

# FAITH & VALUES

## Local couple sharing witness of Africa's AIDS crisis

Dr. Harry and Echo (PAC) Van derWal have seen firsthand the real story of the spread of the HIV virus in southern Africa.

The pair will speak and share their video at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, at Priest River Community Church in Priest River.

Anyone who has ever wondered what the real story is concerning the spread of the HIV virus, especially in southern Africa, and what people on this side of the world can do to combat its spread and destruction are encouraged to attend.

The VanderWals and their four young sons recently returned from nine months in the tiny country of Swaziland, where they held mobile clinics out in the "bush," remote areas untouched by medical care.

When they're at home in the States, the VanderWals live in Sagle where Echo Tuinstra grew up.

In 2005 the VanderWals founded The Luke Commission, named after Dr. Luke in the Bible and now a 501(c)3 public charity. The VanderWals are assisted by a team of Swazi translators and numerous North American volunteers.

This year alone, 25,000 medical and HIV patients



—Courtesy photo

**The VanderWal family poses for a picture with children they met in the tiny African country of Swaziland.**

have been treated, 160,000 packets of medications have been distributed, 10,000 eyeglasses fitted, and 6,000 Bibles handed out.

All services and medications are given free to the Swazis. Vision care also is offered with free eye testing

and free prescription or reading glasses.

Free clothes and shoes are fitted on orphans, and free SiSwati and English Bibles are placed in each homestead.

The Luke Commission has grown steadily. Participants

come from every walk of life and every age. You, too, can be a part. Visit [www.lukecommission.org](http://www.lukecommission.org) or contact [info@lukecommission.org](mailto:info@lukecommission.org) or 263-9311.

The VanderWals are scheduled to speak at New Song Bible Church on Feb. 1.

cian who spent tens of thousands of dollars to attend the National College of Natural Medicine in Portland. She's licensed in Oregon where she can write prescriptions, but can't in Idaho, due to the ongoing fight.

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"We need standards that ensure the safety of the people we're prescribing things to," Tsongas said. "It ensures proper oversight and proper standards."

The AANP chapter fears the unresolved licensing issue is scaring qualified naturopathic physicians away from Idaho.

Unlicensed naturopaths would still be able to use heat, water, light, air and massage techniques, under Idaho's

law. Still, advocates of broader standards say being excluded from licensing — and prohibited from writing prescriptions — would unfairly limit their practices.

As a result, the IANP, which supports the current rules proposal, says the state needs to develop its own examination and education requirements. Even so, Brenda Grogan, a Twin Falls naturopath and Board of Naturopathic Medical Examiners member who supports the broader standard, concedes the issue may be hopelessly mired.

"It's a political issue where somebody is scared to death they are going to lose their monopoly over naturopathy," Grogan said. "We've tried to talk it out. I don't care what you do, you could bend over backward and spin around 10 times, you're never going to get agreement, because there's two different philosophies."

out.  
"We are accountable to the federal government and our stockholders to use this money wisely," Hecker said. "We are tracking how we use the money because we know the public demands accountability."

Hecker is aware of the national publicity that has tagged the TARP and CPP funds as a bailout and that banks are being accused of hoarding the money and not lending it out.

For Hecker it makes good business sense to loan that money out to help prop up the local economy.

after that.  
The same amount of money would have cost the bank 10 to 12 percent right now.

"We are getting a deal on this money," Hecker said. "That is why we want to maximize what we can do with it."

If the bank's stock rises from what it was purchased at, the government could sell it later and make even more of a profit in the transaction. The profit would go back to the taxpayers.

The board of directors and a majority of shareholders voted to accept the funds in December.

# LAKE

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The Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District, which helps guide and coordinate Lake\*A\*Syst, is looking for applicants with knowledge of water quality-related best management practices and resource management.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be received in a formal educational setting, but as long as they have knowledge of land-use practices and how they relate to water quality," said Jamie Davis, a water quality resource conservationist with the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

The program started in 2005 and it provides guidance to landowners on land-use practices which guard water quality, such as the use of native plants for landscaping materials.

The program was established by Gary Parker, who passed away last year.

Ideal candidates must be comfortable dealing with the public through one-on-one interaction, in addition to community meetings and presentations.

An outgoing disposition and strong organizational and time-management skills are necessary for the job.

Along with maintaining the program for the Pend Oreille, the outreach coordinator would help it become established at Priest Lake.

Davis said the Priest Lake

# Inquire within

Applications for the Lake\*A\*Syst outreach coordinator are being accepted by the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District.

The position starts on March 16 and continues for the next three to 12 months.

The starting wage is \$12-14 an hour. At the end of a 90-day probationary period, job performance and available funding will be reviewed. Work will be performed indoors and outdoors, rain or shine.

The coordinator may be required to utilize a personal vehicle to perform duties, although mileage reimbursement is available.

To apply, direct letters of interest and resumes to the Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District, 1224 Washington Ave., Suite 101, Sandpoint, ID. 83864

program would be tailored to fit that unique area's attributes.

"There's more forestry practices that would be applicable because there's not quite as many urbanized areas, so the stormwater issues would be more forestry-related," Davis said.

