

# Village Voice



June  
2026

"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

—Hebrews 10:37 (KJV)



## The Great Escape by Carolyn Karlstrom



I've just read a book about some of the most spectacular escapes that have ever taken place from what would appear to be absolutely escape-proof locales. The cleverness, the ingenuity, the mental acuity and ability to stay on task, the necessary subterfuge, the physical strength, the dexterity—really, the level of all-out, all-consuming energy given to these efforts is highly impressive.

Who could reasonably expect to escape the heavily-guarded, hugely-fortified Tower of London? Twenty-three-year-old Jack Sheppard did just that in 1724. He'd been placed in the most secure cell in the prison, or so it was thought. He was handcuffed, manacled with heavy leg irons, and chained by them to a staple fixed in the floor of the cell. That didn't stop him.

Jack had to first slip out of the handcuffs, which involved the use of his teeth. Yes, his teeth! He then managed, by repeated twisting of the heavy links of the chain and main force, to snap it. He tied the now loose leg chains to his legs to prevent them from clanking and impeding him.

But there was a chimney in his cell through which he planned to exit, crossed from side to side by an iron bar several feet up, which he couldn't get past without removing it. Using the broken length of his chain as his only tool, he managed to gouge and dig the chimney wall and eventually remove a brick. Others followed. He removed bricks, stones, and mortar until he had a



space large enough to enable him to reach the bar. He worked both ends of the bar until he eventually wrenched it free. And now he had a “jimmying” tool.

His next goal was to reach the empty cell above his, which he achieved. The first thing he noticed upon entry to the cell was a long rusty nail on the floor. Now he was in possession of a lock-picking tool. He was able to exit that cell undetected. But there were



more doors—several more doors, in fact, between him and the outside, all of which were locked and barricaded—before he could access the roof, from which he intended to make his way to the ground. He got through them all and finally stepped out onto the top of the building.



He could see he’d have to drop down first onto a house roof-top, as the ground was way too great a distance. This feat alone, involving his blanket-torn-into-shreds-and-braided-into-a-rope, was amazing, and he ultimately ended up on top of, and then inside, an inhabited house. He made his eventual way out through the front door onto the street after the man who lived there left.

The other tales are equally as stunning, but what I was left with after reading them was the thought that we are all prisoners, all stuck, all lost, all damned. And none of us are capable of escaping our doom on our own. The enemy has us well and truly shackled. Our peril is far greater than imprisonment in the Tower of London.

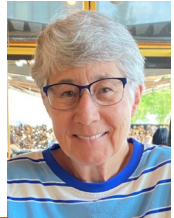
However, there is, in fact, a way out, to our very great good fortune. That way out is Jesus. It is only through a relationship with Him that we have any hope at all. He has graciously offered us a way of escape from our destiny as sin-struck humans. He has promised to come after us, has pledged to come “spring” us. This need seems more urgent to me with every passing day. We are not left to depend on our own devices to get loose. Our own devices



will get us exactly nowhere. To be a Jack Sheppard will avail us nothing. Hold on, friends—help is on the way. Hold on and give the job over to Him. Release is certain and soon. He will come through for us.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20, KJV).

Carolyn K.



Back by popular demand, Pastor Steve will be continuing last summer's series, Walking With Jesus In Galilee, again this summer. At the end of the last series, Simon, who Jesus had nicknamed Peter, and the other disciples had just seen Jesus calm a storm. A seed of wonder, that Jesus was no mere rabbi, had been planted in their hearts. Picking up the story at that moment, we will journey with Simon Peter and the others as we watch Jesus confront the darkest powers we will ever face and teach us that in His power nothing is impossible for us.



## Friendship Connections

by Elizabeth Travis

When life gets busy, when things become hectic and all the tasks start piling up, sometimes the simplest things become the greatest blessings. Things like sitting down to have a snack, share a story, play a game, or make a new friend. It's these kinds of special moments that form connections between strangers and turn passing acquaintances into lasting friendships, and it's why groups like Women's Ministry exist; to help the women of Village Church and Walla Walla Valley form a closer relationship with God and each other.



It was a warm, pleasant Sunday afternoon on April 19 when a group of women gathered in the Village Church Fellowship Hall to take part in some icebreaker games and make new friends. Half of the room had been set up with tables and snacks, but the other half had chairs all arranged in a circle.

To start things off, Barbara Frohne, who was one of the women leading the games, called out a series of categories like birthdays and shoe sizes where everyone had to line up, giving them a chance to get acquainted and find a bit of commonality. It also ensured that everyone would get to sit with different people than they usually did. Once everyone was in their new groups, they played some more games to help remember everybody's names and discover some things they had in common. Then came





a new game where everyone had to get up and move about the room according to different preferences, interests, and hobbies. The final icebreaker was a storytelling game where everyone at the tables had to build on someone else's story, leading to some extremely unique and hilarious little tales by the time the game was finished.

The event ended with a short worship talk from Aletha Gruzensky about a particular event from her childhood that had stuck with her over the years.



After her worship thought, everyone went back to their tables and took part in a small discussion, considering what roles forgiveness and new perspectives have played in their own lives. They also talked about practical ways they could encourage and build up other women, whether it be people in their church, workplace, social circle, or otherwise.



Jennifer Austin, one of the leaders for Women's Ministry, said that these sorts of heartfelt discussions are the primary reason for these get-togethers. "These events are important because we all need support and connection outside of our normal routines. Also, it seems that women need an afternoon to spend with each other, as we need to be supportive of each other and love one another outside of our families."



That emphasis on encouragement and community is what



Women's Ministry is all about. The women of Village Church are striving to connect with each other, understand the burdens they are all carrying, and find

ways to lift each other up, whether that be through group prayers and devotionals, outgoing activities, or simply a little time set aside to enjoy some good food and conversation. Through these various activities, Jennifer Austin, Yin Keller, Barbara Frohne, Beth Travis, and the rest of the Women's Ministry team help women within the Walla Walla Valley to strengthen their relationship with God and with each other.

Beth Travis



Their next event is Women's Ministry Sabbath on June 6. Pastor Larissa Jeffery will be the guest speaker and there will be a potluck after the service. We hope to see you all there. God Bless.



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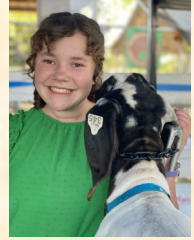


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ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING, OREGON COAST

COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NURSING SCHOOL

### Celebrating Parents!

In May and June Americans celebrate parents. Mother's Day and Father's Day affect everyone because everyone had parents.



I think most prospective parents want to do an excellent job of parenting. I certainly wanted to. It was harder than I had anticipated though. I discovered that I was sometimes low on patience. I didn't understand some developmental facts about infants and children. I found cooperation and support between parents to be necessary, showing the need for the marriage to be stable. And having a support system of family or friends definitely made the difference between crisis and survival.

But the greatest factor affecting success is having a strong relationship with God. God gave us great information in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy about living successful lives. He gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us and strengthen us daily. God is available 24/7 on His crisis line. Success comes by using what He offers. And He is the greatest example of a loving parent. He loves us deeply and helps us succeed.



As we look back on the parenting we received, we can appreciate the good things, and also recognize what didn't go well. When we gain parenting experience, it might be easier to forgive our parents for their mistakes. They were human and inexperienced. No earthly parent is perfect. But love in our hearts, given by God, helps us understand and enables us to give our parents the respect, love, and care they need. In turn, we hope our children will realize we love them, even though we aren't perfect.



Our parenting opportunities extend beyond our children, including children in the neighborhood, community, school, and church. Children and youth need to know that we know them and

value them. Learn their names, greet them, ask them how they are, and about their activities. This is especially important for single parent families. We can interact with them in church activities, help with VBS, Pathfinders, summer activities, or Sabbath School. That's how it is a church family.

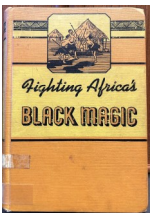


Parenting is a challenge and a privilege. We raise the children, and we honor our fathers and mothers. That's God's wonderful plan for families.

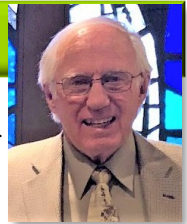
Bev Donahey has degrees in psychology and Applied Behavioral Science and shares tips she picks up from her experiences, friends and research.

## From the Library—by Marcel Grondahl

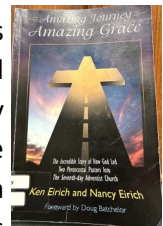
Our first book this month is a golden oldie from 1938, "Fighting Africa's Black Magic" by Madge Morrill. Over



the years it has been checked out 36 times and continues to be a popular book at the Village Library. It is the story of Dr. E. G. Marcus who labored in East Africa for many years fighting disease and superstition. He had to counter the work of the witch doctor who had declared war on him and his staff. By God's grace, Dr. Marcus won the battle for the hearts of the people and firmly established the medical arm of the church in East Africa.



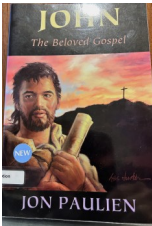
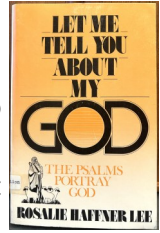
"Amazing Journey, Amazing Grace" published in 2004 is the incredible story of how God led two Pentecostal pastors, Ken and Nancy Eirich, into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After hearing their stories many people told them they should write a book—and they did. It is a book you cannot put down after you begin. Nancy was



abused and used and felt worthless until the Lord rescued her. Ken was a self-destructive adult until God intervened. The high point in the drama is when they left the Pentecostal Church to become devout Seventh-day Adventists. You will be blessed by reading their story.

The book "Let Me Tell You About My God" was published in 1983 by Rosalie Haffner Lee but, oddly enough, has never been checked out of

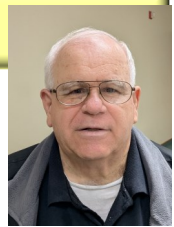
our library! The Psalms portray God to us as individuals. We can read them and insert our own name and circumstance into them and they lift us up to the God who has in the past comforted and supported His people. The Psalms portray the greatness and majesty of our God, but at the same time present Him as a personal, caring, and loving Father who responds to our complaints, doubts, and fears in a merciful, loving way.



There is no book in the Bible that portrays the story of Jesus more vividly and accurately than the book of John, and there is no Adventist Theologian who interprets that beautiful story better than Jon Paulien (Professor of New Testament at Andrews University). His book "John The Beloved Gospel" was published in 2003. In the book, Paulien opens a window into a deeper and more genuine relationship with Jesus and answers the question, How can I have a living relationship with Someone I cannot see, hear, or touch?

## Keys

written by Don Blue, for the glory of God



Thursday morning April 16, 2026, I, Don Blue, had attended an early morning prayer and praise meeting at the Milton SDA Church. Upon arriving home about 8:30 a.m., I parked my car in front of my apartment. I walked across the lawn to my front door and entered my apartment (I had previously forgotten to lock the door).



About eleven thirty, as I was preparing to go to the senior center for lunch, I quickly discovered my keys were missing. I searched everywhere in my home and car; the keys had disappeared.

I started praying, claiming every promise that came to mind. In Malachi it says that if you are faithful in tithes and offerings, I will rebuke the devourer for your sake. Philippians 4:19 says my God will supply all your needs. 2 Timothy 2:13 says even when

we are unfaithful, He remains faithful because He cannot deny who He is. I claimed these promises and many more. I called friends on the Washington coast, in Montana, Oregon, friends that live in College Place and Walla Walla, petitioning their prayers. I also presented my need to my Sabbath School class, and, after church service, to the prayer team that stands in front of the sanctuary to pray with people who have special needs.



On Sunday I talked with my friend Solomon Avila. He placed a call to the Toyota dealer in Eastgate in Walla Walla and set it up for a three-way call. After I answered all the questions pertaining to my car, he quoted a price of nine hundred dollars to replace the key. That did not include tax.

I had other important keys that needed to be replaced. Sunday evening I left a message on the answering machine of a locksmith. I received a return phone call late Sunday night. We set up a time of 1:30 p.m. on April 20 for him to arrive at my apartment to service my needs.



On Monday morning, a friend, Noel, gave me a ride to the senior center for lunch, and Jerry Bobbitt gave me a ride home. Before I arrived home, I received a phone call informing me that the locksmith would be about a half hour late. I decided to wait in my car until the locksmith arrived. I partially opened up the driver's door to get some air, and I sat sideways in the chair, facing the passing cars while being occupied looking up information on my phone.

I heard a horn honk. I looked up, and someone waved at me. The person pulled into the next available opening and parked his truck and got out, walking down the sidewalk. I recognized him—a friend whom I had not seen in several months. So we stood on the sidewalk and visited.



A few minutes later, two men came walking down the sidewalk. They had something printed on their jackets and hats. When I saw them, I said, "I was hoping you would be the locksmith. I lost my keys." They said, "We don't know anything about keys, but we service air conditioning." Then one of the men said that he lived in one of the back apartments and both of them walked to his house.



A few minutes later, the locksmith showed up in his van. As I stood talking with him, the two air conditioner men walked up to me and asked me what kind of car I had. I said, "Camry." The man opened up his hand and had my key ring with all my keys. I said, "Where did you find them?" A few feet to the left of the sidewalk is a circular piece of concrete with a pole in the middle, cemented and bolted down.



The pole stands about eight feet high, with three night lamps positioned at the top. When the men came walking out, the one man looked over and saw the keys. Someone had placed them on the back side of the concrete, leaning against the pole.

If the locksmith had been on time, if I had not been sitting in my car, or if my friend had not stopped to visit, I would not have talked with these men. All events were orchestrated with perfect timing. God came through at twenty three hours, fifty-nine minutes, fifty-nine seconds.



Just seconds before the man handed me the keys, I had asked the locksmith if he gave me a new key and later I found my keys, would the built-in signal still control my car and he said no.

God allows people's faith to be stretched for their good. His timing, when the answer comes it makes the gift even sweeter. God saved me from a lot of debt.



I called all the people that prayed that I would find my keys and told them how God had answered their prayers.

# National Day of Prayer Event

by Karen Ekkens

At seven in the morning on May 7, more than 40 people arrived at Village Church for the National Day of Prayer meeting. They were greeted at the outer doors by members of the prayer committee, Trina McCoon and Ruby Stafford. Signs in the hall pointed the way for all who were unfamiliar with the floor plan of the church.

At the Fellowship Hall door, each was warmly greeted by Barbara Frohne and given a program that outlined the events for the service.



The hour was early, but it was evident the prayer committee team had arrived much earlier. Preparations for breakfast had been made and tables covered with white cloths. At each seat, attendees found a copy of the words for the song “God Bless America.”

Pastor Michael Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. Then retired pastor Ole Olesen shared a brief, thought-provoking message. Also a retired United States Army chaplain, he spoke of his motivation for becoming a chaplain. At the time the opportunity arose, he happened to be reading a book about World War I and Flanders Fields where hundreds of thousands of soldiers had died in battle. He also considered the execution of the innocent men assigned to guard Peter the night the angel delivered Peter from prison. Pastor



**Pastor Ole Olesen**

Olesen realized that most of these men were not prepared to die. He knew that many were unaware of the spiritual battle behind the scenes and felt called to provide soldiers with an understanding of the big picture. As a chaplain he became an ombudsman for the first amendment, protecting freedom of religion for soldiers of all religious persuasions.

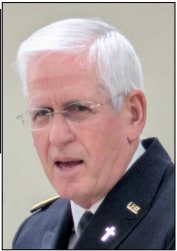
In his presentation, Pastor Olesen pointed out that each of the selected prayer categories represented one of the seven mountains of influence as outlined by dominionism.\* He encouraged all to pray that the leaders of these areas of influence will not yield to temptation in any of the things listed in Proverbs 6:16-19 that are an abomination to the Lord: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaks lies, and a person who sows discord among brothers.

Head elder Duane Anderson, an employee of WWU, extended the invitation to prayer. Then prayers were offered by representatives from each area as follows:



**Government**—Troy Rayburn  
College Place City Administrator

**Military**—Ole Olesen  
Chaplain United States Army  
Retired



**Educational Institutions**—Jill MacKenzie  
Walla Walla Valley Adventist Schools

**Faith Communities**—Jason Peterson  
Associate Pastor, Life Church



**Public Safety Officers**—George Bennett  
Officer, College Place



**Families**—James Ash  
Pastor, Stateline Adventist Church

**Business**—Tito Espinoza  
Realtor, College Place



**Health Care**—Louise Dejur  
Chief Nurse Officer, Providence  
St. Mary's Hospital, Walla Walla



**Fire Department**—John Boose  
Fire Marshal, College Place



Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Steve Reasor. Then the group stood and sang together, “God Bless America” led by the prayer committee members while Juanita Neil Teranski played the piano.

Following the song, breakfast was served. People lingered before heading out to take on the duties of the day, well fortified by nutrients, fellowship, and prayer.

\*The Seven Mountain Mandate is part of dominionism.

They believe that their mission to influence the world through these seven spheres is justified by Isaiah 2:2 “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains.”

By using strategic spiritual warfare, adherents attempt to gain control of the seven mountains by researching and mapping the geographical strongholds of territorial spirits, using prophecy from the movement’s prophets to determine the demons’ names and roles, and intercession in which they pray on-site to rid the location or “mountain” of demons.

Followers believe that by fulfilling the Seven Mountain Mandate, they can establish the kingdom of God on earth and bring about the end times.

Wikipedia contributors. (2026, April 14). Seven Mountain Mandate. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 16:54, May 20, 2026, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Seven\\_Mountain\\_Mandate&oldid=1348835343](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Seven_Mountain_Mandate&oldid=1348835343)

## The Village Pantry—hosted by Pattie Reasor

My favorite restaurant is a chain that started in Edmonton, Alberta. One of their most ordered dishes is the Hunan Kung Pao. In fact, many of the restaurants keep a chef whose sole job is to make this dish because so many people order it.



### Hunan Kung Pao

#### Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lbs. fresh steamed Chinese egg noodles (I buy mine in bulk at the Chef Store since any unused noodles freeze well)
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
- 1-6 chili peppers, depending on the heat that you desire
- ½ diced onion (large chunks)
- 2 diced bell peppers ( I like to choose two different colors)
- 1 diagonally-cut carrot
- ½ cup diagonally-cut celery
- 2 cups chopped bok choy
- Hunan sauce (recipe follows)
- ¼ cup roasted peanuts



#### Instructions:

1. Bring a pot of salted water to a full boil. Blanch the noodles for 1-2 minutes.

2. Drain the noodles immediately and rinse them well in cold water to stop cooking. Lightly coat with 1 Tbsp. of olive oil to prevent sticking.

3. Heat the remaining 1 Tbsp. of oil in a wok or nonstick skillet over high heat until it ripples.

4. Add the desired amount of chilies to the oil and cook until blistered.

5. Add the onion, pepper, carrots and celery, cooking for 2 minutes until the vegetables are blistered and begin to soften.

6. Toss in the bok choy and cook until it turns bright green from the heat. (Approximately 1 minute.)

7. Add the Hunan sauce and bring to a simmer.

8. Add the noodles and toss very well to coat each ingredient with sauce. The vegetables should be tender but not limp.

9. Divide into bowls, and garnish each bowl evenly with roasted peanuts.

## Hunan Sauce



### Ingredients:

½ cup soy sauce

1 chicken-like bouillon cube

½ cup water

2 Tbsp. brown sugar

2 Tbsp. minced ginger

2 Tbsp. minced garlic

2 Tbsp. rice vinegar

1 Tbsp. sesame oil

½ Tbsp. cornstarch

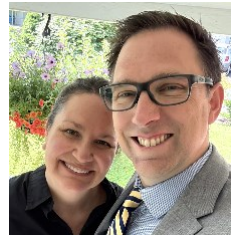


### Instructions:

Mix all ingredients together. Can be prepared ahead and stored refrigerated for up to four days. Stir well before use.

I'm always looking for ways to incorporate more veggies into my kids' diet and this dish hits the nail, especially with my son. The great thing about a stir fry is that it is easy to change up the vegetables, using your favorite veggies or the ones you happen to have in the fridge or garden!

Pattie & Steve R.





# Happy Father's Day!



“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
And whose hope is the LORD.”



—Jeremiah 17:7, NKJV



## WALLA WALLA VALLEY CAMPS



Walla Walla Valley Camps is back for another exciting summer season, running **June 22–July 31**. Our mission is to connect young people with positive Christian mentors in a safe, fun, and encouraging environment where they can grow, build friendships, and make lasting memories.

While enrollment has been lower this year, the need in our community remains great. We are committed to making camp accessible for families, even when finances are a challenge. Donations to Walla Walla Valley Camps help provide scholarships and support camp operations so more kids can experience a meaningful summer.

To learn more or to register visit us at [www.wallawallavalleycamps.com](http://www.wallawallavalleycamps.com)

Dear Village Voice readers,

On a recent visit to the John Day Fossil Beds in Oregon, Tom and I saw numerous displays of fossil remnants that have been unearthed. They bear mute testimony to a time when the ecosystem of the area was vastly different.

It made me think of Matthew 24:39. "People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes" (NLT).

Ellen White, in *The Great Controversy* p. 601, wrote, "We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground."

Yet fear is a very poor motivator. Many Adventists are sick of the spiritual adrenaline rush it foments in body, mind, and soul.

So, what is a good motivator? The eternal, loving, beauty of the character of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. He holds the future in His nail-scarred hands.



God bless you!

*Karen Ekkens, editor*

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