

PRESIDENT'S report

AN UNCOMMON FAITH

There's a story found in Joshua 10:7-13 that is incredible. Joshua was in the midst of a great battle. The sun was going down, and he knew that if he couldn't totally defeat the enemy's army, they would rise up later and cause even more problems for Israel.

So, he boldly asked God to stop the sun from going down, something that had never been done before. Miraculously the sun remained visible for a prolonged period of time—it did “not go down.”

God answered his prayer, and in effect said, “Joshua, if you're bold enough to ask it, I'm bold enough to do it.”

Joshua's uncommon faith brought a smile to God's face. As a result, God interrupted the course of the entire universe because of one man's uncommon faith.

Do you believe that this actually happened? Do you have uncommon faith in the God of the Bible?

Uncommon faith is above and beyond faith. It gives you a boldness and a confidence to believe the extraordinary and step into the unknown. You actually believe that God can do anything.

You see, average faith says, “God, help me to survive the current economic times.” Uncommon faith says, “God, I believe You will not only help me, but rather you will prosper me in the midst of everything that is happening around me.”

Uncommon faith believes that our God will not only lead us out of any crisis we may be facing, but that He will bring us out better off than we were before.

So Joshua moved forward in faith to take the land, and we are to move forward in faith as well.

Our churches are not to be content to sit back and do business as usual. We cannot rest on past victories or be paralyzed by past defeats.

We are to move forward in uncommon faith personally and corporately as the body of Christ.

But how does that happen? There are three quick principles found in this story.

I. We need to be persistent in prayer. (v:7)

Our churches will only move forward in uncommon faith when they recognize the need for persistent prayer and send up their petitions to God. In fact, over and over again God has promised His blessings to those who will seek His face.

II. We need to believe the Word of God. (v:8)

It was not simply a matter of prayer. Following his petition, Joshua believed in and placed uncommon faith in the Word of God. He avoided the pitfall of attempting to win the battle in his own strength — by spending time in and believing in the Word of God. Victory for believers only comes when we depend on God in prayer and believe in the Word of God with all of our hearts.

III. We need to move forward in faith and act upon the Word of God. (v:9)

Verse 9 says “After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise.” Joshua not only prayed, not only believed in the Word of God with all of His heart, he also acted upon the Word of God and moved forward with uncommon faith. God intervened because the people of God followed His plan and acted upon the Word of God.

My friends, if God is for us, who can stand against us? I believe that the God who fought for Israel will enable us to face all that comes our way as well.



DAVID JAMIESON

ONE MORE

serve



ACTIONS TAKEN AT 12.7.23 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Administration update

- David Jamieson, president, presented a devotional about uncommon faith. Jamieson announced that he has visited and worshiped with 108 churches and 20 schools. The Serve One More initiative has raised more than \$1.7 million since its launch in October.
- Pastor Steve Salisbury gave a presentation on a health ministry that he has led in Arizona Conference, called Arizona Sonshine.
- Rodney Mills, vice president for administration, shared a conference membership report.
- It was voted to approve a new pastoral placement process, which includes: an initial meeting with the board/search committee; board/search committee may provide up to 5 names with contact info; the conference will provide names and vet all names; interview questions will be provided in advance; the board/search committee will interview top candidates; and the board/search committee will make final vote following a weekend visit.
- It was voted to hold a convocation at WWU Church on May 17-18, 2024, and camp meeting at UCA on June 19-22, 2024. Camp meeting will be re-evaluated based on data gleaned from 2024.
- It was voted for Administrative Committee to fill

the Region 2 lay member vacancy on the Executive Committee.

- It was voted to approve the establishment of the Chewelah Adventist Group under the Upper Columbia Conference Church.

Financial update

- Allee Currier, vice president for finance, presented an update on conference finances.
- The preliminary budget was presented. The budget is based on 97% of 2023 tithe estimated at \$31,040,000.
- Tithe for October year-to-date is up 9.52% when compared with 2022.
- The Washington Salary Threshold continues to be a concern, with another mandated increase beginning January 2024.

Education update

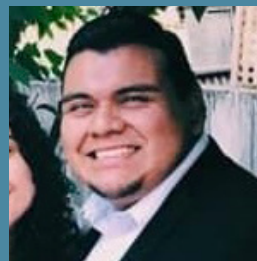
- Brian Harris, vice president for education, gave an update from the office of education.
- Enrollment for 2023-2024 K-12 is at 1,917, about 1.4% less than prior year enrollment.
- PJ Deming, principal of Upper Columbia Academy gave a report on UCA.
- A prayer retreat is planned for February 2024.

INCOMING/TRANSFERRING PASTORS



Dan Solis
Interim Pastor

Heppner/
Irrigon/Walla
Walla Northside



Hugo Villalobos
Pastor

Spokane Spanish/
Spokane Valley
Spanish

Joel Barajas
Assistant
Pastor

Coeur d'Alene

ACTIVE PASTORAL SEARCHES

- Abundant Life/Cashmere
- Clarkston/Good News Fellowship
- College Place Associate
- Deer Park/Spokane North View
- Irrigon/Heppner/Hermiston
- Post Falls/Spirit Lake
- Spokane South Hill
- Touchet/Umapine/WW Northside
- Yakima 35th Associate

