

Village Voice



July 2021

Redemption for Sad Bruce

by Pastor Chad Washburn

Inspire



Connect



Inform

Bruce was born on the streets in Minnesota. His parents didn't really take care of him, so he was left to survive the cold streets on his own. Meals scavenged from trash cans affected his immune system and he got sick often. Winter was especially rough, with night temperatures between 7°F and 24°F, and sometimes as low as -30°F. Bruce had a decent coat and mittens at first, but frostbite had damaged his face and he didn't look too good. Actually, he looked sad and felt sad. It's a sad life, living on the streets. Some people just don't understand you. Sometimes people would throw things at Bruce or kick him. There were times he would get into a scuffle with some of the boys down the street. Bruce got some pretty scars from those fights, but he was able to dish out some good left swings, and he sure knew how to bite if he needed to. Bruce was friendless, unwanted, and felt like he had nothing to live for.

One cold Minnesota day, a truck with flashing lights pulled up and blocked the alleyway where Bruce was hanging out. He felt trapped and cornered with nowhere to run. A man wearing big heavy boots got out of the truck and walked toward him. The man knew Bruce was homeless and could see that Bruce needed a bath, his coat was so filthy. Bruce was breaking the law and was taken to jail for trespassing and being homeless.



Bruce discovered jail wasn't that bad. It was warm and he had his very first warm shower. The food wasn't bad either. Though, despite the clean-up, Bruce still looked sad. In fact, he was the saddest looking tomcat in

the shelter and he couldn't look anyone in the eye, though he knew his days were numbered if no one would give him a chance and adopt him.



Sandra was single, and on International Cat Day, as she scrolled through her feed on Instagram, she saw a video of Bruce Willis from the Minnesota Humane Society. She could see that he had lived a rough life and was sick. She wasn't planning to get a cat that day and wasn't even allowed to have an animal where she lived. There was nothing she could do, but her heart ached for Bruce. She went to visit him and he was very sick with a cold. His eyes were swollen. She visited him again a week later. This time he was in a kennel and she promised herself if he was not adopted by a certain date she would talk with her landlord. More than a month went by and that date arrived. No one had adopted Bruce. Sandra texted her landlord asking for permission to have a pet. Shocked to receive permission, she went to the shelter to follow through on her promise.

Bruce wasn't a healthy kitty and he came with a price. Sandra had to pay for tooth extractions before she could even bring Bruce home. "What am I getting myself into?" Sandra asked herself. But when she looked at Bruce in his little room, she knew she couldn't leave him there.

Arriving at Sandra's house, Bruce explored his new surroundings and thought he was in heaven! Sandra says that Bruce knew he was home. She had never seen a cat that happy before. Bruce purred non-stop the whole night. Since that day, he has followed Sandra around wherever she goes. Bruce, the saddest cat at the shelter, is now the happiest cat around.

This story echoes with the redemption and adoption story of the Bible. A kitten was born into a rough world by no choice of his own. You and I were born with sin, "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19 NIV). Like Bruce, we are dirty, sick, and in need of Someone willing to pay the price to redeem us.

My favorite part of Bruce's story is when Sandra brought him home. He knew he was home and became the happiest cat around.



Some days on our sinful planet it's hard to be happy, but there are times when we feel at home with Jesus and can't but praise Him. I can't wait to purr all day long, just like Bruce. Someday we will go to our forever home, "So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing,

Chad Washburn

with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 51:11 NKJV).



If you would like to watch Bruce's story, you can find it on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FfAz8f4hMc>

Congratulations, graduates!

KINDERGARTEN

Danielle Washburn—Milton Stateline Adventist School

EIGHTH GRADE

Anna Ellis—Rogers Adventist School

Brianna Fabian—Rogers Adventist School

Emilie Forsyth—Washington Virtual Academies

Isaias Herrera-Sanchez—Edison Elementary

SENIOR

Ashley James—Walla Walla Valley Academy

Trellanee Lamberton—Walla Walla Valley Academy

James McCoon—Walla Walla Community College

Dakoda Pierce—Walla Walla Valley Academy

Ian Scholl—College Place High and AA from WWCC

Holly Shelden—Walla Walla Valley Academy





Kids Under the Sycamores



Weekly Sabbath Afternoon Gatherings for Kids and Families
In the shade of the trees at the west corner of the church
July 3 through September 4, 2021
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

July 3—Digging Up History: What Stones, Clay, Bones, and More, Tell Us about the World of the Bible

Join Dr. Jody Washburn for an interactive presentation on what we can learn from ancient artifacts about life, love and our relationship with God.



July 10—BodyLife: Healthy, Happy, Alive for Jesus!

Join Cindy Williams, RN, Upper Columbia Conference Health Ministries Director, for an active, interactive, fun afternoon learning how exercise and activity make everything in our bodies work better!



July 16 & 17—The Mud Guy: A Weekend with Rich Aguilera

Join Rich Aguilera, Adventist author, kids' television program producer, One Mustard Seed ministry coordinator and more, for multiple presentations!



Friday, 6:30 p.m. Village Sanctuary—*Noah's Flood - How God Washed the World and Washes Us Every Day!*

Sabbath, 10:50 a.m. Village Sanctuary—*The Creation Case - Teaching Kids about God's Creation and how to answer questions on evolution.*

Sabbath, 4:30 p.m. Village Sanctuary—*Dinosaur Encounter ROAR!!!!*

Sabbath, 7 p.m. Village Fellowship Hall, *The Mysterious Note*. This Christian feature film was written and directed by Rich Aguilera in partnership with the North American Division Stewardship Department.



July 23 & 24—The Fossil and Stone Guy: A weekend with Stan Hudson

Join Dr. Stan Hudson, Director of the North Pacific Union Creation Study Center, for multiple amazing, hands-on, inspirational learning experiences for kids.

Friday, 6:30 p.m. Village Sanctuary—*From Apes? Where Did I Come From?*



Sabbath, 10:50 a.m. Village Sanctuary—*A Call to Worship the God of Genesis*

Sabbath, 4:30 p.m. Village Sanctuary—*Water, Water, EVERYWHERE: Did Great, Great, Great . . . Grandpa Float in a Big Boat?*

July 31—Stay Tuned! This will be SOMETHING WONDERFUL as well!

August 7—You won't want to miss this one either!!

August 14—Atoms to Astronomy: How Big Is God?



Join Dr. Tom Ekkens, Chair of Walla Walla University's physics department, as he makes science come alive with a practical, hands-on, inspirational presentation on atoms to astronomy. "The heavens declare the glory of God." Psalm 19: 1.

August 21—Plans are firming up for this amazing experience!

August 28—Mind My Media: Keeping My Brain Traffic Upward

Join Dr. Lynelle Ellis, Director of Walla Walla University's Center for Media Ministry, as she helps kids understand the amazing organ inside their skull that is the control center of the human body and how to harness it for good and God.



September 4—God's Kids: Amazing Lessons that Inspire and Uplift

Jeff Kinne

Join Sandy Wiebe, honored and esteemed Children's Ministry Leader at Village Church for decades, as she fills the afternoon with stories and interaction that will engage every child.



Hear it? See it? Thank the A Team!

by Elizabeth Travis

What is the most important part of a church service? Is it the sermon, with its words of wisdom? Is it the hymns, reaching people through God's gift of music? Is it the scripture reading, taken directly from His word? Or is it something different? Perhaps, the most important part of a church service is that people are able to hear and understand it.

What good is a sermon if the pastor's words do not reach past the first row? How can people join in the hymns if they cannot hear the music or see the words on screen? How can people appreciate scripture if all they hear is crackling noise over the speakers?

There are many important responsibilities that go into preparing the church service each Sabbath. Some of those responsibilities are more visible than others. It is time to put the spotlight on two vital ministries that help the church service run smoothly each week, two ministries that often go unrecognized: the Village Church Projection and Audio teams.



The Projection team, co-led by David Cowles and Ryan Shipowick, is responsible for everything that shows up on the church screens, whether it be hymn lyrics, the scripture reading, visuals for the sermon or children's story, or camera footage of one of the people on the platform. This is a highly detailed job, requiring a lot of preparation. Everything from the sermon to the day's hymns to church announcements has to be accounted for so that the projectors can run as smoothly and unobtrusively as possible. Their goal is to draw people's attention to God's message.

The same goes for the church Audio team, led by Ray Toretta. Their purpose is to ensure that what is said and sung up

front can be heard and understood throughout the sanctuary. This can be difficult, considering the high, vaulted ceiling and all the hard surfaces. It takes a lot of coordination, troubleshooting, and attentiveness to make sure the sound projected from the speakers is smooth and clear.

Ministries like the Projection and Audio teams, complex as they are, often go unappreciated. After all their primary goal is to draw people's attention towards the message and away from themselves. Mr. Toretta likened the teams' roles to the apostle Paul's illustration about the body, found in 1 Corinthians. Some of the body parts are seen as weak or unimportant, almost unnoticed, but they provide a vital service to the body and are right where God meant them to be. "They're all different," says Toretta, "but they're all necessary, and they're all equal in God's eyes."



Today, we take an opportunity to recognize these two parts of the church body that serve so well through their ingenuity and dedication. Pastor Jeff Kinne in particular wished to show his appreciation for the Projection and Audio teams.

"Here are some words I would use to describe these two teams: consistent, responsible, helpful, dedicated, reliable, EXCELLENT!

Through the COVID crisis I never once had to worry about whether they were going to be available to fulfill their duties on Sabbath morning for Sabbath School and Church. Some other teams were virtually vacant during this time, but the PA and AV teams were most reliable. They are proactive in troubleshooting problems and addressing important issues of consequence in their area of ministry. If I gave these two groups a name, I'd call them the A Team."

Beth Travis



Village Church offers a warm thank you to all the members of the Projection and Audio teams. Your service is truly a blessing to us all.

Looking Back Over the Past 60 Years

by Ruby Miller

Dave and I celebrated 60 years of marriage with a trip to the beach in the company of friends with whom we have shared beach trips for 20 years. Also our children and their families spent four days with us.



Years ago, I graduated from Upper Columbia Academy and went into an LPN nursing program that fall, then started work at the hospital caring for patients.

My younger brother was friends with a Gary Miller who worked on the farm of my nursing supervisor. She asked me if I was aware that Gary had an older brother home from the Navy. Finally, in November, Dave and I met, and spent the winter roller skating and sharing milkshakes.

Dave was going to go back to work for the forest service and evidently he didn't want to go alone. So when he asked me if I'd keep house on a lookout (hardly a Hallmark proposal) I said OK. Then thought better of it and asked, "you did mean get married?"

Six months later we were married on Mother's Day, May 14, 1961. Taking a whirlwind honeymoon trip by car we went to San Francisco for a week, then to McCall, Idaho, where we were to fly into the back country (the road was still snowed under) to the ranger station. I was glad it wasn't a lookout!

We were to board a 1927 Travel Air airplane (I'd never flown before). Seat belts? There weren't even any seats! The plane had been stripped out for use by smoke jumpers. No door on the plane either. We had to sit on our luggage and food boxes as we had to take

Dave and Ruby with the plane, 1961



enough supplies to last five weeks until the road opened. I was terrified when they had to prime the propeller to start the plane and my now father-in-law stood by with a fire extinguisher.

We finally took off over the snow-capped mountains and I'm thinking, "How is this going to end? I've only been married 10 days, and there's no way I can go home to MOM!"

Dave was to be in charge of the seven lookouts in the area and fire dispatcher for the smoke jumpers. The ranger station was at the end of a road where a sign said, "Caution, vehicles travel at own risk, pack strings have right of way."

We brought our car in from McCall when the road opened.



We left in September and headed here to Walla Walla College where Dave worked to get his medical technologist qualifications and I worked on my degree PHT, putting hubby through.

In 1964, with our two-year-old son, we headed for Glendale, California, for Dave to do his clinicals. We drove our '56 Chevy, pulling everything we owned in a pick-up box trailer.

Returning here to College Place in 1978, we joined the Village Church. Our careers have served us well and we've enjoyed working with people. We've had a total of 11 college students live with us through the years. The student from the farthest away came from Albania. After she graduated, we were able to go to her country, travel and meet her parents.

Dave retired from the VA lab and I from the General Hospital.

We have three children, Dan in Logan, Utah; Julie in Richland, Washington; Douglas in San Francisco, California. We are proud of our five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

We feel blessed to be part of the church here and have many caring friends in the area.



Dave and Ruby Miller

We All Have Our Reasons

by Sherry Keller, Village Church Treasurer

Through the years, I have been privileged to see many of God's people return tithe and give offerings to Him. Faithful donors have shared their motivation for giving, and it made me think about the many reasons for supporting God's work. Let's talk about a few.

Gratitude Think of the many blessings God gives. Even in the midst of trials, you can surely think of many good things God has done for you and say, "I want to give back to God for His kindness to me." Ellen White wrote, "The Lord does not need our offerings. We cannot enrich Him by our gifts. Says the psalmist: 'All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.' Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. *This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other*" (The Review and Herald, December 6, 1887, emphasis supplied).

Joy Many of our members express their joy in giving back to God through His church. They identify with this church as their house of worship, and want their offerings to support the upkeep and ministries here. I find that many who serve in the various ministries of our church also support that ministry with their personal donations because they believe the ministry provides something of value.



Example Parents who return tithes and give offerings are often endeavoring to teach their children to do the same. Little children can be taught to put their own tithes and offerings into an envelope and have a part in supporting their church. We can also encourage one another by faithful giving, and mentor new members who may know little about the principles of systematic benevolence.

Worship In Proverbs 3:9, King Solomon admonishes, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase." As we meet together each Sabbath we have opportunity

to worship God in this way. Ellen White affirms this: “And what more appropriate time could be chosen for setting aside the tithe and presenting our offerings to God? On the Sabbath we have thought upon His goodness. We have beheld His work in creation as an evidence of His power in redemption. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for His great love. And now, before the toil of a week begins, we return to Him His own, and with it an offering to testify our gratitude. Thus our practice will be a weekly sermon, declaring that God is the possessor of all our property, and that He has made us stewards to use it to His glory” (The Review and Herald, February 4, 1902).

Faith Building Should we give even if we are in financial difficulty? It may be tempting to withhold funds when we are struggling, but what does God say to us? Jesus encourages liberality, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38 KJV). In first Kings 17, we find the story of Prophet Elijah asking the widow of Zarephath for bread. The woman was preparing to make a final meal for herself and her son, and then face starvation. Why would Elijah ask her to give him a meal? Apparently God was testing her faith. The prophet told the widow, “Fear not,” for “thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail,” (verses 13 and 14) and “she, and he, and her house, did eat *many* days” (verse 15, emphasis supplied). If you give what you have to God, He will provide for you just as faithfully.



Love God has given each of us an opportunity to participate with Him in the spread of the gospel, that the lost and perishing might be saved. Our tithes support the preaching of the gospel here and throughout the world, and local funds help support many ministries that reach our friends and neighbors with the truths we are so blessed to know. Sister White tells us that God wants each of us to have a part in the work. She wrote, “Christ assigned to men the

work of extending the knowledge of His grace. But while some go forth to preach, He calls upon others to answer His claims upon them for offerings, with which to support His cause in the earth. He has placed means in the hands of men, that His divine gifts may flow through human channels in doing the work appointed us in saving our fellow men. This is one of God's ways of exalting man" (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, 255).

Duty God tells us what He expects as we handle the talents and means He allows us to manage on His behalf. There are some very emphatic texts in the Bible on this topic. God says in



Malachi 3:8-10: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove

me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Why do we return the one tenth, the tithe, to God? Because He claims it, and because we love Him. Why do we give offerings to Him? Because He has told us He expects that we will give back to Him offerings out of the gratitude of our hearts and as we have been blessed by Him.

Do any of these reasons resonate with you as a church member who is already returning tithes and giving offerings? Maybe one or two, or perhaps all of them describe your purpose in giving. But what if you are one who hasn't yet experienced the joy of the God-ordained practice of giving to the Lord through His church? Perhaps as you read through this article you will sense that God is asking you to become an active participant in His work by beginning to return tithes, as well as giving offerings. From personal experience I can tell you it is a pleasure to become a fellow worker with the Lord by giving to His ministries. My hope is that each church member will experience the happiness that comes with participation in God's work of spreading the good news of His soon return.

Sherry Keller



A Farewell Note From Pastor John

Dear Village Church Friends,

As I near the end of my time at the Village Church, there's a lot of things that I could talk about. It's been an eventful two years. The valley flooded, there were a lot of events we enjoyed, changes that we went through, and of course Covid happened. But I don't want to talk about any of that. I just want to say two things.



First, I want to say thank you. Thank you for welcoming me to the Valley. Thank you for helping me grow in my understanding of the Bible. Thank you for the times you shared your wisdom with me. Thank you for mentoring me. Thank you for frustrating me at times in order to help me learn patience. Most importantly, thank you for all the times that you showed me Jesus through the way that you treated me graciously with love.

The second thing I want to say is time moves on. One of my favorite books starts with the phrase, "Vanity, vanity everything is vanity." And it's true. So many of the things that spend our time, money, and energy, don't last. In fact, nearly everything in this world eventually ends. My time here is ending. A couple years from now, my time at Andrews University will end. A few years after that, my time at my next stop will probably end and a few years later, my time will come to an end somewhere else. And so on, until finally I'm an old retired man, and then someday that will end, and I'll be in the grave. Pretty bleak, huh? Well, don't worry, this stage of your life will also end, and then so will the next one and then the one after that, until someday your life ends, too. At times this should be encouraging, no rough stretch of life lasts forever. At times it's discouraging as no good time in this current world lasts forever. I think it should be a call to make the most of each stage of life that we go through. Ultimately, these words of the author should help us keep everything in perspective "Here's the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep His commandments; this is the whole duty of humanity" (Ecclesiastes 13:12, paraphrased).

Sincerely, John Roney, The Last Village Church Intern Pastor

Pastor John will be with us through the month of July. Thank you, Pastor John, for your service to Village Church. We wish you well at seminary and beyond!



Avocado and Mango Summer Salad

- 1/4 cup mango/peach Silk soy yogurt
- 2 T. vegan mayonnaise
- 2 T. plus 2 T. reserved orange juice (I use 1-2 freshly-squeezed mandarin oranges)
- 1 T. agave nectar



Whisk above ingredients together (reserving 2 T. orange juice) and set aside.

- 1 small bunch green onions, washed and finely sliced
- 3 carrots, peeled and shredded
- 2 large ripe mangos, peeled and cubed
- 1 extra-large avocado (or 2 medium) peeled, cubed and tossed with 1 T. reserved orange juice
- 1 large Fuji apple, cubed and tossed with 1 T. reserved orange juice to keep from browning
- 8 cups mixed salad greens



Cindy Walikonis

Toss above fruits, onions, avocado and lettuce together well. Pour dressing over it and toss well.
Serve immediately.



\$50-\$100 Weekly*

Village Day Camps

July 5 - August 13
12pm - 5pm

For Ages 6-13

Boating | Canoeing | Crafts | Music | Lunch | Roller Skating | Archery | Swimming

Dear Village Voice readers,

At every moment along the path of life we can either worry, or rest our hearts in God, His tender love, His power, and His promises.

Sometimes it seems like God just waits, like when Jesus waited to go to Lazarus. He said, "This sickness is not unto death" (John 11:4), and then Lazarus died.



Sometimes, in our ignorance, it seems even His promises mock us. But wait!

"Christ's two days' delay after hearing that Lazarus was sick was not a neglect or a denial on His part. . . We are to rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. The answer to our prayers may not come as quickly as we desire, and it may not be just what we have asked; but He who knows what is for the highest good of His children will bestow a much greater good than we have asked, if we do not become faithless and discouraged" (The Youth's Instructor, April 6, 1899).

He's calling us to complete dependence upon Him in every aspect of life.

So what are we waiting for?

God bless you!
Karen Ekkens, editor



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