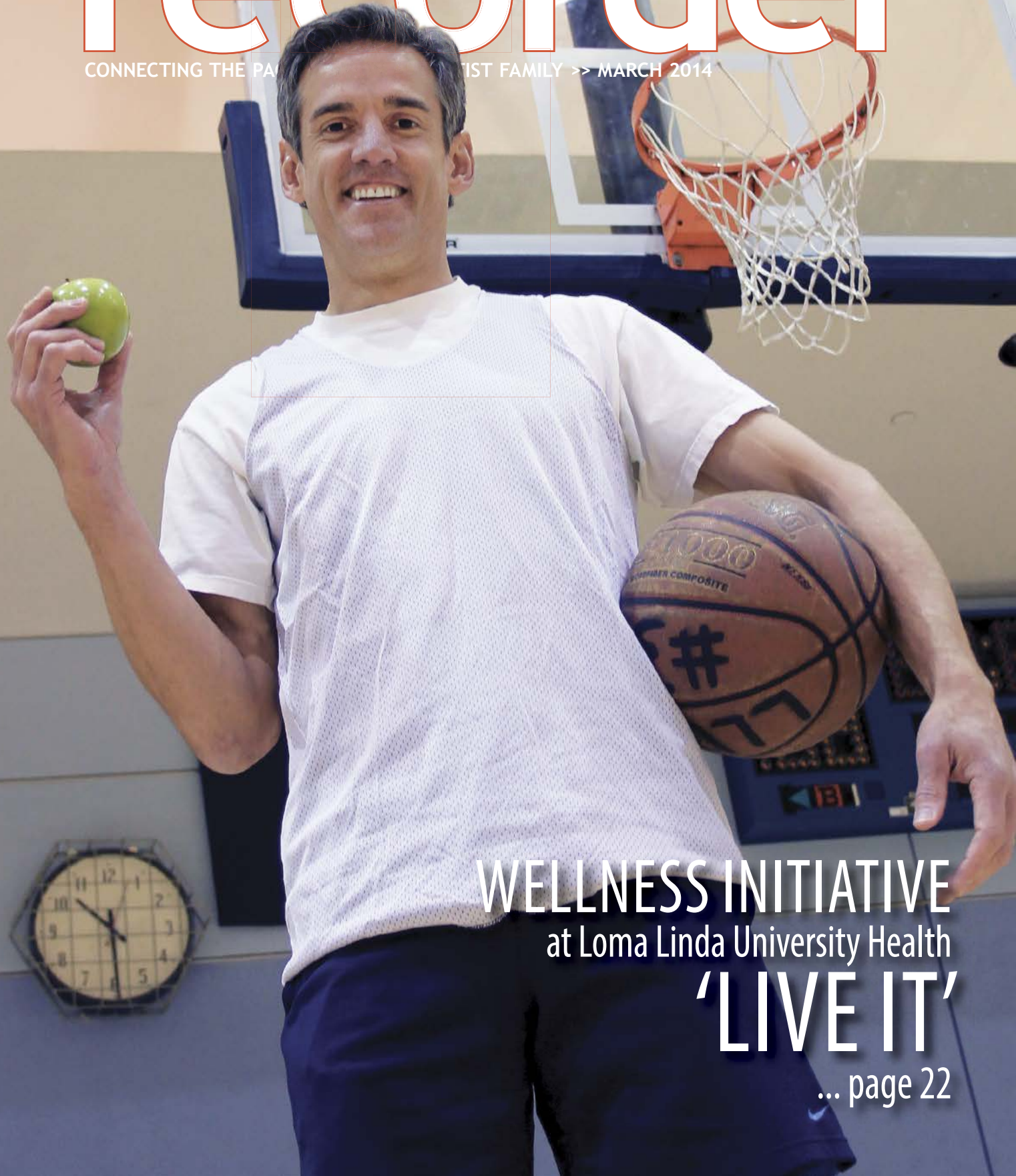


PACIFIC UNION

recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION COMMUNITY TO THE ARTIST FAMILY >> MARCH 2014



WELLNESS INITIATIVE
at Loma Linda University Health
'LIVE IT'

... page 22

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about the cover

Daniel Fontoura, MBA, is the new leader of a major wellness initiative on the combined Loma Linda Health campuses.

PHOTO BY LARRY KIDDER

PACIFIC UNION recorder

Recorder Staff

Editor / Layout & Design

Alicia Adams — alicia@puconline.org

Publisher

Gerry Chudleigh — gerry@puconline.org

Administrative Assistants

Sali Butler — commdept@puconline.org
Sharon Edwards — sharon@puconline.org

Printing

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www.pacificpress.com

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Editorial Correspondents

Adventist Health 916-781-4756
Divya Joseph — divya.joseph@ah.org

Arizona 480-991-6777
Phil Draper — phildraper@azconference.org

Central California 559-347-3000
Costin Jordache — cjordache@cccsda.org

Hawaii 808-595-7591
Jesse Seibel — jesseseibel@gmail.com

La Sierra University 951-785-2000
Larry Becker — lbecker@lasierra.edu

Loma Linda 909-558-4526
Susan Onuma — sonuma@llu.edu

Nevada-Utah 775-322-6929

Northern California 925-685-4300
Stephanie Leal — sleal@nccsda.com

Pacific Union College 707-965-6303
Cambria Wheeler — cammie@puc.edu

Southeastern California 951-509-2200
Enno Müller — communications@seccsda.org

Southern California 818-546-8400
Betty Cooney — bcooney@scsda.org

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Pray About It

The North American Division has designated the year 2014 as a Year of Prayer. This was inaugurated in a prayer conference held Jan. 9-12 in Monterey, Calif. There have been other prayer retreats and conferences held, but, to my knowledge, this was the first one with a special emphasis on pastors. Ruthie and Don Jacobsen and their team organized this event.

With more than 800 people in attendance, it was a powerful event that sought to re-stimulate a passion for prayer, and to help create a culture of prayer in this division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The speakers talked about praying and told of incredible answers to prayer, and the attendees spent time praying with and for one another. In fact, as we arrived to the registration desk, we were met by "designated prayers" who prayed in the lobby of the facility. I was prayed with three times before I could even pick up my registration materials.

I prayed with old friends, new friends, people of all ethnicities, cultures and ages. Men and women prayed together.

As I reminisced about this event, I thought about the lessons I learned.

Pastor Dwight Nelson of the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University related an incident from the story of Pavel Goia, currently a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Kentucky, who once smuggled Bibles into his native Romania and preached the gospel in spite of communist opposition. As recorded in *One Miracle After Another* by Gregg Budd (Review and Herald, 2010), Goia was in a car accident in Romania and hit a young man. The ambulance came and took the young man to the hospital, where it was determined he had massive internal injuries. He was eventually pronounced dead and his body was taken downstairs to the morgue.

Goia and his wife wept, still in disbelief that the pastor had accidentally killed someone, let alone a young person. This young man was well known in the small town because he had a severe stutter.

Realizing the young man's death could seriously impact the witness of their church, Goia and his wife, along with church members and others, prayed all night that God would raise the young man to life. The next morning, the young man was found sitting up on the the stainless steel table, very much alive. The pastor and his wife rushed to the hospital and found doctors swarming around, comparing the X-rays from the night before. The massive internal injuries were gone, the pastor says — and the young man no longer stuttered!

Nelson emphasized three elements of prayer.

Prayers must be *desperate*, *urgent* and *expectant*. We must cry out to God with a sense of desperation for deliverance from sin. Our prayers must be filled with the urgency of the situation. And we must pray with the expectation that the requests will be answered.

Prayer was not only *important* to Jesus — it was *essential*.

"Jesus Himself, while He dwelt among men, was often in prayer. . . . His humanity made prayer a necessity and a privilege. He found comfort and joy in communion with His Father. And if the Savior of men, the Son

of God, felt the need of prayer, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of fervent, constant prayer" (*Steps to Christ*, 93, 94).

On several occasions, Jesus either spent the entire night in prayer (Luke 6:12) or got up before sunrise (Mark 1:35) to pray.

He taught his disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13), directing them to acknowledge God as our collective Holy Father who supplies all our needs daily.

"Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character... For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christ like temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, 'Ye shall receive'" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, 563, 564).

So, what do we pray for? Everything. A friend in California recently wrote me an e-mail. She noted that the California governor declared the current drought a dire emergency and asked for conservation.

She suggested that we call for a day of prayer on Feb. 7-8, asking God to send rain. This is urgent, she said. Most Californians will agree.

Jesus told a parable about the link between persistence and prayer in Luke 11:5-13, which ended in declaring that the Heavenly Father is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask, and to those who expect an answer.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The book of James admonishes us to ask God for wisdom. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5).

We should pray for rain in California. We should pray for wisdom for our church boards and committee meetings. We should pray for the sick to be healed. But most of all, we should pray for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit to fall on all.

Then, the work of God will finish in a glorious manner, and all who are willing to be saved, will be saved.

Ricardo Graham



SECC Churches Raise Funds for Relief in the Philippines

Elizer Sacay, vice president of Asian-Pacific ministries at Southeastern California Conference, traveled to Tacloban City, Philippines, on Dec. 20, 2013. He was overwhelmed by what he saw.

"I was very sorry to see all the devastation left and right," he said. "I saw tents all around. People were living in them, within sight of houses that could not be immediately repaired."

On Nov. 8, Typhoon Haiyan (a.k.a. Typhoon Yolanda) decimated the Philippines, displacing millions of people. The storm was one of the most powerful ever recorded, creating urgent needs for those who were affected by the destruction.

As soon as the news was widely reported, SECC, in conjunction with Filipino Adventist Ministers and Members Association in North America, began raising funds in order to send much-needed relief supplies.

The conference communicated with all of its churches, urging the church family to contribute. Pastors asked members to make voluntary donations; those who wanted to get more involved with general relief efforts were referred to ADRA.

Sacay and his wife, Bler, were chosen to represent SECC churches and travel to seven different cities in the Philippines to disburse the collected funds. Local Adventist churches in the cities hosted the distribution centers.

When they arrived, the situation was dire. Pastors and officers of the Philippine Union Conference had also been severely affected by the storm. There was no housing, no hotels. Four people from the Philippine Union conference helped the Sacays find a place to stay and food to eat.

While they travelled, they held three Sabbath church services. One of those Sabbaths, they held a service and provided lunch for all those who

arrived. There was more than enough food for everyone. After the worship and lunch, many gave testimonies. Those who attended filled out cards detailing their personal and family needs.



Those in need receive funds at a local Adventist church distribution center.



People from Kinatarkan Island waiting for the distribution of funds.

An Adventist police officer arrived with three other officers to help with the distribution of funds. The people were extremely grateful and happy that others from far away had remembered them.

While there were some nonprofit organizations that were helping with relief, much of the help was impractical. For example, food was distributed in cans, but people were unable to buy utensils to cook or eat with. The money given to these individuals helped them get back on their feet with things that had been lost during the storm.

"I could see the difficulty that people were facing," said Elizer Sacay. "The funds that we brought were a great relief to them. While other organizations helped with canned goods, rice and a few other things, in reality, they

didn't have anything to start life again."

Sacay said that even now, donations are arriving. Through his connections, he is able to identify places where there is still great need.

"I am going to send the new donations to places that we were not able to reach when we visited," he said.

Mario A. Munoz

THE STORY OF ACTS, PART 2

Adventist Schools in Mission

Unplanned outreach describes Mesa Grande Academy's recent mission trip.

"Without much of a plan, it was unnerving to drive four adults and 24 academy kids into Los Angeles," said David Lundgrin, mission trip coordinator and high school teacher at Mesa Grande Academy. "All our trips before, every minute, every meal had to be at a certain time and place."

The school's November 2013 trip was modeled after the method of Jesus and his disciples, "who traveled the countryside — often without a plan," explained Lundgrin. "They always had stuff to do." Basic arrangements were made, Alfred Riddle, MGA principal, noted, but the plan was kept "flexible enough to look for ways to help people."

The mission team wanted to see how God would lead in outreach — and they ended up with "stuff to do" at eight different places. They accomplished jobs such as cleaning and organizing at a Hope for Homeless Youth home; assembling computer desks, designing a library and patching concrete at White Memorial Adventist School; distributing lunches and blankets in Venice Beach, at the Santa Monica Pier and in downtown L.A.; making a presentation at the White Memorial church for Sabbath school; and doing heavy landscape work at a Baldwin Park low-income housing project.



Mesa Grande Academy students use whatever resources are available to them in order to help others.

At the shelter, Hope for Homeless Youth Transition, students' duties included cleaning the kitchen and couches. "Whatever we could do, we did it," Lauren Bosler, 17, admitted. Some students even jumped into the attic, replacing rotted wood.

Lundgrin said, "Their eyes lit up when they realized: 'Hey, I can decide what to help with and how to do it — without a grown-up.'"

Rising early one day, students walked a block to investigate White Memorial Adventist School. The principal and her teacher-husband shared their dream of a library space where kids could come before school to read books and enjoy themselves.

Lundgrin announced tasks:

"Clean the library, sort new books and paint a volleyball court — if there's time."

"By the time we removed 10 books, our fingers were black," said Bosler. "Discard piles came up to my hip." As the work that the MGA students did was announced in chapel, the White Memorial Adventist School kids clapped and cheered.

As students distributed sack lunches and blankets in Santa Monica and Venice Beach, a petite woman wrapped in blankets looked up at them. "God bless, and thank you for answered prayer," she told them.

In the act of giving, students said they learned that "some of us are spoiled." MGA students stayed in youth rooms in which some even had to sleep on the floor.

"I was missing my bed in a cozy house with a fireplace. But for the homeless, outside is home. I couldn't imagine it," said Bosler. After giving to the homeless, she felt God reminding her, "Be thankful for what you have."

Kimberly Grace



Students clean, sort and organize the White Memorial Adventist school library.

Hispanic Men's Retreat Strengthens Family and Marriage

As a mother of two, Maria Ramirez* worked diligently keeping her family together despite the increasingly hostile and tense atmosphere in her home. For years she had struggled with thoughts of divorce due to the strained relationship with her husband. Her daughters, ages 12 and 7, saw their father as a stranger in their home. "As a mother and wife, I didn't know what to do," Ramirez recalls, "but I knew something had to change."

Shortly afterwards, Ramirez came across an application for the Hispanic Men's Retreat in the Central California Conference. Sensing the leading of God, she became convicted that her husband needed to attend the event. With increased debts from Christmas and New Year's celebrations, family finances were in critical condition. "We didn't have enough to cover our household needs, let alone money with which to even consider doing activities outside the home," explains Ramirez. "So I brought it to Christ in prayer." Soon she found extra work and started saving for the application fee. In faith and without her husband's knowledge, she registered him for the upcoming event. Reluctantly, her husband attended the retreat, feeling uncomfortable with the idea of going to a place where only men were meeting.



Central's annual men's retreat held at Soquel Conference Center or Camp Wawona each spring commonly draws an attendance of 200 men.

When he returned home, he presented his wife with a bouquet of flowers as he kissed his two daughters on the forehead. As he went to place his suitcase in the bedroom, the girls began asking Ramirez what had happened to their father. When he returned, he began interacting genuinely with the family, asking what they had done over the weekend. As he picked up the youngest, he offered to take his girls out for ice cream. They looked at each other

in bewilderment, as this was not the father they had known. He had never interacted with them like this. Maria Ramirez realized that God had answered her prayers. Her husband had experienced a conversion. "It's a miracle," Ramirez believes. "Since that year, he has never missed a retreat."

**In order to respect privacy, names have been changed.*

Dan Escamilla

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Central California Literature Evangelists Help Lead Large Outreach Initiative

The numbers are impressive: 22,622 doors knocked on; 15,517 GLOW tracts handed out; 2,238 copies of *The Great Controversy* distributed; approximately 2,089 people prayed with; and more than 216 requests for Bible studies collected. More impressive than these statistics, however, is the fact that it was all done by young people.

More than 2,800 Seventh-day Adventist teenagers and young adults knocked on doors in Orlando, Fla., as a part of the annual Generation of Youth for Christ convention's campaign to reach its surrounding communities.

In preparation for the outreach, participants gathered in the nearby convention center for training. The meeting was opened with testimonies about the impact of *The Great Controversy* on individual lives.

Following the testimonies, four young adult employees from the Central California Conference trained attendees to go door-to-door requesting donations, for which a copy of *The Great Controversy* was offered.

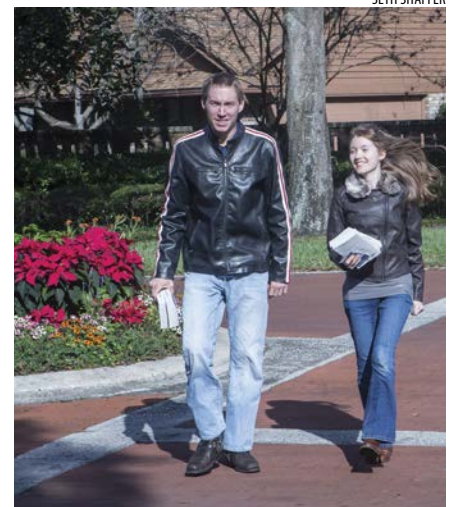
The four young people who trained the participants have had significant experience

with door-to-door work, as they are also leaders in Youth Rush, a 10-week literature evangelism program for high-school and college-age students. "The fact that we did, in 38 minutes of training, what would normally take 2 weeks in a summer program is great!" said Ranela Kaligithi, one of the four.

The donations generated by participants were given to S.A.L.T. (Service and Love Together), a local ministry focused on helping homeless individuals, low-income families and children who are living at or below poverty level.

After more than two hours of door-knocking and \$16,000 in donations, participants came back ready to share testimonies. "Thank you so much for the training," said one young lady from Barbados. "We put everything into practice as we distributed our books. We loved outreach!"

As a result of the outreach, there were many powerful testimonies from attendees, including Jennifer Beltz. Upon entering the house of a very friendly lady, Beltz and her older brother, AJ, were able to pray with her and leave a copy of *The Great Controversy* with her. "I had been



SETH SHAFER

Young adults go door-to-door, books in hand.

praying all morning that God would send me an answer to the problems I was having, and you two are like angels sent from God to help me," the lady said, with tears in her eyes. The community management asked Beltz and her brother to leave the neighborhood shortly thereafter. Respecting management's request and later reflecting on the experience, Beltz commented, "Praise God! It was awesome to see that God sent us to connect with this resident at just the right time!" Not only did this outreach experience impact the people in the community, but it dramatically changed the lives of the participants.

"Some of these people probably have never gone door-to-door," Kaligithi said, "and the fact that they raised \$16,000 with limited training is amazing."

Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference, also participated in the outreach initiative. "It was a great experience," Wilson said. "GYC not only gives young people a chance to grow spiritually through biblical messages, but also a wonderful way to participate in sharing the three angels' messages with the public during GYC outreach activities. I was blessed to be part of it!"



ADAM JACKSON

Attendees board buses for outreach activities.

Danielle Perez

Encounter Equips NCC Youth to Share Jesus

Teens from around the Northern California Conference gathered at the Carmichael church on Sabbath, Jan. 25, for "Encounter." The day-long event for high school aged students was organized and presented by conference youth pastors and NCC Youth Director Eddie Heinrich.

The Carmichael congregation held their worship service in the fellowship hall so that the

300 teens could meet in the sanctuary. Church members prepared and served lunch to the teens. "We are grateful for the hospitality of the Carmichael church members," said Tyler Kraft, Lodi Fairmont church associate pastor. "They opened their sanctuary, kitchen and entire facility to help make Encounter a success."

Earlier in the month when the youth pastors met to plan Encounter, they decided to create

something different from a traditional youth rally. "We reimagined the event to be more of

an equipping and training event, focused on sharing the gospel," said Kraft. The day's activities included talks, music, icebreaker games, videos and skits. Participants received a short workbook where they could record notes and ideas for witnessing. Questions included: "How has your life changed because of Jesus?" and "What is your biggest fear about sharing Jesus with others?"

Pleasant Hill church Assistant Pastor Zach Reiber spoke for the day's first session, explaining Christ's method of evangelism — mingling with people, finding out their needs, winning their confidence, and then asking them to

PHOTOS BY ANNA McMILLEN



Zach Reiber, assistant pastor of the Pleasant Hill church, speaks for the morning meeting.



Auburn church Associate Pastor David Carreon (right) gives instructions for an icebreaker game.



Sacramento Adventist Academy seniors Rachel Acob and Mathias Gallaher perform "The Coat," a skit about wearing salvation like a warm coat for everyone to see.

follow Him. Reiber encouraged the kids to follow Jesus in the way they reached out to others. He also spoke about good and bad motivations for witnessing. "The best reason to share is because you've had an encounter with Jesus," he said.

Paradise Adventist Academy senior Kallie Griffine appreciated Reiber's message. "He had good points and engaged the audience," she said. "We learned how important it is to love people in order to share Jesus with them."

In several sessions, Carmichael church Associate Pastor Benji Ferguson taught the students how to give a gospel presentation, and he gave them the opportunity to practice with each other. He then encouraged them to call or text a friend and share Jesus right then. In the last session, Granite Bay church Assistant Pastor Dan Garza spoke about the daunting task of telling the whole world about Jesus. The students learned that if they share Christ with those they know, they can make a difference in the world.

In addition to the programs, the youth enjoyed getting to know their peers from around Northern California. "The event gave our students a time to get together in a bigger group and experience a broader sense of community than our local churches give," said Chico church Assistant Pastor Jonny Hayasaka.

The teens appreciated a Sabbath out of their ordinary routines, geared especially for them. "I liked the entire day," said Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy freshman Nathan Bankhead, who particularly enjoyed the speakers, games and the lunch. He also learned an important truth. "I liked how they talked about how God has a plan for everyone, and that He will tell you what your plan is," he said.

Encounter was the outgrowth of a three-fold mission developed by the youth pastors, which they plan to implement in their individual churches and at conference-wide events. The mission can be summarized in three words: Encounter, Mentor, Serve. "With 'Encounter,' we want to connect kids with Jesus. With 'Mentor,' we want to provide discipleship opportunities, resources and responsibilities," said Reiber. "And with 'Serve,' we want to create opportunities for other people to encounter Jesus, and to help them bring God into the lives of people around them."

Julie Lorenz



Chico church Assistant Pastor Jonny Hayasaka leads the singing along with Paradise Adventist Academy freshman Ariana Marquez (middle) and Pine Hills Adventist Academy seventh-grader Megan Carreon.



Priscilla Dawson, Sacramento Adventist Academy freshman, plays an icebreaker game.

Notice of Constituency Session

Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Pacific Union College Church in Angwin, California, on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at 9 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive from the officers and department directors of the Conference reports pertaining to the work carried on within its territory since the last conference session; to elect for the ensuing session officers, department directors, the Bylaws Committee, and the Conference Executive Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof.

*James E. Pedersen, President
Marc K. Woodson, Executive Secretary*

Hundreds Attend Fix My Life and Maranatha Rallies

The second annual Fix My Life youth rally, hosted by the Temple City church in January 2014, drew more than 750 attendees representing more than 15 churches. “We wanted to involve more young people this year, since the theme for this year’s event focused on such a basic but crucial concern of today’s young people — how to live for Christ daily,” said Aaron Nakamura, event coordinator and Temple City youth ministries director.

“Two years ago, with much prayer, the leadership team chose ‘Fix My Life’ as the name of this event,” he added. “It’s amazing, because now young people come up to us saying that they think of Fix My Life instead of a better known expletive phrase with the same initials common among young people today.”

The rally started on Friday night, drawing an opening crowd of 180 young people. Lewston Morris, Whittier church youth ministries director, spoke on making the decision to take the first step toward living for Christ daily. He used his own testimony and relatable youth-oriented terms.

“The best part of Friday’s program was the prayer activity,” said 20-year-old Sychar Yebra, who flew in from Chicago with her 16-year-old brother. The ACTS prayer activity focused on four different types of prayer — adoration, confessions and proclamations, thanksgiving and

supplication. Participants rotated to different stations where each prayer was emphasized. “It’s one thing to pray for our lives and for those closest to us,” Yebra said, “but it’s a more powerful experience when you pray with others facing challenges of their own. That really hit me.”

Sabbath’s worship program had standing room only, upping the attendance count to more than 750. Collegiate ministry leader Jesús Noland gave a short message on fixing the mind in order to live for Christ every day. Nakamura spoke, asserting that living for Christ “needs to start right here” by not judging others based on outward appearances.

After lunch, participants had the opportunity to take part in one of three outreach activities: feeding the homeless on Skid Row in Los Angeles; a community walk and canned food drive for the needy in the local community that included passing out GLOW Bible tracts; and a nursing home outing in which participants sang and interacted with those they visited.

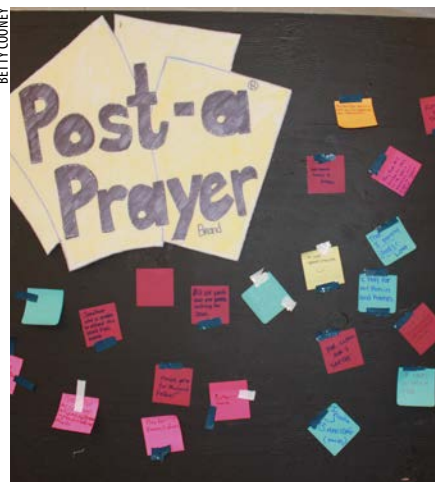
“It was great to really connect with people in the community that you wouldn’t otherwise connect with,” said 17-year-old Alex Gonzalez from Lake of the Woods church. “You think feeding people on the streets would be so easy, but when you actually talk to people and really learn about them, it’s amazing.”

The youth rally concluded Saturday evening, followed immediately by the fifth annual Jump Start Missions rally hosted by Maranatha Volunteers International. That rally continued all day Sunday. The event, usually held in Roseville, Calif., has more than tripled its attendance since moving south.

“Maranatha’s rally highlighted its annual Ultimate Workout mission project, which is



In his message, Aaron Nakamura removed layers of clothing — from a three-piece suit to a surfing outfit — to illustrate that attendees could start living for Christ by not judging others based on outward appearances.



Attendees at this year’s FML youth rally posted prayer requests or praises on the post-a-prayer wall.

specifically designed for high school students,” the event coordinator said. “It also focused on team building and growing a spirit for missions. This weekend was a huge weekend for SCC young people. I can’t wait to see what next year will hold! Parents have come to me, excited to see events catering to young people that help guide them to Jesus in a practical and interactive sense — I share that excitement!”

Aaron Nakamura



Some Fix My Life participants passed out personal care items to homeless people on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles.

Region Honors Antonette Simpson for 25 Years of Community Service

The Greater Los Angeles Region of the Southern California Conference honored Antonette Simpson with its Heart of a Servant Award at the region's first Black & White Gala, held recently at the Universal City Hilton. The honoree was a charter member of the Breath of Life church who served with untiring dedication as community services leader for more than 25 years.

In presenting the honor, SCC Vice President James G. Lee Jr. read a litany of Simpson's accomplishments over the years: the establishment of the BOL Food Bank, the BOL Thrift Shop, monthly praise/worship programs at area-assisted living centers, monthly homeless feedings, a monthly free medical clinic, annual community Thanksgiving and Christmas feedings, holiday giveaways to needy families, monthly community breakfasts following early prayer services on first Sabbaths, weekly community Zumba fitness classes and the annual Christmas programs and weekly arts/crafts classes in the Jordan Downs area of Watts. "And this is only a partial listing of projects Antonette has spearheaded over the years," said Lee.

"Antonette's activities are carried out with only a handful of faithful volunteers," he added.



James G. Lee Jr., SCC vice president, presents Antonette Simpson with an award for her quarter-century involvement with community services at the Breath of Life church.

"Often, the huge physical burden of unloading many crates of groceries from the food truck falls on the shoulders of Antonette and a few volunteers. They store the food inside the church and later haul it to the parking lot, package and distribute it to needy families twice a month."

Simpson also personally prepares the meals for the monthly praise and worship services at Pacific Rim Apartments and Good Shepherd Manor and for the church's monthly early prayer service.

Community Services' local impact over the years cannot be accurately quantified, as it has had a multiplier effect on families and neighborhoods. However, one indicator is the BOL Food Bank's 2012 statistics.

More than 86,000 pounds of food (valued at \$76,000) were distributed, serving nearly 3,000 families and more than 8,000 individuals. "Community Services' vital ministry in the Breath of Life church also is operated efficiently at little or no cost to the church (mostly via personal donations)," a church leader commented.

Simpson's service is not limited to the Los Angeles area; she has traveled on lay missions to Ghana at her own expense, to volunteer at the Adventist hospital in Tamale and minister to local people.

Known as one who tends to avoid the public spotlight, Simpson was genuinely moved and overwhelmed by the accolades she received at the GLAR Gala, as well as the show of support by so many fellow members and friends. "I thank everyone, particularly my husband Richard, my daughter and son-in-law Terri and Jerry Tucker, who often assist me; the food bank volunteers, faithful donors, Pastor Michael Jenkins Jr., and my God, to whom I give all the glory," she said.

Clarence Brown



Associate Pastor Eustace Laurie (center), who is now attending seminary, regularly assisted Antonette Simpson on food bank days, offering prayer to kick off the food distribution and ending with an inspirational talk to those homeless people who stayed afterward for a hot meal.

Wasatch Hills Church Welcomes Pastor Adam Case

Neither sub-zero Wisconsin temperatures, nor keys locked inside a vehicle in Wyoming for an hour, nor getting a trailer stuck across a city street in Salt Lake City could keep Adam Case and his family from making the move to Utah where he gave his first sermon Jan. 18 as the new pastor of the Wasatch Hills church.

Case replaces Bernie Anderson, who moved with his family to Apopka, Fla., to become the collegiate/young adult pastor at the Forest Lake church in August 2012.

Case and his wife, Laurella, have a son, Joshua, who is now attending Summit Christian Academy. They moved from Columbus, Wis., where he pastored the Wisconsin Academy church.

In his opening remarks at Wasatch, Case noted that the move to Utah "was not an easy decision," he said. "We had envisioned being at Wisconsin Academy for a good many years. We very much enjoyed our time there." But the family's excitement about the move to Utah had grown a lot in the weeks since they accepted the call.

"When it came right down to it, it felt like God was calling us to come out here," Case added. "We felt very comfortable after making the decision, felt very much at peace since that time. It was sad to say goodbye to friends; we have a lot of

really good friends (at Columbus). We had a lot of goodbyes to say, but we're happy to move forward and look at what God has in store for us here."

The trip to Salt Lake City was one of the most adventurous he's had, Case said. It was 17 degrees below zero when they loaded the moving van, and the people who loaded took only an hour and 15 minutes to finish. "They said it was too cold to mess around!"

Case's first sermon, "Someone Else's Armor," analyzed David and Goliath, and how David needed to trust God's training. Sermons and Sabbath school alone cannot sustain a spiritual life, he said. Nor will reading Christian publications and watching broadcasts talking about God. Christians must spend time with God on their own.

"You're fighting in someone else's armor if that is your only source of spiritual food," Case added. "We need to be developing our own armor. We need to be reaching into the Word of God and have a relationship with Jesus. We need faith. David had faith in God. As we continue to develop our relationship with God, our faith can be strengthened, too. And as we come across hard times, we need to be able to say, 'God is going to work in our future as he has worked in our past.'"

John Miller



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*



Nevada-Utah Conference President Larry Unterseher (far left) introduces Pastor Adam and Laurella Case as the new pastor of the Wasatch Hills church in Salt Lake City as elder Craig Chaya (second from left) looks on.

Tahoe Camp Meeting Draws Attendees from Near and Far

Lake Tahoe camp meeting will return to Tahoe Valley RV Campground for the 2014 camp meeting. The theme for this year's event is "Jesus is Still the Answer" with Larry Moore and Dr. Joseph Kidder as the keynote speakers. Moore, president of Southwestern Union and a former Nevada-Utah Conference president, will speak Monday through Wednesday evenings. Kidder, associate professor of Christian ministry at Andrews University, will speak Thursday through Saturday evenings and for the Sabbath morning service. The Reno Area Convocation will be held Aug. 1-2 in conjunction with the camp meeting.

Lake Tahoe camp meeting continues to be planned and organized by an all-volunteer lay committee with members from northern California and Nevada. Darlene Spratt from the Reno area serves as the planning committee chair. She and the other volunteers are committed to making the camp meeting a Christ-centered experience for all who attend. "Our committee has placed this camp meeting in God's hands, and we trust Him to guide us as we plan for each year. Our biggest challenge is

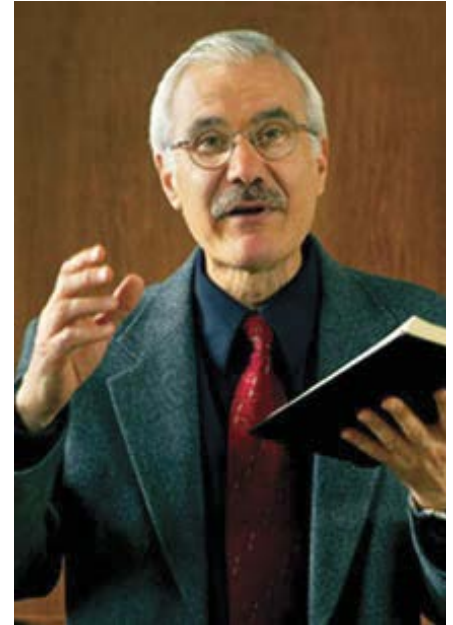
financial in that camp meeting is funded exclusively by donations. However, by God's grace, we have been able to meet our budget needs every year in this manner," Spratt reports. "As long as God wants us to have Tahoe Camp Meeting He will make a way for us to accomplish it. We just keep following where He leads."

Planning committee member Virginia Rose talked with many of the campers last year and says that most are happy with the 2012 move to Tahoe Valley Campground. "Our campers enjoy having the option of full hook-ups at the camp sites. And, unlike our previous campground, the paved roads through this campground really help keep the dust down," she says. Plus, the campground is located in a wooded area with walking trails and local wildlife that appeals to campers.

Tahoe camp meeting is unique in that it provides opportunities for evangelism not found at most Adventist camp meetings. Attendees share the campground with people from many walks of life. They are encouraged to make friends with their neighbors and invite them to the seminars and meetings. As a result, a number of children and adult guests who aren't church members attend the various seminars and meetings throughout the week. Last year, several expressed an interest in returning. Camp hosts Yvonne and Wes Reimche attended the Sabbath afternoon concert. "We love the kind of music you have here and are looking forward to next year," said Yvonne. Some of the camp staff were even spotted at Eden's Pantry enjoying a vegetarian meal.

The ABC truck will be there to help campers stock their libraries and pantries. Eden's Pantry will provide vegetarian and vegan food service again. RV and tent camping sites are available. Children's and youth programs, morning devotionals, daily seminars and area activities make Tahoe the ideal family summer outing. For those who do not camp, many hotels are available near the campground, and parking is available inside the campground.

For camping reservations, contact Tahoe Valley Campground (1175 Melba Dr., South Lake

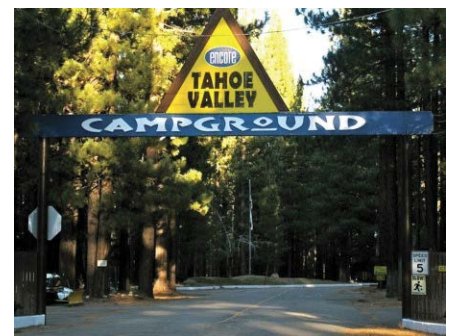


Dr. Joseph Kidder, associate professor of Christian Ministry at Andrews University, will be the keynote speaker Thursday through Saturday evenings, including Sabbath morning.

Tahoe, CA 96150) at 530-541-2222. Be sure to specify the Adventist camp meeting to receive a reservation in the camp meeting loop. Early reservations are recommended, as space in the camp meeting loop fills up fast. For more info about the campground, visit www.rvonthego.com.

For more information, visit tahoecampmeeting.adventistfaith.org, e-mail tahoecampmeeting@gmail.com, or call Virginia Rose, 916-967-5932.

Darlene Spratt



PHOTOS BY DARLENE SPRATT



Larry Moore, president of the Southwestern Union and former Nevada-Utah Conference president, will speak Monday through Wednesday evenings.

Arizona ABC Hires Sandi Bowman as New Manager

PHIL DRAPER



Sandi Bowman takes over as new manager for the Arizona Adventist Book Center in Scottsdale.

As the world economic conditions deteriorated during the past decade and digital technologies replaced analog, many book stores have either closed their doors or been taken over by publishing houses. However, the Arizona Adventist Book Center has managed to stay financially afloat under more than three decades of watchful care of Judy McGee.

When McGee announced her retirement beginning in 2014, the conference wondered who might take her place, or if they should even keep the store open. McGee has been a vital part of the Arizona Conference since 1978. As ABC manager, she scheduled the bookmobile stops throughout the state to service remote areas, provided income and entertainment at

her annual book sales at the Arizona camp meeting, and used her decorating skills to beautify seasonal events.

During a farewell speech for McGee, Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile said, "For nearly two years, we watched as construction on Scottsdale Road prevented customers from entering the front door of the ABC. We wondered how Judy would survive this hurdle. But she did. Business continued as usual, and the ABC remained lucrative, thanks to Judy's managerial skills."

"Replacing such a unique ABC manager as Judy McGee was a challenge," said Arizona Conference Executive Secretary Ed Keyes. "What a relief when Judy interviewed Sandi Bowman for the job. Our administrative team feels confident Sandi will take the reins and follow Judy's footsteps, making the ABC continue to be successful."

Newly-hired ABC manager Sandi Bowman has a long history of working with Adventist Book Centers, beginning during college. After graduating from Walla Walla University in 1999 with a bachelor's in business administration, she worked in several ABCs, including being the interim manager at the Ohio Adventist Book Center.

In 2001, she was hired as the retail marketing director at Pacific Press, where she worked with 20 Adventist Book Centers across the nation, overseeing marketing, advertising, and event

planning for all the stores for more than 11 years.

In 2012, she and her husband Chad (a pilot) and her two children (Alyse, 9, and Taylor, 7) moved to the Phoenix, Ariz., area. Since then, Bowman has been working as an independent marketing consultant for Pacific Press and Review and Herald, working with Adventist-BookCenter.com.

Since moving to Phoenix, she has also worked as the business and office manager at Thunderbird Christian Elementary School.

"I believe Sandi's enthusiasm, compassion and business acumen will make her an excellent manager," said Anobile, "and her love for the mission of the church seems to be a driving force in her work."

Bowman looks forward to serving the Arizona Conference by continuing to provide books, Bibles, music, and food to its constituents. "It's exciting to be a part of the Arizona family and to know my good friend and mentor Judy McGee is nearby for consultation," she says. "Plus, she promises to help in the store when we need a hand. I invite our Arizona family to come by so I can get to know each one."

Phil Draper

PHIL DRAPER



Judy McGee works a special camp meeting sale.

Hilo Church Reaches Out with Friends Club

Kids from the community of Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii gather each month to join with their Friends Club friends to sing, pray, laugh and learn more about Jesus. Dan and Linda Hovanski, members of the Hilo



Crafts help kids at Friends Club learn biblical lessons and take them home to share.

church, initiated Friends Club with just a few kids at their first meeting. Over the years, the number has grown to an average of 70 kids every month.

A large sign is posted in front of the church, and kids hand out personal invitations before each meeting. After a child attends three consecutive times, he or she receives a "Hilo SDA Church Friends Club" T-shirt. Lots of kids make new friends through the club. And, says Linda Hovanski, "We have up to 20 parents who stay for the meetings and with whom the staff has now become friends."

Each meeting begins with singing, prayer, a Bible story and a simple skit to reinforce the theme of the story. Then they complete a craft



Linda Hovanski prays with a Friends Club participant.

project and have a snack. After the closing prayer, children often linger for a little play time while their parents socialize.

Organizing and running a club is a lot of work. "Why not do it?" asks Linda Hovanski. "I am so thankful for the people who cared about kids they did not know, who spent time and effort to share Jesus' love for me when I was a girl. How could I not do it? It is worth it all if just one child gives his/her heart to Jesus."

Feryl Harris

Hawaii Pastors Gather for Growth

Pastors of the Hawaii Conference met for their annual ministerial meetings at the Honolulu Central church Jan. 13-14. President Ralph Watts opened the first day with a devotion from 2 Chronicles 26, focusing on the life of Uzziah. Watts reminded the pastors that success does not guarantee the absence of failure, and many times, pride is the greatest enemy. He challenged the pastors to keep their focus on Christ, the High Priest, and asked that a time be set aside that morning for pastors to pray in small groups.

The business for the day began with Watts sharing news, resources and requirements with the ministers. They addressed continuing education, professional accountability, family



(From left to right) Pastors Jon Clark, Walt Nelson and Tim Nelson, and Bible worker Luis Beltre take time to discuss ministry between sessions.

well-being and other important issues. Gary Johnson, treasurer, reported that 2013 saw a modest increase in tithe, and encouraged the pastors to thank their members for their faithfulness. Dave Escobar, education superintendent, thanked the pastors for their churches' support to schools, and showed a clip of an upcoming film focused on Adventist education.

Jesse Seibel, youth and communications director, reported on the many conference events and lay driven efforts that have resulted in baptisms and discipleship. Youth leaders, Pathfinder leaders and young adults are committing their time and resources in creative ways. Sharon Quick highlighted the need for all volunteers working with children to be enrolled in Shield the Vulnerable, an online training for recognizing and preventing child abuse.

This year's special lecturer was Jon Paulien, dean of the Loma Linda University School of Religion. Paulien presented multiple sessions over the two days where he challenged pastors to reengage Scripture's many metaphors for atonement in order to better communicate the gospel to those who seem apathetic or even antagonistic. He also led the group through a survey of

the Gospel of John, highlighting its unique features compared to the other gospels, its original intended audience and its relevancy today. Paulien brought not only a wealth of academic content, but also encouragement for pastors in the stages of faith development.

"I've learned a lot about the Gospel by John through Dr. Paulien's presentation," said Pastor Koji Nishikawa of Lahaina and Kihei church. "These lessons confirmed the greatest commission of my job is to tell the truth, the gospel of Jesus Christ and His salvation for us." After the meetings concluded, pastors surrounded Paulien with a prayer of thanks and blessings as he continues his ministry.

"It was great to see our pastors coming together for training and encouragement," said Watts. "I'm looking forward to the great things our God will do through their leadership."

Jesse Seibel



Dr. Jon Paulien leads pastors through a survey of the Gospel of John.

Adventist Health Staff Partner with Patients in Their Joys and Sorrows



Families release balloons into the air in remembrance of their lost children at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

Theologian Frederick Buechner says that, “Compassion is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you, too.” This is the kind of compassion that Adventist Health employees try to show to those whom they serve. They are personally invested in the lives of every patient and their family. They celebrate joyous occasions like births, but also share in sorrow and support those who have lost a loved one. Grieving families mourn in diverse ways, and the Adventist Health facilities provide bereavement support for those varied needs.

“Grief is a very hard journey to travel through, but it is a little easier when traveled through with a friend,” says Bryan Lewis, director of mission and spiritual care at Sonora Regional Medical Center. Lewis states that the staff are invested in the lives of the patients so much they often feel like members of the patient’s family. “When a child is born, we become part of that celebration, and when a loved one passes away we join in their grief,” he says, “We just become part of their family.”

As the staff provides support to the grieving, they understand that each one of these families grieves differently, and they meet the different needs accordingly, according to Julie Sciligo, bereavement and patient care volunteer coordinator, Feather River Hospital. “Everyone grieves differently, and some people don’t want to be followed up with, and we will give them the space, but for those who need the support, we are there for them,” said Sciligo.

Many of the Adventist Health facilities provide support to families for up to a year after losing their loved ones. However, everyone is welcome to be a part of the program. The facilities have support groups that meet periodically, and each of these groups are as diverse as the people who attend them.

Sonora Regional Medical Center Lets Families Acknowledge Grief

“Grief is simply the normal response to loss,” says Teresa Nelson, chaplain at SRMC. “Anytime we lose something that is valuable to us, we have a reaction, and that reaction is grief. It is a normal thing, but if people don’t acknowledge

things, it can deeply affect them.” SRMC, located in the Sierra Foothills of California, aims to provide families space to acknowledge their grief through its bereavement program.

Shortly after the loss of a loved one, the family receives a sympathy card signed by the staff and the chaplain that served the patient. The chaplains stay in contact with the families and send them regular mailers to help them cope with grief.

Once a year, the staff organizes a remembrance service, where families of patients who have passed away come together to remember their loved ones. Following a responsive reading, they light a candle and say the name of their loved one who has passed away. “The candle lighting ceremony is the most meaningful experience for many of our families,” says Lewis, “People realize they are not alone. It is alright if there are tears. It is one of the few places that their grief is safe.”

“Ritual is the bridge to healing,” says Nelson. “It helps them remember their loved ones and gives them the platform to acknowledge their grief. We are privileged to be able to offer rituals that can help them heal.”

White Memorial Medical Center Honors the Little Angels

White Memorial Medical Center, located in the Los Angeles area, provides a support group called Little Angels for families who have dealt with a stillbirth or miscarriage. Ingrid Suarez, R.N., and Dominique Luckey, M.D., started the program. Suarez had seen many women agonize through the loss of their child and realized that there was a need for such a program.

The group meets once a month and provides a space for families to grieve. The families light a candle in honor of the child that has passed away and release a balloon into the sky. They are given a New Testament Bible with the child’s name inscribed and a ceramic angel to represent their loss.

“Knowing that they won’t see those little hands grow or see them smile or talk is one of

the hardest thing for a mother to deal with," says chaplain Bertha Herrera at WMMC.

Herrera comes in contact with women right after their loss. Sometimes the women are inconsolable and some are stoic, numb with pain and in denial. She recalls one such story where a woman whose child had passed away denied help and seemed dazed and confused. Herrera continued to talk to the woman despite being rejected. She handed the woman a New Testament Bible, the woman began violently sobbing and Herrera was able to reach her.

Herrera states that empathy is important when trying to reach those who are grieving. Her personal close encounter with loss helps her connect with mothers. When her son was critical as a result of an accident, she was surprised to see how many unconditionally loved and provided her support. "When my son got better, I promised myself that I would be there for mothers in this manner in their time of need," she says.

People never forget the loved one who has passed away, Herrera says, but knowing she helped make the pain of loss a little less for the families gives her the peace to continue. "I know that God uses us to touch the lives of these families," says Herrera.



John Henriques and Susan Dunlap got to know each other in Feather River Hospital's bereavement program and recently got engaged.

Feather River Hospital Provides More than Relief

FRH, located in Northern California, provides the sensitive support that many hospitals provide but it also caters to those who are grieving and just need a group of friends.

"There is no absolute right way of grieving," says Sciligo. "Families often, meaning well, will tell their loved ones what to do, but the only person who knows what is best for them is the person who is grieving, and the best thing we can do is be good listeners and give them what they need. That is what we try to do here in Feather River Hospital."

Sciligo arranges social gatherings for the grieving to meet and get their mind away from their sorrows. A group of 50 or more meets weekly for brunch and occasionally goes on fieldtrips. The brunch is a grand affair with cheerful music, friends and laughter. "The scene looks much more like a high school reunion than a support group for those who have lost a loved one," says Courtney Rasmussen, marketing coordinator at FRH.

Sciligo believes that grief is made lighter with the love of friends and their support. Those who are part of the bereavement group at FRH don't just get relief but gain lifelong friends. "Once a member, always a member," says Sciligo. Some of the members of the group have been attending for five years or more, and the

friendships run deep. For one couple, it has even meant finding a new life partner.

"Losing a loved one is a very painful experience, but people surprise us with the strength they show," says Sciligo. "With the support and love of friends, they go on with life. Seeing that twinkle return to their eyes makes what I do all worth it."

The Grief Journey

Employees in charge of bereavement support groups face the difficult task of dealing with grief and mourning families every day. Grief is constant — even as one individual learns to cope with it, there is another facing fresh loss. "Nobody understands grief entirely or why these things happen," says Herrera. "Tragedy respects no boundaries; it can strike anyone. All we can do is take the day as it comes and show empathetic love to one another."

Despite continually being in a space of grief, these employees seem content to be serving. Nelson states that this is because grieving is a spiritually uplifting experience. "Grief is in the center of a heart," she says. "That is also where God resides. Sharing such an intimate moment with someone and God is always uplifting. We can't wait for the day when Christ comes back and there is no more grief, but for now that is a very essential part of our personal growth."



Families light candles and say the name of their loved ones who have passed away in remembrance at Sonora Regional Medical Center in Sonora, Calif.

Divya Joseph

Major Health and Wellness Initiative at LLUH Helps Others 'Live It'

While many American hospitals consider themselves primarily as centers for disease treatment, Seventh-day Adventist health care from its earliest days has emphasized prevention and lifestyle medicine as part of its commitment to serving God through mind, body and soul.

This tradition has existed at Loma Linda University Health since its beginnings in 1905 and is encompassed in the current LLUH branding campaign, "Live It."

"There is a great legacy and widespread passion surrounding health and wellness on our campus," says Daniel Fontoura, MBA, vice president for wellness/chief wellness officer, LLUH. Fontoura recently assumed a new role as leader of the health and wellness initiative, a strategic priority for LLUH.

"From our beginnings as an institution, we've studied and promoted wellness and prevention," says Fontoura. "When it comes to disease prevention, health research and wellness programming, we should be a meaningful resource for people around the world who want to live a more abundant life."

When Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president and CEO, LLUH, described the position to Fontoura he said, "What we need now is someone to help create a business model, organizing the many unique and important dimensions of whole-person health." The challenge appealed to Fontoura.

"My hope," says Fontoura, "is to help LLUH unify and communicate our health message, improving access to LLUH resources for many who long for whole-person health — mind, body and spirit."

Larry Kidder



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH



Daniel Fontoura, MBA, has taken on a new role as leader of a major wellness initiative on the combined Loma Linda University Health campuses.

FIVE GATES SCHOLARS CALL LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HOME

Five School of Public Health students from Loma Linda University have been named Gates Millennium Scholars. The scholars program is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The program selects 1,000 students each year to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship at any college or university of their choice. The Gates scholars who call Loma Linda University home are:

- Aaron Matthew De Leon
- Margarita Diaz
- Aunamesha Tanganyikia Henley
- Jamie Antwon Murkey
- Rochelle Rose Tuttle

Since its inception, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program has awarded a total of \$1,096,771 to Loma Linda University.

"We are fortunate to work in partnership with such distinguished institutions as Loma Linda University and are grateful for your continued support of the students we have in common," wrote Larry Griffith, senior vice president of the United Negro College Fund, which administers the Gates program.

In addition to financial support, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program provides personal and professional development to its students through leadership programs along with academic support.

Heather Reifsnnyder

NANCY YUEN



One thousand women from throughout Southern California attended the Loma Linda University Health Women's Conference, held in the Ontario Convention Center on Jan. 17.

Women Challenged To Be Fit, Smart, Healthy at LLUH Women's Conference

You can be the CEO of your own and your family's health," was the message Joan Lunden, award-winning journalist, offered attendees of the sixth annual Loma Linda University Health Women's Conference during her keynote address. The sold-out event, titled "Be You! Fit | Smart | Healthy," was held Jan. 17 at the Ontario Convention Center.

"We all have the power to change our lives," Lunden challenged attendees, urging them to use the information and complimentary health tests available at the conference as a starting point on a path to better health. As she finished her keynote, the 1,000 women who had traveled from throughout Southern California to attend the event stood to their feet, applauding.

Health screenings and assessments available onsite included a body fat assessment sponsored by the Southern California Conference; and screenings for bone density, macular degeneration, oral cancer and stress. A lipid panel and glucose screening was sponsored by Women's Ministries, General Conference, North American Division.

Audiences were full for morning and afternoon breakout sessions led by experts on nutrition, exercise, cholesterol, weight loss, vision, organization, stress management and financial wellbeing, among others. During the sessions, experts answered questions and provided information that could be put into use immediately.

TODD ANTHONY PHOTOGRAPHY



During her keynote address, Joan Lunden, award-winning journalist, challenged attendees to become the CEOs of their own health.

TODD ANTHONY PHOTOGRAPHY



During the conference, Cathy Stockton, Annie Sellas and Nancy Varner, local community leaders and cancer survivors who founded Inland Women Fighting Cancer, were honored for their extraordinary service and dedication to the community.

"This event is all about being smart, healthy and confident women," says Beverly Rigsby, MBA, service line director for women's gynecological services at Loma Linda University Medical Center. "We want every woman to have the power to live a healthy and successful life, and we hope the information and tools provided

during the conference will inspire them to be their absolute best."

The invigorating day included recognition ceremonies honoring Annie Sellas, Cathy Stockton and Nancy Varner, local community leaders and cancer survivors who founded Inland Women Fighting Cancer; and Kim Carter, who founded the Time for Change Foundation, which has helped more than 600 families make the transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Nancy Yuen

Orchestra Institute Fellows Provide Energy and Expertise to PUC Performers

Pacific Union College is collaborating with the Napa Valley Performing Arts Center (NVPAC) at Lincoln Theater in the inaugural year of the Orchestra Institute of Napa Valley Fellowship Program. This new partnership is helping PUC's young musicians hone their talents while allowing graduate artists to pursue valuable teaching and performing experience. By serving as the primary sponsor and sole housing sponsor for the Orchestra Institute Napa Valley Fellowship Program, the ensembles and instrumentalists of the department of music are benefitting from a group of talented "artists-in-residence."

The Orchestra Institute Napa Valley Fellowship Program at the NVPAC is an innovative, tuition-free, full-year performance and professional-growth program for the most exceptional post-graduate music and conservatory students in the country. The musicians enrolled in the program are provided tools to aid them in developing music careers in the 21st century: performance opportunities (including playing with the Symphony Napa Valley), service as musical ambassadors, development as self-managers, and the ability to provide music education.

"We are delighted to have the Fellows on campus and hope that this partnership with NVPAC will continue as it is enriching our department and allowing us to take the study of music for the major and general student to the next level," shares Rachele Berthleson Davis, chair of the department of music.

The Fellows are already integrated with PUC's campus and musical life. PUC is serving as the

residence for the Fellows, housing them in the College's Brookside and providing access to the facilities of Paulin Hall, home to the department of music. By supporting and collaborating with the department of music at PUC, the campus is benefitting from professional artists with incredible talent and skill.

"PUC is one of the Orchestra Institute Napa Valley Fellowship's strongest partnerships, because not only are we serving as teaching artists in the music department, we are also living on campus in the PUC community," says Glenda Bates, an oboist for the Fellows and PUC's jazz ensemble director. "We are gaining valuable teaching experience at a critical time in our careers, and the music students have the opportunity to learn from professional musician performers."

Walter E. Collins, PUC's vice president for advancement, has spent much of his career working with professional orchestras and understands the cultural capital created by the new partnership with NVPAC. "Hosting the Orchestra Fellows on the PUC campus has been a blessing. Our campus and community has been inspired by their world-class performances," Collins shares.

The practice habits and presence of the Fellows are energizing Paulin Hall. The Fellows participate in PUC's major instrumental ensembles and perform at college functions. They also have an impact on smaller groups as they give demonstrations, lectures and recitals. Percussionist James Deitz, who has taught in programs at Carnegie Hall, The Julliard School, and The Weill Music Institute, has started a percussion ensemble and is teaching a percussion methods/techniques

class; oboist Bates, a doctoral candidate at Stony Brook University, is building and directing a jazz ensemble; Sadie Glass, who recently completed her master's degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is teaching music majors; and Jennifer Hunt, a flautist who



Orchestra Institute Fellow and virtuoso clarinet performer Matthew Boyles provides one-on-one instruction to a PUC student musician.

has been featured on National Public Radio and was a second-place winner at the Music Teachers' National Association Chamber Music Competition, leads flute sectionals for the college's orchestra.

"The Orchestra Institute Fellows are providing our students with learning opportunities they might not be exposed to otherwise, and giving the music majors an opportunity to connect with musicians who have recently graduated with advanced degrees from some of the most prestigious music schools in the country," Davis states.

Living at Pacific Union College provides a unique environment for the Fellows as well, one that is helping them hone their talents as performers, musical ambassadors and educators. "The environment of PUC values the fundamental knowledge that leads to learning how to learn," shares percussionist Deitz. "The students and fellow faculty seem like a team that propels the musical art form even further."

"This important collaboration further underscores PUC's commitment to the finest arts, and firmly places our college on the international musical map. We look forward to a growing partnership with the Orchestra Institute Napa Valley as we expand our community presence through the arts," concludes Collins.

Emily Mathe and James Shim

Notice of Special Constituency Session

An official session of the constituent membership of Pacific Union College will be held in PUC's Fireside Room on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 (One Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508). This special session is called to consider changes to the Pacific Union College Bylaws. The meeting will adjourn at or before 5:30 p.m.

*Ricardo B. Graham, Chair
Heather J. Knight, Secretary*

Weniger Society Honors La Sierra Education Professor and Alumnus

From a statistical point of view, it was highly improbable that an in-depth, comprehensive study on Seventh-day Adventist education would transpire, much less lead to a PBS documentary on the matter.

And yet, the four-year CognitiveGenesis project, directed by La Sierra University education professor Elissa Kido, surveyed nearly 52,000 K-12 students at 800 Adventist schools around the United States, Canada and Bermuda. The results proved the substantive benefits of an Adventist education and ultimately led to the documentary, "The Blueprint: The Story of Adventist Education," airing on PBS this April.

Kido noted the improbability of such events, described their backstory, and showed a trailer of the PBS film during a keynote address for the 2014 Charles E. Weniger Society Annual Awards. The ceremony was held at Loma Linda University Church on Jan. 18 and included a concert by the renowned Wedgwood Trio with violinist Christina Thompson, a 2012 La Sierra University graduate in music performance. The society honored Kido along with La Sierra alumnus and former California State Senator Bill Emmerson, for their contributions to their communities, the church and the broader world.

In addition to leading the CognitiveGenesis research project, Kido directs the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education, or CRAE, at La Sierra. Her background includes academic administrative posts at several universities and colleges, including St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., and Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.

Kido's academic career, which includes degrees in English and biology and a doctorate from Boston University, encompasses significant fundraising achievements. She raised \$1 million for the CognitiveGenesis project at La Sierra.

"I'm deeply grateful and also humbled" to receive the Weniger award, said Kido during her address. "This also really honors Adventist education."

Emmerson learned several months ago that he had been selected for a Weniger award. "I was thrilled," he said following the ceremony. "I'd known Dr. Weniger my entire life. My father was active with the society for years and so this was truly an honor."

Notice of La Sierra University Constituency Meeting

The biennial Constituent Membership of La Sierra University will convene at the Zapara School of Business Troesh Conference Center, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 1 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is (1) to receive reports from the University and its auditor, (2) to amend the Bylaws, (3) to appoint Trustees as specified by the Bylaws, and (4) to transact such other business as may be submitted by the Board of Trustees.

*Ricardo B. Graham, Chair
Randal Wisbey, Secretary*

Emmerson left his nine-year career as a California state legislator in December 2013. He now handles state relations and advocacy for the California Hospital Association in Sacramento. Previously, he emulated his father's path and pursued a career in dentistry, specializing in orthodontia. He attended La Sierra University and graduated from the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1980.

During 26 years of private practice in Hemet, Emmerson entered the world of legislation and politics by chairing the California Dental Association's Council on Legislation and its Political Action Committee. In 2004, he was elected to the California State Assembly and then to the California State Senate in 2010 during a special election.

Charles Weniger was a long-time friend of Bill Emmerson's parents, Clinton and Patricia Emmerson. Clinton Emmerson, along with Congressman Jerry Pettis and John Osborn, founded the Weniger Society in 1974, 10 years after Weniger's death.

Weniger, a beloved Seventh-day Adventist educator known by many as "Uncle Charlie," served as an English professor and later as dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and Michigan from 1948 to 1961. He was known for his kindness, expertise, broad professional influence and dedication to excellence. The society was founded for the purposes of honoring those who exemplify Weniger's humility, character and commitment.

The Weniger Society also posthumously honored Australian theologian and historian Arthur Patrick, noted for his insight into denominational academic issues and for his significant contributions to Avondale College. Over the course of 17 years, his work there included serving as director of the Ellen G. White/Seventh-day Adventist Research Centre, and later as honorary senior research fellow. Patrick died last year following a battle with cancer.

Each year, the Weniger Society selects individuals to receive the Weniger medallion. The society this year initiated the annual Weniger Fellows Student Scholarship for students attending accredited North American Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities. The scholarship is matched or exceeded by the student's school. Weniger scholarship recipients must demonstrate excellence in spirituality, academics, civic service and leadership.



Bill Emmerson, former California State Senator and a 1967 graduate from La Sierra, and Elissa Kido, professor of education in the School of Education, received Charles H. Weniger Awards for Excellence for 2014.

Darla Martin Tucker

Remembering Rita Hoshino

On Feb. 10, 2014, Rita Hoshino, mentor to thousands of students at Pacific Union College and Mountain View Academy, passed away unexpectedly from complications of kidney disease and pneumonia. She was 58.

Hoshino, who grew up in Sunnyvale, Calif., is a graduate of Miramonte Christian School, Mountain View Academy and Pacific Union College.

Hoshino began working at the college immediately after graduation. She eventually oversaw the Campus Center and Student Association, working closely with campus clubs and students leaders. During her 23 years of service at PUC, Rita was a beloved mentor and friend to thousands of students. She had a vivid memory and remembered names and details about everyone she met, earning her the nickname "Rita Rolodex."



Rita Hoshino was known far and wide for both her years mentoring students at Pacific Union College and for her hobby of portraying Ellen G. White.

Following her career at PUC, Hoshino was the alumni/advancement director at MVA. It was after this that Hoshino began investing in what was only a hobby before: portraying Ellen

G. White. She created The Ellen White Legacy, a ministry devoted to sharing White's work through dramatic enactments.

Hoshino's portrayal of Mrs. White took her across the nation, bringing "Ellen" back to life for events such as the St. Helena Hospital's 125th anniversary celebration, the Hiram Edson Farm dedication, Loma Linda University Hospital's centennial anniversary, and the 2010 General Conference session in Atlanta, Ga. She was also a favorite at Pathfinder camporees, church services and camp meetings.

Hoshino is survived by her brother Dennis Hoshino, niece Laren James and nephew Brent West-Hoshino.

Julie Lee

Adventist Attorneys Convene in Monterey for 19th Year

Adventist attorneys have been meeting together since at least the 1970s. The Adventist Attorneys Association, which formed in the early 1990s, has been meeting regularly ever since. About 50 Adventist attorneys met in Monterey, Calif., in November for a four-day conference, balancing professional development with social and networking opportunities and powerful inspiration from guest preacher Smuts Van Rooyen. The two Monterey area Adventist churches worked together to welcome the visitors.

The older Adventist attorneys share the bond of having had to battle cultural norms within the church that questioned whether law was a suitable profession for a Christian. Younger attorneys don't face such skepticism, at least not routinely. Many of these attorneys serve the church directly in some capacity. Kent Hansen, who serves as General Counsel for Loma Linda University and Loma Linda Medical Center, has been president of the association for the past two-year term. The president for the next two-year term is Geoffrey Hayton, a former academy principal currently

serving at Adventist Risk Management. Many others do not work directly for the church, but maintain practices in everything from criminal law to family law, immigration, personal injury, etc.

This year's conference featured a four-hour seminar on current religious freedom issues, highlighting challenges faced both by religious freedom and free speech. Kerry Heinrich briefed the group on the difficult issues related to the Affordable Care Act facing Adventist hospitals. Tom Wetmore, from the General Conference, presented proposed changes in the tax laws regarding political activity by churches. Carol Adams organized a panel to address the elimination of bias in the legal profession and legal ethics. Judge Marla Anderson stressed the importance of demeanor and courtesy in the practice of law.

One of the goals of the association is to encourage one another spiritually, including encouraging students to integrate Christ into their professional lives. Law school is a difficult environment for students. The time pressures tend to crowd out spiritual pursuits unless deliberate efforts are made to include time for worship and fellowship.

In addition to the annual conferences, last year, the association sponsored meetings in Vallejo and Loma Linda. Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, author of AB 1964, the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, spoke to the Vallejo group. About two dozen attended a reception in her honor. In Loma Linda, attendees enjoyed a reception honoring Dr. John Graz, director of public affairs and religious liberty for the General Conference.

Additional events are being planned for 2014. Upcoming annual conferences are planned for Sacramento in September 2014 and Hawaii in 2015. The 2014 conference will coincide with a banquet to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Church State Council, whose director, Alan Reinach, serves as permanent secretary/treasurer of the association. All who work in the legal field, including paralegals, court reporters, legal secretaries, etc., are welcome to participate in the Adventist Attorneys Association. For more info: ajreinach@churchstate.org.

Alan J. Reinach, Esq.

CALENDARS

Arizona

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Adventists in Mesa, Ariz. (Feb. 28-March 1) Hosted by Mesa Palms church. Gospel Harmony Concert, Friday, 7 p.m. King's Heralds concert Sabbath, 5 p.m. Info: 480-985-3140; Facebook: Mesa Palms church; website: mesapalmschurch.com.

"LET MUSIC BE THY MEDICINE" (March 1) An exciting, new concert seminar presented by Lydia Calhoun at the Paradise Valley church, 2727 E. Cactus, Phoenix, 6-7:15 p.m. Info: www.LetMusicBeThy-Medicine.com.

RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER (March 8) Central church, 777 W Montecito, Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Newcomers — Please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. For recipe ideas, visit www.hacres.com. Info: stanhowerton@yahoo.com or call 480-430-5492.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING (March 9) Arizona Conference Office, 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Training is for everyone involved with children's ministry; VBS workshop 1:30-4:30 p.m. Guest presenter, Melanie Cruz, NAD asst. director for Children's Ministries. Info: Cynthia Marin, 480-991-6777, ext. 117.

WOMEN'S MINI-RETREAT (March 9) Features Marie Fisher, author of "My Journey with Jesus, from Victim to Vessel." 9 a.m. Paradise Valley church, 2727 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. Info: 602-935-6010.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR (March 9) 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Kiwanis Park, Tempe. Free glucose, blood pressure, BMI screenings, cholesterol screenings, health consultations, and massage. Learn how to combat diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and obesity. Cooking and natural remedy demonstrations for busy families and free food. Bounce house and arts and crafts for the kids. Info: health@tempeadventist.com or Mary Coursey, 321-287-8708.

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.adventist-westpoint.org.

LAUGHLIN MOTORCYCLE RIVER RUN (April 26) Worship at the Bullhead City 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.

Central California

PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE (March 1) Conference level. Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174.

HAM RADIO RALLY (March 2) Central California Conference. Info: Marlyn, 559-347-3142.

PRAYER CONFERENCE (March 7-8) Mountain View Central church. Info: Joyce Mulligan, 559-696-3692.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN TEEN RETREAT (March 7-9) Camp Wawona. Info: Wanda, 559-347-3169.

HISPANIC CENTRAL VALLEY CONVOCATION (March 8-9) Central Valley Adventist Academy, Ceres. Info: Pastor Carlos Garcia, 209-345-4878.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING (March 15) Focus on the understanding and caring for kids of divorced and single parent families. Info: Rosa, 559-347-3183.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING (March 16) Info: Rosa, 559-347-3183.

PRISON MINISTRY CONVOCATION (March 22) Fresno Westside church. Info: Daniel McManus, 804-495-5503; apmoa7@hotmail.com.

HEALTH TRAINING WORKSHOP (March 22) Areas 4 and 5. Info: Marlyn, 559-347-3142.

HISPANIC CAMPAIGNS (March 29-April 6) Info: Florina, 559-347-3144.

PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE (March 29) Union level. Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174.

PRISON MINISTRY TRAINING (March 29) Clovis church, 3-6 p.m. Info: Marlyn, 559-347-3142.

TREASURER AND CLERK TRAINING (March 30) Info: clerks, Debbie 559-347-3194; treasurers, Claudia, 559-347-3196.

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

HEALTH TRAINING WORKSHOP (April 5) Areas 6 through 8. Info: Marlyn, 559-347-3142.

SCHOOL IN DISCIPLESHIP (April 9) 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Info: Rosa, 559-347-3183.

TEEN GIRLS RETREAT (April 11-13) Camp Wawona. Info: Lindsay, 209-743-6155.

La Sierra University

MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS:The Wind Ensemble (March 1) 7:30 p.m.; the Orchestra (March 8) 7:30 p.m.; and the Big

Band (March 15) 8 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036.

FESTIVAL OF ONE ACTS (March 1, 2, 6, 8, and 9) 8 p.m. each evening, Matheson Hall. Student talent is showcased in an evening of one-act plays featuring student directors and actors. Info: 951-785-2241, drama@lasierra.edu.

SPRING BREAK (March 21-30) To enroll for Spring quarter classes, call 800-874-5587.

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

Northern California Conference

NCC JUNIOR HIGH Choral Festival (March 4) 7 p.m. Hilltop Christian School, 2200 Country Hills Drive, Antioch. Clinicians John Gilley, Rochelle White, Arlene Wong. Info: Education Department, 925-603-5065.

NCC SENIOR HIGH Choral Festival (March 5) 7 p.m. Hilltop Christian School, 2200 Country Hills Drive, Antioch. Clinician Stephen Zork. Info: Education Department, 925-603-5065.

PARADISE ADVENTIST ACADEMY Homecoming (March 7-9) 5699 Academy

Drive. Honor classes: graduation years ending with "4" and "9" from all eras — PJA, PAS and PAA. Every former student and every former staff member invited! Info: www.mypaa.net or Linda Corbit, 530-877-9610.

CONCERT (March 8) 5 p.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 South Fairmont Ave. Ralph and Terry Bain. Info: 209-334-1844.

NCC WELLNESS WEEKEND (March 7-9) Leoni Meadows. Speakers: Katia Reinert, NAD health ministries director, and Don Hall, Wellsource and LifeLong Health founder. Local church health leaders and teams encouraged to attend. Info: Health Ministries Department, 925-603-5073, www.nccsda.com/vibranthealthministry.

NCC PRAYER RETREAT (March 14-16) Leoni Meadows. Guest presenter S. Joseph Kidder, professor of Christian ministry at the SDA Theological Seminary. Music by Rochelle Holman. Prayer time, fellowship, new friends, prayer partners, beautiful atmosphere. Info: Naomi Parson, nparson0@gmail.com, 916-955-4583, www.nccsda.com/prayerretreat.

RETIRO DE DAMAS (March 21-23) Leoni Meadows. Hispanic Women's Retreat with speaker Elizabeth Talbot. Programs for young women and girls: Lizeth Hernandez (ages 15-21); Christina Dena (ages 9-14). Music by Marisol Monarres. Info: Hispanic

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Ministries Department, 925-603-5092, www.nccsda.com/hispanicministries (click Eventos).

CENTRAL VALLEY KOREAN church dedication (March 22) 11 a.m. 525 Yosemite Avenue, Manteca. Info: church office, 209-239-3568.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING (March 30) 11 a.m.-1 p.m. NCC Headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. This year's featured program: "Investigation Station: Galactic Quest." Get ideas to run a successful VBS! Info: 925-603-5082.

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

Pacific Union College

MUSICA PACIFICA CONCERT (March 1) 7 p.m. Paulin Hall. One of America's premier baroque ensembles presents a concert featuring music by J.S. Bach and his sons. Info: 707-965-6201.

LINCOLN THEATER FELLOWS Chamber Concert (March 2) 7 p.m. Paulin Hall. A recital by a group of the best post-graduate musicians from around the world, who are housed on campus. Info: 707-965-6201.

ONE CHURCH (March 8) 11:15 a.m. PUC church sanctuary. Lead Pastor Mark Witas speaks for this special Sabbath's single service. Info: 707-965-7297.

CHORAL CONCERT (March 8) 4 p.m. Paulin Hall. PUC's Chorale and I Cantori perform a sacred concert under the direction of Bruce Rasmussen. Info: 707-965-6201.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT (March 8) 7 p.m. Paulin Hall. PUC's 45-piece orchestra performs its annual winter concert under the direction of Dr. Rachele Berthelsen Davis. Info: 707-965-6201.

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE Concert (March 9) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. Conducted by artist in residence Asher Raboy, presents their annual winter concert. Info: 707-965-6201.

MISSION TRIPS (March 21) Student mission trips to Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Arizona depart. Info: 707-965-7190.

SPRING VACATION (March 21-30) Info: 800-862-7080.

SPRING QUARTER BEGINS (March 31) Info: 800-862-7080 or enroll@puc.edu.

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

SAN DIEGO ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (March 7-9) Friday vespers 7 p.m., Paradise Valley church; Sabbath worship 10 a.m. (9:15 a.m. alumni check-in) San Diego Academy gymnasium; alumni games Saturday night and Sunday. Dick Duerksen, class of '64, will be the featured speaker. Info: 619-267-9550.

Southern California Conference

THE SECOND SATURDAY Concert Series (March 8) 4 p.m. presents the Jewel City Flute Choir. Reception to follow. Freewill donations received at the door. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241, www.glendalecitychurch.org.

CHEF MARK ANTHONY'S Free Dinner and message (March 9) 3 p.m. Live vegetarian/vegan cooking demonstration. Donations greatly appreciated for food/travel expenses. Camarillo church, 3975 Las Posas Rd. Info: 805-482-4632; Office@Camarillosda.Org;

www.Camarillosda.Org; www.ChefMarkAnthony.com.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE (March 9) 10 a.m.-12 p.m. San Fernando Valley Academy, 17601 Lassen St., Northridge 91325. Info: 818-349-1373.

"I NEED HELP!" (March 16) Who to turn to for help when you can no longer manage by yourself; 9 a.m. Sunday Brunch Seminar, presenter, James Brown, MBA, CSPG, president, Western Adventist Foundation. Scholl Canyon Estates, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-546-8400.

L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM (March 29) 3 p.m. "Present Truth in Music." Speaker, Herbert Blomstedt, emeritus conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor of Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and many world symphony/philharmonic orchestras. Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

HEALTH FAIR (March 30) 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Blood tests, pap smears, mammograms, nutrition presentation, health seminars and more. Central Spanish church parking lot (1366 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles 90006), co-sponsored with West Hollywood, Hollywood and Silver Lake Spanish churches. Info: 213-381-1905.




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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 campmeeting 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 HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a law student for a 6-to-8 week summer clerkship in 2014. This position is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send résumé and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.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; stephen@puonline.org; 805-413-7218.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Kinesiology Department seeks full-time physical education professor beginning July 1, 2014. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred, must have college teaching experience. Please submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources at www.swau.edu. For further information, please contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen, 817-202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

Missing Members

RIVERSIDE. Contact: Rita Carleton, Riverside Community church, 4850 Jurupa Ave., Riverside, CA 92504, 951-686-1886, rita_carleton@yahoo.com. Alicia Grant, Michael Grover, Susan Grover, Ben Guerrero, Faye Hadley, John Hadley, Bary Hancock, Betsy Harlan, Kristi Harlan, Kyle Hatgis, Linda Hauser, Emily Hernandez,

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Real Estate

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\$71,500. Spacious 3-bed/2-bath manufactured home near LLUMC. This fine home features upgraded sunroom, office space, floor-window coverings, plumbing fixtures, electric overhaul, security system. Recently installed climate control systems, wheelchair ramp, ample storage space, mature landscaping. Price of furniture is negotiable. Contact Genie, 951-347-9644 or 909-790-1913. Yucaipa Valley Real Estate Lic. 1815033.

COUNTRY HOME in Willcox, Ariz. 4-bdrm, 2-bath, new metal roof, paint, and laminate wood flooring. Large kitchen. Open floor plan. Garage and barn. 12 fruit trees and fenced garden. Residential well. Wood stove and furnace. 1,945 sq. ft. on 5 acres. \$162,980. Call for pictures. 520-404-3739.

MISSOURI PROPERTY: Ten acres. Large home, 13-bedrooms, 7-bathrooms, 2-laundry rooms, 2-large kitchens with large dining areas, plus apartment. Being used as residence, room and cottage

rentals, and Lifestyle Education Center. (Built-in income.) Two large garages, two 2-bedroom log-sided cottages, matching tree-house, deck, steps and slide, sandbox/swing underneath. 3/4 acre lake, small greenhouse, large organic garden, blueberries, apple, plum, walnut, pecan trees. Bee hives. Six miles to church school. 573-245-9999; e-mail bountiful-livingretreat@gmail.com.

Reunions

BAKERSFIELD ADVENTIST ACADEMY (April 11-12) Honoring classes in years ending with 4 or 9. April 11: vesper at 6 p.m. April 12: reunion at 10 a.m. Lunch provided. Call school office at 661-871-1591.

LODI ACADEMY ALUMNI Reunion (April 11-13) Friday evening fellowship, 7:30 p.m. Pastor Walt Groff, speaker, Sabbath worship, 10:30 a.m., registration, 9:30 a.m. Alumni Golf Tournament on Sunday. Honor classes: '04 and '09. Info: at www.lodiacademy.net or call 209-368-2781.

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 alumni.montereybayacademy.org for all weekend details or call the Alumni Office, 831-728-1481, ext. 1222.

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AT REST

BAILEY, WANDA (NEWCOMB) – b. Jan. 13, 1948, Oneida, N.Y.; d. Dec. 23, 2013, Rocklin, Calif. Survivors: husband, George; son, Robert, two grandchildren. Served as a nurse in Adventist Health and home health care.

Correction: **BOBST, RICHARD T.** – b. Feb. 24, 1962, Boise, Idaho; d. July 1, 2013, Yucca Valley, Calif. Survivors: son, Richard; mother, Marilyn; sister, Kathy; grandmother, Janet Bobst.

CLARK, HAROLD FENTON – b. May 26, 1921, Clive, Alberta, Canada; d. Oct. 15, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Aileen Luddington; sons, Vincent, Edgar, Richard; daughters, Phyllis Slattery, Rachel Byrd; 14 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren. Served as academy and elementary school teacher.

COWAN, JULIE (BRANDZIG) – b. May 30, 1960, Salt Lake City, Utah; d. Aug. 4, 2013 Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: husband, Joseph; sons, Jeremy Clayborn, Mark Clayborn, Joeyn, Will, David; daughters, Marcella, Merrie; 23 grandchildren.

HARDT-MAUTZ, FLOGEAN (JEAN) – b. Jan. 15, 1930, Estelline, Texas; d. Dec. 6, 2013, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: husband, Richard “Dick” Mautz; sons, Don Hardt,

David Hardt; daughters, Nancy Elloway, Susie Streelman; ten grandchildren.

HARTWICK, WILTON – b. June 13, 1933, Maui, Hawaii; d. Dec. 28, 2013, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty Rae; sons, David, Frank; daughter, Millie Nightwalker; sister, Naona Monroe; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Served as a dentist.

HUANTE, GUADALUPE – b. Nov. 16, 1929, Oxnard, Calif.; d. Dec. 6, 2013, Santa Maria, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nellie; son, Steve; daughter, Caroline Pitman; two grandchildren.

KELLY, SYLVIA FAY (RUHL) – b. Jan. 1, 1918, Streeter, N.D.; d. Dec. 24, 2013, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: son, Gerald Roberts; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.

KINZER SR., NEWTON SCOTT – b. Aug. 3, 1925, Meadows of Dan, Va.; d. Nov. 23, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Helen; son, Bud; daughters, Jeanne Murdoch, Tricia Stag; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

KOEHLER, STEVEN EDWARD – b. May 18, 1939, Stockton, Calif.; d. Dec. 27, 2013, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: wife, Karen Lanette; son, Mark; daughters, Michelle Mills, Kim Cawdery, Stacie

Ross; five grandchildren; stepsister, Julia Stewart.

MCCLOSKEY, RALPH M. – b. Sept. 21, 1921, Oakland, Calif.; d. Nov. 29, 2013, Meridian, Idaho. Survivors: wife, Karen; sons, Bruce, Craig, Jonathan; one grandson.

MCCULLOCH, JAMES – b. Sept. 23, 1932, Walla Walla, Wash.; d. Nov. 25, 2013, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Toni Nickell; five grandchildren.

MEMBRILA, MARTIN – b. Nov. 9, 1964, Mexico; d. May 26, 2013, Standford, Calif. Survivor: wife, Maria.

MUIR, DOROTHY E. (JOHNSON) – b. June 12, 1922, Fresno, Calif.; d. Nov. 22, 2013, Napa, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Jennifer Goss, Rebecca; one grandchild.

OSHITA, WINIFRED S. (NAKAMOTO) – b. April 9, 1916, Hilo, Hawaii; d. Dec. 15, 2013, Monterey Park, Calif. Survivors: sons, Gordon, Roy; daughter, Joanne Chang; two grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; brother, Masao; sisters, Amy Obata, Ethel Inaba. Served as a teacher, Hawaiian Mission Academy, principal San Gabriel Academy and elementary.

PEARSON, DEAN ELSTON – b. June 14, 1964, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Jan. 2, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Alicia; parents, Don and Ann; brother, Sean; sisters, Monica, Kari Nightingale. Science teacher at La Sierra Academy for 21.5 years.

RAY, RUTH – b. May 31, 1918, Caldwell, Idaho; d. May 30, 2013, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: son, William; daughter, Carol Harper; two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren.

SMITH, BERNICE – b. Feb. 3, 1934, Longview, Texas; Nov. 18, 2013, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Kristy Mabee, Karen Puckett; four grandchildren.

REHBERG, SUSAN (REED) – b. Dec. 3, 1910, Warren County, Ind.; d. Jan. 10, 2014, Temple City, Calif. Survivor: daughter, Sharon Chapman.

RENICK, LEVI “LEE” LAVONE – b. Feb. 26, 1918, Liberal, Kan.; d. Dec. 18, 2013, Acampo, Calif. Survivor: wife, Lillian.

TRAINOR JR., EARL I. – b. March 27, 1939, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. May 30, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Helen Dorchuck Shaffer; sons, Ben Ceceila, Eric; daughter, Wendy; stepsons, Dennis Shaffer; stepdaughters, Sheila Wigderson, Cynthia Shaffer; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; mother, Beth.

VILLAROSA, FILIPINA QUIMING (ORELLANO) – b. Aug. 28, 1926, Leyte Province, Philippines; d. Jan. 20, 2014,

Antioch, Calif. Survivors: husband, Edwin; son, Frank Quiming; stepson, Edwin Jr.; stepdaughters, Fern Philip-paerst, Karen; 24 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

WALLACE, EVELYN EDWINA (KRAFT) – b. Jan. 9, 1922, Tokyo, Japan; d. Dec. 9, 2013, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: son, Stephen; daughter, Karen; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Served the church in Vietnam, the Philippines, Africa, and Pacific Union College; as an elementary school teacher and church musician.

WEBBER, HARRY V. – b. Dec. 2, 1923, Glendale, Calif.; d. Dec. 20, 2013, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Cherie Gamboa, Linda Wittrup, Jeanie Adair; two grandchildren.

WRIGHT, RUBEN – b. Sept. 28, 1950, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Sept. 29, 2013, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: wife, Coralia; stepsons, Oscar Velasquez, Jose Velasquez; two step-grandchildren.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is accepted as a service to Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the Pacific Union. The Recorder management reserves the right to refuse any advertisement, especially ads not related to the needs and practices of the Church membership. Acceptance of any advertising shall be considered a matter of accommodation and not a matter of right, nor shall it be construed to constitute approval of the product or service advertised.

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2014 Deadlines — Please note that these are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.
 May: April 1
 June: April 29
 July: May 27
 August: July 1
 September: August 5
 October: September 2
 November: September 30
 December: October 28

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

SUNSETS

	3/7	3/14	3/21	3/28
Alturas	6:00	7:08	7:16	7:24
Angwin	6:10	7:17	7:23	7:30
Calexico	5:44	6:50	6:55	7:00
Chico	6:07	7:14	7:21	7:28
Eureka	6:15	7:23	7:30	7:38
Fresno	6:00	7:06	7:12	7:18
Hilo	6:28	6:30	6:32	6:34
Honolulu	6:38	6:40	6:43	6:45
Las Vegas	5:41	6:48	6:54	7:00
Lodi	6:05	7:12	7:19	7:25
Loma Linda	5:51	6:56	7:02	7:07
Los Angeles	5:55	7:01	7:06	7:12
Moab	6:17	7:24	7:30	7:37
Oakland	6:09	7:16	7:22	7:28
Phoenix	6:30	6:35	6:41	6:46
Reno	5:59	7:06	7:13	7:20
Riverside	5:51	6:57	7:02	7:08
Sacramento	6:06	7:12	7:19	7:26
Salt Lake City	6:26	7:34	7:41	7:49
San Diego	5:51	6:56	7:01	7:06
San Francisco	6:10	7:17	7:23	7:29
San Jose	6:08	7:14	7:21	7:27
Tucson	6:26	6:31	6:36	6:41

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- ▶ Or visiting ADRA.org/give30



HŌ'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

MARCH 2014 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

PAGE 2 | The Hawaii Conference has launched a new website where you'll find tons of useful info. Also, Mauna Loa K/1st kids read 700+ books in the five weeks before Christmas — wow!

PAGE 3 | Ralph Watts III is celebrating eight years as president of the Hawaii Conference. Time flies when you're having fun! Read what he has to say about the time spent in paradise.

PAGE 4 | Too many people (7 out of 10!) put off making a will until it's too late. Be one of the three!

PUT GOD AND THE KINGDOM FIRST

BY GERRY CHRISTMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

New plans and budgets have bridged the old year into the new. We rejoice that 2013 brought a 4.68 percent tithe increase for the year. God has blessed His people along with a growing faithfulness to Him. For this we thank God.

Additional tithe resources enable the Hawaii Conference to continue enlarging God's Kingdom by stretching out its curtains, lengthening its cords and strengthening its stakes (Isaiah 54:2).

The Hawaii Conference treasurer will provide you with some accounting snapshots in his column. My purpose here is to elaborate on stewardship in God's Kingdom.

God, through His prophet, says that the tithe is His (Malachi 3:8-12). I, for one, don't like the idea of *paying* tithe. I, for sure, pay my taxes — but I *return* tithe. God allows you and me to determine the amount of our offerings, but He established that tithe is 10 percent. In a sense, we only begin giving to God once we have returned our tithe. Our offerings, then, become expressions of our love for God.

My mother taught me how to write my name long before I went to school. I can remember the thrill of writing my name on many of the things that belonged to me. It gave me a sense of ownership. Real problems can ensue, however, when this childhood habit is carried into our adult lives; when we engrave our names on things God claims to be exclusively His. God calls it robbery.

Many today incorporate a business model in their finances. A business model seeks to maximize profits in order to increase income and lower expenses; to buy low and to sell high; to gain the most and to give the least. Business models have their place; they stress goals, planning, budgeting and efficiency. Business models have much to offer — but they do not reflect the primary teachings of Scripture. Jesus modeled the Kingdom of God — and so should we.

Christians who follow a business model will first pay their bills and then return tithe and give offerings — if there is any money left over. This, however, is not the way of God's Kingdom. God commands that we put Him



first, even when it appears there are not sufficient resources to cover all of our earthly needs.

God invites you and me to be His financial partners. We are to serve God's Kingdom — not our own. My prayer is that this year will be a special year for God's Kingdom throughout the Hawaiian Islands; that you and I will be faithful to Him; and that we will trust Him with our time, possessions and resources.

Let's give to God what is right — not what is left. If the ways of God's Kingdom don't appeal to us now, what makes us think they will throughout eternity?

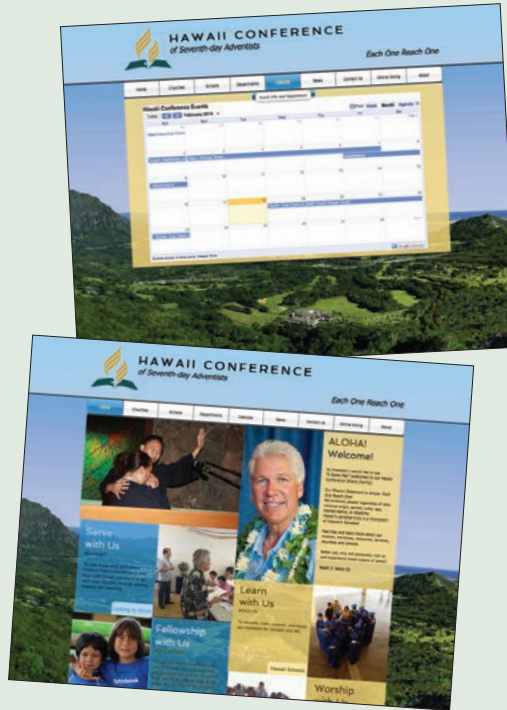
Hawaii Conference Launches New Website

BY JESSE SEIBEL

The Hawaii Conference has officially launched its new website at www.hawaiisda.com.

Here you will find:

1. Calendars of department, school and church events;
2. Conference event registration;
3. A digital copy of *Hoike*, our bimonthly conference newsletter;
4. Interactive maps of churches and schools, including contact information;
5. List of conference employees and department descriptions;
6. Up-to-date pictures of our employees and members in action; and more!



2014 Youth Event Calendar

Here's a list of all the exciting things coming this year!

APRIL 4-6: Youth Bible Camp @ Camp Waianae

JUNE 22-27: Camp H50 (Ages 13+)

JULY 4: Pathfinder Parade @ Kailua

JULY 6-11: Adventure Camp (Ages 8-12)

JULY 13-18: Extreme Camp (Ages 12-14)

JULY 20-25: Camp Exodus (Ages 15+)

AUG. 11-17: Pathfinder International Camporee @ Oshkosh, Wisc.

OCT. 5: Pathfinder Fair @ Kapilolani Park

OCT. 17-19: Big Island Youth Retreat

NOV. 7-9: Pathfinder Honor Camp @ Camp Waianae

DEC. 6: Youth Church

READING FOR JESUS

BY SAMANTHA FUNES

The Mauna Loa School is laying a solid foundation for reading so that, in time, children can study the Word of God.

Beginning five weeks before winter break, teacher Samantha Funes challenged kindergarten and first-grade students to read a total of 700 books before vacation. For each book, students handed in slips of paper with parent signatures, title, author and illustrator information. These papers formed a chain encircling the room as it grew.

Students read books from their classrooms, the public library, the Bible and other sources. On the last day before break, the classes still needed more than 100 more entries to make their goal. They prayed over the final batch of papers; it didn't look like there would be enough entries to make it to 700. To their surprise, the final count that morning reached 726. Teachers, parents and students agreed that it felt like when Jesus fed the 5,000. They class enjoyed a party to celebrate their achievement.

Samantha Funes, Mauna Loa School kindergarten/first grade teacher, is a recent addition to the Hawaii Conference team of Adventist educators. She was baptized into the Hilo church in November 2012 and since then has dedicated her teaching talents to Christian education. She was a highly esteemed elementary teacher and reading specialist for the Hawaii District Public Schools for many years. In 2010, Funes was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Hawaii District Public Schools. She praises God that now she can openly share Jesus with children. She is a humble servant of God and gives God the Glory for all of her accomplishments.



Students in the Mauna Loa School kindergarten and first grade class read more than 700 books during the five weeks before their Christmas break.

CELEBRATING EIGHT YEARS AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

RALPH S. WATTS III

I find it incredibly hard to believe that eight years has flown by since accepting the invitation to be your conference president. It all began March 2006. And now here we are in 2014, and I want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the amazing things I have been learning over these last eight years.

First, let me just say that Sharon and I consider it a humble privilege and honor to be serving you in this capacity here in Hawaii. So often when you hear people describing Hawaii they talk about the beautiful beaches, azure blue ocean waters, palm trees, gentle trade winds, lush tropical fruits and all the tourist sights, sounds and smells. But as far as we are concerned, what really makes Hawaii, Hawaii, is the people — you. There is an “aloha” spirit here, which is alive and well, and we have been on the receiving end of it over and over again. You have been so kind and gracious to us, and all we can say from the depths of our hearts is, mahalo! We love you very much!

We have experienced the joy and delight of worshiping and preaching in all 30 of our churches numerous times. What an amazing journey this has and continues to be. I have learned that we have wonderfully gifted and talented lay leaders who are committed to God and the church. Everyone is involved and engaged in what is happening. The Sabbath school programs have been well planned and the lesson studies taught with excellence and clarity. The worship services have been enthusiastic and participatory, the special music inspiring. Many times I have found myself so moved that the tears have welled up in my eyes. God is so good! And what can we say about the potlucks — wow!

Visiting our churches has also given me the opportunity to share with you my vision

and passion, which is to take seriously this mission God has given to us (Matthew 28 and Revelation 14) which is to proclaim and prepare people for the soon second coming of Jesus Christ. Since this planet is gasping its last breath, we must all have a sense of urgency and be serious about this calling and commission God has given us. I want to be driven by this mission, and I have been learning that you do, too. Each One Reach One!

I have been learning that we have a very committed and dedicated team of pastors and teachers. They each have a passion for the churches and schools they serve. It is not an easy job and the challenges are great, yet each one believes in the call God has placed on their hearts to serve Him faithfully right here in Hawaii. To be colleagues together and to serve and support them again is a privilege for Sharon and me.

I have been learning about the sacrificial faithfulness of all our members, pastors and teachers. As you know, we have faced some rather challenging times. Difficult decisions have been made which are affecting all of us. Yet through it all, you are being faithful to God. Faithful in the giving of your time and talents to the church. Faithful in returning to God tithes and offerings. I have been learning during these challenging times that we can take seriously the promise of God when He declares, “My Grace is sufficient for you.”

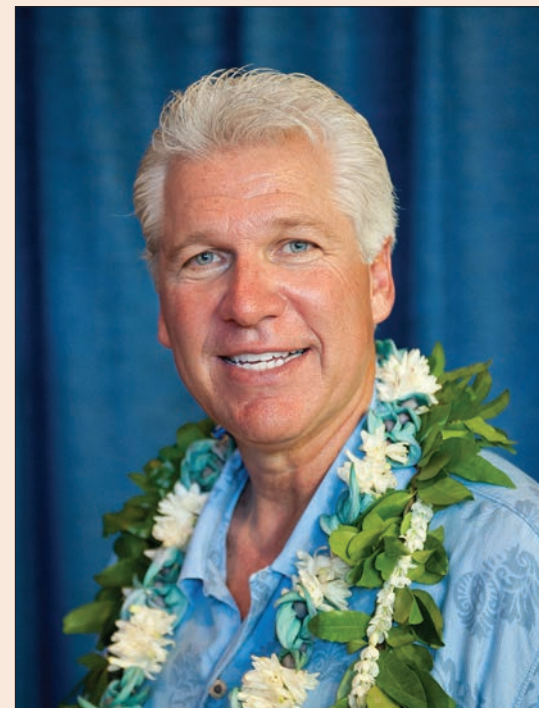
And so the journey continues. I am committed

to continue listening and learning from you. The door to my office is always open, and my cell phone is on (well, most of the time)! Sharon and I are here to serve you. Please feel free to let us know how we can serve you better. In the meantime, let us all commit to living our lives faithful to God.

Aloha in Him,

Ralph S. Watts III

President



THE DANGER OF PROCRASTINATION

BY FERYL HARRIS, TRUST DEPARTMENT FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

A single mother who had been dealing with health issues for several years recently passed away without a will. Her two, 20-something daughters are now struggling to access the assets left behind. Mom had adopted and raised these two girls from toddler stage to young adulthood.

She also knew she needed a will. She was an educated woman who held a master's degree in education. She had attended many seminars about estate planning. She simply put it off ... even as her health issues escalated.

To complicate matters, one of her daughters has cerebral palsy and is unable to work. The other daughter is a recent graduate from high school who is caring for her disabled sister while, at the same time, searching for work.

The two girls are currently waiting for the probate court to handle their case which, because of a backlog, seems not to be in the near future. They have no work experience

and no money to hire help, so they are at the mercy of the court system and government agencies.

Their situation could have been avoided had their mom followed through with making an estate plan. One of our most valuable assets is our family. We have a sacred responsibility to them. This lady also had a "charitable intent" to help financially-disadvantaged students receive a Christian education, but her good intention will not come to fruition because she made no preparations.

Seven out of 10 people die without having made a will — a sobering statistic. A person's



Feryl Harris

assets, their legacy, their "good intentions" are of no value unless they are properly documented in a will or a trust. Don't be one of those seven! Prepare now so that your assets are distributed according to your wishes — not the court's mandate. Contact a planned giving officer at the Hawaii Conference for more information.

Generous Tithe Gain Posted in 2013

BY GARY G. JOHNSON, TREASURER

The Hawaii Conference received \$5,374,915 in tithe in 2013, which is a \$240,000 increase compared to the \$5,134,852 tithe received in 2012, an increase of almost 4.7 percent.

This is the first annual tithe increase since 2007 when the conference received an all-time record tithe of more than \$6 million.



We praise God for His blessings and for the faithfulness and generosity of our members and guests in returning their tithes and offerings.

Listed to the right is a breakdown of tithe by church for 2013 and 2012.

CHURCH	MEMBER	Tithe 2013	Tithe 2012	Tithe Gain/Loss	Tithe % Change	Tithe Per CAPITA
HAWAII						
HILO	492	421,651.69	381,433.96	40,217.73	10.54%	857.02
HONOKA'A	85	116,298.51	127,126.34	(10,827.83)	(8.52%)	1,368.22
KOHALA	79	26,775.71	45,446.82	(18,671.11)	(41.06%)	338.93
KONA	235	173,832.07	180,094.10	(6,262.03)	(3.48%)	739.71
KONA HISPANIC COMPANY	54	41,908.21	31,885.41	10,022.80	31.43%	776.08
KURTISTOWN COMPANY	64	28,577.10	33,462.20	(4,885.10)	(14.60%)	446.52
PUNA	151	131,195.25	98,021.11	33,174.14	33.84%	868.84
SUB-TOTAL	1,160	940,238.54	897,469.84	42,768.60	4.77%	810.55
KAUAI						
KAPAA	183	149,450.37	129,379.97	20,070.40	15.51%	816.67
LAWAI VALLEY	186	111,964.50	101,706.12	10,258.38	10.09%	601.96
SUB-TOTAL	369	261,414.87	231,086.09	30,328.78	13.12%	708.44
MAUI						
KAHULUI	326	314,573.48	251,552.52	63,020.96	25.05%	964.95
LAHAINA	74	79,826.82	77,610.25	2,216.57	2.86%	1,078.74
KIHEI	38	49,171.55	35,057.52	14,114.03	40.26%	1,293.99
SUB-TOTAL	438	443,571.85	364,220.29	79,351.56	21.79%	1,012.72
MOLOKAI/LANAI						
MOLOKAI	54	40,200.04	27,586.95	12,613.09	45.72%	744.45
LANAI	36	5,967.60	6,810.80	(843.20)	(12.38%)	165.77
SUB-TOTAL	90	46,167.64	34,397.75	11,769.89	34.22%	512.97
OAHU						
AIEA	400	523,828.08	449,455.50	74,372.48	16.55%	1,309.57
CENTRAL	823	578,446.56	565,871.39	12,575.17	2.22%	702.85
CHINESE VIETNAMESE	49	62,406.95	57,228.02	5,178.93	9.05%	1,273.61
DIAMOND HEAD	140	136,848.09	151,254.06	(14,405.97)	(9.52%)	977.49
HAKULA	115	35,874.10	47,755.32	(11,881.22)	(24.88%)	311.95
HONOLULU FIL-AM	210	171,716.24	162,412.91	9,303.33	5.73%	817.70
JAPANESE	459	487,536.98	525,788.08	(38,251.10)	(7.28%)	1,062.17
KAILUA	219	352,647.44	337,299.46	15,347.98	4.55%	1,610.26
KANEIHE	166	179,390.71	180,487.51	(1,096.80)	(0.61%)	1,080.67
KOREAN	99	98,806.02	87,457.65	11,348.37	12.98%	998.04
KOREAN GROUP	0	0.00	10,817.00	(10,817.00)	(100.00%)	0.00
OAHU HISPANIC	66	54,840.62	58,129.23	(3,288.61)	(5.66%)	830.92
SAMOA-TOKELAU	342	142,708.11	160,031.04	(17,322.93)	(10.82%)	417.28
WAIHAWA	210	175,044.39	172,442.12	2,602.27	1.51%	833.54
WAIANAE	189	189,146.13	171,713.56	17,432.57	10.15%	1,000.77
WAIMANALO	149	152,619.34	136,861.37	15,757.97	11.51%	1,024.29
WAIOLA WORSHIP CENTER	30	11,235.44	10,267.98	967.46	9.42%	374.51
WAIPAHU	164	146,082.03	136,568.23	9,513.80	6.97%	890.74
WAIPAHU/SAMOA	121	117,111.97	109,559.73	7,552.24	6.89%	967.87
SUB-TOTAL	3,951	3,616,289.20	3,531,400.86	84,888.34	2.40%	915.28
Conference Church	18	67,233.71	76,277.83	(9,044.12)	(11.86%)	3,735.21
TOTAL	6,026	5,374,915.81	5,134,852.76	240,063.05	4.68%	891.95

March 2014

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Streams in the Desert!



**Pastor
Kingsley O. Palmer**
Assistant to the President/
Coordinator for
African-American Ministries
Arizona and Nevada-Utah
Conferences

And When He comes He will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland. Isaiah 35:5-6

God's promise to Isaiah to supply springs of water arising out of nowhere in a parched desert place is not only oxymoronic, but appears to contradict the creative process of Genesis chapter 1:9-10 where God did the reverse.

To most cynical post-modern minds, this promise not only borders on the line of the ridiculous but the insane. Not so with God. His promises are always established outside the realms of an unexplainable impossibility.

Those living in the desert terrains of Arizona, Nevada or Utah know the prophet's vision as a true and living reality of what God can do. This is especially true among Arizona's African-American community.

In the 1920's the Arizona Conference began giving Bible studies to two minority groups -- the Native Indian and Colored communities. Both studied together. January 1938 saw the formation of the first African-American church in Phoenix. In 1946 a building was erected for Beacon Light Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mother Alice Coit, the only living charter member, still worships there.

Not only is the gospel flowing among our churches it is also growing.

September 2012 through October 2013 the desert regions saw the formation of the Abundant Life Group of Maricopa and the Eloy Fellowship just outside Tucson. The desert streams of the Everlasting Gospel still continue.

By the fall of 2013 we had passed our goal of baptizing more than 50 new members. More evangelistic endeavors are planned for 2014

I give thanks and praises to God, our team of pastors, our churches members, and a supportive Conference administration that have made this possible.

What other streams do I see flowing in the Desert?

1. For the African-American work I see a new team of passionate pastors, churches sufficiently trained and resourced to meet the specific needs of their culturally diverse communities with the 3rd Angels message of Revelation 14:6-9.
2. In God's vision a Millennial Generation unified and ready to challenge the notion that in 'coming together' our cultural distinctiveness *'in Christ'* must be sacrificed to justify a maintaining a system of cultural exclusivity that separates us from Christ. Living in the wilderness everyone needs this Wellspring of Living Water — and His name is Jesus.
3. I envision our Conference family fully embracing the use of both arms of the gospel, which include the health message to provide a balanced and effective approach to reaching others just like Jesus did.

Finally for those waiting to transition from this earthly wilderness...

I see the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy confirmed in John's vision of Revelation 7:9-11. This time it is not limited to only one or two groups, but a numberless multitude of people from everywhere.

I hear them singing, shouting, praising and testifying to the providence of God who supplied them with Streams of Living Water in Desert Places.

This newsletter is stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Arizona Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a



Reaping for the Kingdom of God

By Jose Marin

The members of the church are not all called to labor in foreign lands, but all have a part to act in the great work of giving light to the world. The gospel of Christ is aggressive and diffusive... There is work for every mind and for every hand. There is a variety of work, adapted to different minds and varied capabilities.” – Historical Sketches, 290-291

“Reaping for the Kingdom of God” is the theme for Arizona Hispanic Ministries for 2014. An aggressive four-stage missionary initiative has been launched with an objective to transform 100 Sabbath School Classes into 100 Sabbath School Action Units.

The preparation stage was implemented from January 8-18. Hispanic congregations sought God during Ten Days of Prayer as members prepared their hearts for outreach.

The Ten Days of Prayer concluded with three Prayer Rallies throughout Arizona. Yuma and San Luis churches met on January 16; churches from southern Arizona met on January 18. Pastor Marco Molina from New York was the guest speaker. Incredible testimonies were given of the power of God to answer prayers in the most impossible circumstances.

January 18 the sisterhood of Hispanic churches from the Phoenix area gathered

at the Phoenix Central Spanish Church to pray and share how God had answered many prayers during these ten days. Pastor Molina concluded with a call for rededication. Many commented, “The Spirit of God was in this place in a very unique way.”

Sowing: February 1-May 2:

Members of the Sabbath School Action Units will minister to those closest to them, seeking opportunities to begin Bible studies and to direct interested friends to Bible study groups.

Cultivation: May 3-24: Members will connect with their friends and those interested in Bible study through social activities.

Harvest: May 25-June 21: An evangelistic event will be held for those who have been taking Bible studies. Baptisms are scheduled for

June 7-21. Then the next harvest cycle will begin at the conclusion of Arizona Hispanic Camp Meeting from June 28-November 8.

Evangelistic Campaigns: La Voz Speaker-Director Omar Grieve will conduct an evangelistic series in the Phoenix area from October 25-November 1. Elder Marco Molina will conduct meetings in Tucson from November 1-8.

Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile says, “We ask Arizona constituents to remember these events in prayer as we embark on this missionary effort to unite lay people and ministers to reap a fruitful harvest for the kingdom of God.”



Tucson area churches gather at the Doubletree Hotel at the conclusion of the Ten Days of Prayer.



Phoenix area members gather at the Phoenix Central Spanish Church for the Ten Days of Prayer.



Elaborate plans are in place for the Hispanic work in Arizona for 2014.



Third Annual Asian/Pacific Convocation

By Phil Draper

The Third Annual Asian/Pacific Ministries Convocation was held January 25 at the Chandler City Community Center in Chandler, Ariz.

Dr. Daniel Botabara, Central California Conference Asian/Pacific Ministries Director, was the guest speaker. His three presentations regarded the history and theology of the Sabbath.

“His sermons were simple and direct, and helped give support to proper Sabbath observance,” said Glenn Sta. Ana, Arizona Conference Asian/Pacific Ministries Director. “He was able to clarify some ideas and misconceptions held by many people.”

In his greeting to the congregation, Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile remarked, “When I came to Arizona Conference ten years ago, there was a very small presence in the Asian/Pacific work. Now I’m thrilled to see churches being built, new church plants being developed by mentoring churches, and a staff of dedicated pastors and laymen who are working tirelessly to win their communities for Jesus.”

Ten church families represented within the Arizona Conference Asian/Pacific community include:

- Tucson Fil-Am
- Chandler Fil-Am
- Phoenix Korean
- Chandler Korean English
- Tongan East Valley
- Bethel Community (Haitian)
- Ghanaian Group
- Burmese Group
- Indonesian Group
- Congo (African) Group
- Vietnamese Group

We are praying to organize more Asian churches this year,” explained Sta. Ana. “Our task for 2014 has three major emphases: Building, Education, and Evangelism. We give all the Glory to God!”

The Convocation included special programs for the children and featured a traditional Asian/Pacific

luncheon for the guests.



Members attending the Convocation represented the Philippines, Korea, Tonga, Haiti, Ghana, Burma, Indonesia, Congo, and Vietnam.



Children listen attentively to their children’s story.



Pastor Glenn Sta. Ana, Arizona Conference Asian/Pacific Ministries Director, welcomes guest speaker Dr. Daniel Botabara, Central California Conference Asian/Pacific Ministries Director.



Special programs were planned for children and youth attending the Convocation.

Bringing Hope to the City of Eloy

By Phil Draper

The Southern Pacific Railroad gave the small community of Eloy, Ariz. its name when they built a switching station there in the early 1900's. The European origin of the name Eloy means "chosen." That's significant in the light of the evangelistic outreach by the Tucson Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church members who have chosen Eloy for their focus.

The Arizona Conference recently voted for the Eloy Group to become officially recognized after many years of work by dedicated men and women who wanted to bring the light of the Gospel to this small community situated in Pinal County 65 miles southeast of Phoenix and 50 miles northwest of Tucson.

Dr. James Washington and his wife, Sarah, began working in Eloy in 1998. They worked with Evangelist Byron Spears in a meeting there.

After the Washingtons entered full retirement, Pastor Ranison Kennedy was invited to lead the work in Eloy. He and his team from Tucson Maranatha began



New members of the Eloy Group are baptized at a nearby swimming pool.



Pastor Ranison Kennedy presents framed certificates to those completing Bible Studies at the Pavilion of Hope Crusade.

conducting weekly Sabbath Schools in a small, historic church on Sabbath afternoons. They began an active door-to-door visitation program inviting residents to take Bible studies.

In May 2013, Tucson area churches held a "Gospel Hope Fest" in a park in the town center with activities for children, health screenings for adults, distribution of literature, and Gospel singing. Those attending were invited to stay for a "haystack" luncheon.

The Eloy Group then offered their support to a community outreach focused on children and families called "God's Amazing Creation and STARLAB Planetarium." This event was two weeks prior to the start of the evangelistic meetings. Four presentations were given

in one day and 60 community children enrolled.

Experienced Bible instructors Esther King, from Compton, Calif. and Barbara McDavid from Las Vegas, NV, worked with Tucson Maranatha volunteers Marsha Power and Cesar Morales prior to the beginning of the evangelistic series, resulting in 40 guests attending.

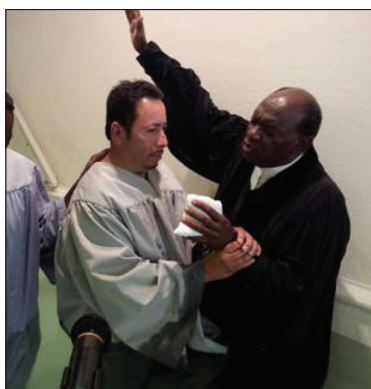
Pastor A. L. LaCount joined Kennedy in conducting the Pavilion of Hope Crusade in September 2013, which ran for three weeks. A group of Maranatha church members worked with and encouraged those attending to take Bible Studies. 38 completed the lessons and received framed certificates after completing the Bible study series. At the conclusion of the meetings, 13 were baptized.

The Eloy Group meets Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sabbaths at the Curiel School Annex in Eloy.

Kennedy says, "We want to do everything we can to make it possible for all to hear the loud clarion call that Jesus is coming soon. We are thrilled we have a strong Adventist presence in Eloy and a dedicated group wanting to spread the Gospel."



The Eloy Group has been blessed with 13 new members at the end of the evangelistic series.



A new member of the Eloy Group is baptized at the crusade.



centralACTS

Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Giving Our All to God

central california officers' perspective

Mayra Thompson, Treasurer, Central California Conference

'FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11

This is one of my favorite verses. As we continue into the new year, I would like to invite you to meditate on these words and consider the following questions:

Are we willing to allow God to have His way in our life so His plans may be fulfilled as He sees fit? Are we willing to totally turn control of our life over to God trusting that He knows what's best for us? Does our life show that we believe our Redeemer lives and are we looking forward to that day when we will be with Him? Do we treat others as the precious valuable individuals they are because of the priceless blood of Jesus that was shed for them?

Do we use our talents, our temple, our time and our treasure—including the earth—as valuable resources given to us by God, who expects us to be His faithful managers? Do we know that God has the answer to every situation in our life and do we praise Him in the midst of all circumstances? Do we know when to be still and allow God to work things out according to His prosperous and hopeful plan for our lives?

As we think about these questions, may all the answers be a resounding, 'Yes!' And may we be ready to meet our Lord on that great day! Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20

Calendar

March 7-8
Prayer Conference

March 7-9
African American Teen Retreat

March 15
Children's Ministries Training

March 16
Vacation Bible School Training

March 22
Prison Ministry Convocation

March 29
Prison Ministry Training

March 29-30
Hispanic Children's Ministries Certification (Track II)

March 30
Treasurer and Clerk Training

April 11-13
Teen Girls Retreat

For additional information, call the Central California Conference at 559-347-3000



Traffic Jams

message from the president }

Ramiro Cano, President, Central California Conference

HAVE YOU SEEN IMAGES OR reports of the massive traffic jams experienced in the eastern portion of the U.S. recently? Some of the more devastating traffic jams have been caused by human contribution, some intentional and others unintentional. Consider the following two examples:

First, on September 9, 2013, several access lanes were closed on the Washington Bridge in New Jersey, creating hours-long traffic jams on the first day of the school year. Some reports seem to indicate political motivations for the closings, with investigations now underway.

On January 28, 2014, a snowstorm brought the city of Atlanta to a standstill. "Schools and businesses released people simultaneously, inundating the roads with more people than there was pavement," cited Atlanta mayor Kasim Reed. Although not intentional, a lack of suitable preparation and planning seems to be the cause.

In general, traffic jams clog access to destinations and at times bring the flow of traffic to a complete standstill. The effects of a traffic jam can be devastating to a community, and in fact, can cause irreparable consequences to families and businesses. Think of someone experiencing a medical emergency, stuck in traffic and unable to arrive at the hospital in a timely way; unable to get to life-saving services. Such may have been the case when a 91 year-old woman died due to delays caused by the clogged bridge in New Jersey.

These traffic jams bring to mind our *Bridges* initiative in the Bay Area. Could Satan take this opportunity, this momentum, this evangelistic interest in the Bay to cause a clogging of sorts by closing the lanes of influence and activity of pastors and members alike? Could he influence well-intentioned saints to be unsure and confused as

communities of the Bay! And yet we must proceed with caution, albeit boldly. Consider the perspective shared by Adventist pioneer and inspired author Ellen White, "The work going forward in San Francisco is a good work. But at every step there must be watchfulness and prayer; for many things will come to confuse and entangle the workers. My brethren, the word has been given me for you, 'Watch and pray.'" ¹

I am very encouraged to see our pastors and members in prayer, enthusiastically embracing a united front of projects and plans for 2014 and a desire to lay out plans for 2015 and beyond.

This Spirit-led momentum and energy was evident on Saturday, February 1, 2014, when Bay Area pastors and local church ministry leaders came together to pray, discuss and solidify short-term plans for the *Bridges* initiative. The meeting was held at the South San Francisco Samoan Seventh-day Adventist Church and concluded with an agape feast, foot washing, prayer and praise.

In the end, the success of this initiative depends on all of us being willing to partner together and, most importantly, with God at every step. Please keep *Bridges* and our Bay Area leaders in your prayers! At the same time, pray that the spirit of the *Bridges* initiative will spill over into every one of the eight areas of our Central California Conference—Bridges for Jesus in every community!

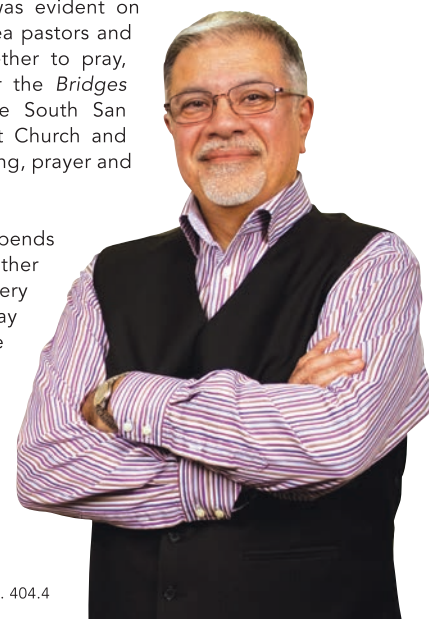
Blessings to you!



¹ Ellen G. White, *Evangelism* pg. 404.4



Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus, is a multi-year partnership initiative launched in 2013 by the Central and Northern California Conferences in order to reach and impact the Bay Area for Jesus. Both conferences are planning joint efforts as well as individual events and approaches unique to the vision and priorities of each conference.



Pray for the following upcoming Bay Area events or make sure to attend or invite others to attend if you live within the area:

- March 7-8, 2014, CCC Prayer Conference at the San Francisco Philadelphian Church.
- April 23-26, 2014, Pacific Union ASI Chapter Medical Mission Trip to the Bay Area called "Bridges to Health."
- May 1-8, 2014, Messiah's Mansion—a life size Biblical sanctuary model—in San Francisco (more details to come).
- May 9-June 1, 2014, Operation Blueprint evangelistic event at the Marines Memorial Theater in San Francisco.

to the most effective methods and approaches? Could he even throw a multiplicity of ideas and projects into the initiative all at the same time in order to cause a traffic jam in terms of clear purpose and goals?

The answer is 'yes', he could. However, our Lord is greater and more powerful than anything the enemy can do to halt the flow of the Good News of salvation to the

From the editor

Costin Jordache, Vice President for Communication, Central California Conference

Camp meeting is upon us—almost! Preparations are underway and soon we'll publish the line-up of guests and features that will once again bring together many from around the Conference! As always, one of

the main features will be telling the stories of those who have experienced the transformative power of Jesus in their lives and those who are working with others along that journey. We are now in the process

of collecting those "Miracle Roadway" stories, but we need your help! You know both your own story and those of others in your local church or school. Take a minute to share one or two of those by emailing a short

synopsis along with your contact information to communication@cccsda.org. Thank you! Only in the eternal kingdom will we ever discover the full effect that telling any one of these stories had on those who heard it!



BIKE-A-THON

CASTLE AIR BASE • APRIL 25 - 27, 2014



For more information and to register visit our website at CCCPATHFINDERS.ORG or contact Sandra Pasillas at (559) 347-3174 or pathfinders@cccda.org

FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, the Hispanic Ministries Department has sponsored the Hispanic Women's Retreat, which this year drew more than 300 women to Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite. I've had the privilege of participating over the last few years and have been blessed during that time by both the presentations and the amazing women I've met—perhaps this year more than any other.

Normally, available rooms are filled much earlier than the advertised deadline. However, for some reason, this year 25 rooms were cancelled due to lack of applicants. Then, a few weeks prior to the retreat, Florina Morales, Administrative Assistant in the Hispanic Ministries Department, discovered that the 25 rooms were never actually cancelled and were still available to us. She sent the news out and prayed that the Lord would inspire more ladies to attend the retreat.

One week prior to the retreat, I received a phone call from a relative of mine, Maggie Rivas. Maggie is a newly baptized member of the Mountain View Hispanic Church who called to say that she had an interest in attending the retreat along with her cousin, Elvia Cuevas, who is not a member of an Adventist church. Fortunately three empty rooms were still available and soon Maggie and Elvia were on their way.

Friday night, I joined Maggie and Elvia at one of the many participant tables available at the retreat. Soon we were joined by Veronica Ontiveros, Juanita Licardi and Flor Carrizales. Veronica and Juanita attend the San Mateo Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Flor had started visiting only two weeks before the retreat. She was thrilled to hear about the Hispanic Women's Retreat and that extra rooms were available and had registered immediately. Next, Maribel Flores, from the South San Francisco Latin-American Seventh-day Adventist Church joined the table with two visitors she had come along with, Rafaela Guillen and Maria Preciado. Finally, my sister Dina Cardona from the Fresno Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church joined us.

Together, we had a great time interacting with each other and listening to our keynote speaker, Pastor Elizabeth Talbot. Saturday morning we all gathered and chose Table 23. As we listened to a presentation given by Carolann De León, we were inspired with the thought that we could take our newly formed relationships and our experience beyond the event itself. We agreed that we would form a "Table 23

Table 23

my experience at the hispanic women's retreat

Claudia América Arias, Administrative Assistant, CCC Treasury Department



L to R: Dina Cardona, Maggie Rivas, Rafaela Guillén, Elvia Cuevas, Verónica Ontiveros, María Preciado, Juanita Licardi, Flor Carrizales and Maribel Flores

Prayer Team" and we exchanged contact information and specific prayer requests. As if that wasn't exciting enough, we realized that our table number was 23 and embraced Psalm 23 as God's hopeful promise for all of us.

The ladies of Table 23 have continued staying in touch. Every Saturday at 3:00pm we have a conference call during which we share what God is doing in our life and how He is answering our prayers. In fact, our group is growing, with two additional ladies from our office joining the prayer team. And how thrilled I am to share that God is indeed doing wonderful things in our lives. Among them, at least one of our Table 23 visitors has expressed the calling she feels deep in her heart to join the Seventh-day Adventist community of faith. She'd love to learn more about what we believe, including becoming acquainted with the writings of Ellen White. We are quite excited to walk with her along her journey and look forward to more of what God has in store for all of us.

Two things I know for sure: I will never forget the ladies of Table 23 and I am very much looking forward to next year's Hispanic Women's Retreat!

Have you attended a Central California Conference sponsored retreat recently? Try Table 23's approach and stay in touch regularly with those whom you shared the event with.

23

Children's Ministries Department

hosts intensive training

Central California Conference Office of Communication



ON JANUARY 11-12, 2014 THE Children's Ministries Department of the Central California Conference organized a continuing education event to provide official certification for those working with kids and their families in local churches. As a part of the Conference's Cradle to Crown initiative, the scope of the event was to immerse local church children's Sabbath School and children's ministries leaders in new and improved resources and methods for effectiveness.

The event, which took place on the campuses of Mountain View Academy and Mountain View Central Seventh-day Adventist church, drew in 30 leaders from 11 churches. "The emphasis was on building positive relationships with children," explains Rosa Gillham, Director of Children's Ministries for the Central California Conference. "It's a tremendously important part of reaching their minds and their hearts for Jesus."

The 10-hour curriculum consisted of Track 1 of the official North American Division Children's Ministries Certification, offering continuing education units (CEU's) to participants. Presenters covered a number of topics, including *Meeting the Needs of 21st Century Kids*, *Teaching from Nature*, *Teaching GraceLink*, *Teaching Children to Think*, and *Jesus and 28 Fundamental Beliefs*.

Presenters included Gillham, along with Steve Case, president of *Involve Youth*, a parachurch organization that

energizes young people for service and Rocio Rojas, a well-known presenter in the area of children's ministries. "I believe that what the group really appreciated about Rocio and Steve's presentations were how practical and interactive they were," recalls Gillham. Participants agreed, citing that both Case and Rojas were "dynamic, knowledgeable and practical." Concepts were partnered with challenges and games at each group table, which were intended to teach better ways to present various lessons to various age groups.

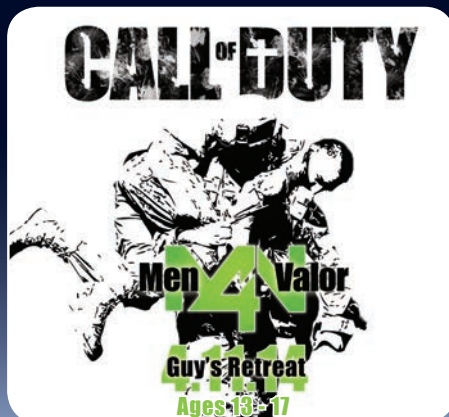
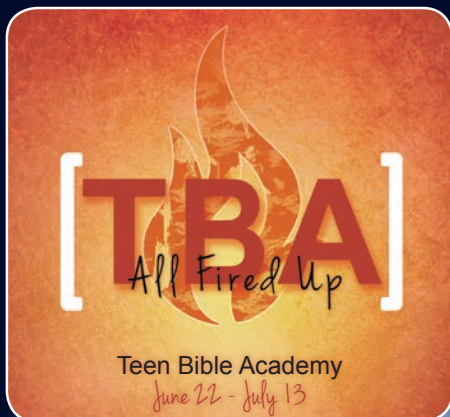
All presentations modeled interactive teaching and how to make Sabbath Schools and other children's ministries more relevant to today's kids. Among several subjects, Case presented an approach to finding and teaching the multi-faceted aspects of Jesus to kids, along with how to anchor each fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jesus. Rojas focused on effective teaching methods, including using nature and memorization as learning aids.

At the end, attendees took home resources, concepts and practical tips, along with a question shared by many: How often can the Conference host similar workshops? "We invite those inquiring to contact the Children's Ministries Department at the Central California Conference," explains Gillham. "We have plans to host future certification events around our conference, as well as releasing video-recorded content of Track 1 on the conference website (ccc.adventist.org)."

For more information contact Rosa Gillham at (559) 347-3183.



Central California Conference Youth Evangelism Team (YET) Upcoming Events



For more information and to register for an event, visit us online at cccsdayouth.org

PUBLISHER
Central California Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Costin Jordache

COPY EDITOR
Susan Wisner

DESIGN & LAYOUT
Sergio Cano

CONTACT US
Central California Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists
P.O. Box 770
Clovis, CA 93613
559.347.3000

ONLINE RESOURCES
ccc.adventist.org
facebook.com/cccsda
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communication@cccsda.org

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KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

“I PRAY THAT THEY WILL
ALL BE ONE, JUST AS
YOU AND I ARE ONE ...”
JOHN 17:21



Unified IN CHRIST

Whenever I travel by plane, I always hope for a safe flight, with an on-time schedule – without any turbulence! If I have to choose from among those three qualities, I’ll take a safe trip any day. As I was waiting for a delayed flight recently, I heard something said about a “mechanical issue.” My first priority changed from getting home on time to getting home safely!

It takes all kinds of people working together to orchestrate an airplane trip – ticket agents, gate attendants, mechanics, baggage handlers, cleaning crew, food and beverage suppliers, ground crew, air traffic controllers, flight attendants, and of course the cockpit crew. And it also takes passengers of all kinds: young and old, first-time flyers as well as frequent flyers, local and international travelers, every color, every personality, every appearance.

Everyone involved has one goal: get the plane from Point A to Point B safely. I chuckle every time I hear an announcement such as: “This flight is bound for Chicago [or wherever]. If you planned to go somewhere else, this is not your plane!” It is good for everyone on board to be heading to the same destination.

In many ways, an airplane trip is an illustration of unity. While there are different

people involved, not to mention different pieces of equipment, there is one singular purpose. Unity is what Jesus asked for on our behalf: “I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one – as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me” (John 17:21, *New Living Translation*). Jesus is calling His people, His Church – including us – to be united in our mission. We will approach it from different backgrounds and with different methods. But it takes all of us working together to reach the ultimate destination – God’s heavenly kingdom.

Strategic Goal #6 is about our United Mission: “Create a spirit of unity in diversity to accomplish the purposes of God’s kingdom.” While that may seem obvious, it’s not always as easy as we may think because we ARE from different backgrounds and perspectives, and we DO approach the work of the Church with different methods. It often is easier for us to work within our specific individual areas of locality, or ministry (church vs. school, etc.), or theological perspective, or cultural experience – rather than to cooperate together. I pray that those boundaries will become less important as we join hands in unity as believers in Christ, to accomplish the work God has given us all to do. “Father, may we be one!”

Peace.

By Jim Pedersen, who serves as the president of the Northern California Conference.

In this issue . . .

Goal #6 United Mission:
Create a spirit of unity in
diversity to accomplish
the purposes of God’s
kingdom.



Sacramento Slavic
Congregation Finds
a Church Home



VOLUME 12
ISSUE 2
MARCH 2014



Goal #6 **United Mission**

CREATE A SPIRIT OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF GOD'S KINGDOM.



(Top) Pacific Union College Preparatory School Principal Peter Fackenthall leads a discussion group during lunch at the Mark Blue Lecture. (Below) La Sierra University Professor V. Bailey Gillespie speaks about the Valuegenesis study at last year's Mark Blue Lecture.



"It is important for the church to talk to the school and the school to talk to the church, rather than just assuming that what you hear is the truth and getting everybody in a riled-up condition."

Recently, the Northern California Conference unveiled its strategic plan for 2012-2016. The plan includes eight goals, along with strategies to achieve them. This issue focuses on the sixth of the eight goals and how it is being implemented in the conference. Future editions will feature others.

In order to reach out to Northern California, NCC Adventists need the kind of unity that Jesus prayed for His followers to have (John 17:21). "Prayer is the first step to achieving any of our strategic goals," said NCC President Jim Pedersen. "Prayer is absolutely vital to create a true spirit of unity among our churches, schools and ministries."

After prayer, the next step to achieve Goal #6 is to open the lines of communication among various NCC entities—administrators, church members, educators, ministry leaders and pastors. "We want to break down silos in our conference," said Pedersen, referencing a business term taken from the world of farming. An organization is said to have a "silo mentality" when groups within the organization keep information to themselves, rather than sharing it with other groups. Leaders look for ways to tear down the silos within an organization so that everyone can work together toward a common mission.

In recent years, the conference has focused especially on enhancing the partnership between pastors and educators. NCC Superintendent of Schools Bill Keresoma often stresses his T.E.A.M. philosophy: "Together Educators And Ministers, collaborating to build children into spiritual champions!"

Galt church Pastor Jim Witcombe points out the common mission between his church and its school. "We really have one goal and one purpose," he said. "The school is our greatest outreach to our community in the sense that we spend a good share of our budget operating our

school." Galt Adventist Christian School Teaching Principal Janice Deibel emphasizes the necessity of communication to keep everyone on track. "It is important for the church to talk to the school and the school to talk to the church, rather than just assuming that what you hear is the truth and getting everybody in a riled-up condition," she said.

To further foster communication between churches and schools, the conference now brings all pastors and educators together for the Mark Blue Lecture Series—an annual event encouraging collaboration and fellowship. The lecture was named to honor the memory of Dr. Mark Blue, who served as associate superintendent of education and executive secretary in the NCC before his death in 2007. As part of last year's event, pastors and educators broke into discussion groups to talk about ways they can work together. This year's Mark Blue Lecture will be held April 7 with featured speaker Ruben Escalante, former Arizona Conference superintendent of education, principal, chaplain and current senior pastor of the Los Alamitos church.

Another important ongoing collaboration is "Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus," a joint project between the NCC and the Central California Conference, to reach out to Oakland, San Francisco and other Bay Area cities. Pastors of Oakland churches meet together regularly to develop joint outreach and evangelism plans for their city. (Watch for more news about this project in the near future.) "Too often local churches and conferences work independently of

Northern California
ADVENTISTS
in Action



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each other, when they could reach many more people if they would work together,” said Pedersen.

The conference is also working to enhance the flow of communication to church members and employees. The NCC website was recently redesigned to help users more easily access a wide variety of information. “I hope people will visit our new website and discover how streamlined it is,” said NCC Communication Department Director Stephanie Leal. “We continue to look for new ways to help people find the information they need as efficiently as possible.”

One new feature is the website section devoted to the upcoming NCC Constituency Session to be held on May 18. Nearly all the materials for

delegates will be available online in the coming months.

Other communication tools include the NCC Facebook page “Northern California Adventists in Action”—created to help churches, schools and ministries share announcements of upcoming events and news of past events—and the newly redesigned Planned Giving website, www.SDAlegacy.org.

With its emphasis on mission and unity, it is difficult to separate Goal #6 from the other goals in the NCC Strategic Plan. “All eight goals are aimed at achieving a united mission throughout the conference,” said Pedersen. “Christ’s gift of salvation unites us all, so we need to work together to be doing what matters for the kingdom.”

“Too often local churches and conferences work independently of each other, when they could reach many more people if they would work together.”



Pacific Union Conference President Ricardo Graham (back) prays, as NCC President Jim Pedersen (left) and CCC President Ramiro Cano (center) stand with pastors and laypeople at the Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus event held in 2013 at the Grand Advent church.

IN MEMORY OF MARK BLUE

The Mark Blue Lecture Series is named in memory of Dr. Mark LaMont Blue, who served the Northern California Conference as executive secretary and as associate superintendent of education. It is the aim of this lecture series to pay tribute to Dr. Blue in a way that continues his life work as a proponent of Adventist education.



This year’s theme — “Commitment to the Spiritual Welfare of the Child” — fits well with Dr. Blue’s philosophy of Adventist education. “I’m eager to see us in Northern embrace more completely the ministry of educators,” he said. “Our conference should be a shining example of the complete marriage of what we as Adventists do — minister both in the pulpit and in the classroom.”

Born and raised in the Los Angeles area, Dr. Blue graduated from California State University, Northridge with a bachelor’s degree in history. He later earned a master’s degree and an education specialist degree — both in administration and leadership — from Loma Linda University. In 2004, he received a Doctor of Education in administration and leadership from La Sierra University.

Dr. Blue began his career as a teacher at Los Angeles Union Seventh-day Adventist School (now Los Angeles Adventist Academy). He then served as teaching principal at Madera Seventh-day Adventist School, K-8 principal at Fresno Adventist Academy, and K-6 principal at La Sierra Academy. Dr. Blue served as associate superintendent in the NCC Education Department from 1999-2006, when he took on the role of executive secretary, a position he held until his death in May, 2007.



He is survived by his wife Christy and their two children, Christopher and Noelle.

“Our conference should be a shining example of the complete marriage of what we as Adventists do – minister both in the pulpit and in the classroom.”



Check out the new NCC website, which has recently been streamlined to help you quickly find information to help you in your local church, school or ministry: www.ncc.adventist.org.



Do you really need a will?

Many people think that because they don't own enough property, they don't need a will. But when you add up all of the assets that you own, your estate may be larger than you think.

WHY DO YOU NEED A WILL?

- A will can help you decide who will receive your property.
- You can appoint a guardian for your minor children in your will.
- A will allows you to appoint an executor for your estate.
- A will can help reduce taxes for your heirs and your estate.

Creating a plan for your future is important. Our FREE guide to planning your will or trust can help you with this process. Please contact us to request a free guide and attorney referral.



**Northern California Conference
Planned Giving
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The Planned Giving website has recently been redesigned.

Check it out at www.SDAlegacy.org.

Sacramento Slavic CONGREGATION FINDS A CHURCH HOME

The Sacramento Slavic church finally has a place of its own! The congregation worshiped together for the first time at their new church facility on Sabbath, Feb. 1. "During the service I felt very happy because we have a home for our church, our people," said Pastor Roman Tsyganiuk.

Located at 4837 Marconi Avenue in Carmichael, the campus includes two buildings—totaling 15,000 square feet. In addition to the large sanctuary, the facility contains 16 classrooms, licensed as a school. The church's former owners, a Baptist congregation, will rent the facility for about a year while building a new church. (They will worship there on Sundays and run a K-12 school during the week.)

The speaker for the Feb. 1 worship service was Rich Magnuson, NCC director of planned giving. "I was honored beyond words that I was invited to be there on the first Sabbath in their new church," said Magnuson. "I encouraged them to use this church as a foundation to reach out and show God's love throughout the Sacramento region."

The very active Slavic congregation includes about 450 people who attend

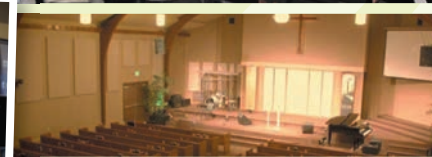
church each Sabbath. Tsyganiuk has served as its pastor since 2012. He came to the United States after pastoring in the Ukraine for 17 years. He and his wife Inna have three children—Anastasiia, Stanislav and Denys.

The history of the Slavic church in Sacramento began when four Ukrainian families emigrated from the former Soviet Union and joined the Sacramento Yugoslavian church in 1991. By 2000, the Slavic group numbered almost 80, and they began holding their own worship services. The group was formally organized as a company in 2002, and they became a church in 2004. Pastor Lune Randjelovic led the congregation for many years.

In mid-February the congregation hosted its first series of outreach meetings at its new church, presented by Alexander Bolotnikov, a pastor from the Ohio Conference. "The congregation has big plans for outreach in their new church," said Magnuson.



(Side and Top) Music is an important part of the Slavic church worship experience.



(Middle) The sanctuary has been custom designed acoustically and wired for sound and lightning. (Below) NCC Director of Planned Giving Rich Magnuson with his wife Kathie (left) and Sacramento Slavic church Pastor Roman Tsyganiuk with his wife Inna enjoy time together after the first worship service.

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

401 Taylor Boulevard, P.O. Box 23165, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 685-4300 • Fax (888) 635-6934
www.ncc.adventist.org | info@ncc.adventist.org
Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. | Mon-Thurs

President, Jim Pedersen | Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson
Treasurer, John Rasmussen

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521
Phone: 775-322-6929 • Fax: 775-322-9371



*Focused on Jesus,
we witness to the world!*

March 2014

In this issue...

- "God is Our Anchor of Hope"
- Pastor BJ Boles Joins Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church and Nevada-Utah Conference
- Week-long Evangelism Series Impacts Community for the Kingdom of God
- Upcoming Events
- Are You Looking To Save On Taxes This Year?
- Target more ministry with the monthly Conference ADVANCE Offering ... and help meet urgent local church and school needs.

"God Is Our Anchor of Hope"

"We who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:18b, 19a).

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God, our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, Who is our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1)

by Larry Unterseher
President, Nevada-Utah Conference

There is a description of hope scratched on cellar walls by anonymous people hiding from the Nazis in World War II. It reads:

"When we are trapped in a tunnel of misery, hope points to the light at the end. When we are overworked and exhausted, hope gives us fresh energy. When we are discouraged, hope lifts our spirits. When we are tempted to quit, hope keeps us going. When we lose our way and confusion blurs the destination hope dulls the edge of panic. When we struggle with a crippling disease or a lingering ytness, hope helps us persevere beyond the pain. When we fear the worst, hope brings reminders that God is still in control. When we must endure the consequences of bad decisions, hope fuels our recovery. When we ynd ourselves unemployed, hope tells us we still have a future. When we are forced to sit back and wait, hope gives us the patience to trust. When we feel rejected and abandoned, hope reminds us we're not alone we'll make it. When we say our ynal farewell to someone we love, hope in the life beyond gets us through our grief. Put simply, when life hurts and dreams



Larry Unterseher

fade, nothing helps like hope."

We may not be faced with some of the same trials of the people who wrote these lines, but no one's life of faith is free from storms. For each of us these storms may be different and during these times of storm we each need a sturdy anchor. " at anchor is Jesus. It is this yrm and secure anchor that gives us hope for the trials of life.

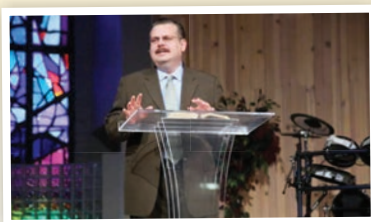
As the Nevada-Utah Conference enters into its next quadrennium we look forward with great excitement for the unfolding of God's plan, knowing there may be many storms facing us as a World Church, Division, Union, Conference, Local Church or as individual members. During these times we must stay focused on Jesus. We must take hold of this anchor that is immovable knowing it will weather the worst storm. Truly, this anchor of hope we have in Jesus Christ is yrm and secure! Rest in this blessed assurance today. "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal" (Isaiah 26:3,4).



For each of us these storms may be different and during these times of storm we each need a sturdy anchor. That anchor is Jesus.

Pastor BJ Boles Joins

Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church and Nevada-Utah Conference



“The greatest challenge is to always remember that it is the Lord’s church, the Lord’s work, and the Lord’s victory. He will give the answers to our problems. Let Him work on our behalf, and let’s join Him,” Pastor BJ Boles (2013).

“God is as mightily working in the hearts of man today, as He ever has.”

Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Las Vegas, Nevada, welcomed its new Senior Pastor BJ Boles. Boles recently relocated to Nevada from Georgia with his wife Mygdalia, and their two sons Eastin and Westin. Having grown up in Georgia, Boles is a product of Seventh-day Adventist education and is excited to now be serving in the Nevada-Utah Conference. He graduated from Georgia Cumberland Academy and went to Southern Adventist



University. He received a B.S. degree in behavioral science, B.A. degrees in psychology and religion, and a minor in biblical languages. He completed his master of divinity degree with an emphasis in chaplain ministries from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in 1997, and was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1999. After that, Boles was a senior pastor in Georgia, and now has begun his most recent journey in Las Vegas, Nevada.

(Above) Larry Unterseher prays for Pastor BJ & Mygdalia Boles. (Below BJ Boles (second from right) with his pastoral team Paul Suh, Dave Wallace, and Angel Heredia .



In addition to recently becoming senior pastor at Mountain View Church, Boles has also expanded his Mighty Moment Ministries, a media ministry where people can go online and view archived sermons as well as daily devotionals. For Boles, “it was always a dream to start a media ministry” and he wants “to encourage people on their daily walk with God.”

When asked how he is encouraged, he said: “Seeing God’s hand. God is as mightily working in the hearts of man today, as He ever has.” With his “passion for the lost” and dedication to the Lord, Boles is driven because the “work is great, and time is running out. We need to do all we can to strengthen those who know Jesus and introduce Him to others.”

Boles has a burning desire to help others find the Lord, and he looks forward to serving the Las Vegas community. Even though he recently relocated from Georgia, his constant goal remains to make the church “a refuge for the hurting and a harbor of peace in stormy times.” He also believes that the church “should be a light of hope heralding the message of Christ’s love to the world.” He believes that we are all “24/7 ambassadors of the Lord.”

In addition to his passion for leading others to Jesus Christ, Boles “loves to travel and explore new areas. My family has this bug as well. I enjoy reading and learning about history, photography, gardening and nature.

“I have a heart for the Hispanic community. Having served as a student missionary in Chile and being fluent in Spanish, I am a friend and advocate of the Hispanic work in this conference. My wife’s family is from Mexico and the Spanish culture is an important part of our life.”

His mission is to “grow the church and the kingdom of God.” The people of Las Vegas are truly privileged to have him and his family serving in the community.

For more information on Mighty Moment Ministries, please visit [Facebook.com/mightymoment](https://www.facebook.com/mightymoment).



Week-long Evangelism Series Impacts Community for the Kingdom of God

By Carlos Camacho

The greater Las Vegas area celebrated a Spanish-speaking, week-long evangelism series to start on January 11, 2014. The meetings brought an average of 300 people in attendance every night and brought 50 new souls through baptism to the kingdom of God.

The meetings were conducted by guest speaker Omar Grieve from La Voz de la Esperanza. Mrs. Grieve opened every night with a health nugget and was followed by amazing music by Kelly Junior Marchena, in preparation for the powerful preaching of the word of God.

The series was advertised on television and radio. The meetings were broadcasted every evening, live via Internet by the Radio Maranatha Adventista ministry team.

The event was coordinated by the Paraiso Spanish Mission Group leadership under the direction of the Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church, and new Senior Pastor BJ Boles, in joint cooperation with the Nevada-Utah



The series featured amazing music by Kelly Junior Marchena (above) and inspirational sermons by Omar Grieve (below).

Hispanic Coordinator Pastor Carlos A. Camacho.

The group was also thankful for the pastoral leadership of Douglas Falla and his team of Bible workers who made the campaign a success.

On Sabbath, January 25, there was a celebration Sabbath for both the Mountain View church and the Paraiso Mission Group, as they were accepted into membership with the Mountain View church. They are already excited about working toward becoming a company. Some 57 people were accepted as new members in a special joint service that brought about 300 people together at the Las Vegas Junior Academy. Boles preached a sermon titled: "Linking the unthinkable"

The members look forward to working even more intentionally across the many barriers that separate them as they strive to fulfill the mission of sharing the gospel of Jesus with every living creature in the Las Vegas area.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nevada-Utah Conference will hold three area-wide **Town Hall Meetings** in preparation for the 2014 Constituency Session. Everyone is welcome to attend this open forum of information, questions and answers.

Please join us for an evening of fellowship and discussion.

- The **Utah area meeting** will be held Saturday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nueva Esperanza Church, 7681 S 2200 W, West Jordan, Utah.
- The **Southern Nevada meeting** will be held Sunday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain View Church, 6001 W Oakey Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- The **Northern Nevada meeting** will be held Monday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. at the Carson City Church, 405 College Parkway, Carson City, Nevada.

The NEVADA-UTAH VIEWS is a newsletter stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Nevada-Utah Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the Recorder every other month.

Upcoming EVENTS

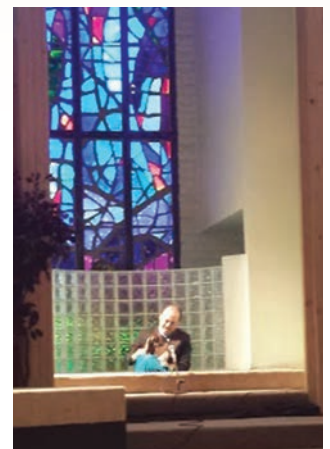
Deamude Adventist Christian School
Week of Prayer
March 10-15

Spring Break
March 24-28

Utah Spanish Youth Rally
April 11-13

Adventist West Point of Evangelism
April 20-24
Mesa, Arizona

Constituency Session
May 4
Las Vegas, Nevada



The series brought 50 new souls through baptism to the kingdom of God.



ARE YOU LOOKING TO SAVE ON TAXES THIS YEAR?

ARE YOU PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE?

WE CAN HELP. There are a number of charitable plans that can help you save on taxes this year and secure your financial future.

You can receive a charitable deduction by making a gift of your low performing CDs, stocks, bonds or even cash. We can also accept your appreciated assets like real estate or a business interest and help you sell these tax free. There are a number of ways we can help you generate tax savings and provide you with a stream of payments

for life. All of these gifts help you and help us continue our good work.

Please contact us to see a personalized illustration with your tax benefits and payments. To learn more about the benefits of making a planned gift, you can also visit our website or call us today.

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Conference Advance Offerings are returned to individual churches and schools!

Here's how the Conference Advance Offering is distributed for return to churches:

- ✓ 50% goes to Evangelism
- ✓ 25% goes to Church School Operating
- ✓ 25% goes to NUC Capital Improvements (land, buildings, and equipment)



TARGET MORE MINISTRY WITH THE MONTHLY

Conference ADVANCE Offering

...and help meet urgent local church and school needs!

For the past two years, **Conference Advance** has been on a huge upward percentage trend in the Nevada-Utah Conference. In fact, nearly a **100% increase** in the past two years. *That is fantastic!* And faithful Nevada-Utah Conference members who have remembered Conference Advance are to be thanked!

For a number of years prior, the **Conference Advance** offerings were seriously declining. This meant less and less money coming back to NUC churches and schools for evangelism, church school operating, and capital improvements.

Today, that has all changed and an ever-increasing amount of **Conference Advance** money is able to

be returned to churches and schools throughout the conference. *What a blessing!*

Will you be remembering **Conference Advance** in 2014? There's still room to grow!

Mark your tithe envelope for the monthly Conference Advance Offering collected in all NUC churches! Please remember to participate in this extremely important offering that benefits Nevada-Utah Conference churches and schools.

Keep Conference Advance On Its Upward Trend in 2014!

"I invite you to make a difference! Please be a part of our Conference Advance Offering as we finish the work together. We need your support! Can I count on you?"

Jason Bergmann, NUC Secretary-Treasurer

Focused on Jesus, we witness to the world!

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Collaboration and Teamwork

Much has been written about the importance of a cohesive team in administration. The SECC officer team has been reading about leadership and discussing where we believe God is guiding us. We understand that collaborative leadership means we have to have unity and share common goals with one another to be effective leaders.

Our team has various skills and strengths. Everyone is passionate about serving God and people. I am grateful for the group of officers God has put together, and we are committed to serving you.

I asked around the conference for words to describe each officer. These words give you a glimpse into their character:

Alberto Ingleton, vice president for Hispanic ministries: *accommodating, resourceful, approachable, conscientious, strategic and good-natured*

George King, vice president for Black ministries: *devoted, motivating, gregarious, warm-hearted, passionate and enthusiastic*

Jonathan Park, executive secretary: *innovative, happy, forward-thinking, level-headed, influential and competent*

Mario Perez, assistant to the president: *willing, diligent, kind, humble, faithful and trustworthy*

Elizer Sacay, vice president for Asian/Pacific ministries: *polite, keen, wise, considerate, compassionate and gentle*

Verlon Strauss, treasurer: *attentive, easy-going, candid, astute, witty and helpful*

In his book, "The Advantage," Patrick Lencioni lists several things a cohesive team models:

- Members of the team trust one another and can be genuinely vulnerable with each other.

- Team members regularly engage in productive, unfiltered conflict around important issues.

- The team leaves meetings with clear-cut, active, and specific agreements around decisions.

- Team members hold one another accountable to commitments and behaviors.

- Members of the leadership team are focused on team number one. They put the collective priorities and needs of the larger organization ahead of their own departments" (Lencioni, 71).

Ellen G. White had many words of advice on teamwork as well. Such advice can be found in her book *Evangelism*.

"Let not one man feel that his gift alone is sufficient for the work of God ... In order for the work to be built up strong and symmetrical, there is need of varied gifts and different agencies, all under the Lord's direction; He will instruct the workers according to their several ability. Co-operation and unity are essential to a harmonious whole, each laborer doing his God-given work, filling his appropriate position, and supplying the deficiency of another. One worker left alone is in



Pictured are the SECC officers. Top row from the left: Alberto Ingleton, George King, Elizer Sacay. Bottom row from left: Jonathan Park, Sandra Roberts, Verlon Strauss.

danger of thinking his talent is sufficient to make a complete whole" (Ev, 104.1).

Through significant prayer, reflection and time in conversation, our leadership team has come to recognize the importance of a shared vision and the understanding that God has started and will finish His work. This resulted in the officer team committing to the following:

1. We want to be people of prayer, individually and collectively.
2. We want to follow God, and be radically rooted in and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
3. We want to have hearts of service.
4. We want to lead with boldness and fearlessness.
5. We want to be collaborative in our approach.

We have been given an incredible opportunity to serve this conference over the next 5 years and will seek to be leaders that follow after the heart of Jesus.

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President

(Right) Pathfinders, from the Ontario church, serve food during the Christmas dinner, which was held for five families who spent the holidays in a battered women's shelter. (Below) The Ontario church held a dinner for five families and provided gifts for each. Pictured here, a boy, who attended the event, receives a bike as a gift and is overjoyed.



Churches Reach Out to Communities During Christmas

The Christmas season is a time when outreach feels more meaningful and can have a more personal touch. Several churches have striven to share these moments of celebration and remembrance with those who otherwise may not have been able to enjoy this special holiday. Many congregations know that Christmas and Easter are the two times nonchurchgoers will attend a service.

Corona Church

Corona church members have taken advantage of this by canceling Sabbath school classes, and in their stead, asking church members to invite friends and family members to an annual Christmas brunch.

"We have been doing this for 11 years," said Gary Taber, Corona church senior pastor. "I started this because Christmas fell on a Sabbath and it was a great way to encourage members

to invite their families and friends to church. I believe that it is a powerful outreach tool!"

Many church members came together to make sure that this was a successful event. A few days before the brunch, the church decorating committee transformed the fellowship hall.

"I see the Christmas brunch as an opportunity to benefit our church family and our greater community. I truly enjoy turning the space into a warm and inviting venue," said Tonjha Major, church member in charge of the decorating committee.

On the day of the brunch, guests were greeted by church elders who

asked if they could pray for them and their family. The annual meal is served on a long table, and everyone is encouraged to help themselves. This is the one time of the year that church members are asked to participate in the meal without having prepared anything themselves, as they normally would for a potluck.

Josie Asencio, associate pastor, said, "We do this as a service to our community and church members. I had one family ask me over and over again if I was sure that they did not have to bring anything. It took them a while, but they finally believed that all they had to do was invite people, give an approximate RSVP and come."

"I see the Christmas brunch as an opportunity to benefit our church family and our greater community. I truly enjoy turning the space into a warm and inviting venue."



(Left) Guests and members of the Corona church enjoy conversations and food during the annual Christmas brunch. (Right) Gary Taber, senior pastor of the Corona church, talks with guests and church members during the annual Christmas lunch.

Everyone who is a part of this yearly event sees it as an opportunity to reach out to extended members of the Corona church family, those in the community and those who do not often attend church.

"My husband doesn't really go to church, and this Christmas brunch is the one time a year I tell him that he has no choice in the matter.

He has to come because my church is going to know that I have a husband," said Patty Rindt, church member.

Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship of Rancho Cucamonga Church

Rancho Cucamonga church members conducted a Christmas-themed activity geared toward children. The Adventurer Club distributed presents to children who would not be able to spend Christmas with their parents, because they are incarcerated.

Seven children residing in the Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana and Ontario areas whose parents are incarcerated were identified by Milika Chiwai, the Adventurer assistant leader, and were asked to submit their Christmas wish list. Each child of an inmate was assigned to an Adventurer, who chose a gift from that child's wish list and wrapped it for them.

Before these gifts were given to the recipients on December 21, Dennis Michael, Rancho Cucamonga city mayor, came to thank the church for being involved in the community programs that help the poor and the needy. Themba Mzizi, pastor of the church, thanked the mayor and the city leaders for providing a conducive environment for the church to represent the love of Jesus in their community.

"Our children should be trained to lead others to Jesus," said Mzizi.



Church members of the Corona church pray with those with special requests.

Ontario Church

The youth group at the Ontario church held an event that almost seemed to combine the activities of the Corona and Rancho Cucamonga churches. They arranged a Christmas dinner, complete with gifts supplied by church members, for five families who spent the holidays in a battered women's shelter. Fernando

Navarro and Camille Alaras, youth leaders, along with countless others involved in this outreach, planned an evening full of food, fun and fellowship; and

were blessed by the response.

The Pathfinders wore their Class A uniforms to serve the guests. The

youth took part in cooking, setting up the fellowship hall and cleaning up afterward. Each family had their own round table, complete with a Christmas centerpiece and gifts for each family member. Before this event, church members were asked to take a wish list from a wreath and small Christmas tree in the church lobby and purchase gifts for these families. They did not disappoint.

One mother who attended the dinner said, "I have never sat down and had someone serve me dinner. I felt so blessed."

Another responded by saying, "I had been worried, wondering what I was

"I have never sat down and had someone serve me dinner. I felt so blessed!"

Upcoming Events

San Diego Academy Alumni Weekend

(March 7-9) The weekend's events include: Friday vespers 7 p.m. at Paradise Valley church; Sabbath worship 10 a.m. (alumni check-in is at 9:15 a.m.) in the San Diego Academy gymnasium; Alumni games Saturday night and Sunday. Dick Duerksen, class of '64, will be the featured speaker. Info: 619-267-9550.

Wedgewood Trio Concert

(March 22) 6:30 p.m. Garden Grove church, 12702 Ninth St., Garden Grove. The concert is free to attend. Info: 714-534-1987.

Petting Zoo (April 5) 5 p.m. Loma Linda church, 11125 Campus St, Loma Linda. Join in seeing rare and unique animals up close and learn interesting facts about them. Info: 909-558-4570.

SECC Jr. High Band Festival

(April 9) 7 p.m. Loma Linda Academy Gymnasium, 10656 Anderson St, Loma Linda. All are welcome. Info: Teri Vasquez, 951-509-2313.



Rancho Cucamonga youth pose for a picture with the children they provided gifts to.

going to do for my children this Christmas, but thank God they have presents to open."

A young boy from another family, who received a bicycle, was so excited that he almost rode his bike in the fellowship hall.

The blessing of reaching out, meeting needs and giving back is what God has called us to do in our own communities.

Compiled by Natalie Romero



January 22, 2014

Pine Springs Ranch Update

From the desk of Carmen Ibañez, camp director

It has been encouraging to see some progress in the recovery of Pine Springs Ranch. Many have been eager to see new construction, and it has finally happened! The framing to the new sewer plant building went up within a matter of days and the siding quickly followed. The inside of the building is now finished and ready for the equipment to be installed.

Most of the small sewer plant equipment has been delivered, but we're still eagerly awaiting some of the larger equipment. Since many of the different components had to be custom ordered, it took quite a while for them to arrive. A few of the items actually have taken months for them to be designed and built.

We had hoped to have been operational sooner. Unfortunately, due to the delays with the county permit process and with the equipment delivery, it did not



happen. We hope that by the time this article is printed, we will have a more solid prospective opening date.

The PSR staff has been very busy with the clean-up of what the fire left behind. The structural repairs to Town Hall have been completed, and it looks great! The melted phone and internet lines underneath Town Hall were replaced and now the phone lines are working in all of the buildings. A house that had been vacant and needing major repairs was finally fixed and remodeled. We had one

staff member that was living in a cabin, but thanks to renovation of this house, every staff member that lives on-site finally has a place to call home.

We continue to ask you to keep us in your prayers. Setbacks can be discouraging, but we know that God will use this experience so that He can bless us and others as well. We can't wait to have you, our supporters, back up here to celebrate God's blessings!

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
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CONFERENCE PRIORITIES • ENNO MÜLLER & CHLOE VANDER ZWAN, EDITORS

MARCH 2014

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

SCC
Restructuring
Community
Services



Crescenta
Valley School
Celebrates 90th
Anniversary



Evangelism



Betty Cooney
Title

CHURCHES USE ONLINE TOOLS

for Ministry and Outreach

We live in an amazing time! If ever there were a time when “Knowledge shall increase and many shall run to and fro” (Dan. 12:4), this would seem to be it. Technology of all kinds has changed our world dramatically in the past few decades—or weeks—and it promises to change even more in the days ahead.

Smart phones are helping in the process of getting smart homes which will interact with smart clothes, accessories and cars. We know that children, youth and young adults are the natives in this environment, having grown up with communication technology; the rest of us are immigrants trying to learn to navigate—or even just keep track of user names and passwords.

While some of us may enjoy (or tolerate) navigating the world of technology and Internet connectivity, it is important to prioritize: smart phones, iPads, websites, social media and more, are not the message. They are only tools, the means of sharing God’s Good News for the world in our ministry to others.

Technology played a role in the recent global attention focused on Pastor

Antonio Monteiro and church member Bruno Amah who reportedly had been wrongfully imprisoned since March 2012, in Togo without any word of a trial date or possible bail.

Adventists on social media picked up the story early on, telling others of the injustice that was being done. Using www.pray4togo.com and other initiatives, technology was used to unite the World Church in seeking Monteiro’s release. By the time more than 60,000 supporters had added their names to a petition circulated online, news came

that Pastor Monteiro was released. (Amah, unfortunately, was sentenced to 10 years.) Most people would never have heard of the pair or the injustice without an online petition on change.org and the website, that invited users to share a message: “Keep participating in the #pray4togo campaign. Pray sign the petition and help spread the banners

available at: <http://pray4togo.com>,” on Facebook and Twitter.*

Locally, technology is playing a major evangelistic role in many SCC churches. One of these is the Hacienda Korean church led by Pastor Choon Hwan Lee, who is using Skype, an online calling service, to host two early-morning Bible study classes. People on the call-line are from all over the U. S. and overseas, as well as in Los Angeles. Lee began his “Early Bird Bible School” phone sessions while a pastor in the Ohio conference. To help meet the nationwide

interest developed by pastors of U. S. Korean churches and keep classes small enough to allow interaction, teams of Korean pastors and volunteers across the U. S. serve as facilitators for subsidiary groups. Cost of the phone service? \$3 a month.

Young adults in the El Monte Vietnamese church are also online

**KNOWLEDGE SHALL
INCREASE AND
MANY SHALL RUN
TO AND FRO**

cont. on page 3

In Transition

(voted Jan. 8, 2014)

New Employees

Zachary Crook

Interim Marketing Director, SCC Education Dept., as of Jan. 1, 2014.

Joshua Rios

Stipend Assoc. Pastor, Eagle Rock church, as of Jan. 16, 2014

Changes within the Conference

Nenad Didara

From Assoc. Pastor, Eagle Rock church; to Assoc. Pastor, West Covina Hills church, as of Jan. 16, 2014

Albert Frederico

From Assoc. Pastor, Norwalk church; to Interim Pastor, Norwalk church, as of Jan. 12, 2014

Deanna Simeone

From Admin. Secretary, SCC President/Human Resources/Risk Mgmt. depts.; to Asst. Director, Human Resources/Risk Management depts., as of Jan. 1, 2014

Leaving Conference Employment

Kerry Barragan

Asst. Director, Human Resources/Risk Management depts., as of Jan. 2, 2014

Kevin Byrne

Stipend pastor, Ojai church, as of Dec. 31, 2013

Rebecca Hanan

Marketing director, SCC Education Department, as of Dec. 31, 2013

J. P. O'Connor

Pastor, Norwalk church, as of Dec. 31, 2013

Retirement

Robert Taylor

Pastor, Santa Barbara church, as of Dec. 31, 2013

Evangelism, cont. from page 4

Greater Los Angeles Region

The annual Black Ministerial Fellowship (BMF) Winter Revival concluded after a full week of preaching with Gene Donaldson DMin, of Washington D.C. The theme of the revival was *No Turning Back*. On the final night, Feb. 1, about 350 people were in attendance at the Fifty-Fourth Street church, including more than 25 repentant Christians and six baptisms. Adolphus Garnett, pastor of the church, hosted the event.

Elder Royal Harrison, BMF president and senior pastor of the Valley Cross Roads church held a three-week evangelistic series that began on Feb 1st, with Ron Smith, DMin, PhD, Southern Union president, as guest speaker.

The Greater Los Angeles Region Convocation will convene on April 25 and conclude on April 27, with our first annual Convocation Picnic at Kenneth Hahn park in Inglewood. The theme: "The Head and Not the Tail: We're Moving Forward, Fishing Not Wading." In this year of evangelism we are committed to baptism at every event and believe that Convocation will yield a great harvest for the Lord.

University church will host a Spring Revival with Elder Richard Barron May 4-10 and establish "Contact the Community," a monthly ministry to make the community aware of all of the ministries provided for them.

A number of other GLAR churches are participating in evangelism endeavors throughout the year. We are hoping that baptisms in 2014 will at least double the 139 reported for 2013.



Anthony J. Kelly
GLAR director

Literature Evangelism

Compton Community church just started *GLOW* at their church in January. Approximately 20 people went out for outreach into the Compton streets to share the love of Jesus through GLOW tracts and prayer. After just one hour of knocking on doors, volunteers found one who wanted Bible studies; and the group distributed more than 200 pieces of literature! After the outreach time, members shared testimonies and were completely refreshed and blessed by the short hour of service. If you would like to get your church involved in GLOW or door-to-door outreach, please call us at 818-546-8435.



Heidi Carpenter
director

SCC Restructuring Community Services

The North American Division has restructured its Adventist Community Services (ACS) Department, and conferences across the Division are participating in the process on the local level.

"As part of the restructuring plan for ACS in Southern California Conference," said James G. Lee, Jr., "we will be receiving a 14-foot trailer to use for distributing disaster-relief equipment among our churches. This will be arriving in April, 2014. In addition, the NAD restructuring plan includes our receiving a pallet of 240 five-gallon buckets. These will be shared with our churches to fill with

items for a disaster-relief response. (The cost of materials for each bucket will total approximately \$30 - \$35.) When filled, the buckets will be stored in another storage trailer that is parked on the campus of Glendale Adventist Academy.

"If a disaster strikes in our area, the trailer at the SCC office will take the filled buckets to the location for churches to use in whatever disaster-relief work they may be involved," Lee added.

"The blessing of having these vehicles, made possible by a grant obtained by the Pacific Union, is that at the point of greatest need in a disaster,



our churches will be prepared to help. We are grateful that the Division and the Pacific Union have provided for this great need."

Maitland De Pinto is directing the NAD restructuring; Charlene Sargent, a Disaster-Relief instructor for the Pacific Union Conference, is assisting.

for their church, according to Dan Quach, a software engineer who set up planning procedures with Google Drive spreadsheets (<http://tinyurl.com/mlwncjb>). Using Freeconferencecall.com to dial in for weekly online meetings, Vuong Doan, another young adult, uses the spreadsheets for meetings to plan Sabbath School and worship events (<http://tinyurl.com/mop3m93>) with a young adult team. The meetings allow participants to edit and make suggestions as group members talk together. It also

helps each young adult see how they can use their talents in the various Sabbath events. Another young adult in the church uses Google Hangout to conduct small-group Bible studies.

As Christ gives “the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip His people for works of service that the body of Christ may be built up,” (Eph. 4:11-13 NIV), so today, He equips His people with technology and other tools to represent Him. May

we be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves,” (Matt. 10:16 NKJV) as we harness smart technology for His glory.

“We must do something out of the common course of things. We must arrest the attention . . . [Christ] sought to gain the attention of the multitude; and then He proclaimed to them the truths of the gospel.” Review and Herald, Jan. 17, 1907.

**Excerpted from an Adventist News Network report, Jan. 12 2014, with reporting from the GC Communication Dept.*

CRESCENTA VALLEY SCHOOL *Celebrates 90th Anniversary*

Wendy DiLullo Newmyer

The Crescenta Valley Adventist School (CVAS) celebrated their 90th Anniversary on the weekend of January 24, with a schedule of inspiring features.

The weekend began with *Friday Night Haystacks* and a special performance by the CVAS Junior High’s hand-miming group, Young Hands for Him. The Sabbath service included a teacher dedication, as well as roses and certificates for alumni.

Mrs. Marjorie Wichman, who had taught at CVAS for 40 years, read the school history and alumni Jeff Loudon, Carolynda Applebury and Donna Wolpert gave testimonies of life after CVAS. An Italian luncheon followed, giving alumni and school families an opportunity to mingle and reminisce.

Ariel Quintana, past CVAS music teacher, rounded up the Alumni Choir to sign songs and end the Sabbath in worship. Previous principal Nedd Brown closed the Sabbath with fond CVAS memories.

At the Open House Extravaganza on Sunday, alumni and members of the community enjoyed food trucks, bouncers and games on campus. Pastor Gary Fisher rededicated



(l. to r.): Melissa Wilson, kindergarten teacher; Jenefer Stafford, grades 5/6 teacher; Chanda Castaneda, grades 7/8 teacher; SCC Associate Superintendent Pam Forbes, PhD; Wendy DiLullo-Newmyer, principal; Deedee Pardo, Home and School president; Debra Powell, CVAS office manager; Sharon Balta, grades 3/4 teacher. Photo by Mark Newmyer

the school campus and Associate Superintendent Pam Forbes, PhD, performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Alumni and new faces graced the campus, enjoying all that CVAS had to offer. Prospective students walked through the classrooms in awe of projects the students had completed. One child of an out-of-town alumna, remarked, “I wish we lived closer, Mommy. This school is fun!” Parents of prospective students were equally intrigued and filled out applications to ensure that their child had a reserved seat for the upcoming school year.

“This school is a hidden gem, nestled in the Foothills away from the bustle of the city, Principal Newmyer explained. “For 90 years, we have educated kindergartners through 8th-graders in the Crescenta Valley community, focusing on the whole child: spiritually, academically, physically and socially. At CVAS we ensure that class sizes are small, in order to build character through academics in a caring, Christian environment.” For enrollment or other information, please visit www.cvas.net or call 818-249-1504.

SCC EVANGELISM



Our conference is continuing to conduct **re:connect seminars** in our churches, as we reach out to members no longer worshiping with us. We are asking participating churches to each plan to send five delegates from their churches for this training. The following churches will be meeting for this vital ministry in March, 2014:

Mar. 1 – At the Smyrna church, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Participating churches: Berean, Olympic Korean, Breath of Life, 54th St., and Culver City.

Mar. 22 – At Hollydale church, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Participating churches: South Bay, Hawthorne, Rolling Hills, Bellflower, Norwalk, Downey, Compton Community, Tamarind Ave., Normandie Ave., Maranatha and Miramonte.

Gerard Kiemeney is director of the re:connect outreach.



James G. Lee, Jr.
Vice President
Evangelism director



L. A. Metro Region

The LA Metro Region is emphasizing “ministry in context” as its main evangelistic outreach method. This method is based on the biblical model of Jesus, as He reached out to people while He walked among us. “The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’” How this principle of “ministry in context” is applied by LA Metro churches

varies. Some examples include: The Vallejo Drive, Eagle Rock and White Memorial churches conducted CREATION Health seminars; Glendale City church sends its young people into its adjacent shopping center to share bottles of water with busy shoppers; Gardena Genesis Community celebrates block barbecues. The success of “Ministry in Context” is predicated upon members mixing with their community to show God’s love to an ever increasing relationship-starved society.

West Region

Lancaster church Pastor Ed Sammons reports that he is planning an evangelistic series that will be held on Wednesdays, Feb. 5 – Apr. 16, at 7:00 p.m. “Accompanying this series will be an outreach program aimed at children, called ‘Wednesday Night Kid’s Time!’ These meetings will be followed by intentional outreach over Easter, including a special Friday Night Agape Meal, Sabbath Service and on Easter Sunday, an “Easter Eggstravaganza” at Rawley-Duntley Park which will include a gospel presentation, Easter Egg Hunt, Games and BBQ. Additionally, we are planning a Health Expo toward the end of April or early May. Each of these events will build upon each other, with the intention of building ongoing relationships with guests new to our church.”

Canoga Park church Pastor Will McCall reports that church members will be distributing by hand and bulk mail the “Thunder in the Holy Land” DVDs. These DVDs are invitations to study the Bible using video presentations. Members were encouraged to list the friends and contacts with whom they share the DVDs, pray for them for three months. Church members fasted and prayed every second and fourth Sabbath from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. and were invited to watch the series on Tinyurl.com/k6rxeh4



Richard Roetbler
director

or in the sanctuary at 7:00 a.m. on those Sabbaths. With the follow-up, members had opportunities to establish relationships with those who became interested.

In March, **Lake of the Woods church** will conduct a Prophecy Seminar evangelistic series in Spanish, to reach the Hispanic community of Frazier Park. Meetings will be held in the meeting hall of the Frazier Park Library; Lay Pastor Jose Gutierrez will be the speaker. Toward the end of April, a Prophecy seminar will be held in English, to help answer the many questions about prophecy that community residents have raised.

Asian Pacific Region

The Glendale Filipino church hosted *The Golden Opportunity* Seminar Feb. 7-22, featuring speaker David Fernandez, SCC Literature Ministry assoc. dir. Meetings were held nightly at 7:00 p.m., except Thursdays and included three Sabbath worship services. Food was served every evening from 6:00 – 6:40 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Free children’s care and program were provided. SOULS WEST Bible workers Shekinah Diel, Candice Napod and Sheila Adea helped the church prepare for the series. Weekdays, they visited door to door in the community and give Bible studies. On Sabbaths, they conducted seminars for the members on how to give Bible studies. They also accompanied the members on door-to-door literature ministry distribution and invitation.



Samuel Lee,
Asian Pacific
Region director

The Hacienda Korean church held the Natural Health Seminar from Jan. 6 – 11, with about 60 people attending, including 20 from the community. Elder Moon-Hyun Lee was the presenter who shared principles of a natural healing system. Hacienda Korean church Pastor Choong Hwan Lee preached messages of God’s love through the healing stories of the Bible. Participants attended daily meetings from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The service of the members who helped with meeting preparations and the messages of the pastor touched hearts. As a follow-up to the series, the church is providing a cooking class every Sabbath afternoon, conducted by Yun-Kyung Kim, wife of Pastor Lee. About 15 non-members attend, along with church members.

The Valley United church held a week’s evangelistic series in early February. The speaker was Lee Sanggu, MD. The church advertised in a Korean daily newspaper and distributed 5000 flyers. Church members also invited friends personally. Said Pastor Andrew Kim, “By the time the series was nearing its opening night, 57 had registered from the community.”

Hispanic Region

Guillermo Garcia, Hispanic Region evangelist, reports that most SCC Spanish churches are preparing for the Metropolitan Evangelistic Campaign that will be held during the month of April. Churches are giving bible studies, holding Weeks of Prayer, health seminars, revelation seminars and preparing the people for the arrival of an evangelist in their congregation. With this concerted effort, pastors and members are praying for a soul harvest.



Luis Peña, Hispanic
Region director

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