

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

MISSION MATTERS IDAHO

FALL 2022

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.



Mission Matters

David Prest Jr., President, Idaho Conference

Dear Idaho Conference Family and Friends:

God is doing amazing things in the Idaho Conference through our pastors, church leaders, church members and friends, educators, Barefoot Media Ministries, and Camp Ida-Haven. I stand in awe at God's miraculous power in Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho.

The mission of the Idaho Conference is to make disciples in our communities, sharing the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness. One of our strategic priorities that helps us focus on our mission is that we embrace exponential Christ-centered church growth – spiritual, discipleship, and numerical. This strategic priority has birthed the idea of Operation Exponential Growth, to embrace the Gospel Commission of Jesus Christ prayerfully and faithfully. Also, to know that God wants His church to grow exponentially, by His Spirit.

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. Please remember the Nampa Spanish Church family in your prayers as they disciple the new church members.

In September, 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 four decisions

for baptism and one decision to join God's last-day remnant church by profession of faith. I invite you to pray for Pastor Ballard and the church leadership as they follow-up on those precious decisions.

I had a recent conversation with Pastor Dale Cardwell of the La Grande and Cove district. He shared with me how he and others from the La Grande Church are engaged with an addiction recovery ministry in their community. This has given them premier opportunities to develop Holy Spirit arranged relationships with many men and women on a path to addiction recovery. Pastor Cardwell also shared how the La Grande Church family has reached out to a senior couple whose home was ravaged by grapefruit-sized hail in Wallowa. The church family has come together to help restore the couple's home.

Pastor Cardwell told me about being at the Cove Church on a certain Sabbath and discovering a guest was there whom he had known from his previous ministry assignment. He soon learned that she had a daughter who desired to be baptized. After appropriate preparation, he had the privilege of baptizing the young girl. Please pray for the Cove Church family as they assist her in her discipleship journey.

Another one of our strategic priorities is to strengthen and grow our Adventist schools. The 2022-2023 school year has recently commenced and there is great news from the Education Department and Gem State Adventist Academy. 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

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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
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year of 287 students. We are 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.

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. We are 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 Soulé and his team throughout this school year.

When we combine the opening enrollment of the nine elementary schools with that of Gem State Adventist Academy, we have a total opening enrollment of 363 students. That is a nice increase compared to the total opening enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year of 353 students.

Our schools are evangelistic centers, and our schoolteachers and administrators serve as evangelists for 180 days of the year. I invite you to pray for them daily as they teach reading, writing, arithmetic, and many other important subjects. Also pray for them as they share Jesus and the beautiful truths of the Bible with their students in the context of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"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."
Matthew 28:19, 20, ESV.

PRAYER
Exponential growth can only happen when God's Spirit is at work. The first step in this process is to invite the entire Idaho Conference to join together in prayer for the revival of our own hearts and our churches to prepare us for a great outpouring of God's Spirit that will result in exponential growth.

REVIVAL/REVITALIZE
When we seek God with all our hearts and let Him lead, the Idaho Conference will be prepared for God to bring wholehearted revival. As our hearts are renewed by God's Spirit and direction, the natural outpouring of that work will lead to a revitalization of our churches.

BAPTIZE/DISCIPLE
When our members and churches in the Idaho Conference experience genuine revival the natural outflow of God's love is to share that love with others. We are compelled with the burden of lost souls and are moved to engage soulwinning efforts. Not only will we work to bring people to join the Adventist faith, we will wholeheartedly labor to grow people into fully devoted disciples of Jesus.

RECLAIM
While our members are seeking new souls to win to the Kingdom of God, we must not forget that there are familiar souls to be brought back to the fellowship of Christ. With a little intentionality we can reclaim these missing members. Each member has a role to play in this effort by not only going out and getting them, but by staying connected with those currently attending.

PLANT
The fruit of a healthy church is not just more members, but another healthy church. In order to maintain exponential growth, we must intentionally plant new churches to reach people in different unreached areas.

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

Operation Exponential Growth 2023

January 27 – 28, 2023:
Conference-wide rally at the Cloverdale Adventist Church, 1115 N Cloverdale Rd, Boise. Featuring Eric Flickinger, Associate Speaker for It Is Written

SALT – Soul-winning And Leadership Training: March 5 – May 20, 2023 at Gem State Adventist Academy.

The Great Reset: evangelism series April 14 – May 13, 2023

John Bradshaw and Wes Peppers at the Nampa Adventist Church, livestreamed so any church in the conference can participate
Eric Flickinger at the Meridian Adventist Church, 1755 N Black Cat Rd, Meridian
Douglas Na'a at the Twin Falls Adventist Church, 131 Grandview Dr, Twin Falls
Jack Phillips at the Baker City Adventist Church, 42171 Chico Rd, Baker City OR



Introducing...

David Prest Jr., President, Idaho Conference

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.



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, Matthew Kontra is now serving as a pastoral intern and is 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 provide prayer support for soul winning and evangelism.

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.

News From GSAA

Hey! Did you know?

That you can support GSAA students when you:

BUY GROCERIES, FURNITURE, GRANDPA'S 80TH BIRTHDAY PRESENT, CAT FOOD, DOG FOOD, ALLIGATOR FOOD, EXTENSION CORDS, CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, TOILET PAPER, AND MUCH MORE!

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Click on Your Charity and choose GSAA!

Amazon will donate a portion of your orders.



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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

Caldwell Christmas Parade

DECEMBER 3 | 6:00 PM
 FREE GIFT FOR ALL ALUMNI
 THAT STOP BY THE GSAA
 BOOTH LOCATED AT
 IDAHO CENTRAL CREDIT UNION
 1110 BLAINE STREET
 CALDWELL, IDAHO



A Financial Milestone

John Rodgers, VP for Finance and Stewardship, Idaho Conference

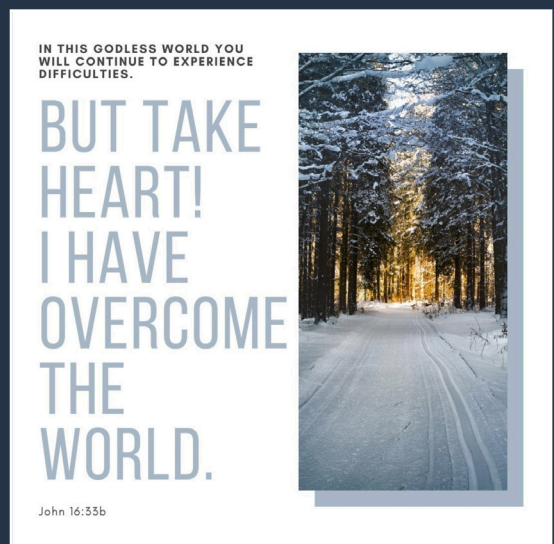
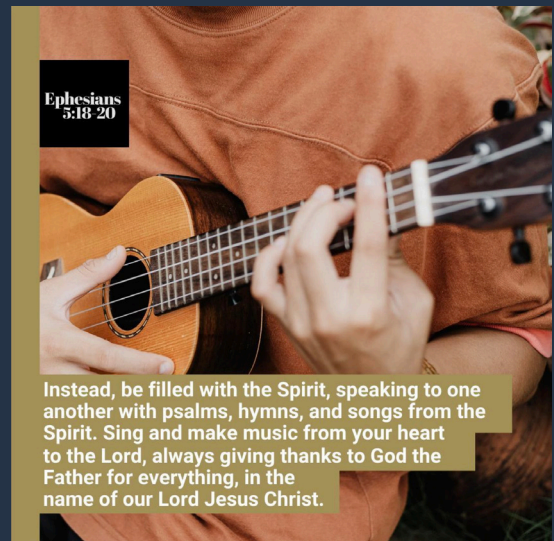
As many of you will remember, a number of years ago our conference was struggling with a high level of receivables from a number of our entities within the conference. The Board of Directors and Board of Education both spent significant amounts of time developing policies, practices and incentives to encourage these various entities to reduce the balances in their accounts. In January of 2014 Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA) peaked, owing the conference just over \$574,000.

Since that time the academy and conference have worked together to promote fiscal responsibility to not only reduce what they owed to the conference, but to turn GSAA into a financially healthy institution. Progress from that type of situation to financial health takes a lot of time and dedication. Progress has come slowly, but as of this writing the academy has moved from a position where their debts exceeded their operating assets to a debt ratio of 23.62%; meaning their liabilities are 23.62% of their operating assets. Additionally, GSAA has moved from a position where it was a day-to-day struggle to pay the bills to today, where they have enough cash on hand to operate for nearly 130 days if all income suddenly stopped.

Now back to what they owed the conference: Sunday, August 21 was our Board of Directors meeting, where I was able to report to the board that GSAA had ended the months of June and July with a zero balance! GSAA is no longer in debt to the Conference!

Principal John Soulé has noticed the reports showing that Barefoot Media Ministries (BFMM) (the conference radio ministry) has placed a deposit with the conference and therefore most months the conference owes BFMM money. He decided it would be nice if the conference also owed money to GSAA. At the end of my presentation to the Board of Directors he came forward and handed me a dollar bill to apply to the GSAA account. Moving forward the conference now officially owes GSAA.

This is a milestone we have all accomplished together. Everyone in our conference with a heart for GSAA has been a part of this success story, along with the blessings of our great and awesome God.



Escaping the Smoke: BVAS Heads East to Get Outdoors

Patrick Frey, Superintendent of Schools, Idaho Conference



This year's seventh and eighth grade outdoor school plan was to backpack into Loon Lake. Loon Lake is about 30 miles north of McCall and is the location of a crashed WW2 bomber. Three schools had signed up to participate. We were going to teach skills such as how to pick a campsite, how to pack your backpack with under 25 pounds, how to stay found, first aid and self-reliance. This was an opportunity to introduce students to a lifelong outdoor activity that would get them out into God's second textbook, nature.

Smoke from fires across the western US made it too hazardous to hike. Our secondary hiking trail was also a no go. We decided to call off the hike because the hiking trails within short distance to the Boise area had the same air quality conditions.

The Boise Valley Adventist School's seventh and eighth graders decided to take a backpacking trip to Palisades Lakes, east of Idaho Falls. I was asked to go along on the school's trip. The group drove the five hours to the trailhead, ate lunch and headed in. The hike was five miles into Lower Palisades Lake. After four hours, we were pitching camp just as the sun was setting.

Some of the duties the students learned was to set up tents, find water and cook a good meal before turning in for the night. This day those were done in the dark. Fortunately, the students quickly found a water supply that was not a rushing river.

The first night was great weather, but the ground seemed

extremely hard that night, a consequence of packing light and using a minimally soft lightweight foam pad. Getting up the next morning after the hike and hard ground was a stiff event for some of us. Those that brought hammocks seemed a bit more cheerful than the rest of us.

On our first full day, we had worship and conducted some classes on woodcraft and orienteering. We hiked in the area,

learned to store our food above ground and were introduced to the shovel used for restroom duties. Some of the girls' volleyball team had energy enough to do some of their training activities including running laps around the campsite. When the sun dropped in the west we started a campfire, ate supper, had worship, and sang camp songs.



That evening, rain came into the area. We had prepared for it with rain gear and some tarps. However, dawn brought some surprises. One tent's design looked more like a bathtub than a tent. A second one had a stream under it, resulting in four wet sleeping bags. After evaluating the situation, we felt that we needed to pack out or have four kid-cicles

to thaw out the next morning.

Even though the trip ended a day early, most of the students enjoyed the trip and many want to try backpacking again. That made for a successful trip. As for me, I'm going to invest in warm hammock.



Changing Lives

You could experience the joy of sharing your talents with our precious students.

David was a top-notch accountant. He had been working in the industry for 30 years. His children were through college, and he decided it was time to give back and do something in his life to make a difference in a tangible way.

A change from crunching numbers to changing lives.

He had always been good with kids and loved working with people. He wanted to make a difference and embrace that light bulb moment when someone “gets” a concept.

A few years ago David went with his heart and sold his accounting business. He went back to university to become a teacher. David was part of a group of career changers who already had a four-year degree and wanted to become teachers.

In his teaching cohort were nurses, lawyers, graphic artists, and even a policewoman with a degree in criminology. All had a passion for working with children and touching their lives with a love of learning.

They were my best students. They nailed their student teaching and were all hired before they finished their post-graduate education degrees.

Fast forward to 2022.

Schools are desperate for dedicated teachers. While there are many reasons for this, the indisputable fact is that if you are interested in becoming a teacher, Adventist Education has a pathway for you.

Our Adventist universities are able to work with our conferences to welcome people into a two-year online degree program that allows them to earn NAD certification.*

When I taught kindergarten every day was thrilling and the children were so precious. Every year my class engaged in a reading enrichment and career development program called “Look Who Is Coming to Read.” I had state senators, GC administrators, the local fire chief, a police chief, a U.S. Congressman, and many others visit the class. They would bring a book to read and share with the children what they did in their chosen careers. Both the readers loved and the kids loved it.

My favorite reader was one of the federal court judges that came every year. He would kick off his shoes, and sit on the floor cross-legged in his expensive suit and silk tie.

You could be that person that gets to kick off your shoes and make a difference in the life of a child every day. You could experience that same joy of sharing your talents with our precious students.

Our children need you, our schools need you and Jesus needs you to be His hands and feet to the most precious segment of our church — our children.

*Those with four-year college degrees interested in becoming teachers should email marc@adventistcolleges.org; or call **1-888-580-GRAD (4723)**.

Leisa Morton-Standish
COLUMBIA, MD

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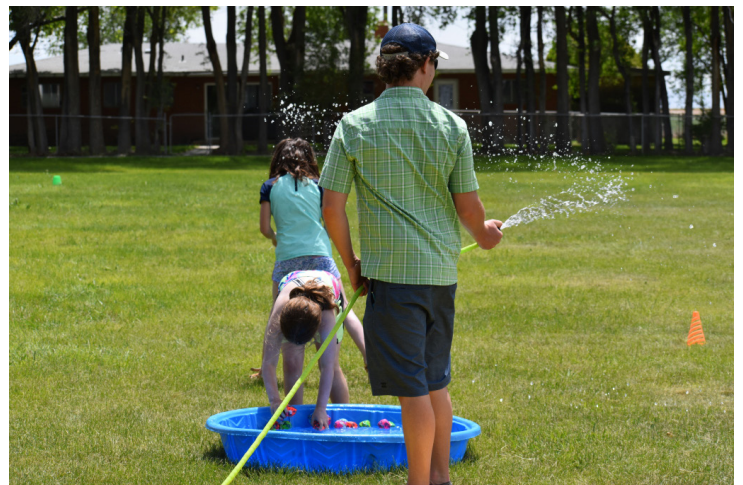
Remembering Camp Meeting, 2022



Remembering Camp Meeting, 2022



Remembering Camp Meeting, 2022



Soul Fitness: Are You an HOA? Or a Neighborhood Watch?

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



A homeowner's association's purpose is to protect the value of a neighborhood, to make sure that people's property as it is viewed from the street looks respectable. No garish colors, no obvious weeds, no fences in disrepair. An HOA may send a letter telling you to fix the fence or the HOA will do it and bill you. If you put up a fence that hasn't been approved by the HOA, they can force you to take it down. It's about protecting property values and perceptions. On the other hand, a neighborhood watch is more about protecting people. Watching out for one another. Making sure that no one comes to harm.

Jesus said in John 15:12 – 13, ESV: "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." And in John 13:34 – 35 ESV, He says, "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."

Is the kingdom of God like an HOA or a Neighborhood Watch? More personally, are YOU like an HOA or a Neighborhood Watch in how you interact with God's children? By God's children, I mean everyone that He has created, not just the ones who go to church with you or look and act the same as you.

When He was on this earth, Jesus interacted with people the religious leadership wouldn't touch with a ten-foot pole. Luke tells the story of the woman who had a discharge of blood for twelve years in chapter 8:43 – 48. According to the Levitical laws, a woman who had a discharge of blood was considered unclean until the discharge was gone. Perhaps because she had experienced the rejection of local religious leaders, she only dared

to touch the hem of Jesus' clothes. And yet she was healed.

Jesus asked the woman of Samaria for a drink of water. Again, religious leaders and Jews in general didn't associate with Samaritans. They certainly wouldn't associate with a woman who came to the well in the heat of the day so she could avoid the stares and whispers of her neighbors. Read the story in John 4.

Jesus healed the lepers, all ten of them. Lepers were also considered unclean and to be avoided at all costs. Yet Jesus healed them when they called to Him. When one came and fell at His feet in gratitude, He didn't put him off, saying that he had to be declared clean by the priests first. He didn't have to clean up his act to be healed or to offer thanks. Read the story in Luke 17.

I believe that the kingdom of God is like a Neighborhood Watch. We are to love and care for each other, regardless of age. Regardless of politics. Regardless of religion. Regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or race. Regardless of whether their skin is tattooed and pierced and their hair is multi-colored. Regardless of how they act toward us. Regardless of the language they use, the clothes they wear or how they smell. If they come into our church, we should accept and love them. Jesus does. If we encounter them in public, we should accept and love them. Jesus does. And regardless of their sin, we should accept and love them. No one's sin is worse than yours or mine. It's all sin against God.

In case you have questions about who your neighbor is, read Luke 10:25 – 37. Jesus will answer that question for you.

Are you an HOA? Or are you a Neighborhood Watch? What would Jesus be?

