

FoundationONE

CONNECTION

ONE MISSION. UCA STUDENTS.



**FINDING
INDEPENDENCE:**

**GROWING
DEPENDENCE
ON GOD**

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Director's Message

Twenty years ago this year, a group of visionary alumni of Upper Columbia Academy resolved that they would do their part to ensure no student would be turned away from their alma mater because of financial need. The outgrowth of that vision is FoundationONE, and the need for the assistance it provides is greater than ever.

In the current economic environment many families just assume that sending their children to UCA is impossible. As I talk with parents around our region I often hear them ask, "How much does it cost to go to UCA?" I always respond by saying, "First of all, let's think about what it is *worth* to send our students to UCA." What is it worth to send our children to Adventist Christian schools where the Holy Spirit of God is invited every day into classrooms, dormitories, gymnasiums and playfields? Where the spirit of Jesus is welcomed and shared freely by teachers, staff and students? That is priceless, and more than ever it is crucially important that our children be in a Christ-centered environment for their schooling.

In a world where the forces of evil are using every means possible to ruin the characters and lives of our children, we have an opportunity to send our students to schools where they are encouraged and mentored in the building of Christ-like characters and a lifelong friendship with Jesus.

To help increase awareness of the mission of FoundationONE, I have been making financial aid

UPPER
COLUMBIA
ACADEMY

FoundationONE

presentations in our regional schools over the past two months. It has been exciting to see students, parents and school staff begin to realize there is significant funding available through FoundationONE grants and named scholarships. In addition, there is assistance from family, their local church, and financial aid that UCA can provide. Because of your generous support the Foundation is able to provide several thousand dollars to students with greater need. For many families, this realization is a game changer. I thank God for the vision He gave to those alumni twenty years ago!

Please join me in praying that UCA and other Adventist Christian schools will grow even stronger in their commitment to biblical values and teaching, so that our students will be prepared, as were Daniel, Esther and Joseph, to serve God faithfully in the days before Jesus returns.

God bless each of you, and thank you so much for your faithful support of FoundationONE and UCA. It is truly an investment in the eternal well-being of God's children!



Dean Krauig



▲ Bethani and the Bochalema shelter staff, Daniel, Carmen and Ramon.

Outside of Safe **Bethani King, '06**

“I loved everything about my two years at UCA!” says Bethani King. She came from Portland, OR to attend UCA because she wanted to be involved in music. “My teachers were excellent, and I still remember specific things that were said in classes.

Many of my friends from UCA are still in my life after 20 years. I loved the close friendships and the family atmosphere of dorm life. The Borneo mission trip that I went on was life-changing in so many ways, and increased my appreciation of different cultures. Teachers like Pastor Fred, Mr. Thorman, Coach Soule’, or Mr. Anderson were especially impactful in different areas of my life. Because of how dedicated my teachers were at UCA, I always assumed that all teachers must give of themselves in such personal and self-sacrificing ways. When I later became a teacher, I realized that my teachers at UCA were extraordinary!”

By Dean Kravig

“As I was growing up I realized that among all of our relatives my siblings and I were the only ones born in the United States. All of my cousins were born in cool, exciting places around the world. Even my maternal grandparents spent several years as missionaries in South America, and both of my mom’s brothers were born there.” In her childhood, Bethani was able to broaden her horizons with a few international vacations. At the age of 7 she visited her uncle Steve Rose (’80) and his family in Singapore. When she was 11, she visited Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia to see where her mother grew up, and then at age 14 she spent a summer in Mexico with her adopted aunt. It was during that summer that she learned Spanish. During her time at Walla Walla University Bethani also spent a year as an SM teaching in Honduras, which familiarized her with the culture and strengthened her knowledge of the Spanish language.

After graduation from WWU Bethani spent 2 years at Portland Adventist Health as the Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer, and it was while she was there that a friend from UCA suggested she apply for the Music and Spanish teaching position at Sacramento Adventist Academy, where John Soule’ was principal at the time. She applied, and from 2014-2016 spent two very enjoyable years at SAA. “I’m

very grateful to Mr. Soule’ for believing in me and seeing my potential as a teacher.” It was after her second year in Sacramento that Bethani went to Lebanon to help with the Syrian refugee crisis. “I had read so many articles, and I was skeptical. If it was really as bad as the reports claimed, there should be people from all around the world who would be seeking to help! So I bought a ticket and went to find out for myself. What I discovered was that the situation was far worse than any report could portray!”

Bethani returned from Lebanon and took a position as music and Spanish teacher at Skagit Valley Adventist Academy in Burlington, WA for the next two years. It was in 2018, after her second year at Skagit that she decided to take a year off to work with the Syrian refugees in Lesvos, Greece. Lesvos is a resort island that overnight in 2015 was receiving up to 10,000 refugees each day. The majority of refugees were sent to Moria camp, which was designed to hold 2,500 people. When Bethani arrived, it was home to 9,000 people in conditions that The Guardian reported as a “living hell”.

While ministering to the refugees on Lesvos, Bethani discovered that some of the largest aid organizations there were started as Facebook groups by people from around the world who wanted to help the Syrian refugees.

This realization played a key role in where she would serve next. As her time on Lesbos progressed, Bethani kept seeing articles about the evolving Venezuelan refugee crisis, and she felt convicted that if she were to get on the ground during the early stages, she could use her experience gained in Lebanon and Greece to bring aid to the refugees arriving in neighboring Colombia. With her knowledge of Spanish and a familiarity with the culture, Bethani could also be much more effective in helping to assess the needs and develop structures and programs to meet them.

It was the beginning of the crisis in Venezuela, and although she was sure there were good people on the ground who were trying to help, they weren't organized enough to have a website. In spite of finding nothing about the work being done, she looked at the map and saw that Cucuta, Colombia was on the border, and with a quick search on Google, discovered that Venezuelan refugees were indeed flooding Cucuta. Bethani booked a flight, and much like Abraham of old, she went, not knowing what she would find, or how to be of help. Bethani knew it would be difficult, but she also knew that when we have said, "Lord, here am I, send me", we can trust that He will guide our paths.

On March 1, 2019 she landed in Cucuta, Colombia, and began talking with Venezuelan refugees and Colombians to ascertain what was already being done to meet the enormous challenges

facing the refugees pouring across the border from Venezuela. Over a period of four months she learned that there were already sixteen shelters established along the route from Cucuta to Bogota, the capital of Colombia. While volunteering in each shelter, Bethani gained a better understanding of the needs along the refugees' route, and the challenges faced by the aid workers. The most desperate Venezuelan refugees cross the border with absolutely nothing, not even \$30 that would buy them an 18-hour bus ride to the capital, Bogota. Left with no other option, they embark on the month-long walk to an uncertain future.

At one shelter Bethani stayed for ten intense days, after which she said she felt like a zombie. "We would work all day to help 100 people with food and a place to sleep, finally getting them all fit into beds like dominoes for the night. Very often, we would no sooner get to sleep ourselves, when a truck would arrive at midnight with 50 more people who needed food, shelter, blankets, and a place to sleep."

During her four months in Colombia Bethani began sharing stories on social media with friends and family around the world who had shown interest in what she was doing in Lebanon, Greece and Colombia. As people heard the stories of the dire situation refugees were facing, they started sending funds to help. Bethani felt uncomfortable with having the funds go through her per-

sonal account, so in May of 2019, with the help of her father, she established On The Ground International (OTGI), a 501c3 organization which has now been operating for almost five years. While trying to come up with a name for the charity, Bethani thought about how in Lebanon, Greece or Colombia, she really needed to be “on the ground” in order to find out what was being done, and how she could help meet the needs of refugees. “My goal with OTGI was to be a link between the aid workers on the ground and people around the world who wanted to help, but couldn’t come to Colombia in person.

Upon returning from Colombia after those first four months, Bethani walked the Oregon section of the Pacific Crest Trail as a fundraiser that would also build awareness of the challenges facing Venezuelan refugees. The Oregon section of the PCT is nearly 400 miles in length, the same distance that refugees must walk from Cucuta to Bogota. Bethani has done many presentations about the concept of living “outside of safe.” Too often we do not take the necessary risks to involve ourselves in the needs of our fellow man, and yet Jesus said that “inasmuch as we have done it to one of the least of these, you have done it unto Me.” We can be so grateful that Jesus was willing to live “outside of safe” by coming here to earth to purchase our freedom from sin and satan.

In the five years since its founding, God has blessed OTGI, and it is now a

highly structured organization with 4 coordinators, 15-20 full-time volunteers, and three student missionaries from SDA universities. Four of the shelters are now run by Venezuelans who arrived themselves as walkers, and who now volunteer in exchange for food and a place to sleep. Their stories are incredible, and sad, and it is such a blessing that they are now able to help their fellow Venezuelans! Please keep Bethani, the ministry of OTGI, and the Venezuelan refugees in your prayers. If you would like to learn more about OTGI and how God is blessing Bethani’s work, you can visit her website: www.onthegroundnow.org



▲ A typical family on their 375 mile trip to Bogota.

FINDING INDEPENDENCE: By Cheri Atwood GROWING DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Kherwin Sayson’s journey to Upper Columbia Academy begins in Pagadian, Mindanao, in the southern part of the Philippines. He was raised as an Adventist and lives with his parents, an older brother and younger sister.

Kherwin’s father is an elementary school teacher, and he describes his mother as a “working” housewife, where she not only runs the household, but is also in charge of the family’s finances. Kherwin firmly believes being able to come to UCA has been God-led. It was a decision that wasn’t made easily. There were challenges along the way. But, when God opens a door and we are willing to walk through it, He provides answers to any challenge. This was certainly true for Kherwin. Here’s his story.

Kherwin’s aunt and grandmother live in the U.S. In fact, his aunt works at UCA. In late 2022, Kherwin’s aunt talked with his mom about the possibility of him coming to school at UCA. It would be the first time he would ever be away from home, much less in another country. At first, he was conflicted about the

opportunity. He talked with his friends and family, and they told him he should go, but he really had to wrestle with the decision.

Once he chose America and UCA, he and his family faced their first challenge – the entire passport and student visa process. Not only was it expensive, but there was a lot of red tape to overcome. If Kherwin failed his interview, his family would have to pay again for him to have another one. God provided and he passed the interview the first time. When the embassy was told Kherwin had family where he was going, they approved everything.

He immediately started experiencing what UCA has to offer, he said he is very glad he made the decision to come. Because this is Kherwin’s first time away from home, it has offered an opportunity for him to grow as a person, and



COMING TO UCA HAS
HELPED ME BUILD ON
THE IMPORTANCE OF
GOD IN MY LIFE.

Kherwin




more importantly grow closer to God and others. Kherwin knows his mother and father are sacrificing a lot for him to come to America to study. Financially, it has been very challenging, but Kherwin helps by working in the school's cafeteria with his aunt. Many times, his work involves weekends, but he is happy to contribute to his education. He is also grateful for the help he is receiving from FoundationONE's grants. He and his family thank God for His provision.

Another challenge for Kherwin has been the language differences. He admits that he did not know much English when he arrived and that made it challenging to make friends. His English has improved, and he has made more friends. In the short time Kherwin has

been at UCA, he has grown to appreciate all that is available to him that wasn't at his school in Pagadian. There he had no books, and limited access to information and technology. He feels truly blessed and knows he is learning so much more at UCA. He attributes this to the availability of textbooks, the access to information and technology. He was quick to say his teachers make all the difference for him. He has experienced their willingness to take extra time to help him. He enjoys math and particularly Mr. Gladding's class. Pastor Fred, who teaches Bible, has had an impact on Kherwin by furthering his knowledge of God. Mr. Spano begins his class with worship. At first, Kherwin thought it was a waste of class time, but now has learned to take Mr. Spano's thoughts and apply them to his own life. Kherwin has also grown to appreciate the opportunities he gets to travel not only in the U.S., but to other countries through mission and music trips. Kherwin plays numerous musical instruments and is currently learning the oboe; he is also in Choraliers. He realizes he is learning so much more at UCA through many different experiences and opportunities.

Kherwin has developed a love/hate relationship with American food. He is adjusting to not having rice for every meal and is learning to enjoy the variety of choices he gets. Since coming to

The background features a large, stylized graphic on the right side, resembling a sun or a gear, composed of several thick, curved segments in dark blue and red. The segments are arranged in a circular pattern, with the blue segments at the top and the red segments at the bottom. The overall design is modern and dynamic.

UCA, Kherwin has been able to grow closer to God. He says it is so easy to find God anywhere on campus. He's discovering that UCA is safe and accepting. His school at home was not a safe place for him because of his choice of beliefs and what he wanted for his own life.

Kherwin lives with his aunt on campus and is learning to become more independent now that he is living away from home. He is learning to do more things for himself such as his laundry and is choosing to work on improving his English. He enjoys listening to podcasts – mainly TED Talks – on ways to improve himself.

Kherwin is very grateful to be at UCA and is taking every opportunity to learn about himself and grow more independent. Coming to UCA has helped him build on the importance of God in his life. He describes the UCA campus as a good combination of spiritual and social emphasis.

A Christian education is important to Kherwin. He feels like he can build on the foundation that was established for him at home in the Philippines. The most important conclusion he has come to is this: the more independent he becomes as a person, the more dependent he needs to be on God. What a great reminder for us all!

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UCA Conversations

MINI REUNIONS BY CHERI ATWOOD

Retirement! Transition! Change! Each of these can be challenging and exciting. We have certainly experienced this over the last 10 months here at FoundationONE!

Change can be good! Change can be positive! Change can be hard! As FoundationONE and Upper Columbia Academy enter the last year of the Igniting the World campaign, what won't change are the regional Conversations that have been held around the conference.

Historically, UCA Conversations began with the Igniting the World campaign. The campaign is a partnership of the Upper Columbia Conference and Upper Columbia Academy with FoundationONE to raise funds for: education for the 21st century, critical campus improvements, and the on-going need for student aid. Why? Because a Christian education is eternally important!

What is a UCA Conversation? It's an evening spent with representatives

from both UCA and FoundationONE where attendees enjoy a catered meal and hear about all the exciting things happening on the UCA campus and with FoundationONE. Because you, our alumni, and donors, enjoy hearing from current students, we include a musical group from the school, along with student testimonies and a Q&A time. What better way to hear about your school than from current students!

I just experienced my first UCA Conversation event in an official capacity on March 17 in Walla Walla. For me, having just moved from Colorado, I didn't think I would know anyone in attendance. So many of us know how small the Adventist world can be and I was certainly reminded of that again. I sat with a former math teacher I had



in junior high, a former nursing instructor from Union College, and two former colleagues from Champion Academy. Did we have fun? Yes, we did! It reminded me of how wonderful the heavenly reunion will be.

The next scheduled Conversation will be for the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene region on Sunday, May 5, 2024. For any of us who have been to an alumni weekend at our academy or even college, we know how we immerse ourselves in "conversation" taking time to get caught up with our classmates from the past. The UCA Conversations are equally important because you learn about the vital progress being made at UCA and the endowment that FoundationONE manages. What an honor to be a part of the UCA family and more important – the family of God. We look

forward to seeing many of you in May at our next UCA Conversation! We look forward to seeing you in May at our next UCA Conversation.



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SAVE THE DATE

BOB LARRABEE MEMORIAL

GOLF

TOURNAMENT



Friday, September 27, 2024

9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

**Latah Creek Golf Course
(Hangman Valley)**

Field will be limited to the first 128 players

The \$150 player fee covers greens fees, range balls, cart & dinner, plus an opportunity to win prizes for: Hole-in-One, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Putting



Great sponsorship opportunities too!

More info at:
www.foundationoneuca.org/events



Expanding the Vision of FoundationONE

With eighteen K-8 schools and four junior academies in the Upper Columbia Conference, FoundationONE can provide tuition assistance for graduating 8th and 10th graders to help them attend Upper Columbia Academy.

Getting the word out to graduates and their parents has been a focus of FoundationONE's team this winter and into the spring. According to Dean Kravig, Executive Director, "So many families send their children to public school, because they don't think they can afford to send them to an Adventist academy. Giving presentations about the scholarships and financial aid options that FoundationONE provides can hopefully change that mindset."

Because the mission of FoundationONE is to enable students to attend UCA, we realized there was a need to expand our outreach to the various 8 and 10 grade schools around the conference. For the upcoming 2024-25 school year any current 8th or 10th grade student can apply for a grant from FoundationONE, or for twelve of our nineteen named scholarships. Our hope is to have the privilege and joy of attending various graduations around the conference to present these scholarships to students who will be enrolled at UCA the following school year.

A Scholarship Committee is in place and meets to prayerfully go over each application. This committee takes their job very seriously as they know they are not only offering money to a future UCA student, but representing the families and classes who have created a named scholarship in remembrance of a loved one, or of their time here at UCA. It is a rewarding experience!

If you would like more information about FoundationONE grants and named scholarships go to: foundationoneuca.org/#grants-scholarships. Or you can contact Dean Kravig or Cheri Atwood at 509-939-1716.



“Igniting the World”

MATCHING CHALLENGE FOR THE WATER TOWERS

The current UCA water towers have been condemned by the WA State Health Department, and must be replaced by 2025. This is why, as part of the Igniting the World campaign with the Upper Columbia Conference, UCA and FoundationONE, the water towers are being replaced with three new concrete reservoirs that will be located on the hill just to the east of the Principal’s home. Because the new water reservoirs will be made of concrete, they will not be subject to the problems of rust and corrosion that our current towers are experiencing. You may

ask, “What is going to happen to the current water towers?” The upper tower will be torn down, and although not in use as a water tower, the lower “UCA” tower will remain strong as the iconic symbol of our campus.

Baker Silos from Western Washington has been contracted to build the new water reservoirs this summer, which will enable them to be functioning by 2025. **Construction must begin in June in order to meet the state deadline, and cannot be started without all the funds in hand.**

HERE ARE THE FACTS ABOUT THE NEW SYSTEM:

- ➔ EACH RESERVOIR WILL BE 30 FT. IN WIDTH AND 31 FT. IN HEIGHT.
- ➔ CAPACITY OF EACH RESERVOIR IS 163,906 GALLONS.
- ➔ TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE NEW SYSTEM WILL BE 491,718 GALLONS.
- ➔ \$1 MILLION = TOTAL COST OF THE NEW WATER SYSTEM.
- ➔ \$200,000 HAS BEEN GIVEN, LEAVING \$800,000 TO BE RAISED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION CAN BEGIN.

Generous donors have also pledged \$250,000 as a matching challenge as we continue towards our \$1 million goal. If you haven't already done so, please consider giving a generous donation to help meet this urgent need at UCA. Your donation will be matched 100%. All donations are tax deductible. In the first 3 weeks of the matching challenge we've received \$85,000, which is over 1/3 of the way to the \$250,000 match. Praise God for our generous alumni and donors! Thank you for your support of UCA and our students!

Please mark "Water Tower Challenge" on your donation.

Donations may be mailed to:

FoundationONE PO Box 744, Post Falls, ID 83877-0744

For Online donations go to:

FoundationOneUCA.org/give-now/

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25 – FoundationONE Dessert Reception

May 5 – Spokane Region Conversation

June 2 – UCA Graduation

September 27 – FoundationONE Golf Tournament

September 27-28 – UCA Alumni Weekend

thank you

This year your support of UCA students through FoundationONE's endowment provided much-needed assistance for over 80 students in the form of financial aid grants.

FoundationONE donors have also made possible the named scholarship awards that will be given to more than 50 students.

Your faithful support is making a difference for eternity!



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FoundationONE's Mission

One Dream
Enhancing UCA

One Focus
UCA Students

One School
Upper Columbia Academy

One Method
Endowment

One Process
Grants/Scholarships

One Goal
Future Leaders

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