

September Newsletter



Sequim Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter

September 2024

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Pathfinders

by Twyla Luke

This year was my 4th time leading the Sequim Valley Pathfinder Club to the International Camporee. Each trip has been unique and offered its own set of unique challenges and this trip would be no exception. This trip would be our Suburban's 4th trip as well and with it approaching 200k miles that can be an unsettling thought. This vehicle has served our family and the church well and I prayed it would be up for the task. Over the last year we have worked on various issues with the thought of it being road ready for the 2500-mile journey. Last fall we installed 2 new batteries as they appeared to be near the end of their life (not bad for being purchased in 2013!). A few months ago, we began to have problems starting the suburban if it sat longer than 24 hours. We took it to our mechanic and he hooked it up to a machine that determined it had a parasitic draw from an interior light and fixed the problem. After charging the batteries we were sent on our merry way only to find out the morning of July 31st the day before our trip that the vehicle wouldn't start. While this sounds awful, and it was, it was also a blessing. To have this happen BEFORE the trip started was better than DURING the trip! (we had plenty of other things to handle during as we would find out!) The new batteries never recovered from what happened and after returning them and installing new ones the problem was solved.

We set out August 1st before 6 am. The plan was to make it to Jackie and Bert Jager's home in Superior, MT to spend the night. Our first main stop for breakfast and bathrooms was Indian John Hill Rest Area. We spent time making lunches and walking around looking for a few Geocaches. Geocaching in route was a go to activity. Katrina Ferrel is pregnant and needed regular walking and bathroom breaks. The suburban climbs slowly through the passes so sometimes we would stop and sometimes just move along with the rest of the group catching up later.

The first sign of serious vehicle issues was coming down Snoqualmie Pass. Leading up to the trip we haven't had brake issues. In fact, several weeks prior when I had new tires put on the Pathfinder Trailer I decided to have the ones replaced on the Suburban as well. Discount Tire never mentioned any issues with the brakes however it took them over an hour long to do the tires as they had an extremely difficult time removing them. Coming down the mountain I felt as if the brakes were a little softer than I had remembered them. After several more climbs I was positive that something wasn't as it should be. After arriving at Jackie and Bert's I mentioned to Brad that we should have a look at them. He checked them out with a flashlight and felt they looked alright but we could investigate further if needed.

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Announcements



Sequim MOMCo is Free

1st and 3rd Wednesdays
9-11:30 AM
Sequim Adventist Church
30 Sanford Lane
FMI 360 683 7373

Free Childcare

Sequim MOMCo resumes September 4 at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall of Sequim Adventist Church. Invite Moms with young children to enjoy this child-free time to connect with other Moms.

Sequim MOMCo is free to sign up. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Collette 207-449-0273.

Adventurer Club Registration happens Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 pm at the church. Kids ages 4-9 will enjoy hands-on activities earning badges. Questions? Contact the church office, 360-683-7373.



Library Corner

by Mary Thayne

Here are some books I had not seen before.

Finding the Father; See Him for Who He Really Is. by Herb Montgomery. Misperceptions of God and His character are swept away.

Understanding Creation; Answers to questions on faith and science. Edited by L. James Gibson and Humberto M. Rasi. Twenty questions about faith and science that Christians often encounter.

It's About People; How to treat others, especially those we disagree with, the way Jesus treats us. by Jim Hohnberger. There's more to being a follower of Christ than pointing out error.

A Touch of Heaven; Finding New Meaning in Sabbath Rest. by /Gregory P. Nelson. The author believes the Sabbath is not only relevant but revolutionary.

Pathfinders Continued

Jackie and Bert have a beautiful spot over-looking the river and we were treated to some gorgeous views, wonderful hospitality and some mean games of corn hole! We miss them but know that God has led them to this place.

Friday had us setting off for Yellowstone but only a few miles down the road did we know things were going to be detoured for a bit. We approached a turn to access the highway and when I applied the brake my foot went straight to the floor. I pumped and used the electric trailer brake and managed to slow enough to make the turn. We had a major problem and there was no way to continue without fixing it. I had Zailey call her dad who was traveling on his motorcycle and he met us at Napa in Missoula. We bought all the items needed to do the brake pads and moved over to a hotel parking lot. The kids were off with Dawna and Shari doing some Geocaches while Brad and Jesse tackled the brakes. Less than 40 minutes later they were done. That is a miracle. If I had not had those tires replaced earlier there is NO WAY they could have removed them to the brakes. Everything went very smoothly and soon I had brakes again! Brad did suggest we re-visit the situation again once in Wyoming to make sure all was well.

I wish I could say the excitement ended there for the day but probably one of the scariest things happened next. I am sharing this story with the family's permission. Zailey had been spending some quality time with her dad and riding on the motorcycle with him. The weather had become hot and hydration was becoming more of an issue for not just her but everyone. For those of you who ride you know that wearing all the gear, riding in the heat and being at elevation can all make for a disaster. Traveling along at a high rate of speed Zailey told her dad she didn't feel well and then passed out leaning forward onto him. We believe God's Angels held her close as Brad managed to support her with one arm, move to the roadside and stop the bike. After stopping Zailey came to not aware of what had occurred. EMS was called and by the time the rest of us caught up she was loaded into an Ambulance headed for the closest town. Dawna stayed with Brad and Zailey at the hospital while the rest of us traveled ahead to Yellowstone. After receiving IV fluids and several blood tests it was determined she could leave. We FULLY believe God provided protection for what could have been an event with a very different outcome.

The next 2 days were spent enjoying the beauty of Yellowstone. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit this National Park it truly is a treasure. While I don't enjoy knowing there is volcanic activity directly underneath my feet the power and majesty of God is on display! I particularly love the Buffalo! We also met several other clubs traveling through the park and the diversity of the landscape was breath-taking.

Sunday morning, we moved our way outside the park and on to Cody, Wyoming. We were booked for the KOA campground which held the promise of a play area and swimming pool. First up though was a Buffalo Bill Wild West show in town. While the show was long and a little cheesy at times the kids seemed to enjoy the performance.

Monday was a down day where we spent the time exploring the town, visiting an old "Dug up Gun Museum", a little geocaching and time in the pool. With the coming chaos of the camporee where I knew things would be non-stop. Dawna had been receiving messages from her mom who is a Co-ordinator for Upper Columbia Conference and things were already in a frantic mode. People were reporting 4-5 hour waits for registration, traffic back-ups etc. For these reasons I never show up on Monday. The programs don't start until Tuesday night so I like some time for things to settle down before we arrive.



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Pathfinders Continued

Tuesday, we packed up and headed the short 4 hours to Gillette. We purchased fuel and ice about an hour away to avoid any last-minute time wasters and waded into the fray. Brad arrived about 40 minutes prior and found our entrance gate was closed. For some unknown reason the local police department closed off a road that was supposed to remain open until 5 pm. We had no choice but to enter at the opposite end of the camp. This is a logistic nightmare. You are traveling across a camp with thousands of people walking around, cars, buses, trailers all still moving. Also, the access we needed was not possible. Brad found a golf cart trail that was wide enough for us to squeeze through and we made our way over to our designated spot only to find someone had parked a large truck in our camp sight and was not around to move it. We had only a few hours to drop our trailer and get any vehicles out of camp before a hard closure to traffic. Space is allotted on tickets purchased and it was a tight fit even with all our space! We could not complete camp set up until that truck moved. Tuesday was one of the hottest days with temps approaching 100. I left the adults to set up camp and was off tackle the dreaded registration line and mandatory Director meeting. I arrived at registration to find only a short wait and then over to a 4 pm meeting. The return to camp had everyone getting settled and we started up dinner plans. By 5 pm we had received word that the evening meeting was being canceled and camps were to prepare for the possibility of a bad storm moving through. We hurried through dinner and then got everyone busy with battening down the hatches. We lowered pop-ups, stripped off canopy tops, double staked tents, removed anything that could fly (so-we-thought). We had a great view of oncoming storm as we were camped along the most westward side. As the sky churned toward us we looked in awe of what nature was about to unleash. We kept hearing garbled messages on the Cam-Plex speaker system (one of the many communication failures) and soon conference staff were running through camps with an evacuation notice. With a high probability of lightning strikes all pathfinders were to move to buildings. If you had hard sided accommodations in camp you could stay. Shari Byers loaded up her camper van with all the kids and staff except Dawna and myself and went off in search of the buildings. While I was having visions of Hurricane Katrina Superdome nightmare scenario's I knew the buildings were the safest spot for the kids to be. Storms can be fickle. While the build-up to prepare, secure and be safe took in excess of hour the storm blew thru in a whopping 20 minutes. The wind was upwards of 50 mph sustained with gusts supposedly to 70 mph. There was some light hail but it was warm enough to keep it small and dissipate quickly. Dawna and I took shelter inside the Pathfinder Trailer and had a good shaking from some nearby lightening and thunder. It was good we were at camp as we were ready to spring into action once the majority of it had passed. We had 2 small tents weighted down by the massive rainfall but after shaking the rain off they popped up. One of our large tents had a pole that supported the rain fly snap and it required a repair (thanks to Zailey and her fine sewing and patching skills). We would discover later that both large tents had extensive pole warping that we are currently figuring out now if they can be repaired or will require the purchase of new poles. My oldest pop up canopy was a mangled mess and we carted it off to the growing pile of destruction from other camps. As our pathfinders filtered back to camp we busied ourselves with making sure everyone had dry sleeping arrangements and that our neighbors were safe. Next to us the Yelm club had several damaged tents and soaked sleeping bags. Whole camping areas were flattened and some suffered little to no damage. Clubs swapped supplies, large tents for cooking and meetings were opened for use. People from the community opened their churches and their hearts to help the pathfinders. The double rainbow God gave us after the storm was a beautiful reminder that God never leaves us or forsakes us.

Wednesday was a rebuild day. All events were canceled for the morning so camp could recover. Not only were there messes but sanitation had reached an all-time low, or rather should I say high! As in overflowing. The porti-potty nightmares of Oshkosh 2004 were back to haunt me! In my past experience if you get behind in sanitation it is highly unlikely for it to recover. Dawna hauled the kids into town for some Geocaches and real bathrooms while I spent the morning sorting and returning the kitchen into a functional area.

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Pathfinders Continued

Activities opened up in the afternoon and the kids were off pin trading in earnest! Pin trading is such a highlight and get activity for the kids to meet other kids! I made sure the kids started with some pins from Washington Conference to trade and they ran with it! I'm always amazed at what and who they meet and what they find! The pin collections range from all over the world! Some international clubs sell their pins to earn funds for the trip.

Thursday and Friday were the only "Normal" camp days. There were so many activities to choose from. Drilling and Marching including drums was happening daily along with a rodeo and motorcycle show. There were hundreds of honors to choose from both indoors and outdoors! There were also activities like obstacle courses, caving truck, community service projects, blood drive, food booths. So many things available and a shame that it was impossible to even see it all!

One main goal I had was the Postcard Honor! Thank you for all the donations and when they were all counted up we turned in 2608! They were thrilled with our total and the staff even scored Pony Express t-shirts! Other honors the various members participated in were Native American Lore, Space Exploration, and Pewter Pouring.

Thursday evening, they announced that all Sabbath programming would be canceled as another storm was on possible approach for the camp. Thursday and Friday Evening programming was doubled so the play of Moses could be run in its entirety. This made for very long nights with kids arriving back at camp past 11 pm. Friday was spent making travel arrangements for home since this meant we would be leaving 24 hours earlier than planned. Friday morning, I also reminded Brad that we better check up on those brakes as he would be detouring back to California and we would be headed home. Brad took the rig to town and had them put it on a lift. They advised changing the rotors and even told him it would be cheaper to do it himself. He acquired the parts and during and undercarriage inspection noticed that the hard brake line was severely damaged and on the verge of snapping which would explain the sudden loss of brake fluid. Please keep in mind we had no leakage prior to this trip and everything functioned normally. Pulling a heavy trailer had taken its toll. Brad was able to secure and repair the line along with new rotors. Brad's being able to notice this hidden leak likely saved us from at minimum more delays and maximum a major accident or loss of life. God was truly watching over us.

Sabbath morning dawned grey and wet which matched our mood. We somberly packed up camp and headed out. Dawna remained behind for a family Master Guide Investiture Event for her brother. The thoughts of all the kids would miss out filled my soul with sadness. No parade of flags, Sabbath day reunions with other clubs, no special music or programs. It's hard to know why this happened, why so much was lost. We stopped to visit a bear rescue and even though he looks content I couldn't help but feel that even he was trapped in this cruel adventure.

The rest of the trip home was uneventful. We received the blessings of strangers and friends. We night hiked, slept on decks, floors, and beds and had endless stops for Geocaches which the kids seem to thoroughly enjoy. We stopped in Missoula so Georgia could visit her grandpa for an hour as he was recovering from spinal surgery from a fall with his club from Walla Walla on the way to Wyoming!

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Pathfinders Continued

This trip has taken a lot out of me both mentally and physically. I've struggled with understanding and as I'm putting a little distance between myself and the event I reflect of what can be learned. 2 Tim. 1:7 states that God has not given us a spirit of fear but one of power. Paul goes on to write about taking part in the sufferings of Christ and to not be ashamed but to have faith and hold fast. So for now that is what we do... hold fast, remember the miracles, the blessings and the beauty.

Lastly, thank you church! You covered us with your prayers and have given us the finances to attend these events and while they don't always turn out like we hoped or expected we still believe they are experiences that they will never forget!

For more stories from the rest of the group please join us on Sabbath September

14th for the church service where we will share and show pictures!

Also, Pathfinders will be starting up again on October 3!



September Birthdays

- 2 Sandra Garvey
- 2 Jerry Ley
- 5 Donna Woods
- 7 Sandi Christensen
- 8 Linnea Balkan
- 14 Becky Pittario
- 15 Marlene Madina-Ellquist
- 16 Eloise Gatchet
- 21 Ed Nelson
- 21 Scotland Noonan
- 23 Allison Young
- 23 Mel Zbaraschuk
- 25 Judy Berry
- 25 Jaidyn Casey
- 27 Mike Judd
- 27 Twyla Luke



End of Summer Ladies Picnic

Tuesday September 17th
12:00 noon
Pioneer Park
Sequim

Bring a Lunch, Drink
&
Lawn Chair

More Info Call Susan
Stewart 208-866-4993 or
Leslie Bagwell
817-917-8956

\$250,000 Poorer and Richer
by Shirley Fordham

Twenty-two years. That's how long our investment in Christian education lasted. Skoog, Puck, and Evelyn attended Adventist schools from first grade through college. We had no idea that this investment would engulf our entire lives—but it did.

Were we pleased? Not always.

Coordinating transportation was a major problem every year. And tuition was outrageous—even for first grade. As expensive as the schools were, one would think that they'd have the best facilities in the nation, but they didn't. Our children weren't always treated fairly. Prejudice did (and does) exist in Adventist schools. Sometimes we wondered how certain teachers got into the profession.

The academy was 22 hours away. We saw our children only during winter and summer vacations. Fortunately they were able to room and board with relatives. Trips home by plane seemed cheaper than the telephone bills. And every time we turned around, the choir was going somewhere—even abroad. Did the school officials think we just pulled spending money off the tree?

S-T-R-E-S-S is a good way to spell college. Our sheltered, supervised academy children were now young adults who were expected to make wise decisions in the midst of those who had lax values. They were exposed to more pregnancies, drugs, and thefts than we ever thought possible on a Christian campus.

Was this investment really worth the money? You bet it was. Would we do it all over again? We certainly would.

Our children were surrounded by enough Christian teachers, students, and surrogate parents to outweigh the influences of those who were on the margin. They were able to fulfill their mental, physical, and spiritual potential without giving up their religious convictions. They received good, solid educations and are now competing successfully in the real world. They are spirit-filled young people who enjoy life to the fullest. They are well-traveled, thanks to the opportunities offered by our schools. They married Christian spouses and have friends all over the world.

So we praise God for Cedarvale Junior Academy, V. Lindsay Seventh-day Adventist School, Pine Forge Academy, and Oakwood College. We are \$250,000 poorer but certainly richer than we ever dreamed.

“And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” Isaiah 54:13.

[taken from ***Over & Over Again! 150 Adventists Share Personal Faith Stories About Stewardship.*** 1998. NAD. Edited by Ronald Allan Knott]

September 2024 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3 <i>ACS 10am-12pm</i>	4 <i>MOMCo 9:00am Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	5 <i>Backpack Program</i>	6	7 <i>Fellowship Meal 12:30pm</i>
8	9 <i>School Board Meeting 6:30pm</i>	10 <i>Chorus Practice</i>	11 <i>Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	12 <i>Backpack Program</i>	13	14 <i>Pathfinder Camporee Presentation 10:45am Shape Note Singing</i>
15	16 <i>Church Board Meeting 6:30pm</i>	17 <i>ACS 10am-12pm Chorus Practice Ladies Picnic 12:00pm</i>	18 <i>MOMCo 9:00am Prayer Meeting 6:30pm PAES Pizza & Game Night 5:00pm</i>	19 <i>Backpack Program</i>	20	21 <i>Children's Church Fellowship Meal 12:30pm</i>
22	23	24 <i>Chorus Practice</i>	25	26 <i>Backpack Program Adventurer Club Registration 6:30pm</i>	27	28 <i>Communion Music Sing-a-long</i>
29 <i>Women's and Men's Ministry Breakfast</i>	30	<p><u>Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>Oct. 20 Women's Ministry Crafting</p> <p>Oct. 26 Wedding for Tyler Needham and Jessica Lopez</p> <p>Oct. 28 Cooking Class with Heather Reseck</p>				

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 30 Sanford Lane
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