

# THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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## God is love...

We all know that right? But do we really take the time to ponder God's unfathomable love? I admit that I am not intentional enough about this.

Why is this? Contemplating how much God loves us is centered on the gospel... the good news! Shouldn't this be something that we are laser focused on each day?

*Ellen White wrote that it would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit.*

Desire of Ages page 83.

**That is a powerful statement. It is also a wake-up call!**

**I think that it goes further than contemplation. There needs to be an actionable result. Paul laid it out clearly in 1 Corinthians 13. He wraps it up and puts a bow on it in verse 13, where he states, *and now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.***

**In James 2:14-25, the apostle makes a more direct statement. He spends quite a bit of time defining how faith without works is dead.**

**Jesus's life on earth was focused on helping the marginalized live a better and more balanced life. *The life of Jesus was a life of love. His works were love.* James puts it in a perspective that no other apostle can claim. He grew up in the same house as Jesus. He was not always very nice toward Jesus. He and his brothers could be a bit cheeky. James experienced first-hand that *life of love*. When he became converted, his life was lockstep with Jesus...living a *life of love* that ended in martyrdom.**

**I remember as a kid, listening to a song by Del Delker entitled, *Do You Know Oh Christian You're a Sermon in Shoes*. It is true...the way we live our lives will clearly show the world if we are spending meditative time, contemplating the life of Christ.**

**The first followers of Christ were a rough, sketchy bunch. They were typical fishermen, business owners, rip-offs, loose women...vagrant types. What they lacked in horsepower, they made up for with intensity!**

**Jesus met them where they were. He let them be real, all the while demonstrating how much He loved them. After Jesus rose from the dead, they got it. They left typical behind. What was the result? Thousands were converted on the day of Pentecost.**

**All because of love. Contemplating the life of Christ will alter your perspective. The Holy Spirit will change your heart. You will leave typical behind...and that is just the beginning!**

**Are you up for it? May you be blessed in your daily walk with Jesus.  
(Credits to the NIV)**

**~ *Martin***

# Ministry Highlight...Camp Ida Haven

“Another successful summer just wrapped up at the place where the fun never ends: Camp Ida Haven!

We spent the summer in detective mode. The theme for this year was *The Missing Peace*, as we searched for God’s peace in our lives. Our volunteer camp pastors led us through the Bible as we learned how God’s peace is a free gift that is given to us each day.

God moved in mighty ways this summer...showing Himself to us in the form of five baptisms: Audrey Lemon, Leah and Laura Eaton, Luke Echelmeier, and Andrew Pratt. Welcome to an exciting life of adventure with God, campers!

601 lucky campers enjoyed a week of fun at camp this summer, 33% of which were Adventist (198), and 67% (403) were introduced to our church here at camp. Most of our attendees were returning campers, while 204 of them joined the fun at Ida Haven for their very first time!

We had some very cool new additions to our activities. They included WgWags (which are hard plastic water toys that are stood upon and propelled forward by rocking side to side), brand new pickleball sets that proved to be fun and popular, a new origami activity for our craftier campers, and stand-up jet skis to zip around the lake.

Our theme song for the summer, *His Peace*...was written by one of our staff members, Aurora Gault. This song is still playing in our heads! We’re hoping to get a recording of the song up on Spotify soon, so campers can continue to enjoy it from home.

In our water-sports program, we added two new surf boards as well as wake shapers to create ideal conditions for surfing campers! Surfing was hands down our most popular water-sport this summer. Last but certainly not least, our kitchen sported new ovens that helped us serve delicious homemade meals for campers and staff each day.

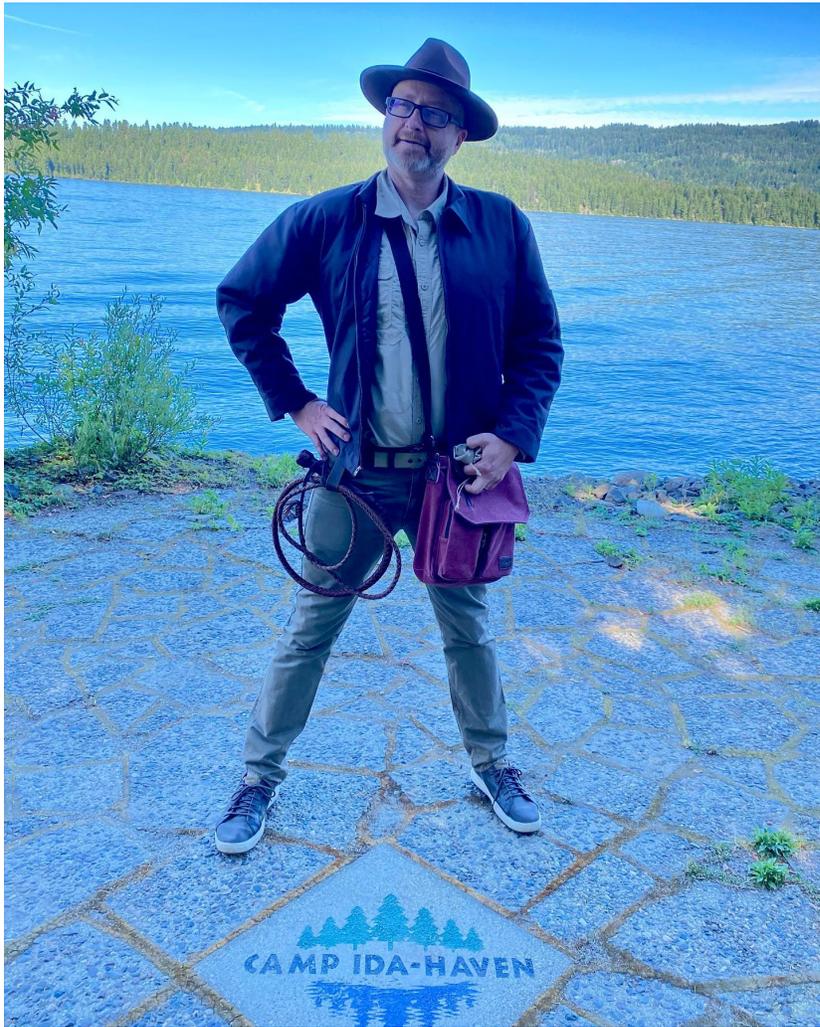
Four of our staff members are getting married this summer (woohoo!). Samuel Schaffner is getting married to Lindsey Schumacher, and Cody Davis is marrying Alexa Davidson. We are grateful to have witnessed their relationships grow at camp.

Although the summer has come to an end, we truly believe that the fun never ends in our hearts. The experiences shared and memories made this summer will surely last a lifetime!

Thank you to all our donors, campers, staff, and supporters!”

*Article Credits to: Aurora Gault  
Staff Writer - Camp Ida Haven*









Camp Ida-Haven  
Summer Staff 2022

*All Photos by Permission of Camp Ida Haven Staff  
Credits to: Camp Ida Haven Facebook Page*

## Pastor's Corner...

Do you remember when you were younger and would ask your parents a question? In your mind, it was no big deal. However, your parents thought the zombie apocalypse was raining down upon them. You saw fear in their eyes, as perspiration beaded up upon their foreheads!

You got the look...the stare of death! It was almost as if they were about to explode.

They were all angst up...trying to figure out the best way to appropriately respond to such a sensitive question. They understood that you were asking out of genuine curiosity. They knew they needed to protect your innocent inquisitiveness. How did they respond? They went for the typical fallback response...that old standby. *You'll find out when you grow up.*

You were left unsatisfied. So you were even more curious as to why you must wait 20 years to get an answer!

I can imagine that was how the disciples felt when Jesus told them, *"Other things I need to tell you, but you cannot bear them now."* We don't know if the disciples ever received those *other things*.

One thing is for sure. Like our parents, Jesus is wise in protecting our innocence. While there is value in knowing, there is also value in not knowing.

To all our students heading back to school, go ahead and ask the tough, challenging questions. To all our teachers on the receiving end of those questions. If they warrant a delay, just use the *Jesus method!*

*"Other things I need to tell you, but you cannot bear them now."*



Happy Learning and be blessed!!

~ *Pastor Jason*