

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

February 24, 2022

Adam McGuffie, M.Div. was born into a military family in what is now known as Hagåtña, Guam. He knew it as Agana. To get a sense of how disconnected he felt from his birth place he shared that only last week had he learned that his birth town's name had changed back to its original form. Which means he also had to teach himself how to pronounce it.

His family moved every 18-24 months to Maine, Michigan, Alabama, and a few different places in Alaska. At sixteen, and having stayed in one place for about three years, Adam finally found his place and adopted Kodiak as his home town.

"If you were born and raised in Newberg ... I don't have a bucket to put that in. I felt more "at home" in the backseat of our family's 1999 Suburban watching the countryside roll by moving to the next place."

Coming to Newberg, with our cheesy "a great place to grow" sign coming into town, is the first since Kodiak that has felt like an intentional place to call home.

Newberg has really been a great place to raise kids and everything feels very walkable from their home. Even with all the opportunities presenting themselves to leave, here they stay.

His family vision comes from his years at GFU (Master of Divinity and later as Expert Advisor for digital media and communication) fueling his passions for theology, leadership, photography, and marketing. He calls his family vision the order of loves.

This first photo has his father and grandfather, Poppy, behind him (sorry for the Rudolph glare Mr. McGuffie), as the rest of extended family, are from Alabama.



Adam's undergrad studies were University of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania. As a typical young man he had a sense the world was his

and it was up to him to find his way in it.

What he's learned, in his ripe old 30s, is that we are actually tied to who and where we come from and where those family are from.

His grandfather's father was an alcoholic and a wife beater. This shaped Poppy's life. He didn't want to be that man. He moved away, has been abstinent the whole of his life, and found faith in the Pentecostal tradition completely altering the trajectory for his family.

Edgar Lee (Poppy) returned to Ragland, AL after serving and raised his family. Larry (Dad), taught Adam that one's personal currency is the values passed through family more than material wealth.

Both men lived what Adam would identify by St. Augustine's Rightly Ordered Love. Making sure the things in our lives are loved appropriately and in the right order.

Adam, breaking the military tradition, became a pastor in his 20s. In the Pentecostal faith you don't need seminary. In fact, in some Pentecostal circles, theological degrees are viewed with some suspicion.

Family: below with wife of ten years, Kelly, and Maeve & Declan (sp?) at Smith Rock.



Adam and Kelly met his first year of seminary (he says he stretched a 3 year degree to 7 years). He was moving to Springfield, MO and she was moving to France for a year.

They talked daily. He, being in the Midwest with shutters behind oppressive heat and humidity mused that he was moving back to Oregon.

"Hey," she says, "I'm actually from Oregon and would love to see my family before my final year of seminary." So they went on a road trip together. He thought she would just chip in gas money and help drive from Springfield to Oregon.

Over the next ten days they realized they "kinda liked each other." They met friends along the way, that assumed they were dating, and her grandma. Same assumption. "So when are you guys going to get married?" she asked.

By the end of the ten day trip, at her parents' house, they said they thought they wanted to get married.

Dad is a marriage family therapist, by the way, was less than excited about the decision. That was August. He married them the following May.

Declan, Adam's initiation into fatherhood, was born in Dundee as a water birth in a time when Adam was transitioning out of vocational ministries. He recalls some of the best spiritual care he'd gotten was from their midwife, Tracy.

Maeve is a 17 month old force of nature, a lot like her mother.

Talking about getting loves in order, these are the loves of their lives.

Work: Adam has been with Salvation Army for the last year as Director of Communications and Marketing.

Their main income source is their own business, [Joy Ethic](#), providing branding, web site design, and storytelling (videography, photography, human interest stories and copywriting). "It's more fun when your business is a side thing."

Rotary: Every senior pastor he'd worked for had been, and encouraged him to be, a Rotarian.

We were at the Pancake Breakfast last year, got the itch and made it happen.

Q: If you were to sum up Salvation Army...

A: SA is a holistic nonprofit offering wraparound social services. SA's "super power" is that every dollar donated stays in the community where it was collected but with global reach and impact.

Example: A woman, Leah, came to Twin Falls, ID in 1988 as an Armenian refugee. Her father, in the wake of a massive earthquake, recognized the same red shield on a building in Idaho as Armenia. "Hey, those are the people that help."

The went, got connected, he got a local job, they got food and resources and got on their feet. Today, Leah is a business owner and running for city council.

And it started with the Salvation Army's commitment to love and Christlike care.