

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

MISSION MATTERS IDAHO

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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.

Idaho Conference Camp Meeting 2023

David Prest Jr., President, Idaho Conference



"Come, Holy Spirit!" is the theme for the 2023 Idaho Conference Camp Meeting. I invite you to join us June 13 – 17, on the campus of beautiful Gem State Adventist Academy. We are planning for an in-person Camp Meeting experience. As usual, it will also be livestreamed.

We are thrilled that Dr. Ron Clouzet will serve as the evening and Sabbath morning speaker for the English language Camp Meeting. Dr. Clouzet was born and raised in Argentina. He served as a pastor of growing churches in California for twelve years.

He was a professor at Southern Adventist University where he taught and served as the Dean of the School of Religion. He also served as the Director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute and taught at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Dr. Clouzet currently serves as the pastor of the East Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Ridge, TN of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

We welcome him to the Idaho Conference

Camp Meeting.

We are excited that Dr. Ronald Costa will serve as the speaker for the Spanish language Camp Meeting. He was born in Uruguay. He has served as a pastor in Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and in several conferences in the North American Division. Dr. Costa currently is a pastor in New Orleans, LA of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. He is also an associate professor for SETAI of the Inter-American Division and assists with the Doctor of Ministry program at Andrews University. We welcome him to the Idaho Conference Camp Meeting.

Several engaging speakers are scheduled for the daily meetings and seminars. Grant Agadjanian, president of Creative Media Ministries, will present a seminar on praying for our children, and Jack Phillips, Outreach Coordinator for It Is Written, will teach a seminar on soul winning and evangelism. Fred Hardinge will speak for the Health Seminar. He is the retired Associate Health Ministries Director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. We

are pleased to offer an adult Watercolor Painting Class, which will be limited to twelve people per session. It will be taught by Kimberley Mitchell, the Art teacher at Gem State Adventist Academy.

Evening mini-concerts will feature local musical talent, bringing us an inspiring worship experience. Our Sabbath afternoon concert will be brought to us by the renowned King's Heralds Quartet.

I love Camp Meeting! It is the annual gathering of God's people from Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon and beyond. Meetings will be offered for our children and young people of every age group.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Idaho Conference Camp Meeting, June 13–17, 2023, on the campus of Gem State Adventist Academy. Visit the Camp Meeting Facebook page at www.facebook.com/idahocampmeeting or our website at www.idahoadventist.org.





Spring Forth From Small Beginnings

Patrick Frey, Superintendent of Schools, Idaho Conference

In the 21st Century, it is easy to take Adventist Education for granted. But in the 1800's the major religious schools in the U.S. were Catholic. These were not a very tempting option for Seventh-day Adventist parents. Therefore, most Adventist kids went to public schools.

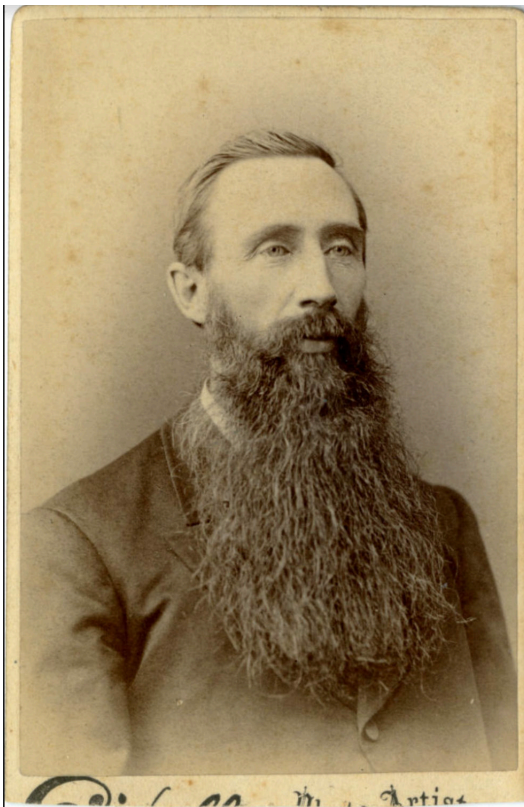
Then a young teacher and widower by the name of Goodloe H. Bell came to the Health Reform Institute at Battle Creek (which later became the Battle Creek Sanitarium). He was a sick and broken man as result of the death of Catherine, his young wife and over-work. A year later, he returned to the Institute and converted to Adventism. While there, he inquired about the Adventist school for children. But there was not one. He became anxious about it and wanted to help.

Bell decided to start tutoring privately. During this time, a young preacher, A. O. Burrill, asked James White to direct him to a teacher to help him with his language and speaking skills. White sent him to Bell. Later James sent another student to him who spoke only French to teach the student English. Consequently, Bell developed Adventist Education's first English as a Second Language (ESL) program in the 1800s.

Soon he was tutoring six to eight students and decided to group them together and form a class on the second floor in the old Review and Herald building that was now a storehouse. J. O. Corliss remembered Bell was an unusual teacher because he did not make the students memorize a dry old book. He taught them to think when learning information.

Eventually this school morphed into what became the first Seventh-day Adventist school on June 3, 1872. Students

were so excited! It continued to grow into Battle Creek College by June 12, 1874. It was a school that modeled the balance of students' development spiritually, mentally and physically. Teachers were not to be "satisfied with second-rate work. He is not satisfied with directing his students to a standard lower than the highest which it is possible for them to attain." Education p. 29.



Goodloe H Bell

Professor Bell's efforts birthed the Adventist education system that has spread across the world.

Today, we have the privilege to be part of this worldwide school system, the largest Protestant school system in the world. According to Education page 29, a teacher's "ambition is to inspire them with principles of truth, obedience to God, honor, integrity and purity – principles that will make them a positive force" in a world that is becoming unstable and degrading. This is only possible as students, parents, and teachers lay their life's foundations on the Lord Jesus, giving all their possessions, their dreams, their love and humble themselves before God. They will then be ready to do His will, saving others and persevering until the coming of Jesus.

Sources

Education, White, Ellen G. (1903) Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press® Publishing Association (Nampa, ID)

<https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=98YL>

<https://whiteestate.org/resources/pioneers/gbell/>

Meet The Speakers



Ron Clouzet

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Evening Speaker*

Dr. Ron Clouzet was born and raised in Argentina. He graduated from La Sierra University (B.A.), Andrews University (M.Div.), and holds a D.Min. degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, having researched the subject of Adventist theological education. Dr. Clouzet is currently finishing a Th.D. degree from the University of South Africa, studying the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the writings and experience of Ellen G. White.

Elder Clouzet pastored growing churches in California for 12 years, followed by 14 years of teaching ministry at Southern Adventist University as Professor of Theology and Ministry. He was Dean of the School of Religion from 2000-2006, where theology majors have led over 5,000 souls to baptism under his tenure.

Dr. Clouzet has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in ministry, preaching, evangelism, church growth, apologetics, prophetic guidance, the Gospels, and Christian spirituality. In 1999, he received the Excellence in Teaching Award. He has been a guest speaker at many church and scholarly gatherings in the North American Division and abroad dealing with various topics such as the Holy Spirit, spiritual theology, ministerial training, and the Christian life. Elder Clouzet is currently the pastor of the East Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Ridge, TN.



Fred Hardinge

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Health Seminar*

Dr. Hardinge is passionate about the value of local church health evangelism. He firmly believe that "health is achieved one small choice at a time—with God's help!" He is an internationally recognized speaker on a wide range of health topics. His background includes pastoral ministry, academic teaching, community health education, corporate training and consultation, administration and private health counseling.

He is known nationally and internationally as a creative educator and motivational speaker. As Associate Health Ministries Director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, now retired, it has been his privilege of spending a lot of his time sharing, consulting, speaking and teaching on health and its relationship to spiritual life around the globe.

Dr. Hardinge has a keen interest in all areas of health, recognizing that robust and vigorous health comes only through balanced living. He is a Registered Dietitian and has been recognized as a lifetime Fellow by the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

He was co-founder of **Bibleinfo.com** in 1995 and is the founder and Director of **PositiveChoices.com**. He enjoys a variety of healthful pursuits, top among them are hiking, climbing and cross-country skiing. Carpentry and writing bring great satisfaction and relaxation.

He has a wonderful wife, April, who is an accomplished pianist and nurse. The joy of their lives are two grown children and spouses, and five awesome grandchildren.



Ronald Costa

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Spanish Speaker*

My name is Ronald Costa. I am married to Patricia Schmidt who has worked as a church educator, holding an M.A. from Andrews and a Ph.D. in Education. We have two daughters: Cinthia and Nadia who were born in Puerto Rico. Today they are professionals - Cinthia is a nurse in Orlando and Nadia is in Virginia and works in a medical laboratory.

I was born in Uruguay. My passion for being a pastor began at an early age. We began our pastoral work in Venezuela. Then I had the opportunity to pastor for 10 years in Puerto Rico, where we pastored various districts.

I was called to the Chesapeake Conference in Maryland, then went on to be part of the Rocky Mountain Conference in Denver Colorado. Later I worked 14 years in the Michigan Conference as pastor of the Berrien Springs Spanish church that is at Andrews University and also as a pastor in Ann Arbor and Detroit

During that time I was appointed associate professor to teach summer classes at the master's level and later for the Inter-America Division at SETAI doctoral level classes.

We currently work as Doctor of Ministry candidates doctoral dissertation advisor at Andrews University Theological Seminary.

God has called us to continue helping churches in their growth. We are currently in New Orleans in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. It is my passion to help, to be a pastor and a teacher.

Mi nombre es Ronald Costa casado con Patricia Schmidt, ella ha trabajado su vida como educadora en la iglesia , una maestría de Andrews y doctorado en Educación. Tenemos dos hijas: Cinthia y Nadia, nacieron en Puerto Rico. Hoy son profesionales como enfermera en Orlando y Nadia en Virginia como laboratorio médico.

Yo soy nacido en Uruguay mi pasión por ser pastor comenzó a temprana edad .

Comenzamos nuestro labor pastoral en Venezuela. Luego tuve la oportunidad de mudarme a pastorear durante 10 años en Puerto Rico, donde pastoreamos varios distritos.

Fui llamado a la conferencia de Chesapeake en Maryland, luego pase al ser parte de la conferencia de Ricky Mountain en Denver Colorado, y más tarde trabajé 14 años en al conferencia de Michigan siendo pastor de la iglesia hispana de Berrien Springs que está la Universidad de Andrews y Ann Arbor y Detroit

Allí mismo me nombraron profesor asociado para dar clases de verano a nivel de maestrías y más tarde para la División Inter America al SETAI clases de nivel doctoral.

Actualmente trabajamos como asesor de tesis doctoral de Dmin en el seminario teológico de Andrews University.

Dios nos ha llamado para continuar ayudando en las iglesias en su crecimiento

Y actualmente estamos en New Orleans. En la Conferencia de Arkansas Lousianna Es mi pasión ayudar, ser pastor y profesor.



The Kings Heralds

Camp Meeting Sabbath Afternoon Concert



Grant Agadjanian

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker

Grant Agadjanian came from a fascinating background. Born of Armenian parents, he was raised in Russia as an atheist. He graduated from college with an engineering degree at age 20 and was drafted to serve in the Soviet Army in 1980. Following his compulsory service in the Russian army, Grant was seriously ill due to the harsh climate in Siberia. He spent six years in and out of hospitals. At the end of six years of illness, doctors said that he had only one year to live.

At that time a friend gave him a Bible. For the first time in his life, he had a Bible in his hands. As he read the Bible and looked at nature, he came to believe that there is a God. Acting upon the principles in the Word of God, his health began to improve. Grant's wife Anne was always searching for knowledge to improve his health and life. Through God's providence she bought a book titled, "Family and Health" in Russian (which was the combination of two books: "Ministry of Healing" and "Adventist Home" by E.G. White). They followed the health principles in this book and Grant's health was restored.

As Grant discovered the beauty and harmony of the Word of God, the plan of redemption, and the uniqueness of the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Holy Spirit led him and his family to baptism which took place at the Loma Linda SDA Church in December 1994.

In 2004, Grant attended a Victory in Jesus seminar presented by Pastor Bill Liversidge in Bakersfield, California. As the Gospel gripped his heart, he was filled with a desire to become a preacher and teacher of righteousness. He developed a close friendship with Pastor Bill, and Bill mentored and trained Grant to share the Good News with great understanding and clarity. Moved by the Holy Spirit, Grant spent countless weekends traveling from church to church opening the beauty of this Good News to souls in need. He was eventually elected Vice President of Creative Media Ministries and Director of Media Production.

Grant and his wife Anne are valued members of the CMM team. He serves CMM as President of the ministry and speaks and leads weekends of revival across the country.



Jack Phillips

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker

Jack Phillips is passionate about sharing Jesus and spending time with his family outdoors. You will gain practical skills to share Jesus, with a focus on leading Bible Studies. You will feel encouraged to empower others to understand their

Bible in a fun and engaging way. During the past decade in ministry, Jack has held Bible studies and taught Bible Workers across the country and around the world.



Sergio Vasquez

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — Spanish Speaker

I was born in Cordele, GA, but grew up in Atlanta. I got to know the Seventh-day Adventist message through my mom's faith. I was called to shepherd when the Lord revealed to me that it was the only way I could be saved. I have worked in summer camps as a counselor and boys' director. I have interned in Mobile, Alabama working with the American churches. I have also worked as a Bible worker in Tennessee. And I had the opportunity to preach an evangelistic campaign in the Dominican Republic that resulted in five baptisms for the glory of God. I recently accepted the call to Alaska where I have been working with the only Hispanic church in my conference for a year. At the same time, I work with an American church as a youth pastor. My goal is to be able to fall deeply in love with God and get to know Him in an intimate way.

Nací en Cordele, GA., pero crecí toda mi vida en Atlanta. Conocí el mensaje a través de la fe de mi mamá. Recibí el llamado a pastorear cuando el Señor me reveló que era la única manera en que podría salvarme. He trabajado en Summer camps como consejero y boys director. He estado internado en mobile, Alabama trabajando con las Iglesias americanas. Trabajé como obrero bíblico en Tennessee. Y tuve la oportunidad de predicar una campaña evangelística en la república dominicana que resultó en 5 bautismos para la gloria de Dios. Por el momento acepté el llamado en Alaska donde ya llevo un año trabajando con la única iglesia hispana de mi conferencia. A la misma vez trabajo con una iglesia americana como pastor de jóvenes. Mi meta es poder enamorarme de Dios profundamente y llegar a conocerlo de una manera íntima.



Kimberly Mitchell

Camp Meeting Guest Teacher

Kimberly Mitchell began her career in the Adventist world working at Boise Valley Adventist School in August of 1998. In August of 2004, she transitioned to Gem State Adventist Academy (her alma mater). She continues to teach English, Art, Speech, and Senior Project and serves as Curriculum Committee Chair at GSAA. Her goals remain to utilize her

education, experience, and abilities in a place where she can actively participate and make a positive difference for Christ. She says, "to be in a profession that is both my passion and ministry blesses me everyday." Her family (especially a new grandson) fills up the rest of her time along with reading, painting, and traveling.

Guidelines to a Safe & Happy Camp Meeting

Safety:

Speed limit for all parking areas and roads on campus is 5 mph.

Your children should be under the supervision of a responsible adult at all times while on the academy campus or in the buildings.

Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller blades, etc. are not allowed on the campus.

Trees: please do not climb the trees.

No firearms or fireworks are allowed on campus.

Please contact the Information Office in the event of an injury or medical emergency. If the emergency is life-threatening, please call 911, then notify the Information Office.

All motor homes, trailers, campers, and tents are restricted to RV and tent sites.

Park in designated spaces only; please keep all fire lanes clear; handicap designation must be on display.

Academy and conference personnel will be on campus doing safety checks. If you see something that isn't right, please contact the Information office or the designated host of your area.

Cafeteria Hours & Prices

The Cafeteria will be open for meals beginning Tuesday evening at 5:15 pm through Sabbath (Saturday) evening supper. Meal tickets are available for purchase at each meal, except Sabbath. Tickets for Sabbath meals must be purchased in advance. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Hours:

Breakfast Wed – Fri: 7:00 – 7:45 am

Lunch Wed – Fri: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Supper Tue – Fri: 5:15 – 6:15 pm

Sabbath Hours:

Breakfast: 7:30 – 8:15 am

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:15 pm

Supper: 5:15 – 6:15 pm

Meals for age 5 and over: \$10

Meals for ages 4 and under:
No Charge (accompanied by paying adult)

Meal tickets are not refundable.

The cafeteria serves vegetarian meals and is able to accommodate vegan and gluten-free dietary needs **when you alert them to your needs**. Also note that menus may change in order to provide the freshest food.

You may go back for seconds. Consider how much you would spend for a vegetarian meal, including beverage, at a local restaurant. The price of \$8.25 helps keep the academy's costs in line, and you are not expected to tip the staff!

Courtesy:

No animals except service dogs are allowed on campus (which includes the RV Park). A service dog is individually trained to perform a specific task for a disability. (www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)

Quiet Time: The cooperation of all campus residents and visitors is requested for quiet time in all residence areas of the campus between 10:00pm and 6:00am daily.

Sales: all books, other printed materials, audio and video disks will be sold through the Adventist Book Center, or by those specifically cleared by Idaho Conference administration.

Please do not distribute literature without receiving approval of

Idaho Conference administration.

A ministry, education, or other booth/display must be approved by Idaho Conference administration prior to camp meeting.

The use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs of abuse, vaping, e-cigarettes are prohibited in or near any building on campus. We acknowledge that some who are not members may use tobacco products or vape; please contact the Information Office for a designated area. While we discourage their use, we need to treat those who do in a kind, Christ-like manner.

Please honor the Sabbath hours by not moving in or out of a dormitory, or RV area, from sunset Friday evening through sunset Sabbath evening (Saturday).

Camp Meeting 2023 Adult Schedule

Time	Tue Jun 13	Wed Jun 14	Thur Jun 15	Fri Jun 16	Sab Jun 17
7 - 9 am					
7 - 7:45 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast 7:30 - 8:15 pre-purchase meal
8 - 9 am		Grant Agadajanian - Academy Church			
9 - 9:15 am		Break	Break	Break	9:30 Sabbath School: Main Auditorium
9:15 - 10:45 am		Agadajanian - Acad Ch/Jack Phillips - Main Aud/TBD - Library			Young Adults - TBD
10:45 - 11 am		Break	Break	Break	10:45 am Ron Clouzet: Main Auditorium
11 am - 12 pm		TBD - Academy Church			11:00 am Spanish: Ronald Costa: Academy Church
12 - 1 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch 12:30 - 1:15: pre- purchase meal tickets
1:30 - 3:00 pm		Agadajanian - Acad Ch/Jack Phillips - Main Aud/TBD - Library		Health: Fred Hardinge - Academy Church	
3:00 - 3:15 pm		Break	Break	Break	
3:15 - 4:45 pm		Health: Fred Hardinge - Academy Church		ABC Auditorium Sale	3:30 - 5 pm The King's Heralds - In concert: Main Auditorium
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner - pre-purchase meal tickets
6:30 - 7 pm	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
7 - 9 pm	Ron Clouzet: Main Auditorium				
Spanish Camp Meeting 7:30 pm	Ronald Costa: Academy Church				5:30 pm: Ronald Costa: Academy Church

Camp Meeting 2022 Children & Youth Schedule

Class	Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
Beginner birth to age 3	Choir Room		9:30 am – 12 noon (9:30 – 11 structured program)			Beginner & Kindergarten
Kindergarten ages 4 – 6 only	Band Room		3 – 5 pm (3:30 – 5 structured program)			9:30 – 11 am 3:30 – 5 pm
Primary Grades 1-4 Ages 7-10	Tent Behind South Dorm	7 – 9 pm	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon 3 – 5 p.m. 7 – 9 p.m.			9:30 am – 12:30 pm 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9:30 pm
Juniors Grades 5-6	South Dorm Chapel	7 – 9 pm	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm			
Earliteens Grades 7-8	Bible Room	7 – 9 pm	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm			
Youth High School	Student Residence Chapel	7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 pm social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social

PARENTS! All divisions, Beginner through Youth, have the same basic schedule. Only changes may be when groups go off-campus.

Beginners Leaders: Michelle Lemon

Kindergarten Leaders: Mary Kay Frey

Primary Leaders: Michael Gee, David Ballard, Michael Mirra

Junior Leaders: Chris Evenson, Monte Wood, Lynn Bryson

Earliteen Leaders: Jason Williams, Matthew Kontra

Youth Leaders: Tomm Lemon II, Milton Marquez

Watch the website, www.IdahoAdventist.org and the Camp Meeting Facebook, www.Facebook/idahocampmeeting for updated information.

Ways to help your child have the best experience at camp meeting programs:

1. The programs are designed for specific age ranges. Your child may be frustrated or bored if he/she attends a program out of his/her age group. (See schedule for ranges.)
2. If you want to visit with other parents, please go outside to limit the distraction to the children.
3. To avoid distractions for the children, please limit entering/exiting the room when a meeting is in session.
4. For Beginners, children need to have a parent or adult guardian with them at all times. It would be ideal to have one adult for every child.

Idaho Conference Camp Meeting Registration Form

June 13 – 17, 2023

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____
 Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____
(Not at Camp Meeting with you)
 Vehicle License Plate # _____ State _____
 Email _____ I need help with my luggage

Please reserve the days I have checked:

- Full Camp Meeting (Tuesday, June 13 - Sabbath, June 17)
 Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Sabbath

Lodging (Check one):	<u>Per Night</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Residence	\$33	\$97	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> South Dorm	\$31	\$89	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> RV-Water/Elec(10 amp)*	\$24	\$67	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tent Site (no utilities)	\$7	\$22	\$ _____
	Total Fees		\$ _____
* Length of RV _____	Deposit Paid		\$ _____
* # of Slide Outs _____	Balance Due		\$ _____
* RV License Plate # _____ State _____			

I have medical training and am willing to assist if needed.

Mail to:

Idaho Conference
 of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.
 Camp Meeting
 7777 W Fairview Ave
 Boise ID 83704

\$20.00 deposit required to reserve room or space. Deposit is nonrefundable after May 22, 2023.

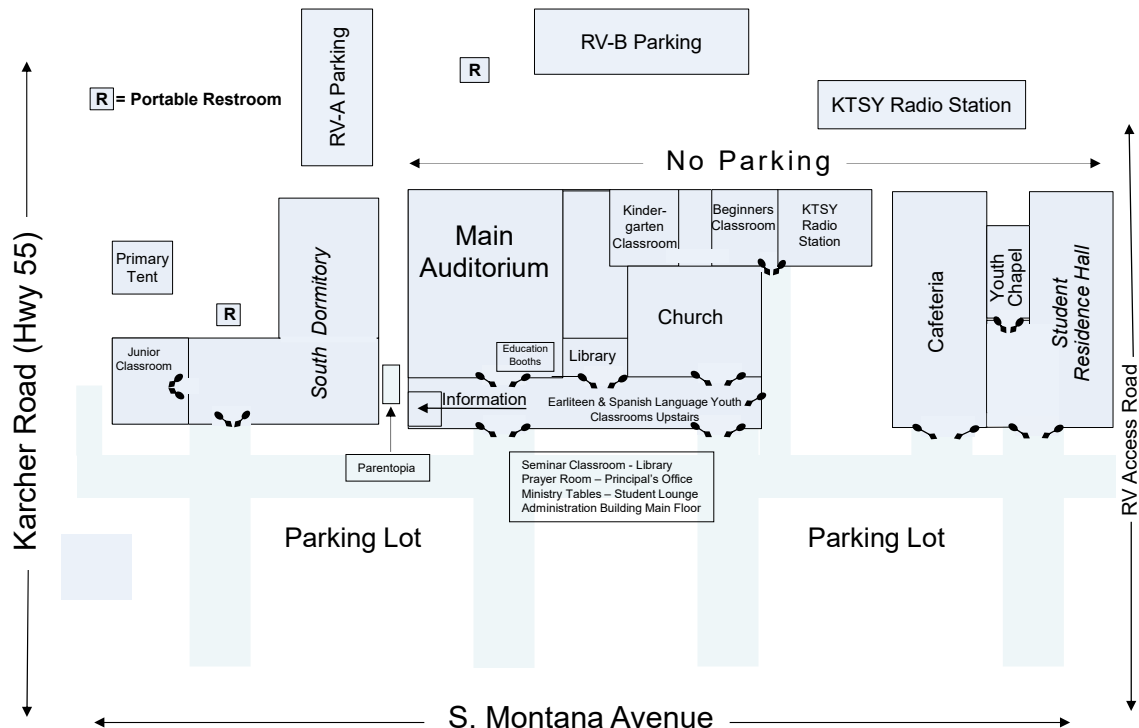
We accept only cash and checks. Make checks payable to Idaho Conference.

Balance is due at check-in. A \$5 refundable deposit per key is payable at check-in.

New “No Pet Policy”

No animals except service dogs are allowed on campus. Service dogs must be trained to perform a specific task for a disability.

For more information contact:
 Leanne Strickland
 Idaho Conference
 208-375-7524 Ext. 114
 Leanne.strickland@idconf.org





Soul Fitness: Childlike or Childish?

Eve Rusk, Director for Communications

Kids are funny and fun creations. Yesterday, I went on a walk with my granddaughter, my husband (her grandpa), my son (her father) and her grandparents on her mom's side. We walked through the neighborhood via the sidewalks and when there wasn't a sidewalk, she had to hold someone's hand while we carefully walked on the street. Once we got on the path, she could skip on ahead. She was wearing her favorite footwear – pink rain boots!

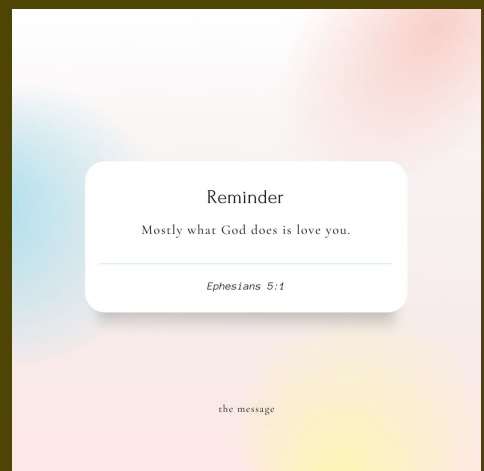
The next morning, she complained that her hip hurt, the muscle was tight. We figured that it was because she spent so much time running races with Grammy in her rain boots. They weren't the best choice for racing. Later in the day, we went to the zoo and walked all around. She was wearing different shoes this time, shoes more appropriate for walking a few miles. And her hip was hurting less.

As children, we inadvertently do things that could hurt us, simply because we don't know any better – until someone tells us. And sometimes we have to learn it for ourselves, like my granddaughter. As children, too, we can forge ahead one day and the next be fearful doing the same thing. It's part of the growing process. Supportive parents and grandparents understand that and work to help the child grow and learn.

Wouldn't it be nice if we did the same thing with new Christians, or even those who haven't come to a full decision yet? When Jesus blessed the children in Luke 18:15, ESV, He said, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." In Matthew 18:3 – 4 ESV, Jesus is answering the disciples' question about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. He answered, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." He goes on further to say that if someone were to cause a child to sin, it would be better to have a millstone around his neck and be thrown into the sea.

Is He speaking only of children chronologically? Perhaps. He also encourages us to become like children. Children are curious, they love hard, they learn quickly. Especially at an early age, they are eager to learn, eager to please. They generally don't care what color someone's skin is, what their religion or politics are or what they wear. They just want to have fun and play together. Is that the attitude Jesus is wanting for us more mature people?

Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again. Jesus used a child as an example of who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Give you any ideas? I want to be more childlike, not childish. There's a difference. And all whom He created are God's children. All.



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