

THE SCHOOL BELL

Volume 1, Number 2



A Publication of the Oregon Conference Office of Education

Winter 2018

The Heart of Leadership is *Loving Well*

Dan Linrud

In 2001 I had the privilege of leading in a new church planting. I say "privilege" because, when you lead any large-scale effort, you have the opportunity to imprint it with whatever DNA you want. As I met to pray and vision with the core group who volunteered for that adventure, the common desire was to create a place marked by loving relationships.

You see, many in the group had observed church become a place of marginalization, of separation between those who were "in" and those who were "out"—"us and them," "we and they." They wanted to create a safe place where anybody could come just as they are and grow in loving Jesus and others. Their experience was confirmed by research that has consistently shown that the lowest church health factor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is loving relationships. And so, they chose to do something about it.

As our little group considered ways to accomplish our goal, our study and prayer always brought us back to the

birth of Jesus' New Testament Church. In Acts 2:21, the Bible records that when the Holy Spirit was poured out in power and Peter proclaimed Jesus' invitation, he said, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (NLT)

Everyone? That was decidedly, well...un-Jewish. Judaism had become exclusive. And now Jesus births a new community that is inclusive. He hits the reset button on the very fabric of what he hoped would characterize His people. He exchanged the institution of Judaism for a movement fostering loving community. Now everyone was invited.

Throughout Jesus' three years of ministry the thing that most troubled the religious establishment and the thing for which Jesus was most derided by the pious Jewish scholars and leaders, was the open inclusion of "sinners" and people from the margins of society. "You can't accept just anybody!" rang the religious refrain. No, not just anybody. Everybody.

That new Acts community exploded with growth. It turned out there was a multitude of people longing for belonging. And what of the church I planted with that small group of members? In a few years, it grew from 16 to 160 members and more than 200 attending before I was called away. People everywhere and in every generation hunger for the life-changing experience of being loved and of loving others.

As Christian leaders who serve at the head of a classroom, a congregation, or a conference, whether we create environments characterized by loving Jesus and others may be the most significant measure of the impact of our leadership. It is in this environment where Jesus brings transformation. Not us, Jesus. Transformation is His work, on His terms, in His time. We just love and help others love. It is a community inclusive of everyone.

That's why the focus of our 2019 Together As One Summit is *Loving Well*. Because our goal must always be to grow together in loving Jesus and others.

Reaching Out in the Rogue Valley

Laura Sohn



Visitors to Rogue Valley Adventist Academy can take in the beautiful view of Table Rock that students and staff enjoy every day.

Early in the school year, I met with Michael and RVAA principal Ann Campbell to learn about past and present community outreach activities, as well as to brainstorm about future goals that might bring the church, school, and community together. From the beginning, it was very clear that Ann and Pastor Michael value the importance of service in the community and want service to be a significant part of the students' RVAA experience. As Ann regularly emphasizes, "service" is in their mission statement: *To educate, mold, and inspire service through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.* Pastor Michael also echoes, "We have a strong desire at RVAA to reach out to our community and to especially instill in our students a lifetime core desire to serve others."

Recent outreach efforts at RVAA have centered around two service days each year and a Spring mission trip. The annual service day events involve the high school students choosing from several local agencies at which to volunteer. In the past, RVAA students have served the Salvation Army, the Humane Society, ACCESS Food Share Gardens, and Committed Alliance to Strays.

Since Pastor Michael's arrival at RVAA five years ago, he has had the goal of implementing a weekly outreach day, something Ann also supported. He was previously successful in leading weekly service teams at Mount Pisgah Academy, a boarding and day school in Asheville, North Carolina. Every week, he would take one academy class out into the community to serve. However, as much as the school wanted to start the weekly service days, the challenge at RVAA was finding a staff member to take on the ongoing planning and organization of the activities.

In our first meeting, the goals were very clear: find places the RVAA students could volunteer for the November service day and the weekly outreach. We were able to successfully meet our goals by working with a list of agencies the school had previously helped and also by finding some new ones. To increase our overall impact and get as many students involved in the November service day, we were able to take all the Academy students, as well as the fifth through eighth graders, to one location, Sanctuary One, an animal sanctuary in Jacksonville. At Sanctuary One, the students, along with their teachers, helped muck a barn, rake leaves, outline a walkway, and winterize the garden. As cold as it was that morning, the students had great attitudes and worked hard.

Speaking about our students, Jamie, Program Coordinator at Sanctuary One, said, "You guys were an absolute pleasure to have on the farm! Our staff raved about how hard working, fun loving, nurturing, and all around well behaved the kids were during your visit. It really says a lot about the culture of your school being one of inclusiveness, team thinking, and kindness. I so look forward to having you all back again soon for service learning on the farm!"

The experience at Sanctuary One was such a positive one for the seventh and eighth graders that they will continue to serve there once a month throughout the school year.

On the outskirts of Medford, nestled in the foothills near the quaint town of Jacksonville, sits Rogue Valley Adventist Academy, an amazing school with a beautiful campus and panoramic views of Table Rock and the Rogue Valley. The school is the center of collaboration between Michael Brackett, associate pastor for the Medford SDA Church and academy Bible teacher at RVAA, and me, in our efforts to unite school and church in reaching out to the community. My name is Laura Sohn, and I'm the Oregon Conference Community Service Coordinator covering the area of our conference south of Eugene.



Students assist an elderly widow in cleaning up the outside of her home in preparation for a change in living arrangements.

(continued on last page)

Helping Others in Hood River

Fernando Chavez



Mid-Columbia students pack stuffed animals for delivery to comfort abused and traumatized children.

Once a day, for six days, the Israelites marched around Jericho. It seemed pointless and I'm sure it felt like a waste of time. The walls of the city were just too high and too thick to get through. However, the instructions were clear: The Israelites were to establish their presence there and God would take care of the rest. The Israelites obeyed and God was faithful in His promise.

The walls that sometimes keep our churches and schools from working together and the walls that keep us from reaching our communities seem too difficult to get through. But God is faithful, and where there used to be walls there is hope now. One example of this took place in the Hood River community, where the Hood River Adventist Church and the Mid-Columbia Adventist School recently came together to reach out and be a light to their community. The way in which they did so was unique to their talents, their abilities, and their community's needs.

The Columbia Gorge Children's Advocacy Center comforts children who have suffered a traumatizing life event, and works to prevent and reduce child abuse and trauma through a coordinated local community response. Sadly, the demand for this service is high, and the Center is in constant need of comfort items for all of the children that it serves. Our students and church members saw this as an opportunity to become Jesus' healing hands to "the least of these."

For three weeks, the church and school collected stuffed animals, blankets, and snacks. Several community members worked with the teachers to help the K-4th grade students to make pillows and the 5th-10th graders to make cozy blankets. Students wanted to be a part of the healing and restoration process of abused children in their community, even if confidentiality laws kept them from ever meeting. For these students, the impact they were able to have on others and the difference it made in their own hearts was life-changing, and they've vowed that this was just their first lap around Hood River.

My name is Fernando Chavez, and I'm the Oregon Conference Community Service Coordinator covering the northern part of our conference. I pray that as we enter this new year, our churches and schools will strive to work together, as one. I pray that more of us start taking laps, with our students, around our communities so they can see our mighty God breaking down walls we never thought possible.



Upper grade students display some of the dozens of blankets they made for the Children's Advocacy Center.

What Does Jesus Say About Loving Well?

Matthew 25:35-40 NIV

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."



RESTORING THE IMAGE OF GOD IN EVERY CHILD

There will be young people, this school year, that will choose to live forever with a loving God in a perfect place because of what we do.

The Oregon Model

Mission-Focused Learning
21st Century Learning Skills

STREAMS

Project-Based Learning

Body-Brain Balance

Rogue Valley – Continued from Page 2

We have now begun the weekly Wednesday outreach to the community. The sophomores started the month of November off by serving at Medford Gospel Mission, winterizing the garden beds that supply fresh produce for their restaurant Main Ingredient, which provides free dinners to deserving community members. The following Wednesday, the seniors focused their time on the Medford SDA Church's food bank. On the third Wednesday, students helped a retired teacher prepare for a move with packing, loading the moving van, and yard work. By discussing beforehand what we are going to do and providing a little history of the organization or individual we are about to help, we hope to help the students truly appreciate and understand the purpose of the weekly outreach. During a debriefing session following each service activity our discussion is aimed at reminding the students of Jesus and His wholehearted dedication to serve, because He came “not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.”

As the school year progresses, RVAA will continue to build meaningful relationships with those in the community. Pastor Michael enthusiastically reports, “This weekly service day is already creating positive waves in our community and in our kids. There is no replacement for hands-on learning like this. We only wish we had started sooner!”



RVAA sophomores assist the Medford Gospel Mission by preparing their garden beds for the winter.



Your Office of Education Team

Gale Crosby, VP of Education
Karen Heinrich, Office Manager
Fawn Fahrer, Administrative Assistant & Renweb Specialist
David Davies, Associate Superintendent
Heidi Kruger, Associate Superintendent
Dan Nicola, Associate Superintendent
Angela White, Associate Superintendent
Gayla Rogers, Financial Specialist
McKenzie Wallace, Financial Assistant
Fernando Chavez, Community Service Coordinator (North Region)
Laura Sohn, Community Service Coordinator (South Region)

Office Contact Info

Karen Heinrich 503-850-3550 karen.heinrich@oc.npuc.org
Fawn Fahrer 503-850-3551 fawn.fahrer@oc.npuc.org

Conference Education Calendar

<u>FIRST QUARTER</u> (34/39 Days)		<u>THIRD QUARTER</u> (41/41 Days)	
Jul 19	Treasurer/Business Mgr Training	Jan 14-15	TAO Summit
Jul 19	Camp Meeting Education Day	Jan 16	Third Quarter Begins
Jul 20	Principal Meeting	Jan 21	M.L. KING HOLIDAY
Aug 6	Teacher Contract Begins	Jan 24-26	WWU Friendship Tourn (Gr 9-12)
Aug 9	Teacher Contract Ends	TBD	WWU Music Festival (Gr 9-12)
Aug 20	Teacher Contract Begins	Feb 13	Principal Meeting
Aug 27	First Day of School (Reg. Start)	Feb 18	PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY
Sep 3	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	Feb 24	WWU Robotics Meet (Elem)
Sep 4	First Day of School (Late Start)	Feb 25-28	Outdoor School (Big Lake)
Sep 14-16	NPUC Pathfinder Camporee	Mar 3-4	Elementary Friendship Tourn
Sep 17-28	Iowa Test Week	Mar 15	Third Quarter Ends
Sep 20-23	Fall Bible Camp (Gr 9-12)	Mar 18-22	SPRING VACATION
Oct 4	Iowa Testing Due		
Oct 4-6	WWU Fall Classic (Gr 9-12)	<u>FOURTH QUARTER</u> (52/57 Days)	
Oct 10	K-12 Board of Education	Mar 25	Fourth Quarter Begins
Oct 12	PLC Day - OR State Inservice Day	Apr 4	Hand Bell Festival
Oct 15-18	Outdoor School (Big Lake)	Apr 7-9	Walla Walla University Days
Oct 19	First Quarter Ends	Apr 10	K-12 Board of Education
Oct 21-23	Principal Retreat – Belknap	Apr 14-16	StepUp
		Apr 24	PLC Day & ELT Meeting
		May 9	Track & Field
		May 24-26	Milo Academy Grad Wknd
		May 27	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
		Jun 5	Last Day of School (Regular Start)
		Jun 7-9	CAA, LAA, PAA, RVAA Grad Wknd
		Jun 12	Last Day of School (Late Start)
		Jun 12	Fourth Quarter Ends
		June 14	Ten Month Contract Ends
<u>SECOND QUARTER</u> (48/48 Days)			
Oct 22	Second Quarter Begins		
Nov 11	VETERANS' DAY HOLIDAY		
Nov 22-23	THANKSGIVING VACATION		
Dec 19 – Jan 1	CHRISTMAS VACATION		
Jan 9	K-12 Board of Education		
Jan 11	Second Quarter Ends		