



April 2021

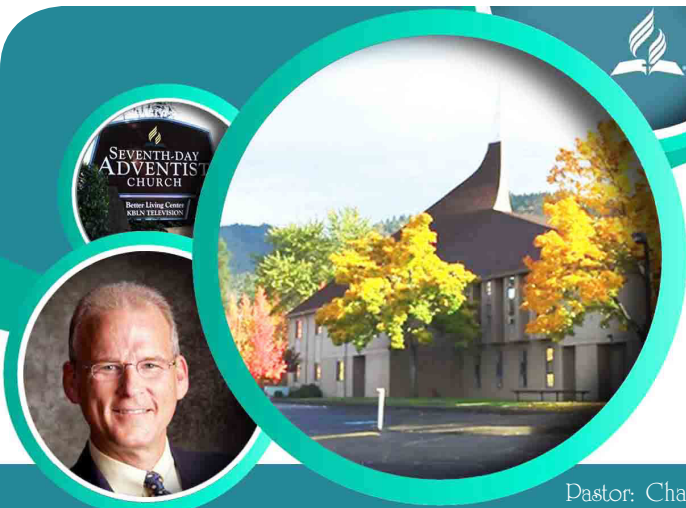
NEWS 'n VIEWS

from the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor: Charles Byrd

Newsletter Editor: Melissa Derfler

rainbowvalley12@gmail.com



REACHING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIVES

SPECIAL MISSIONS ISSUE

David and Cindy White have been attending the Grants Pass church off and on for about 6 years but had only recently moved to Sunny Valley in the summer of 2019. The Whites were missionaries in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with Adventist Frontier Mission (AFM) 2004 - 2012. Last year, when Bob Kruger organized the first "World Missions Emphasis Sabbath," David spoke for the PNG God-pod project having had personal experience using and distributing them. Later, for the second "World Missions Emphasis Sabbath", Bob K. arranged for Dale Goodson to speak, a former missionary to PNG and current trainer for AFM. The Whites and Dale are friends having served contemporaneously in PNG. Dale asked David and Cindy if they would

America among the Native people. Without hesitation they said "Yes!" The Whites are of the opinion that this "old ball of mud" is soon to be repossessed by its original Owner. And that *today* is a tremendous opportunity to be engaged in active, intentional evangelism while the window of mission is still open.

Back in 2020, Steve Huey, of the North Pacific Union and director for Native Ministries, reached out to AFM wishing to partner to reach Natives in the Pacific Northwest. Soon afterwards a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed upon and a "call" was made. This will be a pilot project for AFM, the first AFM project in North America.

consider doing another mission project with AFM, only this time in North

Christendom has traditionally struggled



to establish active, vibrant churches among North American Native peoples. The Seventh-day Adventist church is no exception. Native people, who were once free to move from place to place with the seasons, foraging their food and shelter, are now restricted to ever shrinking reservations, *(continued on pages 2)*



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culturally confined to their “appointed” lands. Secular western influences and substance abuse are major contributing factors to the apathy, hopelessness, and their resistance to Christianity.



By God’s grace, Cindy and I intend to bring hope and reconciliation to God and the people we serve. He has not created Native people in vain, rather, as with each of us, He has created them for a purpose. They too need to know that their lives can be covered with the blood of the Lamb, that they can be free from the sin that so easily besets all of us, and like us, they too need hope to see a land that is fairer than day and an eternal home.



Last February, the Grants Pass church board voted to help the Native project with \$15,000 towards our launching goal. This money will help cover some of the White’s costs of transport, lodging, and training needed to prepare them for work among Native peoples.



While fundraising to go to Papua New Guinea in 2003 we often heard, “There is a large work to do right here in the United States!” That statement may have never been truer than it is right now. We see this new call to work among North American Natives as an opportunity to fill that mandate. Please consider enlarging God’s Kingdom by joining us in this effort. Only in eternity will we see the result of the sacrifices made in order to fulfill Christ’s commission and hasten His second coming.

Thank you for your heart for the lost and desire to be a mission driven church. Thank you for the commitment you have made towards His projects. God bless!

Together in His Service, David & Cindy White



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

The ocean and the lush coastal forests provided the Northwest Coast people with everything that they needed to survive. Tribes carved huge canoes made from cedar or spruce trees. The boats could fit up to 30 people, who paddled into the sea to hunt otters, seals, and whales. Salmon was such an important food source that these fish featured in many of their stories, and many tribes held a First Salmon Ceremony to celebrate the salmon's return to freshwater rivers from the ocean.

Many tribes, such as the Tlingit (KLIN-kit) and Haida (HY-dah), showed off their status with totem poles. These carved and painted poles represented a family's history or honored a chief or other important person. The totem poles featured carvings of animals or supernatural creatures associated with family clans. Thunderbirds (a mythical animal that caused thunder when it opened its wings), ravens, and bears stared down from many totem poles.

In the spring and summer, many tribes lived in temporary shelters that could be moved around while they hunted, fished, and gathered berries and roots. During winter, people moved into cedar houses that were large enough for many families to share. Often these homes had totem poles outside. Sometimes the totem poles were used as posts to support the house's roof.

The Natives believed that they were all connected to the world of the supernatural that surrounded them. The Shaman or medicine man was the bridge to that world.

LIFE TODAY

Today, the native people of the Northwest Coast have lives like many Americans: They live in modern homes and send their kids to school. But many also remember their heritage by doing things like carving totem poles, hosting traditional feasts, and sharing their culture with others. For instance, the Puyallup (pyoo-AH-lup) tribe has a YouTube channel with videos of events such as the Puyallup powwow. Fish have become part of many of modern tribal businesses: The S'klallam (SKLAH-lum) and the Stillaguamish (stil-AG-wa-mish) operate fish hatcheries.

Many tribes participate in Canoe Journeys, an event hosted by the Lummi (LOO-mee) people. Each year, participants sail oceangoing canoes to a different destination, sometimes taking a month to complete the journey.



I really enjoyed working on this Mission Issue and am excited about the opportunities for soul winning it represents! All of us can have a part in these ministries, supporting our front line missionaries in their work and efforts to reach people while there is still time!

Thank you to all the writers who contributed this month—our NEW writers and some we have only rarely heard from—you are each greatly appreciated!

This issue also has an emphasis on Prayer and Bible study—memorizing those verses that can be a comfort to us when we most need them. I've had a lifelong interest in memorizing Scripture; something my mother started me doing when I was just a toddler. My favorite way to learn Scripture is through song. If, like me, you are an auditory learner, check out www.scripturesonglink.com and also the FREE app, you can download to your phone, **Scripture Singer**, created by Fountainview Academy.

blessings, *Melissa*

Lance & Rebecca Schmidt
408-509-2288

lanceschmidt100@yahoo.com



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Thoughts & Prayers

(For Prayer Partners and additions to this column, please contact Sandy Page, head of Visitation.)

Ron Beasley
Cathy Bell
Joyce Casper
Sandra Chinn
Bonnie Day
Artur & Tulia De
Carvalho
Connie Frye
Dennis Gallegos
Ingrid Gruenheid
Betty Hamblin
David Hamblin
Harry Hansen
Butch & Pam Helwig

Fran Holder
Dr. Frank &
Rosalie Hurd
Sharon Karen
Steve King
Jerry & Zola Lewis
Darlene Loewen
Henry Martin
Cathy McGinnis
Molly Mourning
Shirley
Napoletano
Chuck Painter
Jessica Rae

Beth Ringering
Dory Robinson
Israel Rush
Lance Schmidt
Rhonda Scott
Mel Smith
Yvonne Tooley
BLBN
Lenore Stevens' family
Our school
The home-bound
Those in nursing
homes
VETS



One can go without food for weeks, without water for days, without air for only minutes... This article focuses on the importance of this precious element that we take for granted.

Oxygen comprises 20.93% of the air we breathe. Nitrogen is 78.1% and carbon dioxide is 0.03%. The remainder is made of rare gases like helium and argon. In addition, the air also carries water vapor, microbes, and pollutants.

Various health problems occur over time as one is exposed to air pollution leading to respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

It is a common belief that the air quality in rural areas is less polluted than in urban areas like big cities. However, studies seem to quell that

assumption because the air in large cities like Delhi in India has a daily average of 500/m³ of total suspended particulate compared to smoky houses in Nepal with peak level of 10,000/m³ or more. It is reported that rural people in developing countries are more exposed to air particulates, as much as two-thirds of the global exposure.

The air pollution is a result of human activities like agriculture and coal burning. Natural causes include volcanic eruptions and forest fires.

In the antediluvian world, the earth was watered by moisture from the atmosphere and the springs under the earth. While we know the oxygen today comprises 20.93% of the air we breathe, we know nothing about

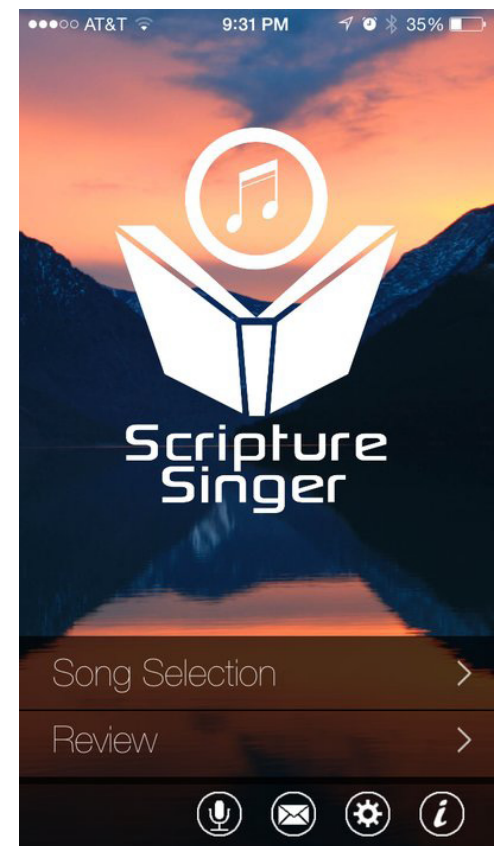
the antediluvian atmosphere. One thing we can safely assume is that the air pollution we have today was non-existent then. The biosphere was very different due to the effects of the canopy of water vapor that covered the earth since rain did not exist.

So, with every breath that you take, remember it is life-sustaining. And that breath of life comes from our Creator!

~ Edsen Donato

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- 2) A new Approach to Earth History: www.earthhistory.org.uk/before-the-cataclysm/before-the-flood



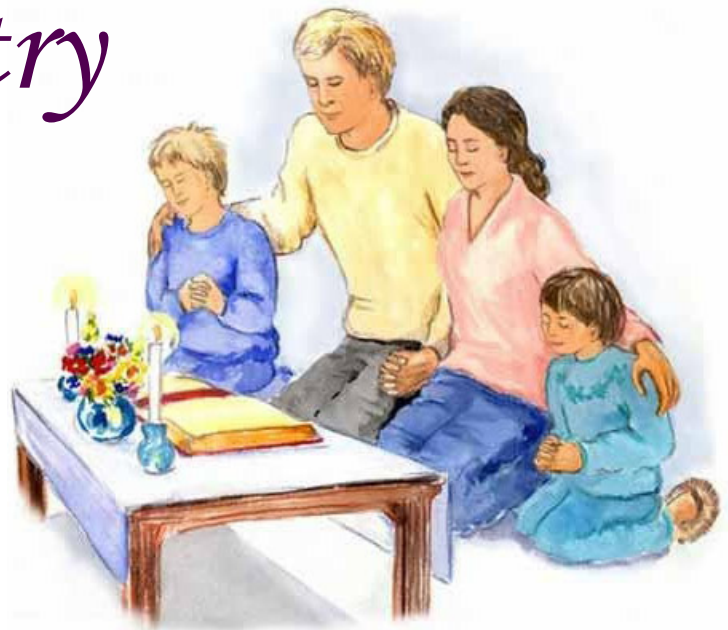
Prayer Ministry

NOW is the Time

Because there may come a day when we no longer have access to our Bibles, it may be time to get serious about memorizing scripture. In our Monday night Praise, Prayer and Promises meeting we are memorizing a new scripture almost every week. So far we have memorized: Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 27:1; 27:14; and 50:15. I personally like to use **The Bible Memory App**. It involves typing the verse using the first letter of each word until you master it. It also sends you reminders another way I have found very effective is to write the scripture on a couple of 3 x 5 cards and place them in strategic places such as in the car, on the bathroom mirror or refrigerator door etc. Then every time I see it, I can read it out loud. Also, going for a walk is a great way to memorize scripture. Take the card with you and repeat it out loud as you walk. The neighbors may wonder when they hear you apparently speaking to yourself, but oh well! Some people like to write out the scripture or make a recording on their phone and listen to it over and over. The main thing is, through the power of the Holy Spirit, get that scripture imbedded into your brain so when you need it, He can bring it to your remembrance!

So after you have decided you are going to start memorizing scripture, the next question to consider is which scriptures to memorize? This is where a Bible Promise book may come

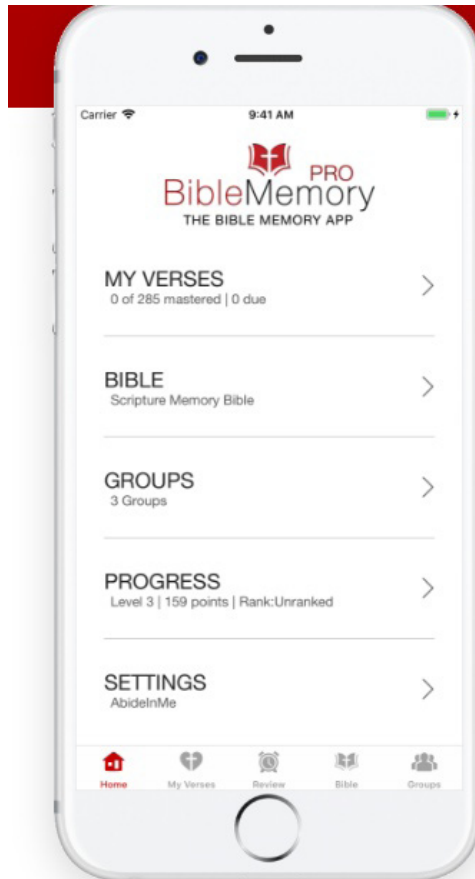
in handy. Most of them are divided by subject so if there is a particular situation or stress in your life, search for the appropriate scripture that will sustain you during that crisis. Or, just search and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to memorize what He knows will be a blessing to you. I choose scriptures to memorize that seem important to me from my personal Bible reading. The main thing is NOW is the Time. Don't delay. And remember, scripture is your Spiritual Sword.



Jesus quoted scripture in His battle with the enemy and how better to bring "every thought into captivity"* then through memorizing God's Word?

Blessings, Donna G.

*2 Corinthians 10:5



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*Have not I commanded thee?
Be strong and of a good courage;
be not afraid, neither be thou
dismayed: for the Lord thy
God is with thee whithersoever
thou goest. Joshua 1:9*

*And call upon me in the day of
trouble: I will deliver thee, and
thou shalt glorify me.
Psalm 50:15*

*Fear thou not; for I am with thee:
be not dismayed; for I am thy God:
I will strengthen thee; yea, I will
help thee; yea, I will uphold thee
with the right hand of my
righteousness. Isaiah 41:10*

Prayer Partners

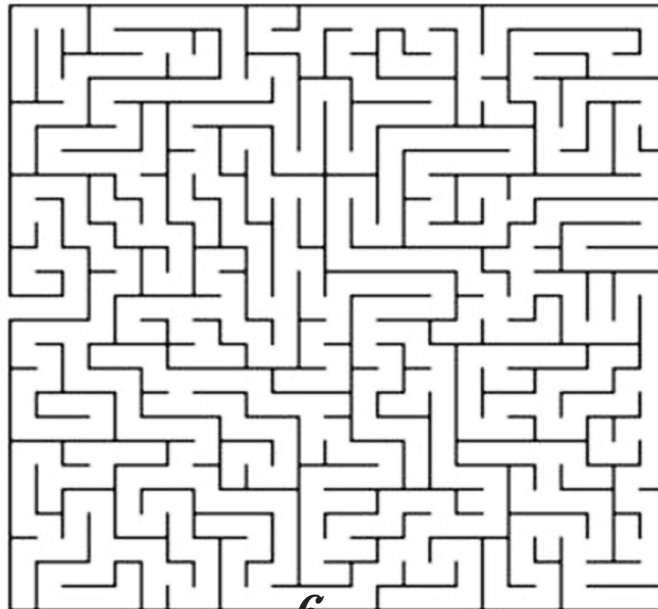
My article is about "Prayer Partners". The Lord told me that we all need Prayer Partners. I do believe it is because of the times we are in. This is one of the most loving churches I have ever gone to. This article is to give ideas on how to communicate with your partner; you can text, email, write, and meet at places such as parks, restaurants, Dutch Brothers or a home. The ideas are endless, for our Lord created us all different. You can check in with your partner to see what needs they have. Also they can ask for unspoken prayers as well. This is also a time of fellowship for the two of you. This is an exciting time for us all; we are so close to the Second Coming of Jesus! Please let me know if I have not texted or contacted you since 1st of February. I texted and called most of the church members to remind them of their partner. While I called each of you I tried to get a partner not too far away from your home for convenience. Also any of you that may want to get another prayer partner, or visit church members, just let me know; thank you.

~Sandy Page, head of Visitation
Thank you, Rema, for your help.



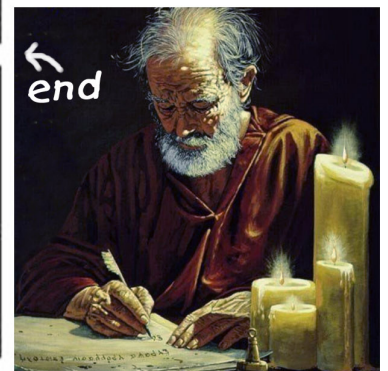
KIDS CORNER

Paul had many exciting adventures on his missionary journeys. On his voyage to Rome, there was a terrible storm, and they couldn't see the sun or stars for many days. After two weeks, the ship ran aground on an island and was broken up by the violence of the waves. God protected them and all made it safely to land. Everyone was wet and cold. When they built a fire to warm up, a poisonous snake crawled out of the firewood and bit Paul's hand. The natives on the island expected him to die. When he didn't, they decided he must be a god. This gave him an opportunity to talk to them about the real God in heaven.



See if you can find your way through the maze to help Paul get to Rome.

Read the story of the shipwreck in Acts 27 and 28.





Into All the World: \$25,000 Matching Grant

That's the commission, the great assignment, God has given to all who believe in Him. "All who have become children of God are to do all in their power to seek and save the lost sheep" we're told by the pen of inspiration. That is the assignment the Grants Pass Church has embraced when choosing to support and promote the **I Met God** video Bible study series for the languages of the world.

So far QuestLine Productions has raised over \$86,000 since January of 2020. This month QLP received a \$25,000 matching grant from two of our dedicated supporters. When this grant is matched we'll have another \$50,000 and be over \$136,000 raised for the project.

After helping crowd source this project, what else can the Grants Pass congregation do to see that this project is properly funded? There are several things:

1. Pray, pray, pray. The Word of God says that He would supply all our needs (Phil. 4:19). But He directed us to "ask" (Matt. 7:7). So ask—in your quiet time alone with God, in small groups, and in other gatherings.
2. Like and subscribe to the QuestLine Productions Facebook page and share the

posts on your Facebook page or copy and paste links to the pages in your emails.

3. Another way to help is to share the Grants Pass Church story of foreign missions support and how it has blessed our church. After sharing the story, ask them to make foreign missions a priority and invite them to make the **I Met God project** one of their focuses. This could be a personal email campaign that you send to family members and friends who live in other states. The more churches that participate the faster the fund raising will be completed.



Grants Pass is leading the way and others are following their lead. So, what's been happening with the funds raised so far? Scripts are being written, and new equipment is being purchased. This week two very important key pieces of equipment (Ultimatte 12) are coming. These tools will allow us to

bring many of the locations around the world that will be the backdrop for the series right into the studio.

God is reaching hearts near and far to make this video Bible study a reality. In 2014, a girl living in England named Jehlise received \$16 for her 16th birthday. Thinking beyond temporal pleasures, she donated it to help finish Thunder in the Holy Land. Because of Jehlise's gift, thousands of sets of Thunder are being used around the world, even in some closed countries. Many souls are learning of Jesus and accepting His truth and love. This month we received another gift from England of \$70. Karen thought she recognized the name. Sure enough, it was Jehlise, now 21, supporting the **I Met God** project.

Our young people could follow Jehlise's lead and be part of this endeavor. Not only giving personally but also challenging their friends and family to be part of something big, something huge: finishing the Gospel Commission, making the truths of the living Word accessible to people all around the world, in their own language.

Thank you for taking on this project and making it an active part of your world mission goals.

7 ~ Pastor Charles & Karen Byrd

ASAP PROJECT

I am excited to see our church so involved in world missions. What a blessing it is to help those who are in great need. I appreciate this quote from the book Prophets and Kings, p.131-132 – “The widow of Zarephath shared her morsel with Elijah, and in return her life and that of her son were preserved. And to all who, in time of trial and want, give sympathy and assistance to others more needy, God has promised great blessing. He has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah.”

One of the mission projects our mission committee and church board voted to support as a church is ASAP’s (Advocated for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted) project Naung Bo Den School in Thailand. It has been operating by faith and sacrificial giving for about 15 years. Every year is a leap of faith, depending on God for that year’s funding. It serves just over 100 students each year.

Our goal this year is \$12,000. This covers teacher stipends for 7 teachers and boarding fees for 71 boarding students. The minimum wage in Thailand is 9,000 baht (\$288.00) per month, Naung Bo Den School teachers sacrificially work for only 3,000 baht (\$96.00) per month. Recently there has been an increase in dormitory students. Dormitory boarding fees include 3 meals per day, basic hygiene supplies such as soap and toothpaste,



etc., and fuel for the generator for night time study hall. We will be speaking more to this ASAP project as well as the other mission projects during the April 17 church service. Also, Pastor Lisa Isensee from ASAP will be speaking July 17 and will be able to give us more insight on the project that we are supporting. Pastor Conrad Vine from AFM (Adventist Frontier Missions) will be speaking August 28 and will give us some insight on the two AFM projects we are supporting as well as speaking on other topics. ~Chuck Austin

When Kham became a Christian, he tried to talk to his aunt about God, but Dara refused to believe anything that he said. Kham asked if ASAP church planter Miriam could try talking to his aunt; Miriam started calling Dara, and the two soon became friends.

One day, Miriam and Dara were talking about worshipping at temples. Miriam pointed out that nothing changes when you visit a temple, and told her friend about the God who can and does change lives. This time, Dara listened! When Miriam’s church group worships on Sabbath, Dara calls her, and she and her mother listen to the service over the phone. Praise God for reaching people through the power of friendship!



TESTIMONIES
FROM ASAP



When Buth Ly worked for the government, her job required her to work on Sabbath. Each week she would ask her supervisor if she could take Saturday off, but they always refused. So she prayed and asked God to give her Sabbaths off so she could worship Him. After three months, her office announced that they would be closed on Saturdays!

Now Buth is a medical missionary; she became interested in this line of work while caring for her husband after he had a stroke. The natural healing methods she learned from a friend connected to ASAP helped to extend his life. "I was so impressed by how the methods worked that I wanted to become a medical missionary," she explained. Now she uses that knowledge to help others in her community and open a door to share the good news of the gospel with them.



Hsi Hsi was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist church when she was in her thirties; when she left the Baptist church to join them, some of her friends abandoned her and her neighbors started throwing rocks at her house. Things became so bad that she fled to the refugee camp to escape their persecution.

Now Hsi Hsi is a teacher at one of the schools in the camp, and she has a special place in her heart for the orphans who live there. "I always show God's love to them," she says. "We need to give them opportunities to talk about their trauma and we need to find other ways to help them."



Recap of 2020 Foreign Mission Projects

The Gospel will be preached in the entire world, to all nations, before Jesus comes. Matt. 24:14. Our Foreign mission team got together for the first time last Feb. 29, 2020. How blessed we were to begin the focus before the Covid-19 shutdown. All is in God's timing as three projects were chosen and we moved ahead with God pods for Papua New Guinea, a school in northeast India, and the I Met God international Bible study series with Questline Productions. Details of each project were in our News 'n Views church letter.

Dave and Cindy White talked about their eight years in Papua New Guinea. They showed us how valuable God pods are in reaching the people for Jesus. Marissa Heidinger showed pictures of the Adventist school in Khoupum Valley, Manipur, India where she volunteered in 2019. Later that year, we enjoyed two guest speakers from AFM and AWR talk about foreign missions.

At the end of 2020, we had a special world mission emphasis week where we recapped what had been accomplished throughout the year. Dr. Heidinger showed some pictures of the progress made in the India school project; Ed Wagner talked about the Caleb project; Dave White gave a report about the God pods for Papua New Guinea and how God has blessed us as a church; and Bob Kruger presented Biblical and SOP principles of each church making foreign missions a priority. We are especially encouraged to focus on the 10-40 Window where the greatest number of unreached people groups in the world live.

God totally blessed the mission projects through all of you. We met our goals and exceeded them!

Our goal for God pods was \$6,250 and our final amount received was \$10,603.90. Our goal for the school in India was \$10,000 and the final total was \$12,774.44. Also our local church budget was in the black and beyond! All this giving was during the Covid-19 and its challenges. Praise the Lord, from whom all blessings flow! God blessed you, so you could bless others.

There is a quote from E G White that says "To show a liberal, self-denying spirit for the success of foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work; ... He designs that in every home, in every church, and at all the centers of the work a spirit of liberality shall be shown in sending help to foreign fields, where the workers are struggling against great odds to give the light to those who sit in darkness." Gospel Workers p. 465, 466

Thank you church family! You were used by God for the advancement of the gospel.

Becky Kruger

3.3.2021

Dear Pr Byrd

This letter is somewhat self-explanatory but I am so grateful for what God has done in my life over the past 50 years and Grants Pass has played a very important role! I had to say something. I am wondering if this could be posted in the church or placed in the newsletter. We would be so grateful.

You are very privileged to minister in what is, in my opinion, one of the crown jewels of the church in North America.

Yours in Christ, *Steve*



Dear Friends at Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church

You would be amazed to see how fast 50 years goes by! I can tell you it really does. And while it's a bit of cliché the time really does seem to speed up. But I can't tell you why!

I am writing to thank my church family at Grants Pass. After all, this was the church I "grew up" in from 1956—1971. Some of my earliest memories of church (and my parents, Dale and Dorothy Cook attended regularly until they passed in the '90s and '02) were there at 111 Evelyn Ave. Yes, I believe the building is still there—across from the Barnstormer's Theatre. I remember my classes in Primary with the teacher Mr. Al Bray, Marge's husband. And I remember sitting with my Dad and Mom in the balcony. The building seemed so large then. And on Sabbaths it was filled up. From that balcony I'd watched as the numbers came in from Harvest Ingathering during the week. They were totaled up on a large blackboard up front in between Sabbath School and Church. Ingathering was huge in those days.

Tragically, my spiritual life went off the rails in the late 1960s but in the mercy of God, like the prodigal son, who "came to himself" Jesus saved me. It happened just fifty years ago last October. And it was just a week and half later that I found myself back at Church on Evelyn Ave. The welcome was solid. I'd come back from the "dead".

This was the church where I'd been baptized in the early '60s. This was the church where my 8th grade graduation happened. And ineffably where my brother's funeral happened in 1962. One of my first responsibilities as a re-converted member was to lead out in the Junior age group during Vacation Bible School, the summer of 1971. Here I would later preach. And when the new church was built just a few blocks away, it was here where my wife and I would come home to visit during those wonderful summer months in Southern Oregon in the 70's, '80s, and '90s.

Capping it off it was here that we'd conduct several evangelistic series in the early 2000's. And I cannot ever forget my first series there in 2000 when my Dad was still living and how that played such a crucial role in leading me into full time evangelistic ministry. What can I say but "Thank you" to all who have made and continue to make Grants Pass Church such a bastion of Adventism.

I think that it goes without saying that your home church—the church of your early years has a profound influence in shaping your thoughts about church—and about God. I am grateful for the way that my early life was molded by the influence of the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Your friends forever,

Pr Steve and Alberta Cook

Staten Island, New York

Letters
to the church



PNONG PROJECT

Daniel & Cara Greenfield with their 3 children, Andrew, Autumn, and Alex, have been working in Cambodia on the Pnong Project.

The Christensen Adventist Primary School opened in 2013 in SenMenorom, Cambodia, to provide education to families that join the Adventist church. Cambodia is on the French school system which goes to school Monday thru Saturday. The school is located about 6 hours from the capital, Phnom Penh, in the eastern part of the country, and about 25 miles from Vietnam and Laos. It started with K-2 and each year they have added a grade.

This year they have K-8 and are now accredited up to grade 12. This allows the students to take exams with the rest of the country and receive a government-recognized certificate when they pass their exams. It also allows them to continue to grow by a grade each year. They are planning on adding grade 9 this next school year as God sees fit and provides. They completed an 18,000 sq. ft. school building in 2016, which includes administration office and a kitchen which feeds the students two meals a day.

About 150 students currently attend. Most students are Buddhist, some are Animist, and less than 10 are Seventh-day Adventist. Bible classes are part of the everyday curriculum for all students. At this point, all of the classrooms are being used so God will have to guide them in how to find the space to begin adding grades 9-12.

Part of the Cambodian culture is that when you hire someone and bring them from another area of the country, housing is provided as part of their monthly salary. The teachers are recruited from the Adventist University in Thailand and it can be very competitive to get a teacher to come to your school. Thus, with over 10 family units that teach, the cost of housing rent is a large share of the school's monthly expenses.

The school sits on a 4 acre piece of land in the town and there is room on this property to still build three housing 8-plex units. The first one has been started and 2 of the 8 units were built prior to this school year beginning. There is need for an additional \$40,000 to complete this building, which will greatly reduce monthly operating expenses, and move the



school closer to being self-supporting.

Other projects the school is working on to help make it self-sufficient are a bakery/sandwich shop, which was started in July. They have also purchased 53 acres about 40 minutes from the town and have cleared trees, put in a road and are planting avocado and durian trees. Fish ponds have been added, and bee hives will be placed on this property as well as growing some other produce. A water tank and pumps have been purchased to water all of the plants and are in progress of being set up on the property to pump water from the year round stream at the back of the property.

Thank you so much for you interest in helping this school provide for it's teachers' housing needs as it moves toward being totally self-sufficient. May God continue to bless this school as a light in the community. Today Daniel & Cara see God's hand building up His church among the Pnong where there have been decades of darkness. They look forward to seeing how He works in the coming years.

~Donna Hansen



THE PNONG PEOPLE PROJECT



Carob and Repentance

Carob is a fascinating food. The carob tree produces edible carob pods that are extremely nutritious, and have traditionally been a staple food for both livestock and poor people in the Middle East. The pods can also be ground to powder and refined until it tastes somewhat like chocolate. The scientific name of the carob tree is *Ceratonia siliqua*, which comes from the Greek *keration* (meaning "little horn," a description of the horn-like shape of the carob pod). Incidentally, the English word *carot*, a unit for measure for the purity of gold, also comes from *keration* — that is because the carob seeds are extremely consistent in weight, and have been used since ancient times on merchants' scales to measure gold.

Carob shows up in the Bible at least once and probably twice. The first time is the story of John the Baptist. "John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins... Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey." (Mark 1:4, 6) That word *locusts* has puzzled Bible students for two thousand years, but there is a strong argument that it is a reference to carob pods. In fact, carob is also known as "St. John's Bread" and "locust bean" because of the old Christian tradition that it was the food of John the Baptist. To be fair, we don't know for sure

that John ate carob; but there is a very decent argument for it. In any case, the main point is that John's simple diet and dress were a rebuke to the decadence of his age and our own, adding force to his call for repentance.

The other place where the Bible mentions carob is much clearer. The Bible tells us that the prodigal son fell into extreme poverty until "...he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate..." (Lu. 15:16).

Can you find
carob in
this text?
If you



gussed the word you are correct: the Greek word used there is *keration*, meaning carob. Carob was not a luxury food — it was the food of animals and the very poor. The Jews have an interesting tradition about carob: "When a Jew has to resort to carobs, he repents" (Midrash Rabbah, on Lev. 11:1). This was certainly the case of the prodigal son.

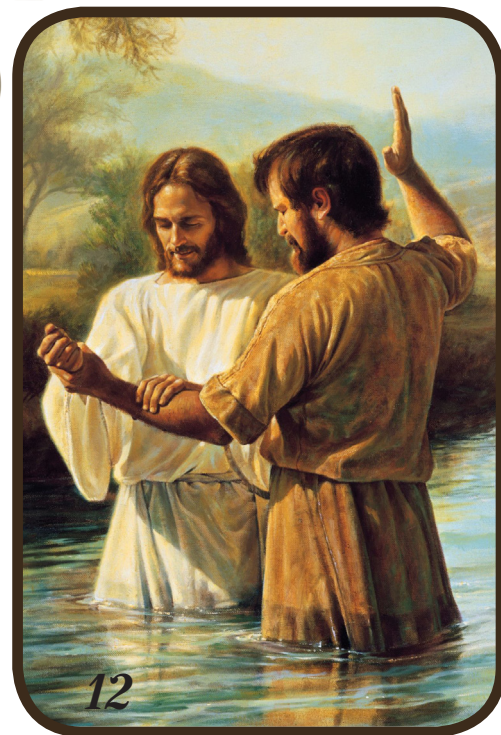
Isn't it fascinating — the food that drove the prodigal son to repentance may very well have been the food that John the Baptist ate

as he preached about repentance?

If there is one lesson carob should teach us, it is our need of repentance. John came preaching repentance for remission of sins, and the people confessed. Likewise the prodigal son realized what his sin had cost and how he had wronged his father, and he too confessed his sin. It is through repentance and confession that we can find cleansing and forgiveness from our sins: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn. 1:9)

Next time you eat some carob, remember these stories and the lesson God has for us in the humble carob pod.

~Pastor Tanner Martin







April 2021



Happy Birthday

AMELIA WAGNER	01	BRIANA TRESNERITER	05
CRUZ CHAVEZ	01	CHEYENNE VAZQUEZ	05
CYNTHIA BRITT	01	ED WAGNER	05
LYLE SPRAIN	01	MARTHA COVRIG	05
BOB PIERSON	03	BUNNY KIRK	06
MATTHEW TYNDALL	03	CAROLINE WHITCHURCH	06
MICKEY DOLLARHIDE	03	DALLAS HILLIGOSS	06
WENDY GUIDRY	03	NEVA MACPHEE	06
CURTIS ALLEE	04	EARL PALMER	07
LAVELLA JORGENSEN	04	JORDAN NELSON	07
		VICTOR DE LA VEGA	07
		JAMES BROCK	08

BLADIMIR MENDEZ	09
DOLORES DURANDO	09
MICHAEL BOYD	09
BOB DALE	10
JOSHUA ESQUIVEL	10
KATHRYN HULBERT	11
MICHAEL BLURTON	11
PIETRO D'AMBROSIO	11
COREEN DUSTEN	12
KIMBERLY BROWN	12
MAKAYLA GILLEN	13
GALINA GRITSUK	14
STEPHANIE CRARY	14
DAWN DEVRIES	15
ROSALIE HURD	15
ELIZABETH VERSTAPPEN	16
JORDAN GATT	16
EVELYN WAGNER	17
GERALD MARTZ	17
KAYLA HEIDINGER	17
PAUL SHEWMAKE	17
MAX GROVE	18
MOLLY MOURNING	18
LEVI CRARY	19
LES DERFLER	20
CARYL ERMSHAR	21
LORI SMITH	21
RYAN HOLCOMB	21
BRISA YOW	22
CHRISTOPHER NETTIFEE	22
RON FIELDS	22
MARISSA HEIDINGER	23
PAULINE NETTIFEE	23
JOSHUA BIGGINTON	24
MARREK SETTERS	24
RENA WASHER	24
SCOTT SHEARER	24
KELLY O'REILLY	25
RANDY ROMERO	26
MAYA BELOVITCH	27
PAT LAWRENCE	27
RACHEL ERMSHAR	27
LAVON RAMSEY	28
MADISON SMITH	28
MARY SMITH	28
KAREN BYRD	29
DARYL GIBSON	29
MARINA MANCIA	29
CHRISTINA HAGER	30
HUNTER FIELDS	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
	Events may have been changed or added; please check: https://www.grantspasschurch.com/calendar/ and ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE			1 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store	2 Sunset 7:40 pm 	3 9:00 am Church - 1st Service 9:15 am Donna Griffith's Sab Sch Class - Zoom 10:15 am SS Classes 11:30 am Church - 2nd Service Sunset 7:42 pm 
4  6:00 pm Tutunov Piano Concert	5 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 5:30-7:00 pm Path. (BLC) 7:00 pm Town Hall Mtng (Sanctuary)	6 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:00 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP Rm) 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP Rm)	7 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting (via ZOOM)	8 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm 3 Angels' Messages	9 Sunset 7:48 pm 	10 9:00 am Church - 1st Service 9:15 am Donna Griffith's Sab Sch Class - Zoom 10:15 am SS Classes 11:30 am Church - 2nd Service Sunset 7:49 pm 
11 11:00 am Bill Peterson Celebration of Life	12 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 5:30-7:00 pm Pathfinders (BLC) 7:00 pm Praise, Prayer, and Promises	13 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:00 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP Rm) 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP Rm)	14 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting (via ZOOM)	15 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm GP School Constituency Mtng (ZOOM)	16 Sunset 7:56 pm 	17 9:00 am Church - 1st Service 9:15 am Donna Griffith's Sab Sch Class - Zoom 10:15 am SS Classes 11:30 am Church - 2nd Service Sunset 7:57 pm 
18	19 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 7:00 pm Praise, Prayer, and Promises	20 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP Rm) 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP Rm) 6:00 pm Finance Board (Zoom) 7:00 pm Church Board (Zoom)	21 11:30 am Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting (via ZOOM)	22 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm 3 Angels' Messages	23 Sunset 8:04 pm 	24 9:00 am Church - 1st Service 9:15 am Donna Griffith's Sab Sch Class - Zoom 10:15 am SS Classes 11:30 am Church - 2nd Service Sunset 8:05 pm 
25	26 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 5:30-7:00 pm Pathfinders (BLC) 7:00 pm Praise, Prayer, and Promises	27 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:00 am-1:30 pm Dorcas 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 12-4:00 pm Veggie Food Store 2:00 pm Women's Study (MP Rm) 4:00 pm Romans Study (MP Rm)	28 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting (via ZOOM)	29 7:00 am FIRST LIGHT (Zoom) 9:30 am-1:30 pm Thrift Store 3-6:00 pm Veggie Food Store 7:00 pm 3 Angels' Messages	30 Sunset 8:12 pm 	