

Village Voice



May 2021

The Great Emu War

by Pastor John Roney



1932 was a difficult year for farmers. Much of the world suffered under the Great Depression. In the United States, severe drought and the resulting dust bowls devastated farms. Australian farmers struggled with similar challenges, but they faced an additional problem—huge flocks of marauding emus were destroying their crops. The issue was brought repeatedly before the Australian government until it had no choice but to find a solution. So a group of World War I veterans, selected for their enthusiasm for machine guns, was sent to kill the birds. And thus the battle lines were drawn for The Great Emu War.

Initially, the veterans attempted to herd the emus into an ambush, but the emus scattered and only 12 were killed. Efforts over the next few days produced a similar outcome. Frustration mounted. The official report on Day 4 claimed the emu command had ordered guerrilla tactics and stated, “Each pack seems to have its own leader now—a big black-plumed bird which stands fully six feet high and keeps watch while his mates carry out their work of destruction and warns them of our approach.”

Unwilling to admit defeat, the veterans launched a bold new plan. With machine guns mounted to the back of their truck, they drove full speed at the emus. While this plan deserves an A+ for creativity, it failed in execution. The ride was so bumpy that the gunners were unable to fire a single shot.



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Inform

After a month of warring against the emus with very little to show for it, the discouraged veterans quit. The official report stated “Australian Army suffered no casualties.” The Great Emu War was over and, in a true underdog story, the emus had baffled the army.



Eventually, the Australian government hatched a more effective plan. Citizens were encouraged to bring in captured emus and exchange them for cash, thus culling the flocks to a manageable size and saving the farms.

The Great Emu War has to rank as one of the strangest wars in history. It’s a case of truth being stranger than fiction. It is also an oddly relatable story. Life throws challenges at us. Everyone experiences the unexpected. The way we respond makes all the difference. And while it’s amusing to imagine a group of battle-hardened veterans losing to a flock of birds, I can’t help but admire their initial enthusiasm.

The veterans’ mad rush approach failed, and though I would never want to be called a birdbrain, there is something oddly heartwarming in the emus’ unexpected victory. They were clearly the underdogs, yet they emerged victorious. It makes me think of God’s love for underdogs, “He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has exalted the humble” (Luke 1:52).

The farmers who eventually gained relief remind me of the parable of the judge described in Luke 18:1-5. A woman repeatedly goes before the judge, asking for justice to be carried out in her behalf. The corrupt judge refuses many times but eventually gives in just to have some peace. As the woman’s persistence paid off, so the persistent patience of the Australian farmers helped save the country from starvation.

Whatever challenges you face in your life, I hope you will demonstrate enthusiasm like the veterans, humility like the emus, willingness to adapt like the Australian government, but most of all, the persistent patience of the farmers, knowing we serve a God who is far wiser and more just than any earthly leader.

John Roney



From the Celery Fields to Bethlehem

A Mother's Day Tribute

by Terry Koch

Young Franziska's hands ached from the bitter cold. She labored hard at the celery harvest to help with expenses back home where there were six sisters and her parents, Adam and Julia.

Where she boarded, the family did not give her enough to eat. She noted where her employer hid the key to the food larder and, in extreme hunger, raided the larder while the family slept.

Adam somehow raised funds to send his three eldest daughters to America. He saw little future for his girls where the family resided, though emigrating to the New World at that time held many unknowns.

When it came time to leave for America, Franziska returned home. However, she had lost so much weight from malnourishment that Adam did not even recognize her. So her two older sisters went on, leaving Franziska to follow in 1912 after recovering her health.

Departing from her home village of Krizevci, she traveled to France, sailing alone at age fifteen on the new ship SS Rochambeau from LeHavre.

Arriving at Ellis Island she eventually went to Poughkeepsie, New York, where she, along with many other immigrants, worked in a cigar manufacturing company. Living with other girls in a boarding house, the attractive young woman soon caught the eye of a widower who wanted to marry her. But Franziska felt that as a teenager she was too young to become stepmother to his six children.

Eventually she relocated to the place where her sisters lived, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Many from the Prekmurje (preck-moor-yeh) region of Slovenia had settled in Bethlehem where they were known as Windish. She worked in a

Franziska (at right) and a friend in national costume, 1915



women's silk clothing company and joined the Windish Lutheran Church. Now going by Fannie, she met a fellow Slovenian at a church function, handsome Louis Siplics from a village near Fannie's childhood home. They married in the Windish Lutheran Church. Louis worked for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation (now defunct), and later opened his own butcher shop.

Louis and Fannie became citizens and prospered. Two children were born to them, Elmer and Ella.

When Ella was eight, tragedy struck the family. Louis was cranking the motor of his truck to drive to work when suddenly he suffered a fatal heart attack. The family was devastated. Ella lost her best friend and Elmer, at the



Louis and Fannie's wedding day

tender age of 14, became the man of the house.

In European tradition, the deceased was laid out for viewing in the front room of the family home. Young Ella was not allowed to see her dad, and she kept asking, "Where is my father?" The answer she received did nothing to alleviate her questioning. "He is in heaven looking down on us." Ella was very troubled at these words. Why would he leave their happy home to go live in heaven? She struggled with this question for years.

Later Ella took Bible studies. With the lesson on the state of the dead the Word of God put to rest all the troubled misunderstanding she had carried since her father's death. As a result, she was baptized into the Adventist faith.

Fannie was livid that her daughter would leave the Lutheran church. She met with her Lutheran pastor, asking him to convince Ella that she was making a terrible mistake. She believed Ella would listen to Reverend Dr. Stiegler because he had become a strong family friend following the death of Louis.

Dr. Stiegler asked Ella if she felt confident in the decision she was making and she assured him she did. He then gave her his blessing. Next, Fannie contacted her son-in-law and said, "I am going to disown Ella. You and your sons are welcome in my home, but Ella is not." He replied, "If that is your final decision, my children and I will never come into your home again either."

Over time, the wound healed and Fannie's bitterness mellowed away. Her second husband, a very devout Lutheran,

said if Fannie passed away before him, he would rather live with Ella than with either of his own children, “Because,” he said, “Ella’s family has religion.”

Fannie was a woman of great conviction, strength, and courage, qualities to be admired especially at this time of Mother’s Day remembrances. Striking out alone as a teenager on a long journey to the unknown, and later raising a family by herself, created an indomitable spirit.

With only a rudimentary sixth-grade education, she truly experienced the American dream. She had heartaches and disappointments, but she was stoic and resilient. Her home was her castle and motherhood her calling.

When she passed away in 1978, I was bereft, for Fannie was my grandmother. I am grateful that the Holy Spirit healed her hardness toward my mother and restored a loving mother-daughter relationship. I have many reasons to be grateful for the mother figures in my life, especially my grandmother. I so look forward to seeing her again at the Second Coming Resurrection.

Terry Koch



Fannie, her daughter Ella, and her four grandsons.

Which grandson do you recognize?

Hint: he has three younger brothers.



*Happy Mother’s Day to all our
precious moms! We love you
and appreciate you!*

Upcoming Events

Children's Vespers May 15 and May 29, 4 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

June 28-July 2, 9 a.m. to noon

"Called To Surrender"

The Story of Moses



Giving

by Pastor Jeff Kinne

Jesus was reclining at the table of Simon. Although a Pharisee, Simon honored Jesus, and rightly so. Jesus had healed him of leprosy. Now he was expressing his gratitude with a gift—a feast for Jesus and His disciples.

Mary was grateful, too. Overflowing. Doubly. Jesus had forgiven her sins and raised her beloved brother, Lazarus, from death. At great cost, her entire life savings, she purchased a pound of fragrant, costly ointment. Quietly now, she poured the scented balm on Jesus' head and feet, tearfully kissing His feet and wiping them with her long, flowing hair. The entire room was filled with her sacrifice. It was over-the-top extravagance.



Some were offended. Simon was among them, and Judas, for different reasons. A few were angry. Why this waste on feet? (Mark 14:4,5). But these anointed feet had traveled to Mary's home, saved her, given her back her brother, brought eternal life to her town. And if the extravagance had not been gifted at this moment, on this day, it would have been wasted. Jesus was soon afterward betrayed and arrested. The moment was paramount, historic. Two thousand years later, Jesus' sacrifice, the costliest gift ever given, is still remembered by this fragrant giving.

Mary's offering was exemplary. God sees our hearts, knows when and why we extend ourselves. He recognizes worship, and

giving is an esteemed avenue of true worship. Mary's act was "a beautiful thing" (Mark 14:6). God honors that. He is glorified when the Holy Spirit stirs generosity in our hearts. The wise man said it honors God (Proverbs 3:9).

When our gift to God costs us something it is an acknowledgment that everything is His and comes from Him. God's ownership of everything is rightly recognized (Psalm 24:1). Giving also points to the future. It is a move of trust that says, God will supply our needs with His riches (Philippians 4:19).

He actually invites us to put His care and keeping to the test, not so we can have more, but so we can grow in confidence (Malachi 3:10). When we give something that we might otherwise depend upon, trust grows as God keeps His promises.

Traditionally, Sabbath services have included giving as a part of worship. Safety measures particular to COVID-19 have changed the manner in which this is done. But it has not stopped the generous, giving Village members. You've done it online, by mail, and by hand in our external offering receptacles. Thank you for your generosity.

God is at work in your lives and you are responding to His gifts with your own. It is a beautiful expression of worship.

Jeff Kinne



"The desire that Mary had to do this service for her Lord was of more value to Christ than all the precious ointment in the world, because it expressed her appreciation of the world's Redeemer. It was the love of Christ that constrained her. The matchless excellence of the character of Christ filled her soul. That ointment was a symbol of the heart of the giver. It was the outward demonstration of a love fed by heavenly streams until it overflowed."

—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 564



Pathfinder Fair and Fundraiser



by Elizabeth Travis

The 2021 Upper Columbia Conference Pathfinder Outreach Fair is scheduled for May 14-16 at Upper Columbia Academy. The main worship services will be live-streamed on the website for those not able to attend in person.

The program will include crafts, displays, and drill teams, as well as worship presentations by the main speaker, Pastor Larissa Bitton. There will also be an outreach project on Sabbath afternoon where Pathfinders will assist people who were affected by the Pine Creek fire in Malden.



The Waiilatpu Pathfinder club of Village Church will be attending the fair online, but they plan to make it an exciting event for everyone by camping out together at the Youth Center and participating in the online activities.

On a related note, the Pathfinders are raising funds to replace the bus that has served the club, the school, and the church for the past 14 years. Fundraising will kick off with the Spring Fruit Sale and all proceeds will go directly towards the purchase of a new bus. Fruit can be ordered online at <https://tinyurl.com/WaiilatpuSpring2021> or call Debbie Forsyth 509-386-3951 or Michael Jeffery 208-771-5488. Orders must be in by May 5.

Any donations are also greatly appreciated.

Thank you for supporting our young people and our Pathfinder group.

Beth Travis



Youth Raise Funds for Gospel Outreach Bikes

by Lillian Schwarz

Over the past year, the Youth class has been raising money for a mission project. In late February of 2020, the class began this project, but it was quickly put on hold as the church closed a few weeks later due to Covid-19. During that time, the leaders took to explaining more about the project over the virtual meetings every Sabbath. They explained that we were raising money for Gospel Outreach to send bicycles to their workers overseas.



Gospel Outreach sends people to the 10/40 window, which mostly consists of third world countries. Surprisingly, this area of the world holds 97% of the unreached. Gospel Outreach often takes a different technique when sending out missionaries. When they send out missionaries, they train people already in the various cultures to be their missionaries. By doing this, they don't always have or want the use of cars or other motor vehicles. The workers want to be as natural and humble in their work as possible, and so the bikes are a wonderful asset to them.

The Youth class set a goal of 850 dollars, which would purchase ten bicycles, coming to 85 dollars a bike. In June when the class started up in person again, the students were encouraged to donate and continue donating to the project. Although the class is for all ages of high schoolers, we have a rather small class, and with very few families contributing to the project, it took until sometime in late February to early March of 2021 to complete the fundraiser.

Toward the end of the project, Brent Scully, the head of Gospel Outreach, came and talked with the class. He explained in detail how they operate, where and in which countries they have workers, and why they do things the way they do. Mr. Scully was excited that our class had raised the money, and he thanked us for our help. The Youth class was glad we could help in this mission, and we are thankful it was a simple project. We have now started a new, more hands-on project of volunteering at the Christian Aid Center.

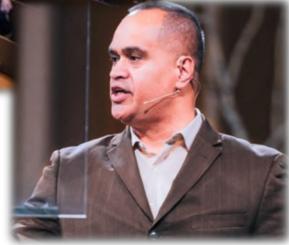
Lillian Schwarz





GYC-NW Report

by Heidi Duffield



Throughout the past year, many of us have felt the lack of community and fellowship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Young adults are no exception, so it was exciting when the opportunity came to hold our annual GYC-NW convention at Village Church, March 24-28. Several dozen volunteers worked together to organize the event. With prayer and work we were overjoyed at the blessings of God on our weekend of fellowship together.

Ironically, the postponed 2020 convention theme was “Why Do We Wait?” based on Joshua 18:3. The convention explored reasons that we fail to take hold of God’s promises and encouraged attendees to wait no longer.

While the convention offered a variety of presentations and opportunities, this year’s Spirit-filled messages were a special highlight. Pastor Nemaia Faletogo, evangelist for the Washington Conference, shared his testimony of God’s work in his life and the lives of gang members to whom he has ministered. Pastor Paul Conneff, with Straight to the Heart Ministries, shared the story of the cross, focusing on how Jesus’ story relates to my story. Pastor Conneff has a unique way of walking individuals through prayers integrating Jesus’ story into their healing. Dee Casper shared on the subject of practical evangelism.





GYC-NW Leadership Team

Pastor Jeff Coleman and his wife Melanie Coleman presented on the topic of prayer life, interweaving many personal stories of the power of God working through prayer.

Each evening, two of the GYC-NW team members shared part of their personal testimony and how the Lord has worked, intervened, and led in their lives. Each testimony uniquely resonated with some attendees' experience and many were deeply blessed, including the GYC-NW team as we shared.

Thursday afternoon, the sky cleared and attendees enjoyed the sunny weather in a 5K run around the College Place area. Then Friday afternoon, small groups participated in outreach. With limitations imposed by the pandemic, this was a challenge to organize. But Caleb and Rose Froelich, a brother-sister duo from the GYC-NW leadership team, did an excellent job of facilitating safe activities that allowed attendees to reach out and share Jesus. One opportunity was singing to "shut-in" members of Village Church. Small groups visited homes and sang outside while socially distancing. Other groups asked for prayer requests and prayed with people in the community.

I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the Village Church staff and members for your willingness to host GYC-NW this year! We were truly blessed by your hospitality and treasure the memories of worshipping and learning together at our 2021 convention!

Next year, GYC-NW will be held in Vancouver, Washington. Updates can be found on our website at: gycnorthwest.org

Heidi Duffield



Heidi Duffield is a member of Village Church and the president of GYC-NW.

Student Aid

by Julie Lorren

Did you know the Village Church student aid program has existed for over 40 years? Dedicated members with a deep burden for Christian education have been meeting the needs of Village Church children for a long time.

Over the years, funds were raised through a variety of resources. Then several members began selling donated items of value such as small furniture, appliances, and clothing. With God's blessing, this weekly yard sale blossomed into our current facilities. In 2004, The Center and Warehouse began operation and all funds raised for student aid came from items donated for resale. The House sells clothing, shoes, and linen goods. The two warehouses sell household goods, books, furniture, small appliances, and a variety of other useful items. All are donated by generous church members and community residents who believe in our mission to help families afford Christ-centered education for their children. God is so good. All proceeds are awarded through the worthy student aid program to students with financial need.



As you can imagine, every year this need grows. We continue to have faith that God will provide, and He continues to bless us. Ten years ago, aid was awarded to 12 to 15 students in grades K-12. Currently, we have 40 students from Village Church participating in this program in the form of monthly aid and work match funds.

Families seeking assistance apply each year through a variety of programs within our aid structure. These consist of:

- 1) Monthly aid—an amount awarded directly to the student's school account because of a direct financial need. This aid is available to K-12 grades.
- 2) Summer work match—money earned by the student during the summer is matched up to \$1000.

3) Monthly school year work match—monthly wages earned during the school year are matched each month up to \$150.

Student aid applications for 2021-22 are now available on the church website and at the reception desk for those interested. The application deadline is June 30 for the work match program and July 31 for student aid assistance.

It is inspiring to read how God blesses students through this program every year as we receive many notes expressing gratitude for the generous assistance. Many share how this important aid makes it possible for them to attend our schools. This fills my heart with thankfulness to all the dedicated members who volunteer many hours of their time, and for members who provide donations in funds or items to be sold, all helping to provide resources to be used for Christian education.



Over the last year, COVID-19 impacted us in unexpected ways. The Center was closed for nine months due to the mandatory shutdown. Students were sent home to finish the school year online. This shutdown put a strain on our resources. Thankfully, the Center reopened its doors April 11.



We would like to invite you to come to The Center and help out if you are so inclined. There is always something to be done, especially during the week as we process all the donated items. If you are not able to do this but still want to help, monetary donations can also be given. Place your donation in a tithe envelope and mark it Student Aid.

Julie Lorren

It truly takes a VILLAGE to raise up our children for God's kingdom. Bless each one of you.





Daniel Biggs, Production Manager for BMTV, and his lovely wife, Robin, made this flavorful entrée for the Blue Mountain TV staff meal April 17, and the comments by everyone were excellent! Thanks to Daniel and Robin for sharing the recipe with us!

Sweet and Sour Braised Chickpeas

- 1/2 cup olive oil or avocado oil
- 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- 8 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes (or a pinch of cayenne pepper, to taste)
- 4 large Portobello mushrooms, sliced in 1/2 inch slices
- 4 large carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup tomato paste
- 3 - 4 tablespoons brown sugar, or to taste. May use maple syrup crystals
- 4 to 5 cups Pacific mushroom broth or vegetable broth (may make your own with McKay's broth powder using 1 teaspoon per cup of liquid)
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce or Bragg aminos (or more to taste)
- 4 15-ounce cans chickpeas, drained
- 2 bay leaves
- 2/3 cup raw apple cider vinegar (or use 1/2 cup pineapple juice and 2-3 T lemon juice)



Heat oil in the bottom of a stock kettle and add onion; cook 5 minutes until softened and then add garlic and cook for 2 more minutes. Add the carrots and red pepper flakes and cook until carrots start to soften. Add the mushrooms and cook for at least 4 minutes, until they begin to soften. Add the tomato paste, brown sugar or maple crystals and cook for 3 minutes, stirring until sugar is melted and tomato paste is well mixed in. Add the 4 to 5 cups broth, soy sauce, chickpeas and bay leaf. You may add more salt or McKay's broth powder, tasting until it is right for you. Simmer on low for 45 minutes to 1 hour to mix flavors. Add the vinegar or juice mixture last and simmer a few more minutes. Serve over brown rice, brown rice noodles, or polenta.

Cindy Walikonis



Dear Village Voice readers,

I've been listening to an audio version of *The Desire of Ages* as I walk in the morning. Over and over this thought is expressed—no one, not Jesus' earthly family, not the church or national leaders, not even His forerunner, fully comprehended Christ's mission.

If that was the condition of society at the time of His first coming, how can today be any different as we anticipate His second coming? The enemy of souls was successful in blinding and distracting and prejudicing the Jews in those days. They needed to recognize their condition. "Before the seed of the gospel could find lodgment, the soil of the heart must be broken up. Before they would seek healing from Jesus, they must be awakened to their danger from the wounds of sin" *The Desire of Ages*, p. 104.

Do we see our danger from the wounds of sin? Is the soil of our hearts broken up, prepared,

Karen Ekkens



and sown with the words of eternal life? May the Lord help us seek Him more fully each day.

God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor

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