

GLADSTONE GAZETTE

The Daily Voice of the Gladstone Camp Meeting » Sabbath, July 23, 2022

TOO MANY BOOKS!

AN OREGON ADVENTIST STORY

BY KALEB EISELE

By the time he retired in August of 2020, Pastor Jim McMurry says he had a couple of rooms stacked floor to ceiling with books—and it was time to sort them out!

"I got a piece of software called Book Buddy and organized my books for the first time in my life," says Pastor McMurry, "I told my church family, 'You can have whatever books you want out of my office. I'm just giving them away; you're welcome to them.'" But after about a month, Pastor McMurry found himself with even more books than he had started with! "People started bringing me their books, too, so I wasn't solving my problem!" he told me.

Pastor McMurry is no stranger to coming up with interesting ways to build relationships with his community and church family. He once shared in our Oregon Adventist Stories series about how to minister by being an Uber driver! Always one for creative ministry, Pastor McMurry began to see an opportunity and a calling with all these books. After borrowing a few library book trolleys from his church, Pastor McMurry began taking his book collection around to local churches for free book giveaways. "Eventually I had a Pathfinder trailer all rigged up so I could fit them all in!" he said.

"I didn't even start keeping stats until way after I started, but I've given away 8,826 books



since I started counting in the spring of 2021!" In his book carts, Pastor McMurry has 4,700 to give away and many more that he still has to process. He says he's never sold his books before - but this week has been partnering with the ABC to sell them for \$2/inch!

"It gives me joy that I can get materials into the hands of people that I know are going to get a blessing from them," Pastor McMurry said. "The thing that thrills my heart the most is when people tell me they've been looking for a book for years and couldn't find it until then. One man told me that his father had been learning a new language by reading the Bible in it, and he had been looking for a German Bible for a long time." That very Sabbath Pastor McMurry had put one in his collection to take with him, and the man was so excited and grateful to find it!

Pastor McMurry has so many books to share at the camp meeting book sale that he has to rotate the stock every day, so make sure to come back each day to explore the new options that are available!



WHAT IS DOES A VP OF CHURCH MINISTRIES DO?

BY GREG BROTHERS

You're taking on a new job: the Vice President for Church Ministries. What led to this?

Two things: a series of meetings we had around the Conference, and recent trends in church statistics.

In the meetings, we learned that many churches want the same thing: to go back to the days when the church was full, with more children and youth.

Then too, there's been a significant decline in church attendance. According to [eAdventist.com](https://www.adventist.org), 15% of our churches have plateaued in attendance, while 62% are in decline. The good news is that 22% are growing - and 1% are multiplying!

What kind of resources do you offer?
We hope to create resources that build on our Conference mission statement: "It's all about Jesus, in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit."

Our conference departments already provide wonderful resources. Then too, we look forward to lay training in these areas of Natural Church Development: empowering leadership, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, functional structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, need-oriented evangelism, and loving relationships.

How do you decide which churches need help -- and which don't?
I look forward to many conversations with pastors, elders, and other leaders to find out where God is leading.

What can a church member do right now to revitalize their church?
The most important step is to deepen our relationship with Jesus - to seek Him, to develop a loving relationship with Him, and to share Him with others.

Another is for each member to encourage at least one other member - and if they are not attending, then to invite that member back to church. Let's work together to build genuine community.

Last of all, pray, pray, pray - and expect God to answer our prayers. He is faithful!



TODAY'S CAFETERIA MENU
see full menu at www.OregonAdventist.org

Breakfast 7:30-8:30AM	Lunch 12:00-1:30PM	Dinner 5:00-6:15PM
Baked Oatmeal Peanut butter Hot Applesauce Stripples	Lasagna Garlic Bread sticks Green beans Salad Lemon bars	Haystacks Watermelon

*Gluten and Dairy-free options available upon request.
Menu items subject to change due to availability of product.*

OAK GROVE SNACK PROJECT

BY WENDY CLARK

Kids in the Sandpiper and Amphitheater divisions get to help make this summer a little bit happier for local hungry children. On Sabbath afternoon from 2:30-4:00 PM, kids will have the opportunity to participate by packing snack bags. The snacks will supplement food that low-income families receive at Oak Grove Elementary School to help feed their children during the summer.

While school is in session, children in the "free and reduced lunch" program receive free breakfast and lunch as well as a box of food to take home for the weekend. During the summer, however, this is not available. Oak Grove staff is doing their best to distribute various donations to the same families during the summer, but there is less food available, and it is less consistent. The snacks are meant to help fill in the gaps.



Donation bins are available at both the Sandpiper building and Children's Amphitheater—and after camp meeting, donations can be left at the Oregon Conference headquarters building until August 1.

Any snack that is attractive to children and individually wrapped is good. Snacks do not necessarily need to be "healthy" as this is meant to be a fun snack or treat that the kids may not have the means to enjoy currently.

Please join the Children's Ministries Department in helping make this summer a little brighter for hungry children in the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gladstone Camp Meeting 2022

If a member of your family tends to get lost easily due to dementia or mental illness, drop by the First Aid station for a yellow armband on which you can write contact information.

Help us keep the Plaza Pavilion area clean by depositing your used bulletins and other paper in the paper recycling containers around the outside edges of the Pavilion.

Learn More... Get stories, news, photos, and information on upcoming events delivered right to your email inbox! Subscribe to *Connections* at www.OregonAdventist.org.

Shuttle Service is available inside the campground by six-passenger golfcarts, throughout the week. Just look for the Shuttle Stop signs, or flag one down!

First Aid can be found in the Security building near the Main Gate. Enter on the end facing Oatfield Road. You can also flag down our mobile First Aid unit it makes its rounds on campus.

Union College Alumni Gathering – Alumni, family, and friends of Union College are invited for a time of fellowship and food, Sabbath afternoon at 5:00 pm in Zull Hall. Union legend Buell Fogg and his wife, Kathy, will be joining us to share how Union is doing.

Did you attend or graduate from Walla Walla University? Stop by the Walla Walla University table under the Education tent to get a coupon for a free pronto pup at the Snack Shack!

Trail's End Pathfinders Fundraising Car Wash! On Sunday from 9:00AM-1:00PM in the upper parking lot of the Gladstone Park Adventist church – on your way out as you leave the campground! Help send our Pathfinders to the 2024 International Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming! No charge, though donations gladly accepted.

Adventist Single Adult Ministries Ice Cream Social: Join your single friends or come make new friends at Zull Hall after the evening meeting on Saturday night. Donations accepted to cover the ice cream costs.

POTLUCK LIST

All Filipinos or Filipino/Americans, come join the Oregon-Washington Filipino Fellowship (OWAFF) at the Earlteen Tent for potluck following the church service today!

Adventist Single Adult Ministries Potluck: Bring your food and a smile to Zull Hall on today after church! Plates, cups, napkins, and plasticware will be provided.

Whipple Creek Church potluck at campsites N12/N13 right after church today.



Sabbath Afternoon Activities

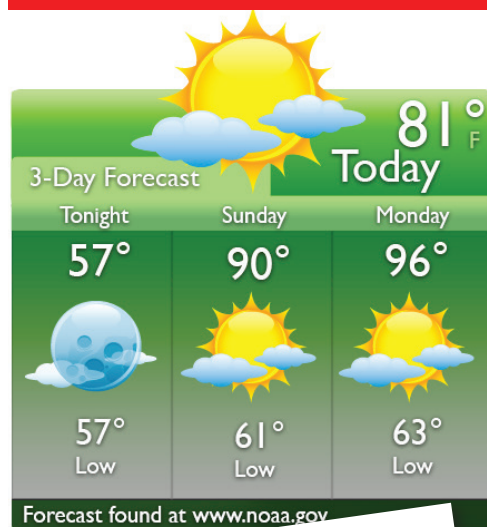
Milo Adventist Academy alumni (Youth Tent at 2:00 PM): come-and-go ice cream social.

Cactusville (3:00 PM in the Children's Amphitheater): alpacas, the Pathfinder Cave, and making snack-packs for a local school's summer feeding program – all for children ages 5-10.

Music & Testimonies (3:00 PM in the Big Tent): vocal groups include the Samoan Choir, the Oregon Adventist Men's Choir, and the Tsikirai family.

Praise Sensation (3:00 PM in the Junior Tent): Juniors and their families will share their talents for praising God.

2023 Gladstone Camp Meeting
July 13-15 - Spanish
July 18-22 - English



GLADSTONE GAZETTE

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