

THE WHO

The “Who” of Latah Valley consists of those families and single adults who reside and do business within that suburban swath of land south of Spokane, Washington, along Route 195 and the banks of the meandering Latah Creek. The men, women and children represented in this place include those who harbor sincere, heart-felt questions about God, Jesus Christ, the life of faith and finally the changing cultural dynamic of church. They have come to church with their questions and have been told, in so many subtle and not-so-subtle ways, not to ask them. They have gone from church with their lifestyles unchanged, their world views unchallenged and their emotional wounds dangerously repressed. A sub-category of this broad contingent of people finds expression in the frustrated artist (the would-be poet, painter, musician, dancer, sculptor and photographer)—that is any person who has longed to make manifest some deep poignant truth and who has not yet discovered the niche of time, opportunity, energy and wherewithal to actually do it. Adjacent to this group may in fact be the successfully trained artist (the professional who has been compensated monetarily for his or her inspired work)—but also the one who desperately seeks connection and ordinary banter with the farmer, the physician, the grocery clerk and the school teacher.

In sum, God’s Spirit has called the congregation of Latah Valley into the weary dialogue that already takes place among those in the Northwestern United States who have checked the demographic box, “None,” in terms of religious preference. We intend to encourage and to foster this conversation, not as those who have the definitive answer, but as those who believe that “all truth is God’s Truth,” and that there remains a secret yearning for the words and images of the Bible to be more than mere rhetoric.