

# THE KENNEDYS

*On Mission With God and For God*

*March 2022 NEWS*

## Reaching North Central Idaho & Eastern Washington with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

### Where Have We Been?

Reaching beyond the walls of our meeting places with the Gospel of Christ, and training the church to do the same. It's been quite some time since I've written to you and there is much to tell. With so much news this will be a bit more like a letter than a newsletter, remember the days when we wrote letters to people?

### We've Moved

The Lord has provided us a place that is less work and maintenance with better facilities for the mules, which has all been a blessing. In addition, we have resumed some ministry from when we lived in this area previously. Our new address is: 151 Golden Acres Dr. Grangeville, ID 83530.

### 2022

I am already filling in the calendar for 2022. College campus' in the Spring, Community events and mules in the summer, as well as speaking engagements. I am teaching an evangelism course with Tom Fox at the Indian Bible College in Arizona at the end of March, and I have been asked, per recommendation from Bob Ewerth, to speak at Echo Ranch Bible Camp in Juneau, AK toward the end of July. Angela is going to accompany me, so this will be our ministry vacation. Be in prayer for us as I prepare messages and raise travel funds.

Enjoy the news and pictures, and as a dear friend, Uncle Harry, use to say, "We'll see you here, there or in the air."

### City Parks

Riverfront Park – Spokane

Ministry at Riverfront Park in Spokane took the place of being inside at the Spokane Transit Center which has been closed due to COVID. As of now, ministry at the Transit Center has resumed. Riverfront Park is a good "lunch time" area during clear weather. There is a fair amount of foot traffic from the local businesses. This is also a good location throughout warm spring and summer months.

Coeur d'Alene City Park

This is one of my favorite "fishing holes" in the summer. Over the years I've met people from all over the world, discipled "young in the faith" Christians, trained people, been discipled myself, enjoyed fellowship with other believers, experienced hecklers and opposition, conducted impromptu children's ministry, counseled the broken, and rejoiced with the whole. With distance and schedules as they are currently, I will not be there as often this summer, but I have a couple of brothers in Christ who will keep the ministry going.

### Cocolalla Bible Camp

Last July I was the main chapel speaker for High School camp at Cocolalla Bible Camp. I've been invited every three years, so I get a whole new set of high schoolers. This year instead of being in the actual chapel building we went outside which was cooler, more comfortable, and closer to my natural "open air" habitat. The Lord once again showed Himself mighty. We had professions of faith, re-dedications, and I was able to answer the many questions students have. I am particularly thankful to the leadership at Cocolalla for organizing a safe, well-run camp. Praise the Lord!

### Union Gospel Mission (UGM)

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every other month I go to the Union Gospel Mission in Spokane to speak during their chapel/service time. This a great ministry and it's a pleasure to speak to the men there. When my schedule gets demanding, my co-laborer Kirk steps in for me. Praise the Lord for him!

### Mending Fences

Mending Fences is an inner-city church in Spokane. They do a marvelous work in the area and are a light in the community. I get to work alongside them sometimes in their service to the neighborhood. Pray for them and Pastor Keven. Pastor Keven has developed some health issues; pray for his recovery as the Lord wills.

Mark & Angela Kennedy

Open Air Campaigners – Inland Northwest

151 Golden Acres Dr. Grangeville, ID 83530

[oacspokane@gmail.com](mailto:oacspokane@gmail.com)

208.553.1495



*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21*

### **Ministry continues on college campuses**

Ministry on college campus includes sharing the Gospel with people of a variety of worldviews, whether it be humanistic, pagan, religious, apathetic, etc., and being able to encourage and disciple fellow believers. All of the campuses have certainly been affected by ever-changing rules and regulations concerning COVID. Remote (online) classes were the greatest hinderances to being able to share the Gospel, but most campuses are back to in-person classes as of today. That of course can change at any time. Even when classes were online, students were still living on campus at Washington State University (WSU) and the University of Idaho (U of I), so we still had at least limited opportunity to minister.

As things have opened up, the following are campuses on which I am an ambassador for Christ. Pray that I represent Him well.

Lewis Clark State College (LCSC) in Lewiston, Idaho  
University of Idaho (U of I) in Moscow, Idaho  
Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, Washington  
North Idaho College (NIC) in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
Spokane Community Colleges (SCC & SFCC) in Spokane, Washington  
Eastern Washington University (EWU) in Cheney, Washington

Drive time and distance to many of these campuses can be prohibitive, but fortunately, I have some “host homes” scattered around where I can stay a night or two during the week. These are great times of fellowship and encouragement.

I renewed outreach to **LCSC** this last fall. I have not been on this campus in a few years because of distance and schedules, and now due to our move, opportunity has presented itself. While the first couple of visits were slow, now each time I'm there I get to have more and more conversations.

At **NIC**, I continue to work alongside Campus Alive In Christ (CAIC), an on-campus Christian Club, to which I am an advisor. Hard to believe that it's been 7 years that I've had this connection. On Tuesdays we set up an information table to speak to students who have questions, objections, or are just curious about who we are.

At the start of the Fall semester, NIC hosts a day of welcome where each of the on-campus clubs set up to talk with students. A variety of groups are represented there and we get to represent Christ among them. It was at this event I met Aryeh (r, ē, ah). He's a very inquisitive young man asking lots of questions about God, the Bible, etc. That day I gave him Christian materials. Cynthia Nelson, a math professor at NIC and Bruce Nelson her husband had previously had conversations with Aryeh. (Cynthia and Bruce are responsible for keeping CAIC going semester after semester). I got to have a good 10–15-minute conversation with him and then got to talk with him on a few other occasions during the semester. Bruce and Cynthia continued to answer his question and talk with him as well. Aryeh continued in his quest for answers. With my daughter, Bailey's permission, I connected the two of them and she started up an e-conversation with him, (They have never met in person – technology, go figure!). Sometimes it's good for the old gray head (me) to get out of the way and let the youngsters dig in, hash it out, and besides my daughter can use a lot more big words than me 😊.

Well after weeks and months of people caring about Aryeh and being willing to invest the time, Aryeh sent Bailey an email January 1, saying, “My journey has begun. Today I accepted Christ as my personal Savior.” Pray for Aryeh as he continues his walk with Christ. The dynamics of his story are incredible and way more than I can write about in this short (or not so short) letter. Feel free to ask me for more details the next time you talk to me.

Aryeh asks lots of questions. These are some of the questions Aryeh asked and yet they aren't anything new – I get these or similar questions:

Is God objectively real?  
Is God objective truth?

As a challenge to you, my readers, can you answer the questions Biblically?

*But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

1 Peter 3:15

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Colossians 1:13-14

## **Mules, Community Events, Pulpit**

### **Pulpit**

During this past year I've had several opportunities to fill in for pastors around the Inland Northwest, supporting them in their need for time away due to health, family, and travel needs. I get to present the ministry and bring a Gospel message at the invitation of these pastors. These are great times to connect with friends, encourage evangelism, and fellowship with new acquaintances.

### **Community Events**

While community events are still somewhat limited due to COVID, some are getting going again. I was able to go to our "home stomping grounds" – where we lived when we started in ministry – Winchester, ID, to work with the Winchester Community Church during **Winchester Days**. It was great to reconnect with old friends and share the good news with the folks attending the event.

I had a wonderful time at **Hayden Days** setting up and staffing a booth representing Maple Street Community Church of Hayden, ID. We had an information table, plus I set up the sketchboard with the Harvey riddle. The riddle is a way to have a little fun with folks, ending with the question, "What do you think happens to you after you die?" This is by far our most popular riddle. The answer on the first panel of the riddle is man overboard. Our booth was right next to the Navy Recruiter booth. Within minutes of set-up, a Navy officer looked over and just blurted out, "Man overboard! Did you just put that up because of us?" "No", I answered, "I didn't even think of it until now, but all of the Navy folks would get that one." He agreed and we then finished going through the riddle. As it turned out, he was an atheist and we had a great conversation while he finished setting up. I thanked him for his service and asked that he would consider what we talked about and he said he would. I did not see him again until we were breaking down two days later. Without my prompting, he thanked me for what I had said to him, that it had given him a lot to think about and he appreciated what I was doing. Praise the Lord for such opportunities. Over the two days there I got to share the Gospel with people from all walks of life and encourage other Christians. When you step out for the Gospel, remember, God has your back and you will get to meet people where they are.

In August I went to **Kamiah BBQ Days** and set up for ministry thinking I'd probably see mostly people I know, which I did. It was nice to see them and get reacquainted for a few minutes. The surprise was that I met many more I didn't know and was able to share the Gospel with lots of new faces. Central Idaho has seen quite a bit of growth with people moving to the area, so I get a new audience every time I go out. Such as when I rode Angela's mule, Jessie, into **Grangeville to give out Christmas tracts**. I met a young woman from Florida who had just moved here. Handing her a Christmas Gospel tract from the back of the mule, explaining what it was and what Christmas is really about, she thanked me and said, "Wow! I just moved here from Florida, I've never seen snow before and I've certainly never seen a man on a mule giving out Christmas tracts!" During my time riding around town, I handed out a lot of tracts and had some good conversations, what a joyful time!



*Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*

Hebrews 12:28-29

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"*  
Revelation 14:13

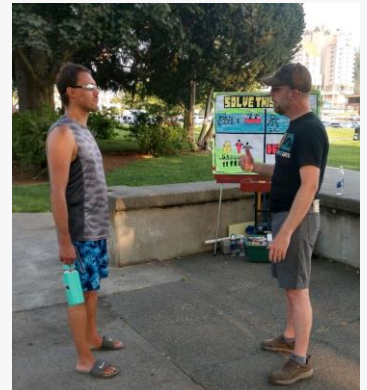
## Training

Andrew Kerin and I got to work alongside Frank Stangel who was leading missionary discipleship training for Shield of Faith Mission International. We trained five students to use the sketchboard and took them to Riverfront Park in Spokane to put their training into action. Andrew was a great help as I had just had knee surgery for a torn meniscus.

Kelly and Kim Braun came over and spent an evening with me and Kirk at Coeur d'Alene City Park for training. Kelly and I met while I was doing ministry at Coeur d'Alene City Park a few years ago.

Peter Hammond, founder of the Missionary Gamer ministry (check it out at [www.missionarygamer.com](http://www.missionarygamer.com)) came for training at Coeur d'Alene City Park. While I can't adequately explain it here, it's fascinating, Peter is reaching a world that many of us never will. After his training with me, he conducted an Evangelism Training at his home church, Kootenai Community Church in Sandpoint, ID using materials from The Way of the Master. I helped out with an introduction using the sketchboard. Peter may be able to take some teams to Coeur d'Alene City Park this year. Praise the Lord for God's people sharing His Gospel.

The week ending November and beginning December, I got to train students at the Bridge Gospel Academy (BGA), a ministry of ALACCA Bible Camp, in the use of the sketchboard before they headed to Las Vegas to share the Gospel on the Vegas strip. During the week of training, we traveled to WSU to practice the new skills learned; using riddles, sketches, and numbers games. Everyone had some great opportunities for conversations with the WSU students. Effective training is not simply classroom instruction, rather application of the instruction in "real world" situations is where students grow in faith and ability. I am thankful to the BGA students for their attentiveness in class, and their desire to share the Gospel with a lost and dying world.



## In Memoriam ...



**Diane Hippe**, yes that's her real last name, the kids on the school bus called her "Mississippi", (say that 3 times real fast), went home to be with the Lord, October 23, 2021. She's the wife of my friend and co-laborer, George Hippe. George and Diane have been our friends since we began ministry in 2008 at ALACCA Bible Camp. Pray for George, he has lost his wife, best friend, and prayer warrior of 52 years. If you have time look up Eagle Summit Ministries, Spokane, and read their Nov/Dec newsletter and see Diane's last entry before she died.

**Dennis Kukurusa**, (yes, he called himself "Kuku" and as a friend I agreed 😊), was promoted to heaven January 2, 2022. Some of you met or knew of Dennis. He was one of my faithful volunteers who helped me in ministry. Over the years I've been in lots of discussions and debates, with some of those getting a little "edgy", and so many times I would look over and see Dennis praying, always an encouragement to me. A prayer warrior like Dennis will be missed.

**SUPPORT UPDATE:** As missionaries, we depend on God's provision. Our support over the last year has been below 50%. While God has blessed with Angela's job, we need to get to 50%. We ask that after supporting your local church you would prayerfully consider giving to God's work through this ministry. We welcome your partnership in reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your tax-deductible gift can be given online at [oacgive.org](http://oacgive.org) or by mail to OAC PO Box D, Nazareth, PA 18064. Thank You!!