OBITUARY

William Bruce 'Bill' Danner

March 6, 1927 — Sept. 13, 2021

Umatilla

William Bruce "Bill" Danner, 94, of Umatilla, passed away on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021. Bill was born March 6, 1927, in Sico, Kentucky, to Otis William and Lake Elizabeth (Salyer) Danner. After graduating from high school in Knoxville, Tennessee, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17. He was a Pharmacist Mate 3rd Class on the USS Randolph and was honorably discharged in 1945.

Danner

He then attended the University of Tennessee; graduating with a BA in psychology and a BS in zoology. Bill then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for the Korean conflict and was discharged early for medical school and graduated from the University of Tennessee as an MD.

In 1956, Bill interned at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia, and in 1957, went to work for public health and was assigned to Harlan, Montana. After a year, he left to start a private practice in Sidney, Montana, and eventually moved to Albany, Oregon.

In 1964, Bill ran the emergency rooms in Albany and Salem. He later left western Oregon and, while stopping for gas in Umatilla and talking to the station owner, learned they needed a doctor in Umatilla so he stayed. He had a family practice from 1973 until he retired in 1996.

For the next 6 years, he worked for Indian Health doing Locum Tenens work (filling in for doctors wherever they needed him for two to four weeks at a time). He was flown in by helicopter to the bottom of the Grand Canyon twice; went to the Colville Indian Reservation; Winnemucca, Nevada; Neah Bay, Washington; and Fort Hall, Idaho. Bill also did two four-months sessions in Saudi Arabia for Lockheed Martin.

After retiring again, he planted a small vineyard on his little farm in Umatilla, where he raised eight varieties of wine grapes and made wine.

Bill is survived by his wife, Esther "Lonnie", at their home; daughters, Cathy (Ron) Dimmerman of Lakewood, Washington; and Teresa Baker of Walla Walla; sons, Bruce (Becky) Danner of Kirkland; Brian (Barbara) Danner of Lebanon, Oregon; and Jeff Danner of Tekoa, Washington; sister, Janet Lydecker of Maryville, Tennessee; brother, Robert (June) Danner of Florence, North Carolina; stepchildren, Fran (Ken) Horn of Manson, Washington; and Dr. Pat Sharkey of Walla Walla; 16 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Burns Dugger; brother, Lewis Harvey Danner; and stepson, Philip Sharkey.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 665 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. Memorial contributions can be made to the charity of your choice through Burns Mortuary, P. O. Box 289, Hermiston OR 97838.

Please share memories of Dr. Danner with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermis-

DEATH NOTICES

Steve R. Takeyama

Nov. 12, 1957 — Sept. 11, 2021

Pendleton

Steve R. Takeyama, 63, of Pendleton, died Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, at St. Anthony Hospital. He was born Nov. 12, 1957, in Los Angeles. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Pendleton. Sign the online guestbook at burnsmortuary.com.

Timothy N. 'Tim' Harris

March 21, 1938 — Sept. 12, 2021

Hermiston

Timothy N. "Tim" Harris, 83, of Hermiston, died Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, in Hermiston. He was born March 21, 1938, in East Chicago, Indiana. A celebration of life service will be held Sept. 18, at 3 p.m., Burns Mortuary Chapel, Hermiston. Please share memories of Tim with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

John Thomas Forcum

Oct. 26, 1939 — Sept. 13, 2021

Milton-Freewater

John Thomas Forcum, 81, of Milton-Freewater, died Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, in Milton-Freewater. He was born Oct. 26, 1939. Arrangements are with Munselle-Rhodes Funeral Home of Milton-Freewater.

Thomas S. 'Tom' Barnes

Sept. 22, 1960 — Sept. 10, 2021

Hermiston

Thomas S. "Tom" Barnes, 60, of Hermiston, died Friday, Sept. 10, 2021, in Hermiston. He was born Sept. 22, 1960, in Ontario. A graveside service will be held Saturday, Sept. 18, 2 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. Please share memories of Tom with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Warren William 'Bill' Pemberton

April 13, 1934 — Sept. 9, 2021

Arlington

Warren William "Bill" Pemberton, 87, of Arlington, died Sept. 9, 2021, at home while on hospice. He was born April 13, 1934, in San Francisco. A private family service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Please share memories of Bill with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Charles Rigdon

Nov. 7, 1935 — Sept. 13, 2021

Pendleton

Charles Rigdon, 85, of Pendleton, died Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, at Regency Hermiston. He was born Nov. 7, 1935, in Portland. Arrangements are with Pendleton Pioneer Chapel, Folsom-Bishop. Online condolences may be sent to pioneerchapel.com.

Raymond J. French

May 18, 1927 — Sept. 5, 2021

Heppner

Raymond J. French, 94, lifetime Heppner resident, died Sept. 5, 2021, in Heppner. He was born May 18, 1927, in Pendleton. At this time no services are planned. Arrangements are with Sweeney Mortuary of Heppner.

SARAH HAUG

LIGHT OF UNITY

The divine essence

"O Children of the Divine and Invisible Essence! Ye shall be hindered from loving Me and souls shall be perturbed as they make mention of Me. For minds cannot grasp Me nor hearts contain Me."

The idea that God is a divine and invisible essence, fundamentally unknowable, is almost impossible for our human minds to comprehend. How can we possibly understand the essence that created the universe when that same essence also created us?

To help us, God has given to us a progression of Manifestations of Himself to translate that unknowability into terms we can understand. Among these Manifestations are: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Zoroaster, Buddha, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, and Baha'u'llah. Progressive revelation lies at the core of the Baha'i Faith, as does the fact that all the religions of God are actually one religion, with different Manifestations sent to different times and places according to the needs and capacities of the people of that time.

But that doesn't mean in our daily life we are any closer to understanding God or describing Him. As my geographer husband has been known to say, "language is unstable." What's more, it's arbitrary. Take the word "spoon," for example, a word that connotes a bowl at the end of a stick that we eat with. But what we call it (and certainly how we spell it) is entirely untethered from the object itself.

In the same way, "God" is the English word for that unknowable essence, but the essence that is "God" is in no way connected to "G-O-D" any more than a spoon is connected to how it's spelled. In Danish, which shares roots with English, the word is Gud. Among the romance languages, like Spanish, French, and Italian, God is Dios, Dieu, and Dio, respectively. In Arabic, God is Allah, and in Estonian, it's Jumal. The name changes across languages, but the invisible essence we call "God" is the same in every instance.

Naming that essence doesn't get us any closer to understanding what God is either, however. In the writings of the Baha'i Faith, He is characterized by His attributes: the Forgiver, the Generous, the All-Sufficing, the All-loving. He is the Beginning and the End, the Benevolent, the Knower-of-All-Things, the Almighty.

Also central to the Baha'i Faith is the idea that humans, puny as we may be, have the potential and power to manifest God's attributes ourselves. We can be benevolent. We can be loving. We can forgive. And importantly, it is by manifesting these attributes that we become closer to God.

"Out of the clay of love I molded thee … Turn thy sight unto thyself, that thou mayest find Me standing within thee, mighty, powerful, and self-subsisting."

———

Sarah Haug is a member of the Baha'i Faith and has called Pendleton home since 2002. You can find her most days walking on the riverwalk with her husband, Dan.

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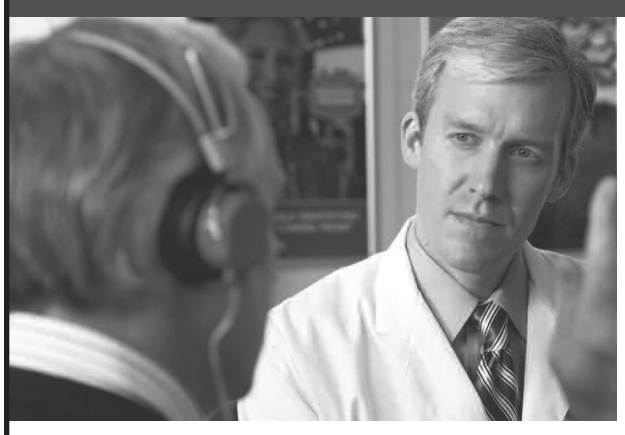

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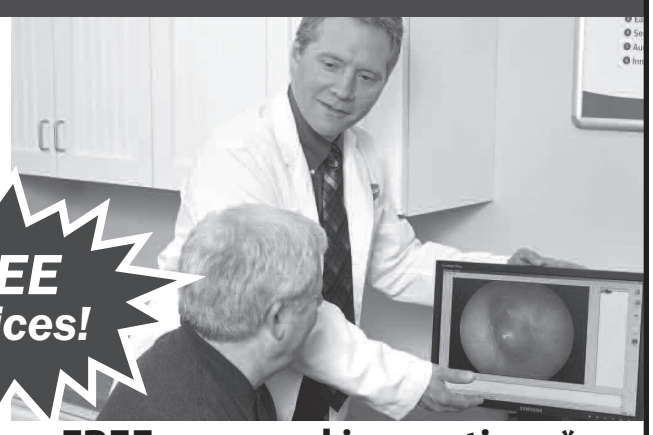

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