Helping the Homebound
The Vancouver, Wash.-based relief agency Forward Edge International found itself suddenly unable to send out mission teams and also had to cancel three fundraising events. Still desiring to reach out to others, Forward Edge sent out an email calling for volunteers willing to help other homebound citizens in the Portland-Vancouver area with errands. According to President Joe Anfuso, a “small army” stepped forward to help pick up groceries and prescriptions or meet other needs.

In an online video, Anfuso termed it “serendipity” — responding with faith and obedience to God-ordained, unexpected circumstances. “Take advantage of the unique opportunities available to us right now to be the Body of Christ,” Anfuso said.

Filling Food Banks
Students of Christian Culinary Academy, a small school in Cannon Beach, have found ways to bless their North Coast community during the pandemic. “These amazing students have been baking bread from scratch and donating the loaves to the South Clatsop Food Bank in Seaside and the Cannon Beach Food Pantry,” said Iris Krizo, the academy’s director and president of Christian Chefs International. “Since the pandemic started, this week (as of late April) will mark the students’ 1000th loaf of bread baked for the community. They have also been baking cookies, which have been served to the homeless by the Astoria Rescue Mission and Warrenton Rescue Mission. Our students’ newest opportunity to help is by making whole meals for at-risk lock-ins here in Cannon Beach.”

Krizo said donations and words of encouragement have allowed the students to perform this outreach.

Virtual Concert Hosted
Sunnyside Adventist Church hosted international violinist Jamie Jorge in a virtual concert April 17. The Adventists’ Oregon Conference also announced that its annual campmeeting in Gladstone will still happen in July, featuring speaker Iosua. But in an online format only.

Dental Emergencies Answered
For 10 years, Tigard-based Medical Teams International has partnered with local dental professionals to provide urgent dental care to people who lack access to care in Oregon and Washington. But during the pandemic, dentists are unable to provide routine services, Medical Teams has created a pool of dentists in the Salem area to see people with dental emergencies at the agency’s dental care van just north of the downtown area. This was to be offered only as long as dentists are unable to give routine care in their own offices.

Special Easter Outreach
For Easter, famed Portland-based evangelist Luis Palau offered a special digital experience sharing a message of hope in the midst of his career and these trying times. His evangelistic message, in both English and Spanish, was made available free of charge at EasterHope.org as a resource for churches, media outlets, and individuals.

The massive online effort was a direct response to the needs of churches nationwide struggling to keep up with the constant demand for solid digital content amid the outbreak, and the millions of people needing hope and peace during this time of uncertainty. Along with offering the message free to churches to use on Easter Sunday, Palau’s message aired worldwide through television, radio, church services, and on social media through the Palau Association’s 19 million followers on its “Hope with God” online community. The message also marked more than two years of Palau’s ongoing battle with Stage IV lung cancer. Palau has beaten the odds since doctors gave him only months to live at his diagnosis in December 2017. For access to the Easter message in both Spanish and English, and for more resources from the Palau team, visit EasterHope.org

Hope with God Promoted
Palau’s team also is offering resources and the opportunity to join a community of nearly 20 million believers through social media during the COVID-19 outbreak, at covd.hopewithgod.com. Palau’s “Hope with God” platform includes evangelistic videos, articles, and resources from Andrew Palau, his wife Wendy, and other evangelists. The content is meant to encourage people to use this time of heightened spiritual interest and need to share the Good News with their friends and family. With the Palau team’s vigorous international travel on hold, the team is channeling much of their resources and experience to multi-
McMinnville church takes extensive steps to ensure children are protected

McMinnville — Two years after a respected member of one of this city’s largest churches was arrested and eventually convicted of — sexually abusing girls in his home, that church is taking extensive, detailed steps to ensure children are protected. The church’s efforts are to return to normal once the current pandemic shutdown ends.

As reported by the News Register newspaper of McMinnville, Church on the Hill took the following steps:

•Trained staff and volunteers to work in pairs and teams with kids so there is no anonymity or even appearance of adults being alone with them.

•Remodeled some areas of the church to increase visibility so there is no place to be hidden. Every Sunday School classroom now has a window, and tunnels in the church’s play area have been modified.

•Last fall hired Jessica Briggs as family ministry director to work with children and families in the Church of the Nazarene congregation of 900 to 1,000 people. Briggs has a master’s degree in social work, a background helping foster children and trauma and abuse victims, and experience advocating for children in court.

•Reinforced its policies for volunteers to ensure all have the same focus on prevention.

•Worked closely with Juliette’s House, a local child abuse assessment center, to make sure staff and volunteers are trained to understand, prevent and report possible abuse.

One of the primary protective measures is the “test drive” has resulted from the church’s abuse prevention program. The “test drive” has resulted from the church’s abuse prevention program.

PORTLAND — What the Oregonian described as an “incremental legal battle” has resulted from the recent and unexpected closure of Concordia University here.

As reported by the newspaper, a California-based technology firm HotChalk — which partnered with the university for more than a decade with online education — is suing both Concordia and its parent company for $302 million in damages.

HotChalk claims it was defrauded, alleging that the university transferred several valuable assets to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod just days before announcing in February it would close after the spring semester because of a financial crisis. But the closure of the university immediately put HotChalk in a financial bind of its own, and it laid off half its employees.

The closure stunned thousands of Concordia students, faculty, staff and supporters, and also sparked frustration and anger for many;

HotChalk, which in 2018 entered into a new 20-year deal with the university, was informed of the closure only 25 minutes before the public announcement.

The university was in deep financial trouble by last fall, but never told its students.

HotChalk further alleges that intolerance by the synod prompted the shutdown and amounted to intentional interference in HotChalk’s contract with Concordia. A report by the Oregonian shortly after the announcement raised questions about whether conflicts between the university and the socially conservative synod on sexual orientation issues was a major factor in the closure.

According to HotChalk, it was the company that alleges Concordia missed several of the large weekly payments it owed, but that HotChalk agreed last fall to back off on its collection efforts while the university went to the Lutheran synod for a bailout.

Synod leaders agreed and the organization’s financial arm, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, agreed to give Concordia a $4 million line of credit. But according to the Oregonian, minutes of that meeting indicated the synod was concerned with Concordia’s support of a gay alliance on campus and would not provide any more emergency funding until Concordia’s stance on gay issues became more in line with the synod’s conservative beliefs.

Longtime partner sues Concordia for $302 million

With no more help from the synod, the university’s board of trustees felt they had no choice but to shut Concordia down.

But at the same time, claims HotChalk, the synod recorded new property deeds giving the synod a financial interest in Concordia’s land in northeast Portland and in Boise, Idaho, where Concordia’s law school has been based. HotChalk claims it was a fraudulent transfer done secretly to benefit the synod to the tune of about $30 million at the expense of other creditors.

HotChalk claims Concordia could have survived it if it had done some major cost-cutting. In its lawsuit, the company states that it pleaded with Concordia to cut its sports program and other extracurricular programs.

Lawsuit against Grants Pass filed on behalf of abortion opponents

Grants Pass city government to fight for Christians who feel called to speak out for the unborn. The lawsuit was filed by OneNewNow.com, PAIR filed the lawsuits on behalf of Abolish Abortion Oregon (AAOR), an organization of Christian evangelists who travel throughout Oregon advocating for the protection of the unborn.

AAOR conveys its message through various methods, including open-air preaching, passing out tracts, initiating civil conversations, and holding up pre-life signs. AAOR often preaches their message on public sidewalks near abortion providers’ places of business, including a Planned Parenthood facility in Grants Pass, as well as other public places.

The two cases focus on separate matters. One, involving the Grants Pass Police Department, whose officers have repeatedly attempted to silence AAOR’s members for past 2½ years, according to PII.

“Addressed in the first lawsuit, the noise ordinance the police officers enforced with the university for HotChalk — which parted with the university for HotChalk — which parted

The other lawsuit involves both Josephine County, in which Grants Pass is located, and the city itself. That case focuses on last year’s county court at which Grants Pass police officers attempted to enforce restrictions on speech enacted by the county.

Such restrictions included prohibitions on amplification and signs, which commercial entities were allowed to have, but not the requirement that speakers remain in a tiny designated “free expression” area.

AAOR’s members declined to submit to the restrictions, the police officers threatened to cite and arrest them.

OneNewNow.com attempted to get a response from the city, but did not receive one in time for its report.

Dave Anderson, a former attorney who has been the church’s pastor for almost three years, has recently transitioned to the superintendent of the Oregon-Pacific Nazarene District, emphasized to the newspaper that these steps were already under way before these issues were filed against Vaughn Monagan, who is now in prison and no longer associated with the church.

Monagan had been a board member and a youth leader at the church many years. A mortgage broker, he also has been active in Fellowship Ministries.

In October 2017, a woman accused Monagan of sexually abusing her during sleepovers at this house when she was 10 or 11 years old. Two other women made similar accusations dating from between 2007 and 2009. All the girls were friends of Monagan’s two daughters.

Monagan was convicted last November of two counts of first-degree sexual abuse. He received 10 and ½ years in prison and is seeking a new trial.

New volunteers in the church’s children’s programs first go through an interview with youth pastor Mark McCulloch, who has been with the church for 5 and ½ years. He then gives each one what he calls a “test drive” so he can observe whether they are able to do a particular job according to the church’s standards. He also talks with them about rules specific to youth leaders.

Anderson and McCulloch both said the church is taking safety and prevention very seriously.

GRANTS PASS — The California-based legal defense organization Pacific Justice Institute (PJI) recently filed two lawsuits in federal court against the Grants Pass city government to fight for Christians who feel called to speak out for the unborn. The claim was reported by OneNewNow.com, PII filed the lawsuits on behalf of Abolish Abortion Oregon (AAOR), an organization of Christian evangelists who travel throughout Oregon advocating for the protection of the unborn.

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Giving is the Good Life by best-selling author of Oregon is one of 65 finalists for the 2020 Christian Book Awards sponsored by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. The award honors the “best of the year” in 12 categories. Five finalists are chosen in each category, and a winner is awarded in each category. The winners will be announced during the ECPA Leadership Summit in Nashville, Tenn. This year’s award show was canceled due to the current COVID-19 crisis. Winners will instead be announced in a special online 30-minute broadcast May 5. Published by Tyndale House, Alcorn’s book is nominated in the Christian Living category. In Giving Is the Good Life, Alcorn teaches biblical principles of generosity and tells stories of people who have found fulfillment by obeying radical principles in practice. Each story is a practical application that aims to stimulate the reader’s imagination and expand their dreams of serving Jesus in fresh ways. For more information on the awards and the online broadcast, go to christianbookawards.com.

The next provost of George Fox will be Andrea Scott, dean and provost at the Jabs School of Business at California Baptist University since 2016. She will begin her new duties July 1. Originally from Kathryn, Kansas, she is a former Fulbright Scholar and a trustee at Wheaton College (Illinois). “I was drawn to George Fox University’s promise that each student will be ‘known’ person, both personally and spiritually,” Scott said. “It is a powerful commitment that has the whole student at the heart of the institution.” George Fox President Robbi Baker said Scott’s “love of the Christian mission and teaching have prepared her for this role.” During her tenure at the California school, the Jabs School of Business has experienced 10 percent annual growth, with program expansion including undergraduate majors, a master of science degree in information technology as well as an MBA business analytics concentration. Scott brings 12 years of the market faculty at Pepperdine University’s Graziadio School of Business and Management in California. Scott brings to George Fox a quarter century of business experience and has had significant engagement with service agencies as well as nonprofit organizations. She has advertising agreements with national clients such as General Mills and Wrigley in DBB and BBDO in Chicago, worked with NBC during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, and was a business analyst for Honeywell, Inc. She also has served as chair of the marketing committee on the board of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Scott has a bachelor’s degree from Wheaton College, an MBA from Emory University and a doctorate in marketing from the University of South Florida. Scott replaces Linda Samek, provost at George Fox since 2013. Samek concludes her tenure with more than 35 years of higher education experience.

Salem-based evangelist Reid Saunders and his team recently happily noted that they have been directing their international outreachs for a full decade. An email to friends of the Saunders ministry in June 2020, he noted, was “a helpful planning, prayer, negotiating, encouraging, communici- cation, and recording one of every one of Daniels’ endeavors. Daniels has overseen more than 40 outreachs in the past year and recorded more than 80,000 decisions for Christ on those trips. Born in Guatemala to third-generation Christian parents, she has opened the door for ministry in every Spanish-speaking country. She has made connections with not only Latin-American pastors, but also leaders, coordinators and other Christian missionaries throughout the world. In the email message, the Saunders team commended Daniels for her enthusiasm, genuine passion for people, servant’s heart and “the patience of Job,” and a love for Jesus: “With a keen sense of insight and empathy, she relies on the prompting of the Spirit to open the door to the next person in guiding one that needs encouragement, or an individ- ual in the crowd that is ready to make a decision. With total reliance on prayer and listening to the often-quiet voice of the Spirit, Ruth is able to find open doors where roadblocks have halted progress for every- one else.” Daniels and her husband of 33 years, Pat, have a son and daughter-law serving missions in Haiti with a Mission.

Oregon author Patrick Allen released The Shepherd, Gentle Guide and Glorious Heron, a collection of 15 disci- pleship meditations, organized around three meta- phors from the 23rd Psalm. Suited for either personal devotionals or small discipleship groups, the book is published by Wipf & Stock. Each chapter contains an impactful personal story, an inviting meditation from a line of Psalms, the wisdom of Scripture, some words of practical advice, and questions for reflection and discussion. According to Allen, the 23rd Psalm connects profoundly with the human spirit, whether one is grieving, hop- ing, or just plain suffering, because of the “approach- ing, all-seeing, all-loving, all-knowing, all-able, inviting metaphors for God that are the good shepherd, the gentle shepherd, the great shepherd, and the gracious host, as well as the full range of human emotions that rise up within us as we read them.” A longtime university administrator and professor at various schools nationally, Allen retired after serving as provost at George Fox University. His other books include Morning Resolve: To Live a Simple, Sincere, and Steadfast Life (Cascade, 2015) and For Today: A Prayer when Life Gets Messy (Cascade, 2019). He and his wife, Lori, live in Newberg and are active at Newberg Church of the Nazarene.

A recent story in The Columbian newspaper in Vancouver, Wash., focused on the retirement of Tom Iberle after nearly a decade as executive director of Friends of the Carpenter. Now in its 21st year, it is a nonprofit, faith-based day facility serving vulnerable members of the community, whether they’re low-income or have a developmental disability or some other challenge. That mission applies to visitors and volunteers alike who may not be strug- gling financially or materially but could use spiritual and emotional support. Those who come to the outreach are invited to sit around a table with others and help with woodworking or other various projects. While the wood products do provide some income for the ministry, the sense of pur- pose and the relationships formed at the table that are seen as far more important. Duane Sich launched Friends of the Carpenter in his own garage in Vancouver’s Lincoln neighborhood in the late 1990s and still volunteers doing woodworking. Iberle’s Sta- rch, started as a volunteer at Friends of the Carpenter when his younger son was in middle school and had a class trip to the nonprofit. This was before Friends of the Carpenter occupied its current warehouse west Vancouver. Iberle served two stints as volunteer manager and became executive director in 2013. The board of directors is assessing and restructuring its small staff, which includes rethinking what the execu- tive director does. Art Edgerton, board pres- ident for the past year, is interim executive director and Bill Van Herk is operations manager. He is a retired pastor in the Reformed Church who is moving to Clark County from the Yakima area. During this transition in leadership, said Iberle, the outreach will seek to get on better financial foot- ing. One of those initiatives is launching a pre-apprentice- ship program for people con- sidering a career in carpentry. The smaller weekly projects already occurring at Friends of the Carpenter have opened the door for ministry in every Spanish-speaking country. She has made connections with not only Latin-American pastors, but also leaders, coordinators and other Christian missionaries throughout the world. In the email message, the Saunders team commended Daniels for her enthusiasm, genuine passion for people, servant’s heart and “the patience of Job,” and a love for Jesus: “With a keen sense of insight and empathy, she relies on the prompting of the Spirit to open the door to the next person in guiding one that needs encouragement, or an individ- ual in the crowd that is ready to make a decision. With total reliance on prayer and listening to the often-quiet voice of the Spirit, Ruth is able to find open doors where roadblocks have halted progress for every- one else.” Daniels and her husband of 33 years, Pat, have a son and daughter-law serving missions in Haiti with a Mission.

A cover story in the April issue of HouseNews in east Multnomah County featured Greg Calahan, one of the three main teaching pastors at Good Shepherd Commu- nity Church in Boring. Titled “Pastor of Nature,” the arti- cle notes that Calahan, who is 5 foot, 3 and 3/4 inches tall and David facing Goliath has not let a height differential keep him from taking on big challenges in life.” Raised in Michigan, he faced a variety of difficulties while growing up in a broken home. At age 15 he wound up living with his grandparents. Through the influence of Christian friends geometrically, he often faced the challenge of not understanding the gift of faith in Jesus. Aspiring to someday be a minister, he hoped to be able to supplement a minis- try income with a steady day job. He began to take business classes at the University of Missouri. Discovering that he had a knack for numbers, he majored in accounting, eventually graduating as the top student in the business school and taking a position in a respected regional ac- counting firm. He also enrolled in Michigan Theo- logical Seminary, working toward a master of divinity degree and teaming up with co-worker Bob Bryant on a church plant in the Detroit area. But his wife of 11 years shocked him by filing for divorce, and he became single parent to his 9-year-old daughter. Devast- ated, Calahan was unable to continue the church plant. Moving in with his mother, he spent the next two years trying to figure out the direction of his life. Things worsened when he was diagnosed with hemochro- matosis, a blood disorder. It was while he was alone on a hike in California that he suddenly became extremely weak and dehydrated, unable to get back up. Expecting to die, he prayed for help and within 30 seconds a stranger arrived, gave him cold water and then left just as suddenly. That experience reminded Calahan that God is never distant and would guide him. Soon after he and Tanah, were wed, and they began attending a fast-growing church in the Detroit area. There he became a full-time teaching pastor in 2013, leaving the accounting profession — 25 years after his initial call to the minis- try. But by four years later, Bryant had moved from Michigan to become lead pas- tor at Good Shepherd, and Calahan sensed a call to help the ministry at the Oregon church, even though there was no ministeri- al job open on staff. Yet he and Tanah, who now have five children and a grandson, felt called to come to Oregon anyway. While in the course of moving in 2018, a youth pastor position opened up at Good Shepherd and Calahan was hired. Then last year he was named one of the church’s three teaching pastors. Even though Bryant’s time as the church’s senior pastor was short-lived and he moved back to Michigan in 2019, Calahan and his family have stayed and thrived. They love Oregon and say they have no inclination to move back to Michigan.

Christian News Northwest is TEMPORARILY online-only but plans to return to print when stay-at-home orders are lifted.
‘Sinking sand’ now evident during crisis

Letters to the Editor

As I grow older, and I see all of these events happening, I start to realize that God has “mopped” out my life and the lives of everyone from before we were even born.

So, we need to realize that God is in charge of everything that happens. We need to be content with whatever God brings in our lives. This means that we need to be content with whatever happens in our lives, whether it be good or bad.

I encourage all of you to try to let God into your life and see that He will give you abundant life in Him and Him alone as we leave behind the many earthly desires we have now. If we look for the eternity we will have, then we will begin to see that all His promises never fail us.

Thankful and grateful

The Bible says “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” Although this is a very different and uncertain time, I can’t think of a better time to make a list of all of the things that we are thankful for.

We have been taught by the apostle Paul that “to be content in all things.”

So, why? It is because I realize not only that God is in control, but I also realize that He is always with me.

I find the answer, and maybe you did also, when St. Paul says, “to be content in all things.”

As Christians, we need to understand that God is in control and that He is always with us. We need to trust in Him and His plan for our lives.

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Ministry sets up hospital fast

NEW YORK CITY — The Christian relief agency Samaritan’s Purse, headed by Franklin Graham, last month opened an emergency field hospital in Central Park to provide additional specialized care for victims of COVID-19. The hospital was set up adjacent to the Mount Sinai Hospital and the main facility of the Mount Sinai Health System. With nearly half of all U.S. cases occurring in New York City, medical centers were overrun and in desperate need of added capacity. Samaritan’s Purse worked closely with Mount Sinai Health System staff and city officials as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency to deploy the 668-bed hospital to help meet the needs of local hospitals that faced an unprecedented wave of sick patients. “We are grateful to be working alongside Mount Sinai Health System to help meet this critical need,” said Graham. “In a time of crisis, we all have to come together to help people who are suffering. Samaritan’s Purse is responding in Jesus’ name — please pray for this deadly virus.” The hospital opened less than two weeks after an identical unit was established in Italy. The New York City location was staffed by 76 doctors, nurses, paramedics, lab technicians, and other critical support personnel.

‘Drive-in’ worship defended

While churches’ establishment of “drive-in” worship during the pandemic shutdown has not been challenged in Oregon (see photo on Page 1 of such a service), it has in other states. On April 17, Attorney General of Vermont Robert Scott ruled that a simple Baptist Church in Greenville, Miss., sued the city after police officers issued $500 tickets to people attending the church’s drive-in service April 8. Police shut down the service in accordance with a city ban on large gatherings amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A federal class-action lawsuit was later filed in Greenville’s federal court. The city has reached an agreement to dismiss the lawsuit.

India orders biggest-ever lockdown

NEW DELHI, India — The world’s biggest coronavirus lockdown has been extended — leaving more than a billion people in India on the edge of survival amid fears of mass starvation, missions agency Gospel for Asia reported.

On April 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended the strict nationwide lockdown, until May 3, essentially placing India’s 1.3 billion people one out of every six people in the world — under stay-at-home orders. The latest order means the entire nation — soon to overtake China as the world’s most populous — faces a six-week shutdown in total.

Millions of furloughed day laborers and farmworkers — the workforce’s backbone — face the grim threat of starvation.

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“GFA world staff are actively praying for the honorable prime minister and his commendable efforts to protect the Indian people from this virus,” said Gospel for Asia founder K.P. Yohannan.

On April 13, as church workers distributed food to out-of-work day laborers facing starvation, a widow named Magili told them: “I’ve been suffering from a headache for a week. My husband died a month ago and I was left with nothing to eat. You are the only one to help me, and I was crying inside. You sent me food by God.”
Virus makes several weeks very scary for Salem congregation

SALEM — By Easter, the worst appeared to be over for Salem First Church of the Nazarene, but the several weeks preceding were scary and difficult for the congregation because of COVID-19.

As reported in a lengthy story on SalemReporter.com, 10 members of the church, 1,500 Market St. N.E., tested positive for the virus and two died from it. With each passing day, Executive Pastor Jerry Morris grew to dread the updates on how the church family was impacted.

One of the first affected was Joshua Lindley, 39, Halsey, who had returned from a trip to Arkansas, he felt tired attending the church's March 8 service but assumed it was simply due to traveling.

It was at that service that Bill Carr, interim lead pastor, had Lindley announce that the congregation was temporarily stopping handshakes, a precaution to limit any spread of the virus which was just then being held in Oregon.

Within a week, Lindley was seriously ill. His energy was gone, he was fighting to breathe after walking just a few feet. A doctor at an urgent care clinic sent him home with antibiotics, suspecting Lindley had a kidney infection.

Meanwhile, public life was rapidly shutting down around Salem and all of Oregon, and on March 11, Gov. Kate Brown banned gatherings larger than 200 people. Salem First Nazarene holds two services on Sunday, each with 200 to 300 people, and church leaders began discussions on shutting down the campus.

That evening, Morris himself started feeling ill with fever, aches and shortness of breath. Several days later his wife Cathi had similar symptoms. While they were in isolation on March 20, they discovered they both had tested positive.

They have agreed, because the 70-year-old pastor of Longview Pentecostal Church is grateful to have survived a very rough battle in March with the deadly virus. He does not know where he caught the virus. He had attended the church's March 8 service but assumed it was simply due to traveling.

While staying at an urgent care clinic, Hanchey's was one of the earlier cases in Washington and one of the first two in Cowlitz County when it was confirmed on March 20.

Doctors found he had pneumonia in both lungs. As reported by The Daily News of PeaceHealth St. John Medical Center in Longview. Hanchey was the one of the earlier cases in Washington and one of the first two in Cowlitz County when it was confirmed on March 20.

He was in isolation at the hospital for the following days, on oxygen and given antibiotics. Staff were monitoring his temperature, blood pressure and respiratory sounds whenever he came in his room, and eventually they brought Mary from visiting Hanchey.

During a three-week period, Hanchey lost 23 pounds and stood to feel that he might soon die. At that point he did what he described to the newspaper as "some arguing with the Lord" on whether it was his time.

But on March 19 Hanchey's breathing started stabilizing and by the following day, he could walk around the room without needing oxygen. He was soon discharged and his lungs have since cleared up fully.

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By the time Easter arrived, those who were still ill seemed to be recovering, and only one church member remained in the hospital with COVID-19, said Morris.

The newspaper story noted that for now, as the pandemic continues, the families affected can't gather in person to share in the shared experience. But those that talk about it say it has underscored the importance of faith and the role that church and community play in their lives.
George Fox and Jakes to partner in doctorate

TIGARD — Those interested in learning more about the African diaspora and the rich history of Africa’s cultural and spiritual contributions to the world will have the opportunity to study it extensively with this fall’s launch of a Doctor of Ministry in Spirit-filled Global Leadership: The African Diaspora.

George Fox University’s Portland Seminary in Tigard and Texas-based T.D. Jakes Divinity School will partner to offer the degree. It will provide in-depth study into the history of the largest forced migration of a people group and equip participants on leading churches, ministries and society around its generational ramifications.

Founded by its chancellor, Bishop T.D. Jakes, Jakes Divinity School is based in Dallas and provides academic rigor with experiential learning, spiritual formation and innovation to prepare leaders for the future of ministry in both the church and society.

Jakes Divinity School offers fully accredited degrees through its university partners Portland Seminary, Vanguard University in California and North Central University in Minnesota.

“Portland Seminary is excited to partner with a church-based divinity school that has international impact and empowers believers to take the gospel into the world,” said George Fox President Robin Baker.

For more on the two schools, go to jakesdivinity.org and seminary.georgefox.edu.
Especially timely now, daily online prayer coordinated for Oregon

Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, online prayer for Oregon is taking place seven days a week, seven days a week through Zoom video conferencing. The effort is sponsored by Pray Oregon, a prayer arm of the harvest fields. Pray Oregon seeks to build bridges relationally with prayer focused on the state and to encourage interaction with Jesus across Oregon.

“Please join in focused prayer to overcome the coronavirus pandemic and the economic crisis,” said Peter Carlson of Corvallis, a co-founder of Pray Oregon. “We do this agreed upon with the purpose of God for our nation and our world. He also left us to live through the wilderness.” Carlson cited Psalm 136:16.

Pray Oregon also sponsors weekly Tuesday evening prayer at 7 p.m., facilitated by Coral Rose Shipley of Seaside and Betty Denny of Trail. Anyone interested in starting additional evening prayer times on other days is invited to contact Carlson at 541-936-2703.

“Our new session on Sunday mornings, praying for the Church, is one of the strategic ways that we are praying into the many disciple-making movements being launched across the state,” said Carlson.

“We are witnessing the traditional Church form dramatically changing with real-time gatherings online, from our own homes. The Church has been thrust out of the building, now let’s pray that we will go out into the community,” Carlson said.

Zoom is a free application which provides video conferencing. No account is required to join the meeting. Connect with Zoom any of three ways:

• Join from web browser on PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://zoom.us/j/5419997777?pwd=999777
• Zoom for G Suite app on Smartphone with Meeting ID: 5419997777, Password 999777
• Telephone: 669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 5419997777

For assistance, contact Carlson at 541-936-2703.

The daily morning prayer topics and the facilitators are:

- Sundays, The Church, Peter Carlson of Corvallis.
- Sundays, Regional International Focus, Pastor Garth Johnson of Agape Christian Center in Baker City.
- Tuesdays, Awakening and Revival, Ross Worland of Albany.
- Wednesdays, House of Prayer and Intercession, Pastor Garth Johnson of Trail Life USA.
- Thursdays, Education and Disciple-Making, Kathy White of Tidewater from 7 to 7:30 a.m., and Peter Carlson from 7:30 to 8 a.m. White City.

National Day of Prayer goes on

Although it clearly forced a format change, several activities, the current Coronavirus pandemic is in no way slowing down the National Day of Prayer which takes place this year on Thursday, May 7 — the 68th run of the observance.

This year’s theme is “Pray God’s Glory Across the Earth,” based on Habakkuk 2:14.

“Although the COVID-19 virus outbreak has resulted in quarantines, sheltering in place, and church service closures, the Body of Christ has moved forth in creative ways to honor this National Day of Prayer,” said Linda David, a member of the Oregon leadership team for the prayer day. “Although formats may look different this year, large and small prayer events will go forth. Some may include worship along with targeted prayers for our nation, government, communities, and families. You are invited to join with others to be a part of the National Day of Prayer in praying with others from your city through events, live streaming, or social media.”

A nationwide observance of the National Day of Prayer will still take place on May 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Pacific time. It will be broadcast, streamed and posted in many ways including at nationaldayofprayer.org. In addition, it can be seen on Facebook Live, will be cross-posted by Instagram, and can be viewed on television on GodTV and Daystar.

At press time, plans also were being firmed up for a virtual event on Facebook. Live from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a different Oregon city facilitating each hour. For Oregon and Washington event details, go to www.nationaldayofprayer.org/events.

Pandemic

media platforms, specifically reaching Italy, Spain, Portugal, and other regions especially affected by the current pandemic.

Drive-in Worship Services Held

Drive-in services were briefly held in the parking lot at Living Hope Church in Vancouver but were not continued out of sensitivity to the stay-at-home mandate issued by Washington’s governor. However, Oregon has had several successful drive-in services. Calvary Chapel Salem on March 22 launched drive-in Sunday worship at both 8:45 and 11 a.m. Attenders stay in their vehicles during worship to comply with social distancing, and the message is shared over an FM radio signal, or they can roll down their windows and listen to it through speakers. Among others hosting drive-in services have been Grace Church in Molalla, Creation Church in Bend, Holley Christian Church near Sweet Home, New Spirit Church in Medford, Bible Missionary Church in Salem, Peoples Church in Salem, City of Destiny Church in Springfield, Ruch Community Church in Jacksonville and Hope City Church in White City.

Backyard Campouts Urged

Trail Life USA, the nationwide Christ-centered scouting program for boys, invited America’s families to take a break from their preoccupation with the COVID-19 crisis and spend time in their own backyards April 17. “Our resourceful troops have held their meetings online for the past few weeks during self-isolation,” said Mark Hancock, of Trail Life USA, which has more than 30,000 members in 830-plus troops across all 50 states. “But this is a time when cabin fever sets in — and boys especially need to get outdoors in a safe environment. Anything you can do as parents to help re-cast this tense time is good for our kids.”

Online Theater Classes

Journey Theater Arts Group has offered theater classes to Portland-area youth since 2002, but for now has switched to online classes to meet the needs of students at home. Classes include beginning courses in dance, drama and voice for new students as well as acting, tap, playwriting, puppetry and auditioning for experienced students. Classes began in early April and meet two or more times per week for eight weeks. Families new to Journey Theater received a discount off their registration.

Course Format Changes

Under normal conditions, the worldwide Alpha program, an evangelistic course that introduces the basics of the Christian faith, meets in churches, homes, workplaces, prisons, universities and a wide variety of other locations. But with the arrival of the pandemic, a recent Alpha series in this part of the Northwest finished instead through online meetings, and additional new online meetings started in recent weeks. Sponsoring the new meetings are Westside: A Compassion to Action, a Clark County, Wash.-based outreach headed by evangelist Chris Overstreet, launched a

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New Volunteers Fill a Big Gap

Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) relies regularly on volunteers to provide its various services, but the pandemic forced the agency to ask all of its volunteers in high-risk health categories to stay home. “Some of our volunteers asked, ‘How are you going to do this without us?’ and they were right,” said Executive Director Laura Pascoe. “It’s been really hard without them. Some things have been impossible and we’ve had to stop, but it’s been the right thing to do.” But because of the need, PACS put out a call seeking help delivering food boxes, and people have shown up and consistently done so each day, said Pascoe. “We’ve taught them how to do it with no contact, how to be socially responsible — not sharing more than food,” she said. “But people’s willingness to come out and do this in a safe way has been so encouraging. People have helped with everything, from moving boxes to food distribution to restocking shelves. Drivers out of work in their normal jobs have come in to do pickups from grocery stores. The people who have come in to try to fill the ranks behind those who have had to stay home have made all the difference.” Potential volunteers can contact her at laura.pascoe@pacsonline.org.

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PAC: Online discipleship course for any new believer who committed their life to Christ in 2019 or 2020. The four-week course was offered during April. “During this season, we feel God calling us all to deepen our connection with Him, and He has put it on our hearts to offer this free course to encourage all new believers in their faith,” a promotional email stated.

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