

The President's Pen!

Dear Idaho Conference Family & Friends:

The mission of the Idaho Conference can be found in the words Jesus spoke to His disciples just before His ascension to heaven. They are found in Matthew 28:19, 20. I invite you to read them with fresh eyes.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” ESV.

Roes Announce Retirement – Douglas and Darla Roe have announced their retirement, effective December 31, 2022. Darla has served as the administrative director and Douglas has served as the general manager faithfully and sacrificially for thirty years. They have led Camp Ida-Haven to become a premier camp by developing the campus structure, growing six weeks of summer camp, and providing year around retreat accommodations. During the last three decades, hundreds of young adults have served in summer camp ministry and thousands of campers have enjoyed a week of camp where the fun never ends. Thank you so much, Douglas and Darla, for your amazing leadership during thirty fantastic years! The Idaho Conference administration has employed a process to hire their successors in consultation with the Camp Ida-Haven Operating Board, the Idaho Conference Personnel Committee and Board of Directors. Please pray for us as we seek God’s will on this important matter.

Salazar Arrives as Vice President for Administration – We are excited to welcome Elder David and Nitza Salazar and daughter, Jordyn, to the Idaho Conference. Elder Salazar is the new Vice President for Administration. He will also carry additional responsibilities as the director for young adults, youth, and children’s ministries. Elder Salazar began his responsibilities with us on August 1, 2022.

Simpson Accepts Invitation – We welcome Pastor Peter and Ella Simpson to serve as the pastoral couple of the Idaho Falls/Pocatello/Teton Valley district. The Simpsons began their ministry in South Africa. They transitioned to North America twenty years ago where they have served as a pastoral couple in the Ohio and Dakota Conferences. We are excited to welcome them to the Idaho Conference and to our amazing team of pastors.

Kontra Serving as Pastor of the Gem State Adventist Academy Church & Associate Pastor of the Caldwell Church – After serving on the Camp Ida-Haven summer camp staff for six summers and graduating from Walla Walla University, the Idaho Conference hired Matthew Kontra as a pastoral intern to serve as the pastor of the Gem State Adventist Academy Church and associate pastor of the Caldwell Church. We are excited to welcome Pastor Kontra to the Idaho Conference and to our amazing team of pastors.

Yeager Accepts Invitation – Joyce Yeager accepted the invitation of the Idaho Conference Board of Directors to serve as the volunteer Prayer Ministries Coordinator. We welcome her to this important ministry position. Mrs. Yeager and the Prayer Ministries Committee are planning the 8th Annual Prayer

Conference at Camp Ida-Haven the weekend of November 11-13. Other plans are in the works to grow local church prayer ministries and prayer support for soul winning and evangelism.

Camp Ida-Haven – Camp Ida-Haven conducted six weeks of summer camp with 601 campers. That is an average of full capacity for each of the six weeks of summer camp. Camp Ida-Haven is THE place where campers are invited to accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and forever Friend, meet new friends, and reconnect with old friends. Camp Ida-Haven is the place where the fun never ends. Thank you, Douglas and Darla Roe and team, for your fantastic thirtieth summer camp season!

Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) Welcomes Students & New Faculty and Staff – Gem State Adventist Academy opened the 2022-2023 school year with 79 students. Their budget is based on 74 students. That is a significant increase compared to the opening enrollment of 66 students for the 2021-2022 school year. The Idaho Conference and GSAA is excited to welcome six new faculty and staff. Ronnie Anderson is serving as the music teacher, Mira Wickward is the science teacher, Jimmy Simpson is the history teacher, JT Miller is the assistant men's dean, Annie Wirtz is the assistant women's dean, and Christina Henry serves as the receptionist. I invite you to pray for principal John Soule and his team throughout this school year.

Elementary Schools Welcome Students and New Teachers – The opening enrollment for our nine elementary schools for the 2022-2023 school year stands at 284 students. That is a small decrease compared to the opening enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year of 287 students. The Idaho Conference is excited to welcome four new elementary school teachers. Sabrina Seigal is the teacher for grades 3-4 at Boise Valley Adventist School. Charity Travis is the teacher for kindergarten and Jon Usher is the teacher for grades 7-8 at Caldwell Adventist Elementary School. Brittany Warren is the teacher for grades 1-8 at the Salmon Seventh-day Adventist School. I invite you to pray for the teachers and staff of our nine elementary schools throughout this school year.

Recent Evangelistic Reaping Meetings at Nampa Spanish and Enterprise, OR Churches – In July, the Nampa Spanish Church conducted a series of reaping meetings with guest evangelist Pedro Rascon. With strong support from the church family, the Lord blessed their efforts with eight baptisms and one profession of faith. Earlier this month, the Enterprise Church hosted a series of evangelistic meetings with guest evangelist Tyler Long. There was strong support from the church family and good interest from the community. The Lord has blessed with five decisions for baptism.

Operation Exponential Growth – We praise God for the engagement of the Idaho Conference pastors and church families to make disciples in our communities, sharing the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness. I am thrilled to let you know that the Idaho Conference has entered a relationship with It Is Written Ministries (IIW) for soul winning and evangelism in 2022-2023. In August, IIW leaders taught 40-60 members and friends' principles and skills in soul winning. The sessions were recorded and can be accessed on the Nampa Church website. Gem State Adventist Academy will be the site for three months of SALT, Soul winning and Leadership Training, next spring by IIW leadership. We anticipate four simultaneous live evangelistic reaping series by IIW evangelists in April and May 2023. John Bradshaw's meetings will be available to every church via livestreaming. IIW is making John Bradshaw's sermons and graphics available to pastors and/or church leaders should local church leadership wish to host their own live reaping meetings. I invite you to pray

as we continue to move forward in fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ and the Idaho Conference. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Barefoot Media Ministries – Barefoot Media Ministries is an invaluable ministry of the Idaho Conference, reaching the public through radio and digital content. The annual fall fundraising week is slated for October 11-14, 2022. Please prayerfully consider tuning in to 89.5, KTSY, or 88.7, the Project, during that week and donate to this amazing ministry. I invite you to pray for general manager Brian Yeager and his team as they experience God and impact lives.

Women's Retreat – One hundred women joined together in fellowship, worship, and fun experiences for the annual Women's Retreat at Camp Ida-Haven the weekend of September 9-11. The featured speaker was Brenda Walsh. She spoke on the theme of "Keep Calm and Pray On!" Sincere thanks go to the Women's Ministries Coordinator, Jody Burton, her fantastic team, and the amazing team at Camp Ida-Haven for an exciting retreat.

Fun Facts – God has blessed the Idaho Conference with a 39% tithe gain for the month of August 2022, compared to August 2021. Year-to-date tithe (January through August) shows a 10.3% gain compared to January through August 2021. We praise God for the faithfulness of His people in returning God's tithe to the biblical storehouse.

Baptisms and Professions of Faith through September 20, 2022 - 69
Total Membership – 7092

"Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!" Psalm 150:1, 2, ESV.

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