



Being Like Jesus

by Pastor Ed Teranski

Many years ago, I had the joy of pastoring a church in the city of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It was a church that had a cross section of people, including children and young adults as well as some elderly members. In addition, it was a very active church and experienced solid growth. My wife, our four children, and I lived in a section of the city that had many young families. Across from us lived a family with children about the same age as ours.



Our twin girls were four years old and they made friends with Patricia. During the week they played together and seemed to enjoy each others' company. One day at supper my girls said that Patricia had expressed a desire to come to church with us. My wife and I were delighted and thanked our little girls for being "missionaries." Patricia was excited and so were we because this was the very first time she would be attending any church.

When we entered the church, the girls took her to the children's Sabbath School program downstairs. Everything she observed was brand new to her. When it came time for the worship service, I was so delighted to see her sitting with the girls and evidently taking in everything that was happening. She seemed very respectful and interested in what was taking place.

On the way home I said very little. It seemed that I had talked enough, teaching a Sabbath School class and preaching during the worship service. Besides, I have found that it is very beneficial to listen to what little people say to each other.



Patricia was excitedly telling the girls what she had experienced that day. Her description of each activity was rather fascinating. As I drove, I listened carefully to her description and to her excitement. She was pretty accurately reviewing what she had seen that morning in our church. But what caught my attention was her comment about the worship service. She exclaimed, “I expected Jesus to get up and speak to us, but it was just your dad!”

Even though this happened many many years ago, I remember it so well—and I’ve been haunted by that question on many occasions when I’ve preached, “Did the congregation see Jesus, or did they just see the children’s dad?” As Christians we, of course, are representatives of Christ. In fact, Isaiah declares, “Ye are my witnesses” (Isaiah 43:10). When we make a commitment to follow Christ, people expect to see Christ in us. They expect us to live up to a higher standard. Being a Seventh-day Adventist is not only a privilege, but also a serious responsibility. Let us determine not to disappoint either others or our Lord.

Ed Teranski



Pastor Ed with his daughters, Donalee and Loralee, at camp meeting in British Columbia, Canada, 2023

Newly Baptized



Hope Hackett
baptized
April 6, 2024



Valued Volunteers

SPOTLIGHT ON AN UNNOTICED, UNOBTRUSIVE,
RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY TEAM

by Pastor Jeff Kinne

There's a team of volunteers at Village Church that you may never notice . . . but they are soooooo important to virtually every segment of our church community. Their ministry impacts the youngest to oldest each Sabbath and essentially throughout the week between. What Village ministry is this? Who are these wonderful, impactful, volunteers?

I'll give you some hints:

- ◆ They make sure that kids, infants through youth, have access to relevant, inspirational, teaching materials every time they leave Sabbath School.
- ◆ They distribute adult Sabbath School quarterlies to every classroom with just enough for those attending.
- ◆ They smile as they faithfully collect the Sabbath School offerings from nineteen classrooms every Sabbath morning—and politely return, still with a smile, to places that might need a little more time to fill out the attendance record or collect the offering.



- ◆ They carefully monitor the instructional, educational Sabbath School literature so that it is available to everyone but not wasteful with extras.
- ◆ They maintain, update, and monitor the attendance records for every Sabbath School classroom, every week, every month, year after year.
- ◆ They willingly step away from their own engagement in Adult Sabbath School, week after week, in order to joyfully fulfill their selfless ministry.



Drum roll please, for . . . Tada!! The Sabbath School Secretaries! This wonderful cadre of ladies, headed by the forever-loyal Sandy Reeves, deserves a big THANK YOU from all of us! Let's do it! Ready, set . . . THANK YOU!!!

Thank you, Assistant Head Secretaries Aline Ferguson, Kathy Hazen, Twyla Kruger, and

Danielle Stewart.

Thank you, Assistant Sabbath School Secretaries Jeannine Broome, Sandy Kinsfather, Liz Krueger, Jessica Mitra, Dianna Pewitt, Karen Rasmussen, Georgia Reynolds, Margaret Roy, Cindy Solis, Edna Villarreal, and Elizabeth Wall.

And thank you, Head Sabbath School Secretary Sandy Reeves.

Together you are making a difference in every person's life at Village Church.

God bless you all!

Jeff Kinne



Please continue to pray for our upcoming evangelistic series with Pastor McMahon. To learn more about him, view his chat with Pastor John Bradshaw at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeec0dGD7g8> or find it by entering "It is Written conversations Brian McMahon" into your search engine.

New Baby!



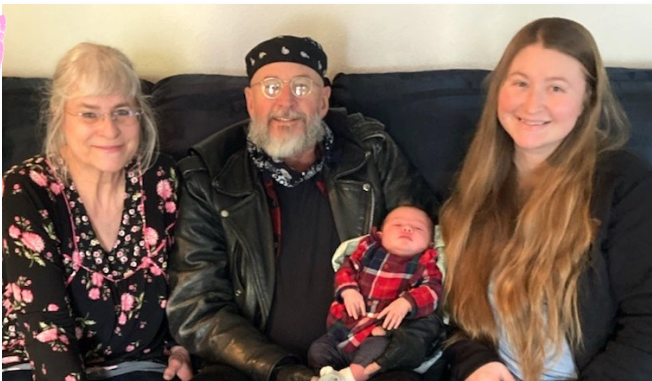
Congratulations to Katie (Keller) and Zane Patton on the recent birth of their baby girl, Kaycee May. Village Church family includes the happy grandparents, Kris and Sherry Keller, as well as new uncle, Cody Keller. Welcome Baby Kaycee May!



Cody and Kaycee May



Kaycee May, Katie and Zane



Sherry, Kris, Kaycee May, Katie



Happy Mother's Day!

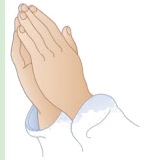
New moms and mothers of many, first-time grandmas and those who can hardly keep track of all their grand and great-grandkids, we celebrate you and we love you! Thanks for all the years of care and nurture, sleepless nights and happy times together. Thank you for your many prayers. You bless our lives immeasurably!



2024 National Day of Prayer Service

College Place Village Church Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 7-8 a.m.



The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance inviting people of all faiths to pray for our nation. Created in 1952, it is an invitation for us all to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

An estimated two million people or more will gather on Thursday, May 2, 2024, for prayer at state capitols, county court houses, on the steps of city halls, in schools, businesses, and at churches.

Village Church will participate in this observance. All are invited to join with us and other College Place residents and community leaders in prayer.

A continental breakfast with muffins and juice will be served.

Mindfit Seminar—how did it go?

by Pastor Steve Reasor

April 4-7 the Village Church hosted Mindfit, a Voice of Prophecy Seminar on Mental Health. Each night between 35 and 50 attendees assembled in the fellowship hall and enjoyed refreshments and conversations before the presentation. Each seminar began with a half-hour video of host Alex Rodriguez exploring some aspect of mental health. I then facilitated a time of discussion and completion of that session's workbook.

The first night explored how society views mental illness and steps we can take to help remove the stigma of struggling with mental health. The second session covered anxiety, depression, and suicide, and included strategies for dealing with anxiety and depression as well as helping those with thoughts of suicide. The third evening explored the history of treating mental illness and modern advancements in that treatment. The final evening invited attendees to envision ways that spiritual care can help in the journey to better mental health. I am so grateful for our planning team and volunteers that welcomed and registered the attendees.

Steve Reasor



Class of 2024

Congratulations to the class of 2024! Village Church is eager to give you special recognition in the June issue of Village Voice. Submit graduate name, school, (and degree if college or university), and optional digital photo to the church office by noon on May 21. Phone 509-525-0882 or email office@villageadventist.org. Names received after the deadline will be printed in the July issue. Thank you!





Walla Walla Valley Camps showcase a variety of day-camp activities in a fun, safe, faith-based environment.



Power Play Camp

June 24-28, \$165. Experiences will include daily drama and kickball/softball options, as well as daily crafts and activity options like ceramics, lawn sports, water fights, swimming, archery, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, table sports, group games, and fun field trips.

Power Spray Camp

July 1-3 and 5 \$135. Experiences will include daily water-oriented activities as well as daily crafts and activity options like kickball, softball, lawn sports, archery, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, table sports, group games, and fun field trips.

Power Forward Camp

July 8-12, \$165. Experiences will include daily basketball and lawn games as well as daily crafts and activity options like ceramics, archery, water fights, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, swimming, table sports, kickball, softball, group games, and fun field trips.



Power Move Camp

July 15-19, \$165. Experiences will include daily volleyball and badminton options as well as daily crafts and activity options like ceramics, kickball, water fights, lawn sports, swimming, archery, floor hockey, roller skating/blading, table sports and fun field trips.



Power Shot Camp

July 22-26, \$165. Experiences will include daily archery and floor hockey options, as well as daily crafts and activity options like water fights, roller skating/blading, table sports, swimming, lawn games, table sports, kickball, softball, group games, and fun field trips.



Power Gear Camp

July 29-August 2, \$165. Experiences will include daily biking and skating options as well as daily crafts and activity options like softball, floor hockey, swimming, kickball, basketball, archery, table sports, group games and fun field trips.



Space is limited, register today!

www.wallawallavalleycamps.com



Requiem for the Living

by Elizabeth Travis

On Sunday, June 2 at 3 p.m., Village Church will host a community event of incredible sacred music. Many people with great musical talent will grace the sanctuary under the direction of Robb Harrison. Musicians will include the Walla Walla Choral Society and the choirs of College Place and Walla Walla High School. Each group will have their own special pieces to perform, but the highlight of the concert will be Dan Forrest's breathtaking composition *Requiem for the Living*.



The word *Requiem* means a mass or a song composed in the memory of someone who has died, praying that God might watch over them and grant them peace and rest. So how can someone sing a requiem for people who are still living? Well, think about it. How many people do we pass by every day who are thirsting, longing for rest, desperate for the peace that only God can give?



That is the essence of *Requiem*, a plea for God's mercy and an acceptance of the grace and peace He grants us.

This musical work is made up of five movements. Some of the words are drawn from scripture and the fourth movement was inspired by images of space from the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station.

The *Requiem* promises to be a stunning performance by singers and musicians. To purchase your \$30 ticket, visit the choral society website at <https://wwchoralsociety.org/>. We hope you will all join us for this incredible performance.

Beth Travis



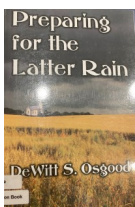


From the Library by Marcel Grondahl

Our first book this month is “Hanging on by Your Fingernails” by Dan Day, published in 1993. Have you ever felt like quitting, giving up? If so, you are not alone. We all wrestle



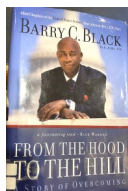
with feelings of detachment and disillusionment at various times. Dan Day understands and gives practical advice to counteract those feelings. God can restore our spiritual passion and bring joy back into our lives. Read it to find out how.



Are you a prepper? Every one of us should be, and can be if we take seriously the title of our next book, “Preparing for the Latter Rain” by DeWitt S. Osgood, published in 2005. The author writes from a Methodist background, though after becoming an Adventist, he became a dedicated student of the

Bible. His book answers questions about the latter rain, the refreshing, the loud cry, and more. But, most importantly, it outlines the steps necessary to receive this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Be a PREPPER!

“From the Hood to the Hill” is the fascinating story of Barry Black, the Chaplain of the United States Senate. He was brought up in the ghettos of Baltimore. Then, by the grace of God, he overcame this unpromising beginning and became a force for integrity, goodness, and compassion, not only talking the talk but also walking the walk of a dedicated Christian among the most powerful people in our national government in Washington, D.C.



Our fourth book comes from the Moody Press and is a story of triumph in tragedy told by Kathy Bartalsky. The title “Soaring on Broken Wings” gives only a small hint of the trials she faced each step of her life. She

lost a child, her husband lost his job, there were money problems, then marital tension—these were only the beginning! Chapter after chapter reveals what seems to the reader more than anyone could possibly bear! Yet she learned that suffering is something that becomes a blessing as she claimed the promise, “As thy days so shall thy strength be.”



Editor's note—I am super excited to announce the return of The Village Pantry, now hosted by Pattie Reasor! Here she will introduce herself to us and share not only recipes but also beautiful photos of the outcome. Welcome, Pattie!



The Village Pantry

by **Pattie Reasor**

All about me!
I am a mom

of two and a wife to Pastor Reasor as well as a high school teacher, avid gardener, and a person who loves to cook.

In college, for an assignment, my professor challenged the class to make two lifestyle changes for a minimum of two weeks. For the first one I chose drinking more water. That was too easy, so for the second one I wanted to do something harder. When I was a child my parents had dabbled with the New Start Program and I had hated the food. So, to prove that I could do something difficult, I went vegan. At the end of two weeks I didn't want to give it up. I found a love for vegetables that I previously didn't enjoy, and I also discovered that eating different ethnic foods made being vegan much easier.

In 2013 I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and eating a whole food plant based diet with no oil or sugar became part of my treatment. While I don't strictly eat vegan all of the time, I always feel better and enjoy the fresh foods that come with eating this way.

Since then I have taught cooking schools and guest lectured at health conferences. I have learned that the best way to promote healthy eating is by making delicious foods and not preaching about the health benefits. The way we eat can be very personal.





Carrot Salad (and Sandwiches)

As the weather warms, I enjoy a good salad and this Carrot Salad is a great, low-fat way to eat your vitamin A. Any leftovers make a great topping for quick open-face sandwiches. My family does not enjoy cooked carrots, so this salad is a great option to spice up carrots and retain their crispiness.

Ingredients:

- 3 large carrots cleaned and sliced very thinly on a mandolin
- 1-2 tsp. apple cider vinegar (this will soften the carrots slightly)
- ½ of a lime, juiced
- 1 tsp. honey
- 1 tsp. coriander
- ½ tsp. cumin
- 1 clove of garlic, grated or crushed
- Pinch of cayenne pepper and salt
- 1 Tbsp. chopped parsley
- 1 tsp. sesame seeds



Instructions:

Mix everything well in a bowl. If you like crispy carrots, eat it right away. I like mine to marinate for a couple of hours in the fridge so the carrots soften slightly in the ACV and the flavors become more complex.

I serve any leftovers the next day on my favorite bread as open-face sandwiches with hummus, arugula, and a few slivers of carrots. If arugula is not your favorite, you can switch it out for chopped fresh spinach. Bon Appetit!

Why do bad things happen to good people?

by Sandy Wiebe

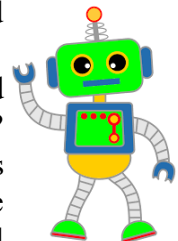
Because God is love He has given His creation the freedom of choice. He could have just created robots that would always do what was right, but you can't have a relationship with a robot. Even kids who may get a robot for Christmas lose interest after a time because robots only do what you've programmed them to do. You can't really be friends. So God took a risk and gave His creatures the freedom of choice. All was going well, until one of His closest friends grew discontented. Things spiraled from questioning to full-out war. His friend managed to turn a lot of God's other friends into doubting God's love for them too, and so they joined him in warring against God. It was a very ugly and sad day when God had to throw them out of heaven. God may have even cried over losing so many of His friends.

GOD
is
LOVE

So satan (I don't feel he deserves capitalization because of all the hurt and pain that he has caused) and one third of the angels now resided on earth, God's newest and most wonderful creative endeavor. It didn't take long for God's newly-created beings to listen to satan and choose his side. Little did they know or understand the consequences that would start taking effect. In fact, the understanding of these things takes each person time to grasp. So as the population increased, time was needed for each one to be given the choice to make a decision for God (love) or for satan (selfishness). Many bad things have occurred that have hurt and damaged the planet, the creation, and the love relationships that God originally planned for planet earth. We live each day being hit left and right by pain and suffering.



So . . . why doesn't God stop all this madness and prevent bad things from happening to good people? Well, I don't want to be a robot, do you? That is really the only other choice. If God took away the freedom of bad people, that would include you and



me too! None of us are perfect! There are still many people who haven't had the time to grasp the understanding of the choice to choose love. Selfishness is all they have known. God wants to change that for them, but He needs our help! We can shorten the waiting time for sin to run its course by sharing His love with others! By the way, sharing doesn't mean just _____ telling by using your words, but telling by being kind, caring, and loving to others too! We can all do that! Let's all join together and share God's love, and by doing so, shorten the time until He comes and rescues us from this place!!! Then He can make it anew and we can live here in blissful happiness forever!

Sandy Wiebe



Is This a Day of New Beginnings?

by Terry Koch

What a captivating scent met me as I bent down to gaze more closely at the circles of hyacinths I had planted last fall!



We'd had a large old gangly locust tree removed from our back yard. The remaining stump and nearby roots were ground up and mixed with the soil from the flower garden that had formerly surrounded the tree. What remained was a mound of rich dirt in which I replanted the pink coral bells and blue salvia plants that had grown in the garden previously.

While shopping at the beginning of autumn, I had seen packets of hyacinth bulbs for sale. This sparked my imagination as to what could become of the bare ground where the tree had stood. I wanted to give that spot a new beginning.

Hyacinths bring memories of my Mom's and grandmother's gardens where these sweetly-scented blossoms appeared each spring. I purchased a couple dozen of the bulbs and buried them in that small hill of ground where the tree had been. Each of the

varicolored bulbs survived the winter and became a large, showy, cotton-candy-shaped bloom with alluring aroma.

Musing on new beginnings, in a recent daily online Bible reading I came across some meaningful statements about beginning again. As I read the following thoughts, I contemplated my own life and how I experience again and again, repeated starts of the new beginnings that God provides in gracious forgiveness through the incredulous gift and sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus.

“Never permit one failure to rob you of future victory. When God sees that we have obeyed His Word and sincerely have dealt with sin, He comes with encouragement and guidance for the next step. It has well been said that the victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings. New victories really ought to result in new dedication... for obedience to the Word is the secret of success.”¹

I further recalled a lovely hymn (342 in our church hymnal) by English hymn-poet/composer, Brian Wren. The title asks the question, “Is This A Day of New Beginnings?” The hymn concludes with these triumphant and reassuring stanzas:

“Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring,
Step from the past and leave behind
Its disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.
Christ is alive, and goes before us
To show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new.”²



May each victory we experience in our Christian walk continue to be a new beginning by obeying the calls of God in our daily living through the power of salvation offered in the life of Jesus Christ.

Terry Koch



¹Tom Dooley quotation in oneyearbibleonline.com; 4-13-2024.

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<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-342-day-new-beginnings/>

Our village's ebay site deposited \$2,098.73 for the Worthy Students at the Academy and Rogers during the month of March. If you have items to list on ebay please contact Marcel at 530-966-7187. Thank you for your support of our schools.



Family Matters

A feature by Bev Donahey especially for parents of young children

A Baby!

Think of the changes that occur for a baby after being born! Before birth he's in a place that's 98 degrees. He's rocked by mother's movements. He hears her heart beating 24/7. Plus, he hears the swish of her digestive tract. He hears talking and singing. He's used to being curled into a tight ball.



After birth, he is comfortable when wrapped snugly. He's soothed by being carried in someone's arms more than by being in a baby carrier or stroller. (Even toddlers need more carrying and less strollers.) But the holding needs to be pleasant, not by an impatient person. When he lies on someone's chest, the heartbeat, warmth, and contact soothe him. Massage is good for the baby. Babies need to be kept clean. They need eye contact and soft talk. Mother's milk is by far the best diet for babies, good for the mother's body, and aids bonding. When she has trouble nursing, help is available from La Leche League or local resources.



Often families don't know why the baby is crying. He might be uncomfortable from being in the same position



too long, or may have some pain, be hungry, thirsty, or chilly, long for the sound of mother's heart, or need contact. Take turns holding him, walking and rocking. When he screams, try rocking fast with him, then gradually slow down.

The baby and mother need peace after delivery. Everyone in the family will have adjustments to make, so it's good to have help for the first week or two after the birth. There is great information for parents in *The Adventist Home and Child Guidance*. The Bible promises that when we ask God for wisdom, He will give it. And He has given much information to us. He definitely wants families to thrive joyfully!



Bev Donahey believes that one of the best things on earth is a happy family. She has a college degree in psychology and a master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science. Her work experience includes providing services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, therapy with children and teenagers who have behavior problems and mental illness, and adults with addictions. She shares tips that she picks up from her experiences, friends, and research.



Join Us
this Summer

**Village Church and University Church
together will present VBS July 8-12, 2024.
More details to come!**

Dear Village Voice readers,

Maybe it's because I don't have to mow it, but I love the unrivaled vibrancy of new grass in the springtime. It seems sprinklers never quite spark the same green brilliance that rain and cool temperatures inspire.

Makes me think of this beautiful verse from Zechariah 10:1, "Ask the LORD for rain in the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone" (NKJV).

Sometimes it's easy to bemoan whatever is wrong in the world and forget that God promises a massive outpouring of His Spirit prior to Jesus' return. This isn't something only for the future. It's for now. This is the time of the latter rain. Are we asking? If we're asking, are we receiving?

Mrs. White makes this sobering statement, "The church will never as a whole receive the latter rain unless they shall put away all envy, evil surmis-

Karen Ekkens



ing, and evil speaking" (Lt 84, 1894). There's heart work to do, and Jesus is the best Physician.

God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor



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