



January 2020

NEWS 'n VIEWS

from the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor: Charles Byrd

Newsletter Editor: Melissa Derfler

2019

highlights of the year

Births

Oct. 23: Darina Caroline Baydala

Dedications

Sept. 21: Makayla Gillen

Marriages

June 29: Ryan & Brittany Holcomb

Ordinations

Mar. 23:

Pastor Tanner Martin

Tim Crary

John Mauro

April 20: Victor De La Vega

Became US Citizens

July: Lorna Kistler

Aug: Ionela Blurton

Baptisms

Jan. 26: Cassidy Sharp

Feb. 9: Joshua Kistler (re-baptism)

Lorna Kistler (re-baptism)

Hannah Kistler

Jessica Kistler

Apr. 6: Hailey Davila

June 29: Curtis Allee

July 27: Margaret Reyes

Aug. 3: Marissa Johnson

Profession of Faith

Apr. 6: Ella (Dee) Whisenant

Deaths

Feb. 15: Ellen Graham (past member)

Feb. 20: Florence Holley Gore

Feb. 20: Jean Frers

Feb. 22: Donna Preyer

Mar. 16: Monica Wheeler

Apr. 23: Peggy Carpenter

June 6: Mary Jane Bishop

June 18: Harold Dexter

Aug. 8: Irma Cottrell

Sep. 11: Rose White

Oct. 7: Cathy Fuller

Dec. 15: Glenna Kremer

Missionaries

Jul. 15-28: Fritz Blech (Philippines)

Aug. 1: Jasmine Haddad (Pohnpei)

Marissa Heindinger (India)

Sep. 4: Marcus Wiggers (Poland)

Graduates

Grants Pass Kindergarten, June 5:

Kareah Beasley

Liberty Hunicke

Leannah Nichols

Grants Pass 8th Grade, June 6:

Iain Fields

Allan Lahr

Jordan Melugin

Garrett Whitchurch

Daven Wilson

Milo Academy, June 26:

Xavier Alarid

Rebekah Crary

Stevan Crary

Wyatt Whitchurch

Rogue Valley Adventist Academy, June 9:

Isaiah Velasco

Jared Wilson

Fountainview Academy, June 23:

Cambria Donato

Marissa Heindinger

Livingstone Adventist Academy, June 9:

Chantel Personius

Rio Lindo Academy, June 2:

Andrew Kainer

River's Edge Academy, June 8:

Grace Dale

REACH Charter Academy, June 8:

Allen Foster

Rogue Community College, June 15:

Allen Foster

Pacific Union College, June 16:

Rachel Ermsar

Emory University, May 13:

Jeffrey Dale

Walla Walla University, June 14:

Jasmine Haddad

Univeristy of Oregon (Eugene), June 16:

Nikki Wee



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Opportunity in Rwanda

Turning Refugees Into Online Missionaries

Volunteer Conversational English Coach

You can make a significant difference in a former refugee's life by volunteering just one hour per week for 8 weeks.

Students in our online missionary training program in Rwanda need your help. They have learned how to read and write English, but need your help to become proficient English speakers.

It's easy – to be one of our Conversational English Coaches, you simply commit to having an online conversation each week with one of our students in Rwanda, using free videoconferencing applications like Skype, WhatsApp or Zoom.

This is a great way to broaden your own experience and get acquainted with fascinating people while helping them develop their English skills and connect with a larger community.

Make a difference in a refugee's life – help him practice his conversational English skills in a safe environment so he can become an effective online missionary.

Commitment:

One hour per week for one 8-week period.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Clear, easily understood spoken English
- A desire to help a refugee from genocide improve his life
- Stable internet connection and the ability to set up/ use a free videoconferencing application (or know someone who can install one for you if necessary)

You can change a life!

The Needs

Adventist Refugees in Rwanda

Approximately 60,000 Congolese Seventh-day Adventists are living in five UN refugee camps in Rwanda. They are restricted to the camps, live on 24 cents a day, and education is provided through 9th grade. Without jobs, they cannot leave the camps. Without higher education, they cannot get jobs.

Impact Hope – one of our partners – screens young refugees in partnership with ADRA Rwanda, and provides tuition for the most committed students to attend Adventist boarding schools in Rwanda. However, the students face significant

challenges in finding jobs once they graduate. The Rwandan economy is in transition from subsistence farming to high-tech and knowledge-based service industries, and competition for available jobs is high.

Center for Online Evangelism

We train online missionaries to use the internet effectively, and also provide services to churches, schools, and ministries in developing their online outreach efforts. To provide these services, we need more trained team members.

The Opportunity

Training Refugees to Become Online Missionaries

We have combined the needs of the refugees with the needs of COE and developed an innovative solution – train the former refugees to be online missionaries and hire them to work in our organization.

Benefits

- Students will learn real-world skills needed in a knowledge-based service-oriented economy.
- Graduates will be able to work at competitive wages in a mission-oriented environment
- Adventist entities in North America will have access to more affordable digital marketing services.

Unions, Conferences, and Missions in Africa will be able to access a pool of trained online missionaries, and the Gospel will advance more quickly throughout the continent as these former refugees apply their training to this vast mission field.

Current Enrollment

As of June 2019, 14 students are enrolled in our program. They are taking related courses at the Adventist University of Central Africa, and have been improving their English skills through an online course and online conversations with COE volunteers.

For More Information:

COErwanda.com

info@centerforonlineevangelism.org 541-236-4960

Center for Online Evangelism is a 501(c)3 corporation headquartered in Grants Pass, OR

Prayer Ministries



TEN DAYS OF PRAYER

We are anticipating God's presence as we join Adventist Churches around the world to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on January 8 – 17. Prayer and Sharing sessions will be held each evening from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Youth Chapel

during the Ten Days. The theme is **"Seeking God's Spirit"** and we invite you to experience the promised blessings of the Holy Spirit. You

are encouraged to pray in a special way for seven people whom you would like to see experience the converting power of the Holy Spirit. Before the Ten Days begins, take time and ask God whom he would like you to pray for and write the names down so you can give

them special prayer attention during the Ten Days. You might also consider some sort of fasting. Perhaps eating a very simple diet or fasting from television or electronics during the Ten Days. This is a call for serious prayer for the serious times in which we are living. I hope each one of you will make a special effort to participate, but if you are unable to attend, please select a prayer partner and pray over the phone together for each of the ten days for the outpouring of

the Holy Spirit. Contact Donna Griffith if you cannot attend and would like copies of each night's study. Also, for those who would like private prayer, each night someone will be available from 6 pm to 6:30 pm in the Youth Chapel to meet with you. My prayer is that we will be transformed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and prepared for what's coming upon the world and the soon appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

~Donna Griffith, Prayer Ministries leader



Gary and Shelly Parks, along with their daughter Emilianne, will host a sacred concert at the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church, on Friday, January 3, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Gary and Shelly have been performing musically for over 25 years with their family. This vocal, piano, and guitar ensemble has blessed many churches and camp meetings.

The performance is free and will be a blessing to all who attend. A "love offering" will be taken, to assist the Parks family with expenses. For more information, please call the church office, (541) 476-6313.

Wayne Blakely, author and speaker with Know His Love Ministries, will present **"Healing the Divide: Love, LGBT+, Culture & the Church"** on January 25. Three presentations will be held at the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church, beginning at 9:30 a.m. First, Blakely will share his testimony and what God revealed to him in **"Born That Way."**

At 11:00 a.m., he will present **"Shaken to the**

3

Foundation." Closing the



series, Blakely will screen the documentary **Journey Interrupted**, starting at 2:30 p.m.

This series will prompt difficult and sensitive conversations that are important in these times.

We ALL want to be loved and accepted. As Jesus demonstrates His love for us, He invites us to let go of what is not good for us. And He promises not to abandon us on our life journey. He also invites us to love one another in our walk with Him.

These presentations are free, and all are welcome to attend. Please contact the church office with questions, (541) 476-6313.

~Jennifer Burkes



Vaping: An Emerging Epidemic

Currently more than 9 million (3.7%) of Americans use vaping daily and this is increasing rapidly. Compared to smoking still affecting 34 million Americans which is still decreasing, vaping represents a new normalization of Nicotine use/addiction. One in six high school students have done vaping in the past 30 days. The practice of vaping has tripled in middle and high school students in one year.

Vaping, as with cigarettes, uses high temperatures (over 400 degrees F) to atomize nicotine for respiratory route delivery. This results in pyrolysis of some ingredients and produces combustion products that have serious consequences to the user including cancer and pulmonary disease such as "Popcorn Lung Disease" caused by Diacetyl. Indeed, reports of death and disease are growing.

Although inadequately regulated, perhaps at this time in our history we will learn more quickly how to limit damage to our society. Despite increasing awareness of the growing effect on society as a whole, we are confronted with lives which are at risk of ruin even now. Current recommendations by authorities are the same tired old remedies for tobacco addiction we are familiar with: Referral to physicians for Nicotine replacement, SSRI, Dopamine, Norepinephrine enhancement drugs and Behavioral Modification.



As Christians, we can have a better perspective on addiction recovery. We can see all addictions through a similar paradigm. Following are some points to consider:

1. All addictions have a similar root: The first cause is the victims realization that SOMETHING in their life is missing.

2. All addictions, no matter what kind, are used by victims to fill this SOMETHING that is missing.

3. Addictions include, but are not limited to, the following: Smoking, Vaping, Nicotine, Alcohol, Cocaine, Heroin, Methamphetamine, Prescription meds of any kind, Opiates, Oxycodone, Morphine, hydrocodone, benzodiazepines, Valium, LSD, Speed; ALSO: Pornography, Money, Work, Career, Husband, Wife, Children, TV, Video Games, Facebook, Politics, News, Sitcoms, Sexual Promiscuity, and many others. Exodus 20:4 says "likeness of anything..."

4. Each one of the above addictions must be seen as idols, gods before God, images that we bow down to and serve, something we worship instead of God. Modern violations of the first and second commandments. See Exodus 20:3-6

5. Logically then...what is that SOMETHING that is missing? What is missing is GOD. He is the One, the only One that can fill the void that we know is missing. That we long for. Exodus 20:5 says "I am a jealous God", "I want to be that SOMETHING".

6. We were programmed, designed for God. Created with a need, an amazing, compelling, overwhelming need for...God.

7. If we are addicted to SOMETHING then we can have hope... God has created that space just for Himself. He, God, demands **4** to be that

SOMETHING we originally knew we needed.

8. God is a God of freedom. He wants to free us of that false, fake, inadequate SOMETHING so He can bring to us true peace, true freedom, true joy, true confidence, true power. Read Isaiah 61. Jer. 29:11.

See the Goodness of God. Read His word and know His desire for you. Know that if He can replace your false addiction with Himself in that SOMETHING PLACE you will have true repentance and freedom to be an amazing powerful NEW CREATION. Nothing can stop you. ~Dr. Jon Ermshar



GRIEF MINISTRY

No one can take away the joy and blessings that Christ gives us. We can find joy in Christ even when we are in pain. This joy cannot be erased by sorrow, loss, disappointment, or failure. It is a happiness that sees a rainbow through tears.

The joy that is found in Christ does not depend on our circumstances. It is a deep, everlasting and steadfast joy. It is not something that we can strive for and attain through any human endeavor. It is a gift of God's grace.

The Holy Spirit will strengthen and guide us to obey Christ, so that His happiness and blessing will become our portion. Taken from **Grace for Today**. ~Dr. Ted and Jeanne Powell

Thoughts & Prayers

Catherine Bell

BLBN

Stan Bishop

Cathy Bovee

Joyce & Ken

Casper

Mildred Chaney

Larry Day

Artur De

Carvalho

Patty Esquivel

Todd & Connie

Frye

Dennis Gallegos

Beth Greer

Ingrid Gruenheid

Betty Hamblin

David Hamblin

Joney & Dahnn

Haning

Harry Hansen

Fran Holder

Virginia Hume

Dr. Frank Hurd

Gary Jones

Dennis Kamberg

Steve King

Delbert & Alice Lewis

Zola Lewis

Darlene Loewen

Henry & Robin

Martin

Cathy McGinnis

Rita McMullen

Molly Mourning

Our School

Chuck Painter

Melvin Partin

Jessica & Michael

Rae

Courtney

Rasmussen

Ron Rau

Israel Rush

Peggy & Shirley

Stevens

Yvonne Tooley

Bob & Thelma

Tryon

Rinann Uteg

Ethel Watts

MUSIC MINISTRY

Two Gifts at the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church

The month of December brought abundant blessings for the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church. Two recent musical events were presented to the community. On December 14 everyone was invited to witness and receive "The Gift." On December 15, the Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers presented two concerts.

Songs and testimonies answered "What Can I Give Him?" Hundreds of church members and guests from the community were present both nights. More than 200 singers and musicians were involved with providing music for both events. Dozens more were involved in coordinating, organizing, and planning the various aspects of these musical specials.

"The Gift" was an Christmas program representing multiple denominations. It also included talent from Grants Pass High School. The Grants Pass Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints joined Grants Pass' own Laudation Singers. Together, they performed five musical selections. Joanna Pitzak and Mike Stapley, who sang with this choir ensemble, also contributed a solo and duet. Other participants came from several Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Rogue Valley. Also performing was the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist School choir, grades 3 and 4. The local Adventurer Club, directed by Salaina Mzlauesi, also performed.

This Christmas program was created to be a true celebration of the ultimate Gift given to all mankind; and it did not disappoint! Highlights from the event included a wonderful violin solo, "We Three Kings," by Kendra Haugen. Tammy Tivis sang about "The Gift." The choir sang "Is There Room in Your Heart for a King?" One longtime church member commented that this was the "best" Christmas concert she had ever seen. Community members also offered praise for the performances.

For program producer and coordinator Diana Iversen, the event was the culmination of a year of work. It took close to 3500 hours to put together. She states, "It's become a passion of mine that God has put in my heart." For her, it is a labor of love and a way to share the Word with all faiths. This was her second year producing a Christmas program.

The acclaimed Fountainview Academy Orchestra and Singers visited Grants Pass for the eleventh year. Audiences were treated to sacred Christmas music with songs such as "Emmanuel," "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne," "Down from His Glory," and "O Holy Night." The heavenly harmonies of dozens of students were such a delight to audiences,

and praise to our Lord. Young people took opportunities to demonstrate their faith and love for Jesus Christ during each program, sharing personal testimonies and scripture. These young people made the emphasis that Christmas is not about wrapping paper and gifts. It's about our Lord. Audiences were given resources, including health evangelism literature, to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. Appeals were given to commit to Christ.

Tracy Archbold, coordinator of the Fountainview event, shared the reason why she remains involved. She was the second involved in the process of planning such a large event. One man shared that his wife loved the church, and brought him to the concert. She doesn't speak English well, and asked her husband to read the Bible to her. Archbold remains involved because she loves hearing stories like this. She also loves how people learn about Christ and His message through music and events like these.

The Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church plans even more musical events for 2020. Be sure to watch and listen for information about these upcoming programs.

~Jennifer Burkes, Diana Iversen, and Tracy Archbold



DAVE RAMSEY'S

FINANCIAL *Peace*[®]

UNIVERSITY

Editor's note: Kim Wagner recently taught the Financial Peace University workshop at our church. Since then, she has originated and now moderates the new Facebook group, "Financial Encouragement and Education". Here is another installment of her articles on God's way of handling money. Watch for an upcoming Financial Peace University class in January 2020.

Five Simple Steps to Make This Your Best Financial Year Yet



It's the time of year when we make promises to ourselves, about how we want to live our lives for the next year. New Year's Resolutions have been made and some have been broken. Luckily your financial goals are something that you can keep making good choices about all year. No matter where you are in your financial journey, these tips should help you stay on track all year long.

Make a budget at the beginning of each month - budgets are not a one-and-done situation. Changes in your life will often be reflected in your budget. Need to move? You'll need money for moving, and down payments. Is your family coming to visit from out of town? You'll probably need to buy extra food and plan for any special activities. Planning on traveling a bit? You'll need to cover all of that in your budget. Each month is different so each

month needs a new budget. There are lots of budgeting tools out there but some of my favorites are EveryDollar, and Mint. Pen and paper work well too as long as you save your receipts.

Save your receipts - regardless of what kind of budgeting tools you are using, keep those receipts. Often we go to the grocery store and buy cat food, a new shirt, paper towels, and food. Each of these items are probably separate lines on your budget worksheet.

Don't be afraid to split up the receipt so you don't empty one budget category with items that don't belong there. It takes a little more work, but you'll get a real sense of what you spend on food,

pets, clothing, and household supplies. This will allow you to adjust your budget according to what you actually need, instead of what you think you need.

Check in with your budget every week. If you want to be in control of your finances, you have to be in charge of your budget, which means you have to pay attention to how much you are spending and how much you have left to spend. Keep track of all of your transactions and track them on your budget. This will help you see if you are over budgeting in one area or under budgeting.

Adjust your budget when necessary, because as much as we try to get it right at the beginning,



things happen: an unexpected injury, a friend's birthday you didn't plan for, a last-minute work trip. Try as hard as you can to anticipate the unexpected, but forgive yourself when you don't. Just because you went over your budget in groceries doesn't mean you can throw the whole budget away; it means you have to adjust. Maybe you have to take some funds out of miscellaneous, or you have less fun money for the month. Adjust, re-direct, and move on. One mistake will probably not ruin everything, and if it's big enough to throw your whole budget off, you can probably take it back.

Use Sinking Funds. This is a great way to plan for the unexpected. Everyone has a birthday every year, Christmas comes every year, your car will eventually need to be replaced, if you own your home there are a myriad of pop-up expenses that can be hard to anticipate.

This is where "sinking funds" come in because small amounts of money add up over time to make large purchases possible. Using "gifts" as an example, every year we figure out about how much we think each birthday and special occasion is going to cost, and each month we put a small amount towards those expenses, maybe just \$25 a month.

At the end of the year we will have saved \$300 and probably spent that much. Or maybe you know within the next five years you're going to need a new-to-you car. \$100 a month for five years means that you'll be able to buy a \$6,000 car with cash, no payments. Or you'll need a new roof so you save more like \$250 a month for five years and you have \$15,000 saved. Sinking funds make cash flowing large life events possible without dipping into your emergency fund.

~Kim Wagner

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

If you look up the word "loyal" in the dictionary you'll find this definition: giving or showing firm and constant support or allegiance to a person or institution.

That definition sums up Loyal Green. Loyal is our volunteer Assistant Treasurer, and he is someone who works behind the scenes, always there, ready to do anything he can, and very dedicated.

Loyal's journey into the Adventist Church began in 1980, when he began watching BLTV's "It Is Written" with George Vandeman and later watching "Amazing Facts" with Doug Batchelor. He especially liked the Prophecy series in New York City on Daniel and Revelation.

In 2005, Loyal attended a CHIP program here at the Grants Pass Church and got to know some of the people. Loyal then asked Pastor Clark how he could join the church, to which Pastor Clark responded, "Come next Sabbath."

Loyal did, and was greeted by Robin Martin who immediately took him to the Christianity 101 class. That Sabbath, after church, a Dorcas worker asked him to help out the following Tuesday at Dorcas, which he did. Even before that day was over, Pauline Foster asked him to help unload the food truck on Thursday. From there he went on to help in the men's clothing and shoe department.

As if he wasn't already busy becoming involved with the outreaches of the church, a month later Shirley Dirksen invited Loyal to be on the BLTV mailing team. After that, Jim and Frank Holder included him in the Red Cross Blood Drive each month. His volunteering 7 time with

Dorcas and other church ministries helped introduce him to members and solidify friendships, and in October 2007 he officially joined the Grants Pass Church by Profession of Faith.

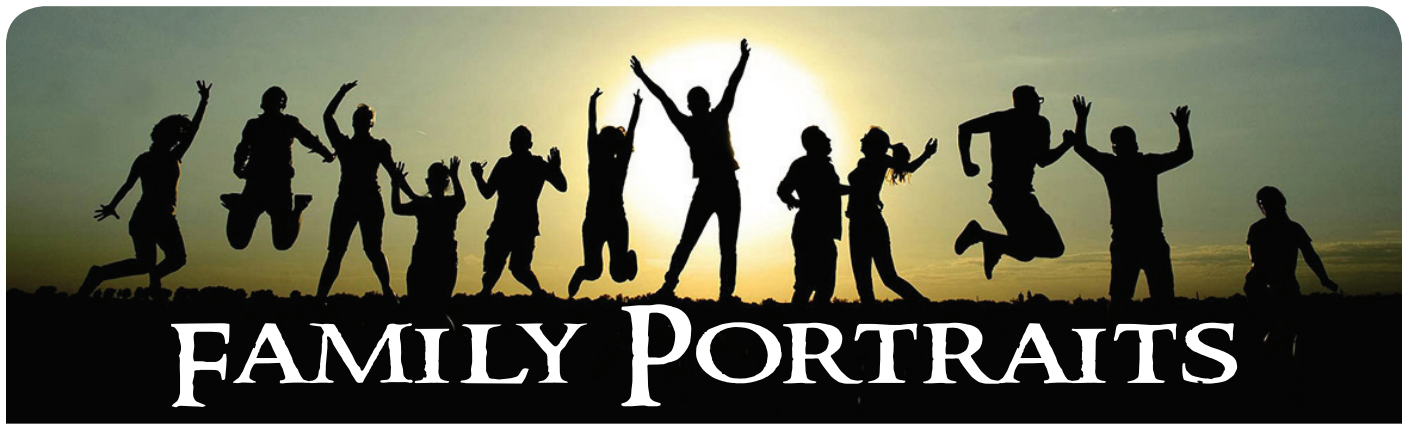
In 2008, Rosie Tresenriter asked Loyal to be a table host for the CHIP Program, and it was later that year during Nominating time that Loyal joined the Counters Team. While not having any accounting background, Loyal knew he was good with numbers, and that began his journey with the Treasury Department.

For being retired, Loyal certainly keeps busy. When not in the office during the week, he can be found assisting people to their medical appointments, watching sports on TV, and meeting with friends from grade school over brunch. He also serves as a deacon and a greeter.

Loyal loves people and loves helping out. His philosophy in life is simple – help where you can, do what you can, and keep busy, all for the Lord. ~Kii Morse



Loyal Green



FAMILY PORTRAITS

One of the newer faces we are seeing in our congregation belongs to Stephanie Martin. She began her life on the other side of the world in North Queensland, Queensland, Australia. Stephanie comes from a long line of Adventists and is the 5th generation on her father's side. She has one younger sister and they grew up with lots of music in their home, singing together as a family.

As a young girl, Stephanie thought she would become a doctor. Home-schooled through her high school years, she realized as she got older that being a doctor would not really suit her well. For a time she turned her thoughts toward business, but one day she felt the Lord telling her that she should become a teacher. She graduated with two bachelor's degrees; one in musicology and the other in secondary education. She then went on to obtain an advanced degree in the field of music.

She began her teaching experience at the high school level in Australia for about a year and a half before deciding she would like to see a different part of the world. With the encouragement of friends, she applied for a position at Ouachita Hills Academy in Amity, Arkansas and spent two years teaching music, history, and consumer math classes. It was during this time that she went to a wedding of some friends in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

No stranger to the Pacific Northwest, Tanner Martin was born in Seattle and raised in western Washington, with two younger sisters. His first twelve years of schooling were at home, and his early aspirations were to become a dentist. He and his sisters were all very musical, an interest that was shared with their grandmother. She was Tanner's piano teacher when he was young.

When Tanner was fifteen, he went on a mission trip to the Philippines with the Young Disciples' Ministry, and it was there that he first felt a calling to do something with his life that would impact people for eternity. With that in mind, he attended Weimar Institute upon completing high school, graduating with a major in Theology, thinking that he might become an academy Bible teacher. After graduation, he spent the next two years as a Bible Worker for the Central California Conference.

During that time one of the pastors encouraged Tanner to pursue advanced coursework at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University and become a pastor.

While at the seminary, he attended the wedding of friends and they introduced him to Stephanie. Since both of them tend to be a bit on the reserved and quiet side, they didn't immediately connect with each other, and when they parted, they had no plans to see one another again.

Unbeknownst to each other, friends of each of them encouraged them to see the other again, but Stephanie had decided by that time in her life that maybe marriage was not in her future. She told God that she was open to His leading and if He didn't have someone for her, she was willing to go into mission service; however, to be fair and give Him a chance, she told Him that she would wait until the end of the year for Him to bring someone into her life. In December, she was seriously looking at mission options when, unexpectedly, she received a phone call from Tanner on December 30, asking her to go out with him.

This time something clicked, and they discovered that they had many things in common. After dating for twenty months, they married this last September.

Tanner and Stephanie share a love of music; both play the piano, she plays violin, he plays viola, and they both sing. They enjoy outdoor activities as well, such as walking and hiking, and if that somehow involves birds, that is a big plus as far as Tanner is concerned. Stephanie also enjoys cooking and baking and that suits Tanner just fine as he is always happy to try her offerings.

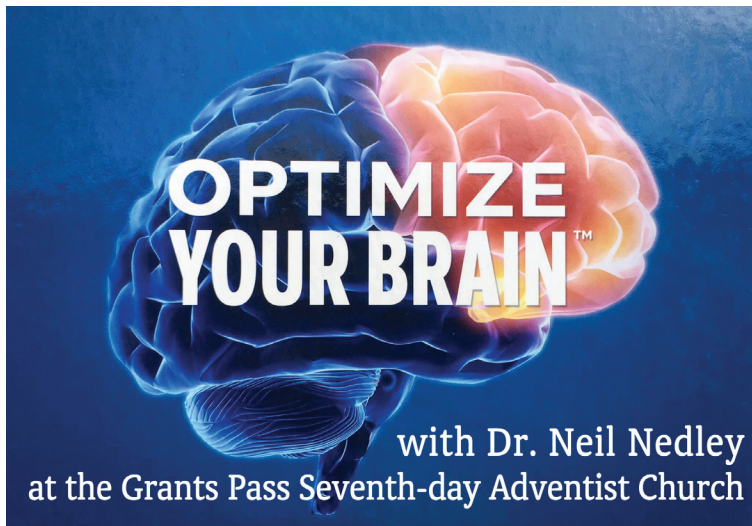
Pastor Tanner has a burden for teaching people how to study the Bible for themselves and not just rely on the pastor or someone else to tell them what the Bible says. He longs to see a deeper spirituality and a revival among the members of our church.

Stephanie's passion is for young people. She enjoys helping them find their identity in Jesus and learning to share their faith through music and testimonies.

We are blessed to have Pastor Tanner and Stephanie as part of our church, and we are happy that they can start their life together here with us. ~Ginny Frost



Pastor Tanner & Stephanie Martin



The planning began early in 2019. What events and seminars did those at the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church wish to host in the coming year? Many expressed an interest in emotional intelligence (EQ). Carrie Hise, who leads and is involved with several church ministries, set about to make this happen.

December 7 and 8 saw the culmination of tremendous planning. Neil Nedley, M.D., led a three-part “Optimize Your Brain” seminar. The seminar included three sessions. The sermon on December 7 focused on “The Bible and Emotional Intelligence.” Following this was an extremely healthy, delicious, and well-organized fellowship dinner, hosted by Rosie Tresenriter, her team, and friends. Dr. Nedley continued at 2:30 p.m., sharing ways to “Optimize Your Brain.” The next morning, he concluded with a presentation on “Nutrition of the Brain.”

Dr. Nedley’s mission with these types of seminars is to “enhance your emotional intelligence, help you manage relationships with others, and motivate you to achieve worthy goals.”



The message is the same. No matter how “bad” a person’s brain may be, our brains have the ability to change, dramatically, for the better. Healthful nutritional choices can help bring our bodies more into balance, resulting in improved brain function. With an optimized brain, we can enjoy a closer relationship with others, and especially with God.

Neil Nedley is a practicing physician in Internal Medicine and also President of Weimar Institute. Weimar is a higher education college and lifestyle center near Sacramento, California. Optimize Your Brain is a required freshman class for students at Weimar. The information presented in Grants Pass was condensed and just a segment of available information.



Following the later sessions, a table was set up with books, DVDs, and other items, which could be purchased by attendees. Dr. Nedley is the author of several popular books, including *Depression: The Way Out*, *The Lost Art of Thinking*, and *Proof Positive*. He also made available certain supplements recommended in his talks. Assistance from ministries throughout the church was required to make this seminar a success. The weekend would never have been possible without the inspiration and help provided by God. As some put Dr. Nedley’s principles into practice, watch for inspirational stories and updates. Watch for further health seminars in 2020, stressing the importance of mental and physical health.

Thank You

Darlene Loewen expresses her gratitude for all those who were praying for her during her recent heart surgery. The surgery was successful, and she is now home resting. Please continue to pray for her complete healing!

Ken Casper is finally home from almost 3 weeks in the hospital and many days in rehabilitation. Needless to say they are overjoyed being able to be together again as Joyce was unable to visit but once as she is unable to be transported easily. Thank you for all your inquiries, phone calls and prayers. Continued prayers would be appreciated as there looms some future uncertainties that need to be addressed. They express their gratitude to everyone for their friendship and the concerns of so many fellow church members and extended family. May the blessings of the season be with each of you.

Zola Lewis is experiencing some progress in recovering from a bout with double pneumonia and requests your continued prayer. She writes, "I truly want to express my thanks and total gratitude to each one of my church family for their thoughts, prayers, beautiful cards and telephone calls that I receive daily from our church family and friends.

Double pneumonia, at any age, is such a trying experience, but at this time of my life, I specially thank each of you for your thoughts, prayers, words of encouragement and numerous cards, that I cherish.

We claim our Lords promise that: "We can do nothing without Him", I cherish your continued prayers not on my behalf alone but on those whose health has given them and their loved ones much concern. Seasons Greetings and blessings to each of you."

Dr. Hurd appreciates your visits, cards, and prayers, and says he will be back in circulation soon.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IS INCREASING IN THE UNITED STATES



by Bob Dale

We enjoy religious freedom in this country, thanks to our founding fathers' carefully chosen words in the First Amendment of the Constitution. However, all is not well. A recent study by the Pew Research Center cites widespread agreement (by 82% of Americans) that Muslim populations in the U.S. face significant discrimination. In addition, anti-Semitic hate crimes have risen dramatically in the last few years. The October 2018 shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue that killed 11 worshippers was the deadliest anti-Semitic act in American history.

Christians in America also

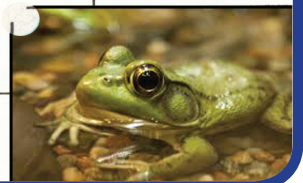
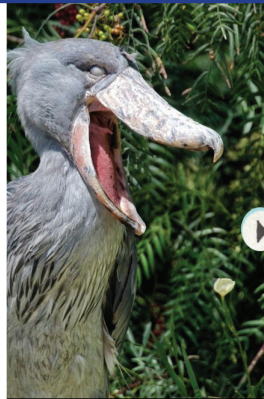
face increasing discrimination and hostility. Intolerance toward Christians now occurs in a variety of settings. In recent years, because of certain views on matters of faith, some Christians have come under intense public pressure to resign positions of leadership on college campuses and in business organizations.

What is happening in this country is part of a worldwide trend of increased religious persecution and intolerance. It really doesn't matter whether one is Muslim, Jew, Christian, or even atheist. Fortunately, it's still a stretch to say that religious persecution in the United States is rampant. But today's trends do not portend well for what the future may hold.

On January 25, our church will take up a special offering for religious liberty. This offering goes toward helping individuals who struggle with workplace issues due to Sabbath observance or other religious beliefs. The offering also helps in supporting legislation aimed at protecting religious liberty, as well as distributing the SDA-sponsored publication, Liberty Magazine, to thought leaders nationwide. Please consider prayerfully how you may be able to give toward these important efforts. ~Bob Dale

KIDS CORNER

Isn't this a funny looking bird? He stands about four feet high. He is a Shoebill Stork, and lives in the swamps along the White Nile and Sudan regions of Africa. When he is hungry he stands in water up to his chest and looks for a frog, fish, baby crocodile, or turtle. Start at the arrow and help him find the frog.



Pastor's Page



Our Greatest Joy In 2020

Can you believe it? 2020 is here! As your pastoral team, Pastor Tanner and myself want this year to be the year you find the highest honor and the greatest joy that is possible for God to bestow upon you. What would that be?

If we were the children of Israel, we

This is the highest honor, the greatest joy, that it is possible for God to bestow upon men. Those who thus become participants in labors of love are brought nearest to their Creator. {SC 79.1}

God is inviting us to come very near, to feel His presence, to know experientially His power flowing through us as a blessing to others. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" Acts 20:35. That blessing can be ours.

God's greatest blessing, His highest honor, His greatest joy comes from partnering with divinity to save for eternity those who are lost. This is why we are a

church! All other activities must

be subordinate to our very purpose for existing as an organization. To partake of His divine nature and then to seek and save that which is lost.

On January 18, we are asking you to set aside that entire day to find His greatest joy: His purpose for your life. Be at church. Be at church following the fellowship lunch. Our guest speaker, Elder Jeff Potts from Canada, will inspire, will train, and will prepare us to enter into the most intimate of experiences, of seeing Christ's will and work in us, yes, and through us to bring divinity to others. Come, taste and see! You will discover personally that "the effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. This was the purpose of God in giving us a part to act in the plan of redemption."

May 2020 give each of us true spiritual clarity, and His greatest joy.

~Pastor Charles Byrd

"The church must go with the gospel for its own happiness. For the greatest joy we have is the joy of helping somebody."

-Bob Childress, The Man Who Moved a Mountain p. 213

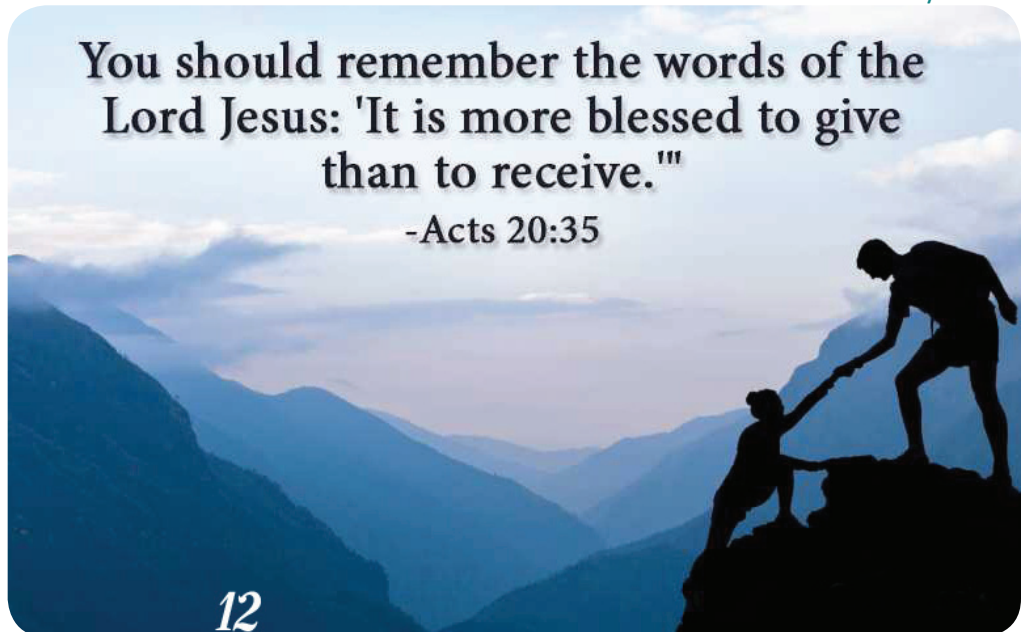
might be tempted to think it would be seeing the Red Sea part. If we were the disciples of Jesus we might think it would seeing Lazarus raised from the dead. But as wonderful as seeing the miracles of the Bible happen before our eyes, or to walk the dusty roads with Jesus there actually is a higher honor, a greater joy. What could it be?

May I suggest it is simply becoming a partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) and then using that new gifted nature to redeem others from the curse and consequences of sin by bringing to them the new divine life. "Is that it?" you might ask. Well, meditate on this inspired quote.

"He [God] has granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men.

You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

-Acts 20:35





January

Ps. 147:16, 17
 "He giveth snow like wool; He scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth His ice like morsels, who can stand before His cold?"



Happy Birthday

- ASHLEY HULL 01
- ROBERT WAGERLE 01
- JENNIFER BURKES 02
- SEBASTIAN BRYNER 02
- LLOYD KIRK 03
- CLAUDIA VELASCO 04
- GINA LOVMARK 04
- DENNIS GALLEGOS 05
- JUDY SURROZ 06
- MEL GRIFFITH 06
- CHANDRA JORGENSEN 08
- RENA NATIONS 08
- AMY DENKE 09
- DON BEAUDIN 09
- RYAN TYNDALL 10
- BONNIE GERBER 11
- LONDON DOYLE 11
- TED POWELL 11
- CODY NELSON 12
- HARRY HANSEN 12
- BEN DIXON 13
- ED CEXTON 13
- MARTHA EWERT 13
- MICHAEL KAINER 17
- DAYNA VANLOHUIZEN 20
- KEIRAN MURPHY 20
- PERRY KAINER 20
- SHIRLEY O'REILLY 20
- MARK O'DELL 22
- LYDIA JOHNSON 23
- MARY KAY GARCIA 23
- JOSHUA KISTLER 24
- KAY GRAY 24
- LARRY SAMPLE 24
- ANNA ERMISHAR 24
- MARY ASHLEY 25
- CYNTHIA O'DELL 26
- JERRY SORENSEN 27
- JOY STEWART 27
- ELIZABETH DURHAM 28
- JACINDA RUSH 28
- JOAN PETERSON 28
- OLEN NATIONS 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
Events may have been changed or added; please check: www.grantspasschurch.com/calendar			1 Church Office Closed 	2 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store	3 7:00 pm Gary & Shelly Parks Sacred Concert Sunset 4:52 pm	4 9:30 am Sabbath School 10:50 am Pastor Byrd: Communion 1:00 pm No Fellowship Meal Sunset 4:53 pm
5 10:00 am Walking & Hiking Club (Reinhart Volunteer Park)	6 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 10:00 am Vets Helping Vets Black Bear Diner 5:30 pm Pathfinders 6:00 pm Financial Peace University	7 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 9:00 am-2:00 pm Dorcas 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 4:00 pm Romans Bible Study (YC) 6:30 pm Elder's Board	8 12:00 pm Women's Study Group (MP) 6:30 pm Ten Days of Prayer Youth Chapel Ten Days of Prayer - January 8-17 - Youth Chapel	9 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 6:00 pm Choir Practice	10 6:30 pm Impact Mtg (YC) (joining with Ten Days of Prayer) Sunset 4:59 pm	11 9:30 am Sabbath School 10:50 am Pastor Byrd 1:00 pm No Fellowship Meal 3:00 pm Memorial for Glenna Kremer Sunset 5:00 pm
12	13 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 5:30 pm Pathfinders 6:00 pm Financial Peace University	14 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 9:00 am-2:00 pm Dorcas 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 4:00 pm Romans Bible Study (YC)	15 12:00 pm Blood Drive 12:00 pm Women's Study Group (MP) 12:00 pm Widows/Single Ladies Lunch: EL Molcajete Restaurant Ten Days of Prayer - Youth Chapel	16 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm GP School Board	17 7:00 pm Music Vespers Sing-a-long Sunset 5:06 pm	18 9:30 am Sabbath School 10:50 am Pastor Jeff Potts 1:00 pm Fellowship Meal: letters O-R 2:00 pm Pastor Jeff Potts Sunset 5:08 pm
19 10:00 am Walking & Hiking Club (Reinhart Volunteer Park)	20 Church Office Closed 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 6:00 pm Financial Peace University	21 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 9:00 am-2:00 pm Dorcas 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 4:00 pm Rom. Study (YC) 6:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm Church Board	22 12:00 pm Women's Study Group (MP) 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg (YC)	23 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 6:00 pm Choir Practice	24 6:30 pm Impact Mtg (YC) Sunset 5:15 pm	25 9:30 am Wayne Blakely 10:50 am Wayne Blakely 1:00 pm Fellowship Meal: letters S-T 2:30 pm Wayne Blakely 6:00 pm Pathfinder Talent Sunset 5:16 pm
26	27 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 5:30 pm Pathfinders 6:00 pm Financial Peace University	28 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 9:00 am-2:00 pm Dorcas 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 4:00 pm Romans Bible Study (YC)	29 12:00 pm Women's Study Group (MP) 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg (YC)	30 9 am - 1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 6:00 pm Choir Practice	31 Sunset 5:24 pm	