

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IDAHO CONFERENCE
SERVING SOUTHERN IDAHO AND EASTERN OREGON

MISSION MATTERS IDAHO

www.IdahoAdventist.org



@IdahoAdventist
@IdahoCampMeeting

7777 W Fairview Ave | Boise, ID 83704
208.375.7524

we are **CALLED**
to make disciples in our
communities **SHARING**
the distinctive, Christ-centered
Seventh-day Adventist message
of Hope and Wholeness.



to **EQUIP** and **EMPOWER**
pastor-coached, lay-driven
churches that reflect Jesus' love,
passionately live the gospel and
grow spiritually and numerically.





God Still Works Miracles

David Prest Jr., President, Idaho Conference

There are two Bible texts that have special meaning for me.

Psalm 27:14. "Wait on the Lord: Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Italics are my emphasis.)

Psalm 31:24. "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." (Italics are my emphasis.)

Most of you know that I had open-heart surgery on Thursday, May 13, 2021. A few days before surgery, the surgeon and I talked. We agreed that plan A was to repair my mitral valve, and plan B was to replace it with a mechanical valve. I was told that it would be about a four-hour surgery, and I would be sitting on the edge of my bed that evening drinking my dinner. It turned out to be about a seven-hour surgery and was not routine. My mitral valve was not repairable, so they replaced it. They took two liters of fluid off my lungs and pleura areas, which meant I had pneumonia. And my heart went into cardiogenic shock.

The pneumonia and cardiogenic shock were very serious. Many people do not live through cardiogenic shock. When the surgeon called my wife, Ellen, after my surgery, he said, "David is very fragile." It was touch and go for the next few days. Some days later, he told her, "We are going to get David through this."

During my stay in the ICU, other complications developed. I was in the ICU for fourteen days and was on the ventilator for the first eight days. I was transferred to the Telemetry Unit for about a week, and I spent a little over two weeks at the Rehab Hospital. I was discharged on June 22 and have been gaining strength every day. Praise the Lord! I am back to working full-time.

I believe that this was a personal attack by Satan, and because of the position I hold in the Idaho Conference, it was also an attack on the Idaho Conference. I believe it was Satan's attempt to distract and derail us from Operation Exponential Growth and the mission of the Idaho Conference.

There are at least three spiritual lessons I learned from this experience.

1. Satan's attack on me was a part of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Although, we know that Jesus defeated Satan at Calvary's cross, Satan is seeking who he might destroy. All of us have a decision to make. To whom will we give our allegiance and worship? Jesus or Satan?

2. I know very little about medicine. So, I had to surrender and trust the medical professionals who cared for me. Isn't that the core of the gospel? We must surrender to Jesus and trust Him totally for eternal life.

“ My job is not to judge people. My role is to come alongside them and encourage them, and love them, and pray for them, and assist them on their journey with Jesus ”

3. The doctors gave me some drugs to save my heart, brain, and lungs, knowing that my extremities could be negatively impacted, because the drugs caused the blood to flow to my thoracic area. Thankfully, my hands and fingers were not affected. Unfortunately, Ischemia developed in my toes. If you would have seen them a few months ago, you might have thought that there was no hope for them. They were ugly and discolored. Perhaps amputation would be the best and quickest remedy. However, the doctor told me that skin renews and rejuvenates from the inside out. It is a long and drawn-out process. He counseled me to be patient. I praise God that He is working a second miracle for me! During the weeks since my discharge from the hospital, I have witnessed the medical professionals peel some of the old, dead skin away, and expose brand new, healthy skin!

The spiritual lesson is this: I am often tempted to judge people by what I see and hear. However, I must remember that the Holy Spirit renews people from the inside out. My job is not to judge people. My role is to come alongside them and encourage them, and love them, and pray for them, and assist them on their journey with Jesus.

There are five reasons for which I praise God!

1. I praise God for His healing power and saving my life!
2. I praise God for my family! They have been so supportive! Ellen is a phenomenal caregiver!
3. I praise God for your untiring prayer support! I am here to proclaim that God heard and answered your prayers!
4. I praise God for my team! Vice President John Rogers, Assistant to the President Don Klingler, Administrative Assistant Jo-Ann Miller, and others aggressively moved forward with Operation Exponential Growth and the mission of the Idaho Conference!
5. I praise God for the medical professionals that took care of me and my medical needs!

Thank you, Jesus!





Give Them Jesus

John Rodgers, VP for Administration,
VP for Finance, and Stewardship, Idaho Conference

The theme of the Bible is Jesus. Ellen White writes, "Christ must be brought into all the studies, that students may drink in the knowledge of God and may represent Him in character," (6T 132). Right from the fall of Adam and Eve, God presented the hope of Jesus coming to save mankind. Noah's ark was designed to point a lost world to the Savior. The Israelite tabernacle was all about the ministry of Jesus. The Old Testament prophets all pointed the people to Jesus.

From the moment Jesus' ministry on Earth ended, the New Testament points us to Jesus. As soon as He had ascended to Heaven the angel said to the disciples, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven," Acts 1:11 (NIV). In Galatians Paul points the churches to follow the gospel of Christ and no other. Peter in his first book points to Jesus as the "precious cornerstone" (1 Peter 2:6) and encourages the believers to let their lives be a reflection of Him. In Revelation John encourages his readers to keep their eyes on the soon return of Jesus.

A favorite conference president (who happens to be sitting in the office next to mine right now) has told our pastors that doctrines are nice, but if those doctrines don't point us to Jesus, they're empty legalism. If you're preaching about the Sabbath, it needs to lead to Jesus. If you're preaching about the state of the dead, it needs to lead to Jesus.

Recently I visited a church and listened to an elder give the sermon. For some reason I felt a little uneasy about what was being presented. I began evaluating what was being said against Biblical truth, but I didn't find any errors being presented. Still I felt uneasy. As I drove home after church, I continued to ponder what I had heard. Finally it hit me, nothing that had been said was wrong, the speaker just never pointed people to Jesus. Shortly thereafter a member was talking to me about their family's journey in finding a new church home in the area. She noted that often when they visited a church and someone other than the pastor was speaking, the sermon did not seem to point people to Jesus.

“
As Christians,
pointing people to
Jesus is what we're
all about
”

As Christians, pointing people to Jesus is what we're all about. If you don't have a church office, you can point people to Jesus simply by the way you exemplify His character. If you're the church greeter, make sure people experience Jesus as they enter the church. If you're the Sabbath School teacher show them how the lesson points to Jesus. If you're presenting the announcements, or the special music, or the morning prayer, lift up Jesus. If you're giving the sermon show them Jesus.

Jesus is our Hope. Jesus is our Savior. Jesus is our Redeemer. Jesus is the Reason. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is what it's all about. Give the people Jesus.





Patrick Frey

Superintendent of Education, Idaho Conference

The Three Angels' Message is the core message of our church because at its core is the Gospel and the love of God. When I first came into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I heard about this message, but I really didn't understand it for years. This was mainly because no one taught me about it.

Lately I have asked people to summarize the Three Angels' Message from Revelation 14. Most people responded like this, "Well, the first one is the Gospel, and then something about Babylon."

Here is the Patrick Frey's digest version:

1. Here comes the Gospel and here comes the Judge.
2. Babylon is crashing, and the nations are all in big trouble.

This two- to four-week curriculum "is described as an experiential, interactive, integrated unit that is engaging and exciting for kids as they learn the message of the three angels and understand the deep spiritual principles of our faith."¹

The curriculum includes lesson plans and books and provides deep critical learning experiences for students as they engage in the content of the three angels' messages. This is an outstanding way to make sure our children understand our Adventist worldview, to prepare them to share it with others and be ready for the future second coming of Jesus to take them home.

If there was any time for our youth and ourselves to focus on the message of Revelation 14, it is now. Let nothing prevent us from being ready to live for God and be prepared for His coming.



3. If you worship the beast and his pal, plan to burn. But those that love God and are faithful will obey Him.

Okay, it does lack a bit, but can you recite the messages? Neither can most of our kids – much less understand the messages. Therefore, the North American Division Office of Education is making available the Three Angels for Kids (K-8) and Three Angels for Today (9-12) curriculum authored by Sandy Doran, Ed.D., from the Hart Research Center.

To learn more, go to these websites: <https://www.threeangelsfortoday.org> (Grades 9 – 12) <https://www.threeangelsfortoday.org/three-angels-for-kids> (PreK – Grade 8).

¹ *Leisa Morton-Standish, Three Angels for Kids Curriculum Now Available, NAD News Articles, January 20, 2021*

GSAA Spiritual Retreat: A Valuable Tradition

Marta Stone, GSAA Campus Communications



At Gem State Adventist Academy, every year begins with the long-standing tradition of taking the entire school family to Camp Ida-Haven for three days. This spiritual retreat, purposely scheduled just after all arrive on campus for a new year of learning and growing, is given high priority due to its importance in setting the tone for the year and providing the opportunity to begin to bond as a school family.

"To Go" is the spiritual theme for this school year, the 4th part in a series that included "To Know," "To Grow," and "To Show" in previous years. In preparation for the retreat, Pastor Ever Perez, Bible Teacher and GSAA Church Pastor, asked the staff to share their stories of what it has been like "Going" for Jesus.

John Soulé's (Principal) life story illustrated that being a Christian is not easy, but simple. Coach Perkins (Athletic Director) shared that even when we have our own plans, God wants us to follow His and is ready to receive us into that plan. From Dean Schnell's (Head Dean) story we learned that sometimes God keeps us in a place for as long as necessary, until He has everything He needs ready to continue our forward motion in His plan. And finally, Kailey Perez (Chaplain's Assistant) shared about the confusion she has encountered as God's plan has not always been clear to her, and that she is currently moving forward in faith, believing that He has a

plan even though she can't see the end right now.

Pastor Ever says that "all those who were present were blessed by the authenticity and transparency with which the stories were shared. This was a great way to begin our school year. God blessed immensely."

Mr. Soulé believes that the retreat draws the students and staff closer to God and to each other, something that is not only an important way to start the year off right, but that also carries over to daily life on campus. He shared that to him, one of the most meaningful experiences this year was the campfire each evening, where the question was asked, "How did you see Jesus today?" Students and staff shared observations and experiences from throughout the day.



Activities during the retreat are planned by the Student Association officers, with the specific intention of getting to know each other. All students are divided into "family groups," with one SA officer as the leader for each group. These family groups remain together for the entire retreat and beyond, playing together and working as a team for various relays, games, and activities.

Another component of this time away is service. This year, the GSAA family spent several hours cleaning up various areas around the camp by weeding,



clearing brush, etc. The time spent in service is a way for the students and staff to invest and take ownership in their camp, as well as a way to say thank you to camp staff for hosting the retreat and for the many ways they are a blessing all year.



When the bus heads for home, everyone is tired but happy and bringing home many memories.



Mr. Soulé says he sees how this focused time creates bonds that are carried back to campus, as students remain in their family groups and continue to be there for each other as a team through the school year. The Ida-Haven retreat is not only a much-loved tradition, but a privilege and a blessing.



Students Say

What do you personally think is the most valuable, fun, or important thing about the Ida-Haven retreat at the beginning of the school year?

The most valuable aspect is all the amazing memories that are made, the most fun is being with friends and bonding with new people, and the most important thing is the spiritual euphoria we feel when we're up there, along with what we do with that experience.
-Ely Ingraham, Senior

Making new friends.
-Everett Stone, Sophomore

I think that the Ida-Haven retreat is super important at the beginning of the year because it gets us closer as a school. It gives the new and returning students good opportunities to get to know each other better. It helps Gem State to become a tighter community.
-Sela Estep, Senior

Connection and bonding are important.
-Sofia Creitz, Freshman

I think the most important thing about the Camp Ida-Haven retreat this year was being able to get to know the Freshmen and to connect with the new students in my class.
-Kloe Stoldt, Junior

The Ida-Haven retreat sets the tone for the rest of the school year, builds a spiritual atmosphere, and provides a chance for students to get to know each other.
-Izzie Henry, Sophomore

My favorite part is getting a feel for the student body; learning who the extroverts and introverts are, and who the leaders are. It's a really rewarding experience.
-Josh Essink, Senior

The most important thing is that it allows everyone to get to know each other better.
-Seth Davis, Freshman

One thing that is valuable is having a chance to bond with your fellow students in a different setting, right at the beginning of the school year. It establishes relationships quickly and gives a good start to the year.
-Jenna Waterhouse, Senior

Introducing Marlon Seifert & Dale Cardwell

Marlon Seifert is a native of Brazil and is married to Vanessa, his high school sweetheart. Together they have two energetic children, Zuri and Zarah, who are their greatest treasure on earth. Marlon is passionate about Jesus and sharing what he is learning from the Bible. He strongly believes in prayer, Bible study, and relationships.



Pastor Marlon's approach to ministry, and life in general, is to keep it simple, be intentional, and make it meaningful. Marlon and his family recently moved to Idaho from Georgia to become the lead pastor of the Cloverdale (Boise) Adventist Church.

Dale and Simona Cardwell recently became the pastoral couple for the La Grande and Cove district. He and Simona both grew up in Adventist homes and attended Adventist schools. They were married in 1993, and in 1996 we had our first daughter Charissa. Our second daughter Serena was born in 1999, followed by our son Roman in 2001. All three of our children also attended Adventist schools.



lives in Salem, Oregon and is employed as a welder with a company that makes custom farm equipment.

Charissa lives in Maui where she manages a coffee shop. Serena lives in Chattanooga where she works for Child Impact and is working on her master's in social work at Southern Adventist University. Roman

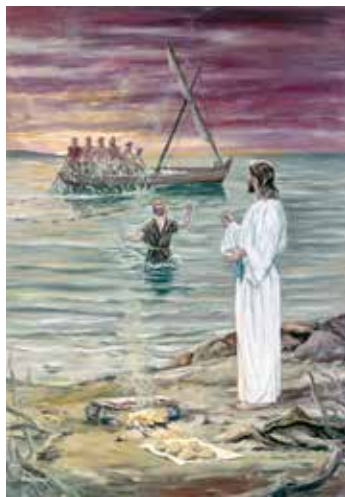
Simona spent much of her career in the Insurance industry and currently works for the Oregon Conference as the Risk Management Director. Dale spent over 20 years in the furniture industry prior to following his call to ministry in 2007. He was employed by the Oregon Conference as the pastor of Inside Out and Mill City churches from 2009 until responding to the call to pastor the La Grande and Cove churches for the Idaho Conference.

Transformed for Ministry

Transformed for Ministry Sabbaths happen this year! By the time you read this, the Eastern Oregon meeting will have taken place. Eastern Idaho area will take place on Sabbath, November 13 at the Twin Falls Church. In the Treasure Valley, we'll meet at the Kuna Church on Sabbath, December 11.

Transformed for Ministry is part of the conference plan to recruit, grow, equip and empower leaders to participate in the mission of the Idaho Conference. Our mission is: "We are called to make disciples in our communities, sharing the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness."

Transformed for Ministry Sabbaths also help us fulfill our vision, the plan for how we as a conference can fulfill our mission. Our vision: "To equip and empower pastor-coached, lay-driven churches that reflect Jesus' love, passionately live the gospel, and grow spiritually and numerically."



It is not our goal to reduce the number of pastors we have. It is our goal to engage and empower each church member to actively participate in the mission. Professionally trained pastors are not the only ones who will help complete our mission. Each one of us is empowered by God to make disciples.

The day will include a Sabbath sermon by Elder David Prest Jr, followed by a potluck fellowship meal. Those who come are encouraged to bring a dish to share. The afternoon will have a general session beginning at 1:45 pm, followed by two sections of breakout sessions. Watch your bulletin, the conference website (<https://IdahoAdventist.org>) and conference social media (@IdahoAdventist on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). There will be a Spanish

language track at the Eastern Idaho session.

Come and learn how you can participate in the mission of the Idaho Conference!

Meridian SDA Church Holds Amazing Prophecies Seminar

September 10 through October 2, 2021, many guests attended the Amazing Prophecies seminar at the Meridian Adventist Church. It was an amazing three weeks as North Pacific Union Conference vice president and evangelist Bill McClendon preached our wonderful message of hope to a spiritually hungry community!

It was apparent the truth was drawing people to attend as crowds remained steady throughout the five meetings per week schedule! Vacations were postponed or cancelled, friends invited others to attend, pre-work and long-time Bible study candidates made decisions to follow Jesus. We were blessed with three baptisms and two professions of faith at the end of the series!

Many others have committed to attend the follow-up meetings which will be led by newly installed interim pastor Michael Armayor. Especially precious to the Meridian Church was the baptism of Michael Zanghi, husband to our recent new member



It is obvious that God is finishing His work! We would also like to welcome Jeanette Johnsen, Yevan Christian, and Van Wilson to the Meridian Adventist Church and look forward to sharing their stories as well. The meetings were not just open to those who might join the Meridian Church. Richard Tietzort is joining the Boise

Central Adventist Church by profession of faith. Thank you, Jesus, for letting us witness your miraculous work in hearts as they follow you!



Norma. Michael, a strong Catholic believer, said, "I'll always be a Catholic!"

As Michael attended meeting after meeting, it was obvious God was speaking to his heart. Many have been praying for Michael and befriending him over the past two years. They were overjoyed when he was lowered into the water to become one in faith with his wife!



Meridian SDA Church Holds Amazing Prophecies Seminar



Camp Meeting 2022 is June 14 – 18!

Our first evening speaker is Darold Bigger, from Walla Walla University. He will speak Tuesday through Thursday.

Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director of the Voice of Prophecy, is our weekend (Friday evening, Sabbath morning and Sabbath evening) speaker.

Our theme: Prepared. Willing. Faithful. We are hopeful that we will be able to have a normal camp meeting; that will depend on the status of the pandemic.



Nampa SDA Church Hosts a Series of Meetings

It was 6:20, forty minutes before we were to start. Part of our team had not even arrived at the church yet, but guests began to show up. Thirty minutes later, the foyer was full, the sanctuary was filling, and anticipation flowed through the building. By the time we processed all the guests, got everyone signed in, and began the meeting, no seats were available in the sanctuary and our overflow was filled.

This miracle began many months ago as the Idaho Conference birthed Operation Exponential Growth. We dreamed of God blessing our territory with many decisions to follow Him! As a conference, and as individuals, we began praying for God to do amazing things.

Plans were made for a series of meetings in Nampa that would be broadcast across the conference. Due to COVID, the series was bumped from the spring of 2021 to the fall. August 1st, the Nampa Seventh-day Adventist Church began 40 days of prayer in preparation for the series of meetings that were to begin on September 10th, preceded by a two-night series by Dr Stan Hudson. Every morning at 6 AM and evening at 8 PM, members of the Nampa congregation met virtually to ask God to work miracles.

Two weeks before the meetings were to start, another curve ball came. Due to circumstances beyond our control, our speaker changed. We changed gears, prepared different materials and within a short time, were ready to go.

Though a tremendous surprise for all of us, speakers included, we were not discouraged. As both our prayer group and board recognized, we had been praying for the Lord to lead for nearly 40 days. He would certainly bless even with this change. We pushed forward with confidence that God was leading and directing.

Opening night was miraculous! We had 181 precious souls in attendance on opening night with over 70 of those being guests from our community. As I saw the church building full of people hungering for Jesus, my heart was broken. My faith had been weak, I wasn't expecting the blessing God would pour out on our

church. I wasn't prepared for the blessings He bestowed on us. The promise of Malachi 3:10 played out before my eyes! The Lord provided so much blessing, we could barely receive it!

On the second night, another miracle took place. During our 40 days of prayer, I had prayed many times that the Lord would put the flyers in the hands of people that were hungering for Him even if it were a flyer blowing down the street. We had a guest arrive a little late Sabbath evening. I overheard her tell our registration desk that she had been walking a path here in Nampa that was kept clean of trash. As she was walking, she saw the flyer lying beside the path. It was in perfect condition, even though it was early in the morning. She picked it up, looked at it, then tucked it under a rock nearby. She went back home but was impressed that she



needed to go back and get it. She did and came to the meeting that evening. It was a miracle!

As I write this article, we are preparing for nine baptisms this coming Sabbath, October 9, 2021. An additional six will be baptized at our sister churches throughout the valley, and there are more baptisms to come in the coming months as people return from previously planned trips. God has been faithful, and we are thrilled at the miracles He has worked.

Soul Fitness: God's Photo Album

Eve Rusk, Director for Communications and
Planned Giving/Trust Services



According to PubMed.gov, it's estimated that 105 billion people have lived on this planet. That is a huge number. Best estimates say the world population is currently around seven billion. Can you wrap your mind around 105 billion, let alone seven billion? That means that God created that many human beings with each birth a continuation of His creative process.

If God had a photo album and had one page for each person, that would be 105 billion pages. There is a space and name for each person. There is a photo, too. For those who have chosen to accept Jesus' sacrifice to cover their unworthiness, there are candid photos of their life here on earth, not just the "school" photo.

Think of all the names throughout the ages: Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, Abraham, Moses, David, Nebuchadnezzar, Jezebel, Esther, Ruth, Ehud, Jacob, Esau, Judas, Peter, and Paul. More recent names in secular society include Genghis Khan, Adolf Hitler, Mussolini, Mother Teresa, Mahatma Ghandi, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Pope Francis, Ted Bundy, Daniel Boone, Jeffrey Daumer, Donald J Trump, Joseph Biden, Kamala Harris, and Mike Pence. Are all these names in the photo album? I believe so. God created them.

We don't know the hearts of every person who has ever lived on this earth. Only God knows. And God is the curator of His photo album – not us! He is also the curator of our hearts if we allow Him. When Jesus left this earth for heaven after His resurrection, He gave us specific instructions. Matthew 5:14 – 16 says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven," (emphasis mine, ESV).

As I understand it, our job here on this earth is to glorify God. Our commission is to make disciples and teach them (Matthew

28:19, 20). My question is, where does the Bible say that we are to determine who is worthy to come to God, to come to our church, to be in God's presence?

Matthew 5:7 clearly indicates that we are not to judge others: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce, you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you," (ESV).

Jesus continues in verses 3 – 5 about the log and the speck. Reread it for yourself. What are we to do? Are we "defenders" of God or reflectors of Him? The book of John contains at least four references to loving others.



John records Jesus in John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another," (emphasis mine, ESV).

To me, this means that a person's religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender identity, financial or social standing, what they wear or the color of their hair, how they sound or smell, we are called to love them, just as Jesus has loved us. Simple, right?

I struggle with compassion and empathy, with judging others. It's a product of the church I grew up in and the resulting choices I've made. It's a constant battle. Jesus helps me. He encourages me to put myself in places and situations where I can exercise my compassion and empathy muscles.

Micah 6:8 tells us: "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (emphasis mine, ESV). I have yet to find where God has directed me to judge whether someone is worthy or not.