

"EVER GROWING IN GRACE"



MILTON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS

Some precious neighbor children, growing up in a Christian home, used to visit us regularly and end their visits with a prayer of thanks for "shoes on our feet, clothes on our back, and a roof over our heads."

We at Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church can join them in that thanks! Our cedar shake roofing (with repairs) sheltered this congregation from sun, wind, and rain for over 50 years. Now new 21st century roofing (Owens Corning Dura-Flex) will protect more generations of worshippers longing for the return of our risen Savior.

Yes, it cost more than originally hoped. Plywood sheeting had to be purchased and installed before the new roofing. The additional \$24,443 were for the extra supplies, extra hours of labor, the additional rental time for the lift, the upgrade to parapet/flat roof interface.

Here's the amazing news: At the end of August, donations to the RENEW project only lacked \$18,858 of the \$173,021 final price! Thank God—and keep giving!

— Pastor Ole Olesen

Finance Committee Chairman

CHURCH & FAMILY

IN MEMORY

A memorial service for Mineard Stolz will be held on **Sunday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Milton Adventist Church sanctuary. Following the service a light brunch will be served in the fellowship hall, with music by Jan Roberts and the *Ukeladies*, and ample opportunity for sharing personal memories. If you wish to make memorial contributions, you may do so through some of the ministries Mineard delighted to support throughout the years: Adventist World Radio, Blue Mountain Broadcasting, Faith For Today, Gospel Outreach, It Is Written, and Voice of Prophecy.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

- If you are interested and willing to play a musical instrument, sing in a church choir, or play in a bell choir, please contact **Rachel Vixie** at 509-301-4610. Thank you.



- **Jan Roberts** will be presenting a 30 minute piano concert: "Music Now and Then," at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Thursday, September 3, at 12:15 p.m. **Gospel Outreach will benefit from this concert. Please come and invite others!**



1244 N. ELIZABETH ST., MILTON-FREEWATER, OREGON 97862

Note: Some articles in this newsletter are partially edited utilizing MS Copilot AI assistance.

The Pastor's Tellogram

"Overcoming Changes"

September is special to me. While it's still hot, it's not oppressively hot. The weather begins to shift, not drastically, but here in our valley, there are hints. No, the trees aren't dying. No, the cold snaps haven't arrived. And no, most of us still have our sweaters tucked away in the closet.

But change is in the air.

I've heard people say that change is horrible—but is it really? What if change is a necessary part of growth? I've come to believe that every new page of change, no matter how difficult, has something to help me learn and grow.

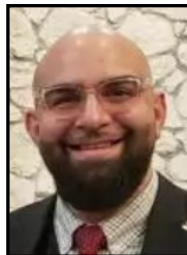
I understand that not all change feels good. But is that truly the whole story? Again, I've come to believe that every change—when placed in God's hands—has the potential to become good, even great. God is able and willing to guide us through whatever change we face. Here's what you can do: place your situation in His hands.

When I was a boy, I often became overwhelmed by things I couldn't do. When that happened, I would run to the kitchen where my mother was working, hand the problem to her, and ask for help. Little did I know that this simple act would also shape my spiritual life.

Try it. It just might help.

Until next time, this is Pastor Tello reminding you that

Thoughts Do Change Lives!



ABC Christian Bookstore

505 S. College Avenue
College Place, WA 99324

(509) 529-0723

Storytime for KIDS!
Every Wednesday
10:15—11:00 a.m.



**Kid's Programming on
Blue Mt. TV & Bluestream**

Weekdays, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Appointments are available through the church office on
Monday — Thursday
(541) 938-3066 or (509) 386-6071

Pulpit Schedule

September 05 Pastor Howard Tello
September 12 Pastor Howard Tello
September 19 Pastor Howard Tello
September 26 Gospel Outreach

Offering Schedule

September 05 Local Church Budget
September 12 World Budget
September 19 Local Church Budget
September 26 Adventist Education

Contacts

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ACS Thrift Store: (541) 938-9188
Email: office@miltonsda.org
Website: <https://www.miltonadventist.org>
Facebook: facebook.com/miltonadventist
Newsletter: LLFenton45@outlook.com

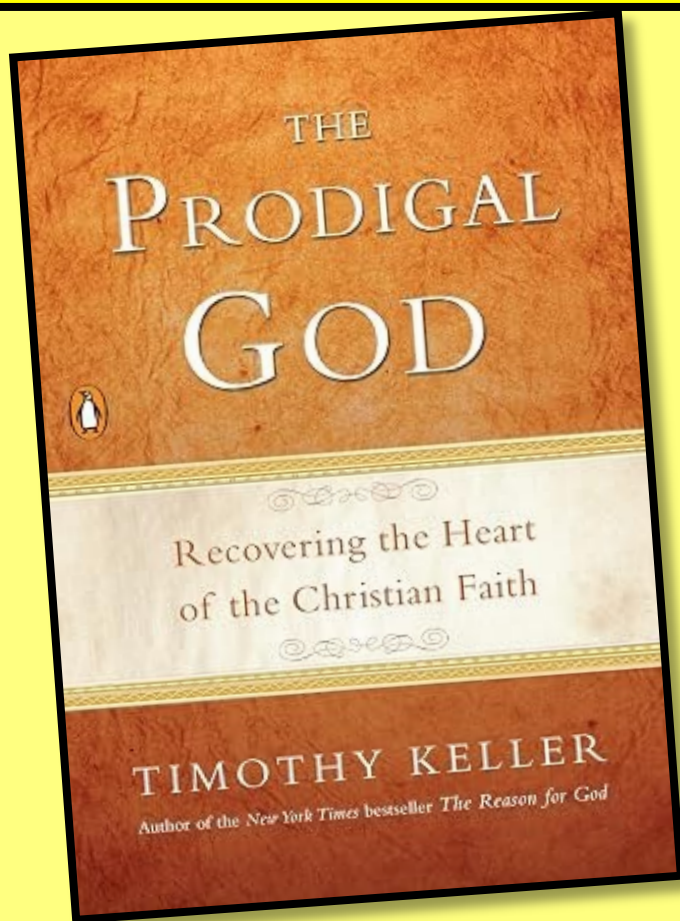
PLEASE PRAY FOR

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Blue Mountain Broadcasting | 3. College Place ABC |
| 2. Gospel Outreach | 4. Blue Mountain Therapeutic Riding |

Consider This

"Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that it was impossible for him, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil. He was made captive by Satan, and would have remained so forever had not God specially interposed. It was the tempter's purpose to thwart the divine plan in man's creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation. And he would point to all this evil as the result of God's work in creating man" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 17).

Recommended Reading



The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith was written by a Presbyterian pastor Timothy Keller. Until his death on May 19, 2023, at age seventy-two, he faithfully served as the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, where his gospel-centered teaching helped many urbanites rediscover the depth of God's grace.

This little book is written with clarity and compassion, making it a rich recommendation for our church family this September.

From the back cover: "In *The Prodigal God*, [Keller] uses one of the best-known Christian parables to reveal an unexpected message of hope and salvation. Taking his trademark intellectual approach to understanding Christianity, the author uncovers the essential message of Jesus, locked inside his most familiar parable. Within that parable, Jesus reveals God's prodigal grace toward both the irreligious and the moralistic. This book will challenge both the devout and skeptics to see Christianity in a whole new way."

I only recently discovered the ministry of Timothy Keller, and this book was recommended to me as a good introduction to his work. I finished reading the 149 pages in a little less than a month and immediately gave it a five-star rating. The one thought that kept echoing in my mind was, "***This book is 100% pure gospel gold!***" I wish every member of our church could receive the message presented in this book!

This is the same gospel of salvation and justification by grace through faith alone which was delivered to our church leaders in 1888 at Minneapolis, and which was roundly supported by Ellen White herself. Today, over 138 years later, each of us still needs to grow deeply into knowing and living this bedrock truth. Let us daily "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 4:18).

Pastor Loren Fenton

(*The Prodigal God* is available at <https://www.amazon.com>)

North Pacific Union Conference Elects New President August 23, 2026

Sunday, August 23, 2026: Delegates to the 30th constituency meeting of North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists elected **Pastor Doug Bing** as the new president for the Union. Pastor Bing replaces **Pastor John Freedman**, who was retiring at the end of the quinquennial session.

Previously, Pastor Bing served as president of the Washington Conference. He is also joined by **Erik VanDenburgh** as the incoming vice-president for administration/secretary (formerly president of the Hawaii Conference), and **Jeff Folgelquist** as chief financial officer/treasurer (previously associate treasurer and property manager for Washington Conference), both of whom are newly elected to their posts of service.

Other incumbent officers and departmental leaders were returned to their respective posts by vote of the gathered delegates.



Pastor Doug Bing
President
North Pacific Union Conference



Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church
1244 N. Elizabeth Street
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862-9736

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Church Leadership Directory

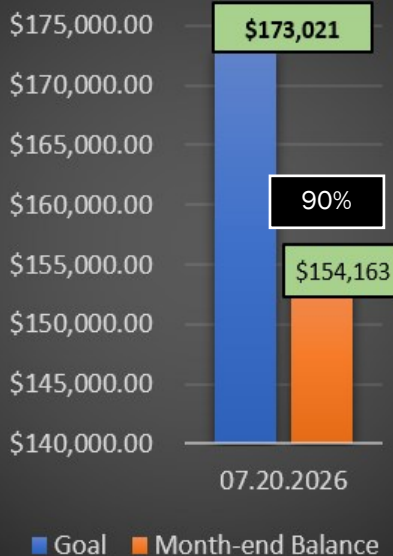
The new Church Leadership Directory for July 2026 - June 2028 is now available from the church office.

Call (541) 938-3066 for your copy.

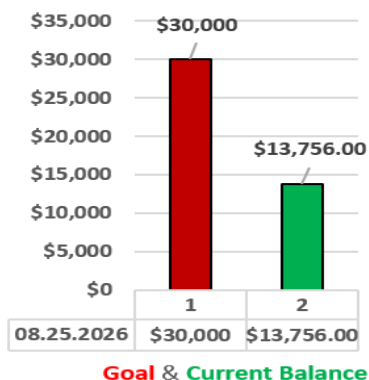
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Stewardship Corner

Roof RENEW



Maintenance Reserve Fund



A PARTING THOUGHT

"Serving With Joy"

Joy simply shines—quietly, steadily—whenever we offer ourselves in love. Serving with joy is not about having the perfect attitude every moment, but about letting Christ's life flow through us to bless others.

The Apostle Peter tells us, "If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:11 NIV). We don't serve in our own strength, we serve in His. And when we do, joy grows naturally.

Serving with joy begins by recognizing that God has already placed gifts within us—some obvious, some quiet, some still unfolding. Every gift becomes an opportunity to reflect Christ: a listening ear, a gentle word, a practical skill, a willingness to help. **Joy rises when we stop worrying about whether our gifts are impressive and simply offer what we have.**

It also grows when we remember why we serve. We serve because Christ first loved us, and His love moves us outward. When love leads, joy follows.

And joy deepens when we see how even small acts matter. A kindness offered at the right moment, a burden lifted, a prayer spoken quietly for someone who needs strength—these simple actions become places where Christ's presence touches another life.

As September unfolds, may your service be light, willing, and rooted in grace. May you discover again the joy that comes from giving yourself to God's work—one act of love at a time.

Ever growing in grace—ever serving with joy.

Loren Fenton, DMin
Newsletter Editor