girls ... beautiful and precious ... every day and in every place. Keep looking up because Jesus is coming soon.

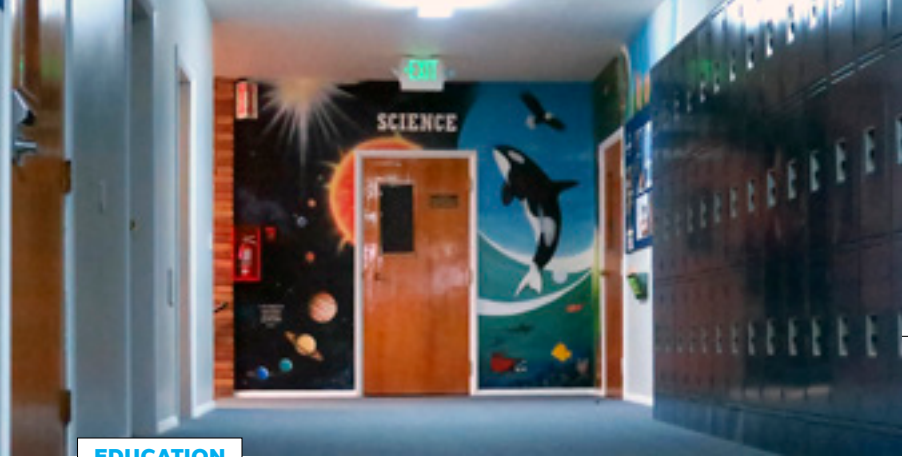
**CHERI GATTON**  
*Idaho Conference women's ministries director*



## PAYETTE CELEBRATES SIX BAPTISMS

Two of the local elders from the Payette Hispanic Church performed six baptisms on Sept. 12.

MORE ONLINE AT [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-ID-2](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/115-6-ID-2)



### EDUCATION

A large-scale panorama of the seven days of creation welcomes students and visitors of Gem State Adventist Academy, in Nampa, to the amazing world of God's natural sciences. The mural is located on the second floor of GSAA near the science department and depicts the epic theme in a smooth, gradual movement. It invites viewers to witness creation, explore each day and feel the magnificence and the glory of God's work.

## NEW MURAL CELEBRATES CREATION AT GEM STATE ADVENTIST ACADEMY

**TATYANA WAHLMAN**  
*GSAA correspondent*

Day One has the light of God shining from above. It shines over deep space and over all the planets of the solar system, depicting the mightiness and greatness of the first days of creation. One ray of the light, the hand of God, gently touches the earth.

Then the viewer's eyes "travel" to the world of plants, animals and the first human couple. The conclusion of the mural is the light of God, only this time this is the light of His presence and His holy rest that He established for all people on the seventh day of creation — His Sabbath.

The mural was accomplished by a team of enthusiastic and talented people. Glen Wahlman, project leader and GSAA science teacher, explains, "This mural was a joint work of all my family. The design was made by my wife, Tatyana, who is an artist and designer with many years of experience. The large-scale painting was done by myself and our sons, Dennis and Vadeem. ... We want to dedicate this mural to all the students of GSAA. We want to put our praise voices together and lift them up to our Lord Jesus."

Wahlman isn't new to mural painting. He is the author of several nature murals in places like Leoni Meadows Camp in California, Great Plains Academy in Kansas, Roseburg Junior Academy in Oregon, Bakersfield Adventist Academy in California and now GSAA in Idaho.

Wahlman is a teacher with more than 25 years of teaching experience at Adventist schools. "The center of all sciences is God, and praise to His creation is fundamental for my teaching," he says. "I like to include art and design in my classroom because it helps students to be engaged and helps to support their curiosity in the exploration of God's wonderful world. It is very beneficial for the learning process."

The mural can be viewed by anyone visiting GSAA. Call the office, schedule your time and be blessed.

MORE ONLINE AT [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-ID-3](https://www.nwadventist.org/stories/115-6-ID-3)

# MEA Flips and Shares Blessings

**FAITH. IT'S THE STUFF THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS,  
AND IT'S SUCH A LOADED WORD.**

As the smoke from all of the wildfires from the Pacific Northwest settles into our valley, our beloved mountains that frame the Gallatin Valley have disappeared behind a gray-brown blanket of smoke. Even though I can't see the mountains, I know they are there.

Faith is like that too. It is belief in things unseen. In their 2007 hit song "I Believe in Love," the music group Barlow Girl sings, "I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I don't feel it. And I believe in God, even when He is silent. ..." For many, 2020 has been a year where they've felt God has been silent.

It has been said Mount Ellis Academy in Bozeman is a miracle school. For much of our 118-year history, we have been in need of funding. Year after year, God shows up and His voice can be heard echoed in the laughter of our students, the counsel of our teachers, the support of our alumni and the prayers of our administration. Is MEA a miracle school? Absolutely.

MEA is also a school carried on the wings of faith of its constituents, alumni, parents and staff. This year we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Kohl's Care Campaign, through which we

were the recipients of \$500,000 that went toward a much-needed new septic system on campus. Whenever we have a need, God shows up in big ways.

In March, when our world fell prey to a pandemic that wrought physical, emotional and financial devastation nationwide, MEA was staring down a financial crisis that felt insurmountable. God showed up once again through our alumni and friends and provided for our needs so we were able to resume in-person learning in August. We had an unprecedented three months of giving that carried us through the end of the academic year, and we continue to bear witness to God's hand over our school through the generosity and stewardship of our friends and alumni.

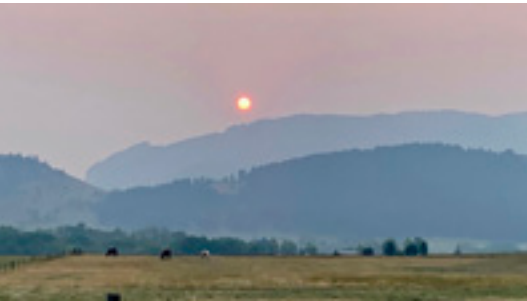
What do you do with a blessing? According to pastor and author Mark



KEBRINA VINGLAS



KEBRINA VINGLAS



KEBRINA VINGLAS

Batterson, you flip it! In his book *Double Blessings*, Batterson writes, “God doesn’t bless us to raise our standard of living, He blesses us to raise our standard of giving.” At MEA, it is our deepest desire to share the love of Jesus with our students and local community so that years from now kingdom work will continue in the lives of our alumni.

Recently, we have received several much-needed donations toward funding our scholarship programs, which allow us

to serve all students regardless of income level. We haven’t reached our ambitious fundraising goal yet for this academic year, but we are stretching our faith because meeting this lofty goal will demonstrate God’s glory and further His kingdom here on Earth.

Individuals are stepping forward in faith to give because they have been impacted either directly or indirectly by MEA. Ed Allred of Los Alamitos, California, had no attachment to Mount Ellis Academy other than the relationship he shares with Herbert Ruckle, a 1978 MEA graduate. Ruckle was a blessing to Allred, and Allred flipped the blessing back to MEA

When Allred heard MEA was in need, he felt impressed to give \$100,000 toward campus capital improvements. Our aim is to flip that blessing back to our students,

their families and anyone else they meet down the road.

The Apostle Luke wrote, “Give, and it will be given to you” (Luke 6:38). Faith and stewardship go together hand-in-hand. Stewardship is stepping forward in faith using our time, talents and finances to further the kingdom of God here on Earth.

When we recognize that all we have belongs to the Lord and give abundantly of our blessings, we are given the opportunity to join in partnership with Him in being a blessing. God is waiting patiently to bless us. How will you flip the blessing?

KEBRINA VINGLAS

*Mount Ellis Academy development and alumni relations director*



KEBRINA VINGLAS



More online at  [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-MT-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-MT-1)



# Evacuees Find Shelter in Hope Valley

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

**WHEN FIRES RAGED ACROSS OREGON IN SEPTEMBER, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BEGAN TO EVACUATE THEIR HOMES. BUT WHERE COULD THEY GO TO ESCAPE THE FLAMES?**

As the Riverside Fire was accelerating toward towns southeast of Portland, Laura Pascoe received a call from Clackamas County officials, asking, "Could the Oregon Conference open the Gladstone Campground for evacuees?"

Pascoe had spent years developing relationships with the county and other disaster response organizations as the former Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response coordinator for the Oregon Conference. She quickly connected the county with her successor, Andy Villanueva. Within hours, RVs were rolling into the valley at the Gladstone Campground. Usually tasked with helping camp meeting campers find their sites, volunteers were now cheerfully greeting those fleeing wildfires and helping them settle in.

As the evacuees arrived, they found a whole community of people rallying to support their needs. Chris Cakes NW brought a pancake truck to serve pancakes. Kona Ice, local coffee shops, donut shops, food carts and many others brought food and goodies for the evacuating guests. World Central Kitchen provided two hot meals each day for guests and volunteers alike.

Dozens of volunteers rallied to the site, while pastors from across the Oregon Conference were called in to serve when

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-1)





needed. In this moment of crisis, it took the entire community to support those who were displaced.

At its peak, the "Hope Valley" evacuation site hosted about 150 RVs. These families found far more than full hookups. They found security. They found community. Most importantly, they found hope.

"Thank you for opening this place up for us," one guest shared. "I haven't ever been on this property. I grew up in Gladstone, just down the street. My dad hated Adventists because every summer they parked in front of our driveway and we would have trouble getting out. But you Adventists opening this up for all of us who need it is something else. Thank you for this. My mind is changed about Adventists now."

Three years ago, when 2020 was chosen as the year of "Serving Jesus and Others," no one knew God would call the Oregon Conference to such intense and meaningful service and use the campground, closed by COVID-19,



for such worthwhile use. Through the selflessness of so many, God touched the lives of hundreds who fled the flames to Hope Valley.

JONATHAN RUSSELL  
Oregon Conference assistant to the president for multimedia communications



## RECOMMITTED LIVES RESULT IN ALBANY BAPTISMS

JEANIE HOOPER REED  
Albany Church secretary

MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-2](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-2)

### COVID-19 has put a damper on some traditional worship services.

It also served to heighten joy as, on Aug. 22, Albany Church welcomed a new family member, Sarah Lindsey, who was committing her life to Jesus Christ through baptism, and a returning family member, Adam Anderson, who was determined to recommit his life to Jesus through baptism again.

Barry Taylor, Albany Church pastor, welcomed church members, visitors and especially Lindsey's visiting family members, including her two daughters. Her mother had studied the Bible with her, as had a couple of young women who were attending the Albany Church.

Anderson had returned to church fellowship just as COVID-19 impacted worship services. During the shutdown period, he met with Taylor to express his desire for rebaptism. Since the Albany Church opened its doors to public worship on June 13, with COVID-19 precautions in place, Anderson has been a faithful attendee.

Ken Settlemier, officiating on behalf of the church family, led the congregation in praise for the Holy Spirit's work in these two lives. Hearty "amens" resounded through the sanctuary. Please join the Albany Church family in rejoicing in these committed lives, and pray for an outpouring of God's sweet Spirit in the days ahead.



## GASTON HOLDS CREATIVE BAPTISM

LINDA SEEBER  
Gaston Church communication leader

MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-3)

### Robert Ellis' baptism will be remembered by the Gaston Church for many reasons.

The church's first connection with him started as a result of the church holding Vacation Bible School and picking up his five stepchildren to attend. After the VBS, church members took turns picking up the children for Sabbath School so they could learn more about God.

This continued for years. Seeing the church's care for his kids, Ellis asked Dick Hoey, the church's Bible worker, to begin studies with him and the family. As he learned, the Holy Spirit moved him to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Years ago, an accident left Ellis with paralyzed legs and limited use of his arms and hands. Therefore a typical baptism wasn't feasible. The elders prayed and thought about the logistics of baptizing Ellis. They at last came up with the idea of using some old, stored-away hospital equipment.

The church family gathered Jan. 11 in the fellowship hall at the end of the service and waited for those behind the curtains to hoist Ellis and lower him into a hospital tub. The curtains were pulled back. Bob Mix shared a few words of joy, and they lowered Ellis into the spiritual grave.

The church will never forget Ellis' baptism and the joy he felt to commit his life more fully to Jesus.



## PAA FOSTERS CONNECTION THROUGH HOMEROOM FAMILIES

Grappling with a pandemic and distance learning is hard. Add wildfires and home evacuations, and students undoubtedly carry the weight of loss into their virtual classrooms.

Portland Adventist Academy teachers cannot singlehandedly stop the drama of 2020, but efforts to provide connection and normalcy during times of loss are at the center of their work this year.

The longing for normalcy and connection inspired PAA's new Homeroom Family small groups, which give every student a place where they belong. While in the distance-learning phase, students meet weekly in a Zoom online homeroom for announcements, prerecorded chapels, discussion and prayer.

Maria Bibb, PAA international student director and freshman class sponsor, hosts a Homeroom Family. "I love that I get to connect with students and especially with students that I won't have in my classes. It changes the relationship from a teacher with homework and grading to a mentor or guide to the high school experience."

Homeroom Family groups met for the first time following area wildfires that required many students and teachers to evacuate their homes. Shamara Daniels, PAA sophomore and student association spiritual vice president, was one of the evacuees.

In a YouTube chapel speech, Daniels empathized with those having a hard time. "I know that times are really shaky," said Daniels, "and you might be losing hope right now. I've been there. And sometimes I still am there."

She encouraged students with tangible action: "I hold on to the people that are close to me." She says to call somebody, keep family close or, even better, grow a relationship with God. Look into His Word, she advises.

Daniels shared the verse of the week, Psalm 46:1-3: "God is our refuge and strength ... ." She added to "remember, even if the mountains are falling, God won't let you hit the ground."

Following chapel, Bibb shared additional perspective on the verse with her Homeroom Family. "When we move down to Verse 5, it says that during all this trouble God is in the 'midst' of it. So not only is He our refuge, but He is with us when we are in the middle of all the troubles of the world."

"You are not alone in this," concludes Daniels. "It may seem like there is no end. But as long as we keep our faith up and our spirits high we can get through this together — as a family."

View the PAA chapel on resilience at [youtu.be/8o20tjLBWPI](https://youtu.be/8o20tjLBWPI) and Daniels' speech at [youtu.be/avtKnT4Zw1A](https://youtu.be/avtKnT4Zw1A).

LIESL VISTAUNET  
PAA Gleaner correspondent

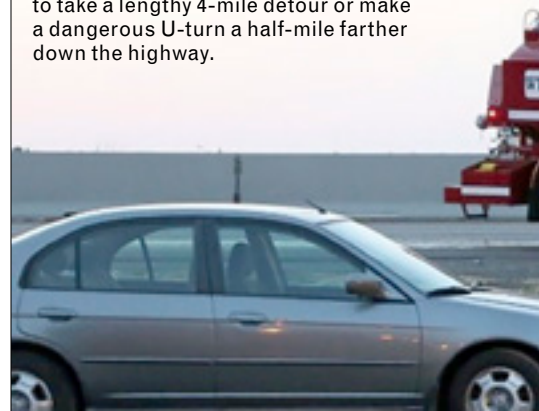
MORE ONLINE AT [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-4](https://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-4)

# Central Valley Christian School New Driveway

**A NEW DRIVEWAY FOR CENTRAL VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, LOCATED IN WESTERN OREGON, MEANS EXPANDED OUTREACH POTENTIAL AND SERVES AS A REMINDER TO THE SCHOOL OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.**

CVCS became hard to access when the Oregon Department of Transportation erected a center barrier on Highway 34 nearby. People coming from the east on Highway 34 had to either take a 4-mile detour to access the school or make a dangerous U-turn down the highway. A better, safer solution was essential.

A highway barrier erected two years ago blocked access to Central Valley's driveway. People trying to reach the school from the east on the highway had to take a lengthy 4-mile detour or make a dangerous U-turn a half-mile farther down the highway.



# Valley School Gets Driveway

EDUCATION

The long-awaited new driveway leading to CVCS provides easy access to the school from both directions of Highway 34.



The first challenge was obtaining the land to build a driveway to an adjacent frontage road. After a discussion, the school and the neighboring farmer who owned the needed land agreed to swap sections of their properties.

Next, funds for construction were needed. Ralph Stathem, a retired engineer and constituent church member, volunteered to help the school with logistics for the 1,000-foot driveway. The county road department's initial construction estimate was about \$80,000. Stathem shares, "When you're talking an \$80,000 project for one of our little schools, that kind of spells impossibility."

A county engineer advocated for the school in an email to ODOT, so ODOT offered to purchase the school's deeded access to Highway 34 for the estimated cost to construct the new driveway. Since the old driveway wasn't safely usable, removing it in exchange for funds to build the new roadway was a great option. The construction estimate had grown to almost \$144,000, so having the funds was a miracle for this small school.

More challenges and costs came with permit negotiations and legal fees, but the school received thousands of dollars of financial help to cover these additional costs. Additionally, members in the community and lawyers connected to the Oregon Conference donated hours of volunteer time to assist the school. Stathem reflects, "My goal and my prayer all the way along the line was, 'How can we represent Jesus in a positive way to these people?'"

The school's new access point was completed in August 2020. This helps with recruiting. Now Les Kelley, CVCS principal, can once again say, "Oh, it's easy to get to our school."

Because the safe, simple entrance makes CVCS more accessible to the community of Tangent, the school hopes to reach more families with the gospel. Stathem says, "Something that's really impressed me as I've gone through this

is that I see our driveway as being a road bringing children to Jesus. And if we were to name it, I think an excellent name would be Andrew Lane because Andrew was the disciple so often who was bringing somebody to Jesus."

MCKENZIE WALLACE  
*Oregon Conference education department writer*

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-5](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-5) +



EDUCATION

# PAES Embraces Distance Learning

**LIKE MANY SCHOOLS, PORTLAND ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEGAN THE YEAR VIA DISTANCE LEARNING DUE TO STATE REQUIREMENTS. LOCATED IN GRESHAM, THE SCHOOL HAS WORKED DILIGENTLY AND CREATIVELY TO PREPARE A PROGRAM TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN ALL GRADE LEVELS AND ACCOMMODATE PARENT NEEDS AS WELL.**

MCKENZIE WALLACE  
*Oregon Conference education department writer*



PAES junior high teachers prepared "Survival Kits" to hand out to their students at the beginning of the 2020–21 school year.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-6](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-OR-6)

To help parents, PAES is providing optional day care for students up to age 12. PAES has day care certified rooms and will be complying with the "Health and Safety Guidelines for Child Care and Early Education Operating in COVID-19." Additionally, all PAES teachers are day care certified so they can assist with child care. During day care the children will participate in distance learning and can receive academic assistance, if needed. This service will afford essential support to working parents.

At the start of this year, teachers met with individual families to initiate a relationship and make sure each student is prepared with login information and an electronic device.

While the transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students can meet for in-person instruction, students in other grade levels started with remote learning. PAES educators in grades one through five have streamlined their program to make the day flow as smoothly as possible for families. For example, all the students begin the day with worship then Bible class.

Second-grade teacher Nancy Stinson believes that, even though they provided "rich curriculum" during distance learning this spring, their program this school year is even stronger. She explains, "We [teachers] really have a much clearer road



Nancy Stinson's classroom is empty as the year starts since the school cannot yet provide in-person instruction due to state requirements. All the teachers are still teaching from their physical classrooms via online classrooms.

map of where we're going. We always knew what we were doing, but [now] we are just all on the same page. ... We are trying to make it as easy on parents [as possible], as consistent as we can, and as easy as we can on the kids so it will still be fun, and they will want to learn, but it's not overwhelming."

To ensure the program is simple to navigate, all teachers for grades one through five are using Seesaw, a virtual communication platform, to post lessons, distribute assignments, and give rapid feedback to students and parents.

PAES middle-school educators have also collaborated to provide a strong, cohesive learning experience for students. Jaryn Leung, a PAES sixth through eighth grade teacher, created Bitmoji Classrooms for all the junior high educators. Parents and students can virtually experience a classroom while they are accessing information such as the Bible verse of the day or navigating to their learning platforms. Live and prerecorded lessons also support academic growth.

While academics are important, Leung states she is also "really trying to figure out creative ways to build that relationship with the kids" so it will be even more engaging. To make sure the start of the new school year is fun, junior high teachers created "survival kits" filled with delicious goodies and sweet messages to give to their students.

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

BIBLE READINGS  
for

# november

*Bible Verses of ... Giving Thanks for God's Gifts and Blessings*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>1</b> James 1:17 Colossians 4:2	<b>2</b> Luke 11:9–13 2 Corinthians 9:15	<b>3</b> John 4:7–15	<b>4</b> 1 Thessalonians 5:18 1 Samuel 1:17	<b>5</b> 1 Corinthians 15:57	<b>6</b> Psalm 116:17 Leviticus 22:29	<b>7</b> Colossians 3:15
<b>8</b> Psalm 76:11	<b>9</b> Psalm 107:21	<b>10</b> Colossians 1:12	<b>11</b> Ephesians 2:4–10	<b>12</b> Luke 2:38	<b>13</b> Ecclesiastes 5:19	<b>14</b> John 3:16 Revelation 11:17
<b>15</b> 1 Chronicles 29:13 Psalm 35:18	<b>16</b> Psalm 69:30	<b>17</b> Psalm 26:7	<b>18</b> Psalm 105:1–2 Psalm 95:2	<b>19</b> Matthew 5:23–24	<b>20</b> Psalm 50:23	<b>21</b> Psalm 136:1–3
<b>22</b> Jeremiah 33:6	<b>23</b> Hebrews 12:28–29	<b>24</b> 1 Peter 1:18–19	<b>25</b> 2 Corinthians 4:15–16	<b>26</b> Romans 5:8–11 Psalm 9:1	<b>27</b> Jeremiah 30:19	<b>28</b> Matthew 5:11–12
<b>29</b> 1 Corinthians 1:4–5 Colossians 2:6–7	<b>30</b> 1 Timothy 4:4–5					

*What are you thankful for?*

# You can help

## CONTINUE THE MISSION



### Have you considered:

#### **Appreciated assets — Major tax savings**

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Contact our trust and stewardship office at (509) 242-0472



Upper Columbia Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists®

CHURCH

# Christmas at Home

**THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT HOME. CHRISTMAS 2017 STICKS IN MY MIND MORE THAN OTHERS. WHAT MY FAMILY AND I REMEMBER WAS NOT THE GIFTS. IT WAS GATHERING AROUND THE DINNER TABLE AND GIVING THANKS FOR GOD'S CARE AND FOR ONE ANOTHER. IT WAS ALSO THE LAST TIME I WOULD BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH MY MOTHER. SHE DIED THE NEXT JANUARY.**

MINNER LABRADOR JR.  
Upper Columbia  
Conference president

I remember vividly how she laughed as we all shared memories and gave thanks and prayed with hearts full of love. That night I felt such deep gratitude for family, for God's care and provision, for all of us together—praying, thanking and remembering.

This year has been an extremely difficult one for many people, and I again wanted to spend some time praying, thanking and remembering how God has blessed and continues to bless His mission.

As layoffs and hardships started to mount in the lives of our members during early summer, we began to plan as a conference for a significant reduction in tithe and giving. You can imagine my amazement as our May report said tithe and giving had actually *increased!* In times of trouble, God increases His blessings exponentially.

Despite not being able to host in-person camp meeting, God spoke through guest speaker Lee Venden and provided hope in a time we needed it most as thousands of people joined us online. Night after night Venden brought us back to Jesus and His "Search and Rescue" plan for each of us.

With much planning and prayer, Camp MiVoden adjusted to safely host in-person campers this summer. Though we couldn't meet together in our physical churches,

members reached out to their neighbors and co-workers and shared God's Word on a personal level. Pastors continued their work through Zoom online Sabbath services and church meetings. We still had baptisms!

God's mission is unstoppable. Members, pastors, teachers and staff have found ways to keep our momentum going. We have heard that still small voice urging us on

with new ideas and innovative approaches. But there is still much to be done.

Thanksgiving and Christmas have traditionally been a time of getting together with friends and family, but this year it may be difficult. Travel is restricted in many places. Many of us have elderly family members who are at greater

risk for COVID-19. This offers a great opportunity to reach out to members in your church, community and neighbors who may not have friends and family close by.

As we bring this year to a close, we are reminded of the difficulties, the trials and the tribulations this year has brought. Yet at each instance, God has given an opportunity to fill those losses with hope and preparation for His imminent return.

May 2021 bring hope, healing and wholeness to your family. May you take the time to truly reflect on how He has blessed in your life. May you commit yourselves, now more than ever, to continuing His mission and bringing "One More" to His kingdom.

One day soon, we will gather around the throne room of the Father. With our loved ones present, we will praise, thank and worship the Lamb.

We will be home.



• Minner Labrador, Upper Columbia Conference president



# Success Continues at Camp MiVoden Despite COVID

KATHY MARSON

*Upper Columbia Conference  
communication administrative  
assistant*

DUSTIN JONES

*Upper Columbia Conference  
communication director*

**FOR MORE THAN 70 YEARS CAMP MIVODEN HAS PROVIDED A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR TEENS TO CONNECT WITH GOD IN AN AMAZING SETTING. FOR MANY KIDS, THEIR TIME AT CAMP OFTEN SERVES AS THE FIRST MOMENT THEY EXPERIENCE GOD AWAY FROM HOME.**



## YOUTH

All of that was put in jeopardy when COVID-19 arrived. Camps across the nation closed.

For Jeff Wines, Camp MiVoden director, the questions started to mount. "Can we even run camp?" he remembers wondering. "I wasn't sure, but I started learning as much as I could about COVID-19."

By April, the full-time MiVoden team had spent considerable time coming up with a plan to run camp ... they hoped.

A few weeks later, Wines was on a conference call with the board of the Association of Adventist Camp Professionals, which he serves as president. The guest presenter, Tom Rosenberg, American Camping Association CEO, pleaded with Adventist camps to open if possible. "The case for camp has changed," he said. "Now more than ever, every child needs camp—not just this summer but beyond this summer, in 2021 and beyond." MiVoden is accredited by ACA, and its recommendations weighed heavily on Wines.

As Wines contemplated the facts of COVID-19, Rosenberg's words rang in his ears. Wines had a growing concern for young people and their families. Wines and the MiVoden team became even more intentional about running Camp MiVoden this summer.

"We needed a place where kids could be in a more normalized community," says Wines. "Young people and families needed relationship with each other in a peaceful Christ-centered, outdoor environment."

Wines stayed in touch with Upper Columbia Conference and North Pacific Union Conference risk management and legal departments as well as the union youth director, Rob Lang, to make sure how to proceed appropriately. A presentation was made to the Camp MiVoden board about attempting to run camp during COVID-19. After presenting all the information gleaned and a proposal on how to run camp, and after a lot of dialogue, the board unanimously agreed to the proposal of running camp. Wines says, "We recognized that at any time Camp MiVoden could be shut down, but it was worth it to try."

Wines arrived at Camp MiVoden on June 25. The smell of the pine trees, the sunlight glinting off the water, birds talking and the gentle breeze wafting through the trees greeted him as he looked out across Hayden Lake. Uppermost in his mind: "Are we ready?"

Staff received a mask with Camp MiVoden's logo on the front. They all had a temperature check and a questionnaire about symptoms related to COVID-19. All staff were asked to document a two-week temperature check before arriving.

Each staff member was significantly dedicated to being at camp because they knew at any time MiVoden could be shut down. They knew they couldn't leave for normal days off, and they would only be able to connect with the people in their department at mealtimes with proper physical distance. The staff knew it would be a hard summer, but they also knew it would be one of the most memorable and rewarding summers at camp.

Staff came from all over the country, representing at least seven other camps that couldn't open. Many of these young people wanted to work at camp no matter what and, in some cases, were willing to fly and drive across the country just to work at MiVoden.

Wines and his staff began to ask if there were creative new things that could be put in place that would make MiVoden's ministry better in the long run and help mitigate COVID-19. They asked, "Are there things that have been done in the past that could revitalize camp and give us more opportunities?" Instead of looking at the glass as half empty, they began to look at the glass half full.

"This summer felt like I was running camp for the first time," says Wines. "However, through the encouragement and journeying with multiple people, I

started to look at the opportunities—the opportunities that could happen because of COVID-19."

Each week of camp changed from seven days to five days to allow for significant cleaning and a day off for staff. Registration was drive-through for youth campers, with parents only getting out of their car one time to unload luggage. Camp MiVoden provided logo masks for all campers and asked campers to wear



masks where appropriate and within the guidelines of Kootenai County and ACA recommendations.

Every Friday as camp finished and campers went home, multiple campers shared how grateful they were for camp. "While some cried, they would say that camp this year was amazing and they were so grateful to be at camp," Wines says. "We took a chance, looked for the opportunities, asked God to bless, and He showed up in mighty ways. We have not had one known case of COVID-19 from this summer."

God showed up at Camp MiVoden. "I saw God work through our amazing, full-time staff and summer staff," Wines says. "I saw God work through our campers. I saw God above the mask in the twinkling eye of a camper who enjoyed shooting off a rocket, painting a ceramic, riding a horse or wakeboard. I saw God through programs that shared how Jesus loves each of us and that we can overcome giants."

# Upper Columbia Academy Reopens in Person

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-UC-2](https://www.nwadventist.org/st/115-6-uc-2) +

**MORE THAN 250 STUDENTS ARRIVED AT THE UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY CAMPUS ON AUG. 23 TO REGISTER AND BEGIN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR. MANY NEW STUDENTS DECIDED TO ENROLL AT UCA PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT WAS ABLE TO OFFER IN-PERSON CLASSES.**

**DONIVAN ANDREGG**  
*Upper Columbia Academy  
vice president for admissions  
and marketing*

Some new students were unfamiliar with the Adventist faith but chose UCA because of its Christian principles, positive reputation and face-to-face instruction. The administration and staff feel strongly that helping young people develop a personal relationship with Christ is best facilitated when students are on campus.

The first week of school highlighted a special week of prayer, led by the new church pastor, Kevin Wilfley. His presentations focused on making a personal connection with Jesus and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Wilfley engaged students through his testimony and stories.

Students commented on what they had missed during fourth quarter last school year when they had to be online. Juliana said, "Everything!"

Other students chimed in with challenges they faced. "There were too many distractions at home," Luke offered.

"It was depressing," Malayna admitted.

Motivation to complete assignments "dropped to zero," said Renae.

Kelsey, a new student, says she is very glad to be here and students are friendly and introduce themselves. Her roommate is also new, which according to her helps in adjusting to a new school.

Cesar is from an Adventist family, but he has never attended an Adventist school before. He is excited to be with other students who believe as he believes.

Now back on campus, other students share what they valued.

Having to end last school year doing distance learning "put into perspective how blessed we are here at UCA with the staff," Lorelei shares. She really appreciates conversations with teachers—stopping by before class or visiting after classes.

Paul adds, "It is a lot better in person, with more interaction."



UCA staff are enjoying this year and the challenges it brings. The value of being with other students, friends, teachers and staff makes adjustments to campus life all worthwhile. They are trusting God's blessing and guidance as they pray for His protection.

God is truly leading through this new school year. The UCA family is excited to see the miracles He will perform.



CHURCH

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WA-1](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WA-1)

## New Podcast Examines Racial Reconciliation

**JUST US, A NEW PODCAST FROM WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, LAUNCHED THIS YEAR TO MODEL HEALTHY AND RESPECTFUL CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE, JUSTICE AND CHRISTIANITY.**

“Second Corinthians 7:2 gives counsel to ‘make room in your heart,’ and that is what we desire to do through this podcast,” says Bill Roberts, podcast host. “We may not always agree with each other, but we want to respect each other and move forward with understanding to bring glory to God and to help this world be a better place.”

The podcast originated after a pastor’s meeting in January 2019, during which ministers learned how to have crucial conversations. “I asked the panel, ‘What can we do to keep growing?’” Roberts recalls. “The younger pastors said, ‘Do a podcast.’”

Roberts is joined in the podcast with co-hosts Hanz Jouissance, John Brunt and Mimi Weithers-Bruce. Each 45- to 60-minute episode blends history, personal experience and Scripture. The pilot episode shares how the panel became involved in racial reconciliation.

“It’s a difficult conversation in the church because we are all believers who are supposed to have a common ground,” admits Jouissance.

“There are so many people who don’t want to change their heart. They want to keep things the way they are,” acknowledges Weithers-Bruce. “We are asking people to listen and learn.”

To date, episode topics focus on the black experience, current and past, in America, including the Green Book, sundown towns, redlining and Black Wall Street.

“There is an awakening and awareness in young people that gives me hope,” Brunt says. “I remember my own awakening to racial reconciliation as a teenager in a sundown town. We need to care for each other, we need to share the gospel, we need changed hearts, and we need changed laws.”

An advisory team meets weekly by Zoom videoconferencing to pray, talk and prioritize topics for future multicultural episodes. The podcast team welcomes audience questions at [washingtonconference.org/podcast](http://washingtonconference.org/podcast).

*Just Us* is released the first of each month on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts, with a video broadcast available on YouTube.

“When we listen to other people’s stories, it creates empathy and understanding,” says Roberts. “If our message is supposed to go to every nation, tribe and people, we need to love God and love each other better. We want to see a better world and a better community.”

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Washington Conference communication director

CHURCH

# Auburn City Church Feeds a Need

**BRIGHT AND EARLY EVERY TUESDAY MORNING FOR THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, PAT BAILEY SHOWS UP AT AUBURN CITY CHURCH TO DIRECT CARS INTO THE FOOD BANK LINE, THE COVID-19 TESTING LINE OR BOTH.**

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
*Washington Conference  
communication director*

“I meet every car that comes in,” Bailey says. As a community health care consultant, she helped negotiate plans for the Auburn City Church site to serve as a COVID-19 testing location in the suburbs between Seattle and Tacoma.

“It’s a good relationship that really helps the community,” Bailey says. “People come from all over Auburn and beyond. All ages. All ethnicities. People are so happy and appreciative.”

## TESTING AT CAPACITY

Auburn City Church’s parking lot is one of the designated COVID-19 test sites for King County. Cars typically start lining up at 6:30 a.m. for the 7 a.m. start. Capacity is often reached by 10 a.m., and testing concludes around 1 p.m. Some people end up waiting three or four hours. The tests are free for those without insurance.

“We do COVID testing on all ages,” says Lucy, a Harborview Medical Center employee who serves as charge nurse for this test site. “Results are typically available within four days or less.”

To date, more than 1,200 people have received a COVID-19 test at this location. Typically 190 tests are administered each week.

“When we first started out, we thought we would offer this service for six weeks,” adds Waiyego Pearson, Auburn City’s health

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WA-2](https://www.nwadvent.org/st/115-6-wa-2)





• The COVID-19 testing team from University of Washington and Harborview Medical Center counts a good first day as administering 25 to 35 tests. Auburn City's location had 93 tests on the first day, and the number of people tested continues to grow.

ministries director. "And now look at this! We've been helping people for 12 weeks now, with more to come. It's been a good partnership between the church, the city and health care partners."

### FEEDING A NEED

Along with the COVID-19 test site is the church's drive-through food bank.

At the beginning of the pandemic, pastors Ofa Langi and Tommy Tamalea'a began working to make food distribution arrangements. Tamalea'a had surveyed the neighborhood to learn their needs in the pandemic, and the biggest request was for food.

The church saw the need but couldn't figure out the logistics with the right partners to make it happen. The church then embarked on a 40-day prayer journey, which became 100 days of praying.

Finally in June, Langi thought he secured three pallets of food to share on the first day of free COVID-19 testing. The church widely advertised the free food boxes. Two days before the distribution would begin, the three pallets were canceled.

"On that first Tuesday morning, God provided 400 produce boxes," Langi says. "We still don't have a guaranteed source of food, but every week God provides. This is a faith journey."

"I just thank God for supplying. We've never had to worry about what we were going to put out," says Joanne Jackson, Auburn City Adventist Community

Services director. "We don't know what we're going to be sharing often until late Monday."

### GROWING NEWVOLUNTEERS

Tuesdays have always been community service days at Auburn City Church. The church facility has a separate building used as a clothing bank, a small thrift shop and a small nonperishable food bank.

Since the pandemic, the clothing bank distribution temporarily shut down. The clothing bank still helps people as needed when they come to the drive-through food distribution line.

Offering the food distribution on Tuesdays brought a different set of volunteers, with an average of 12 to 15 people who represent young adults, former church members, neighboring church members, area pastors, community friends and individuals who take a day off work to come help their community.

Before COVID-19, Langi was praying for a music leader, a youth and young adult leader, and other specific leaders where the church had gaps. With the weekly interactions, new leaders started emerging, new friendships formed, and new interests

in Bible study and baptism arose.

Mata and her husband, Patrick, showed up to help their community. Patrick now takes two days off per week, Tuesdays and Saturdays, so he can be present to help at Auburn City Church. Mata asked to be baptized and for their four children to be dedicated to God—a joyous occasion in August.

### GIVING GENEROUSLY

The church decided to adopt an attitude of giving away food in abundance. "For the most part, we don't take anything back," Pearson says. "We want to give it all away."

There's another benefit too. "Our donations through the church this month are four times higher than normal," says Jackson.

Auburn City Church is also serving as a supply distributor for two other food sharing-sites at the Kent Church in the next town and at Buena Vista Elementary School a few miles away and forming additional partnerships.



• Volunteer Beverley Birmele shares bread.

"If you ask me how long we will continue to give food, as long as God provides, we will give food," Langi says. "And when that ends, we will then see what God wants us to do next."

Auburn City Church has fed more than 3,000 families in 12 weeks.

CHURCH

# Ordained and Commissioned for Such a Time

**IN ANY TYPICAL YEAR, WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WILL RECOMMEND SEVERAL NAMES OF PASTORS WHO COMPLETED A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TO THE UNION FOR ORDINATION. ONCE APPROVED BY THE NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE, THE ORDINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MEANINGFUL TIMES WHEN CANDIDATES CAN GATHER FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CHURCH MEMBERS.**

HEIDI BAUMGARTNER  
*Washington Conference  
communication director*

Before 2020 became an untypical year, Washington Conference scheduled three ordinations. The scheduling all fell in the month of February: John Mutchler on the first weekend in Chehalis, Dustin Serns on the third weekend in Port Orchard and John Miller on the fourth weekend in Winlock.

The churches for all three ordinations were full. These were grand celebrations witnessing how God is at work through music, testimony and affirmation.

And then the fifth weekend of February arrived, and rumblings of a new coronavirus started becoming reality here in western Washington. The pastoral,

educational and leadership teams jumped into crisis response mode with transitions to online church, remote learning and quarantine life.

In the midst of this, a new pastoral team arrived at North Cascade Church in Burlington. After one Sabbath in person with their new congregation, pastors Ron and Buffy Halvorsen with their fellow pastoral staff merged over to online preaching, getting acquainted virtually with members, encouraging young adult online ministry and providing prayer support. Buffy supported the multiweek, conferencewide prayer call, Ron agreed to be one of the virtual camp meeting speakers, and both provided prayer support for the virtual week of prayer programming.

When Washington Conference learned Buffy hadn't been commissioned yet, conference leaders went through the approval process to arrange for her commissioning service – COVID-19 and all.

Halvorsen's commissioning service had all the similar components of the ordinations, just with a much smaller audience. Thirty people representing family, friends, church members, spiritual mentors and conference leaders assembled on Aug. 22.

"To reach people today, we need to have a lot of different gifts to lead churches," says Bill Roberts, Washington Conference ministerial director. "John Mutchler is a second-career pastor, Dustin Serns is interested in church planting and evangelism, John Miller has a literature

John Mutchler was once known as Officer Friendly. Now he is known as Pastor Friendly.

ERNESTO HERNANDEZ





HEIDI BAUMGARTNER

Dustin Serns' ordination service included many moments of laughter recounting ministry experiences.

evangelism background, and Buffy Halvorsen has a marriage and family therapy degree. They are all a fantastic asset to our pastoral team."

This year held change too for two newly ordained pastors. Serns launched a young adult church plant in the Tacoma area in June. The plans for an in-person launch for LifeBridge Church morphed into an online approach. Miller moved from the Winlock/Onalaska District to begin ministry in the Centralia District.

With the three ordinations and one commission, one theme emerges: God is faithful and constant in the celebrations and challenges of life and ministry and has a calling in each and every person's life.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WA-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WA-3) +



## AUBURN COLLABORATES FOR HEALING CHANGE

**AUBURN ADVENTIST ACADEMY FACED THE REALITY OF NEEDED RACIAL RECONCILIATION THIS SUMMER AFTER SOME STAFF MEMBERS MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT DENOUNCING RACISM, BIGOTRY AND HATRED.**

The statement resulted in two responses: those who expressed appreciation and those who challenged the statement's sincerity after personal racist encounters.

"We sensed a need for an open forum to discuss how Auburn Adventist Academy could improve and bring healing and change into the student experience on campus," says Peter Fackenthall, AAA principal. "We were challenged as a staff and as an administration to live out what the statement said."

Krystalynn Martin, AAA vice principal for spiritual life, and David Kabanje, AAA chaplain, created a response survey and engaged in follow-up phone conversations.

The academy leaders hosted an outdoor town hall meeting on June 7, following state COVID-19 guidelines for gathering. Out of this three-hour gathering developed a community focus group to engage in a long-running collaborative effort toward improvement, accountability and change. Parent Gesele Thomas accepted the invitation to serve as chairperson.

"Dialogue in itself is not enough, we learned," Fackenthall says. "It is an important step, but action must take place for true healing and change to occur."

Thomas called together the first focus group on June 22. Weekly meetings were held physically distanced in person and some by Zoom videoconferencing. The focus group chose the name "Equity, Diversity and Accountability (EDA) Coalition."

The coalition's members include Gesele Thomas, chairperson and parent; Eugene Lewis, Washington Conference regional ministries director and pastor; Sylford Nelson, parent; Mimi Weithers-Bruce, parent; Noelle Hoori, guardian; Krystalynn Martin, pastor and AAA staff; David Kabanje, pastor and AAA staff; Melia Williams, staff; Columbus Candies,

NPUC regional ministries K-12 education advisory committee chair; Kelli Robinson, parent and alumna; Trinity Sanchez-Biaz, student; and Harrison Fineout, student.

"There has been a disconnect between Auburn Adventist Academy and the African American community for years," Lewis says. "The book of Revelation portrays inclusivity where the rights of all are taken into consideration as sons and daughters of God. It's time to bridge the gap and restore trust."

"We are called to be a light in a very dark world, and there will be lasting consequences if we ignore this commission," adds Hoori.

The EDA Coalition reviewed collected conversation data and identified four areas of improvement: policy and accountability, education and training, curriculum, and staffing. The EDA Coalition meticulously developed measurable, concrete recommendations and goals to present to academy and conference leaders. These were positively received, with many recommendations already being implemented.

"We endorse what has been done to this point and look forward to continued growth and healing as God leads in this process," Fackenthall says.

"I commend AAA for recognizing the need to respond and choosing not to ignore accusations of discrimination from its

constituents," Thomas says. "Collaborating with Auburn Adventist Academy on this very important project was indeed inspiring. Not only will this help to restore trust but possibly increase enrollment because now parents will consider AAA a place where diversity is welcomed, promoted and appreciated."

**KRYSTALYNN MARTIN**  
*AAA vice principal for spiritual life*

**MORE ONLINE AT**  
[NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WA-4](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WA-4)

# Transforming Culture, Mission and Consumer Health

**AS ADVENTIST HEALTH CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS 2030 VISION TO BRING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING INTO REACH FOR EVERYONE, THE FAITH-INSPIRED HEALTH SYSTEM HAS APPOINTED THREE EXPERIENCED EXECUTIVES TO ITS SYSTEM CABINET TO FOCUS ON CULTURE, MISSION AND CONSUMER HEALTH, ADVENTIST HEALTH CEO SCOTT REINER ANNOUNCED.**

The nonprofit integrated health care system, which serves more than 80 rural and urban communities on the West Coast and in Hawaii, is transforming from a hospital-centered company to one primarily focused on health.

Joyce Newmyer, the president of Adventist Health services in Oregon, has been named chief culture officer. In her new position, Newmyer leads and supports associate and provider engagement, communications, leadership development, and residencies, as well as diversity, equity and inclusion. She also will continue to serve as the primary relationship leader for Adventist Health's partnership with Oregon Health & Science University in Portland and continue to chair the community boards for Adventist Health services in Portland and Tillamook,



Joyce Newmyer



Alex Bryan



Jason Wells

Oregon, and on Oahu in Hawaii.

"Joyce's varied experiences have prepared her to help us build an intentional and unified culture that will define what it means to be Adventist Health," Reiner says. Newmyer brings more than 20 years of health care executive experience to her role, having served organizations in California, Kansas, Maryland, Oregon and Tennessee.

Alex Bryan, who has more than 20 years of experience in pastoral ministry and higher education, has been appointed chief mission officer. Bryan leads and supports a systemwide mission team in promoting and integrating the organization's mission of "living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope."

"Our mission has always been important," Reiner says. "Now, as we intentionally expand over the next decade with bold moves, it is essential to have an even wider perspective of mission."

In addition, Jason Wells, the president

of Adventist Health's three hospitals and services in Mendocino County, California, has been named chief consumer and innovation officer to help realign the organization around the consumer through products and services that better address health. Wells will be responsible for consumer services, experience design,

marketing and brand, public affairs, and strategy activation.

"Jason has demonstrated effective leadership and exceptional engagement along with an ability to mobilize stakeholders toward a common vision with bold, creative thinking," Reiner explains. "These skills will be critical in transforming Adventist Health into the innovative and consumer-focused organization we aspire to be."

Before joining Adventist Health in 2017, Wells, who is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, served in health care executive and leadership roles in North Carolina and Florida.

Wells will continue to serve as chair of the community boards for Adventist Health Howard Memorial, Mendocino Coast and Ukiah Valley.

**CHRISTINE PICKERING**

*Adventist Health shared service communications system director*



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

**BIBLE READINGS**  
for

# December

*Bible Verses of ... Embracing Grace*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<u>1</u> Luke 15	<u>2</u> Romans 7:14–8:17	<u>3</u> Ephesians 1:1–22	<u>4</u> James 2:14–26	<u>5</u> Romans 3:19–28, 4:1–16
<u>6</u> Galatians 2:15–3:14	<u>7</u> Romans 5:6–20	<u>8</u> James 1:21–25	<u>9</u> Colossians 2:11–15	<u>10</u> Matthew 18:21–35	<u>11</u> Genesis 37, 39	<u>12</u> Genesis 40–41
<u>13</u> Genesis 42:1–24, 45, 50:15–21	<u>14</u> 1 Peter 3:8–4:11	<u>15</u> Colossians 3:1–17	<u>16</u> Romans 6:21–23	<u>17</u> James 3	<u>18</u> Philippians 4:4–9	<u>19</u> 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 Phil. 3:12–15
<u>20</u> Romans 15:15–17	<u>21</u> Ephesians 4	<u>22</u> Ephesians 5:1–21	<u>23</u> 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12	<u>24</u> Ephesians 6:10–20	<u>25</u> Ezekiel 22	<u>26</u> 1 Timothy 2:1–7
<u>27</u> Matthew 5:43–48	<u>28</u> Ephesians 1:15–22	<u>29</u> Ephesians 3:14–21	<u>30</u> Psalm 141	<u>31</u> Psalm 145		

*“The story of Christmas is the story of God’s relentless love for us.”*

MAX LUCADO

# Thompson's Leadership Focuses on Service, Sustainability

MAKENA HORTON  
WWU university relations  
student writer

**IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS HAS TAKEN A PROMINENT ROLE FOR BROOKE THOMPSON, SENIOR BUSINESS MAJOR. WHILE SERVING AS A STUDENT MISSIONARY PRIOR TO HER JUNIOR YEAR AT WWU, THOMPSON HAD ALREADY DECIDED SHE WANTED TO CONTINUE HELPING THOSE AROUND HER WHEN SHE RETURNED TO CAMPUS. SHE ALSO KNEW SHE WANTED TO PROVIDE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HER FELLOW STUDENTS.**

In her work leading ASWWU global service, Thompson drew upon skills she learned in her business classes. "I think the most valuable and applicable class was fundamentals of leadership that I took while holding this position. The class not only focused on our leadership skills, traits and how we all lead differently, but it put a huge focus on servant leadership," she says. "As the global service director, and in every management position, I believe servant leadership is so important. Not only was my goal to serve my community and provide ways for fellow students to serve the community, but I also wanted to serve my team."

During Thompson's leadership ASWWU global service helped the Friends of Children of Walla Walla and the Friends Club connect university students with elementary school students through a mentoring program. They also provided chapel services for the homeless at the Christian Aid Center, worked on restoration projects after flooding in the valley, decorated Christmas cookies for underprivileged children and collected Christmas gifts for children in foster care. At the end of the year, they were able to donate more than \$7,000 of funds they raised to Treehouse, a nonprofit organization that supports and advocates for children in foster care throughout Washington state.

Thompson has passed the leadership torch for ASWWU global service to Emma Tucker, senior business major, who has taken over for the 2020-21 year. Tucker will continue to cultivate the relationships between WWU and local nonprofit organizations in Walla Walla that Thompson worked so hard to establish.

More online at [NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WWU-3](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WWU-3)

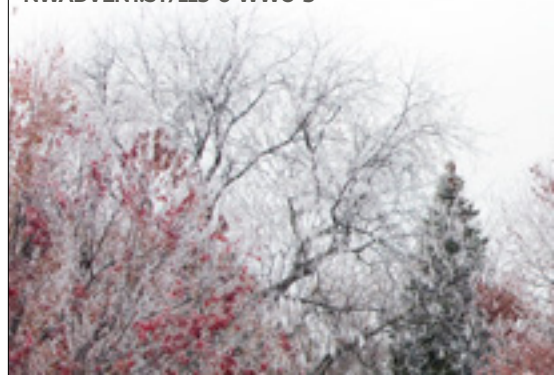


• Brooke Thompson mentored elementary school students as part of the Friends of Children program.

With those goals in mind, she applied and was hired as global service director for the Associated Students of Walla Walla University (ASWWU) for 2019-20. In that position she worked to multiply ASWWU efforts by partnering with the WWU Center for Humanitarian Engagement (CHE) on a variety of projects for local nonprofit organizations in the Walla Walla Valley.

"I wanted to be able to get a variety of students with a variety of interests and skill sets and passions involved in service, and working alongside the CHE made that possible," explains Thompson. "David Lopez, CHE director, was so excited about getting me connected with local nonprofits and made our dreams on global service a reality."

Thompson focused on starting projects that could be sustained through yearly ASWWU leadership changes. "Creating sustainable relationships is placing value in those individuals, and that is what service is all about. It is hard to continue that with global service as there is so much turnover every year, but working alongside the CHE has made that possible. CHE creates relationships with the community and maintains those relationships."



## WWU OFFERS FOUR NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Walla Walla University is offering four new certificate options for degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students. Certificates are available in:

**BOOKKEEPING** – Covers the use of QuickBooks, processing payroll, understanding internal controls, and preparing reports for small business owners and tax accountants.

**BUSINESS ANALYTICS** – Covers analytics using Microsoft Excel and Access, business statistics, business forecasting and predictive analytics.

**PROFESSIONAL WRITING** – Develops writing skills across industries, such as writing for public relations, social media and advertising, including feature, screen and technical writing.

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL MARKETING** – Covers how to use social media professionally and how to conduct digital marketing campaigns.

These certificates provide options for students pursuing one major to expand their skill set with classes from another discipline. They also provide opportunities for members of the community to enhance their knowledge in specific areas and complete an academic program that certifies their level of knowledge and competence.

Most certificate programs can be completed in one year and require a comprehensive final exam.

To learn more, visit [wallawalla.edu/business](http://wallawalla.edu/business) and [wallawalla.edu/comm-lang](http://wallawalla.edu/comm-lang).

**KIM STROBEL**  
WWU university relations  
supervisor



## WWU BUSINESS SENIORS SCORE IN 99TH PERCENTILE ON MFT

Seniors in the Walla Walla University School of Business scored in the 99th percentile on the 2019–20 Major Field Test (MFT) in business. This is the highest percentile WWU students have achieved in the 29 years the university has been administering the assessment test and continues a trend since 2013 of WWU seniors scoring above the 90th percentile.

“We believe these stellar results reflect the quality of our students and our program,” says Patience Taruwinga, School of Business dean and associate professor of business.

For the 2019–20 testing cycle, more than 120,781 business seniors at 523 other business schools across the nation took the MFT in business. The test measures how well students know the core business subjects of accounting, economics, finance, management, statistics, marketing, law, information systems and international issues.

The five-year average percentile for WWU seniors is 94.

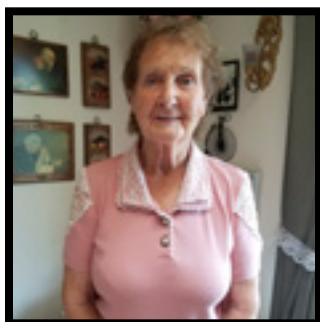
MORE ONLINE AT  
[NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WWU-2](http://NWADVENT.ST/115-6-WWU-2)



### Colpitts 90th

Vivian Colpitts celebrated her 90th birthday on May 31, 2020, with a party surrounded by her immediate family at her sister's home.

Vivian Hall was born May 31, 1930, in Trail, Oregon, and raised in Shady Cove, Oregon. She married Bob Colpitts on Aug. 28, 1946. They had three



Vivian Colpitts

sons: Bobby, Bill and Larry. They remained in Shady Cove area until they moved to Yakima, Washington, in 1967 to be with her sister, Patty, and family.

Vivian became acquainted with the Yakima Adventist Church pastor and his wife, Merlin and Juanita Kretchmar, through a co-worker at the Yakima Valley Osteopathic Hospital, where she was working as a nurse's aide. She began Bible studies and then became a church member in 1970. She prayed for Patty to accept Jesus. Patty did and became a member in 1971. Vivian and her sister were both very active in the church as greeters, secretaries and deaconesses, and they were involved in the prison ministries.

When the Kretchmars moved to New York, they had Vivian as a guest on their show "Power to Cope."

Vivian and Patty worked

together as beauticians for 35 years at Yakima Manor. Vivian has also been on a local bowling league since the 1970s and is still bowling with that same league.

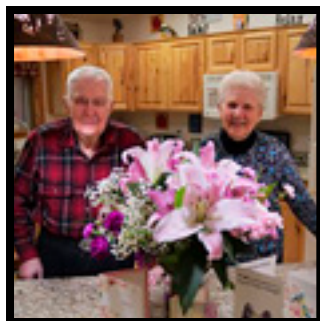
Bob passed away at the age of 85 in 2012. They had been married for 65 years.

Vivian remains healthy, lives in her own home, does her own yard work and still drives. She feels she has had a full, happy life and feels very blessed by the Lord for all He has done for her.

Vivian's family includes Bobby Colpitts, Bill and Tina Colpitts, and Larry Colpitts, all of Yakima; 7 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

### Dunnegin 70th

Earl "Duke" Dunnegin and Dorothy "Dot" Garvin were married in a little outdoor wedding garden in La Sierra, California, on June 5, 1950. Duke worked as a machinist for a few years. Because of his talent for detail work, a friend suggested he become dental lab tech. He worked at this



Duke and Dot Dunnegin

profession until he retired in 2002.

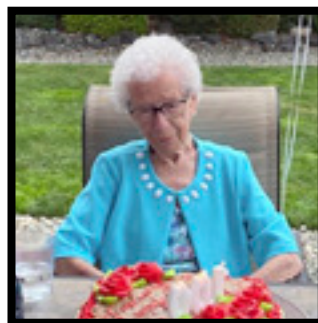
Duke is also a World War II veteran and former prisoner of war. He won several medals including a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. After

retirement, he and Dot moved to Colville, Washington, where they lived until 2014, when their daughter moved them back to California. Then in October 2019 they moved back to the Colville area to live with their son, Mick.

The Dunnegin family includes their daughter, Missy Holmes of Sacramento, California, and their son, Mick, of Valley, Washington.

### Gawley 100th

Arlene G. Gawley celebrated her 100th birthday with two celebrations and her church family sending cards.



Arlene Gawley

She received many, and it made her 100th birthday even more special.

Arlene DeForrest was born June 19, 1920, and raised in Aberdeen, South Dakota, with four brothers and three sisters. She had opportunity to attend Plainview Academy in Redfield, South Dakota, where she met friends for life, including the past conference president Jimmy Chase.

Arlene attended Northern State Teacher's College in Aberdeen, but due to wartime she migrated with her sister to Tacoma, Washington, for work. She found work with the Army Air Corps, met and married Victor Gawley, and raised five children.

Arlene served as a librarian in Puyallup, Washington, as well as at the nearby Washington State Research and Experiment Station. She still lives in her home in Puyallup and enjoys playing Sudoku. She also enjoys sharing her faith with her neighbors and continues to nurture her cat, Tobby.

Arlene's family includes Dale Gawley of Puyallup; Dana Gawley of Medford, Oregon; Don Gawley of Apison, Tennessee; Danielle McClannahan of Collegedale, Tennessee; Darlene Thornton of Puyallup; 7 grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandchild.

### Hodges 60th

Howard and Maris Hodges celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 17, 2020. Their big celebration of a family trip was postponed due to COVID-19.

Howard and Maris met at a basketball game at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in February 1960 and were married on Sept. 17, 1960, in Michigan. Howard taught in Seventh-day Adventist schools in Lapeer and Lansing, Michigan; Santa Cruz, California; and Salem, Oregon, until he retired in 2000. Maris



Maris and Howard Hodges

worked as a certified medical assistant until she retired in 2003.

The Hodges are members of East Salem Church. Howard and Maris enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren, camping, and the great outdoors.

The Hodges family includes Pamela (Hodges) Larson of Keizer, Oregon; Timothy Hodges of Salem, Oregon; Rogene and Staci Talento of Salem, Oregon; and 4 grandchildren.

### Kostenko 70th

Harold Kostenko and Vanice Koenig Kostenko celebrated their 70th anniversary Aug. 22, 2020, with friends and family.



Vanice and Harold Kostenko

Married at Bowdon Church in North Dakota, they made their first home at Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Harold went on to serve as a teacher/principal in the Adventist school system and then worked in the insurance business. Vanice taught piano and organ and still serves as church organist at age 90.

Harold and Vanice rejoice in the goodness of the true God. They trust Him to finish the good work He has begun in them unto the day of Christ.

Their family includes: son

Larre; son and daughter-in-law Kern and Mary; daughter Leta Kravig; 5 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandsons.

### Wood 65th

Clarence "Woodie" and Crystal (Clymer) Wood celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 26, 2020. The family gathered together at Sunriver, Oregon, to honor the happy couple.

Woodie and Crystal met in South Dakota while he was visiting his sisters, who were attending Plainview Academy in Redfield, and she was working as a secretary at the conference office in Watertown. They became acquainted at Crystal's parents' home, and then Woodie would visit Crystal in Watertown. On a date they would go to a local cafe or double-date with Crystal's brother, LeMoyné.

One time Woodie's friend, Perry Peterson, drove him to meet Crystal in her car. Woodie got into Crystal's car for a brief visit. Before they knew it, Perry had driven off, leaving them to figure out what to do next—so they went into town and went roller-skating.

While Woodie completed a tour of duty in Korea as an army medical staffer, the couple corresponded. After his service ended, Woodie made it a priority to visit Crystal in Portland, Oregon, where she was working as secretary to the Oregon Conference president.

In early June 1955, Crystal visited Woodie in South Dakota and he proposed. Two weeks later they were married by C.J. Ritchie at Lents Church in Portland. They honeymooned in a cabin built on a bridge near Sandy, Oregon.

As newlyweds they moved around while Woodie

completed a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology. They spent several years in the Chicago area, where Woodie headed an Easter Seals clinic.

Then, in 1966, Woodie accepted a teaching position at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University), and they moved the family to College Place, Washington. They lived in the Walla Walla Valley until retirement. In addition to working and raising four children, Woodie and Crystal owned and operated two small businesses.

Crystal returned to college in 1973 and completed her bachelor's degree in nursing through Walla Walla College. She worked as a registered nurse for eight years. In 1984, she took a position at Walla Walla College's career center and eventually became director. She retired in 1994.

Woodie and Crystal had four children: Camille, Kevin, Darrin and Janelle. Sadly, Darrin passed away in 1973 after an illness related to an inoperable brain tumor. He was a kind and happy boy who everyone loved very much. The Woods' grandchildren include Travis, Ryan, Mindy, Clayton, Natalie and Latham. Their great-grandchildren are Gwenivieve, Autumn, Cassidy, Bradon, KauKau and Nafua.

The Wood family spent many happy hours camping, motorcycling, snowmobiling and water skiing. They made several trips to the Black Hills of South Dakota, where Woodie was born and raised.

There was no shortage of adventure after Woodie retired, and they made multiple overland trips to Central

America to help their friends Jim and Vonnie Bechtel. Crystal and Woodie drove and towed large vehicles, packed with supplies, to be used by Adventist mission stations that included schools and orphanages.

They also enjoyed trips to Hawaii, Europe and a Caribbean cruise with family.



Crystal and Clarence Wood

Despite busy lives, the pair took pleasure in their hobbies. Woodie loved remodeling homes and rebuilding automobiles. Crystal learned to play piano as a youngster and enjoyed playing all her life. She often played during worship services and also accompanied her father, Earl Clymer, who had a beautiful singing voice.

In retirement Crystal and Woodie spent many years enjoying their motor home full time. This provided them ample opportunity to explore new areas of the country and revisit favorite spots.

Several years ago they moved to a permanent home in Boise, Idaho. They still continue to travel, visiting family and friends, and often go south for the winter.

## family BIRTHS

**RADKE**—Sada Rose was born July 26, 2020, to Bobby Jr. and Mariah (McElrath) Radke, of Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

**WENTZ**—Clover Madeline was born July 3, 2020, to Joshua and Katrina (Klein) Wentz, of College Place, Washington.

## family at REST

**ANDERSON**—Patricia Anne (Conway), 88; born Oct. 5, 1931, St. Louis, Missouri; died May 10, 2020, Coos Bay, Oregon. Surviving: husband, Fred; daughter, Cathy Salyers, Coos Bay; a grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

**ANDERSON**—Rollin “Andy” Eugene, 91; born April 8, 1928, Mountain View, California; died March 9, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Allen, Gardnerville, Nevada; daughters, Delores Morgan and Janet Anderson, both of Walla Walla; Joyce Anderson Haggett, Pembroke, New Hampshire; sister, Cleone Anderson, Redding, California; 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**ASHBAUGH**—Adella Marie (Miles), 82; born June 13, 1937, Portland, Oregon; died Oct. 31, 2019, McCleary, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Leisa Ashbaugh, Shelton, Washington; sisters, Dawn Kerbs, Vancouver, Washington; and Ardis McPherson, Shelton.

**BAER**—Thais Koneta (Randall), 79; born March 14, 1941, Adrian, Michigan; died July 3, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Emil, Oak Harbor, Washington; daughter, Aileen Baer Warren, Dayton, Washington; and 3 grandchildren.

**BARRON**—Jeanne Adair (Bickett), 93; born May 23, 1926, Washington, D.C.; died March 22, 2020, Kuna, Idaho. Surviving: son, Richard, Los Angeles,

California; daughters, Kitty Thomas, Kuna; Peggy Thompson, Keene, Texas; 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

**BENSON**—Donna Maria, 48; born Dec. 23, 1971, Alajuela, Costa Rica; died Jan. 30, 2020, Bend, Oregon. Surviving: son, Nikolus, Portland, Oregon; daughter, Aushie Doshi, Chandler, Arizona; parents, Ray and Gladys Benson, Boqueron, Panama; and sister, Kristina Benson, Clackamas, Oregon.

**BRIONES**—Jose, 64; born June 12, 1956, Edinburg, Texas; died July 8, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Jose Briones Jr., Arlington, Texas.

**BROWN**—Dennis James, 84; born Sept. 10, 1934, Yosemite National Park, California; died May 21, 2019, Fallon, Nevada. Surviving: son, Zane, Sacramento, California; daughters, Diana Pleitez, Fallon; Christianna Kelsey, Moscow, Idaho; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**BROWN**—Patricia Kay (Mathews), 72; born June 29, 1947, Klamath Falls, Oregon; died June 11, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: daughters, Angel Brodhead, Dayton, Washington; Kara Yunck Finley, Walla Walla; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**BROWN**—Sharon Diane (Edmisten), 86; born June 6, 1934, Port Angeles, Washington; died April 25, 2020, Fallon, Nevada. Surviving: son, Zane, Sacramento, California; daughters, Diana Pleitez, Fallon; Christianna Kelsey, Moscow, Idaho; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**CASPER**—Kenneth Allen, 89; born July 16, 1930, Gravelford, Oregon; died March 17, 2020, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Joyce Elaine Casper; sons, Phillip Kisunzu, Centreville, Virginia; Dennis Casper, Seattle, Washington; Martin Casper,

Meridian, Idaho; daughter, Rhonda Ford, Vancouver, Washington; 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**COBB**—Robert “Bob” Allen, 83; born April 16, 1936, Salem, Oregon; died Dec. 21, 2019, Spokane, Washington. Surviving: wife, Vivien (Debing); stepsons, Joe Destefano and Tony Destefano; stepdaughter, Celeste Wells; sisters, Dolores “Lorry” (Yates) Burns, Milton-Firewater, Oregon; Margie (Cobb) Buell, Spangle, Washington; Carol (Burnell) Paulson, Spokane; and 9 step-grandchildren.

**CORNELL**—Duane J., 98; born Sept. 8, 1921, Topeka, Kansas; died July 8, 2020, Burlington, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Larena Cornell, Eugene, Oregon; stepsons, Lonnie Robinson, Kirkland, Washington; Jerry Richardson, Hot Springs, South Dakota; stepdaughter, Sheryl Robinson, Anacortes, Washington; a grandchild, 5 step-grandchildren and 5 step-great-grandchildren.

**DAVID**—Heather Marie (Lapworth), 43; born Aug. 29, 1976, Portland, Oregon; died April 12, 2020, Portland. Surviving: sons, Cooper and Wyatt, Portland; parents, Roger and Cheryl Lapworth, Portland; brother, Matthew Lapworth, Vancouver, Washington; and sister, Meagan Lapworth.

**ENNEBERG**—Harold, 94; born March 22, 1926, Madras, Oregon; died April 7, 2020, Portland, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Ellen Ruth (Brath); daughters, Pamela Knight, Zephyrhills, Florida; Peggy McNabb, Vancouver, Washington; Penny Smith, Ridgefield, Washington; 6 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**FECHNER**—Erika Kate (Tank), 88; born Sept. 3, 1931, Berlin, Germany; died July 20, 2020, Federal Way, Washington. Surviving: son, Edward, Salt Lake City, Utah; daughter, Yvonne Fogleman, Kent, Washington; brother, Detlef

Tank, Kempton, Germany; 5 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**FRANKLIN**—Dale Marland I, 88; born Aug. 4, 1931, Maywood, California; died July 23, 2020, Dallas, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Darleene (Storey); sons, Dale II, Grass Valley, California; Bennett, Simi Valley, California; daughters, Susan Evans, Polson, Montana; daughter, Julie Segura, Dallas; 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**GOLDSBOROUGH**—Joyce Elaine (Bakke), 84; born Aug. 21, 1936, Welches, Oregon; died March 15, 2020, Republic, Washington. Surviving: sister, Darlene Clark, Vancouver, Washington.

**HENLEY**—Mary E. (Weaver), 89; born Sept. 1, 1930, Lawton, Oklahoma; died May 8, 2020, Springfield. Surviving: husband, Gordon, Eugene, Oregon; sons, Terry, Eugene; Tim, Springfield; daughter, Mary Seaton, Olympia, Washington; 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**HERSHEY**—Dorothy “Dotti” J. (McLennan), 81; born Aug. 27, 1938, Phoenix, Arizona; died April 12, 2020, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: husband, John; daughters, DeAnne Hersey and Michele L. Gilley, both of Medford; sister, Donna Rose McLennan, Washoe Valley, Nevada; 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**HILL**—Terry G., 68; born Feb. 27, 1952, Grants Pass, Oregon; died April 16, 2020, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Joyce (Yost); son, Bryan, Redlands, California; daughter, Lindsey Daub, Henderson, Nevada; sister, Sandy Miles, Corbett, Oregon; and a grandchild.

**HOOD**—Lois I. (Pettersen) Rasmussen, 92; born Jan. 31, 1928, International Falls, Minnesota; died March 10, 2020, Cheney, Washington. Survivors: husband, Eugene, Spokane, Washington; sons, Wayne Rasmussen, Vancouver, Washington; Robert Rasmussen, Medical Lake,

1936–2020

## WILLARD GEORGE LOEWEN

Willard George Loewen passed to his rest Monday, Aug. 10, 2020, at the age of 83.

Willard was born in Jamestown, North Dakota, to George and Emma Loewen on Oct. 16, 1936. He graduated from Lodi Academy in 1954, Pacific Union College in 1958 and Potomac University in 1959, with a Master of Arts in theology. He interned in St. Louis, Missouri, and was ordained in 1965, serving first in Missouri and Iowa, then in Oregon from 1977 to 1999. After that Willard passionately led Oregon Prison Ministries for 16 years. The gospel of Jesus and Willard's unconditional love reached scores of inmates, many still like family and faithful to God.

Willard was preceded in death by his father, George Loewen, Fairmont Church pastor in Lodi, California; his mother, Emma; big brother, Mike, dean of men at Plainview Academy, Lodi Academy, Columbia Union College and Walla Walla University; sister-in-law, Essie Lee; and brother-in-law, Vernon Koenig, of Loma Linda University. He is survived by Kathy, his wife and helpmate of 32 years; sister, Loretta Koenig, Loma Linda, California; sons and daughters-in-law, Roger and Valerie, Roy and Tonya; daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Jason Bouffine; 4 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

Willard loved these things: his family, preaching about Jesus, prison ministries, giving Bible studies, playing trombone and piano, photography and making his own slides, especially when computers and PowerPoint came along. For his evangelistic series "In the Footsteps of Jesus," he composed a song of the same name. Each evening a new stanza correlated with his topic. His favorite song was "Jesus Loves Me." He liked playing games, studying World War II history, camping and beachcombing. He'd often break the ice with a good joke. He was affectionately called Wimpy because his big brother Mike was SO BIG! He'll be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Celebrations of his life will be held next summer at the Cedarhome Church in Stanwood, Washington, Sabbath, Aug. 14, 2021, at 3 p.m., and also at the East Salem Church in Salem, Oregon, Sabbath, Aug. 21, 2021, at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Willard's passion, Hope House, where transitioning inmates acclimate to a new life on the outside with Adventist support. Mail your valued gift to the Washington Conference, 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way S., Federal Way, WA 98001 (memo line "Willard"), or donate online at [HopeHouseofTacoma.com](http://HopeHouseofTacoma.com).



Washington; Gary Rasmussen, Cheney; daughter, Connie Arlt, Richland, Washington; stepsons, Dennis Hood and Bryan Hood, both of Fort Mohave, Arizona; 8 grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**HUBBARD**—Earl, 61; born May 11, 1959; died June 22, 2020, Port Angeles, Washington.

**HUEY**—Maurice "Morey" Lee, 90; born Oct. 28, 1929, Springfield, Missouri; died Jan. 28, 2020, Gladstone, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Naomi (Harris); sons, Steve Huey, Zillah, Washington; Randy Huey, Gresham, Oregon; Tim Huey, Beaverton, Oregon; daughter, Rhonda (Huey) Stapleton, Bandon, Oregon; stepdaughter, Dianne (Harris) Roy, San Manuel, Arizona; 7 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and a step-great-grandchild.

**JERNIGAN**—Wendell Warren, 91; born March 20, 1929, Visalia, California; died May 9, 2020, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: wife, Jenny (Viemo); sons, Jim, Tom and Phil, all of California.

**JOHNSON**—Bruce Loyd, 85; born May 13, 1935, in Minnesota; died July 16, 2020, Albany, Oregon. Surviving: brother, Bill Johnson, Ponte Vidra Beach, Florida.

**JURGENSEN**—David James, 82; born June 19, 1938, Astoria, Oregon; died Aug. 3, 2020, Hillsboro, Oregon. Surviving: sons, Tim Jurgensen, Banks, Oregon; Russell Jurgensen, Issaquah, Washington; stepson, Brian Watson, Klamath Falls, Oregon; daughters, Marci Aldred, Yacolt, Washington; stepdaughters, Julie Stovall Caron, Walla Walla, Washington; Roma Watson Gryte, Klamath Falls; Corrine Watson Nieman, Cornelius, Oregon; sister, Ruth Y. Loeks, Scappoose, Oregon; 19 grandchildren, 21 great-

grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

**KELLBACH**—Clarence August, 90; born April 28, 1929, Oshkosh, Wisconsin; died March 19, 2020, National City, California. Surviving: wife, Doris (Robertson), Chula Vista, California; son, Kevin, Chula Vista; daughters, Julie Noel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Robin Tsong, Chula Vista; Valerie Kellbach-Barizo, Meridian, Idaho; 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**KIVETT**—Maurice Arthur Jr., 56; born March 7, 1964, Walla Walla, Washington; died June 1, 2020, Walla Walla. Surviving: wife, Melissa VanTassel Kivett, College Place, Washington; daughters, Mindy Kivett Boggs, Washougal, Washington; Megan Kivett, College Place; father, Maurice Kivett Sr., College Place; and sister, JoElle Kivett Phillips, College Place.

**LUNT**—Donald Ray, 77; born Feb. 3, 1943, Lincoln, Nebraska; died April 14, 2020, Battle Ground, Washington. Surviving: wife, Catherine (Russell); stepdaughter, Alexa (Upp) Ransonet, Battle Ground; brother, Norm Lunt, Spokane, Washington; and 2 step-grandchildren.

**LUXTON**—Judith Lorraine (Cornwell), 76; born Dec. 25, 1943, Los Angeles, California; died April 14, 2020, College Place, Washington. Surviving: husband, Larry; sons, Brian, Walla Walla, Washington; Jason, Chico, California; daughters, Jacqueline Luxton Hilt and Lisa Luxton, both of Milton-Freewater, Oregon; brother, Len Cornwell, Ryderwood, Washington; 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**MARTINSEN**—John Arthur, 77; born 1942, New York City; died June 4, 2020, Corvallis, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Linda Martinsen; sons, Brian, Corvallis; Thomas, Bend, Oregon; daughter, Julie Kimitsuka, Vancouver,

## OUR FAMILY

Washington; brother, Edward, Princeton, New Jersey; and 2 grandchildren.

**MAXTED**—Jesse Edward “Ed,” 98; born June 2, 1921, Atchison, Kansas; died March 11, 2020, College Place, Washington. Surviving: sons, Glenn, College Place; Stan, Walla Walla, Washington; Greg, Milton-Freewater, Oregon; daughters, Martha Schaffer, Covington, Washington; Susan Maxted, College Place; Elly Maxted, Milton-Freewater; Candace Seely, Touchet, Washington; 9 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

**MAYES**—Carmen (McGuire), 87; born Jan. 27, 1933, Wichita, Kansas; died May 2, 2020, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: brothers, Neil McGuire, St. Louis, Missouri; and John McGuire, Honolulu, Hawaii.

**MCEACHREN**—Janet, 84; born April 6, 1936, in Wisconsin; died April 30, 2020, Boise, Idaho. Surviving: sister, Jean Laing, Boise.

**NEISNER**—Shirlee Marie (Lauer), 63; born Oct. 16, 1956, Creston, Iowa; died April 26, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: husband, Dan, Walla Walla; son, Steven, Walla Walla; daughters, Sara Maniscalco, Spokane, Washington; Heidi Hayes, Ashburn, Virginia; and 2 grandchildren.

**NICHOLS**—Milton W., 90; born July 14, 1929, Boonville, Mississippi; died May 19, 2020, Springfield, Oregon. Surviving: son, Timothy, Eugene, Oregon; daughter, Beverly Nichols, Eugene; sister, Mauvline Finley, Milwaukee, Oregon; and 3 grandchildren.

**PARMELE**—R. Earl, 100; born March 28, 1920, Taft, Oregon; died May 2, 2020, Chehalis, Washington. Surviving: sons, Gary W., Beaverton, Oregon; Joe E., Columbia, Missouri; daughter, Earlene Wohlers, Chehalis, Washington; 8 grandchildren and

8 great-grandchildren.

**RICH**—Mary Lou (Carrier), 90; born July 8, 1929, Ellensburg, Washington; died June 6, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: sons, Lawson “Allen” Rich, Battle Ground, Washington; Stuart Rich, Lake Tapps, Washington; Brian Rich, College Place, Washington; daughter, Margery Rich, San Gabriel, California; and 8 grandchildren.

**RODGERS**—Clyde Lowell, 79; born Dec. 9, 1940, Wappapello, Missouri; died May 7, 2020, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Leslie Rodgers; sons, Greg and Marty; daughters, Teresa Courtney and Chris Rodgers; 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**RUDEBAUGH**—John Darrell, 92; born April 22, 1928, Ritzville, Washington; died June 16, 2020, Spokane Valley, Washington. Surviving: son, Darrell Rudebaugh, Valley, Washington; 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**SANDERS**—Edward Harry, 93; born Nov. 20, 1926, Oakland, California; died May 18, 2020, Grants Pass, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Darlene Sanders, Grants Pass.

**SCHAFFER**—Norma Marie (Powell), 103; born March 21, 1916, Washougal, Washington; died April 1, 2019, Gresham, Oregon. Surviving: son, Don, Orient, Oregon; daughters, Nancy Reed and Jean Chard, both of McMinnville, Oregon; Edith Unterseher, Gresham; 13 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

**SNOW**—Harold Philip, 76; born July 14, 1943, Marshfield, Wisconsin; died May 10, 2020, Auburn, Washington. Surviving: wife, Darlene “Joy” (Slyater), Buckley, Washington; sons, Philip, Buckley; Thomas, Bonnie Lake, Washington; Mark, Hillsboro, Oregon; daughter,

Jolene Snow, Hillsboro; 3 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**TOMAT**—Annette “Annie” Clarine (Harrison), 82; born July 26, 1937, Richland, Oregon; died June 26, 2020, Medford, Oregon. Surviving: son, Jason Kivett, Medford; daughters, Jewele Turner and Jeanine Aguilar, both of Medford; brother, Earlynn Garrett, Ione, Washington; sisters, Arleen Thomason, Baker City; Rosalynn Gorham, LaGrande; 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**TONACK**—John Gregory “Greg,” 56; born Sept. 24, 1963, Oregon City, Oregon; died March 4, 2020, Canby, Oregon. Surviving: wife, Edda (Jonsson) Tonack, Wilsonville, Oregon; sons, Spencer Tonack, Lincoln, Nebraska; Stuart Tonack, Wilsonville; daughter, Sydney Tonack, Wilsonville; mother, Sharon (Gilman) Tonack, Happy Valley, Oregon; and brother, Jeffrey Tonack, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

**VARNELL**—Daniel Dale Sr., 78; born Nov. 11, 1941, Coolidge, Arizona; died July 8, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Daniel Jr., Olympia, Washington; daughters, Debbie Varnell Christiansen, Layton, Utah; Kimberly Varnell Swopes, Walla Walla; 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**WARREN**—Phyllis E. (Dobyns), 92; born Oct. 9, 1927, Wenatchee, Washington; died July 8, 2020, Yakima, Washington. Surviving: daughter, Janice Garvin, Vancouver, Washington; stepsons, Harold Beebe and Archie Beebe, both of Moses Lake, Washington; stepdaughters, Connie Goltz, Alberta, Canada; Kathy Schieb, Rathdrum, Idaho; 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**WATROUS**—Arthur Leroy, 89; born Oct. 5, 1930, Kotzebue, Alaska; died April 7, 2020, Polson, Montana. Surviving: wife, Clara Mae (Farley); daughter, Becky

Watrous-Hay, Charlo, Montana; 2 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**WHITE**—Robert Warden, 92; born April 19, 1928, Mountain View, California; died May 17, 2020, Forest Grove, Oregon. Surviving: Eva White Cochran, Vernonia, Oregon; Carlena White, Hillsboro, Oregon; Ella Neene Hight, Henderson, Nevada; Roberta Reed McMahon, Medford, Oregon; Jennifer White Koo, Portland, Oregon; Melissa White Knapp, Sweet Home, Oregon; Leioni White, Clark, California; 21 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

**WILSON**—Carolyn Margaret (Alcorn), 87; born Dec. 9, 1932, Arpin, Wisconsin; died May 20, 2020, Walla Walla, Washington. Surviving: son, Ted, Boston, Massachusetts; daughters, Patricia Short, Walla Walla; Linda Minty, New Market, Virginia; brother, Bill Alcorn, Andalusia, Alabama; sister, Nancy (Alcorn) Wilson, Gresham, Oregon; and 7 grandchildren.

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

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

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



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NORTH PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

### Offering

- Nov. 7**—Local Church Budget;
- Nov. 14**—Annual Sacrifice/Global Mission;
- Nov. 21**—Local Church Budget;
- Nov. 28**—Local Conference Advance;
- Dec. 5**—Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 12**—Adventist Community Services (NAD);
- Dec. 19**—Local Church Budget;
- Dec. 26**—Local Conference Advance.

CREATION PHOTO  
OF THE WEEK

HELP SELECT THE  
FINALISTS FOR THE 2021  
IMAGES OF CREATION  
PHOTO OF THE WEEK  
CONTEST.

ONLINE VOTING WILL BEGIN NOV. 23, ENDING ON DEC. 13, 2020.

# gleaner

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

This Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation was filed on Nov. 7, 2020, with the U.S. Postal Service for the *Gleaner*, for publication number 0746-5874, a magazine owned and published by the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 5709 N. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Ridgefield, WA 98642. It is published 6 times a year at a subscription price of \$13.50. The following figures for the extent and nature of the circulation apply to the year ending with the Sept/Oct 2020 issue of the *Gleaner* and were printed in the Nov/Dec 2020 issue of this publication.

	YEAR AVERAGE	SEPT/OCT ISSUE
Total number of copies	38,196	37,879
Paid circulation mailed outside-county	38,064	37,746
Paid circulation mailed in-county	0	0
Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Total paid distribution	38,064	37,746
Free or nominal rate outside-county	132	133
Free or nominal rate in-county	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
Free or nominal rate outside the mail	0	0
Total free or nominal rate distribution	132	133
Total distribution	38,196	37,879
Copies not distributed	100	100
Total	38,296	37,979
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Percent paid	99.65%	99.64%

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11 The Lord said to me, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will uphold you from behind and my right hand will be with you." (Isaiah 41:10)

12 The Lord said to me, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will uphold you from behind and my right hand will be with you." (Isaiah 41:10)

13 The Lord said to me, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will uphold you from behind and my right hand will be with you." (Isaiah 41:10)

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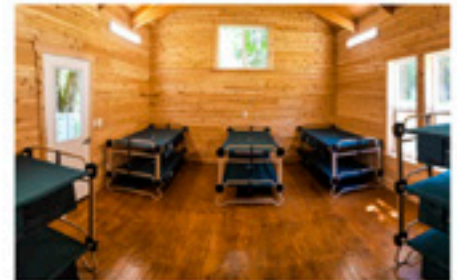
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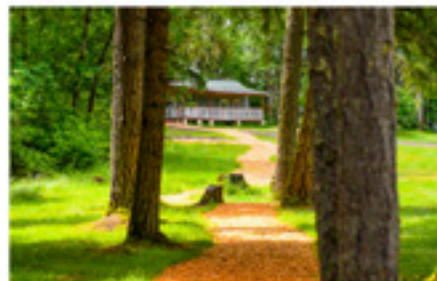


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# Giving is Fun

The holidays are almost here. Giving special gifts to people we love is such a good feeling. Here's a fun gift idea you can make yourself with a few simple ingredients.

## DIY NATURAL LIP BALM

### INGREDIENTS

1/3 cup beeswax pellets

1/3 cup coconut oil

2 teaspoon vitamin E (the liquid from about six gel capsules)

12 drops peppermint oil (make sure it's food grade)

Lip balm containers

### DIRECTION

In a microwave safe container (like a glass measuring cup) add the beeswax pellets and coconut oil.

In 30-second increments, melt the beeswax pellets and coconut oil. Stir well each time.

Once that mix becomes a clear liquid, stir in the vitamin E and peppermint oil. (If you're using vitamin E capsules, break them open and only stir in the liquid from inside.)

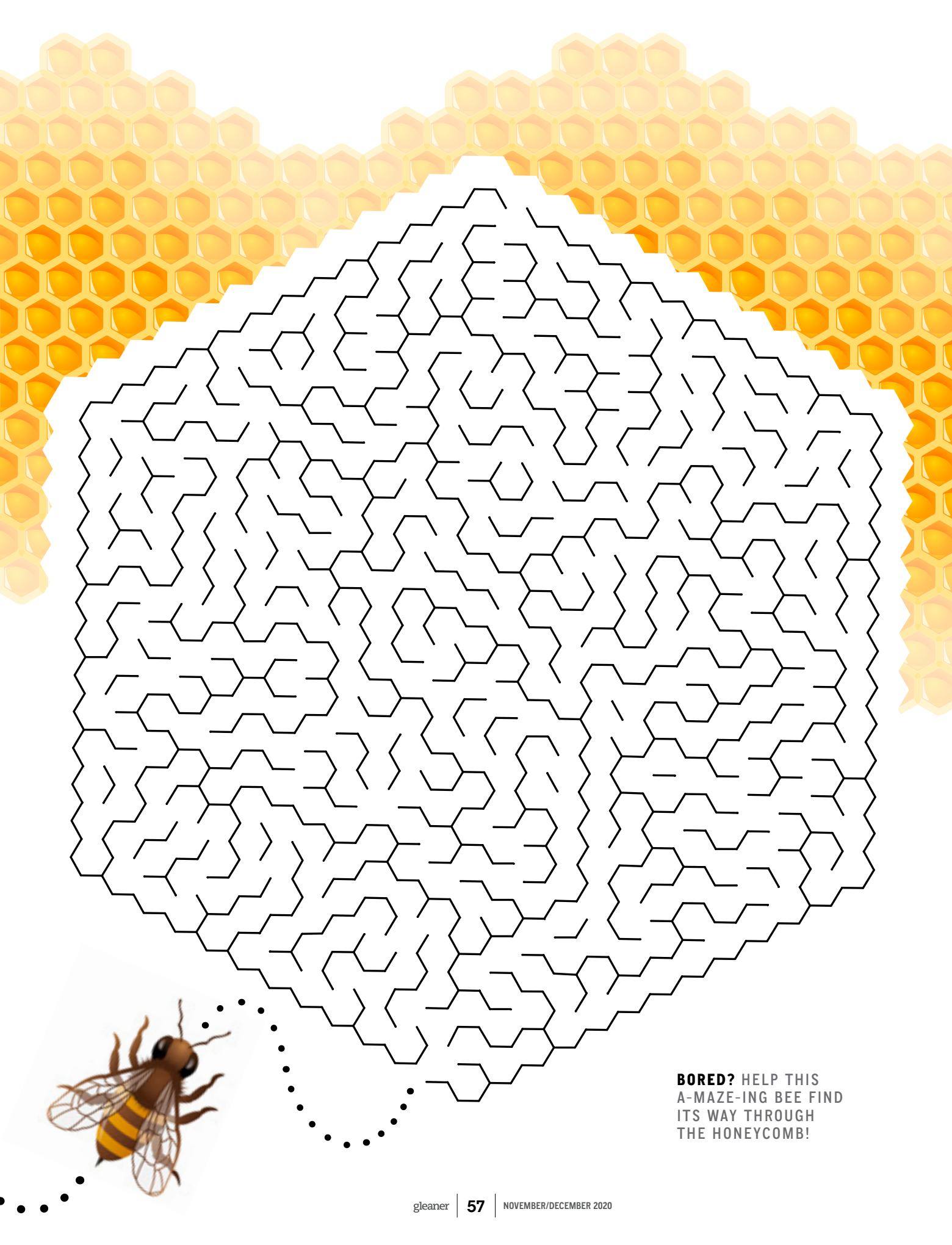
Carefully pour the hot liquid into the lip balm containers and allow to cool before using.

If you'd like to add some color to your lip balm, mica cosmetic coloring powder or melting down an old lipstick can provide a hint of color.

## OTHER DIY GIFT IDEAS

- » Stir up some homemade soap and cut into bars. Wrap and give!
- » Mix up a batch of flavored salt and bag or bottle it as gifts.
- » Make special Christmas ornaments.
- » Decorate or personalize a coffee mug.
- » Make a dry ingredients mix (like pancake, cookie or hot chocolate) and deliver in a Mason jar.
- » Decorate a flower pot and put a little plant in it as a gift.





**BORED?** HELP THIS  
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# Authentic STEWARDSHIP

A

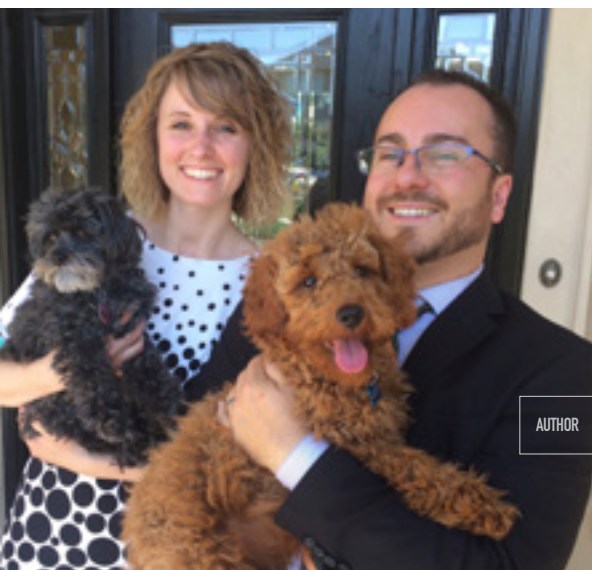
s a child I always loved animals. After begging my parents for a furry friend, my father purchased me a number of rabbits. I even named one after the Bible character Ruth. I remember holding them, caring for them, playing with them, and watching them run around and enjoy life. I loved to care for the little creatures I had come to acquire. Animals were a source of great joy and enchantment to me and continue to be to this day.

Gardening was another of my childhood delights. As a young child, I loved helping my mom and dad plant the garden, weed it and water it. One year I even grew a 50-pound pumpkin. I was extremely proud of that accomplishment. To this day, I enjoy getting dirt on my hands. It is a magical experience to put work in early in the spring and watch the garden grow.

There is something so rewarding about nurturing flora and fauna. What is it about animals that inspires profound love in our hearts?

Why do we experience sadness in the fall when our prize pumpkin plant withers and dies?

I believe the Author of Life created within humanity the deep desire to care for and minister to our environment. We are created in His image. Coded within our DNA is a directive to nurture, cultivate and encourage. We were created to inhabit the earth, to be fruitful and multiply. We were also created to



AUTHOR

Natashia McVay

steward the earth and everything on it.

Genesis 1:28 says, “And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (ESV).

For some this passage has been used to justify a pillage and plunder methodology – a slash and burn approach. I argue this passage contains no license or authorization to exert dominance or exploitation. Rather, it describes humanity’s mandate to exercise stewardship over the earth on behalf of our Lord and our God.

The *Andrews Study Bible* describes the concept this way: “Human stewardship is



## OUR WORLD IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF TRUE STEWARDSHIP: A CARE FOR HUMANITY; A LOVE FOR GOD THAT TRANSFORMS OUR EVERY THOUGHT, ACTION AND DEED.

and the human who inhabit it.

This means we care about this little planet of ours. I don't believe this to be something that political powers can or should dictate; rather, this should be something we choose to do because we want to be faithful stewards of this physical planet we inhabit. It starts with each of us making wise decisions as much as we can to care, to steward this amazing planet.

Stewardship isn't just about being ecofriendly. We are also tasked with providing spiritual stewardship. If we believe in God and follow Him in our lives, we are given the work of sharing that with

others. Just as we would protect and care for our animals, just as we would water and weed our gardens, we are to provide this sort of stewardship to humanity. If we are cultivating a living, growing relationship with Jesus we can share the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness and self-control.

Our world is in desperate need of true stewardship: a care for humanity; a love for God that transforms our every thought, action and deed; a standing up for truth; a speaking against evil; a courage to guard those who can't guard themselves; and a love for God that is our first priority.

Let's go back to the beginning and remember God gave us a task to be true stewards of this earth and those dwelling on it.

multifaceted. It acknowledges God as the owner of all goods and source of all power. It includes the principles of service and accountability" (notes, p. 7).

God gave humanity this special assignment. We are called to care for this planet and the living things that inhabit it.

Genesis 2:15 says, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (ESV).

Other versions use the word "tend," but the word "work" encompasses part of our task. God tasked Adam with the important job of caring for our planet.

Humanity's God-given task, our first job, was to tend God's garden. Even before

sin entered our world, God commanded humanity to engage in labor on His behalf. It is imperative we be good stewards of this planet, the home we have been given. We are tasked with true stewardship towards this earth



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

# Beauty DOESN'T FADE

*“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”—Prov. 31:30*



I

came across a tweet recently that said, “Beauty doesn’t fade. Hotness fades. And frankly, we would all be a lot better off if it didn’t exist.”

Do you agree with that? What is the difference between beauty and hotness? The musician John Mayer says, “If you’re hot, you’re hot; but the only way to be beautiful is to be loving. Otherwise, it’s just ‘congratulations’ about your face.”

When I was in high school there was a website called Hot or Not. It was a place that ranked your level of attraction on a scale from one to 10. I am ashamed to say my friends and I participated; we laughed at the “ugly” profiles and lusted over the “hot” ones. I was participating in something profane—laughing or lusting, all over the shallowness of looks.

This wasn’t about searching for beauty; it was about idolizing “hotness.” True beauty can never be found in this way.

I agree with Hellen Keller when she said, “The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.” But the heart can be deceitful—“above all things” (Jer.17:9).

Our culture is saturated with messages that equate beauty to

good looks. Human worth is rated on a “hotness” scale from one to 10. But a culture that glorifies looks in this way isn’t celebrating beauty; it’s participating in something sinister and ugly.

I have a memory from my childhood of a horrible game played occasionally at recess. It was like tag except, when we tagged someone, we would say the name of this particular classmate we found unattractive and yell, “You

AUTHOR

Kevin McGill

have her germs!” This cliquish tribalism was ugly, and it was based on false standards of acceptance measured in artificial categories of hot or not. What we didn’t realize as kids was in playing that game, we were the ones who had the “ugly germs.”

The eccentric performer Andy Warhol said, “If everyone isn’t beautiful, then no one is.” Is that a nonsensical statement? It may be, but, if we look at it through a spiritual lens, the potential for beauty is imprinted in every human being.

Religiously speaking, every human was designed to be beautiful. We were made

to reflect the image of God. If we search for that image, that potential, we can find it everywhere. We can even find it in people who have been jaded by the cruelty of life. Desmond Tutu spoke a great truth when he said, “There are no evil people, just evil acts; no monsters, just monstrous acts.”

When humans are mean, cruel or ugly, we go against the way God designed us to be. Our intrinsic beauty needs to be reawakened. We need to constantly be searching for it. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful, for beauty is God’s handwriting.”

This handwriting is

## “NEVER LOSE AN OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING ANYTHING BEAUTIFUL, FOR BEAUTY IS GOD’S HANDWRITING.”

everywhere. We see it at a baby’s birth. We see it in a child’s innocence. We experience it when we mess up and receive forgiveness. This redemptive beauty is about the soul. It’s a sacred kind of beauty that is so much more profound than whether a person is hot or not. It’s about reflecting the image of God.

Recently I was discussing the difference between beauty and hotness with my friend Timari. She said, “For me, beauty is something I want to bask in. I want to take it in, join it. I would say that beauty is akin to holy pleasure and delight. It could be art, my child’s smile and the fields around my house at sunset—all invite me to awe. Beauty is a tiny step in joining God. Hotness seems to always have an element of devouring. That would be the opposite of awe.”

Awe-inspiring beauty is not based on outward appearance. It’s about the soul. Audrey Hepburn had something to say about soul beauty. She was famous in part because society found her attractive. When she was asked to reveal her beauty secrets she quoted these words which were written by Sam Levenson and then later quoted at her funeral:

“To have attractive lips, speak kind words. To have a loving look, look for the good side of people. To look skinny, share your food with the hungry. To have beautiful hair, let a child cross it with his own fingers once a day. To have a beautiful poise, walk knowing you’re never alone, because those who love and loved you accompany you. ... The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, in her face or in her way of fixing her hair. The beauty of a woman is seen in her eyes, because that is the door open to her heart, the source of her love. The beauty of a woman doesn’t lie in her makeup, but the true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the tenderness that gives love, the passion that it expresses. The beauty of a woman grows over the years.”

True beauty doesn’t fade. Skin may wrinkle, hair may disappear and gray, but the beauty of the Lord endures forever.

1. <https://quoteinvestigator.com/2013/07/08/beauty-tips/>

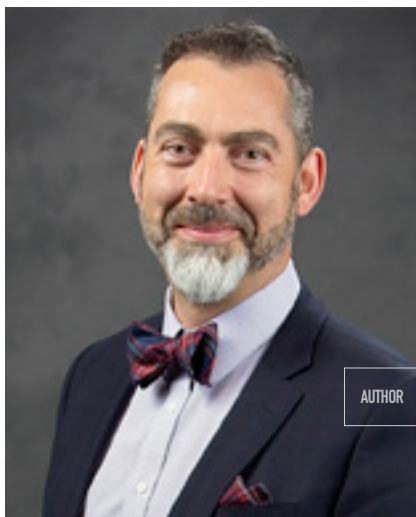
*Kevin McGill writes from Troy, Idaho. He shepherds three churches and loves spending time with his family.*





# PERSPECTIVE

## FROM WHERE I Stand



AUTHOR



Some Adventist members are expressing strong opposition to other members who have shown support of any kind for the black community during the recent months. They say our church shouldn't be involved in politics. They say support for black people is equal to buying into a Marxist ideology.

Let's pause the mudslinging for a moment. There are clearly political elements at work in our country today. Having said that, is it political to be human and lift people up when they are oppressed?

Let's stop a hot second and consider the Savior. How did Jesus deal with situations where people were downtrodden and treated as less than human?

Jesus spoke against injustice and addressed the value of all human life. Luke, Chapter 8, contains the story of the woman healed when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment. When she reached out to Him, He stopped and intentionally acknowledged her.

As all eyes focused on the woman, Jesus showed her, and the crowd gathered, that she mattered. He noticed her in the crowd before anyone else and stopped everything for her, even to the point of being late for a different miracle He was headed to perform.

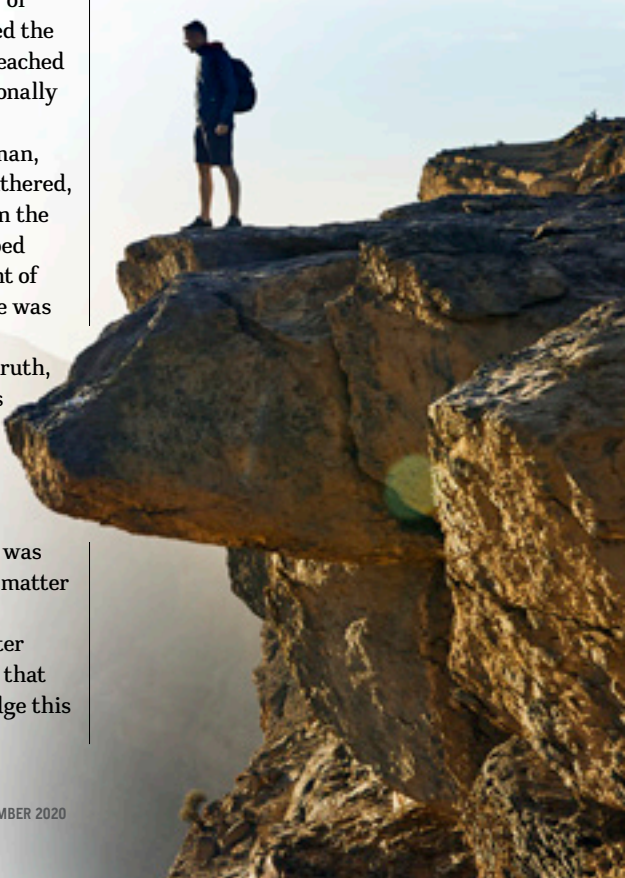
This gospel story reveals the truth, upon every examination, that Jesus noticed people in their pain and oppression. He made special note of the woman, even though every life in the crowd around him was equally valuable. Their lives didn't matter any less to the Savior. The official's daughter who lay dying didn't matter any less to Jesus. And yet He chose that moment to intentionally acknowledge this

woman in her greatest moment of need. He singled her out.

As a church, are we not called to follow Jesus' example? We should be compelled to do as He did for that woman. If we cannot publicly demonstrate our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ—regardless of their ethnicity, creed and lifestyle—then at best we mirror the priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side of the road, leaving one of God's children beaten, left for dead.

From where I stand, showing support and concern when something in our society is broken is exactly what Jesus would do. Does that make me political ... or Christ-like?

*Jay Wintermeyer, Gleaner editor*



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PERIODICALS



## *A Plea for Compassion*

JESUS, the Light of the World,

In this festive season of giving, may we remember our  
brothers and sisters without a voice.

May we have compassion toward those among us who  
still find themselves oppressed.

OMNIPOTENT SAVIOR, open our eyes to see those  
around us in the same way YOU look at them.

As YOU chose the lowly, the outcasts and the poor to  
receive the greatest news the world had ever known,  
so may we always reflect YOUR life-giving hope  
to the broken and downtrodden.

*Amen*