

CONSTITUENCY REPORT 2023

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Seventh-day
Adventist[®] Church

IDAHO CONFERENCE
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Your Idaho Conference Staff



*From left to right: Eve Rusk, Jo Ann Miller, David Salazar, David Prest Jr., John Rogers, Patrick Frey, Leanne Strickland, Susan Gilbert.
Not pictured: Don Klinger*

Volunteer Directors / Coordinators:

Women's Ministries: Jody Burton

Adventist Community Service-Disaster Response: Donna Cantrell

Pathfinders: Dan Gilbert

Hispanic Women's Ministries: Alma Margil

Hispanic Ministries: Gerald Margil

Children's Ministries: Nitza Salazar

Prayer Ministries: Joyce Yeager

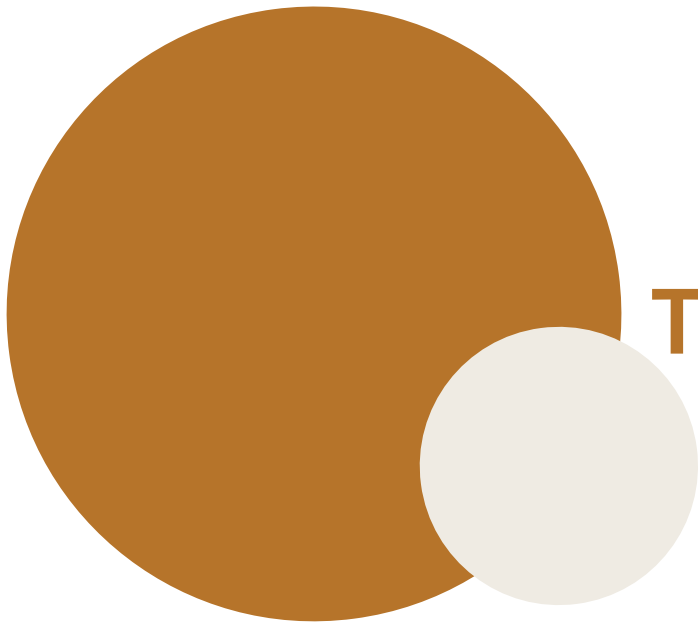


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President's Report

The psalmist penned the following words, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad." (Psalm 126:3, ESV). God is writing a BIG story. It is a story that spans centuries of time. The Idaho Conference enjoys a slice of that story.



God is writing the story of the Idaho Conference, a story that includes His activities and His miracles in His church and in the lives of His people in the Idaho Conference. I am thrilled that we can share with you another chapter of the story, what God has done in Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon during the 2019 – 2022 quadrennium. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, this four-year term was remarkable regarding ministry, soul winning, evangelism, baptismal growth and financial growth.

The Idaho Conference is comprised of forty-three churches, six companies, nine elementary schools, Gem State Adventist Academy (GSAA), Camp Ida-Haven and Barefoot Media Ministries. In 2021, we celebrated surpassing 7,000 members for the first time in our history. Praise the Lord! At the close of the quadrennium, December 31, 2022, the Idaho Conference had 7,079 members.



The following has served as our mission and vision statements during the last four years.

OUR MISSION

"We are called to make disciples in our communities, sharing the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness."

OUR VISION

"To equip and empower pastor-coached, lay-driven churches that reflect Jesus' love, passionately live the gospel and grow spiritually and numerically."

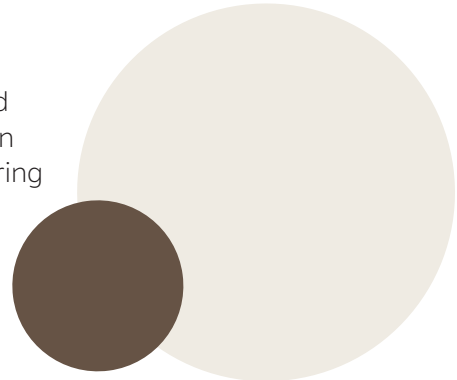
Supporting the mission and vision, our pastors and members have worked together to engage with their communities in a variety of evangelistic, outreach, and soul winning ministries during the quadrennium. The booklet you hold in your hands tells the stories of God's blessings as we have endeavored to fulfill our mission and realize our vision. Four strategic priorities have demanded our focus during the quadrennium. Allow me to share with you how God has blessed us in focusing on these priorities.

Strategic Priority #1: "Facilitate exponential Christ-centered church growth—spiritual, discipleship, and numerical."

Operation Exponential Growth was born during the quadrennium. Scripture records that the apostolic church grew daily. We believe that healthy Seventh-day Adventist churches will grow. We also have the conviction that the Holy Spirit is actively working in the lives of men, women, young people and children. As Adventist Christian believers, we must come alongside them and join them on their spiritual journey. We must invite them to join God's last-day remnant church family.

Operation Exponential Growth is intentional soul winning and outreach. It is our way of life. It is what we do day-to-day and year-to-year to faithfully fulfill the Gospel Commission of Matthew 28:18-20. It is the way we make *His last command, our first concern*.

In 2019, we hosted two Partners for Growth weekends and in 2021, we hosted one weekend providing an experience of inspiration and training





in church growth in each of the three geographical areas of the conference. Elder Bill McClendon, Vice President for Administration and Evangelism Director for the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) led in these well-attended weekends.

In 2019, the Cloverdale Church hosted evangelist Brian McMahon with the *Prophecy Unsealed* series of evangelistic meetings. Several of our churches livestreamed the meetings, hosting the series for their communities. God blessed with a wonderful harvest of souls for His Kingdom.

In 2021, the Idaho Conference and the North Pacific Union Conference launched an eighteen-month partnership providing human and financial resources that equipped and empowered us to take soul winning and evangelism to the next level. We are grateful to the NPUC for this invaluable partnership.

In 2022, It Is Written Ministries joined our partnership with the NPUC. This relationship gave birth to *Revelation Today – The Great ReSet*. This initiative included inspiration and training in soul winning and evangelism from the first-class It Is Written Ministries team. This is the biggest coordinated soul winning initiative to take place in the Idaho Conference in recent memory. Almost half of our churches, companies, and groups are engaged with this soul winning and evangelistic experience. As I write this report, we are amid *The Great ReSet* series of evangelistic meetings. It began with a strong first weekend. However, the results are yet to be known and written.



Many of our churches embraced traditional public evangelism during the quadrennium. God blessed in a powerful manner adding and growing disciples in the

Body of Christ.

Some of our churches have engaged in creative approaches to soul winning and evangelism. Adventist Community Services, ministry to the homeless, ministry to those who struggle with addictions, children's ministries, prayer ministries, women's ministries and men's ministries are some of the ways members and churches can impact our communities.

We appreciate our pastors, local church leaders, members and friends who have embraced Operation Exponential Growth. By His Spirit, God has done many miraculous works through you.

Strategic Priority #2: “Recruit, grow, equip, and empower strong Christian leaders.”

We embrace the biblical teaching of the priesthood of all believers. Every human being who has accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord and is filled with the Holy Spirit is given one or more spiritual gifts for ministry. The following is a list of some of the training opportunities we provided for our members, friends and employees during the quadrennium.



- » Some of our pastors and administrators have benefited from coaching from Realize Outcomes.
- » Biennial Elders' Retreats.
- » Annual Idaho Conference camp meetings in both English and Spanish.
- » Annual Women's Retreats.
- » Annual Prayer Conferences.
- » Biennial Transformed for Ministry Sabbaths providing training in each of the three geographical regions of the Conference.
- » Partners for Growth weekends.
- » Pastors' Meetings.
- » Teachers' In-services.
- » Various training opportunities provided

by It Is Written Ministries in our conference in preparation for *The Great ReSet* series of evangelistic meetings.

- » Pathfinder & Adventurer Ministries.
- » Hispanic Ministries.



Strategic Priority #3: “Engage youth and young adults in all aspects of ministry.”

The annual ID Youth Conference held in the month of March on the GSAA campus focuses on the felt needs of our youth. The 2023 experience attracted about 150 of our youth.

In 2022, the Idaho Conference hired Elder David Salazar as the Vice President for Administration with additional responsibilities as the youth and young adult director. In a short time, he has given good leadership in this important ministry area. We look forward to continuing to grow in engaging our youth and young adults in all aspects of ministry.

The Camp Ida-Haven team does a phenomenal job of hiring approximately fifty young adults for the

annual six-weeks of summer camp.

The Pathfinder and Adventurer Ministries teams do an excellent job of working with our churches in training our children and young people in ministry and leadership. When possible and appropriate, the Idaho Conference employs young adults in positions of leadership and ministry, namely, elementary school educators, GSAA educators and staff, pastors, Camp Ida-Haven staff and Barefoot Media Ministries staff.

Strategic Priority #4: “Strengthen and grow our Adventist schools.”

God has trusted us with nine elementary schools and GSAA. The teachers at our elementary schools provide a strong academic curriculum and a solid spiritual and biblical focus that gives our students a high-quality Adventist Christian education. Our teachers love their students. We are thankful for the men and women who have dedicated their lives to teaching and ministering to our young people in Adventist education.

GSAA continues to offer the best in Adventist Christian secondary education. It provides a balanced program of high-quality academics, strong spirituality, and purpose-driven athletics. GSAA ranks high academically, when compared with the other Seventh-day Adventist academies in the NPUC. We praise God for GSAA’s growth in enrollment and financial stability. It is in its strongest financial position in recent history. We are thankful for the visionary and thoughtful leadership of the GSAA administration, faculty and staff.

Ministries

Camp Ida-Haven is our first-class camp on beautiful Payette Lake in McCall, ID. The camp features an excellent team of leaders and staff. It is an integral part of the ministry of the Idaho Conference. Camp Ida-Haven helps fulfill our mission by providing a spiritually transformative experience for both campers and staff.

After serving for an unprecedented thirty years as the administrative director and general manager of Camp Ida-Haven, Darla and Douglas Roe retired on December 31, 2022. The Roes 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 served in



summer camp ministry and thousands of children and teenagers 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 and Camp Ida-Haven welcomed Bethany Pratt as the new administrative director and Bruce Pratt as the new general manager. The Pratts and Daniel Jenks (Operations Manager) comprise the new dynamic leadership team for Camp Ida-Haven.

Barefoot Media Ministries is an important ministry owned and operated by the Idaho Conference. It impacts the lives of thousands of people across our conference through a contemporary Christian music format and digital content. This unique ministry is reaching people with the love of God that may not be reached by more traditional evangelistic methodologies. Barefoot Media Ministries is funded by its listening audience and community partners.

Celebrations

The Ontario Church paid off their mortgage and held a special dedication service for their church facility on April 27, 2019.

On November 23, 2019, the Nampa Church celebrated 100 years of ministry in their community.



On January 19, 2021, the Nampa Church purchased a medical building and renovated it to serve as their Lifting Lives Community Resource Center. This includes clothing distribution, a food pantry, and additional programs and services for the community in the future.

On May 1, 2021, the Parma Church held a special dedication service for their facility in recognition that their mortgage was paid off.



On April 4, 2022, the Salmon Church held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of their new parsonage. They have completed its construction and it is beautiful, awaiting the arrival of a new pastor.



On May 26, 2022, the Cloverdale Church held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a community services building in which to house HUB 365. HUB 365 is the church's thrift store and food pantry. They anticipate providing additional programs and services for the community in the future.



I love the Seventh-day Adventist Church! It is God's prophetic last-day church! I treasure the following statement written by Ellen White:

"I testify to my brethren and sisters that the church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard. While He extends to all the world His invitation to come to Him and be saved, He commissions His angels to render divine help to every soul that cometh to Him in repentance and contrition and He comes personally by His Holy Spirit into the midst of His church."

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 15.

We are living in exciting and momentous times. It is exhilarating to be a part of a worldwide movement that God is empowering to proclaim the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 faithfully and boldly. I invite you to join us in making *His last command, our first concern.*

As I prepare this report, my heart is full of gratitude and appreciation for our pastors, elementary school educators, GSAA faculty and staff, office staff, volunteer ministry coordinators, Camp Ida-Haven staff, Barefoot Media Ministries staff, church leaders and all our constituents and friends. Thank you for everything you have done and are doing for the mission and vision of the Idaho Conference.

*David Prest, Jr.
President*

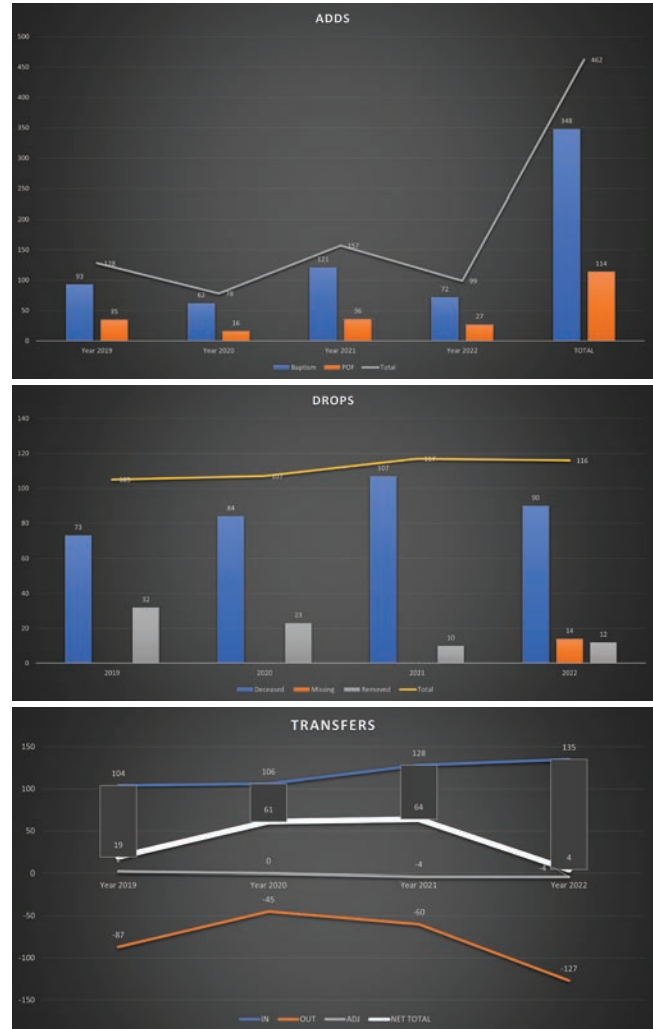
Vice President's Report

Celebrating God's Expansion!

It's an exciting time to be a part of the Idaho Conference, and we want you to join us in celebrating our growth and progress! Over the past four years, our conference has experienced continual growth, as evidenced



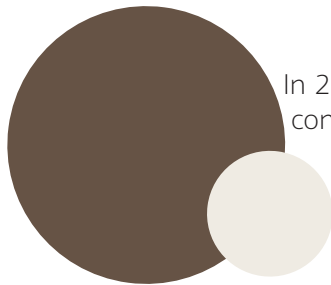
by our membership statistics. We're proud to share that we've welcomed 462 individuals through baptism or profession of faith while also experiencing a net transfer growth of 84 members from 2019 to 2022. Despite losing 756 members due to death, transfers out, or removal for other reasons, our membership still grew by 152 members to reach 7,079, crossing the 7,000-membership mark in 2021.



The move to pass the 7,000-member mark is notable, as the Idaho Conference, which covers Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon, has moved from a small conference to a mid-sized conference. This realization is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our conference leaders and members, and we want you to be a part of this success!

Church Vitality

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt globally, and our conference is no exception. In 2019, 61% of our congregations were considered declining churches.



In 2020, it rose to 63%. As our congregations returned to meeting in 2021, we saw a decline in declining churches, which now stood at 57%. 2022 brought disappointment as the percentage of our declining churches went up to 66%.

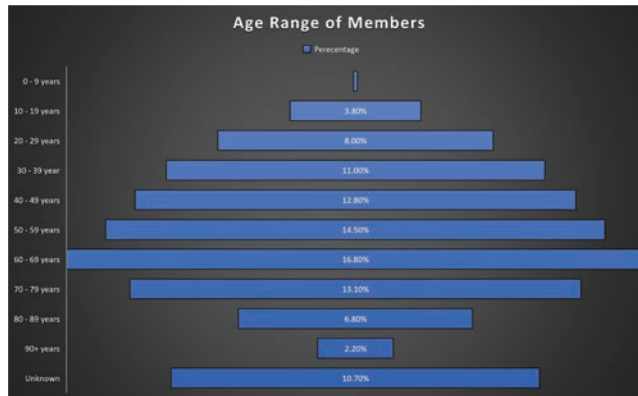
However, there is positive news to share. The number of churches considered growing has generally increased, with 27% of our churches experiencing growth in attendance and baptisms/POFs in 2021. While 2022 had fewer baptisms and POFs than 2021, the dip in growing churches was only 1%. I appreciate your support of both public and personal evangelism during these trying years.



Age Distribution

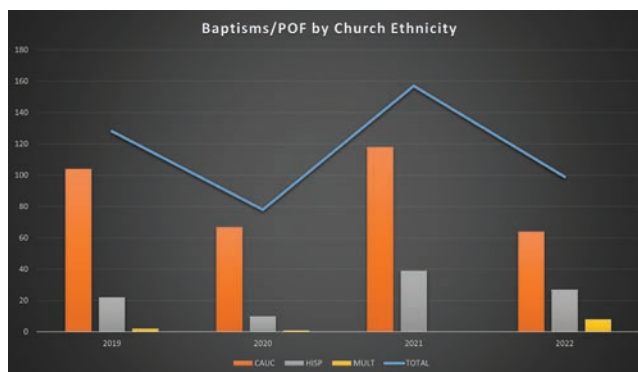
We're thrilled that our conference is attracting younger members, with nearly 40% of kingdom growth (baptisms and professions of faith) coming from individuals under 30 in 2019. In 2020, over half of baptisms and POFs came from the under-30 age brackets. For 2021, that percentage was 45%; in 2022, 55% of all kingdom growth was attributed to those under 30. This shows that our conference appeals to a diverse age range and creates a welcoming environment for everyone. Please note that we do not have ages for many individuals.

We still have a way to go to reflect the median ages of our communities (37.2 for Idaho and 39.9 for Oregon), yet we are moving in the right direction, which highlights funding and supporting children's, youth, and young adult ministries to be highly effective.



Church Ethnicity Growth

Our Hispanic churches have been making significant strides in outreach efforts, with their baptisms and profession of faith totals representing 27% of our conference membership in 2022. Although their membership only represented 8.3% of our conference membership at the end of the quadrennium, their growth averaged 20.5% for the four years. We hope to see this exciting trend continue in the coming years.



Why These Statistics Matter

Membership statistics provide insight into our conference's health and vitality and help us identify areas for improvement. If we're experiencing a decline in membership, we can explore why members are leaving and take steps to address those issues. Conversely, if we're experiencing growth, we can examine what's contributing to that growth and find

ways to replicate those successes in other areas. By comparing statistics from year to year, we can track progress and ensure we're on the right path.

Join Us in Celebrating Our Success

We're thrilled to see our conference growing and evolving, and we want you to be a part of this exciting journey. Our membership statistics show a steady growth pattern, and we're confident that we can continue this trend in the coming years as we trust and follow God's leading. I thank God, our leaders, pastors, teachers, members and all who have given their hard work and dedication. Let's continue positively impacting our community and creating a welcoming and grace-filled environment for everyone.

David Salazar
Vice President for Administration

Treasury Report



Isaiah 65:24 reads, "Before they call, I will answer." One day, I received a call from a donor wanting to give a certain amount to Camp Ida-Haven. He wasn't sure what project he wanted to give to at camp, but he did have a specific amount he wanted to give. We talked for a bit about the various needs at camp, and he finally decided on a particular area he wanted to give to. Within an hour or two, I got a call from camp; "Help! The service technician says our ice machine is dead. We need one before camp begins in a few weeks, but we don't know where to get the money." The cost of the new machine was almost exactly what the donor wanted to give. I called the donor back, and he was very agreeable that this was the best use of his donation.

God's timing is always right on time. Sometimes God's timing is a little later than we would like, but we look back and call it a faith-building experience. Other times, like in the story above, God's timing is such that He provides the means before we know we have a need.

Over the last twelve years God has been providing the means for the Idaho Conference to rebuild financially and restore reserves. God's timing is right on time here too. God provides the means when He has a purpose. Crises often direct people's attention to their need for God in their lives. In 2019, as this quadrennium began, our financial reserves were climbing and the focus of our conference on evangelism began to balloon. Then, in 2020, the COVID crisis became a reality. We began making contingency plans in case there was a significant drop in tithe. But God had other plans. Instead of decreasing, tithe and giving increased as did people's desire to have Jesus in their lives.

A number of our churches found creative ways to reach out to their communities during this time. Some churches held virtual evangelism and online Bible studies. Others were able to use community services to reach out. Outdoor Vacation Bible School was a success in some cases and social media campaigns have had success for a few churches.

As society has returned to in person contact, our live evangelism efforts have regained traction, reaching out to many who are now looking for something more in their lives.

Having reached the full recommended level of reserves, we're no longer worried about not making payroll because something didn't go according to budget. We now have the ability to begin budgeting more aggressively for God's mission. Some of the missional things we've been able to do because of this financial success include:

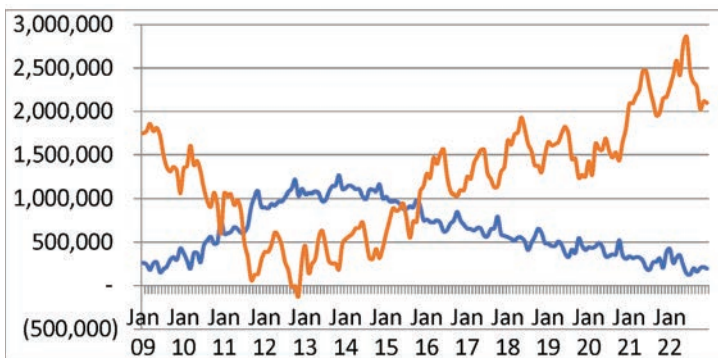
- » Increased spending on evangelism, including subsidizing over 70 evangelism/VBS events.
- » A higher level of subsidies to churches doing evangelism.
- » An increase to our pastoral positions by four.
- » An addition of one pastoral position that will be dedicated to mentoring newly graduated theology students.
- » An addition of one elementary teacher position.
- » An addition of one staff position for Camp Ida-Haven.
- » An increase in our focus on the spiritual growth of our youth and young adults.

» The acquisition of a cyber liability insurance policy to protect our conference against the effects of a crippling cyber-attack.

We have had other financial successes as well:

- » Our churches and schools have combined to pay off \$1,673,037 in Revolving Fund loans from the North Pacific Union Conference.
- » Gem State Adventist Academy has paid off its debt to the Idaho Conference and has significantly grown its financial reserves.
- » Barefoot Media Ministries has transitioned to the same accounting software as the conference and academy, making it easier for us to work together and help each other out as needed.
- » Camp Ida-Haven has continued to upgrade its facilities to better serve the spiritual needs of our children and constituents.

The following graph is an excellent illustration of where our conference has been financially over the last 14 years. The red line is our cash and the blue line is our accounts receivable.



Since 2011, we have experienced a cultural change in how we relate to our budgets and finances as a conference. This is leading to a cultural change in how we relate to ministry and evangelism. God has put us in a position where we can truly make *His last command our first concern*.

John Rogers
Vice President for Finance

Evangelism Report



God's Spirit has been on the move in Idaho Conference! He has been orchestrating events and using many different people to bring light and hope to His precious children. Brian Donohue's story clearly illustrates how the many activities of Operation Exponential Growth converged in one person's life.

Brian Donohue grew up in Santa Rosa, California. His family were nominal Christians—they attended church on Sundays, but the rest of the week they didn't think much about God or religion. As Brian got into his junior high and high school years, he became involved with partying and drinking, along with his friends. By the time he was in his 20's, he began to feel empty inside and feared that he may be on the road to alcoholism.

In January 2020, just before the COVID pandemic hit, Brian moved his family to Middleton, Idaho. He had had his fill of turmoil, fires and shootings, and he wanted a safer place to raise his children. He had planned to manage his Santa Rosa body shop remotely. But then, the pandemic's impact made it necessary for him to be in Santa Rosa every week—a ten hour drive each direction.

Those hours in the car gave Brian a lot of time to think—and there was a lot to think about in 2020!!! COVID and the resulting economic crisis, George Floyd's murder and calls for the defunding of the police. What in the world was happening? Brian wanted to know.

To find answers, Brian began listening to an audio Bible as he drove back and forth. "I had been to church for years, but really didn't know what the Bible teaches," he said. "I began learning new truths and putting them into practice. I quit drinking alcohol and started honoring the Sabbath. I wasn't going to church, but just keeping the Sabbath at home."

Three months into the pandemic, Brian realized his kids were not doing well academically. Online classes were not working! An atheist friend, who had also moved to Idaho, suggested checking out the Eagle Adventist Christian School (they were doing in-person classes). Brian ended up enrolling his children at Eagle

Adventist Christian School. Pastor Steve Echelmeier, when he learned that a Sabbath-keeping family had enrolled their children in the Eagle Adventist Christian School, reached out to the family. But at that point, Brian was content with just keeping the Sabbath with his family in their own home. “God was hitting me over the head, but I wasn’t getting it,” he says.

Fortunately, God keeps pursuing us! About this same time, a customer came to the body shop and, after some conversation, asked Brian if he would be open to listening to some DVDs on Bible prophecy. Brian agreed and the customer gave him a full set of Brian McMahon’s evangelistic sermons. Brian began listening to God’s Word, not only when driving, but also after work each evening.

About this same time, Brian learned that his father enrolled his children (from a second marriage) in the Redwood Adventist Academy, in California. Now Brian felt compelled to learn more about Adventists. He googled Sabbath keeping churches and, to his great amazement, he discovered that the Seventh-day Adventist church keeps the Sabbath!

In January each year, the Eagle Adventist Church has a retreat at Camp Ida-Haven. The Donohue family, along with all the other Eagle Adventist Christian School families, received an invitation to attend the retreat. The Donohue family attended. At the retreat Pastor Echelmeier invited Brian to a Revelation Seminar which was to begin two weeks later.

Brian shared what he was learning with his father. He shared the Days of Noah video series with him as well as the Brian McMahon series. By the time the retreat at Ida-Haven took place, Brian’s dad and wife Christy were keeping the Sabbath too. Both families attended the Revelation Seminar presented by Pastor Echelmeier. At the end of the series, Brian and his family as well as Brian’s father and stepmother joined the Eagle Adventist Church!



Even before he was baptized, Brian was a channel of light! His heart is so full of the love of Christ, that he is compelled to share. He has now completed the Soul-winning And Leadership Training (SALT) class and is witnessing every day for Jesus.

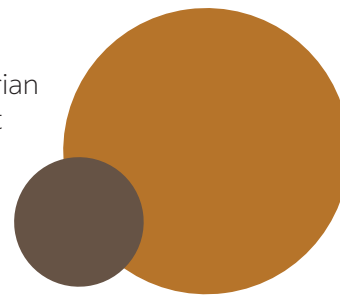
Thus, the Operation Exponential Growth cycle continues—one person at a time!

Quadrennium evangelism highlights include:

- » In 2018 Michael Gee was hired as a Bible Worker Trainer.
- » In 2019, NPUC evangelist Brian McMahon presented his prophecy series from the Cloverdale Church. It was livestreamed across the conference.



- » In 2021, Bill McClendon, NPUC VP for Administration, held two series of evangelistic meetings, one at Meridian and the other at Caldwell.
- » Also in 2021, Tyler Long, WA Conference Evangelist, held a series in Nampa, which was live-streamed.
- » Several churches participated in the livestream, including the Heyburn Church which had 27 guests opening night!



» Enterprise, Oregon, after participating with the 2021 live-stream, held in-person meetings with Tyler Long in 2022.

» There were many meetings

in Spanish language churches.

Preparations for the *It Is Written The Great ReSet* series, which occurred in the Spring of 2023:

» SALT a lay training event to teach how to give Bible studies and gain decisions, was held at the Nampa Church in the summer of 2022 for one week.



- » Weekends of inspiration and training were presented at the Nampa, Caldwell and Cloverdale churches.
- » A full SALT program began in the spring of 2023.
- » April/May 2023 almost half the churches participated in The Great Reset with It is Written, with evangelists in several locations and a livestream in English to the whole conference.

Don Klinger
Assistant to the President

Elementary Education Report



“The Holy Scriptures are the perfect standard of truth and as such should be given the highest place in education. To obtain an education worthy of the name, we must receive a knowledge of God, the creator, and of Christ, the Redeemer, as they are revealed in the sacred word.”

Ellen White, Education, p. 17

In today’s world, Adventist Christian Education is more important than ever before. Our young people are being influenced by the world to accept a world view that is opposite of our beliefs. Media is an overwhelming power that is consuming and shaping the minds of many if not most people in America. It is only through the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and empowerment that the three-fold union of family, church ministries and education that our students can have the best chance to withstand the schemes of God’s archenemy.

The mission of Adventist Christian Education is to help introduce our students to Christ and His Spirit and that they will fulfill the plans that God has for their lives.

This starts with hiring competent born-again teachers who will share the Word of God in a way that reaches their students. This has become more difficult over the last four years. The Baby Boomers are retiring at a rate faster than new teachers are coming out of colleges to replace them. The Education Office is working on creative ways to encourage them to come to Idaho. These include offering an interest free loan to Junior and Senior Education majors to help them pay their student loans. They can work off the loan in four years by teaching in Idaho.

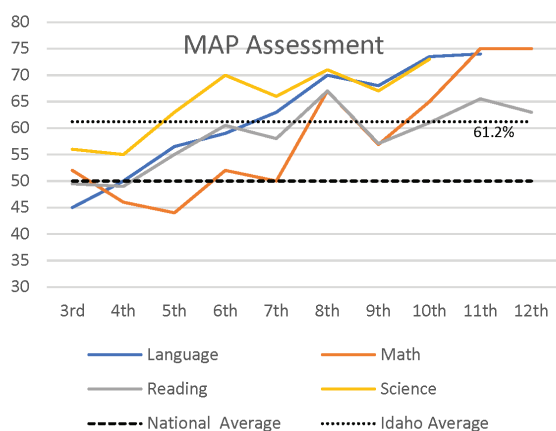
Our schools are strong in the Idaho Conference. Over the last three years, despite COVID, our elementary schools have grown from 272 students to 304 students, almost a 12% increase. Over the past four years most of our schools have grown or held steady in enrollment and two have almost doubled in size.

Gem State Adventist Academy is one of them. See the table at below.

Enrollment by School				Enrollment by Grade			
	2022	2021	2020		2022	2021	2020
Baker	20	17	20	PK	11	13	-
Boise	103	80	60	TK	9	-	-
Caldwell	52	83	73	K	21	25	32
Eagle	31	24	29	1	28	30	38
Enterprise	17	20	18	2	28	36	27
Hilltop*	18	16	17	3	33	30	29
La Grande	34	27	28	4	26	29	44
Salmon	11	9	8	5	30	41	24
Treasure Vly+	18	11	12	6	34	27	24
Total	304	287	265	7	30	30	24
GSAA	82	66	55	8	26	25	26

*Twin Falls
+Payette

Two years ago, the North American Division Education Department moved away from Iowa Basic Skills Assessments to the Measures of Academic Progress Assessment (MAP). This new assessment instrument measures students' academic growth using three assessments during the year. This gives a better picture of how a student is doing and can help their teacher and school provide intervention for individual students.



We recommend testing students starting in the third grade. Third graders normally assess at 50%. If they stay in our school system, on average, they will test at 70% as a GSAA student. This is statically high. Math is the subject which needs the most focus in the lower grades. Overall, our conference average is at 61.2% while the national average is 50%.

10 + 10 for Kids

In 2012 the 10+10 for Kids program was started by the Idaho Conference Education Office. The goal of this program is to develop support for schools with annual unrestricted funds distributions and to grow an endowment for future aid. Schools have used their funds for student scholarships, purchasing equipment, helping in remodeling restrooms and more. The table shows distributions to schools for the 2022-2023

school year. Over the last eleven years \$128,888.63 has been given to the schools and an equal amount to an endowment fund.

Total of \$32,872.22 donated in 2021-2022
Half went into the Endowment
Half directly to schools, based on enrollment.

GSAA	\$8,218.05	Enterprise	\$701.96
Baker	\$615.67	Hilltop	\$716.43
Boise	\$1,843.77	La Grande	\$953.31
Caldwell	\$1,179.30	Salmon	\$586.73
Eagle	\$701.96	Treas Vly	\$716.42

Outdoor Schools

The conference has three outdoor schools. The longest running one is the 6th graders' spring Oregon Museum of Science and Industry trip currently led by Jamie Miller, one of our energetic teachers. Over the last few years they have studied marine biology and focused on tide pooling on the Oregon coast.



There are two other Conference outdoor school programs that started five years ago. This past year in September, the seventh and eighth grades went on backpacking trips. The goals of these trips were to introduce students to backpacking, to learn basic backpacking skills and equipment use, self-reliance, perseverance and problem solving in an outdoor environment. The plan for the next trip for the fall of



2023 is a creation geology trip to Yellowstone National Park. Here we will study the evidence for creation, a world-wide flood, neo-catastrophic events of the area and rapid fossilization.

The fall fifth and sixth grade outdoor schools occur at Camp Ida-Haven in October. This past year the theme was basic survival skills. One of the skills the students learned was building shelters that they slept in the last night at camp. With temperatures dropping to the 30s at night, the students understood the need for warm sleeping bags and the value of starting a fire. The second outdoor school for fifth and sixth grades this coming fall will involve students studying the environments around the camp, including riparian, aquatic and woodland environments.



Outdoor schools teach more than just skills, they teach a view of life outside of the four walls of a classroom. There is an element of God and His creation that is best experienced in the wild. School should be more than math, reading and writing inside of four walls. It is also learning to think outside of those walls and pushing yourself to do things beyond your comfort zone.

Thank you as members of the Idaho Conference for your support in making Adventist Christian Education possible. Our schools are preparing our children for service in this world and eternity in the next.

Patrick Frey
Superintendent of Education

Gem State Adventist Academy Report



I get asked all the time, “Why did you choose education?”

I will tell you that I have never been prouder of what I do and the school where I do it, than I am today.

As I am writing I am sitting in my office watching the sun rise over the Treasure Valley and reflecting on this school year. We just finished Alumni weekend, and I had the privilege of thanking the alumni for being a big part of a miracle that happened before school started this year. One week before school started, my business manager came into my office. She stated that because we had significant growth in enrollment, we had given all our student scholarship and aid funds out and still had six students that needed funding. They would not be able to attend Gem State Adventist Academy! Our administration team came together and prayed that God would supply the needs. When we finished praying, I told the business manager to call the families of the six students and tell them to make



plans for their students to attend. We are stepping out in faith that the funds will be supplied. So, she notified the families, and we stepped out in faith. We sent out an email to our alumni and asked for funding. We were in tears as we watched the funds begin to come in. The Friday before school began, we had all six students fully funded. We are so grateful to our faithful alumni! God is continuing to bless Gem State Adventist Academy at every turn!



There is nothing I enjoy more than seeing our young people accomplish amazing things, surpassing the high expectations that Gem State Adventist Academy sets every day. GSAA is an extraordinary place with extraordinary staff, and it all starts with our incredible students.

GSAA's mission statement is *Engaging in Service. Training for Leadership. Preparing for Eternity.* This is the foundation of why we do what we do here.



This year as I was listening to the senior presentations, I realized that our students experience opportunities that other schools cannot offer. One senior was able to go to Guam and shadow several doctors that specialized in different fields of medicine. Another group of students toured Europe, went on STEM trips, mission trips, participated in community service projects, tournaments and one of our seniors sat on the pediatric board at a local hospital.

With the addition of Pastor Matt Kontra this year, our spiritual culture on campus has grown. Having him here has given our campus chaplain, Ever Perez, much-needed time to mentor students in planning Sabbath schools, vespers, week of prayer, ID youth conference and mission trips. This creates opportunities for our students to learn what it takes to be positive leaders in our churches, schools and communities. The most important aspect of this is for our students to strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

There is a statement posted in our lobby that reads, "Be it known to all who enter that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but ever-present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and inspiration of its students." Our staff and teachers are intentional about having a thread of Jesus running throughout all they do and about presenting Christ in a positive way for our students.

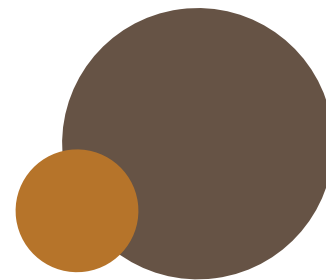
Our new teachers, with the blend of our seasoned teachers, form an amazing team that have the best interest of our students in mind as they execute their lesson plans and enhance the learning environment for each student.

The testing we use is called MAP testing (Measurement of Academic Progress). The GSAA student average is above 75% in Math, Language Arts, and Science. This is well above the national average of 50%.

We were fortunate to add Basic Auto Mechanics, InDesign, and Culinary Art classes to our curriculum this year and next year we are adding dual credit classes in Calculus and Art, followed by English and Anatomy & Physiology in the following year.



With the direction of our new music teacher Ronnie Anderson, GSAA's music program is flourishing with



over 75% of our student body involved in choir, band and handbells. For the past two years we have entered a float in the Treasure Valley Nightlight Parade in Caldwell highlighting the musical talents of our students. This year we won the title: "Best Representation of the Theme."

GSAA's Athletic program is growing with the addition of baseball, men's football, women's softball and cross country. Part of GSAA getting involved in our community is to co-op with some of the Christian schools in the Treasure Valley, and having good sportsmanship makes GSAA stand out and have a positive influence in our community.



For the 2021/22 school year Gem State ended the school year with 60 students. For the 2022/23 school year, Gem State started the school year with 80 students. That is a growth of over 30% in enrollment. At the time I am writing this article (April) we have 57 students reenrolled, 12 new applications accepted, and 10 more new applications being processed. God is good!!



Moving on to finances, Gem State has finished for the third year in a row with a balanced budget. We have been able to put in reserves over four months' worth

of operations. This means that if we had no cash flow, we could still fully operate for four months.

Gem State Adventist Academy has paid in full their debt to the Idaho Conference of \$574,127.15. Over the past three years Gem State has invested \$272,339.59 into housing and campus improvements such as a mobile computer lab, remodeling a classroom into a multiple purpose room, a complete renovation of a staff home, new roofs on two homes and two bathroom remodels. Paint and flooring were updated in several classrooms. We added new lighting and remodeled the student center. We were also able to add two very much needed, 12 passenger vans to our transportation department.



As I conclude this report, I want each of you to know that God is the reason that Gem State Adventist Academy is such an amazing place! Our students find Jesus here and that will carry them through life and into the kingdom that Christ has prepared for each of us. Thank you for your continued prayer and support of Gem State Adventist Academy

John Soulé
Principal

Barefoot Media Ministries Report



The world is divisive, fear is palpable, and people are looking for something they can rely on. They are looking for Jesus. But Jesus has been

disguised by politics, tribalism, false religion and by people in religious leadership who are more interested in power than the gospel of Jesus.

Barefoot Media Ministries is a ministry force that goes against this trend.

It's no surprise that Barefoot Media Ministries' radio stations have had more impact and reach than anytime in its 33 year history.

In 2022 KTSY was the #1 station among women 35-54 (its target demographic) and in the top 10 among all listeners, reaching more people than ever before. Project 88.7 was the #5 station among women 18-35 (its target demographic), and more than doubled its listenership from the year before.

This was in part because of the focus KTSY had during the pandemic, "I Choose Hope." This campaign was seen on billboards, yard signs on people's front yards, stickers, and social media.

Lori said, "Thank you KTSY for always having positive uplifting music on the radio for us. Today, with all of the divisiveness and anger that we hear in the news every day, it's comforting to know that if I change the channel, I can change my focus. Hope is right there in front of me, coming thru the airwaves in the form of great commentary, fantastic uplifting music."

This hope leads to one place. Sonya found Jesus through KTSY:

I learned of KTSY in 2016. I hadn't turned to Jesus yet. I just got out of a very toxic relationship and broke my ankle at work. Ten days later my dad passed away and my mom's sister passed the next morning. Within a month my daughter tried committing suicide. I was stuck at home and could not move much and life was a mess. My sister sent me a song to listen to and then recommended I listen to KTSY. I haven't stopped listening yet and have given my life to Christ Jesus. Thank you for being there for me and everyone that is in need.

Project 88.7, Barefoot's positive pop/hip-hop station has grown over the past four years. They reacted to the pandemic with drive-up graduations. There were tears as the first person in an entire family to

graduate high school walked up onto the flatbed truck and received their Project "diploma."



Project has continued to impact the community through the Summer Splash concert at Roaring Springs, the underwear drive for the Boise Rescue Mission and more.



Barefoot Media Ministries is also looking to the future. Radio is still a very powerful medium, but we are all using media on a variety of devices and using many different types of media. So, Barefoot Media Ministries has been moving into the digital world. In cooperation with Gem State Academy, Barefoot remodeled the guild located behind the cafeteria. It now houses office space and "Studio 04," the video/podcast/radio studio.



One of these podcasts, “Wake Up Die Podcast” is a collaboration with Project 88.7 and a Christian rapper, Zauntee. Chaplain Milton and Zauntee explore what a saving relationship with Jesus looks like for non-believer. This podcast has been heard from as far away as South Africa. Marina, a listener, said, “Probably the first time I hear the message that really resonated. So grateful Holy Spirit led me here.”

As we head into the next era of Barefoot Media Ministries, please pray that God would provide the staffing, the funds, and the space to continue to grow and lead more people to experience God and impact lives.

Brian Yeager
General Manager, Barefoot Media Ministries

Camp Ida-Haven Report



Camp Ministry

As a year-round ministry, Camp Ida-Haven serves more than just the Adventist Church. We also engage with other Christian groups, community members, school groups and campers. Camp provides time and space for people to enjoy, to connect, and to take a break from the norm. Countless stories testify to the true nature of camp’s ministry—sharing Christ by meeting people’s needs. Some examples include:

- » the 10-year-old camper with a background in spiritualism, questioning his counselor to see if Jesus really is that powerful, and asking for a Bible at the end of the week—just one of the 300+ Bibles we have given away in the last 4 years.

- » the neighbor kids, hearing our nightly singing and walking over to see what’s going on—only to find themselves engaged in the skits and pastor’s talk. And they came four nights in a row.
- » the summer staff member who was battling her own life-and-death illness but still chose to spend her summer breathing life into kids.
- » the Adventist church member, using her church’s winter retreat at Camp as an opportunity to bring community members to engage with her church family.
- » the public-school teacher bringing her 5th and 6th graders here for Outdoor School for nine consecutive years—despite moving jobs to three different schools.
- » the multi-denominational Christian group using camp for over 20 years to host spiritual revitalization weekends, one weekend for men and another for women.
- » the youth choosing baptism at Camp, making a public declaration of whose side they are on.



Preparing Future Leaders

In addition to being one of the frontlines of ministry in the Idaho Conference, Camp Ida-Haven’s summer camp program is an opportunity to directly work with our youth. The summer staff, mostly high-school and college-age young adults, gain experience in teamwork, conflict management, leadership and myriad other skills that will benefit them in their future work. These eight weeks spent worshipping together, sharing Jesus with one another – and hundreds of campers – and living as part of a close-knit group, will shape them. It will be an unforgettable summer, an impactful summer.

In fact, some of these staff members are now pastors or teachers here in the conference. Others are in the

medical field. Some are in business, while others work in technology. Regardless of the field, they are leaders. And we pray that their time spent working at camp will inspire them to stay in His ministry.

Updates and Changes

Camp includes 11 acres and 20+ buildings and this means there are constant projects and things to fix or update. Thankfully, camp has many supporters—both financially and in volunteer work. Here's a glimpse of what has happened in the last 4 years:

2019

After several decades, the director's apartment was remodeled and updated—thanks to generous donations. A storage container, retrofitted as a living space, was obtained, and put in place as a tiny house to use in the summers as housing for married staff.

2020

Continued improvements included the addition of a carport and roof over the Tiny House, reupholstering the chairs used in the meeting areas and a new sound system for the summer camp program.



Also, the installation of the final pole for the zip line tour brings this project one step closer to completion. Donors made all these improvements possible.

As with all aspects of life, COVID-19 brought many challenges and unpredictability to

camp. Nonetheless, Camp continued its ministry, staying open to meet the need to fellowship for a variety of groups, as well as campers and staff.

2021

Daniel Jenks was brought on full-time as Operations Manager, after a three-year internship. His dedication and enthusiasm are a positive impact on camp's ministry.



The new walk-in freezer was completed, more than doubling the capacity of the old one and the walk-in refrigerator was expanded. Sixteen new bunks and mattresses were purchased, completing the upgrade for all nine cabins. The upstairs of the Main Lodge was recarpeted and repainted.

2022

New ovens were purchased and installed in the kitchen, thanks to several generous donations. These ovens are more advanced and allow precision cooking and faster times.



After 30 amazing years of service, Darla and Douglas

Roe retired in December of 2022. The conference hired Bethany and Bruce Pratt, to join Daniel Jenks in continuing the ministry of camp. With almost 20 years of on-the-job training at Ida-Haven, this new leadership team is well-prepared to continue the tradition of excellence.



Onward

Since 1943, Camp Ida-Haven has been a part of the ministry in the Idaho Conference. This year is our 80th season and we are excited to see what God has in store for us—projects to tackle, groups to serve, traditions to continue and new ideas to explore.

Through it all, your ongoing participation and support in Camp is greatly appreciated. Together, we can fulfill His Last Command.

Bethany Pratt

Camp Ida-Haven Administrative Director

Children's, Youth & Young Adult Report

Over the last 2019-2022 quadrennium, the Idaho Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has continued to develop its children's, youth, and young adult ministries beyond summer camp, Adventurers and Pathfinders clubs. However, many of these ministries were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the cancellation and modification of many events and activities, both at the conference and local levels.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, some programs and events continued to run in a modified format, summer camp being one of them. Ministry to children, youth and adults provides a safe and engaging environment to connect recreationally, socially and spiritually.



official person was leading our young adult ministry. Financial support is also provided to churches that wish to make eternal differences in the lives of children. The conference gives churches financial assistance to make VBS (Vacation Bible School) a reality for so many children surrounding the church. Training for children's leaders is scheduled to restart in 2023.

The annual ID Youth Conference was postponed a few times due to the pandemic, but when it meets, it is a powerful, encouraging and faith-filled time of worship, surrender and witnessing. In March 2023, attendance climbed from the previous year to more than 150 people for the ID Youth Conference.

While the COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges to these ministries, they adapted and innovated to serve young people!

While the COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges to these ministries, they adapted and innovated to serve young people! Our conference also decided to pour more into children's, youth, and young adult ministries. In the second half of 2022, a children's, youth, and young adult director was placed. Young Adults are currently meeting and planning ministry, children's ministries also have plans for training and youth ministries will start moving forward with planning and events.

*David Salazar
Youth and Young Adult Director*



A number of our churches offered online ministry and presence to our young people. Others returned to meeting together when it was safe to do so.

Before the pandemic, the conference was working to make strides in these three ministries. Funding was made available for groups of young adults and other caring members to join Growing Together (formerly known as Growing Young Adventists), even when no

Communications Report

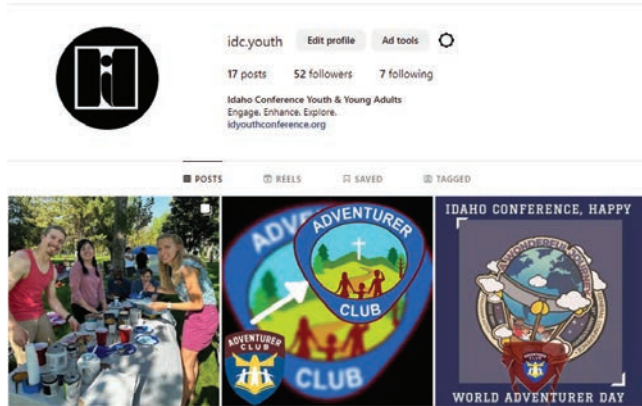
Over the past four years, the Idaho Conference Communications department has made progress in expanding our social media influence. With the assistance of Samantha



Schnell, we added an Instagram account and have grown our Facebook accounts.



As her duties as the head dean at Gem State Adventist Academy have grown, Ms. Schnell has had to give up managing our social media but continues to provide newsletter design services for the conference. We have recently added a Youth & Young Adult Instagram account under the direction of David Salazar, VP for Administration and director for Youth and Young Adults department. We look forward to continuing to reach those in the younger age groups.

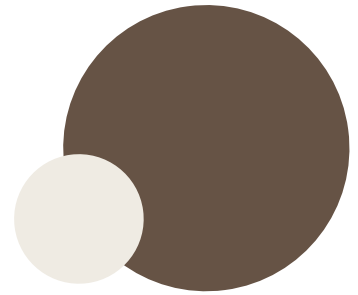


Mission Matters . . . in Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon continues as a three-times a year print edition which is inserted into the March/April, July/August and November/



December issues of the *Gleaner*. We also have an e-newsletter version which is monthly and is distributed to over 600 subscribers. If you haven't subscribed, you can go to the conference website, www.IdahoAdventist.org, click on Departments & Ministries and select Communications. There is a link on the page to subscribe. You can

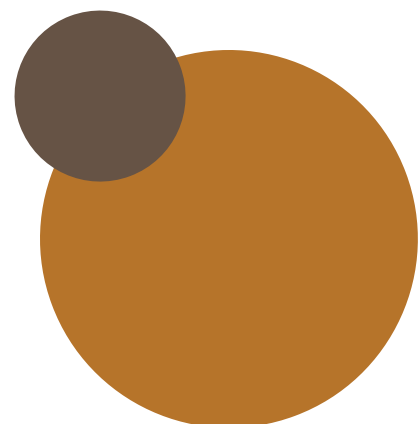
also subscribe to the weekly NWAdventists, an e-newsletter published by the North Pacific Union. I recommend it – keep up with what is happening in the Northwest and beyond. You can discover what other churches are doing to impact their communities for God.

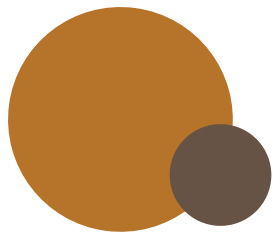


If you haven't yet, please check out the ministry pages on our website. The most active ones are Women's Ministries, Hispanic Women's Ministries, Prayer Ministries, Youth & Young Adults, Children's Ministries and Pathfinders. We hope to work with other departments in this next quadrennium to upgrade their web presence on our website.

We would love to share what is happening in your church or school in the conference newsletter and in the *Gleaner*. It is printed every two months and Idaho Conference has two pages each issue. They also publish an online issue on the even months, which is available at www.NWAdventists.com. Although my ability to travel around the conference is somewhat limited, I am able to come to some events, take pictures and write a news story. If I'm not able to come and you don't feel that you have anyone who can/will write a story, let me know the details and who to contact and I can work with you to write a story. A word on pictures – action pictures generally are superior to posed lineups. Good digital photos can be taken with most smartphones. You don't have to have a fancy DSLR camera to take a good picture! Every story should have at least one good photo, so get someone to take some of your next event.

Eve Rusk, Communications Director






Hispanic Ministries

Report


The Hispanic Ministries team consists of Gerald Margil, coordinator and pastor of the Boise & Caldwell companies and Payette Spanish church; Fredi Murrieta, pastor of the Nampa Spanish Church, Jerome Hispanic Company and the Twin Falls Hispanic group; Alma Margil, Hispanic Women's Ministry Coordinator. A third pastor should be joining soon, covering the Idaho Falls Hispanic Company, the Heyburn English Church, the Heyburn Hispanic group and half-time as the Idaho Conference Bible Worker Trainer for both English and Spanish languages.




Our team members




Gerald Margil
Hispanic Coordinator, Boise-Caldwell-Payette District
Alma Margil
Hispanic Women's Ministry Coordinator



Fredi Murrieta
Nampa-Twin Falls-Jerome District



(Searching)
Idaho Falls - Heyburn Hispanic- Heyburn English District

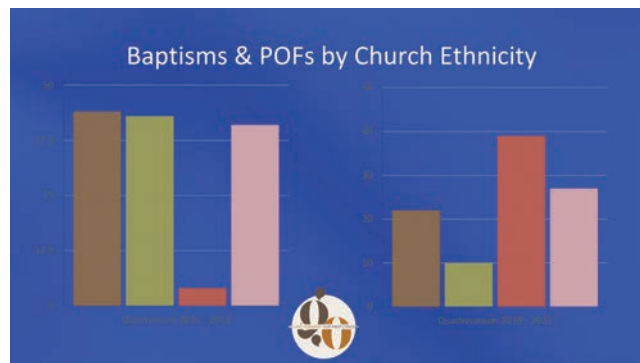


There are eight Spanish language congregations as of December 31, 2022, the same number as the previous quadrennium. As the membership has grown, so has tithing. Hispanic tithing experienced a 10.29% increase in 2022 over 2021. The graph below shows the quadrennium.



Total tithe for the 2015 – 2018 quadrennium was \$855,942.43. Total tithe for the 2019 – 2022 quadrennium was \$1,207,319.59, a 41% increase. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

While tithe increase is a wonderful thing, the most important growth comes from people. The graph below shows the Baptisms and Professions of Faith by quadrennium and by year. There were a total of 132 baptisms and professions of faith from 2015 – 2018; 98 for 2019 – 2022, this despite the COVID-19 pandemic.



Hispanic Ministries looks at evangelism as something that we do everyday. We hold Bible studies in homes and then bring in an evangelist for a one week reaping series. It is a system that works very well in our culture.

*Gerald Margil
Hispanic Ministries Coordinator*

Pathfinder Report



After a brief pause in 2020, Idaho Pathfinders has come back stronger than ever. Currently there are 17 active clubs with another nine either in the process of restarting or in temporary hiatus. Most of those are looking for someone to step forward to take on the leadership of the club.

We started off this year in Kalispell Montana at the NPUC Camporee where the theme was "Let's GO!" The Pathfinders learned about mountain men and got to experience throwing an axe. The mountain men

also showed the Pathfinders how they tanned hides and fired black powder rifles along with sharing lots of mountain men stories. They also got a chance to earn honors. Some, like the Palouse honor, were being trialed before being submitted to the North American Division Pathfinder Honors Committee.



Sabbath was spent in the beauty and splendor of Glacier National Park. They spent the day worshiping and exploring the wonders of God's creation.

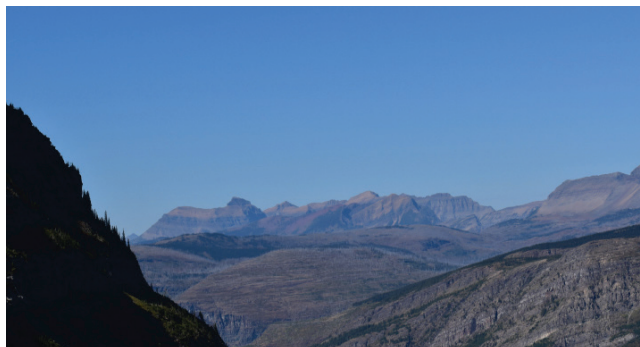


In February of this year, we had ten teams competing in the Pathfinder Bible Experience event. I am very proud of all the Pathfinders who participated. One team, from the Middleton Swords Pathfinder club, placed first at the Conference level, which got them an invite to the NPUC Bible Experience event. They placed first at the Union level and for the first time in 16 years Idaho Pathfinders had a Pathfinder Bible Experience team going to the NAD level Bible Experience. The club was able to raise over \$22,000 dollars to cover their travel costs in about 4 weeks. The churches in the Treasure Valley came together in support of these young people. It was amazing to see God work.

We also had our second year of the Adventurer Bible Game which allowed the Adventurers to have a taste of what the PBE was about. The Adventurer Bible Game is geared for Adventurers to encourage them to start studying the Bible.

The Conference Pathfinder team has endeavored to keep our kids active and strengthening their walk with Christ. We have spent time outdoors at Camporees and Teen backpack or biking trips. All were centered around a theme that pointed toward God and their relationship with Him.

Our 2021 Camporee was held in very southern Idaho, just minutes from the Utah border. The weekend included Pathfinders earning the Pewter Casting Honor, an Idaho honor that has just recently been accepted as an NAD honor. They also worked on earning a brand-new Birding Honor, another



Idaho honor, as well as spending time singing and worshiping. Sabbath was highlighted with a Pathfinder baptism. In the last couple of years, we have seen an increase in Pathfinder and Adventurer baptisms with over 10 so far this year. More are in the works for later this year.



God has blessed the Pathfinder Ministry in the Idaho Conference in many ways. Our theme for this coming year is "Dream Small" based on Judges 7:2 where God told Gideon that he had too many men and to send more home so that Israel would know that He was the one who saved them. We want to "Dream Small" so that all will know that God is the one that is doing things in our lives and in our ministry.

We had a pause in 2020, but that didn't pause God working in the young people's lives. Over the last five years we have seen a steady increase each year in young people of both Pathfinders and Adventurers giving their lives to Christ. One of our club directors started this year with 15 Pathfinder Bibles and 10 Pathfinder Baptismal pins. He has one pin and seven Bibles left! Praise the Lord for He is good!

Dan Gilbert
Idaho Conference Pathfinder Director

Planned Giving & Trust Services Report



Over the past four years, the Idaho Conference Planned Giving/Trust Services department has assisted several families with creating their estate plan (usually a will, Durable Power of Attorney, and Living Will with Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care or Advance Directives). We have also assisted many families in updating their documents to reflect their current circumstances.

From 2019 to 2022, the Idaho Conference and some of its churches and schools received over \$162,000 from individuals who had created estate plans with the Idaho Conference. In addition to that, families received over \$126,000 from those estates. Other Adventist organizations received over \$63,000 from those same estates.

During the same period, the conference, some churches and schools and Gem State Adventist Academy received over \$2,184,000 from individuals who used an outside attorney to prepare their estate plans. These funds often come as a surprise to

the conference. To benefit God's work in the Idaho Conference, one does not have to go through the Idaho Conference Planned Giving/Trust Services department. God's blessings have been poured out on the Idaho Conference!

The receipt of these funds was part of the reason the conference could engage in Operation Exponential Growth. We have partnered with the North Pacific Union Conference and It Is Written to make a huge effort to reach people for God's kingdom.

Of course, not all of the funds from an estate or trust come to the conference. One of the blessings that I share with people who create an estate plan is that it is a gift to their families. Instead of wondering what they need to do and sometimes, how they are going to move forward after the death of a loved one, the family can enjoy the good memories and work the plan that was created. And if the conference is the executor (aka personal representative) or trustee, they don't have to work the plan at all.

The Idaho Conference's Planned Giving/Trust Services department provides a service to our members who want to make provision for their families and want to continue their legacy of giving to God's work in the Idaho Conference. When a member has that kind of charitable intent toward the conference, we can assist with developing an estate plan and we don't charge any fee. We work with attorneys who are licensed in Idaho and Oregon who prepare the documents. At the conference, we facilitate getting the information for the attorneys and facilitate getting the documents signed. We realize that not everyone is a "paperwork" person and can help you bring your estate plan to fruition.

Personnel in the department are certified by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and are required to maintain their certification each year by getting at least 16 hours of continuing education each year. The department itself is accredited by the General Conference, with the highest level of A with a three-year audit cycle. That was last achieved in 2020, with a three-year audit ending December 31, 2018. The most recent audit was completed in December 2022 for a three-year period ending December 31, 2021. Although final word has not yet been received on the accreditation level for that audit, indications are that we will have achieved another level A with a three-year audit cycle.

If you would like to provide your family with peace

of mind and continue your legacy of giving to God's work, please contact Eve Rusk at 208.375.7524.

Eve Rusk, PGTS Director

Prayer Ministries Report



Since the Prayer Ministries Department of the Idaho Conference was organized in 2015, it has held an annual Prayer Ministry Retreat. The purpose of each Retreat is to provide opportunities for the participants to “come away and rest awhile” in order to ensure their own hearts are in sync with Jesus' Last Command, to become a Disciple-maker. During this quadrennium, the Prayer Retreat themes and speakers were the following:

2019

“Set our Hearts on Fire” by Chaplain James Black, Director from the North American Division.

2020

“The Time is Now” presented via Zoom by Pastor Randy Maxwell, then pastor in the Washington Conference and former pastor and Prayer Ministries Leader in the Idaho Conference. Elder Maxwell's messages focused on the importance of having a deep relationship with Jesus Christ.

2021

“The Holy Spirit” by Elder Pavel Goia, Editor of *Ministry Magazine* and a prayer warrior. He shared heart-moving stories from his experience of growing up in Communist Romania, and the challenges of being a Christian in that country. He emphasized the importance of being guided daily by the Holy Spirit.

2022

“How to Have PEACE in a Crazy World,” by Tamrya Horst, Prayer and Women's Ministry Director for the Pennsylvania Conference. Her messages were based on Philippians 4:6,7, and encouraged the attendees to “not be anxious about anything” despite living in a post-COVID world. She shared practical guidance based

on God's Word on how to experience peace in the midst of difficult circumstances.

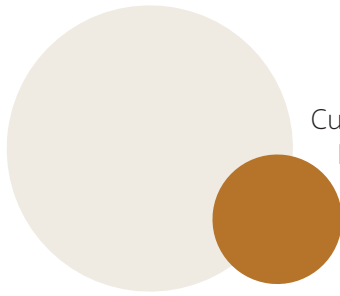


The attendees at the 2022 Prayer Retreat also participated in an “All About Jesus” small group, which provided an experiential resource that could be used in their home churches as a way of helping church members to experience Jesus in a very personal way.

The Prayer Ministries Department encourages congregations to nominate a Prayer Ministry Leader for their church family. The Prayer Ministry Leader understands the importance of prayer in one's Christian experience and encourages their church family to develop a strong prayer experience -- communication with God. Therefore, Prayer Ministry Leaders carry a vital role in helping their church family live out Jesus' Last Command - to become a strong disciple of Jesus and so they can be an effective disciple-maker.



The Prayer Ministries Department was capably led by Karen Pearson until the first part of 2022, at which time she and her husband retired from active ministry. Joyce Yeager was appointed Prayer Ministries Coordinator in August, 2022. The Idaho Conference Prayer Ministries Team is comprised of Grace Coneff, Marianne Daugharthy, Jonathan DeWeber, Luana Harlan and Carolyn McFarland.



Current churches with a Prayer Ministry Leader include Baker City, Caldwell, Cambridge, Cloverdale, Eagle, Emmett, Enterprise, Kuna, Meridian, Nampa, Parma, Payette, Pocatello, The Experience, Sun Valley and Vale.

The Prayer Ministries Department provides resources, encouragement and fellowship to Prayer Ministry Leaders. Jesus' Last Command IS Our First Concern.

*Joyce Yeager
Prayer Ministries Coordinator*

Women's Ministries Report



The women of the Idaho Conference are busy ladies. Did you realize that nearly 54% of members in the Idaho Conference are women? Women serve as children's Sabbath School leaders, Pathfinder and Adventurer club leaders, deaconesses, elders, clerks, treasurers, bulletin secretaries, church secretaries, pastors, ministry leaders – just to name a few roles! Above all, many of them are mothers and grandmothers.

Women's Ministries is here to help women find their role in serving God. Many churches have women's ministries leaders and actively involve women in ministry. We'd like to see a women's ministries leader at every church!

Cheri Gatton began the quadrennium as the conference leader. She stepped down in 2021 and Jody Burton stepped up.

From the conference, women's ministries holds two main events each year: a session on Friday afternoon at camp meeting and the annual Women's Retreat at Camp Ida-Haven, the weekend after Labor Day. In 2019, Elder Dan Jackson was the main speaker for evenings and Sabbath morning. He agreed to speak to the ladies on Friday afternoon – the Student Residence chapel was packed! Elder Jackson was

known for his support of women in ministry, including those who serve pastoral roles.



The retreat that year featured Marilyn Armayor, a beautiful Adventist Christian pastor's wife. She encouraged the women to Armor Up! Little did we know that the following spring, we needed that armor as the COVID-19 pandemic arrived on scene. Retreats also feature breakout sessions, Sabbath School and devotional speakers. Sasha Acevedo, Jennifer Haagenson, Karen Pearson, Margie Voth and Joyce Biggs shared their experiences and expertise.

2020 was a different year, as we all know. Camp meeting was completely virtual, so there was not a women's gathering during the week. Hyveth Williams had been asked to be the guest speaker for that fall's retreat. She was not able to travel, so the ladies of the conference's Women's Ministries Committee and others stepped up. The theme: "Seeing Me Through God's Eyes." When we look at ourselves and each other through God's eyes, we see those around us with love. Cheri Gatton, Karen Pearson, Jody Burton, Eve Rusk, Joyce Biggs and Kathy Coneff shared with us. Becky Bindernagel, former Idaho Conference member, shared her family's experience with losing their home in the 2018 Camp Fire that happened in California. We had a smaller group so that we could more easily comply with conference requirements regarding COVID-19. Masks were worn and we were very pleased that no one became sick because of the retreat. Idaho Conference was the only conference in the Northwest to hold an in-person retreat.



We were still under COVID-19 protocols in 2021. Camp meeting was hybrid – limited seating, only the evening and Sabbath morning meetings and was also livestreamed. That was another year without a women’s gathering at camp meeting. In the fall, although Hyveth Williams was still unable to travel, she recorded her presentations and we showed them to the ladies gathered at camp. Our theme that year was “What’s Your Serve? Finding Joy in Service.” Masks were still strongly encouraged and we limited the number of ladies who could come. Dr. Williams had a Zoom session on Sunday morning with the ladies, who were able to ask her questions.



By 2022, life was almost back to normal. Camp meeting was back in full swing, and a small group of ladies gathered in the Young Adult tent on Friday afternoon to hear from Laqueta Tomlinson, who at the time was a chaplain in one of the local Idaho prisons. She worked with ladies while they were in prison and was working on developing a Christian halfway house to help women as they came out of prison.

After the challenges of the past few years, it was a pleasure to meet at Camp Ida-Haven again in the fall. Brenda Walsh was our speaker, our theme was “Keep Calm and Pray On!” Brenda shared her testimony, which was very powerful. She signed her latest devotional for each lady who wanted one. The décor was decidedly heavenly – clouds, stars, moon, sun – to remind us that though our God is in heaven, He is also as close as a prayer.



Our Hispanic sisters have a flourishing ministry as well. In 2022, Alma Dinora Margil, wife of Hispanic Ministries coordinator and pastor Gerald Margil, was invited to serve as the Hispanic Women’s Ministries coordinator. Women’s Ministries continues to help women find their talent, their gift, their strengths and encourages each one to put those into service for God. Women in Biblical times have served vital roles – Esther, Ruth, Miriam, Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, Jael and Dorcas all played important parts of God’s plan. We believe that each woman in the Idaho Conference has the potential to do big things for God’s kingdom now – we know He is coming soon!

Jody Burton
Women’s Ministries Coordinator

