

Connecting the Pacific Union Adventist Family

# Recorder

September 2009

## 4 *Vacation Bible School* Attracts Parents, Teens and Kids



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## ABOUT THE COVER

At the end of the day, Christopher shares a smile with his friends at the La Sierra University church Vacation Bible School program.

*Photo by Enno Müller*

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www.pacificpress.com

The Recorder is a monthly publication reaching nearly 80,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

Our mission is to inform, educate and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.

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**Postal Regs:** The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 109, Number 9, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and is published monthly. Editorial office is at 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361; 805-497-9457. Periodical postage paid at Thousand Oaks, CA, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: No charge to Pacific Union Adventist church members; \$12 per year in U.S.; \$16 foreign (U.S. funds); single copy. \$0.85. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Circulation Department, Pacific Union Recorder, Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359.



# Year of Evangelism Efforts Pay Off

This year has been designated the Year of Evangelism in the North American Division. In 2008, the Pacific Union team and the seven local conferences developed plans, allocated funds and prepared soul-winning endeavors.

The Pacific Union executive committee voted a special appropriation of \$1 million to help churches with their evangelism efforts during 2009. At the end of the second quarter, baptisms and professions-of-faith to the church are up by 10.43 percent over the same period of 2008.

Union and conference administrators and departmental directors have united with evangelists, church pastors, lay people and youth in a great thrust to reach the millions in the five states of the Pacific Union territory (California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii). I encourage the readers of this article to read the details of the amazing things that are happening in the reports in the Recorder from each of the seven conferences.

I have had the privilege of sharing my "Waves of Grace" series in 10 of our churches through August -- three more are scheduled this fall. I stand in awe at the evidence of the Holy Spirit's power as I behold faces aglow as hearts are warmed by the amazing grace of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

I am under great conviction that what we are witnessing in the Pacific Union in this year is a foretaste, if not the beginning, of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Latter Rain power. In John 12:32, Jesus said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." While He is speaking of the manner of His death, I also believe that his declaration is a promise and a

prophecy. I am seeing the fulfillment of His promise and prophecy in my own meetings, and it is most humbling.

We can never forget that the Holy Spirit is the Representative of Jesus Who sent Him when He ascended

to heaven. So, I believe, when we hold Jesus and His grace up before the world, the Holy Spirit is present in a mighty way.

Let us all pray that God will pour His Holy Spirit in a deluge on all who

will be giving and receiving the good news in 2009, not only in our own territory, but also around the world.

*I am under great conviction that what we are witnessing in the Pacific Union this year is a foretaste, if not the beginning, of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Latter Rain power. In John 12:32, Jesus said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."*

*Arnold Trujillo,  
Vice President  
Pacific Union*





# Vacation Bible School Attracts Parents, Teens and Kids

Summer is often associated with family vacations, going to the beach and resting, but in Southeastern California Conference, summer is a time when evangelism happens and new connections and friendships are established.

More than half the churches in Southeastern conducted Vacation Bible Schools for their own children and those in their communities this past summer. For most churches, this meant that one week during the summer was dedicated to rallying youth and adults as staff and putting on a program for kids.

Each group has stories to tell. Each church had different experiences. Many lives were touched — in some cases the staff, in other cases the kids or the parents. Here are a few stories from the field:

## Riverside Spanish

The Riverside Spanish church is located close to several apartment complexes, so VBS is a time that many kids who live there look forward to. Many of these children simply walked over to the church to participate. More than 70 percent of the kids who showed up came from the local community.

Although the focus of VBS was on the kids, church members also thought about how to reach out to these children's parents. Angelina Camacho, a retired public health nurse, suggested offering parenting classes for any parents who were interested. She offered to teach the



Children engage in story time at Loma Linda Korean church.

classes herself and held lectures on how to react to children's behavior and what kinds of discipline methods there are and when to use them. This class ran parallel with VBS. Most parents who brought their kids to VBS stayed for the class.

"Holding parenting classes was a heaven-sent idea. It is amazing that the church came up with it," said Sabrina Villa, VBS director. The parents were grateful and even asked the church to continue to hold similar meetings. The church members have challenged themselves to hold a major community event every three months.

Villa said that one of her teen helpers, a Buddhist, said, "This is what religion should be about, not just sitting around and meditating."

## La Sierra University

La Sierra University church was one of the few churches to hold much of its VBS program outdoors. Even the heat and the strong evening winds did not deter the kids and the staff from having a good time. Chris Oberg, senior pastor, said that getting younger children excited about activities is not that hard. The challenge is to get youth involved in church.

"One of our focus points is on recruiting youth to help us," said Oberg. "We have 40 youth from La Sierra Academy who volunteer to help. They are not members of our church, but they want to spend time with their friends." According to Oberg, VBS is a good time for youth to use and develop their leadership skills within the church.



Children sing along at the La Sierra University church.

Enno Müller



Craft time is fun for many children at the La Sierra University church.

**Santa Ana Edinger**

This year, the Santa Ana Edinger Spanish company decided to pair up with the Martin Luther King Elementary school to hold a VBS there instead of in their church building. Principal Eleanor Rodriguez and several community leaders were happy to open the school's doors. Gang issues are a common problem in the area, so the community appreciates any effort to offer kids alternative activities.

Moving VBS to a school had the added benefit that more parents felt comfortable sending their children. The number of kids nearly doubled compared to previous years, going from 70 to 130.

Frank Ruiz, associate district pastor, attributed this to the trust that parents have toward the school. Besides VBS, the church also taught a class for parents about communi-

cation tips for kids, teens and adolescents. Parents enjoyed this so much that they asked if the church could follow up with more events for them and their children. On Sabbath morning, the church held a graduation ceremony for VBS.

"The church was packed, and at least one-third of the attendees were guests," said Ruiz. After the service, the church had a fellowship meal that encouraged guests and church members to interact. Ruiz also believes that VBS is an evangelistic tool. According to him, "Parents go where kids go, which makes VBS a powerful evangelism tool."

VBS is something many kids look forward to, but so do many churches. According to Manny Vitug, director of children's ministries, "VBS is the largest outreach for our churches to their community. VBS can be one of the most effective forms of evangelism."

*Enno Müller*

In April VBS leaders met in Loma Linda for a training session.





# NCC Teachers Focus on Professional Growth

At the beginning of last school year, Northern California Conference Education Superintendent Berit von Pohle encouraged conference teachers and principals to take ownership of their continuing education by writing professional growth plans and applying for NCC education department money to help fund them.

Each educator who submitted a professional growth plan and completed it was eligible to receive up to \$400. The department has granted \$7,500 so far.



Stephanie Kinsey

NCC Education Superintendent Berit von Pohle, seen here chairing an NCC Board of Education meeting, wants teachers and principals to take charge of their own professional growth.

For her professional development, Echo Ridge Christian School teacher Sari Clark attended a three-day conference last February in San Francisco — the “best I’ve ever been to in my life,” she said. Titled “Learning and the Brain,” the conference fanned Clark’s interest in social and emotional learning and inspired her to continue to

pursue these subjects throughout the school year and summer.

“Adventist education is empowering us as teachers to seek out things that will help us improve our teaching,” said Clark.

Nathanael Dunn, Sacramento Adventist Academy athletic director, also attended a conference — the California State Athletic Directors Association Conference in San Diego last April. While there, he learned ways to strengthen the connection between athletics and academics.

He especially appreciated the networking opportunities. “To be in a room with all other athletic directors — that are dealing with the same stuff you are — is amazing!” he said.

Many of the teachers paid part of their expenses themselves. Cindy Myers, Paradise Adventist Academy teacher, said that she has wanted to attend the International Reading Association regional conference meetings for years, and her professional development grant from the NCC education department covered about half of the cost.

During the three-day conference in Phoenix in February, she learned a variety of new teaching methods, including a way to use art as a medium to encourage students to write. “I’ve very successfully used it and plan to use it some more this fall,” said Myers.

Foothills Elementary School music teacher Dennis Hunt attended a different kind of conference last March. At the West Coast Worship Conference at the Adventist Media

Center, he learned ideas for leading worship services, including ways to integrate culture, art and technology into the worship experience.

Hunt was happy to get a chance to step away from typical teachers’ meetings. “Very seldom is there anything for music teachers,” he said. “I think it’s great you get to pick exactly what you need and what you’d like.”

With a toddler and a new baby, Sacramento Adventist Academy English and religion teacher Tonja Rasmusson worked on her professional growth at home. She completed the initial course of an online program offered by the University of California, San Diego, which explains a nontraditional way to teach and grade students’ writing, based on six traits.

“I was really excited about it,” said Rasmusson. “I’m going to use it in my classroom.”

Some teachers decided to work on their professional growth together. Orangevale SDA School Principal Brad Davis and his teachers agreed to focus on the same plan and complete the work as a team. They continue to meet together to develop a program of specific ways for teachers to track student progress and communicate with each other.

The NCC education department professional growth program is “motivation to help teachers stay on the cutting edge as much as possible,” said Davis.

*Julie Lorenz*



# Schoonover Wins Excellence in Teaching Award

**E**I Dorado Adventist School teacher Nancy Schoonover was awarded a 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award on Sabbath, May 25, at the Placerville church.

Schoonover was one of 12 teachers in North America chosen to receive the \$1,000 award, bestowed by the non-profit Alumni Awards Foundation, whose aim is to promote excellence in Adventist schools.

“We are pleased that Nancy is receiving such appropriate recognition,” said Northern California Conference Education Superintendent Berit von Pohle. “She is an exemplary teacher who continually seeks activities and projects that will bring the curriculum to life for her students.”

Schoonover has worked at EAS for 12 years, teaching kindergarten and various combinations of second, third and fourth grades. She currently teaches a class of third- and fourth-graders.

One of her favorite subjects is fourth grade California history, particularly because of the many field trip options within driving distance of Placerville, including visits to the gold discovery site at Coloma, the Mission San Francisco de Asís, and Angel Island.

Although she uses many of the “tried and true methods” of an experienced teacher, she admitted, “It’s always fun to mix it up!”

EAS Principal Larry Ballew appreciates Schoonover’s enthusiasm for adventure. “The sun never sets on Nancy’s classroom!” he said.

“One minute Nancy is teaching, the next she’s marching on Angel Island with her little Union soldiers, on the Carson Pass with her Mormon Brigade, or coaching her runners for a cross-country meet.”

Schoonover’s zeal for California history extended into her summer vacation this year, when she and her husband visited all 21 California missions — 18 of them in only six days. “Such a teacher thing!” she called it with a laugh. “I really needed to see all of them so I can be more knowledgeable.”

Sister and brother Cassidy and Daniel Wheelwright each had Schoonover as a fourth grade teacher. They both said that a highlight of their experiences was the overnight trip to Coloma, where they panned for gold, met interesting “characters” and sang songs around the campfire.

“She is compassionate and fun and really neat to be around,” said Cassidy, now a fifth-grader. She remembers Schoonover’s regular assignment to the class to make encouraging cards for people who were sick or sad.

“She is always thoughtful of other people’s feelings,” said Daniel, now a sixth-grader.

Schoonover said she enjoys teaching at a Christian school because she has the freedom to share her faith openly. “I like the fact that I can intertwine biblical principles and behavior principles and how they can all relate back to Christ and what He wants for us, how He wants us to live our lives.”

She credits Ballew, the school staff, local church pastors and the community with enriching the lives of EAS students. “It’s easy to be at your best here,” she said. “Every single teacher here could get this award.”

*Julie Lorenz*

Wayne Schoonover



“There are times that teaching is stressful and at times it is very tiring, but overall, it is a very rewarding profession,” said Nancy Schoonover, who visited Mission Santa Barbara during a fact-finding trip this summer.



# Cooking for Others Provides Nourishment for One Senior Citizen



Laurel Mayer, 85, has found that cooking meals for her neighbors and praying with them has given her a reason to get up and feel useful every day.

Laurel Mayer has always been an active and caring person. But when severe back and knee pain forced her to slow down a couple of years ago, the 85-year-old felt she had no reason for living. “Lord, I need to feel like I’m helping someone even at my age,” she prayed.

Within weeks she heard of a neighbor who was sick. She visited and found Elizabeth fighting cancer, depressed and not wanting to eat. So Mayer made her a pot of soup. A healthy meal, fellowship and prayer became a daily ritual, and Elizabeth was soon smiling and hopeful.

“It energized me to do that for her,” says the widow of 14 years. “I love to cook, and I realized there were other people on my street who would appreciate a home-cooked meal and friendship.”

Mayer has now cooked and prayed for more than a dozen families in her Hanford, Calif., neighborhood. “I wake up in the morning and say, ‘Lord what do you have planned for me today?’ I get so excited, because God opens up doors and people all the time. When I think I’m too tired or don’t want to cook, God gives me an idea of what to cook and for

whom. And when I start cooking, my back pain goes way. This is my mission now, and I know that God will give me health and energy for whatever He needs me to do. I enjoy every minute of it.”

Reading Ruthie Jacobsen’s *Bridges 101* inspired Mayer to watch for ways to interact with her neighbors. When she needed an outlet fixed, she called an electrician neighbor. Then she took the family some rice pudding as a thank you. Unbeknownst to her, rice pudding was the man’s favorite.

During one of her daily walks around the neighborhood, she noticed a house that had caught fire. She visited with the residents, then returned with some food and a copy of *Radical Prayer* by Derek Morris. “I’ll read it right now,” the lady said. “This has really shaken me up.”

“There are so many ways to meet people without pushing our religion,” says Mayer, a life-long Adventist, mother and grandmother. “We just need to be loving and caring.” She utilizes holidays to share a book or pamphlet with the neighbors she’s befriended. They are usually glad to take and read it.

“God is just waiting for us to give Him the opportunity to use us,” she says. “I’d encourage older people like myself to take every excuse to go see their neighbors. There is so much we can do. Our age doesn’t have to limit us.”

*Shenaly Page*



# Students Turn Recyclables into Teddy Bears

When the third-graders at Sierra View Junior Academy, Exeter, Calif., heard about kids needing teddy bears, they wanted to get involved. What they needed was a very good fund raising idea. Their themed reading program gave them an idea — recycling.

“Our Pathways month-long reading program taught about environmental issues and the need to recycle,” says teacher Brenda Evans. “Putting what they had learned into practice, they decided to turn recyclables into the much needed teddy bears.”

A few months earlier, a project called Get on the Bus had come to Evan’s attention. GOTB makes it possible each year for children to visit their mothers who are prison inmates at Valley State Prison for Women, in Chowchilla, Calif.

“On the ride home after their visit, each child is given a teddy bear in an effort to give them some much needed comfort,” Evans explains.

“Get on the Bus was born in the hearts of two Los Angeles Catholic social justice workers in 2000 when they realized that children of incarcerated women were rarely having an opportunity to visit with their moms,” explains Nancy Turk, member of the Visalia church and GOTB coordinator for the Central Valley.

This year, 38 buses loaded with 613 children, 388 caregivers and 206 volunteers traveled from cities throughout California to visit incarcerated moms in Chowchilla. This annual event is offered at no cost to the participants. For the trip, there are activity bags for children and comfort care kits for caregivers. The visit includes lunch with mom and a picture together. On the bus trip home, the children receive a teddy bear with a letter from Mom. Post event counseling is provided as needed.

The project took a month and a half to complete, with cans and bottles coming from everywhere. The students spread the word to churches, parents and the other classrooms at the academy. With the help of some cash donations, they met their goal of \$300 to buy 30 bears.

“GOTB offers a priceless opportunity — a mother’s touch and hug, a private conversation and a connection with hope and healing,” says Turk, who gratefully acknowledges the generous support of individuals and community churches, including the Visalia Adventist church.

For 12 third-graders, it offered an opportunity for practical application of a classroom curriculum, and a life lesson in sharing God’s tender love and compassion with others. “God’s love and kindness could truly be seen in the hearts of these generous children,” says Evans.

For more information about the prison ministry for children, contact Nancy Turk at 559-627-1088 or [turktales@comcast.net](mailto:turktales@comcast.net).

*Caron Oswald*



Sierra View Junior Academy third-graders held a recycling fundraiser to buy teddy bears for kids whose moms are incarcerated.

# Team Builds Four One-Day Churches in Ecuador

At the end of June, 25 lay people, most of them youth, from Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan and Tennessee, set off on a journey to Guayaquil, an area near Ecuador's largest and most populous city.

The team planned to erect four Maranatha one-day churches, present Vacation Bible School programs, preach the gospel, and host medical clinics. Led by Benjamin Lundquist, Phoenix Camelback youth pastor, the group became the hands and feet of Jesus.

They did face challenges, though. Some days they had to go into town for materials, and one day they had power failures. "Working for God, though, has its advantages," says Lundquist, "Infinite advantages, I might add! He knew what needed to be accomplished each day, and He saw to it that the needs became reality."

Children sat wide-eyed during VBS programs, pondering David's victorious encounter with Goliath. Songs and crafts added to the fun.

Nine youth preached during the evangelistic meetings. "Will we, one day, see theology majors as a result of these efforts?" Lundquist wondered.

At three of the four building sites, the team ran medical clinics. They set up in whatever facilities were provided; one day it was in a building in a highly-populated area, another day in a rural public school classroom, and the final day in the bamboo-sided, dirt-floored building that served as their soon-to-be-replaced church. Approximately 750 people received medical attention. The youth rotated through the clinics in half-day shifts. They helped with registration, triage and pharmacy duties. "Perhaps this experience sparked an interest that may lead to a career in the medical sciences," said Lundquist.

"During our time at the final church building site on Thursday, July 2, the church members were so gracious and hospitable to us," said Lundquist. "They provided lunch for us, sharing the story of how a particular dish of theirs had become well-known in the surrounding area. For four years, the women of the church prepared and sold this dish as a fund raiser to purchase the land upon which the church would be built."

Patricia, the director of one of the churches, told the story of how 11 years ago, she had a dream that they would have a church on that land. For 11 years, they prayed that God would make their dream a reality.

"Today," Patricia concluded, "you have made our dream come true."

*Cherie Oberlick*



Patricia (center) had a dream 11 years ago that her church family would have a church building one day.

Benjamin Lundquist



Team members stand in front of their new One Day Church in Guayaquil, Ecuador.



# Sparks Church Vacation Bible School Impacts the Community

The Sparks, Nev., church held a Vacation Bible School program early this summer. Lessons and activities focused on Roman times, the apostle Paul and the underground church. Ninety-two children participated; 48 were not from Adventist homes.

Shamarr Hill, 7, of Sacramento, Calif., only attends church when he visits his grandparents in Nevada. He has attended the Sparks VBS programs for the past three years. "It was fun," he said. "It was about God. I love God." He said he learned that "we shouldn't give up on love."

"It was a great experience," said Julie Beckett, 12. "I hope to do it next year. Even in the hard times, God is always with us, and God can change our bad mood to a good mood."

Gail Merritt, a VBS volunteer who prepared dinner for attendees each evening, was impressed that

Tracy Pieters, standing, worked with children ages 4 and 5.

many non-Adventists came early to help each night. Two of the visiting helpers "made a decision to do Bible studies and want to do more with the church."

In addition to a spiritual week full of Bible stories and lessons, kids also sang, created crafts, played outdoor games, learned how to use an abacus to count, petted a baby goat and rabbit, visited the VBS store and made new friends.

Children from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds attended, as did their parents. During the closing program held on Sabbath morning, children prayed in Tagalog, Tongan, Spanish and English.



The following Sunday, Sabbath school and VBS participants gathered at a local park for a picnic. This event allowed many of the visiting families to mingle with the church members. Children were invited to a weekly follow-up program that explores the Amazing Facts Amazing Adventure Bible study lessons for kids.

*Marsha Dupree*

Participants clap along to a song.





# TV Host Airs International Viewers' Call-In Prayers

Recently on a live, one-hour television program that airs globally on Mondays, Pastor Gerald\*, the host, felt impressed to switch to an unusual format. "I told the viewing audience that I was not going to follow my usual routine, which includes taped messages, interactive discussion and music," he said. "Instead, I had decided to direct attention to what was happening in Iran at the height of the crisis there.

"I invited viewers, whether they were Muslim, Bahá'í, Jewish, Christian or any other faith, to call in to pray in whatever prayer format with which they were comfortable.

"I asked them to pray about the situation in Iran in their own words on the phone, live over the TV. In addition, I threw out the invitation to spend that coming Wednesday as a 24-hour day of fasting and prayer."

A flood of calls started within two minutes of the invitation. Those manning the phones scrambled from one phone to another, as studio lines lit up. "I even gave my cell phone number on the screen as a call-in option, and it was tied up as well. In 45 minutes, we were able to take 60 calls."

"I'm a Muslim, not Christian, but what you have done has left such

C. Elwyn Plafner



Pastor Gerald leads a Persian-speaking congregation that meets at the Canoga Park church and is the host-producer of the "A Better Tomorrow" program.

an impact on my family," one caller said. "I admire you that you have enough guts to come on TV and not talk about politics. You are here telling us to go to God's presence."

"I'll never know how many were impacted by that program on Monday night," the pastor reflected. "It was such an exciting night! When a couple wanted to get political, I told them, 'You're not going to get me involved in talking politics. Politics isn't the answer. Our need is for God.'" Afterward, he received an appreciative e-mail from a viewer. "We're joining you in fasting. You took the high road. We need God, not politics."

"I totally concurred with him," the host said. "The best choice is

always God's will — even though it may sometimes be painful."

In addition to the program, the pastor leads the first Persian-speaking congregation in the Adventist Church, meeting at the Canoga Park church on Sabbaths at 5 p.m. The weekly program, "A Better Tomorrow," is sponsored by Gospel Outreach, a ministry dedicated to extending the international ministry of the Adventist church in what's known as the 10/40 Window of the world.

For further information, e-mail [gerald@fardayebehtar.com](mailto:gerald@fardayebehtar.com).

*\*Last name omitted for security reasons.*

Betty Cooney



# Youth Discipleship Results in 65 Baptisms

**S**CC Hispanic Youth Ministry initiated a Jesus Loves Jeans youth-evangelism plan with a kickoff festival in February attended by 1,570 young people coming together to learn about discipleship and small-group evangelism. In the four months following, youth conducted 80 small groups, concluding with a one-week evangelistic series in Los Angeles.

Small group reports were encouraging. "My idea was to start a small group with 12 gang friends," said Angel, a young man and former gang member from the Mid City Spanish church. "Many of my group began studying the Bible for the first time. Some were facing felony charges

in court and were seeking prayer. Some gang friends even sent messages from jail, asking for prayer and a chance to meet Jesus."

A second report came from the Spanish American church, where their former youth pastor, Carlos Granados, organized five small groups for varying youth and young adult ages. "Our groups conducted three meetings weekly," said Granados, "and we baptized 11 youth at the Jesus Loves Jeans youth series."

The Baldwin Park Bilingual church, led by their pastor, conducted three small groups. "Adrian came looking for community service hours mandated by the courts and his probation officer," he recalled. "Joining the small groups

Baldwin Park Bilingual church Pastor Carlos Acosta prepares to baptize five cousins who had made a pact to be baptized when they finished the studies.

Salvador Rios



**Everlasting Youth**  
By Mitchell Alvarez

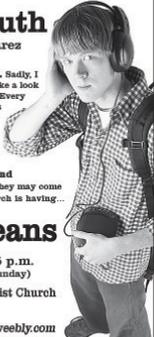
Every single day is a new beginning. Sadly, I have noticed many teens are not aware of it. Just take a look at the statistics: 1 out of every 8 teens is depressed. Every 100 minutes a teen will commit suicide. 6,000 teens commit suicide every year. And more teens are now doing it in pairs. **Why?** They have so much life in them and so much to live for. Our youth need to know that there is so much more to life. We need our youth to be everlasting and full of life. They need to know they were each specially made and have a special purpose in life. I hope and pray they may come to understand this as a special event my church is having...

**Jesus Loves Jeans**

June 12 - July 2 from 7 - 8:15 p.m.  
(every night except Wednesday and Sunday)

Lake of the Woods Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
7008 Ivins Drive • 248-6122

find out more: [www.youthofthewoods.weebly.com](http://www.youthofthewoods.weebly.com)



Lake of the Woods church youth advertised small group meetings in a local newspaper.

was his community service. Thirteen young people in these groups accepted Jesus and were baptized.

"We held a Jesus Loves Jeans youth series for 15 nights," Erika Alvarez reported from the Lake of the Woods church in Frazier Park. "Mitchell Alvarez, the church's youth leader, was the speaker. The young people said that the meetings taught them a lot of new things about God, and that now they have a better relationship with God. Our small church was blessed with five youths' decisions for baptism and one adult interested in further Bible studies."

At the one-week evangelistic series concluding the small groups, 650 young people heard powerful sermons by Pastor Laffitt Cortez, New Jersey Conference youth director. Twenty were baptized.

By July of this year, the small groups had reported 65 baptisms. A second wave of youth small groups was launched, in which many youth will hold their own evangelistic series during the fall. Planners pray that many will make decisions for Christ in these meetings.

*Carlos Acosta*



# Employees Go the Extra Mile for Patient Care at Adventist Health

Every day, lives are changed at Adventist Health facilities. Often change is obvious — the birth of a child or a life-saving procedure. But just as significant are the times when employees go above and beyond their job description to help a patient or coworker.

## Stranded Couple Receives Kindness

When Robert Kessinger, RN, a nurse at Selma Community Hospital in central California, came in for his shift one afternoon, he noticed a woman making phone calls to find a ride home. Janice's\* family dropped her and her boyfriend, Troy,\* at the hospital for an outpatient surgery around 7 a.m., and the couple's plans to be picked up afterward fell through.

"They were calling for about five hours, but no one came for them," Kessinger said. Janice and Troy didn't have money to pay for a taxi. To make matters worse, neither of them had eaten all day.

When Kessinger heard about the situation, he stepped into action. "I found out that Janice and Troy hadn't eaten all day because they didn't have any money, so I took them down to the cafeteria and got them both dinner," he said.

But he didn't stop there. Kessinger told the couple he would take them home when his shift was over. "They only lived about a half mile from my house, so it actually worked out really well," he said. "The food at the cafeteria doesn't cost very much, so it wasn't a big deal."

But when Janice and Troy were hungry, tired and wanting to go home, Kessinger's act of kindness was a very big deal to them.

Selma Community Hospital nurse Robert Kessinger took his mission to the streets by buying two stranded patients dinner and giving them a ride home.

## Care Extends Beyond Business Hours

Like Kessinger, other employees also go beyond the hours and locations of their normal shifts to help patients.

Chris Lephart, an employee of the home oxygen department at Feather River Hospital in northern California, just got off work when he received a message from the clinic's after-hours answering service. Hope Phillips called saying her husband was just seen at a local clinic and needed equipment for a treatment. Lephart turned his car around and headed to the clinic to help.

"Although Chris was on his way home, he expressed concern about my husband's need for a nebulizer and headed in the opposite direction to meet my husband in the parking lot of the clinic," Phillips said.

Once Lephart got there, he didn't just drop off the equipment, but instead carefully explained how to use it. His effort to help touched the couple.

Phillips added, "We will continue to use FRH's Home Oxygen department because of Chris' wonderful attitude."

## Two Housekeepers Reach Out

Clinicians at Adventist Health aren't the only ones who go out of their way to show patients God's love. Two housekeepers at Hanford Community Medical Center touched a





patient's family by meeting one of their most basic needs.

One day, Maria Castro and Celma Maldonado noticed that a patient's family had not eaten and was very hungry, but the cafeteria was closed. The two women decided to put their own needs aside and gave the family their lunches.

When Bob Carmen, president of Adventist Health, heard about their kindness, he was so impressed he gave each woman a restaurant gift certificate. "I think it's incredible that these two employees would take it upon themselves to put others first and to make sure their comfort and needs were satisfied," Carmen said. "It's yet another example of employees fulfilling our mission."

### Coworkers Help Coworkers at the Corporate Office

Adventist Health employees across the system also reach out to help their coworkers in times of need. At the corporate office in Roseville, Calif., the Caring Connection program helps employees when they feel like they are at the end of their rope. The program provides meals, financial help and paid leave, as well as help with childcare, yard work or household chores — all from fellow employees.

One employee who was dealing with the hardship of a recurring illness received flowers and a gift for a certificate for a massage along with words of caring and concern. "The caring and healing arms of everyone here are so



Hanford Community Medical Center President/CEO Richard Rawson presents awards of recognition to housekeepers Maria Castro, left, and Celma Maldonado, after the women gave their lunches to the hungry family of a patient.

very important and appreciated," she said. "Throughout the entire horrific event, the support given by all of my co-workers has been very influential in my healing."

### A Traveler on Oahu Gets a Translator and a Friend

Acts of kindness are appreciated in everyday circumstances, but their effects are magnified in the face of tragedy. It was this kind of care that a young Japanese girl received when her sister was hospitalized at Castle Medical Center on Oahu after a diving mishap. The sisters were vacationing in Hawaii when the unexpected tragedy hit. With no family or friends in the area, the girl waited alone in the emergency department, unable to speak or understand English.

That's when, Cristel Bohm, RN, heard about the girl's situation and came to help. Bohm, who was fluent in Japanese, translated. "There Cristel was, ready, willing and able to assist the sister

through what would turn out to be one of life's most difficult times," said Kathy Raethel, RN, chief nursing office at CMC.

Bohm invited the girl to stay at her home while they waited for her parents to arrive from Japan. Then she helped the family communicate with the doctors as they made the heartbreaking decision to take their daughter off life support.

Several weeks later, Raethel got a letter from the family. It expressed how thankful they were for the comfort of the staff at CMC, especially Bohm. They were in deep pain, but they wanted to let the staff know how touched they were by their kindness.

Bohm and the staff at CMC gave support to a family when they needed it the most. By showing Christ's love they did what they could to ease the pain of tragedy.

*\* Names have been changed to protect patient confidentiality.*

*Emily Young*

# Pacific Union College Announces New President

On July 17, 2009, the Pacific Union College Board of Trustees announced that Dr. Heather J. Knight, currently the provost of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., has been named the new president of Pacific Union College. She will begin her role as president in mid-September, in time for the new academic year.

Knight received her Ph.D. in English from Stanford University, her master's degree in English from Loma Linda University, and her bachelor's degree in English from Oakwood University. She also completed postdoctoral studies at Harvard University in management and leadership in education.

An accomplished academic administrator, Knight served with distinction for 18 years at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., where she was a professor of English, assistant provost, and then associate provost. As provost at Andrews University, Knight served as second officer, providing administrative and academic leadership and managing the day-to-day operations of the university.

During her three years at Andrews University, Knight successfully developed and implemented a new strategic plan, integrated budget and planning priorities, increased enrollment and student selectivity, and strengthened leadership in all areas of campus life. She oversaw the development of new programs, processes and campus facilities and led

the university through a successful reaccreditation process.

"It is a tremendous privilege and blessing to be invited to serve as the next president of Pacific Union College," said Knight. "Pacific Union College has a very distinguished history, and I am honored to have this opportunity to carry on the proud PUC tradition of ensuring academic excellence and spiritual authenticity. I look forward to working collaboratively with the PUC Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni to help move PUC to the next level of excellence for this distinctive institution."

"Knight comes to Pacific Union College with over 20 years of experience in higher education and a deep respect from the higher education community. From her work at the University of the Pacific to Andrews University, Dr. Knight has a proven track record of leading institutions to success, and we are thrilled to

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Dr. Heather J. Knight has accepted the presidency of Pacific Union College, and will move to Angwin with her husband, Dr. Norman Knight, in September.

have her at PUC," said Dr. Ricardo Graham, PUC board chair and president of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Knight is also a lover of the arts, the mother of college-educated children, and wife of Dr. Norman Knight, who has been serving as senior pastor of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Bend, Ind., and an adjunct professor of homiletics at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. The Knights both have a passion for ministry and higher education, and look forward to getting to know the Angwin and Napa Valley communities.

*Julie Z. Lee and Heather J. Knight*

Courtesy of Heather J. Knight



# Newsletters

# Newsletters

# Newsletters

# Newsletters

# Molokai Cooking School Hits Community Hot Button

**M**olokai church members recently held a successful cooking school. “We were hoping for 30 and we got 60,” says Pastor Kurt Unglaub of the Molokai church. It was standing room only in the fellowship hall as eager participants flooded in. “Fortunately, a few people brought some extra food at the last minute.”

One reason for the huge turnout was the testimony of Molokai member Carol Kanemitsu, who had recently made some major changes in her lifestyle. Last fall, she was hospitalized with a serious illness. During her treatment and recovery she learned she had high blood pressure, diabetes and a heart problem.

After recovering from this shocking news, Kanemitsu responded with fiery determination. “I aim to beat this thing with God’s help,” she said. “I’m a compulsive eater. I’d eat all day, down six or seven cans of soda, and then come home and eat a big dinner.”

But, that lifestyle is a thing of the past. In about six months, Kanemitsu’s total cholesterol dropped



Molokai church members (l. to r.) Julie Turner, Roberta Kruger, Buddy Kruger, and Krista Hightower begin setting up for the cooking school.

175 points, her triglycerides plummeted 325 points, the diabetes and high blood pressure are under control, and she’s 70 pounds lighter.

Kanemitsu and her husband, Ralph, are co-owners of Takes Variety Store located in downtown

Kaunakakai, a bustling metropolis of approximately 2,700 inhabitants on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. Longtime customers noticed the steady changes in Carol. Many begged for her secret and encouraged her to host a cooking school.

Because of the success of their first endeavor, members plan to host monthly cooking and nutrition classes at the church for the foreseeable future.

*Teryl Loeffler*



Every seat was filled when the Molokai church opened its doors for a cooking school to benefit the community.

# LLU Celebrates the School of Medicine's 100th Anniversary



For example, Friday's continuing education lecture series titled, "The Picture of Health 2009," features the founder of a health and theological center at Duke University Medical Center (Harold Koenig, M.D., M.H.Sc.), the grandson of R.J. Reynolds who is now an anti-smoking activist (Patrick Reynolds), a former FDA commissioner (David Kessler, M.D., J.D.), the director and public health officer of the Riverside Community

In 1909, the Loma Linda University School of Medicine was founded in Loma Linda, Calif. Now, 100 years later, there is little question of the impact that LLU, specifically the School of Medicine, has had on the Pacific Union.

"With more than 150 graduates going out every year, the School of Medicine is fulfilling its mission to continue the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus 'to make man whole,'" says Roger Hadley, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine. "Many of these graduates will set up or join practices in the Pacific Union," he continues.

Many alumni, faculty and friends are already planning to attend the centennial celebration on Oct. 28 to 31 — a weekend that boasts an

impressive lineup of guest speakers and reflects on the school's history as well as anticipates its future.

It's not too late to register to join the festivities. "We have tried to include a variety of ways to commemorate this major milestone including celebration, thanksgiving and a mindfulness of our continued need for God's guidance in the future," says Donna Hadley, the volunteer coordinator of the four-day event.

Attendees can take a campus tour on Thursday, including a visit to the new Centennial Complex, and hear the special keynote address by Lisa Ling, a journalist and co-host of ABC's "The View" and National Geographic Explorer.

The weekend is packed with other speakers as notable as Ling.

Health Agency (Eric Frykman, M.D., M.P.H.), the co-discoverer of the HIV virus (Robert Gallo, M.D.), and the president of LLU (Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H.).

A highlight on Friday will be author Lee Strobel, who has been invited to speak for the evening program, joining Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass for an evening of worship and music. Strobel is recognized for being an atheist-turned-Christian apologist and the author of the award winning books *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for a Creator*.

On Sabbath at Loma Linda University church, H. Vincent Miltzfelt, M.D., will conduct an orchestra and choir comprised of School of Medicine students and

alumni — formed exclusively for this weekend — to accompany the sermon delivered by senior pastor Randy Roberts, D.Min.

The events of the weekend will culminate in two programs on Saturday afternoon and evening. The Sabbath vespers program will look back at an event that played an important role in Loma Linda's history as well as brought recognition and prominence — the first baboon heart transplanted into a newborn then known as “Baby Fae.” Leonard Bailey, M.D., the surgeon who performed the operation, will be interviewed together with Baby Fae's mother, who is making her

first public appearance in 25 years. Also, event attendees will have a chance to view a private premiere screening of the film “Stephanie's Heart” (Baby Fae's real name).

Olympic gold medalist Bryan Clay will speak for the Saturday night fundraiser gala that will benefit the Centennial Tuition Fund for the School of Medicine. Clay is the reigning Olympic decathlete, a feat that has earned him the title of “world's greatest athlete.” Clay will explain how he has chosen to be an ambassador for his Christian faith using the platform of his athletic fame.

“We are thrilled with the response we have had thus far to the programs that are planned for the students, alumni, faculty and friends of the School of Medicine,” says Dr. Hadley. “We encourage all of you from the Pacific Union to attend this once-in-a-lifetime celebration that is close to home.”

For a complete list of centennial events, including dates, times, locations and registration, visit the School of Medicine's website at [www.llu.edu/medicine](http://www.llu.edu/medicine).

*Donna Hadley*

## New LLU Bachelor's Grads Are Top Earners

Graduates of Loma Linda University have the highest median starting salary among United States colleges ranked by PayScale.com. The rankings were released Monday, July 20, 2009, and reported on by *The New York Times*. The starting median salary (includes up to five years after graduation) for LLU bachelor's degree graduates is \$71,400.

*The New York Times* article attributes the number one ranking to LLU's “strong programs” in allied health, nursing and dental careers.

PayScale's rankings are based on self-reporting from 1.2 million individuals who disclosed their degrees and earnings. The figures are based only on graduates with a bachelor's degree who did not go on to earn any higher degree. Thus, professionals such as medical doctors or dentists are excluded from the survey.

Loma Linda University offers approximately 20 bachelor's degrees in fields ranging from geology to dental hygiene to clinical laboratory science.

*Heather Riefsnyder*



# New Logo Part of University Effort to Tell Its Story

La Sierra University is introducing a new logo this fall as part of a major new effort being launched to share La Sierra's story and market educational opportunities on campus.

The new logo is the culmination of a four-month process of consultation with at least 140 students, faculty, staff and members of the board of trustees. A higher education marketing firm in southern California assisted the university in the development of the new

important step forward in proudly declaring our identity and basic commitments to the world," says Marilyn Thomsen, vice president for communication and integrated marketing. "The new logo is an integral part of our communication and branding resources." While the most visible component of La Sierra University's enhanced marketing effort is the new logo/graphic identity system, the university is also putting a long-term strategic communication plan into place.

service), of individual backgrounds (ethnic, cultural, religious, educational), of intellectual disciplines (academic, professional), and of personal characteristics (abilities, interests, temperaments).

The circle formed by the figures expresses the underlying unity enriched by our diversity — the unity of our ultimate values (faith, integrity, courage, compassion), our fundamental attitudes (trust, respect, openness), and our primary activities (learning, worship, service).



# La Sierra

U N I V E R S I T Y

logo, as well as a comprehensive marketing program that will be introduced to a wide range of audiences during the coming months.

"This is an important moment for our campus, and represents our profound commitment to share our story in a bold and new manner," said Randal Wisbey, president. "This process has helped us consider who we are as an institution, and has provided us an opportunity to effectively work together in embracing our mission with ever-greater ability."

"As we approach our third decade as a university, we are taking an

Fritz Guy, professor in La Sierra's School of Religion, wrote a short description of the new university logo's symbolic meaning, which follows:

## The New LSU Logo

The new La Sierra University logo is a symbolic expression of our motto, "From diversity, community," and our aim, "To seek, to know, to serve." Like the motto and aim, the logo expresses many dimensions of meaning.

The individual figures express our various kinds of diversity — of basic functions (teaching, learning,

The proximity of the individual figures to each other expresses our interrelatedness and complementarity. Their attitude of joyful worship reflects our conviction that faith is an essential part of learning, and that learning is an essential part of faith.

The general impression of a sun expresses the overall role of La Sierra University — to enhance the light of God's truth and the warmth of His love in all of its people, in its sponsoring church, and in the surrounding world.

*Larry Becker*



# Tennessee Court Validates Work-Study Program at Laurelbrook Academy

The U.S. Department of Labor filed charges against a self-supporting Adventist academy in Tennessee, urging the court to issue an order shutting down its work-study program, a core part of its educational philosophy. A federal court rejected the suit, and ruled in favor of the school, which may help protect other high school work-study programs throughout the nation.

The decision came July 15, after a seven-day trial that took place over several months, ending in April. The

Department of Labor insisted that the work-study program violated federal labor laws. With assistance from Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) and Adventist religious liberty attorneys, the school raised important religious liberty issues.

Although the judge's decision was narrowly crafted to avoid any discussion of the constitutional issues, it reflected considerable respect for the religious freedom and autonomy rights of the school, and the religious values it seeks to inculcate

through a balanced program including work with academic study.

The judge wrote: "Although there is benefit to the school and sanatorium from the students' activities ... the primary benefit is to the students, who learn practical skills about work, responsibility and the dignity of manual labor in a way consistent with the religious mission of the school."

*Alan J. Reinach*

# Pope's Encyclical Stirs the Eschatological Pot

Many Adventists were excited by news of "Charity in Truth," in which Pope Benedict XVI called for a new global economic order to address not only the structural problems in the global economy, but the lack of morality in the financial system.

Barry Bussey, director of the North American Religious Liberty Association, wrote in his blog: "Such a call for a world political body is not new. We have heard these calls before — but with each call there is a sense of growing intensity of world conditions."

The recent economic meltdown has touched a nerve among people of many nations. What does the Bible say? Revelation 18 describes a global economic collapse immediately preceding the return of Christ, after the close of the final judgment.

These and related passages deserve closer study, both for their prophetic and personal spiritual applications.

Adventists have long seen a union of church and state as central to the persecution predicted in Revelation 13. We may have overlooked how both Revelation 13 and 18 suggest a further close collaboration with the "merchants of the earth," the financial structures. Revelation 18 gives a warning to "come out of her my people," but out of what? The fallen church? The fallen state? The fallen financial system? Or possibly, all three? Later, both kings and merchants seek to "stand apart" from a Babylon that has already collapsed. There is nothing left to "stand apart" from. Clearly, we must come out before it is too late.

The message seems clear: we cannot put our trust in princes, in

churches, or in money and banks. We can only trust in Jesus. We must distance ourselves, not only from political passions, but from our addiction to consumerism.

Pope Benedict XVI correctly observes that the market economy lacks a needed moral foundation. Adventists can contribute to this discussion the observation that our modern economy is based on greed and covetousness, in violation of the 10th commandment. Now is the time to proclaim the relevance of the 10th commandment.

*Alan J. Reinach*



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At It Is Written, we believe in the soon return of Jesus Christ our Savior. Everything we do is focused on this event and on preparing a planet in rebellion for the cataclysmic last-day events that will culminate in the Second Coming.

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## 2009 Weekends

Battle Creek, MI  
McCamy Plaza Hotel  
September 11-13

Gatlinburg, TN #1  
Park Vista Resort Hotel  
September 18-20

San Diego, CA (NEW LOCATION)  
San Diego Hilton Del Mar  
September 25-27

Orlando, FL  
Orlando Airport Marriott  
October 16-18

Welches (Portland), OR  
The Resort at the Mountain  
October 23-25

Palm Springs, CA  
Doral Palm Springs Resort  
November 6-8

Monterey, CA  
The Beach Resort  
November 13-15

Gettysburg, PA (NEW LOCATION)  
Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel  
November 20-22

Gatlinburg, TN #2  
Park Vista Resort Hotel  
December 4-6



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**CALENDARS**

**Central California**

**YOSEMITE SABBATH SERVICES**  
(through Sept. 5) Lower River Amphitheater. Sponsored by CCC. Info: Edie and Ray DeFehr, 209-586-4325 or rayandedie@mlode.com.

**HISPANIC YOUTH RETREAT** (Sept. 4-7) Camp Wawona. Info: Florina, 559-347-3150 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

**YOUNG ADULTS RE-CREATION & Backpacking** (Sept. 4-7) Info: Lisseth, 559-347-3176 or lpasillas@cccsda.org.

**FALL CAMP WAWONA** Volunteer Project (Sept. 13-16) Info: Bonnie, 559-347-3189 or communication@cccsda.org.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONVOCATION AND Bible Quiz-a-rama** (Sept. 18-20) Fresno Westside church. Info: Wanda, 559-347-3169 or wflowers@cccsda.org.

**PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP CONVENTION** (Sept. 25-27) Camp Wawona. Info: Norma, 559-347-3174 or nvillarreal@cccsda.org.

**TREASURERS TRAINING (SEPT. 27)** CCC office. Info: Mayra, 559-347-3145 or mthompson@cccsda.org.

**La Sierra University**

**FRESHMEN ORIENTATION: FRESHMEN** are required to attend a two-day orientation session over the summer. Two sessions remain: Sept. 9-10 and 14-15. Agenda includes math and English placement tests, registering for classes, finalize financial plan, etc. Info: 951-785-2452, orientation@lasierra.edu, or www.lasierra.edu.

**IGNITE 2009 (SEPT. 15-17)** Kickoff orientation session for incoming students. Info: www.lasierra.edu.

**FIRST DAY OF CLASSES** (Sept. 21)

**Nevada-Utah**

**REGIONAL CONVOCATION (SEPT. 4-6)** "Countdown to Eternity," Sparks, NV. Info: Ed Johnson, 775-322-6929 or ejohnson@nevadautah.org.

**LAS VEGAS AREA** Convocation (Sept. 18-19) Major Andrew Harewood, speaker. Cashmen Center, 850 N Las Vegas Blvd. Info: 775-322-6929 or www.nevadautah.org/camp-meeting.

**SPARKS WOMEN'S RETREAT** (Sept. 18-20) Nancy Van Pelt, speaker. Weimer Institute. Info: Edna Pickett, 775-303-1463.

**LAS VEGAS AREA** Pathfinder Fair (Sept. 20) Las Vegas Adventist Academy. Info: Fanga Finau, 775-322-6929 or hfinau@nevadautah.org.

**Northern California**

**HISPANIC YOUTH FEDERATION** Retreat (Sept. 4-7) Leoni Meadows. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1292.

**PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP CONVENTION** (Sept. 11-13) Leoni Meadows. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1280.

**PRISON MINISTRY DAY** (Sept. 12) Sacramento-Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Avenue, Sacramento. Guest speaker Michael Ashley. Info: 916-381-5353.

**NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT** Training (Sept. 14-20) Leoni Meadows. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1296.

**"MORTGAGE PAYOFF" CELEBRATION** (Sept. 19) Sutter Hill church, 12900 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek. Everyone is welcome, especially those who had a role in the planning and building of

the church and school facilities. Info: 209-267-5186.

**SACRAMENTO CHIP (STARTS** Sept. 20) Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. The Coronary Health Improvement Project produces amazing results for people who are willing to make some safe, simple lifestyle changes. Info: 916-770-6197 or carmichaelCHIP@gmail.com.

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** (Sept. 24-26) Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 State Highway 38, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1280.

**BIBLE INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING** System (Sept. 25-27) NCC Office. Start the process to become a certified Bible instructor. Info: Bernice Archie, 510-299-7820.

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT** (Oct. 2-4; 9-11) Leoni Meadows. Come hear best-selling author Sheri Rose Shepherd and singer/songwriter Rhonda Funk. Info: Audi Silber, asilber@lodisdaelem.org.

**HISPANIC YOUTH FEDERATION** (Oct. 4) NCC Committee Room. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1292.

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Pacific Union College

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (Sept. 16) Parent orientation, Fusion retreat, and informational sessions help new students start the school year. Classes begin 9/21. Info: 707-965-7362.

CENTENNIAL IN ANGWIN (Oct. 3) Pacific Union College and Church celebrate 100 years in Angwin. Join us for featured Sabbath speaker Lou Venden along with the PUC history museum, historical tour, and potluck and social. Info: 707-965-6303.

Southeastern California

SAN DIEGO FORUM (Sept. 12) 3 p.m. T. Joe Willey, "Science Falsely So-called: Can Modern Science Establish the Health Writings of Ellen G. White?" Tierrasanta church, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA. Info: 858-576-9990 or 619-561-2360. E-mail: ak-jk@cox.net.

PRISON MINISTRIES SEMINAR, San Diego (Sept. 12) 3-5 p.m., South Bay church, 2161 Avenida Del Mexico, San Diego. For church prison ministries coordinators and associates. RSVP by Aug. 31: 951-509-2337 or Janelle.Muthiah@seccsda.org.

ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL Area Seminar, Vista (Sept. 19) 3-5 p.m., Vista church, 720 Alta Vista Dr., Vista. Presenters: Rudy Bermudez, SECC adult Sabbath school director, "Growing the Church Through Sabbath School"; Jocelyn Sonsona, CLAIM field game and facilitators' certification. RSVP by Sept. 7: 951-509-2237.

HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT (Sept. 18-20) Camp Cedar Falls. Speakers: Guillermo Garcia, Joaquin Casares, other speakers on men's health. Info: Jorge Soria, 951-206-2371. To register: Ruth Collins, 805-413-7384, afternoons.

RETIREES RETREAT (SEPT. 21-23) Open to all retirees. Pine Springs Ranch. Info: 951-509-2287.

ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL Area Seminar, Inland Empire (Sept. 26) 3-5 p.m., Loma Linda Chinese church fellowship hall, 25665 Van Leuven St., Loma Linda. Presenters: Rudy Bermudez, SECC adult Sabbath school director, "Growing the Church Through Sabbath School"; Jocelyn Sonsona, CLAIM field game and facilitators' certification. RSVP by Sept. 14: 951-509-2237.

DISABILITIES MINISTRIES SEMINAR (Oct. 3) 3-5 p.m., Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. For church disabilities ministries

coordinators and associates. Register by Sept. 21: 951-509-2337 or Janelle.Muthiah@seccsda.org.

Southern California

SCC HISPANIC YOUTH Ministries '09 Youth Camp, in English (Sept. 4-7) Featuring Peter Guzman, Texas youth pastor; recording artist Gabe Orozco; sports tournaments; hiking; swimming competition; Bible Bowl. Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 State Hwy 38, Angelus Oaks CA. Info: SCC Hispanic Youth Ministries, 818-546-8448.

"THE SECRETS OF Longevity Unveiled" Health Seminar (Sept. 11-13) Bilingual 9/11, 12 Presenters Benjamin Lau, M.D., Ph.D.; Esther Lau, MS, RD; 9/13, free health screening, consultations; 7 p.m. "Heart Health and Longevity, the Loma Linda Story," Daniel Choo, M.D. Hacienda Heights Chinese company, 2120 So. Stimson St. Info: 626-217-5782.

SCC RELIGIOUS LIBERTY Rally (Sept. 12) Featured speaker, Marvin Moore, Editor, Signs of the Times Magazine. Panel discussion led by Alan J. Reinach, Esq., PARL director, Pacific Union. 3-5 p.m. Valjejo Drive Church, 300 Valjejo Dr., Glendale. Info: 818-246-2476.

NEDLEY "OVERCOMING DEPRESSION" Program (starts Sept. 14) Unraveling depression through natural means. 7 p.m. Glendale Adventist Medical Center Auditorium, 1509 Wilson Terrace. 8 CEU credits. Sponsors: SCC, GAMC, Power for Life Foundation, Glendale LIFEdevelopment. Info: scchealthmin.adventistfaith.org; bcooney818@sbcglobal.net.

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT (Sept. 19) 7 p.m. Hacienda Heights Church, 2120 So. Stimson St. Info: 951-354-6886.

L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM (Sept. 26) 3:30 p.m. Douglas R. Clark, Ph. D., Associate Dean of the School of Religion at La Sierra University. "The Dead Sea Scrolls: Anything Adventists Could Learn (or unlearn) from the Essence of Jesus' Time?" Glendale City Church, 610 E. California Avenue, Glendale, CA 91206. Info: 818-244-7241.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Alumni Reunions

**HOMECOMING REUNION (SEPT. 12)** Lockeford church, 19900 N. Elliott Road, Lockeford, CA, invites you to a homecoming reunion! For further information, call Bob Potter at 209-604-4532.

**SANTA ROSA CHURCH** Homecoming (Nov. 21) Inviting all friends and former members to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the first SDA church west of the Rockies. Pacific Union Conference President Ricardo Graham to speak at morning service. Heritage Singers concert after lunch. Info: 707-578-8883 or [www.santarosasda.org](http://www.santarosasda.org).

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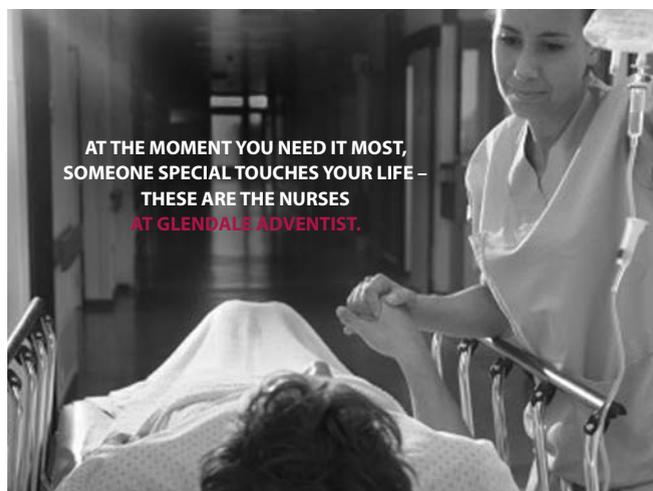
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## SUNSETS

SEPTEMBER 2009

	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
Alturas	7:27	7:16	7:03	6:51
Angwin	7:33	7:22	7:11	6:59
Calexico	7:01	6:51	6:42	6:32
Chico	7:31	7:20	7:08	6:57
Eureka	7:41	7:30	7:18	7:06
Fresno	7:20	7:10	6:59	6:49
Hilo	6:32	6:26	6:19	6:13
Honolulu	6:43	6:36	6:30	6:23
Las Vegas	7:02	6:51	6:41	6:31
Lodi	7:28	7:17	7:06	6:55
Loma Linda	7:09	6:59	6:49	6:39
Los Angeles	7:13	7:03	6:53	6:44
Moab	7:40	7:29	7:18	7:07
Oakland	7:31	7:20	7:09	6:58
Phoenix	6:47	6:38	6:28	6:18
Reno	7:23	7:12	7:00	6:49
Riverside	7:09	6:59	6:50	6:40
Sacramento	7:29	7:18	7:07	6:55
Salt Lake City	7:52	7:40	7:29	7:17
San Diego	7:07	6:58	6:48	6:39
San Francisco	7:32	7:21	7:10	6:59
San Jose	7:29	7:19	7:08	6:57
Tucson	6:42	6:33	6:23	6:14



Bulletin Board

**DONATE YOUR CAR,** boat or RV to Canvasback Missions. Serving the medical and dental needs of the Pacific Islands. Donation is tax deductible. Autos preferred to be running. Restrictions apply. For more info: 877-793-7245 or visit www.canvasback.org.

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Events

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Part 1 Thursday, 7:00 pm  
Part 2 Friday, 7:00 pm

"Discovery of the Center of God's Universe Exposes the Big Bang Cosmic Titanic And Points To the Great White Throne"

Sabbath School, 9:30 am

"God's Six-Day Creation of the Heavens and Earth Points to the Seventh-Day Sabbath Memorial of Creation"

Sabbath Worship, 10:50 am



Presenters

David Gentry, M.D.  
Loma Linda University  
Medical Center Radiology  
Department

Bob Gentry, D. Sc. Hon.  
The Orion Foundation

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**Missing Members**

**SAN JOSE CENTRAL.** *Merly Ortiz, Church Clerk, 2345 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116 or [merlyortiz@yahoo.com](mailto:merlyortiz@yahoo.com).* Nana Kofi Brobbey, Erica Cantero, Reynold Chavan, Jamelio Crockett, Joshua Cuiltly, Frank De la Cruz, Shiela Jo Hunter Farias, Lucy Galvez, Michael Goss, Gary Hall, Keil Landy, Bernice Lahai, Momoh Tengo Lahai, Eric Leroy, Kathy Leroy, Visitacion Leroy, Tony Ly, Denise Miller, Gary Miller, Steve Perkins, Hannel Serra, Robert Thompson, Sandra Solorio, Luz Valdezco, Alvin Ypon.

**SAN DIEGO SOUTH BAY.** *Contact church office at 619-423-2243 or 2161 Avenida Del Mexico, San Diego, CA*

92154. Walquiria Brusamolin, Jennifer Castillo, Danyarel Crespo, Joel Crespo, Lane Cruse, Rhonda Cruse, Kevin Ebanks, LaToya Ebanks, Luciellen Giacometel, Amberlynn Harris, Sheila Johns, Jonathan Magpayo, James Manjarrez, Ed Newell, Xavier Ortiz, Yanira Ortiz, Flor Tolentino, Maria Vidauri, Joel White, Alan Barr, Ray Belasco, Jasmin Bonaparte, Rosie Bustomonte, Eric Castleberry, Orlando Dimacli, Tony Dominguez, Lesia Escobar, Paul Escobar, Lucille Fecteaun, Judith Garcia, Karim Garcia, Alicia Gearhart, Gary Gearhart, Jayna Gearhart, Alexandre Gibson, Sonya Gibson, Denise Glover, Tatiana Glover, Robert Goodson, Matelli Graves, Catrina Gregory, Virginia Grizzle, Cynthia Harden, Alma Huerta, Laura Lamb, Zariyah Limon, Kayla Lockett, Evila Lopez, Peter Martinez, Crystal Mayo, Rosalie McIntire, Amber McKinney, Paula McKinney, Danny Mendoza, Alan Nicholson, Nathan Nicholson, Alejandra Ortuno, Wilmer Ortuno, Shawn Perdue, Elena Ponsler, Michael Ponsler, Martin Rocha, Yesenia Rocha, Ana Rodriguez, Chris Rodriguez, Christina Rodriguez, Demi Sakadelis, Irma Shaffer, Patrick Shaffer, William Sheehan, Herold Simkin, Peter Solis, Ramon Stanton, Angel Suani, Jamie Sutherland, Damarelia Thomack, Veronica Thomack, Jimmy Villa, Helen Walker, Anesa Webb, Demarco Webb, Derrick Williams, Elda Williams, Freddie Williams, Alesha Wilson, Jontia Zamora, Moses Zamora.

**Real Estate**

**32' FRANKLIN TRAILER, 2001.** One-bdrm, washer, dryer, TV with 3ABN dish, Expando living room. On Clear Lake in senior park (rent \$300/mo.) New 8'x 10' out building. \$114,500. 707-812-4003.

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**ACOSTA, NADINE (SANCHEZ)** – b. March 16, 1970, Hanford, Calif.; d. June 21, 2008, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: husband, John; daughters, Alyssa, Alina, Adelle; father, Antonio Sanchez; mother, Hopie Sanchez.

**AITKEN, EMMA A.** – b. Aug. 7, 1919, Superior, Wis.; d. July 8, 2009, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Bob; daughters, Pat, Karyn Marxmiller, Julia Schmitz-Leuffen; six grandchildren. Served as a dietitian at Glendale Adven-

tist Medical Center and Loma Linda University Medical Center.

**BENSON, JAMES** – b. Feb. 16, 1916, Detroit, Mich.; d. June 12, 2009, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jean; daughters, Jane, Patti, Barbara; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

**BOUGHTON, NELLIE** – b. Aug. 4, 1915, Chino, Calif.; d. July 20, 2009, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Joan Chegwidden, Shirley Gruner, Kathleen Payne; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

**CHAPMAN, RUTH E.** (Dimmig) – b. March 2, 1916, McMinnville, Ore.; d. May 15, 2009, Healdsburg, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Carol Peterson, Margaret Cuadra; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Served as a nurse at St. Helena Hospital and Health Center.

**DIXNER, ARNE WILFRED** – b. Jan. 2, 1924, Boras, Sweden; d. May 3, 2009, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: son, Kenneth Arne; daughter, Karen Shaw; one grandchild; two step-grandchildren.

**GOSEV, VASILY** – b. May 25, 1917, Stavropol, Russia; d. July 18, 2009,

Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife, Evdoeka; daughter, Vera; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**HELMS, LAURIE ANN** (Rathbun) – b. Sept. 10, 1964, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. June 12, 2009, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Jeff; son, Christopher; daughter, Laura. Served as a church school teacher in Corona, Vacaville and Placerville, Calif.

**HORNING, ROBERTA (BOBBIE)** – b. Oct. 29, 1914, Joplin, Mo.; d. May 31, 2009, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Marjean Mathiesen; one grandchild.

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**HUBER, LOUISE WILHEMINA** — b. June 12, 1923, Germany; d. June 11, 2009, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: husband, John; daughters, Heidi Thomas, Rose-marie Trettenero; four grandchildren.

**HUTTENBERGER, ESTHER MAE** — b. Aug. 5, 1927, Hanford, Calif.; d. June 6, 2008, Hanford, Calif. Survivors: husband, George; daughters, Cheryl Burbach, Debbie Kasischke; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

**KATSARSKY, FREDRICK BERNARD** — b. Jan. 30, 1939, Ann Arbor, Mich.; d. May 9, 2009, Indio, Calif. Survivors: wife, Suzanne; son, Christopher; one grandson.

**KELLEY, RICHARD L.R.** — b. April 3, 1945, Richmond, Calif.; d. May, 29, 2009, Spokane, Wash. Survivors: wife, Patricia; daughters, Anissa Maxwell, Melissa Kelley-Antinoro; brother, Charles Kelley; sister, Judy Cross; four grandchildren. Pastored in the Mountain View and Central California conferences.

**KINCAID, HAZEL** — b. Feb. 2, 1919, Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.; d. July 6, 2009, Paradise, Calif. Survivor: son, Jim.

**LEDINGTON, JEAN LOUISE** — b. Sept. 26, 1921, Exeter, Calif.; d. Oct. 12, 2008, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Robert; daughter,

Linda Nadig; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

**MACHADO, ELLEN AUDRIA** — b. Aug. 9, 1928, Ocala, Fla.; d. April 29, 2009, Sunnyvale, Calif. Survivors: sons, Barton, Scott; four grandchildren.

**MACKETT, NORMA** — b. Jan. 17, 1914, Bombay, India; d. July 17, 2009, Portland, Ore. Survivors: son, Ted; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**MAYER, RUSSELL** — b. Jan. 28, 1921, Harvey, N.D.; d. June 16, 2009, Provo, Utah. Survivors: wife, Mary (Olsechlager); sons, Russel Lee, Richard; daughters, Odette Osantowski, Colleen Seabury; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren. Served the Nevada-Utah Conference executive committee, Monument Valley Missions Hospital board, and the Milford Hospital board.

**MCLAUGHLIN, LILIANE EMMA** (Drogemuller) — b. Aug. 22, 1931, Antwerp, Belgium; d. June 2, 2009, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: husband, Harry; brothers, Guido, Roland. Employed more than 40 years in the Radiology Dept. of Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

**MITCHELL, ALBERT** — b. May 16, 1942, New York, N.Y.; d. June 23, 2008, Lemoore, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Katie, Rachel.

**CORRECTION: ODELL, RUBY** Long Wheeler — b. Dec. 21, 1913, Cincinnati, Ohio; d. April 25, 2009, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Merrie Kay Reynolds; stepson, Glenn; four grandchildren; brother, Jack Degraw; sister, Ethel Siegal. Served the Anatomy Department at Loma Linda.

**RICHERT, DONAL EUGENE** — b. April 10, 1927, Walla Walla, Wash.; d. May 8, 2009, Sebastopol, Calif. Survivors: wife, LaVene; daughters, Carmen Sheldon, Sonya, Jennifer Phan; two grandchildren. Served as teacher; as a missionary in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Africa; as ADRA director in the Sudan; and with Mission Church Builders after retirement.

**ROYAK, NANCY J.** — b. Sept. 3, 1934, Stamford, Conn.; d. June 28, 2009, Ukiah, Calif.

**RUE, GRACE** — b. July 28, 1910, Anaheim, Calif.; d. July 13, 2009, Chico, Calif. Survivors: five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. Served for 20 years as a missionary with her husband, Dr. George Rue, in Seoul, Korea, where they opened a hospital, school and orphanage.

**SHENNAR, NUBAR** — b. Feb. 14, 1919, Istanbul, Turkey; d. June 19, 2009, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Vartanus;

son, Arek; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Shake S. (Kay).

**WERTZ, FLORENCE** — b. Sept. 7, 1935, Ontario, Canada; d. Oct. 23, 2008, Hanford, Calif. Survivor: husband, Larry.

**WILLIAMS, GUDREN D. "GOODY"** — b. Aug. 19, 1919, Luck, Wis.; d. March 1, 2009, Grand Terrace, Calif. Survivors: sons, Lysle, Keith; daughters, Lindy Bliss, Gay Culpepper; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. Was a librarian at Loma Linda University.

**WILSON, MARCIA** — b. May 16, 1944, Great Falls, Mont.; d. June 25, 2009, Redlands, Calif. Played in the Loma Linda University church orchestra for about 20 years.

**WISDOM, KATHLEEN (BAKER)** — b. July 18, 1926, Jaroso, Colo.; d. June 18, 2009, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: son, Dennis; daughter Deborah Lanham; four granddaughters; seven great-grandchildren.

**WOOD, JAN LEE** — b. Aug. 15, 1952, Long Beach, Calif.; d. May 16, 2009, Escondido, Calif. Survivors: husband, Paul; daughters, Anne Rigby, Beth; parents, Eugene and Dolores Giuntini; brothers, Steven and Clayton Giuntini.

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**YAW, GLORIA JEAN** – b. July 20, 1939, Lodi, Calif.; d. July 12, 2009, Carmichael, Calif. Survivors: husband, Louis; son, Louis Lee; daughter, Bonnie Jean (Steven) Mende; two granddaughters.

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