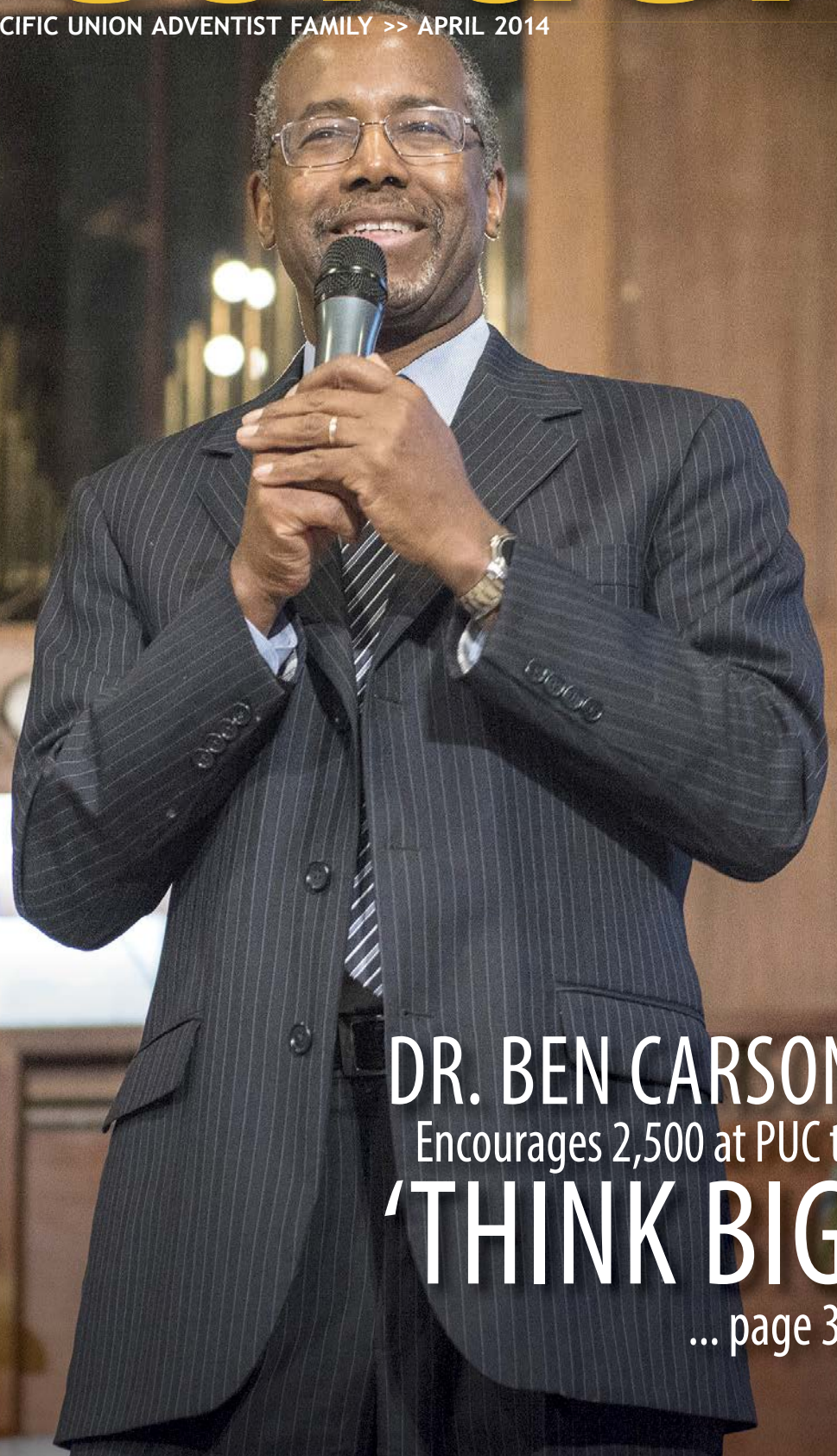


PACIFIC UNION

recorder

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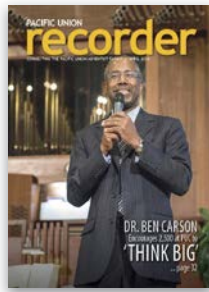


DR. BEN CARSON
Encourages 2,500 at PUC to
'THINK BIG'

... page 32

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about the cover

World-renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson spoke at PUC on the theme "Think Big" as part of the Colloquy Speaker Series.

PHOTO BY ALLISON REGAN



PACIFIC UNION recorder

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God Will Hold Your Hand

When I travel by airplane, which I do often, I prefer sitting in the aisle seat. However, those seats are often taken when I reach my preferred row. On one flight, the window and center seat were open on a particular row. I took the one nearest the window and settled in while other passengers were boarding. An older gentleman came and sat in the middle seat. He was thin and had a small shoulder width, something I appreciate in "middle-seaters." John and I exchanged greetings and settled in for the duration.

As the plane filled with passengers, we chatted. John told me he absolutely dreaded flying; the take off and the landing being the most frightening parts for him. However, he had to attend a funeral on the East Coast, and there was no one to help him drive the round trip in the time he had available. I assured him that after taking many flights, that they were usually uneventful. "I am sure it'll be all right," I said.

As the plane taxied down the runway and took off, John became agitated and asked if he could hold my hand! Since I wasn't listening intently to what he said, I thought, "Did he just ask to hold my hand?" When he started screaming loudly, I meekly extended my left hand, which he gripped tightly. I thought it would help calm him down. I usually pray silently for the crew and the plane itself while waiting to "take off." This time I prayed for our flight and for John aloud.

When the plane reached its cruising altitude, John relaxed a bit, thanking me for my strong grip, which I released as soon as possible.

Later, John napped, and I began to read. Despite the occasional shakes, the flight was proceeding well, until we experienced some turbulence. Then he screamed loudly again. As the turbulence subsided, he quietly endured the rest of the flight. Then, upon approaching the landing, he began to squirm again.

"Can I hold your hand again?" he asked. "This is the part I hate the most, coming down and

landing." I could have said no. Maybe I should tell him to "grow up." Or, "be a man", or "get over it." I could have referred him to the flight attendant. However, I offered my hand, again.

Looking back on this incident, I didn't ask him if his hands were clean, or if he was carrying a communicable disease. I didn't pull out my little bottle of hand sanitizer to wash hands after the event. (When we landed, I went to the men's room to wash my hands well.) It didn't dawn on me then that the skin on his hand was white and mine was black. I didn't stop to worry what other people might think. I did have a fleeting thought that here was a guy who needed help along his journey.

All of us, at some point in life, need the reassurance of other people, but most importantly, we need the Lord's reassurance.

God tells us through the Prophet Isaiah, "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6, NIV). Of course, this text was directly applied to the Israelites; but I believe its application, in its spiritual sense, applies beyond the nation of Israel, then and now.

God calls us to righteousness, which He freely provides. I will take your hands, He proclaims. Can you imagine that? God wants to hold our hands and lead us, as a parent leads a little child to reassure, guide and protect us from the dangers of the enemy. He wants us to be a "light", a source of spiritual illumination, and encouragement to people around us. I get the mental picture of God holding us by one hand, and with the other hand we lovingly, gently bring people to Him through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Through our trials, troubles and tribulations — the turbulence of life — God is near. David said it this way: "Where can I go from your Spirit? ... If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" (Psalm 139:7-10, NIV). We are never out of His reach.

We are assured that He will never leave us (see Hebrews 13:5). I believe God wants us to share this assurance with others along the way. Don't you? It could make the difference in someone's "flight" through this life.



Ricardo Graham

THE STORY OF ACTS: PART 3

Adventist Schools in Mission

The word “toast” usually brings to mind the metallic click of a crisp slice of bread popping out of the toaster for butter and jam, or biting into a crunchy flavor burst that makes a person feel good. In Garden Grove, TOAST pops up different feel-good thoughts — it is an acronym for The Orangewood Academy Service Team. For the students, it is a whole day off from scheduled classes twice a year. For the school, it is sharing their mission. For the community, it is humanitarian aid.

On TOAST days, teams of students from elementary through high school deploy on a variety of community service projects throughout Orange County and onto beaches south of Los Angeles. Oscar Olivarria, campus pastor and religion teacher, coordinates community needs with class sponsors for each grade team. He reports that recipients such as Second Harvest Food Bank are glad when they get a call from TOAST, saying that it is a big help.

“Service is a big part of what we do. We push it a lot,” said Datha Tickner, OA principal. “Students are used to going. Nobody grumbles or complains.”

Pacific Heaven Health Care Center residents appreciated the seventh-grade TOAST choir and handmade cards. “We weren’t just entertained,” residents said. “We were blessed.”

Since junior high students are not normally eager to sing, James Woods, OA music teacher, coached students to, “Shake some hands, and flash your best smile.” When students reached out, Woods saw many hugs. “They experienced giving of themselves,” he said. “I was blown away by their mature behavior.”

Steve Zeller and Helen Dowser, OA biology teachers, took eighth-, ninth- and 11th-grade TOAST kids to do habitat restoration at parks. Teams planted 100 trees and cleaned up at West Haven Park, Orange County Coast Keeper Garden and Irvine Ranch Water District’s Natural Treatment System.

“Kids like getting dirty and digging holes,” explained Tickner. Each year, students get to observe how their habitat work grows, and Dowser ties it all in with biology class.

Orangewood takes the initiative to honor students in volunteerism by nominating those exhibiting strong humanitarian qualities for awards and scholarships that emphasize service, such as the Pacific Union Caring Heart Award. The prestigious Ben Carson Scholars Fund awarded scholarships to Charidan Jackson as a junior (2012) and senior (2013), and awarded the school with a trophy.

“Teenagers feel like they’ve done something,” Tickner said. “It’s a sense of purpose. They feel good about themselves.”



Orangewood Academy TOAST students learn biology lessons while cleaning up local parks.



TOAST students serve in their local community by volunteering at the food bank.

Kimberly Grace

Chef Mark Anthony Encourages San Diegans to Eat Healthfully

Chef Mark Anthony is passionate about sharing his love of good food and how to prepare it healthfully. That passion took him to San Diego in early February. During his five days in National City, he spoke — and served meals — to refugees, members of the Paradise Valley church and their friends, and residents of Paradise Village retirement community.

He also preached the Sabbath morning sermon at Paradise Valley church on Feb. 8, and gave cooking demonstrations at the Poway Adventist and Grace Covenant churches.

Anthony's recipe for cooking classes includes imparting information about foods and nutrition, demonstrating cooking techniques, and serving a meal afterward. But what separates him from other instructors is the way he seasons his classes with humor, his own testimony of weight loss after choosing a vegan diet, and a generous dollop of showmanship.



While cooking a meal for them, Mark Anthony talks to seniors at the Paradise Village retirement community about topics as diverse as keeping down their cholesterol levels, using a chopping knife and eating oatmeal for breakfast.



Refugees studying English at Paradise Valley church heard Mark Anthony's health message in simple English, then enjoyed the meal he had prepared for them.

Anthony prepared lunch on Feb. 7 for ESL students and staff from Paradise Valley church's Refugee Assimilation Project. His counsel to the refugees was simple, "Begin eating healthfully at the grocery store. Buy only food that's good for you — no junk! That way, when you snack or prepare a meal at home, you won't be tempted to eat anything unhealthy because you won't have anything unhealthy in your home."

The meal he served the refugees included spicy beans, a tossed salad, and baked pasta with "Mark Anthony's Signature Cheese Sauce," made from seasoned and blended carrots and potatoes. The menu for Anthony's other audiences also included the pasta dish. "It's inexpensive to make," he said of the sauce. "Not many vegetables are cheaper than carrots and potatoes." And tasters pronounced it good. Olga Sanchez, Paradise Valley church member, called it "very tasty."

When in San Diego, the chef and his wife, Brenda, were about two-thirds of their way through a nine-month tour of the United States. They have held cooking demonstrations in all 50 states, Anthony said, and "seen God's providence every step of the way." Their ministry is self-sustaining, he said, with donations from people attending the cooking classes supplemented by income from book sales.

Anthony has been cooking nearly all his life, having learned the basics from his mother when he was a child. While majoring in business in college, he cooked at numerous restaurants, "moving on," he said, when he had learned all he could. Before becoming a Seventh-day Adventist, he was a master chef and casino owner in Las Vegas. He appears regularly on the Three Angels Broadcasting Network.

What makes him passionate about his ministry, Anthony said, is going back to places he has been before and having people tell him they are healthier or have a better connection with God because of his having been there.

"God gave me the talent to help other people," he said, "and that's a real privilege."

For recipes and more information, visit Mark Anthony's website, www.chefmarkanthony.com.

Jocelyn Fay

Mark Anthony's Signature Cheese Sauce

Ingredients

- 3 cups diced potatoes, peeled
- 2 cups diced carrots, peeled
- 1/2 cup nutritional yeast flakes
- 1/2 cup water (reserved from the vegetables)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 Tbs. chicken style seasoning (Better Than Bouillon or McKay's)
- 1 Tbs. garlic
- 1 Tbs. onion powder
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1 tsp. lemon juice (optional)

Directions

Boil the potatoes and carrots until very tender. Drain the veggies, reserving the water, and place veggies in a blender or food processor with all the remaining ingredients. Blend on high for one minute, scrape the sides and blend for another minute on high. You will have a creamy velvety cheese sauce. Add additional reserved veggie water as needed.

A powerful blender, like a Vitamix or Blendtec, makes the smoothest sauce.

This base recipe is perfect for nachos, haystacks or any

creations needing cheese, such as au-gratin potatoes, mac and cheese or stuffed spuds. You can also chill and reuse later. When re-heated, it will again become creamy.

For variety, add salsa or herbs. It also works as a fantastic thickener for potato or broccoli soups.

CHEFMARKANTHONY.COM



Chef Mark Anthony served his guests a creamy "cheese" sauce made from carrots and potatoes.



Students at Calexico Mission School build lifelong friendships.

Adventist Education — Is It Worth It?

In 2012, there were 55 million children attending K-12 schools across the United States, and of those, 53,257 of them attended an Adventist educational institution. In fact, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has the second largest parochial school system in the world.

In the early 1870s, the Adventist Church recognized the need for a denominational-based education system. Its main goal was to create a holistic curriculum that focused on more than just vocational learning.

The Department of Education of the General Conference states: "Mental, physical, social, and spiritual health, intellectual growth, and service to humanity form a core of values that are essential aspects of the Adventist education philosophy."

But is it possible for the church to educate children within a faith-based community without compromising the skills and academics necessary to compete in today's world?

Sometimes people wonder if Adventist schools compete academically with larger and better-funded public or private schools. Several years ago, researchers from La Sierra University set out to answer this very question. The study, led by Elissa Kido, director of the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education, is titled *CognitiveGenesis*.

The research study surveyed 51,706 students, as well as parents and teachers at participating North American Division schools. It turns out that Adventist schools perform better than the national average in all subjects and in all grade levels across the board.

Not only that, but regardless of skill level, students scored above their expected achievement based on their ability, regardless of the size of the school. This means that students in Adventist schools have an edge when they go to college, graduate school or start careers.

The study also showed that the longer a student attends Adventist schools, the higher their personal achievement.

How does spirituality factor in to student life?

In further study, Kido points to recent research that shows that 81 percent of Adventist students affirmed that "attending an Adventist school is the most important thing that has helped them develop their religious faith."

Ellen White writes in *Education*, "The work of education and the work of redemption are one" (30.2). It is important that students not only grow in academics, but also in an understanding of God's place in their lives.

"When students know the end from the beginning in context of the great controversy,



Adventist schools emphasize both academic excellence and personal character growth.

they can fit everything into a big picture," Kido said. "They can be hopeful, because they know what the end is going to be."

Norma Howard, teaching principal at the Needles Seventh-day Adventist School, tells a story of a young boy who transferred to her one-classroom school. Coming from the public system, he had no knowledge of Jesus or other Bible stories. He had never gotten along with his teachers and other students, and he was behind in his schooling.

Over the period of his sixth grade year, he started changing little by little. His parents noticed that he was more thoughtful and polite. His reading level improved, and his attitude changed. His classmates introduced him to Jesus. He accepted Christ, which changed his life in all areas.

"I could go through each kid just the same and see how God has worked in their lives and changed them," Howard said. "I hope that we are molding them and shaping them for eternity."

Don Dudley, superintendent of schools at Southeastern California Conference, echoed that sentiment. "You see in Adventist schools teachers who see the spiritual growth of their students just as strong a priority as their academic and social growth. This type of spiritual mentoring is just not possible in the public sector."

The experience of students at many of the Adventist schools attests to the same thing.

Teachers become mentors and classmates become lifelong friends.

Hillary Sujo, an alumnus of Loma Linda Academy, graduated in 2011 and is now attending Southern Adventist University. "What I value most about LLA are the relationships that I made there," she said. "I made great friends and had great teachers. Teachers want the students to succeed spiritually and academically."

Adventist schools strive to create inquisitive and thoughtful young people. Even when there are challenging questions of faith, Adventist institutions encourage students to think for themselves. "Our goal is to teach our students to be thinkers, so that they see all sides and make a choice that is the best path for them to take," said Dudley.

So what value can parents find when sending their children to Adventist schools?

Recent research has begun to reveal that it is character, not cognition, that is central



Research shows that students in Adventist schools perform better than the national average in all areas in all grades.



Desert Adventist Academy students work on academics, but teachers provide spiritual and character building lessons, as well.

to success. Adventist schools are achieving academically and, in addition, they promote qualities that lead to excellent character, integrity, optimism, self-control, kindness, gratitude and more.

Kido commented on how improbable it was that an entire school system would score above the national average in all subjects and grades, and above the predicted achievements. "It is pretty improbable," she said. "In the Bible, it would probably be called miraculous."

A documentary film called "The Blueprint: The Story of Adventist Education," highlighting Adventist education and directed by Martin Doblmeier will air on PBS in April.

For more in-depth information about the CognitiveGenesis program, visit cognitivegenesis.org.



Don Dudley, superintendent of schools at Southeastern California Conference, visits Laguna Niguel Junior Academy to see student success first hand.

Mario A. Munoz

Churches Celebrate 50 Years of Adventist Work in Mesa

On March 1, the Mesa Palms church celebrated the 50th anniversary of Adventist work in Mesa, Arizona. Pastor Terry Darnall and his team put together a celebratory weekend as they recalled the origins and historic journey of the Mesa Palms church. Special guests included Mayor Scott Smith; Hubert Cisneros, director of youth and church ministries for Mid-America Union; and the King's Heralds Quartet.

The Adventist work began in Mesa in 1963. D.C. Butherus, conference president at that time, and 10 other church leaders broke ground for the first area Seventh-day Adventist church at 111 N. 72nd Street.

PHOTOS BY PHIL DRAPER



Pastor Terry Darnall has pastored in Mesa for 24 years.

On Feb. 2, 1963, the East Mesa Seventh-day Adventist Church formed with 27 charter members. On Jan. 15, 1965, it became an officially recognized church. On Feb. 13, 1971, the debt was completely paid, and the church was dedicated. In 1984, the building was expanded to a seating capacity of 245 people.

Over the 50-year history of the work in Mesa, 13 pastors and two student pastors have served the church.

The East Mesa School opened during the 1973-1974 school year in a Quonset hut on the church property. During the 1991-1992 school year, it relocated to 9910 E. Adobe Street, creating a district school shared by the East Mesa, Mesa and Apache Junction churches.

On Oct. 7, 1972, a new church was planted on the West side of Mesa. On Nov. 25, 1972, Arizona Conference President John Stevens presided over ceremonies, making the Mesa Company an official church called the Mesa Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On April 2, 1975, the Mesa church voted to purchase land at 1763 N. Gilbert Road with plans to build a new church. It was dedicated on May 22, 1980, with 37 members on the books. By April 1998, the church had grown to 120 members.

In 1998, the Mesa and East Mesa churches combined to create a new church complex. The Mesa church was sold Jan. 15, 1999, and the two churches began meeting at the East Mesa church. On March 6, 1999, the Mesa Palms church officially hit the books with 421 charter members.

In 2001, the church purchased a five-acre plot of land at 6263 E. Thomas Road, which is where the church is today. They broke ground in 2003 and completed construction in 2004.

"This is a miracle church," Darnall says. "Our future plans are to build a Family Life Center, which will have a church school and a gymnasium on the back side of the five-acre property."

He enjoys recalling the story of what he and the Mesa Palms members consider to be a miracle. To fund the project, they hired a fundraising professional. They received \$350,000 in donations, plus pledges for another \$300,000 to be given over a five-year period. They bought a three-acre property for \$257,000 at Val Vista and McDowell Roads.

"This is where the miracle happened," explains Darnall. "Three years later, we prayed about the sale of the property to a potential buyer, who was going to rezone the property to commercial and build medical buildings on



The church plans to build a Family Life Center, which will have a church school and a gymnasium on the back side of the five-acre property at the Mesa Palms church.



Joining the 50th Anniversary celebration were Pastor Herman Bauman, Treasurer Robert Hastings, Pastor Ed Keyes, Pastor Tony Anobile, Pastor Terry Darnall, Mayor Scott Smith, and head elder Don Jaqua.

it. We determined not to accept an offer less than \$500,000, virtually doubling our money. However, the original buyer refused the deal, saying the amount was too high. But our members kept praying, and with God's blessing, we sold the property for \$510,000 — just enough money to finish the building of the \$2,400,000 project!"

Darnall concludes, "Our mortgage will be paid off in 2021. What a journey it has been! We praise God for His wonderful blessings and

workings to provide a beautiful church and acreage for future plans in a beautiful area of northeast Mesa."

Mesa Palms membership is currently 491. The church sanctuary seats 581 with overflow seating of 60.

"Pastor Terry Darnall has enjoyed one of the longest-running pastorates I've ever heard of," said Arizona

Conference Executive Secretary Ed Keyes. "I think his 24 years at Mesa is barely eclipsed by Dwight Nelson's 25 at Pioneer Memorial and Dan Steven's 29 at Kettering."

Phil Draper



The Mesa Palms sanctuary was filled to capacity for the 50th anniversary celebration.



The King's Heralds Quartet concluded the celebration with a rousing gospel concert Saturday evening.

NCC Hispanic Marriage Retreat Strengthens Families

Eighty couples — from newlyweds to long-time married — attended the annual Northern California Conference Hispanic Ministries Retiro Matrimonial (marriage retreat) at Leoni Meadows, Feb. 14-16.

The weekend's speaker was Rene Quispe, marriage and family life counselor. His presentations were full of practical ideas to help couples experience optimal marriages. "Dr. Quispe said that people can live in the same house, but they

don't really live together," said Oakland Spanish church head elder Isaac Garcia, who attended the retreat with Lilia, his wife of 36 years. "We learned a lot," he said. "We had a good experience that weekend."

A highlight for many was the Saturday evening banquet. Couples enjoyed the decorations and food, along with a program where participants had a chance to pay tribute to their spouses through speeches and songs. Sacramento Spanish church member Barbara Aviles sang a song to Lewis, her husband of 16 years. "I felt like we were on our honeymoon again," she said.

Hispanic Ministries coordinator Richard



Hispanic Ministries coordinator Richard Dena and his wife Eneida enjoy the Saturday evening banquet.

Dena believes that growing and preserving strong Adventist families are essential duties of the church. "There is nothing as powerful as a home where the family is in unity," he said.

Julie Lorenz



Spanish-speaking couples from throughout the Northern California Conference listen to Rene Quispe's presentation.

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING








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JULY 24-AUGUST 2, 2014

Plan now to attend this year's event, **Experience Jesus Again**, in one of the most beautiful camp meeting locations ever found. Beneath the giant Redwood trees, come to hear scheduled speakers **Mark Finley**, General Conference vice president and well-known evangelist; **Randy Maxwell**, pastor of the Kuna Seventh-day Adventist Church and popular author; and **Frederick Russell (Adult II)**, senior pastor of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church and leadership expert, along with other exciting speakers. There will also be musical concerts and many seminars on a variety of topics, including a special presentation for kids by **John Mathews**, North American Division stewardship director and co-owner, with his wife, of the famous children's series dog "Stewardship Jack."



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Jovan Ilijev Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

On Sabbath, Feb. 1, Jovan Ilijev was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Sacramento Yugoslavian church. Ilijev serves as the pastor of three congregations — Foresthill, Georgetown and Shingle Springs.

As Ilijev looks back on his life story, he sees God's hand at work. "The journey wasn't always easy and smooth," said Ilijev. "It had many twists and turns, but it prepared me for the ministry."

Born in Communist Yugoslavia and raised by devout Christian parents, Ilijev lived in two different worlds. At home he was taught that God is the Creator and Savior. At school he was told that the idea of God is irrational nonsense. Growing up in such an environment put Ilijev on a lifelong quest for truth and gave him a desire to be able to defend his faith.

The year after Ilijev was baptized, his father received a call to pastor the Yugoslavian church in Chicago, and the entire family moved to the United States. The following summer, Ilijev returned to Yugoslavia for a visit — a move that shaped his future.

Upon arriving in Belgrade, his passport was seized. He was told he could return to the United States only after completing his military service. Since he was 17 and not eligible to be drafted, he decided to attend the Adventist academy in Croatia. In due time, he joined the army, where the major turning point of his life occurred.

A new, hardcore, Communist major was put in charge of Ilijev's battalion. At first, the major pretended to be interested in Ilijev's faith, but then he confiscated his religious literature and threatened him with prison time for possessing it. The major became infuriated when he learned that Ilijev did not work on Sabbath. One Thursday, the major told him: "This Saturday, the colonel general from Zagreb will visit our barracks, and I'll personally make sure that you either do the job I assign to you or send you to prison."

After refusing to perform the job on Sabbath, Ilijev was summoned to the major's office and interrogated for hours by the officers. They told

him that his offense was punishable by six years in prison and that a military court would try him within several weeks. As he waited to be called by the military court, "the unthinkable happened," said Ilijev.

The same major informed him that his religious freedom was fully granted. He would not be required to work on Sabbath, and his religious literature was returned to him. Ilijev was stunned. "To me it was a clear sign that God wanted me to dedicate my life to full-time ministry," he said.

After his military service, Ilijev could not return to America because his green card had expired. Although disappointed, he was determined to pursue theological studies. He enrolled for a semester at Newbold College in England, and then later moved to Jamaica to study at West Indies College.

Upon completing his bachelor's degree, Ilijev began a master's degree program in the philosophy of religion. "I examined all the arguments against God's existence I had heard growing up in Yugoslavia, and I realized that atheism — not Christianity — is irrational and unattainable," he said.

Ilijev traveled to California to visit relatives and got a job to earn money for graduate school. Finally, he entered Andrews University, where he received his Master of Divinity at the SDA Theological Seminary. He then returned to California, where he served as

a pastoral intern at the San Pedro Yugoslavian church and earned his Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary.

He was then called to teach at Belgrade Theological Seminary in the former Yugoslavia, where he appeared on television, held seminars, conducted evangelistic campaigns, and authored the book *Atheism versus Christianity*.

Later, Ilijev came back to California and was hired by the Northern California Conference. Now, in addition to serving as pastor, Ilijev hosts a weekly radio program, "The Crossroad," aimed at reaching atheists and other non-Christians. "My passion is to engage with nonbelievers," he said, "telling them about the hope and meaning of life that can be found in Jesus."

Julie Lorenz



NCC administrators and pastors pray with Foresthill/Georgetown/Shingle Springs district Pastor Jovan Ilijev during his ordination service.



NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson (left) presents Pastor Jovan Ilijev with his ordination certificate.



The Golden Gate Academy campus is located in the Oakland hills.

Plans Are in the Works to Re-open Golden Gate Academy

The Golden Gate Academy Reorganization Committee is actively working with the Northern California Conference Education Department to reopen Golden Gate Academy as a diverse, high-achieving and fiscally sound Seventh-day Adventist institution, serving Oakland and the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 1923, GGA has a long history of building character, inspiring service and developing excellence in young people.

The committee members, representing a number of constituent churches in the Bay Area, plan for the school to be a top-tier, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) academy, beginning with limited grade levels in the fall of 2015. Each year, the goal is for the school to add one level to the lower grades and one level to the upper grades until all grade levels are available.

GGA will serve the Adventist community first and foremost, but organizers intend for it to be academically competitive with other local private institutions. "As a parent, I don't want to choose between a top-notch school and a Seventh-day Adventist school for my daughter," said Oakland resident and Grand Advent church member Jeremy Taylor.

The school campus is located in an affluent area of the Oakland hills, populated by families that have a strong interest in quality private education. GGA's afterschool and summer

programs will begin this year and will serve as a way to recruit potential students. Organizers expect that their science/tech-based summer program will attract local families and lead to enrollment during the school year.

Plans are for the school to feature a combination of tradition and innovation, grounded in sound Adventist Christian principles. One important characteristic of GGA's campus will be its diversity — in the student body as well as in the teaching and administrative staff. The school will continue the musically rich emphasis of Adventist education, focused on training, performances and travel-based experience. It will also incorporate the church's health message, to be reflected in the healthy breakfast and lunch program for the students. Historically, Adventist education has offered students a robust study-work program, teaching young people important values related to discipline, service and sacrifice. Organizers want to continue these traditions and improve upon them in context with 21st century learning. "We are proud of the rich tradition we have built over the years, and yet we know we have to remain innovative to sustain and grow our academic institutions," said Grand Advent church Pastor Jonathan Henderson.

The organization committee's holistic approach to education has drawn interest from a broad cross-section of people. Public high school teacher and Alameda church member

Mary Jackson is relatively new to the reorganization committee. "I joined the GGA board initially because I believed it was an opportunity for our churches in the East Bay to be united and have a common goal," she said. "Now that I am on the board, I'm excited about the vision for the school — the vision of helping children meet the demands of this time and place, using STEM and high academic standards, but not losing sight of the spiritual, health and work experience that grounds the child's character and preparedness."

NCC Superintendent of Schools Bill Keresoma is also excited to see the progress the committee has made in developing a school that will lead students to Christ. "NCC educators have a strong desire to turn our children into spiritual champions," he said. "I'm happy that GGA teachers and administrators will be part of our team."

The organizers' challenge is to meld existing best practices from both Adventist and secular sources, sound business and marketing principles, and some out-of-the-box thinking. "The reorganization committee members are approaching their task strategically and prayerfully with a focus on educational excellence," said NCC President Jim Pedersen. "I join my prayers with theirs and look forward to seeing Golden Gate Academy open its doors once again."

Erin Conner Ngeno

Church Members Leave Lasting Legacy in Willits

What difference can a gift make? Ask the members of the Willits church about the legacy of Ralph and Olga Morsillos.

They were faithful, long-time members of the Willits church. "He and his wife were there — rain or shine," said head elder Don Smith. Ralph was an architect who donated his skills to the church, drawing up architectural plans when needed and refusing payment. They were also generous with their money, which included monthly gifts to the church's Betumki Pathfinder Club.

Unbeknownst to their church community, the couple arranged with the Northern California Conference to leave a large legacy to the Adventist work in Willits. In 2007 after Ralph passed away, church members discovered that the couple had left a total of \$75,000 — \$25,000 each to the Willits church, the Pathfinder club and the Adventist Christian School of Willits. "Collectively, as a church we were just blown away," said Smith. "It came as an incredible surprise!"

Since then, the church, club and school have been able to proceed with projects that would have been difficult or impossible without the

bequest. Members do not take the blessing for granted. Often when money from the gift fund is withdrawn for specific projects, it's paid back when other money becomes available.

The legacy has been especially helpful to the school. "When tuition hasn't come in when it should, and when bills come in, the school has the money to turn to, but the treasurer tries to repay it as much as possible," said school board chair Margaret Smith. The funds helped the school clean up after a devastating flood several years ago, as well as build a necessary retaining wall. Most importantly, the gift has helped pay the tuition for many community students who couldn't afford to attend. "The money has kept the school open, and we have kids there that wouldn't be at school without it," said Margaret Smith.

The donation to the Pathfinder club has made the leaders' jobs a lot easier. After 37 years, the club was finally able to purchase a trailer to haul their camping equipment. The money also helped the leaders prepare to take their club to the international camporee in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin, in 2009 and again this year. The club can purchase airplane tickets, buy food and make other travel arrangements when necessary, and the Pathfinders then repay the money when they finish their fundraising.

At the church, the bequest is often used in a "matching" capacity for major projects, including air conditioning, a new sound system, an automated screen, a rear projection screen and more. The congregation pays for half the project, and the legacy left by the couple makes up the other half. "I wish they knew what good things they accomplished for us," said Don Smith. "Someday they will."

Debi Pedersen, trust officer in the NCC Planned Giving Department, loves to hear stories like these. "I count it an honor that I was able to help fulfill Mr. and Mrs. Morsillos' wishes," she said. "It's always wonderful to see funds go to our local churches, schools and other ministries."

NCC Director of Planned Giving Rich Magnuson agrees. "When we see generosity like that



When students from the Adventist Christian School of Willits put on puppet shows, they are known as His Kids Puppeteers. The children stand with former Small School Pastor Jim Pimentel (back left) and Willits church Pastor Stan Caylor.



Members of the Willits Betumki Pathfinder Club march in the Sabbath morning parade at the NCC Pathfinder Camporee.



Willits church Pastor Stan Caylor baptizes Ron Price.

shown by Ralph and Olga Morsillos, we are witnesses to the result of God's work in their lives and of His continued blessings as those gifts touch many lives in the Willits community."

Julie Lorenz

Oahu Pathfinders and Adventurers Participate in Presidential Fitness Challenge



Wahiawa Pathfinders get ready to cheer for their friends during the long run.



Hezekiah Del Prado aims for the Presidential Award as Dr. Geoff Sewell times him in the shuttle run.

On Feb. 2, Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs gathered at Kaiser High School to participate in the annual President's Challenge, a program of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. More than 300 people came out to support and cheer for the children.

The day before, a flood advisory was issued for the weekend due to the heavy rains predicted to hit the island. Many people called the conference to be sure the event hadn't been cancelled. Administrators decided to make the final decision the morning of the event.

Before sunrise, leaders arrived to set up resting areas and register their clubs. Though the ground was still wet, the stars were out, and it was clear that the daylight would bring sunny skies. Before any of the sporting events began, all clubs gathered for a joint worship, thanking God for a great day ahead.

The day's fitness activities began with an endurance test. Depending on their age, each runner paced themselves for a quarter-, half-, or full mile. The v-sit reach tested flexibility, measuring how far their outstretched arms could pass outstretched legs while seated. To test lateral

speed, kids did the shuttle run, sprinting 30 feet four times. Curl-ups tested core strength and pushups demonstrated upper-body strength.

For the past two years, Dr. Geoff Sewell of the Aiea Pathfinder club has dedicated his time to planning this event. "The President's Challenge is great because it promotes health for your whole body. By competing against age-determined standards and not individuals, the field atmosphere is supportive and encouraging with enthusiastic cheering from the crowd and families."

Unlike competitions that pit contestants against each other, each participant was challenged to excel according a national standard. Club leaders and parents have found that this program not only encourages kids to do their best, but also allows all to strive for excellence and encourage others at the same time. Not everyone achieves the same award, but one's success does not take away from another's.

Each participant left with a patch and a signed certificate recognizing the level of their performance. Some were fast, others were slow, but all the young people left with a sense of church support and unity.



Fil-Am Pathfinder Club poses with Pastor David Madrid (seated fourth from right), parents and staff.

Jesse Seibel

Hand 'n Hand Participants Take a Stand

The sixth annual Hand 'n Hand leadership training event took place at the Hawaii Conference Training Center the weekend of Feb. 7-9. The theme for this year was "Stand Up! Stand In! Stand Out!" Childrens and youth leaders were challenged to "Stand Up" by answering the call to minister to the youth and children of their congregations; to "Stand In" by choosing to serve the needs of a new generation; and to "Stand Out" by serving as advocates and mentors in young people's lives.

Keynote speakers included Phyllis Washington, North American Division children's ministries director; Maria McClean, Ontario Conference children's ministries director; and Scott Ward, NAD coordinator for public high school ministry.

Washington shared Vacation Bible School practices and resources, providing each church with a "Galactic Quest" VBS kit. McClean led a segment on children's health and lifestyle. Ward shared his passion for reaching the millions of students attending public high schools. Luis Beltre, Bible instructor/evangelist of Honolulu Central church, and Jesse Seibel, Hawaii Conference youth director led other workshops on small groups and mentoring relationships.

Friday night began with Denny Uechi and his sixth- and seventh-grade students from HMA K-8 leading in worship. Conference departments recognized volunteers for their outstanding commitment to children and youth.



Children's leaders show their handiwork in Phyllis Washington's workshop.



Denny Uechi (standing far right) accompanies his HMA K-8 students to lead attendees in Friday night worship.



Pastor Scott Ward (center) shares with an attendee interested in public high school ministry.

"It was a great weekend," said Honolulu Central church children's ministries volunteer Nenny Safotu. "The presenters were very informative, and easy to understand and listen to. It's always nice to have hands-on activities. I'm glad the workshops are always at the beginning of the year. It helps to jumpstart my motivation. By the end of the year, I've spent so much energy in planning and doing things with the kids that I run out of resources or ideas."

Sabbath morning saw all the participants back at the local churches and conference presenters speaking at various congregations to inspire members to reach a new generation. Sabbath afternoon workshops included an opportunity to participate in communion with

Ward, who asked the participants to allow God to use their devotional lives to bless their young people.

Sunday morning continued with workshops and resource giveaways. Everyone walked away with a book, manual or other ministry tool. As the weekend came to a close, President Ralph Watts made an appeal to answer God's call to minister to the youth and children of Hawaii, in step with the conference motto of "Each One, Reach One." Those who came to Hand 'n Hand say they are ready to take that stand.



Maria McClean and Phyllis Washington (center) are welcomed with aloha and a traditional floral lei.

Feryl Harris

La Sierra Students Seek Aid for Syrian Refugees

La Sierra University students Caitlin Cuenca and Andrew Pedersen had witnessed extreme poverty and disease during aid missions to other countries. But nothing prepared them for the ravages of war they encountered during their December visit with Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The two La Sierra students, who hold student leadership positions at the university, spent Christmas break meeting Syrian families in Jordan's capital city of Amman, and in Mafraq on the Syrian-Jordanian border. With the assistance of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Jordan, they visited refugee families, delivered winter coats collected at La Sierra, and took note of the desperate need for clothes, medical care and food.

PHOTO COURTESY CAITLIN CUENCA



La Sierra University students Caitlin Cuenca and Andrew Pedersen spent Christmas break visiting with Syrian refugees in Jordan. The two have been raising awareness of the situation, and raising funds to help ADRA's Jordan operations.

Their journey was part of a yearlong aid campaign initiated by Cuenca last fall called Project: Syria. As religious vice president for the Student Association of La Sierra University, she organized the effort after researching the atrocities suffered by tens of thousands of Syrians forced to flee their homes in the face of civil war. "I wanted to start a year-long project for the campus to engage in," said Cuenca, a senior bio-health science major. The project also ties in with her career goals of becoming a missionary dentist, and with her beliefs that God calls everyone to some form of service. "This year at least, the refugees happen to be mine," she said.

Cuenca recruited Pedersen, the university's student missions director and a religious studies/pre-nursing major, and the two embarked on their mission under the auspices of the student association. First, they held a winter coat drive at the university, purchased airline tickets with their own money, and flew to Jordan to deliver the coats to refugee families. Then they raised more than \$2,000 through a benefit concert on Feb. 22 featuring the Christian band The Brilliance. They will next raise money during La Sierra's annual and popular REVO fashion show on April 27. REVO is organized each year to benefit outreach projects in different parts of the world.

At the end of the school year, Cuenca will mail a check to aid ADRA's Jordan operation. The international humanitarian aid organization is striving to help refugee families who have left the massive United Nations camps and are struggling to pay rent and buy food, clothes and medicine on roughly \$36 a month per individual provided through the U.N.

"A lot of families were saying they were behind on their rent and they can't pay for medicine for their kids," Pedersen said.

Since the outbreak of civil war in 2011, about 2.1 million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries, with 600,000 registered in Jordan, according to the Syrian Refugees, a project of the Migration Policy Centre of the European University Institute. More than 80,000 are housed in tents in the Jordanian refugee camp Za'atari set up in 2012, the second largest refugee camp in the world.

In Jordan, Cuenca and Pedersen stayed with the parents of a La Sierra alumnus, who teach English in Amman. Led by ADRA representative Ramzi Remond, the students met with several refugee families in their sparse and dilapidated apartments in the capital city. With the assistance of their American hosts, they traveled by car about 45 minutes to the border town of Mafraq near the Za'atari camp to meet with 15 more families. Through various conversations translated by Remond, they learned of the dangers and difficulties confronting vulnerable refugees, particularly widows with children and the disabled. They learned that families who want to leave the camps may do so only if they have a Jordanian sponsor. They must carry laminated papers indicating their refugee status and survive on the U.N.'s provision.

The families told the La Sierra students they hope for peace and to return to Syria, said Pedersen, because they don't know how they will survive.

With crayons and paper provided by Cuenca and Pedersen, the refugee children drew their perceptions of their homeland and of the conflict tearing at their nation. Many created brightly colored, detailed drawings depicting shootings and attacks and individuals dying.

"It was sad to hear the stories from kids not even 10 years old yet, and they're seeing people getting shot in the street," Pedersen said. "They would still be smiling, happy to be in a photo. Even through all this they still have hope."

"It was really emotional for me. I cried a lot," said Cuenca. "People don't realize how bad it is until they see it for themselves."

Despite witnessing much suffering, Cuenca said her faith has been tremendously strengthened throughout the aid campaign. "Coming back to America and seeing the support is promising. They can't see it because they're on the other side of the world, but, at the right time when ADRA helps them in whatever ways they can, hopefully they'll be able to see and experience God," she said. "I think that's how it is for us, too. God is planning all these things to help us when we are in the dark, not understanding what's going on, but all along He's been planning and waiting for the right moment to help us."

Darla Martin Tucker

Summit Christian Academy Students Conduct Worship Services

Summit Christian Academy staff and students recently conducted complete worship services at each of the school's constituent churches as a token of appreciation for members' support.

The students prayed and lead congregational singing. Sara Willard's first- and second-graders recited Scripture from memory. Cindy McCaw's third- and fourth-graders played their recorders. Fifth-graders joined Rith Dok's sixth- through eighth-grade hand bell choir.

Miri Mertz directed an all-student choir. Then, a team of sixth- through eighth-graders delivered the morning message. Katie Schleenbaker, the kindergarten teacher, created a promotional video for the school showing how everyone's support has made it all possible.

"That was wonderful!" said one dad. "I will definitely make sure we are at all of these services!"

"It's a positive thing," said seventh-grader Daniel Rodriguez. "People pay attention and want to hear what we have to say. They go to our parents and tell them what a good job we did."

"It's a good way to know our church communities," added sixth-grader Marissa Brugman. "We also get to see a lot of friends and make new ones. People who don't send their children here can see what we offer at our school."

Pam Mertz

PAM MERTZ



The Summit Christian Academy choir performs at the Tala Ki Mamani church.

Notice of Session

Notice of Nevada-Utah Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Constituency Session of the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 4, 2014, at the Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4575 South Sandhill Road, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the quadrennial reports, to elect conference officers, departmental directors and the Executive Committee; and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session.

According to constitutional provision, each organized church is entitled to two delegates-at-large and one additional delegate for each fifty (50) church members or fractional majority thereof.

Notice of Nevada-Utah Association Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the regular Quadrennial Session of the Nevada-Utah Association of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 4, 2014, at the Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4575 South Sandhill Road, Las Vegas, Nevada.

This meeting is called for the purpose of receiving reports from the officers, electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

All duly elected and accredited delegates at any regular or special session of the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be recognized as delegates of any Association session.

*Larry Unterseher, President
Jason Bergmann, Secretary*

PAM MERTZ



Summit Christian Academy recorder choir (l. to r.): Charlie Smith, Chalee Holets, Faleula Matangi, Sean McBride, Anthony Polanco, Emma Constantino, Joseph Hernandez, Jayden Bradley, and Elizabeth Blackwelder, directed by Miri Mertz, perform during the student-run church service.

Asian/Pacific Pastors Gather in Ontario for Workshops and Fellowship

In February, 148 Asian/Pacific pastors and 59 spouses gathered in Ontario, Calif., for training and inspiration at the North American Division Asian/Pacific Pastors Convention. It was one of the largest gatherings of Asian and Pacific Island church pastors in NAD history. In his opening remarks, North American Division President Dan Jackson commented, "Someone has said we no longer have to worry about how to reach people in the 10/40 window* because the 10/40 window has moved in next door to us."

The pastors, many of whom brought their spouses, came to the convention from congregations across North America and from as far away as Guam, but the largest number (127) came from the Pacific Union. A brochure distributed at the convention reported that there are 99,162 Asian/Pacific members in the NAD, which now includes the Guam/Micronesia Mission. Asian/Pacific members conduct worship services in 25 languages and meet in 801 Asian/Pacific churches. In 2013, those churches welcomed 2,257 new members through baptism, and donated \$87 million in tithe.

The convention featured 19 presenters, including church administrators, ministry directors, seminary theologians, evangelists, marriage counselors, educators and practical ministry trainers.

"These meetings have been great," said Sonatane Vunileva, pastor of the Los Angeles Tongan church, "I especially liked the presentations on how to have a good marriage [by Soon Ja Lee], and the presentations by Stan Patterson [Andrews University Theological Seminary] on how to be a Christian leader. I had never heard those things before."

Five times during the convention, the spouses of pastors met for separate presentations. Speakers for that group included Soon Ja Lee, licensed psychologist; Imelda Arreola, wife of VicLouis and registrar and coordinator of Christian Ministry Academic Affairs; Heather Knight, president of Pacific Union College; and Donna Jackson, wife of Dan and director of the NAD Ministerial Spouses Association.

VicLouis Arreola III, Asian/Pacific Ministries director for both the NAD and the Pacific Union, was pleased with the number of pastors and wives who participated, and with the presentations. "Our theme was 'All Power is Given,' and the power we have is the power of the Holy Spirit," he said. "I pray that all our pastors will be full of God's power."

**The 10/40 window refers to parts of the eastern hemisphere, plus the European and African part of the western hemisphere, located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator. In general, those areas have enormous populations, high levels of poverty and very low numbers of Christians.*



Gerry Chudleigh Dan Jackson, president of the NAD, speaks to pastors.



Nearly 200 participants pose at the North American Division Asian/Pacific Pastors Convention, Feb. 23-26, 2014 in Ontario, Calif.



Two participants pray together.



Smehl Gallen, left, pastor of the Agat church in Agana Heights, Guam, prays with Sonatane Vunileva, pastor of the Los Angeles Tongan church.

Turning Off Bad Genes

by Michael Brownfield, MDiv, MPH



Is it possible to override your genetic risk for some diseases by adopting better lifestyle habits? Asked another way, could a person whose genes predispose them for a disease such as diabetes or breast cancer, actually turn those “bad” genes off or reduce their effect by healthy choices they make?

“Yes,” says Dr. Wes Youngberg, assistant clinical professor at the Loma Linda Schools of Public Health and Medicine and a practicing clinical nutritionist and lifestyle medicine

specialist in Temecula, Calif.

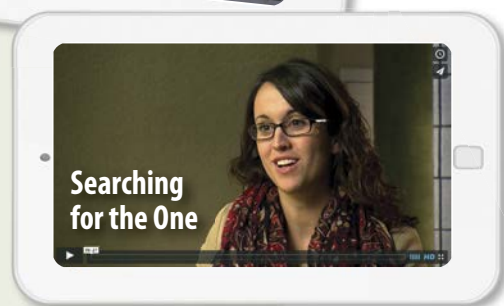
Dr. Youngberg was the guest speaker for a day of health emphasis at the Thousand Oaks Seventh-day Adventist church on Nov. 2, 2013. He presented the morning sermon and then spoke about exciting new research about curing diabetes to an audience of guests and church members.

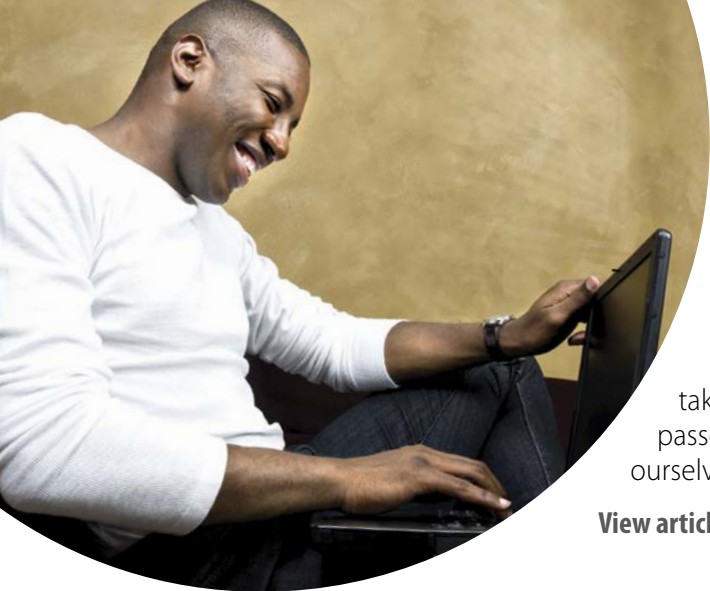
Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/genes

Stories of *Faith*

You have something no one else has — your story! From birth onward, we encounter a mix of people, circumstances and challenges that makes our stories unique. Discover how God is using Adventist members and pastors to build faith and affect positive change.

Visit: www.vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith





I Believe...

A series of web articles by David B. Smith about personal beliefs that track the teachings of Adventism, but present them in a fresh contemporary way.

Second-hand faith and hand-me-down morals can only take us so far. At some point, we either abandon that which was passed down to us, or we re-examine it, study the evidence for ourselves, adjust our thinking and make it our own.

View articles at: www.biblebay.org/ibelieve

Share Your Faith with AnswersForMe.org

If you have a professional office or place of business (attorney, beautician, medical doctor or therapist, store, cafe, etc.) and would like a simple way to share your faith that is low key and relevant, yet spiritual, consider placing one of our attractive table-top card displays somewhere in your office. You will be given a supply of sharing cards that fit into the holder advertising www.AnswersForMe.org. When you run out of cards, we'll send you a new supply, free of charge. The website features short articles and stories on family life, healthy living and spiritual growth. Check it out and see what you think. Within the last 12 months, AnswersForMe.org has had more than 1,000,000 page views.

To order a display: css@puconline.org, or call 805-413-7372.



renew Name Change

We've changed the name and design of our quarterly newsletter from "ChurchApplied" to "Renew." The change was prompted by the idea that renewal better describes what can happen in our personal lives on a daily basis, and it certainly describes what we want our churches to experience.



"Renew" is designed to network you with people, ministry ideas and resources to enhance your spiritual health and the health of your church. Whether you are a member, local leader or pastor, we hope you find something in each issue that is helpful.



Using Technology in Your Church (Survey)

The Pacific Union Conference is hosting two webinars in 2014 to answer some of the technology questions that local churches are having as they continue to use more media tools and resources. Adventist member and technology entrepreneur Chip Dizárd, who teaches tech classes in Baltimore, Md., will team up with Rich DuBose, director, Church Support Services, to respond to your questions and issues. To make sure we are scratching where it itches, please take a few minutes to complete this short survey.

Take the survey: www.churchsupportservices.org/survey

Church at Home

An Interview with Milton Adams, Director of Simple Church



A couple of years ago, we interviewed Milton Adams, director of SimpleChurchAtHome.com — an organization that facilitates new home-church start-ups throughout the North American Division. Undoubtedly, things have evolved with time, so we recently asked Milton for an update.

Read full interview at:
www.churchsupportservices.org/homechurch

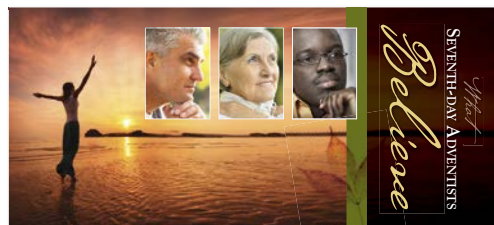
Ministering to Youth and Young Adults

Research shows that a significant number of Adventist youth and young adults are not staying connected with their local churches, especially during their high school and college years. And if they lose their connection then, it is very difficult to reconnect. What is your church doing? What is involved in building highly positive connections with young Adventist members?

The AdventSource Youth and Young Adult Ministry Collection features cutting-edge scholarship and critical insights on youth and young adult ministry from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective.

For details visit:
www.churchsupportservices.org/youngadults

Resources You Can Use



Recently we came across a brochure about Adventists that was so nicely done we wanted to figure out a way to make it available to churches for wider distribution. Originally produced by Adventist Health, we secured their permission to tweak it so that it applies for more general use. Churches within the Pacific Union Conference may request a sample at: css@puonline.org, or call 805-413-7372. Larger quantities may be secured at cost.



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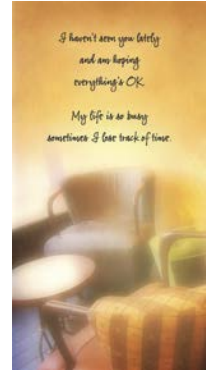
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"We Miss You" *An Updated Version*

Church Support Services has developed a special greeting card that can be personalized and sent to a non-attending or former member. The key word here is "personalized."

These are not designed for mass distribution. They require someone sitting down and writing a personal note on them that conveys a message to the recipient that an Adventist member still thinks and cares about them.



For details visit: www.churchsupportservices.org/cards

Adventist Artist Registry

Adventist artists, musicians, poets, photographers, songwriters, writers and videographers are invited to be listed in the inSpire registry. This is a great way for people to learn about your craft and for individuals, organizations and churches to be able to reach you.

Sign-up at: www.visitinspire.org/artist/inspire



ADRA

www.adra.org

Adventist Restaurants

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AnsweredTV

www.answered.tv

Kiva

www.kiva.org

Intego

www.intego.com

City Sanctuary

www.citysanctuary.org

Adventist Fellowship

www.adventistfellowship.org

Bridging the Gap

www.bridgingthegapafrika.org

Maranatha International

www.maranatha.org

SmartLav

www.smartlav.com



Pacific Union Church Directory

We would like to feature every Adventist Church in our Pacific Union Conference Flickr directory. Please visit to see if your church is missing.



www.flickr.com/photos/puc_churches/collections

If it is, please send us your best shot of your church building. Don't forget to include the name of the church. Send it to: css@puonline.org

Nephrologist Helps Disadvantaged Patients with Kidney Disease

It's nearing three years since the young woman sitting in front of him received her new kidneys through a lifesaving transplant. She shares with him some devastating news. Her Medi-Cal coverage for critical medications needed to keep her body from rejecting her kidneys will run out in a month.

She tells her nephrologist — a kidney specialist at Loma Linda University Health — that she will not be able to afford the costly anti-rejection medications. What will happen to her kidneys, she asks?

Until recently, her doctor's hands were tied in such scenarios. Now, through his association with the Social Action Community Health System — better known as SACHS — Sergio Infante, M.D., assistant professor of medicine in the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, is able to help MediCare- and MediCal-insured, uninsured, and under-insured residents of San Bernardino and surrounding communities who suffer from various kidney problems to receive kidney treatment and advice by a specialist.

SACHS has been serving area residents for close to half a century, providing a network of clinics for the uninsured and under-insured, at first staffed by Loma Linda University School of Medicine students. The organization, now independent of LLUH, continues to involve students and faculty representing a variety of health professions, as well as LLUMC resident physicians.

"I discovered that MediCal and MediCare patients in California are covered for kidney transplants and three years of medications," Infante shares. "As some of my transplant patients reached the end of their three years of medications, they told me they simply could not cover the costs themselves." The medications can run as high as \$1,000 per month.

The situation puzzled Infante. Kidney transplants and all of the related costs can run upwards of \$150,000 to \$200,000 per surgery. Why would MediCal and MediCare end medication coverage after only three years, putting patients at high risk for losing their new kidneys?



Nephrologist Sergio Infante, M.D., checks the monitor of a kidney dialysis patient at the Loma Linda University Kidney Dialysis Center. Infante understands the adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" when it comes to his patients.

In the second scenario, Infante describes uninsured or under-insured patients who develop severe kidney problems and can't afford early care for it. "These people end up in the emergency room at Loma Linda University Medical Center and other area hospitals," he details, "with chronic or end-stage kidney disease, difficult-to-treat hypertension, or electrolyte and metabolic disorders.

"If I could just work with these people before they reach that point, they might not end up in the hospital in the first place," Infante suggests. "We are certainly able to manage many of the kidney problems we see, and take preventive steps to control and even reverse them."

That's where the SACHS comes in. Infante offered to volunteer half a day per month at SACHS Norton Clinic, located in San Bernardino, as a nephrologist for the clinic.

"This disadvantaged population doesn't usually have access to specialists," Infante points out, "that is, until a catastrophic situation

develops." Only then, he continues, they may receive expensive treatments and procedures that could have been prevented had help come sooner.

"I feel fortunate to volunteer at SACHS," Infante attests. "The process of gaining privileges as a volunteer physician was complicated, but we were able to work things out." In addition, Infante works through SACHS to obtain the expensive medications needed by his transplant and other patients at a reduced rate or even at no cost.

Infante would like to take things further. "Wouldn't it be great if we created a network of specialists who donate a little time each month to seeing patients at SACHS?" he asks. "Think of the impact we could have on this population, keeping them healthier and out of the emergency rooms." He adds, "It sounds to me like a win-win situation for everyone."

Larry Kidder

Women's Retreat Focuses on Joy

A group of about 500 women from all over the Central California Conference came together for a joy-filled women's retreat at Tenaya Lodge Feb. 7-9. The theme for the annual event was "The Power of JOY," presented by widely-known speakers Brenda Walsh and Dr. Erylene Piper Mandy, who inspired, challenged and empowered attendees to be intentional about living with more joy.



Brenda Walsh brings laughter to her presentations at the retreat.

Though the event kicked off Friday morning with sunny skies, by afternoon, it was snowing. "It was a wet snow, and continued until around 9 p.m., but God kept it from sticking on the road," said Pat Curtis, women's ministries treasurer and team member.

The women were invited into God's presence through the presentations, prayer times and use of the prayer room. "Attending the women's retreat at Tenaya Lodge is always an exciting adventure I look forward to months in advance," reports Wanda Driver. "The camaraderie of the ladies who attend is always so encouraging and inspiring, not to mention fun."

The event draws women from a variety of backgrounds. Among those attending, 95 were not members of a Seventh-day Adventist church, and approximately half of those attending were

for the first time on a full admission scholarship. "We are so honored to have these special guests with us," says Joyce Mulligan, Central California Conference women's ministry and prayer director, "and we consider it a privilege to be able to spend a few days together in fellowship and worship."

"Dr. Mandy-Piper was Spirit-led in her talks, and having a question and answer session to allow people to gain a greater understanding was huge," said Audries Blake. "She was so willing to be real with us about her relationship with God, and in many ways modeled ways that we can be real with God."

"I was challenged by the message Brenda Walsh repeated throughout the weekend," shared Driver. "There are three things we need if we are going to truly serve Jesus. We need to be willing, be obedient and be joyful. She also kept stressing the importance of being 'prayed up' so we won't miss a single opportunity to witness for Jesus. I want to experience more witnessing opportunities, so I am purposely focusing on being 'prayed up!'"

Saturday night, 130 women came to the foot of the cross in an anointing service. "One of the women shared that the most meaningful part of the weekend, besides the presentations, was the anointing and the opportunity to re-dedicate her life to God," reports Mulligan.

And according to Mulligan, another woman who had left the fellowship of the church for three years was overwhelmed by her experience at the retreat. "It has really



Dr. Erylene Piper-Mandy's (right) presentations were well-received.

touched at my soul," she said. "No words can express the joy I feel!"

Dorothy Means, women's ministries director for the Pacific Union, shared in a letter to Mulligan, "I was blessed beyond measure. You have such an awesome team, and I appreciate your leadership. I saw and felt God answer prayers, and because of your prayer, passion and execution, God was right dead center and all around."

Attendees left the event after a hefty dose of prayer, fellowship, laughter, tears, solemn introspection, and renewed commitments to Jesus. Spouses, mothers, sisters and friends returned to their homes, churches and community mission fields renewed and better equipped to follow God's lead in their personal, relational, professional and spiritual journeys.

The 2015 women's ministries retreat is in the planning stages and will feature Dr. Elizabeth Talbot.

Carolann De Leon



Despite the snow on Friday, approximately 500 women arrived safely to attend the 2014 annual Women's Retreat at Tenaya Lodge.

Student Choirs Honor WW II Vets

This year, the Adventist church celebrates 50 years of religious liberty advocacy in the United States. In step with these celebrations, the Central California Conference Department of Education hosted a concert as a tribute to World War II veterans, honoring the sacrifice they made to earn liberty for this nation. One hundred and sixty-two students, from six academies across the conference, performed under the patronage of California State Senator Tom Berryhill.

The Senior Academy Patriotic Choral Concert was held on Feb. 1 at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Fresno, Calif., under the banner "God Bless America." Students used the opportunity to thank and pay special tribute to World War II veterans and their families in the greater Fresno area. "The concert provides an opportunity for the choral students to honor our World War II veterans for the sacrifices they made in defending this nation and giving citizens freedom to live the 'American Dream,'" explained Ken Bullington, associate superintendent of schools in the Central California Conference.

Senior Academy Student Choral, which hosted the event, consists of students from Armona Union, Bakersfield Adventist, Central Valley Christian, Fresno Adventist, Monterey Bay, and Mountain View academies. The choral performed five joint selections under the conductorship of Dr. Kurt Miyashiro, professor of music at Union College. Each of the six school choirs also performed individual patriotic and sacred choral renditions.

"Seventh-day Adventist schools strongly support the cause of liberty and the means by which

we have the freedoms available to us," said Dave Gillham, vice president for education in the Central California Conference. His department believes the concert was an important opportunity to teach students in grades 9-12 responsible citizenship and the importance of service in their careers. The concert will help students "develop an understanding of cultural and historical heritages, affirm a belief in the dignity and worth of others, and [acceptance of] responsibility for local, national and global environments," added Bullington.

Three hundred fifty people attended the Saturday afternoon event, including veteran Frank Miyashiro, who served as a medic during the Vietnam War. "I love that we have many things to honor veterans, but there's been nothing like this," Miyashiro said of the concert. "Our veterans deserve the honor and appreciation for their dedication to the liberties which we have," remarked Gillham. "The concert on [their] behalf was a small thanks for a life of service."

Honor Flights

Senior Academy Student Choral hosted the concert on behalf of Central Valley Honor Flights. The goal was to raise sponsorship funding for two World War II veterans to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Since 2004, the Honor Flight Network has transported more than 100,000 World War II veterans to visit the memorial. Many of these veterans lack the physical and financial ability to make the trip on their own. Honor Flights also transports terminally ill veterans from any war. In the future, the group will begin transporting heroes from the Korean and Vietnam wars, as well.

The Central Valley Hub is one of the newest hubs to be organized as part of the Honor Flight Network. The network has 100 independent, non-profit hubs in cities across the United States. Central Valley Honor Flight board member, military wife and volunteer, Leah Kidwell explained



Dr. Kurt Miyashiro (front, center), directs the 162 student, Senior Academy Choral, as they pay tribute to the veterans in song.



After their performances, students took the time to greet each of the veterans and thank them for their dedicated service.

that there are approximately 5,000 World War II veterans living in this area. "Our first full charter flight was on Oct. 29-31, 2013. We took 75 veterans to the World War II Memorial, Arlington Cemetery and the Library of Congress," she said. "It was really exciting, because we had veterans who had served in the same battle, meet each other for the first time on the plane!"

The next charter flight from the central valley will be April 2014. This flight has been fully funded. The Hub has also received applications for two additional flights in June and October. They are in the process of raising \$175,000 both to fund these flights and for their hub to remain valid. For this reason, they were happy to partner with the Senior Academy Student Choral. The students took in donations at the end of concert totaling \$1,500, and additional donations have since been received.

Tanesha Kerr



World War II veteran Paul Bullington (right), at 88 years old, is unable to participate in many veteran events, due to medical complications. "The concert was very good, the kids did an awful good job," he said.

Camp Meeting 2014 Promises Memorable Lineup

Some traditions are known to stand the test of time, transcending the ebbs and flows of cultural change, societal trends and economic conditions. Such traditions — viewed in their proper light — serve as anchor points in a world that changes faster with each passing year. Camp meeting in the Central California Conference is arguably one of these traditions, which has continued to grow in scope and size for more than 130 years.

Hosted at the Soquel Conference Center since 1948, Central California's camp meeting offers a variety of experiences, worship environments, programs, and educational opportunities, along with the chance to meet or reunite with friends and fellow members of the Adventist community of faith. Adding to the rich tradition of camp meeting programming is Soquel's attractive seaside proximity, allowing guests the option to explore coastal towns and local beaches.

The 10-day event draws between 10,000-15,000 attendees from various parts of the conference and beyond, either as guests who lodge at Soquel in tents, RVs, cabins, or in other local accommodations; or as commuting participants who live close enough to drive in for the main sessions.

Continuing this tradition, the 2014 camp meeting season promises a memorable lineup of speakers, musicians and events. "This year's camp meeting is going to give us yet another opportunity to celebrate God's goodness as we take in compelling and inspiring messages and music, and as we share with each other ways in which God is working in our lives, our churches and our conference," explains Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference. "It's also inspiring to see so many familiar and new faces each year, and I look forward to being refreshed by the fellowship."

Keynote speakers at this year's event include Pastors Henry Wright and Ted N.C. Wilson. Wright currently serves as senior pastor of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va. He has served in a number of ministry roles including pastor, professor, evangelist and conference and union administrator. Wilson currently serves as president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He also has served in several ministry roles including pastor, and church and publishing administrator.

This year's camp meeting theme is "Cradle to Crown: The Disciple's Journey." The theme is closely tied to one of Central California's major ministry initiatives, "Cradle to Crown," which emphasizes every believer's lifetime calling to discipleship, beginning at the earliest stages of life.

A variety of other speakers and invited guests will address the theme either within a



General Conference President Ted Wilson



Pastor Henry Wright



seminar or in one of the many plenary sessions planned for the main auditorium throughout the week. Among them are Dr. Joseph Kidder, professor of biblical spirituality at Andrews University Theological Seminary; Dr. Ingo Sorke, associate professor of religion at Southwestern Adventist University; Dr. Elissa Kido, professor of curriculum and instruction at La Sierra University; and Pastor Jim Ayers, vice president for development at Adventist World Radio. Pastor Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of the First church in Huntsville, Ala., will also present a message as part of a program hosted and presented by CCC African-American ministries for all camp meeting attendees.

In addition, a line-up of devotional speakers will present daily spiritual insights. Devotional presenters include Brian Bilbrey, Ivory Roberts-Clarke, David Harriss, Kevin Hart, Leah Jordache, Daniel Morea, Carlos Pasillas, Lindsey Pratt/YET, and Sean Simplicio.

For those interested in Spanish-language programming, several speakers and musicians will be featured throughout the 10-day event. Among them are Dan Escamilla, director of Hispanic ministries; Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference; Pastor Jose Esposito, director of Hispanic ministries for the

Potomac Conference, and Dr. Julian Melgosa, professor of education and psychology at Walla Walla University, who will be addressing mental health issues. Inspired by the Cradle to Crown theme, two children will also deliver sermons in Spanish. "I am excited about camp meeting 2014, especially because I can see the Holy Spirit using singles, couples, children and families for one united purpose — to impact our world with the good news of the gospel," says Escamilla.

Camp meeting 2014 will also feature a number of health-related seminars and lectures. Dr. Donald R. Hall, founder and CEO of Wellsource, Inc., will present Eight Weeks to Wellness, an 18-hour course designed to "promote a healthy lifestyle for a lifetime." Additionally, Dr. Arlene Taylor will host a family life series with a focus on healthy marriages. Taylor is the founder and president of Realizations Inc., "a nonprofit corporation engaged in brain-function research and in providing related educational resources."

Additional health-related options will include a cooking class taught by Chef Myla Mendez, an exercise class facilitated by the Pacific Health Education Center, and licensed counselors onsite to provide free counseling. "Having a healthy living emphasis at camp meeting allows those

attending to assess their current health condition and, from there, to improve their health by learning and implementing practical ways of doing so," explains Steve Horton, Central California vice president for ministries and CEO of Pacific Health Education Center.

As always, music is a large part of the camp meeting experience. Among those headlining this year's event are the Heritage Singers, along with Revelation of Hope featuring Jackie and Josh Cunningham, who will lead worship and singing throughout the event.

Finally, camp meeting in Central California would not be complete without the Miracle Roadway, an annual part of daily programming featuring interviews with people from around the conference involved with or having been significantly impacted by transformational evangelism in many diverse forms. "There is still time to submit stories for the Miracle Roadway," reassures Cano. "Our goal is to tell as many inspiring stories as possible in order to demonstrate the power and grace of God at work in the lives of those around us."

Costin Jordache

Linda Vista School Celebrates Year-Long 50th Anniversary

Excitement and energy enliven the campus of Linda Vista Elementary School in Oxnard, and the reason seems evident the moment a visitor arrives. A large banner and new flag announce that LVAES is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1963, the campus of LVAES is located at the end of a quiet neighborhood, bordered on three sides by farm fields. With wide-open vistas to the mountains and the occasional flock of Canadian geese, first time visitors often gaze in wonder at the retreat-like setting.

Linda Vista's year-long, 50th anniversary celebration started in September 2013, with a jog-athon fund raiser. Students had the task

of designing artwork for the event T-shirts. Judges selected the design created by third-grader Joseph Pennock — a birthday cake and balloons. The jog-athon was an all-day event, starting with a marathon in the morning, followed by awards, food booths and games.

In October, guest speaker Judy Sims

RENEE AGUILAR



Teacher Ann Blech checks the Learning Garden with students Allyzza Pascual and Isis Ford.

C. LIND



Runners Benjy Douyon, John Behl, Isis Ford, Caleb Reilly and Cassandra Ramos wore the anniversary T-shirts as they jogged.

brought her Growing Healthy Children program to the students. As a result, students began building raised garden beds in January and learned how to plant seeds for lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, beans, peas, squash and radishes.

"Our long-term dream is to have a three-acre outdoor learning environment," says Principal Sharron Crooms-Schwartz. "It will include a small orchard, an herb garden, a butterfly section and a learning center where environmental educators can meet with students. I believe this dream supports our Seventh-day Adventist culture, and will be a wonderful, hands-on learning experience."

Linda Vista, a small school known by its constituency for setting big goals, currently has 76 students, a small teaching staff and several dedicated volunteers. Many students are children and grandchildren of alumni.

"I attended Linda Vista from the sixth through eighth grades," said Emely Fernandez. "It was a huge, positive influence in my life, which is the main reason we are sending our son David. We are hoping for the same spiritual guidance that I received."

"Linda Vista reminds me of the story of *The Little Engine That Could*," said a parent. "Even though we are small, by the grace of God, we think we can . . . we know we can! The future looks bright for students and families of this amazing school."

Cherie Smith

DAVID AGUILAR



Linda Vista Pathfinders (l. to r.) Lewis Govea, Richard Viramontes and Amairamy Paredes raise the school's flag, alongside the 50th anniversary banner.

Southern California Pastors Experience First Holy Spirit Conference

In January, 220 delegates representing 55 local Spanish churches attended a conference titled “The Spirit, the Church and the Second Coming,” sponsored by the Hispanic Region of the Southern California Conference.

The idea for the conference began with the organizing group of six pastors who had been meeting each week since May 2013, praying, studying and having conversations about the Holy Spirit. “With a burning desire to experience a deeper walk with God, we continue to meet to this day,” said Pastor Herbert Hernandez.

“We aren’t meeting to see what the churches need or what the churches’ problems are,” Hernandez noted. “We meet to acknowledge that the first ones at the local church with the biggest needs are us, the pastors! We have promised each other that we would first live what we want the church to live and to first experience what we want our local churches to experience. After nine months of meeting, praying and studying the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy, all six of us have had amazing experiences with the Holy Spirit. It has been our prayer that many others will experience the power of the Holy Spirit through conferences like this one.”

The conference began on Sabbath with a general meeting of the SCC Hispanic Region churches at the Spanish American church. The afternoon’s topics included: the Holy Spirit before Jesus’ return in the life of the leader and in the mission of the Adventist church. Speakers included Ismael Castillo, chancellor, Montemorelos University; Ernest Castillo, NAD vice president; and Pastor Gustavo Contreras from Palmdale.

On Sunday, the conference continued with only the delegates at San Gabriel Academy. Organizers had prepared two 35-minute sermons and three 20-minute presentations followed by roundtable conversations called “recalibrating,” ending with a question-and-answer session with each presenter.

Re:Vive, a praise and worship ministry from the Resurrection congregation, began the day’s program. Ernest Castillo’s opening sermon focused on how Spirit-filled leaders live their lives at home and in their churches. Rogelio Paquini, Spanish American church pastor, presented, “The Holy Spirit in the Victory of the Apostle Paul in Romans 7 & 8.” Delegates then had their first “recalibration” time. Seated at roundtables of 10, they discussed the presentation, exchanging practical ways of living victoriously in the Holy Spirit.

Ismael Castillo shared the second presentation, “The Holy Spirit and the Message to the Church in 1888,” focusing on how one is saved by faith in Jesus, not by works. Delegates again “re-calibrated” and asked questions.

Ruben Tenorio, Ph.D., who previously taught at Montemorelos University, presented “The

Theology of the Trinity within the Adventist Church.” Quoting from memory more than 20 Bible verses, Tenorio led delegates in a study about the third person of the Trinity and His role prior to the second coming of Jesus.

A sermon by Ismael Castillo concluded the day. In a closing challenge, Luis Peña, SCC Hispanic Region director, called on the delegates to live lives seeking daily the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to continue to share Jesus in their communities.

“We leave inspired to take this back to our church district in Indiana,” said Pastor Luigi Rivas, who attended the event with two of his members. “The first thing we will do is organize small groups to study and pray, focused on the Holy Spirit.”

Carlos Acosta



Delegates pause for prayer. Plans are underway for a 2015 Holy Spirit conference. The Pacific and Lake unions have also committed to organizing Holy Spirit conferences.

1House Aims to Create Modern-Day Joshuas

Visuals illustrated life diversions that young adults need to move beyond to become Joshuas.

MARK AZALI



On Feb. 15, the annual senior youth/young adult 1House event attracted more than 800 attendees. SCC's young adults and senior youth came together for worship, networking and seminars. Musical artist Stevie Mackey led the morning praise service, while John Henderson, pastor of the Grand Avenue church in Oakland, gave the message.

This year's theme, "Beyond," emphasized thinking outside of the box and hoped to show how the church can meet the needs and expectations of today's young people with thoughtfulness and innovation.

Henderson called for the youth to be modern-day Joshuas who would be willing to carry the church forward.

After lunch and fellowship, attendees went to workshops on relationships, addictions, praise and worship, God in pop culture, postmodern evangelism in the urban context and what this generation wants from the church.

"Beyond planners wanted to empower young professionals, collegiates and senior youth," said Iki Taimi, event coordinator. "We wanted people walking away thinking that they can really change things in their own lives, as well as in the world and the church they are a part of and actually have the tools to do it."

"This day was exactly what we needed," one attendee said. "What we learned here is helping us process a lot of questions we have been dealing with in our small groups."

"It was awesome to see everyone singing, praying, learning and fellowshiping together," a leader said. "After the morning service, I ran into a young teacher, and we had a laugh together about how this event hit on so many points that he had been thinking about. He said, 'It was as though someone read my mind and then turned my thoughts into something concrete.'"

Conference leaders are planning more regional 1House youth leadership trainings for 2014. The annual 1House gathering is scheduled for February 2015.

Steve Mackie (center) led a worship team including (l. to r.) Michelle Boardley, Faiva Taupo, Africa Faison and Kelly Straine. "Re:Vive," a praise and worship ministry from the Resurrection congregation, played and sang for the evening meeting.

MARK AZALI



Soonja Lee, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist, was one of several presenters for workshop breakout sessions during the 1House event.

MARK AZALI



Iki Taimi and Eugene Abano

Pastors and Members Go Online for Ministry

Increasingly, pastors and members are using online resources to help their churches reach out, as well as to enable lay people to be involved with planning church programs.

One Korean church is utilizing Skype, an online service offering free Internet calls and low-cost phone calls. For \$3 a month, the pastor is working online with several other Adventist pastors to reach people in Los Angeles and other parts of the country for early morning Bible study groups.

REBECCA REIS



Pastor Denilson Reis meets with members online.

Young adults in the El Monte Vietnamese church are also online for their church. According to Dan Quach, a software engineer, set-up procedures using Google Drive spreadsheets (<http://tinyurl.com/mlwncjb>) help them plan the weekly Sabbath school and worship events (<http://tinyurl.com/mop3m93>). The online meetings allow participants to edit and make suggestions as group members talk together. The meetings help each young adult see how he or she can use their talents in various Sabbath events. The cost? Nothing.

Quach's brother, David Quach, utilizes online resources for outreach, as well. He gives Bible studies using the free Google Hangout video chat.

Denilson Reis lives in Azusa and pastors the Los Angeles Portuguese church in Glendale and the Pomona Valley Spanish company. Recently, he held a week of prayer by phone for both churches using Mark Finley's book, *10 Days in the Upper Room*.

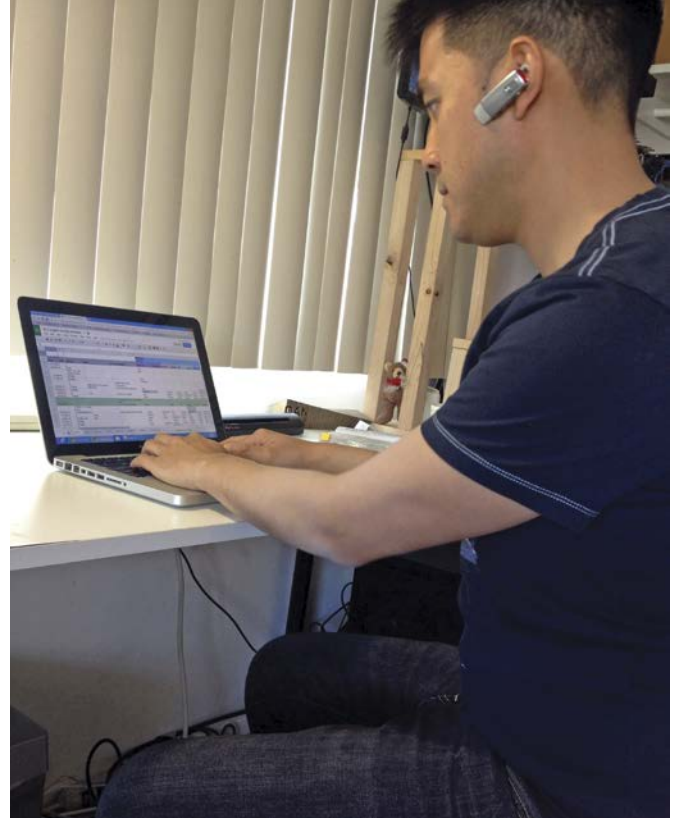
"I used the Facebook page of each church to announce the week of prayer and invite people to join," he reported. "Every day during the week, all 10 leaders of

the Portuguese church participated in the week of prayer through a teleconference. From the Pomona Valley Spanish church, about 21 people were on the phone praying, singing and listening to the message."

"Jose Nobre said, 'I have not felt like that since I was a young boy in the Adventist church, which meant that he was thinking about his church experience from about 45 years ago,' Reis said. "He had learned so much about the power of prayer and the influence of the Holy Spirit through our week of prayer studies."

"I am in awe about the things God revealed to me this week," Roza Esperanza told the pastor. "Thank you so much, pastor, for bringing this to our attention!"

"The day before the week of prayer concluded in both churches," the pastor said, "I encouraged the church members who hadn't yet participated to join us. Then I repeated the same program



Dan Quach meets online with young adults at the El Monte Vietnamese church.

the following week for those who missed it the previous week. My goal was to have my leaders leading prayer programs throughout the teleconference. I provided them with the scripts to be studied, and they led the meetings based on the model I had done with them.

"Our meetings began with my greeting everyone on the line. After five minutes of greetings, I started with a prayer. Then we all shared praises about what God had done in our lives. Following prayer requests and another prayer, I started the message, which lasted nearly 40 minutes. My goal is to have weeks of prayer by phone at least twice a year with each church."

Reis used freeconferencecalling.com for the week of prayer services and is also exploring www.audionow.com. Audionow connects "any broadcaster to any mobile device."

Betty Cooney

Dr. Ben Carson Speaks at PUC

More than 2,500 students, faculty and community members were inspired to “Think Big” on the morning of Feb. 6 as they listened to world-renowned neurosurgeon and Seventh-day Adventist Ben Carson, M.D., speak as part of the college’s Colloquy Speaker Series.

Carson is an emeritus professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he directed pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital Children’s Center for 39 years. He was invited to speak on campus by PUC President Heather J. Knight, Ph.D., who introduced Carson to the overflow crowd.

Students and faculty, as well as local school groups and community guests, filled every pew and the entire balcony in the church, while others watched the presentation from Scales Chapel and the college’s Dining Commons. All heard Carson speak to the importance of perseverance, education and faith in God in his own pathway to success as a physician and public figure.

“If something doesn’t go right, decide what it is that could have gone differently and what can be learned,” Carson encouraged. “Virtually all people who are successful will tell you that they have failed, but they did not give up.”

Carson shared his personal upward trajectory to success, sharing how his mother never let him make excuses. Carson’s life has been full of successes: he has been the recipient of the Spingarn Medal (the highest honor bestowed by the NAACP) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the nation.

In his presentation, Carson spoke about the human brain’s capacity to learn. “Students who are here, go beyond your assignment and learn, because your brain cannot be overloaded . . . take it from a neuroscientist, you cannot overload the human brain,” Carson said.

“We need to make it clear that it is okay to live by godly principles of loving your neighbor and caring about your fellow man, to develop your own God-given talents to the utmost so you become valuable to the people around you, and to have values and principles that govern your life,” Carson concluded.



Dr. Ben Carson spoke at PUC on the theme “Think Big.”

Cambria Wheeler

PUC Launches New Ministry to Connect to the Pacific Union

Pacific Union College’s office of enrollment services has launched a new ministry called Connect to share the spiritual experience at the college with churches, schools, and other groups within the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Connect is coordinated by Larry Graack, an enrollment counselor at the college. Graack, a PUC graduate and former youth pastor at the



Connect coordinator Larry Graack.

Placerville, Calif., Seventh-day Adventist church, is excited about the opportunity PUC students will have to share their faith, grow in their talents, and worship together with the larger Adventist community.

“Our mission statement is that as Christ’s disciples we serve with spiritual authenticity while promoting a valued relationship with PUC, and, above all, a dynamic connection to our Creator,” said Graack. “We hope to serve with innovative ministry, communication and discipleship.”

Graack is already travelling throughout the Pacific Union with the campus ministries personnel, talented student and faculty speakers, and gifted musicians that make up the ministry team. Connect ministry is working hard to establish relationships with all sorts of audiences, sharing the

PUC spiritual experience with them and inviting youth and young adults to get involved with that experience as PUC students.

Using the talents God has given them, the Connect ministry team is excited to engage others through leading praise and worship, providing student or faculty speakers, offering special music or sacred concerts, hosting spiritual and social events for youth, and by coordinating service and outreach opportunities.

For more information on the ministry or to schedule one of the Connect speakers or ministry teams, contact Pastor Larry Graack at 707-965-6421 or connect@puc.edu.

James Shim

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital Sponsors Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Faith leaders came together at a prayer breakfast sponsored by Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, Calif. Native American, Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish and Protestant spiritual leaders came together to pray for the city, the nation, the hospital's leadership, law enforcement and first responders. More than 150 community members participated in the event. This was the second year that the hospital hosted this event, designed to bring spiritual and social harmony in the hospital's local community.

Dennis Long, spiritual care director and chaplain, states that individuals often stay away from each other based on societal classification such as religion or culture. This event focused on something that unites everyone — spirituality. "Spirituality transcends boundaries to search for meaning, hope and relationships," says Long.

The event also featured international motivational speaker Jessica Cox. Despite being born without arms, Cox flies airplanes, drives cars and lives a normal life using her feet as others use their hands. She holds the Guinness World Record for being the first armless person in aviation history to earn a pilot's certificate. Cox's biggest message is that people's perception puts greater limitations on their lives than their actual physical constraints.

Cox gave her personal testimony to the Willits community to inspire them not to let their perceived limitations hold them back. She reflected on her parents' reaction to seeing her for the first time: "My mother just cried and cried. She cried so much that the doctors wheeled me to the nurses' station while my parents regained their composure. No one expected — not even the doctors — that I was going to be born without arms."

Cox states that while many people go through life focusing on life's problems, she chose to focus on the solution. She quotes Andy Munthe: "A shot glass of desire is greater than a pitcher of talent," meaning that you can have all the talent in the world but without the desire to change your own circumstances you will never get beyond the problems that are right there in front of you."

"Do you know what the definition of FEAR is?" asked Cox. "It's False Evidence Appearing Real. I encourage you to be fearless, be courageous — Think Outside The Shoe™ as I have. By being fearless and thinking beyond my limitations, I have been able to accomplish driving a car, flying an airplane, scuba diving, and earning a black belt in Taekwondo!"

During her talk, Cox physically demonstrated how she ties her shoes with her feet, and also challenged someone from the audience to come on stage and open a soda can with their feet. Cox did that in a matter of seconds, poured the soda into a tea cup and began to sip.

According to Long, Cox's inspirational talk and the prayers of the five faith leaders brought the community to realize that together they can achieve anything. "No matter what your faith is, we can come together for one purpose and do great things," says Long, "Our faith in a higher



International motivational speaker Jessica Cox addresses the audience at a spiritual gathering hosted by Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Despite being born without arms, Cox flies airplanes, drives cars and lives a normal life using her feet as others use their hands. She encourages others to live life with no limitations.

being and our concern for our fellow human beings is the greatest uniting factor. With that we can achieve anything."

Divya Joseph

CALENDARS

Arizona

93RD ANNUAL ALUMNI Weekend (April 4-5) Thunderbird Adventist Academy, 7410 E. Sutton Dr., Scottsdale. If you attended Thunderbird Academy during the 50's and 60's and are planning to attend the Alumni Reunion, please contact Jan Ghelfi at 602-840-3077. Info: ThunderbirdAcademy.org or contact atierney@thunderbirdacademy.org.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S RETREAT (April 4-6) Conference-endorsed, for women of all ethnicities. Speaker Lorraine Daniel-Palmer will share "Minds for Eternity." Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, 6575 S. Country Club Rd., Tucson. Info: Pauline Lewinson, 520-207-2947; Be Davis, 602-494-4480; Virginia Bailey, 520-578-0169.

ADVENTIST WESTPOINT (April 20-23) Innovative strategies and training for church growth, Arizona Golf Resort, Mesa. Pastors, chaplains, evangelists, departmental leaders and administrators, students, local church lay leaders, and all church members are invited to attend. Info: 805-413-7254 or www.adventistwestpoint.org.

LAUGHLIN MOTOR CYCLE River Run (April 26) You are invited to worship at the Bullhead City SDA church, stay for a haystack lunch and enjoy the planned motorcycle River Run in the afternoon. RSVP by April 22 by text 503-348-9985 or e-mail, timcar4@gmail.com.

PACIFIC UNION SPONSORED Prison Ministry Training (May 23-25) Arizona Conference office, 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale. Daniel McManus, president of APMOA, will be the guest speaker and trainer. Great training for anyone interested in ministry to those who are incarcerated and their families. Info: Florence Darby, 480-991-6777, ext. 114.

Central California

GOD'S GIRLS GETAWAY (April 4-6) Sonora church. Info: Children's Ministries, 559-347-3183.

TEEN GIRLS RETREAT (April 11-13) Mount Hermon. Info: Youth Evangelism Team, 209-743-6155.

TEEN BOYS RETREAT (April 11-13) Monterey Bay Academy. Info: Youth Evangelism Team, 209-743-6155.

HISPANIC YOUTH RETREAT (April 11-13) Camp Wawona. Info: Youth Ministries, 559-347-3174.

PRISON MINISTRY RALLY (April 12) 3-6 p.m. Bakersfield Hillcrest church. Info: Church Ministries, 559-347-3142.

PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE (April 12) Division Level; Sligo church, Tacoma Park, Md. Info: Youth Ministries, 559-347-3174.

HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT (April 25-27) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Hispanic Ministries, 559-347-3144.

PATHFINDER BIKE-A-THON (April 25-27) Castle Air Force Base. Info: Youth Ministries, 559-347-3174.

MESSIAH'S MANSION San Francisco (May 1-8) Info: Evangelism, 559-347-3165.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MR. & MRS. Retreat (May 2-4) Camp Wawona. Info: African-American Ministries, 559-347-3169.

GLOW LEADERSHIP TRAINING (May) Central California Conference. Info: GLOW Ministries, 559-347-3152.

La Sierra University

MUSIC DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS (April 5) Chamber Music Series concert, 8 p.m.; (April 26) 56th Annual Concerto concert, 8:15 p.m. Both programs take place in Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK (April 22-24) featuring students as speakers. La Sierra University Church.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING (April 25-27) Featuring a 50th anniversary tour concert by The Wedgwood Trio on April 26, and honoring the class of '64. Annual homecoming banquet with alumni of the year, Sabbath services begin 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, a Run4Fun&Fitness 5K. Info: alumni office, 909-785-4LSU, or go to www.lasierra.edu/alumni.

BRANDSTATER ART Gallery's annual Student Show runs April 28 through May 12. Open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Sunday 2-5 p.m.

FIRST SERVICE WORSHIP Fridays at 8 p.m. at LSU church. Info: 951-785-2090.

Northern California Conference

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (April 4-6) Sacramento-area hotel. For couples wanting to deepen and strengthen their marriage. Next weekend: Oct. 17-19. Info and registration: Rob & Debbie Purvis, 530-622-4798.

PATHFINDER BIKE-A-THON (April 6) Metro Airpark, east of Sacramento International Airport. Info: Youth Ministries, 925-603-5080, or visit www.ncc.adventist.org/pathfinders and click "Forms."

PATHFINDER ROCK CLIMBING (April 18-20, 25-27) Yosemite. Info: Youth Ministries, 925-603-5080.

HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT (April 18-20) Leoni Meadows. Speaker: Pastor Guillermo Garcia. Info: Hispanic Ministries, 925-603-5092.

BUILDING BRIDGES (April 25) Free medical and dental clinic. Oracle Arena, Oakland. Info: www.bigcityevangelism.com.

HARLEN MILLER CHORALE (April 26) 5 p.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 South Fairmont Avenue. Theme: "Jesus Christ Yesterday, Today and Forever." Info: 209-334-1844.

CHRISTIAN MEN'S RETREAT (May 2-4) Leoni Meadows. 26th annual event. Speaker Herb Montgomery from Renewed Heart Ministries. Info and registration forms available at NCC churches and at www.ncc.adventist.org/mensministries.

Pacific Union College

VOGLER STRING QUARTET Concert (April 4) 2 p.m., Paulin Hall. This acclaimed European ensemble will perform selections from their extensive repertoire. Info: 707-965-6604.

NAPA VALLEY DIRT CLASSIC (April 6) 8:30 a.m. registration, 10:30 a.m. race, Pacific Auditorium. This thrilling 22-mile mountain bike race draws riders from around the country every year. Info: www.puc.edu/nvdc.

COLLEGE DAYS (April 10-13) Prospective students are invited to experience life at PUC. Includes meeting professors, visiting classes, and participating in weekend spiritual and social events. Info: 707-965-6336 or www.puc.edu/admissions.

STUDENT WEEK OF PRAYER (April 14-19) 9:40 a.m. and 8 p.m., PUC church. Student speakers present each morning and evening. Info: 707-965-6303.

ONE CHURCH (April 19) 11:15 a.m, PUC church. Student association religious vice president Adam Washington speaks for this special unified church service at the conclusion of week of prayer. Info: 707-965-7297.

RAG: STUDENT ART EXHIBITION (April 17-May 8) Rasmussen Art Gallery. Annual exhibit featuring more than 100 works of art submitted by PUC students. Visual arts students showcase their work and receive recognition. Awards presentation April 17, 7 p.m. Info: 707-965-6303.

MAXWELL CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT (April 25) Silverado Resort and Country Club. Participants and sponsors in this golf tournament will carry on Dr. Malcolm Maxwell's legacy by helping worthy students attend PUC. Info: 707-965-7500 or www.maxwellcup.com.

HOMECOMING (April 25-27) Come home to Angwin! Bradford Newton and Aren Rennacker speak. Featuring honored alumni and the 2014 Pioneer Award recipient Bill Hemmerlin, as well as a concert by the Heritage Singers. Honored Classes: '54, '64, '74, and '89. Info: 707-965-7500 or www.puc.edu/homecoming.



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NAPA VALLEY OFF-ROAD Triathlon (April 27) This off-road triathlon features a run, mountain bike, and pool swim on PUC's campus. Relay, 5k, and Kid's Triathlon events make this an adventure for all ages. Sponsored by St. Helena Hospital and benefiting Clinica Verde. Info: www.napavalleyoffroadtriathlon.com.

ALBION RETREAT and Learning Center (ongoing) Comfortable lodging for visitors and groups available along the Mendocino Coast. Perfect for classes, retreats, reunions, weddings, or vacations. Info: www.puc.edu/albion or 707-937-5440.

Southeastern California

PETTING ZOO (April 5) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Visit unique, rare animals up close and learn interesting facts about the nature around us.

ROBOTICS LEAGUE CHALLENGE (April 7) 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Loma Linda Academy Jr. High gymnasium, 10656 Anderson St., Loma Linda. Sponsored by the SECC and SCC Adventist Robotics Leagues; all are welcome to attend. Info: Teri Vasquez, 951-509-2313.

JR. HIGH BAND FESTIVAL (April 9) 7 p.m., Loma Linda Academy campus gymnasium, 10656 Anderson St., Loma Linda. All are welcome. Info: Teri Vasquez, 951-509-2313.

ADVENTURER FUN DAY (April 27) Southeastern California Conference grounds, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. Adventurer fun day is the biggest event of the Adventurer year. The day is filled with games and activities for the whole family. Info: Judi Jeffreys, 951-509-2265.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (May 2-3) La Sierra Academy, 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside. Friday evening there will be a reception at the LSA Library; Sabbath morning alumni services and Sabbath afternoon there will be potluck, campus tours, and class reunions. Info: Judith Nelson, 951-351-1445, ext. 244, e-mail, JNelson@lsak12.com or visit www.lsak12.com.

ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL Seminar (May 3) 3-5 p.m. Southeastern California Conference, assembly room, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. The guest speaker will be James Zackrisson. Adult Sabbath school superintendents, facilitators/teachers, Sabbath school secretaries and anyone who is interested is invited. Info and RSPV, Janelle Muthiah, janelle.muthiah@seccsda.org.

Southern California Conference

C3 2014 (April 4-6), retreat for college students of any age, who attend any school. Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 State Hwy, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305. Speaker, Mike Kim, senior pastor, Vallejo Drive

church. Theme: James 1:27 NLT. Onsite check-in, Fri., 5 p.m. checkout, Sun., 10 a.m. Registration: www.c3retreat.com/#/register-2014. Info: 310-737-8051.

WHITE MEMORIAL SCHOOL Alumni Sabbath (April 5) 10:30 a.m. Celebrate and reconnect with friends, classmates and teachers. White Memorial church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: www.whitememorialschool.org; wmasknights@gmail.com; 323-268-7159.

"HE IS OUR SONG" fundraiser (April 5) 7 p.m. for White Memorial Adventist School Alpha and Omega Scholarship. Featuring gospel singer Dani Ferras. White Memorial Adventist church, 1605 New Jersey St., Los Angeles 90033. Call for details: 323-268-7159.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY Academy Alumni Weekend (April 5-6) on campus (17601 Lassen St., Northridge 91325). April 5, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. (April 6) Noon-4 p.m. Info: sfva.org or call 818-349-1373.


SECOND SATURDAY SERIES Concert (April 12) 4 p.m. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Presenting organist Haesung Park, with pieces from Julius Reubke. A reception will be held following the concert to allow an opportunity to meet the artist. Freewill donations received at the door. Info: www.glendalecitychurch.org; 818-244-7241.

50TH ANNIVERSARY and Alumni Day at Linda Vista Elementary School (April 13) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 5050 Perry Way, Oxnard 93036. Fun family event featuring a Memory Lane, music, food; jolly jumps for kids. Past students, families and friends cordially invited. Info: Sharron Crooms-Schwartz, 805-647-2220; www.lindavistaadventistelementary.com; Linda Vista Alumni (Oxnard, CA) Facebook page.

VIOLINIST JAIME JORGE (April 13) 4-6 p.m. Central Spanish church, 1366 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles 90006. Info: 213-381-1905.

PAUL SCOTT WCTU MEMORIAL (April 13) 3 p.m., White Memorial Adventist Church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Scott was a retired nursing administrator from Glendale Adventist Medical Center and a facilitator of the Southern California Women's Christian Temperance Union. He passed away Jan. 31.

L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM: "Human Trafficking in Thailand Reconsidered" (April 26) 3 p.m. Presenter, Siroj Soraijakool, Ph.D., professor of Religion, Psychology and Counseling, Loma Linda University. Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.




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Bulletin Board

LOOKING FOR AUTHORS who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844.

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WANTED: 90 SDA COMMENTARY sets and books for all the prisons in Ghana; Chapel records, tapes and memorabilia; H.M.S. Richards camp meeting sermon cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes. Wanted: lapidary equipment, rock cutting saws; blacksmith tools, anvils; high-end woodshop equipment and lathes. Text/call Doug, 909-224-4551, dougvon@hotmail.com.

Employment

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY of Health Sciences, located in beautiful Orlando, Fla., is seeking a full-time faculty member for its Occupational Therapy program. This position requires a doctoral degree. The ideal candidate will have teaching experience and prior practice in physical dysfunction or mental health. ADU offers rewarding educational opportunities in a nurturing Christian environment. We are proud of our heritage as Florida Hospital's University, and for excellence in education and service to our community. For more information, contact Dr. Tia Hughes at tia.hughes@adu.edu and check us out at www.adu.edu.

BETTER LIFE TELEVISION is seeking broadcast engineer to maintain 20 TV stations and our Grants Pass, Ore., headquarters. Requires knowledge of RF broadcast engineering, FCC regulations. SDA member in good standing. Come enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest while helping to reach millions for Christ. Résumé: [ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com](mailto>ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com).

BLACK HILLS HEALTH & Education Center is adding a new program in Drug and Alcohol Recovery, and is seeking to fill new positions and expand our existing Wellness Program with missionary-minded professionals: MD, PA or NP (with interest in preventative medicine), Nurse, Vegan Chef, Food Service, Housekeeping, Massage Therapists, LCSW. Applicants must be licensed professionals and able to come for an interview as part of the hiring process. E-mail résumé: stan@bhhec.org.

ELMSHAVEN HISTORIAN/CARE-TAKER: The Pacific Union Conference is currently in need of a Historian in Residence/Caretaker for Elmshaven, the Ellen G. White home in St. Helena, California. This position requires an

interest and understanding of Ellen G. White's life and writings and the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The qualified individual should be physically active, have good communication skills and grounds and maintenance abilities. Please contact Stephen Mayer, Pacific Union Conference, P.O. Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359; e-mail: stephen@puconline.org; call: 805-413-7218.

MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR sought by Union College, Lincoln, Neb. Full-time tenure track, Ph.D. required. Strong commitment to integrating Adventist faith, teaching and scholarship essential. Submit cover letter and curriculum vitae to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics, cawolfe@ucollege.edu.

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Events

ANNOUNCING ACADEMY DAYS at Oklahoma Academy. If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just right for you. Come April 18-20 for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today. Also visit www.oklahomaacademy.org.

BEGINNING APRIL 2 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and continuing every Wednesday evening, a class will be taught in the books of Daniel and Revelation. The location will be in the 2nd floor meeting room of Paradise Village Retirement Community, 2700 E 4th St., National City, CA 91950. The class will be taught by Richard J. Lewis, an attorney and former pastor residing in the San Diego area. There is an opportunity for those who cannot attend personally to take the class online live. Anyone interested in attending must e-mail Richard J. Lewis at rlrlew@gmail.com. This class is not affiliated with Paradise Village Retirement Community.

IN THE BEGINNING: Returning to God's Original Plan is the theme of our 6th Annual Secrets Unsealed Summit at Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2014. Come for a weekend of intense Bible study with Dr. Neil Nedley, Pastor Randy Skeete & Pastor Stephen Bohr to learn God's plan for marriage, the Sabbath, our health, & the biblical roles of men and women.

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Missing Members

WOODLAND. Contact: Linda Herrera, church clerk, Woodland, 29 Elliot St., Woodland, CA 95695-3116; 530-662-6745; e-mail: lindaherrera@yahoo.com. Ursula Wax, Anita Lane, Margaret Paterson, Tabitha Thomas, Walter Williams.

RIVERSIDE. Contact: Rita Carleton, Riverside Community SDA Church, 4850 Jurupa Ave., Riverside, CA 92504, 951-686-1886, rita_carleton@yahoo.com. Commelat Mendez, Jesse Mendez, Ronald Miles, Chris Miller, Janet Miller, David Mills, Kimberly Mills, Miguel Monreal, Tracie Montgomery, Yvonne Moody, Cindy Mosher, Kristine Mundt, Chris Nielsen, Agnieszka Niemeyer, Matthew Niemeyer, Tony O'connell, Joseph Ortega, Damariz Pairo, Naomi Pairo, Raul Pairo, Terie Peters, Josephine Petkoff, Marian PonceDeLeon, Jennifer-Linda Porter, Susana Powell, Debra Prarat, Natalie Quintero, Fraizar Ramirez, Cecelia Rath, Jennifer L. Reese, Beccy Reyes, Chris Reyes, Jon Richard, Thelma Richard, Kristine Riechel, Ron Riechel, Teresa Robinson-DuBose, Joseph Rocha, Ron Root, William Ross, Samuel C. Rowe, Jr., Samuel R. Rowe, Janet Russel, Paul Saenz, Georgie Sahadi-Ard, Brenda Sandoval, Abigail Schrock, Bonnie Schuljak, Denise Serna, Cynthia Sherman, Kandy Sigritz, Summer Rose Sigritz, Susie Simmons, Diana Skelton, Mindy Slate, Chuck Soliz, Jane Sommers, Joe Soria, Lisa Soria, Anunporn Srisawat, Danny Stanley, Carson Stewart.

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Reunions

CENTRAL VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (MAA, MUA) Alumni (April 12) Speaker, Richard Duerksen, Maranatha International. Honor Classes: '44, '54, '64, '74, '84, '94, '04, '09 and '89. For more information or to update contact: 209-537-4521 and check us out on Facebook.

EL CAJON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Alumni Reunion Sabbath (April 12) Celebrating our 90th Anniversary, Knox Auditorium. Honoring all alumni and former teachers as well. Info: 619-442-6544 or e-mail ecsda@yahoo.com. To update contact information: 619-442-6544 or ecsda@yahoo.com or ECSDA Christian School, 1640 E. Madison Ave., El Cajon, CA 92019.

LAKE UNION ACADEMIES 25th Reunion potluck (May 3) 1 p.m., Loma Linda University School of Nursing West Hall, 11262 Campus Street (1/2 block north of Barton Road) Loma Linda, California. Questions: Call 909-748-5178 or 909-799-8039.

LOMA LINDA ACADEMY Alumni Homecoming (April 12) 10:30 a.m., Loma Linda Academy, 10656 Anderson St., Loma Linda. The worship service will feature speaker Tom Dybdahl and be followed by a potluck lunch. Info: 909-796-0161, ext. 3313 or visit www.lla.org.

Monterey Bay Academy 64th Alumni Weekend (April 24-27) Friday, 15th Annual Golf Classic; Sabbath Worship speaker Dick Duerksen; ball games Sunday, complimentary 49ers Brunch for classes 1950-1964. Visit montereybayacademy.org for all weekend details or call the Alumni Office, 831-728-1481, ext. 1222.

OAKLAND IMMANUEL TEMPLE church (formerly called East Oakland SDA church), Oakland, Calif., 105th Anniversary (Sept. 6). Former members please submit contact information via e-mail, imman@att.net or mail to Immanuel Temple SDA Church, 2411 55th Ave., Oakland, CA 94605, Attn: L. Scott or call 510-436-4011.

RENO JR. ACADEMY (1955-2000) and Arlington St. church Sabbath school reunion (July 19) 2 p.m., Riverview Christian Academy Gymnasium, 7125 West Fourth St., Reno, Nev. Info: louise3270@sbcglobal.net or Lorraine Stocke, 775-677-2436.

THUNDERBIRD ADVENTIST ACADEMY 93rd Annual Alumni Weekend (April 4-5) For details: ThunderbirdAcademy.org or contact atierney@thunderbird-academy.org. If you attended Thunderbird Academy during the '50s and '60s and are planning to attend the Alumni Reunion, please contact Jan Ghelfi at 602-840-3077.

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"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
— Exodus 20:8

SUNSETS

	4/4	4/11	4/18	4/25
Alturas	7:31	7:39	7:47	7:54
Angwin	7:37	7:43	7:50	7:57
Calexico	7:05	7:10	7:15	7:20
Chico	7:35	7:42	7:49	7:56
Eureka	7:45	7:53	8:00	8:07
Fresno	7:24	7:30	7:37	7:43
Hilo	6:36	6:38	6:40	6:42
Honolulu	6:47	6:49	6:52	6:54
Las Vegas	7:06	7:12	7:17	7:23
Lodi	7:32	7:38	7:45	7:51
Loma Linda	7:12	7:18	7:23	7:29
Los Angeles	7:17	7:22	7:28	7:33
Moab	7:44	7:51	7:57	8:04
Oakland	7:35	7:41	7:48	7:54
Phoenix	6:51	6:56	7:01	7:07
Reno	7:27	7:34	7:41	7:48
Riverside	7:13	7:18	7:24	7:29
Sacramento	7:33	7:39	7:46	7:53
Salt Lake City	7:56	8:03	8:11	8:18
San Diego	7:11	7:16	7:21	7:26
San Francisco	7:36	7:42	7:49	7:55
San Jose	7:33	7:40	7:46	7:52
Tucson	6:46	6:51	6:55	7:00

PACIFIC UNION
recorder

AT REST

BERGEM, ROBERT J. — b. May 5, 1928, Mt. Vernon, Wash.; d. Oct. 6, 2013, Redding, Calif. Survivors: wife, Dorothy; sons, John, Dennis, Robert; stepson, Dwayne Curtis; stepdaughter, Donette Jones; 23 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; sister, Marlene Swift.

BERGERON, CHARLES H. — Sept. 24, 1944, Auburn, N.Y.; d. Dec. 18, 2013, Brookings, Ore. Survivors: wife, Patricia; son, Bryan; daughters, Monique Hernandez, Rosanne Campana, Vienna, Melissa Becerra; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

BRIANO-SERNA, RENNA (BRIANO) — b. Nov. 16, 1951, Hanford, Calif.; d. Sept. 1, 2013 Hanford, Calif. Survivors: spouse, Art; son, Jason; daughters, Melissa, Andrea; nine grandchildren.

BROOKS, BETTY — b. Sept. 7, 1931, Newby, Okla.; d. Oct. 21, 2013, Turlock, Calif. Survivors: spouse, Artie; sons, Gary, Richard, David; daughters, Kathy Simpson, Linda Crone, Jeannie Clark; brother, Jack Sail; sister, Carolyn Davis; 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

CHAFFIN, MAVIS IRENE — b. May 3, 1934, Chowchilla, Calif.; d. Feb. 15, 2014, Selma, Calif. Survivors: nephews, Steven Leroy, Terrance Douglas, Dwight Randall; niece, Katherine Patrice.

CLYMER, DELTON "LEE" LEMOYNE — d. July 2, 1932, Medford, Ore.; d. Jan. 25, 2014, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marybelle; daughter, Jordan "Diane" St. Kelley; sisters, Crystal Wood, Renita Clymer, Marlita Clymer-Engelhart. Served for 10 years on the staff at Monterey Bay Academy; lay pastor; assisted on mission trips to Central America, Micronesia and the Philippines.

COWAN, CYNTHIA (BURPEE) — b. April 23, 1951, Scotia, Calif.; d. Sept. 30, 2013, Rio Dell, Calif. Survivors: sons, Richard Congdon, Michael Congdon; seven grandchildren; mother, Dolores Gardner; brother, Lloyd Burpee.

DAY, GORDON CALVIN — b. July 1, 1949, Md.; d. Jan. 29, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patty; stepdaughters, Gina Johnson, Robyn Juarez; three grandchildren. Served in Adventist education for 37 years.

ELLISON, VIOLET LILLIAN (GAGGIN) — b. Jan. 1, 1925, Lismore, New South Wales, Australia; d. Feb. 10, 2014, Napa, Calif. Survivors: husband, Harold "Bill"; sons, Rod, Craig; daughter, Karen Agnetta; eight grandchildren; sisters, Ruth James, Rose Brown.

GERATY, THOMAS SINCLAIR — b. Dec. 2, 1914, San Francisco, Calif.; d. Dec. 22, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Larry, Ron; daughter, Kathleen; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. Served Golden Gate and Mountain View academies; missionary to China, India, Hong Kong; president of the Middle East College in Beirut, Lebanon; with the Middle Eastern Division, General Conference, Hawaii, Far Eastern Division departments of Education. Chaired the Education department at Andrews University and instituted the first doctoral program in SDA higher education.

Jauch, Sadie (Boss) — b. March 15, 1907, Parkston, S.D.; d. Jan. 29, 2014, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: son, Bob; daughter, Doris Williams; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

KARCZEWSKI, VICTORIA — b. Dec. 12, 1949, Lincoln, Neb.; d. Jan. 2, 2014, Woodbridge, Calif. Survivors: husband, Thomas; son, Steven Hernandez; daughter, Mabelle Wallace; five grandchildren.

KEMPTON, GEORGE BRIGHAM — b. Feb. 22, 1921, Springfield, Mass.; d. Dec. 4, 2013, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: wife, Edith; step-sons Lionel Mertens, Joseph Mertens, six daughters, 14 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren.

MENDOZA, JESUS — b. March 31, 1931, Mexico; d. Oct. 18, 2013, Pasadena, Calif. Survivor: wife, Martha.

MILLER, JAMES WILLIAM — b. Jan. 2, 1927, Pasadena, Calif.; d. Jan. 6, 2014, Redding, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty Lou

Miller; son, Robin; daughters, Glenda Risch, Aletha Wehtje, Joy Tjaden; sister, Linda Jane Barrett; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

MORRISON, KENNETH A. — b. July 21, 1931, Kingston, West Indies, Jamaica; d. Feb. 17, 2014, Oakland, Calif. Survivors: wife, Shirley; son, Wesley; daughter, Kimberly Doggette; brother, Leslie; sisters, Kathleen Vanderberg, Valda Boyd; two grandchildren.

MOSES, KEITH WARREN — b. May 22, 1935, Clearwater Lake (Eagle River), Wis.; d. Feb. 5, 2014, Rancho Mirage, Calif. Survivors: wife, Anita; daughters, Maria, Deborah Price; two grandchildren. Served as an Adventist teacher.

NESS, PETER G. — b. April 3, 1936, Canton, Ohio; d. Dec. 23, 2013, Fallon, Nev. Survivors: wife, Betty; son, Douglas; daughter, Nancy; two grandchildren.

NIX, JOANNE RUTH (REED) — b. March 20, 1936, Denver, Colo.; d. Jan. 22, 2014, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: son, Bill; daughters, Connie Nethken, Donna Torres; twin sister, Jeanette Cooper; sisters, Gail Pittman, Lorraine McDonald; five grandchildren.

ROSSI, PETER — b. March 19, 1932, Lancaster, Calif.; d. Nov. 20, 2013, Lancaster, Calif. Survivors: sons, Paul, Mark, Ron, Joe; daughter, Lyn.

SCHOONOVER, MARLENE LAURA (SCHMALE) — b. Jan. 18, 1931, Salt Lake City, Utah; d. Jan. 25, 2014, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Chester "Bud"; son, Wayne; daughters, Rosemary Baker, Cristi Toothman; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

SCOTT, WAYNE "TOM" T. — Nov. 28, 1938, Independence, Kan.; d. Feb. 5, 2014, Redding, Calif. Survivors: wife, Angela Scott; sons, Timothy, Daniel; five grandchildren.

SMITH, GEORGE E. — b. Oct. 30, 1932, San Francisco, Calif.; d. Feb. 4, 2014, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jean; son, David; three grandsons; two great-granddaughters.

STIRLING, MARGE L. (KRAFT) — b. March 25, 1924, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Jan. 22, 2014, Napa, Calif. Survivors: husband, James; son, Leslie "Buzz" Mewborn; daughter, Paulette Williams; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Served as head of the West Central Area Community Services Federation; volunteered for Adventist Community Services, Maranatha, Mission Church Builders and Weimar Institute.

STRAW, CHARLES MERCER — July 2, 1922, Battle Creek, Mich.; d. Feb. 13, 2014, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: son, Dexter; daughters, Eleen, Eileen Young, Linda; stepsons, Ray, Bill; stepdaughter, Martha

Ahlberg; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

TEH, EVELYN DOMINGO — b. Dec. 8, 1943, Philippines; d. Feb. 14, 2014, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: husband, Santos; son, Ron; daughter, Mylene Ebuenga; six grandchildren.

THOMPSON, VERYL "TOMMY" ARTHUR — b. Sept. 1, 1926, Wis.; d. Jan. 25, 2014, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Beverly Jones, Michelle Keeney; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

WARKENTIN, SHERYL — b. Oct. 2, 1942, Gloversville, N.Y.; d. Feb. 3, 2013, Chula Vista, Calif. Survivors: son, Tom; daughters, Lyla Kay, Sandra Lee.

WIEDEN, BEN — b. June 14, 1923, Belltown, Calif.; d. Feb. 1, 2014, Redding, Calif. Survivors: son, Duane; daughter, Sue Hughes; stepdaughters, Muriel Ketelsen, Judy Hochhalter; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

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December: October 28

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