

PACIFIC UNION recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY
>> DECEMBER 2012

11 Braille Readers Hangout provides learning and fellowship

17 ChurchApplied Newsletter

28 LSU sees large enrollment increase



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

SUNSETS

	12/7	12/14	12/21	12/28
Alturas	4:32	4:33	4:36	4:40
Angwin	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:57
Calexico	4:36	4:37	4:41	4:45
Chico	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:51
Eureka	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57
Fresno	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:51
Hilo	5:42	5:45	5:48	5:52
Honolulu	5:49	5:52	5:55	5:59
Las Vegas	4:25	4:27	4:30	4:34
Lodi	4:45	4:46	4:49	4:54
Loma Linda	4:39	4:41	4:44	4:48
Los Angeles	4:44	4:45	4:48	4:53
Moab	4:55	4:56	4:59	5:04
Oakland	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:58
Phoenix	5:19	5:20	5:23	5:26
Reno	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:44
Riverside	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:49
Sacramento	4:44	4:45	4:48	4:53
Salt Lake City	4:59	5:00	5:03	5:08
San Diego	4:42	4:43	4:45	4:49
San Francisco	4:50	4:52	4:55	4:59
San Jose	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:58
Tucson	5:18	5:20	5:23	5:27



about the cover

Bill Dycus and his wife, Sandra Abeyta, enjoy his surprise birthday party at the "Braille Readers Hangout" held at the Freemont church.

PHOTO BY MINERVA MOSTRALES



PACIFIC UNION recorder

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The Recorder is a monthly publication reaching approximately 76,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

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

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Postal Regs: The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 112, Number 12, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and is published monthly. Editorial office is at 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361: 805-497-9457. Periodical postage paid at Thousand Oaks, CA, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: No charge to Pacific Union Adventist church members; \$12 per year in U.S.; \$16 foreign (U.S. funds); single copy, \$0.85. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Circulation Department, Pacific Union Recorder, Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359.

Thoughts while gardening...

As I was growing up, my grandmother often took me with her to work in her garden. She did not own her own home, so she relied on friends to provide her with a place to grow her garden. This instilled an interest in gardening that continues to this day.

For me, gardening is a stress reliever, and it also gives me quite time to think while I work outside. The physical labor and the fresh air are great for the body, mind and spirit. After Adam and Eve sinned, the Lord told them that tending the soil would become a struggle to have the ground produce, and they would need to work hard from then on. Anyone who has done any gardening can relate to the challenges of working with the ground. It is hard work.

When you plant, that is only the beginning. You must tend the plants in order to have good results. If I neglect the tomato plants as they develop, they become unmanageable and spread where I don't want them. The same is true for green beans and cucumbers. I must train them to follow the trellis, and occasionally I need to tie the vines up. Recently, a number of Pathfinders were baptized. It was a joy to be able to witness this event. In the months and weeks leading up to baptism, there was a lot of study and nurturing. Now, the nurture and encouragement of these young people must continue so they will continue to develop strong roots and stay grounded in their beliefs.

A few weeks ago, I was putting out onion sets. I like the final product, but getting there is a challenge. The sets generally come in packs that have been started from seeds, and by planting time, there are many tangled roots. In order to preserve the plant, the soil must be carefully removed and then the plants are rinsed in water to make it easier to separate. As I worked through this process, I realized how easy it is



for Satan to take hold of us one root at a time. As the roots grow, they become entangled, and the longer they grow together, the more difficult it is to break away. The only way to defeat the roots that Satan wants to bind us with is to be on guard constantly. Prayer and Bible study help to keep us from getting entangled in the roots of sin.

Weeds are a challenge. In Matthew 13:24-25, the farmer's enemy came at night and planted weeds among the wheat. If you let the weeds grow, they can choke out the good plants, but sometimes it is hard to tell the genuine plant from the weeds.

All of the hard work involved in tending the garden fades away when it comes time for the harvest. It is fun to create a salad straight from the garden to the table. Just as the tending of the garden produces a harvest, so it is that our actions and words, along with the Holy Spirit, can nurture those who are seeking.

Is your garden producing the results for the harvest you want? The Lord has promised that He will come again very soon and harvest those who are ready to live with Him forever. I want to be part of that great harvest — don't you?



Theodore Benson
Pacific Union Treasurer

Perris Spanish church hosts free dental clinic

When presented with an opportunity that seems too good to be true, most people usually are suspect. They ask, why is this so easy, is there a catch, or do I actually deserve this?

The community surrounding the Perris Spanish church grappled with these questions recently. They had the chance to attend a free dental clinic hosted by the church during which four Orange county dentists volunteered their time to perform dental services. This was especially for those who were uninsured and would have no other way of receiving care.

Raul Hernandez, pastor of Perris Spanish church, challenged his members to develop innovative outreach ideas. The goal was to develop authentic relationships with members of the community.

Consequently, the church was involved in local runs, such as the Spartan run, an eight-mile cross-country run. Church members also formed a soccer team to reach out to the community.

Jorge Geronimo, a dentist in the church, came up with an idea of hosting a dental clinic at the church. This concept was met enthusiastically not only in the church, but also by three of his dental colleagues. Although Geronimo's colleagues are not part of the Perris Spanish church, they joined the effort willingly and selflessly, volunteering their time and service.



People from the community line up to get an appointment for the free dental service provided by the Perris Spanish church.

The church had a challenge ahead — if they invited too many people to the clinic, they would not be able to assist everyone. They sent out flyers and invited people in the surrounding areas to attend a Q&A session held on a Saturday night. Through a game show, the four doctors were able to answer questions posed by those in attendance. Afterward, people were able to sign up for different time slots on the following day to receive free dental care.

The next day, more than 60 people that had registered showed up for their appointments. They also had 20-some walk-ins, for a total of 86 patients that day. The volunteer church members made sure that everyone was comfortable and taken care of during their wait.

The response from the community was overwhelming. Many of the people from the community wanted to know why the church was doing something like this and what they would get in return.

Hernandez explained that the purpose of the event was to let people know that the church cares for people.

"This kind of event builds trust and relationships between the community and the church. It also shows that health is a vital role in the life of an Adventist," said Hernandez.

Many who attended the clinic now attend the church.

"We need to reach people where their needs are," said Hernandez. "We need to become friends with people instead of trying to use an evangelism tool. If that friendship grows, then you have the opportunity to share with them what you believe."

Due to the response, the church has supported the opening of a new clinic in that area. Every Wednesday, they provide free dental care for people who could otherwise not afford it.

In return, those who receive service are asked to "pay it forward." They can choose to volunteer at the clinic or help in the local food banks or soup kitchens. The church has called this innovative outreach, but it is actually a much older model.

"Compassion... love... It is what Jesus taught us to do," added Hernandez.

Mario Munoz



Four dentists volunteered their Sunday to give free treatments to people in Lake Perris.

Ontario church answers the call to service

Tuesday mornings are a lifeline for many community members who receive food and clothing from the community services center at the Ontario church. Families and individuals visit the residential home-turned center, waiting in the spacious living room to receive baskets of resources. Each week, 12-15 volunteers work in the center under church member Nona Korcek, who has directed the program for over 35 years.

"I'm very fortunate to have willing volunteers assist me each week," says Korcek, 83. "If you only knew how much we do here; it's impossible to do it alone."

The community center receives resources each month from a number of donors. One church member, in particular, is responsible for the majority of the center's funding, keeping its doors open. Trader Joe's donates many of the perishable groceries. Individuals in the community and church members donate clothing and other household items. And one of the church members travels to Food for Life Bakery, an Adventist business in Corona, to pick up boxes of fresh bread each month for the center.

The center is housed in a two-story residential building next to the church and was

donated by a church member several decades ago. It still contains all of the elements of a home — a kitchen, dining room, living room, office area, etc. Volunteers keep it in good condition, making it a clean and welcoming space for those who visit. Guests who arrive are first registered in the front office and then seated on sofas in the living room to wait for their resource baskets.

"My first week as interim senior pastor here at Ontario church, I walked into the community center and was amazed at the scope of resources being provided," says Justin Singh. "Here, they are truly taking to heart the gospel commission to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and treat the poor with dignity."

Those benefiting from the center's resources are most often homeless individuals, single mothers and senior citizens. In addition to offering resources on Tuesday mornings, Korcek is available during the week in case any family has an emergency. She offers to bring people food or clothing at other times if needed.

"In addition to food, clothing and occasionally shoes, we also provide them with copies of *The Great Controversy*, *Desire of Ages*, and *Steps to Christ* if they are interested, along with



Chris Tcherkezian, one of the volunteers, carries bags of clothing into the community center.

free Bibles," says Korcek. "We don't go so far as to provide them with Bible studies, but if they would like them, we connect them to people who can."

Korcek continues to help gather, sort and distribute the resources for the center each week. She doesn't see herself stepping down anytime soon. She strongly believes that, "God will tell me when the time is right, and until then, I have plenty of work to do."

Singh praises this program. "Not every church may be equipped with a facility like this one," he says. "But I believe every church could make this work a priority and be a beacon of light in the community where they worship."

Those interested in more information about the center can contact the church office at 909-986-8261.



Volunteers relax after a day of hard work.

Rebecca Barcelo

Youth leaders come together at SECC's Gear Up convention

In the past, youth ministries in the Southeastern California Conference have been fragmented. Sometimes schedules are crossed, or themes are repeated and leaders may find themselves inadvertently competing with each other for time and space.

The youth ministries department recognized the need to provide a place where youth leaders from various ministries could be together in one location, allowing for a unified approach to ministry. Manny Vitug, associate youth director for children's ministries, noticed that leaders were already attending different conventions and seminars. He had the vision to create one event that could meet all the needs for youth leaders in local churches.

Besides creating unity amongst the various leaders from churches, this would also benefit leaders who were involved in several ministries at the same time. Without a central place to

receive leadership training, these leaders often had to choose between different conferences.

Rudy Carrillo, youth director, as well as the rest of the conference youth ministries team, embraced this idea. After three years of planning, the all-inclusive conference took place Oct. 18-20 at the Ontario Convention Center. It was called the Gear Up conference.

The location, the Ontario Convention Center, was an ideal site. The convention center is close to an airport and hotels, providing easy access for presenters and attendees.

On Thursday afternoon, Oct. 18, the conference began. After registration, there were several learning labs, seminars and exhibits for the attendees. The day ended with the first general session. The following days included more of the same, with two general sessions on Friday, and two more on Sabbath.



Kyle Allen, pastor of Mentone church, shares with youth leaders the importance of family ministry in a church.

PHOTOS BY ENNO MÜLLER



The Kansas Avenue youth choir sings passionately during the Sabbath morning service.

The speakers included a variety of leaders that have been involved in youth ministry and leadership throughout their lives.

James Black, youth and young adult ministries director at the North American Division, is responsible for launching many youth initiatives and training resources.

Doug Fields, an author and renowned speaker, was also invited. He worked with youth at the Saddleback church and was also the teaching pastor for 18 years.

Yamileth Bazan, vice president at La Sierra University, was another speaker at one of the general sessions. Before working at the university, she served as associate youth director for eight years.

The last of the four invited speakers was Emil Peeler, director of church growth and

discipleship at the conference. Besides his work at the conference, he also teaches as an adjunct professor at Loma Linda University and pastors the 16th Street church in San Bernardino.

In addition, more than 60 presenters, including Pathfinder and Adventurer club directors, family ministry leaders, pastors, chaplains, family therapists and more, added to the mix.

Approximately 500 leaders attended the conference. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Jesus Ortega, a youth leader at the San Diego Spanish church, enjoyed the presentations by the main presenters. "I was very impressed with the passionate speakers during the general session," he said.

There were also young people at the convention who were not only attending, but participating, as well. Craig Hadley, youth

pastor at the Redlands church, organized a group of high school and college students to lead out in praise music. The students sang, played guitar, drums and strings.

"Being a musician myself," added Ortega, "I really liked the music."

Cristher Gamayo, a 19-year-old youth leader from the Loma Linda Filipino church, spoke highly of the workshops.



Yami Bazan, vice president at La Sierra University, challenges the audience in her talk.



Marilynn Loveless, professor at La Sierra University, teaches youth leaders how to engage youth in drama.



During the final prayer of dedication, participants hook their carabiner into a rope, to signal that all are tied together.

"Something that I really liked from my workshop was that the presenter told us to incorporate nature into ministry. Many times we think that church belongs in a building and we forget to appreciate God's creation."

Ultimately, the goal of the conference was to energize and equip leaders with the tools they need for effective ministries at the church level. But that's not all. "This was an effort for us to model to our churches what we would like to see in our congregations," said Eric Penick, associate youth director for senior youth and young adult ministries. "We want all youth ministries to work together. That way, the individual ministries are not fighting for the same kid, but rather are interested in the best for him or her."

"This conference is excellent," said Tiffanie Willis-Archie, an exhibitor for YES from Huntsville, Ala. "This idea needs to be duplicated. It needs to be done across the country."

The youth ministries department plans on putting on a conference like this again. But in order to meet the needs better, they will be sending out surveys to attendees, as well as to those who may not have been able to attend, in an effort to see what things went well and what could be improved.

Mario Munoz

First Tongan company organized in the NCC

About 400 Tongans from around the United States gathered at the All Nations church of Elk Grove on Sabbath afternoon, Sept. 15, to support the organization of the Sacramento Tongan Seventh-day Adventist Company. The new company is the only Tongan congregation in the Northern California Conference.

"It was a joy to see that God's work is moving forward and that God answers prayer!" said Sione Ve'a Latuhoi, the congregation's leader.

The afternoon's theme was "We've Come This Far By Faith." NCC President Jim Pedersen presented the main message. Vi'Louis Arreola, III, Asian/Pacific ministries director for the Pacific Union and the North American Division, offered words of encouragement. Other participants included NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson and NCC Asian/Pacific Ministries Coordinator William Gemora. Leaders of Tongan congregations in Burlingame, Los Angeles and Reno contributed to the program, as did the Chorale Hallelujah from the Los Angeles Tongan church and the chorale from the Sacramento Samoan church.

The Sacramento area is home to about 3,000 Tongans, and the Adventist congregation feels a great responsibility to reach out to them. "We need a church to preach the three angels' messages — to be a lighthouse for the Tongan

people here so they'll hear the message of Jesus Christ," said Latuhoi.

The Tongan group began in 2006 with a few families worshiping together in their homes. Latuhoi, his wife Lineni Atiloa, their five sons and one daughter had moved to the area from Los Angeles so that Latuhoi could attend the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism. After he graduated, Latuhoi began leading the Tongan group.

In 2007, they began meeting at the Sacramento Southgate church, and held their first evangelistic meeting in a community hall. Sonatane Vunileva, from Los Angeles, presented the two-week series of meetings in the Tongan language, and 12 people were baptized afterward, with three more later that same year.

In 2008, Peni Moto, a retired pastor from New Zealand, spoke to 400 people at another evangelistic series in Sacramento, and 15 more were baptized. The next year, the group held two more series of meetings, and they have held one each year since then — including one that began on Oct. 28, 2012, with 'Etuini Mouna from Seattle, Wash.

Although the meetings take a lot of work and energy on the part of the leader and members, they can see "so many ways that God's hand is leading this church," said Latuhoi. "The people know their message and their commitment to the Word of God."

Charter member Kalolaine Poulivaati travels an hour to get to church, but she believes it is worth the drive to be part of a congregation reaching out to the Tongan people. "I love to share with other people in the Sacramento area who know nothing about the love of God," she said. "I tell you, God is good! Wonderful!"



Sione Ve'a Latuhoi (left) baptized Paea Inukiha'angana on the day of the organization service.



People from around the United States came to celebrate the Sacramento Tongan company's organization, including members of a brass band from a Tongan congregation in Arizona, who played during the Sabbath morning worship service.



The Sacramento Tongan company is the only Tongan congregation in the Northern California Conference.

MELE LAUTAIMI

Lily M. Poulivaati

Your Neighbor Thrift Store opens in Sacramento

As the result of much prayer and hard work, Your Neighbor Thrift Store — a community services venture operated by Sacramento Central church — is now open and thriving. The 6,000-square-foot store is located at 6700 Folsom Boulevard in Sacramento.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE THOMPSON KIPPEL



Your Neighbor Thrift Store is located at 6700 Folsom Blvd. in Sacramento. "It's a wonderful opportunity for us to witness and meet people in the community," said Sacramento Central church Senior Pastor Doug Batchelor.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, customers, volunteers and church members filled the area in front of the store in anticipation of the 9:30 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony. Gordon Botting, Northern California Conference Community Services director, officiated the event, along with Teri and Buddy Harper, the store's managers.

Moments later, a surge of eager shoppers began perusing the well-stocked aisles and finding bargains. Sacramento Central church Associate Pastor Harold White toured the store



Associate Pastor Harold White, store manager Teri Harper, NCC Community Services director Gordon Botting, store manager Buddy Harper, and Associate Pastor Mike Thompson cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Your Neighbor Thrift Store.

amidst the shoppers. "I think this place is fantastic!" he said. "We have a steady stream of guests, and we have lots of good bargains — people are snatching them up!" Within the first four hours after opening, more than a third of the furniture on the floor had sold.

Meeting the needs of the local community is the priority of the volunteer staff at Your Neighbor Thrift Store. Not only does the store carry used goods, it also has new items, antiques, a woodwork shop where furniture is repaired, and a section that Buddy Harper is very excited about: "a wonderful book ministry!"

While proceeds from sales will help cover operational expenses, ultimately the store's primary goals are to financially help local humanitarian organizations and expand the Lord's work. "This is very exciting," said Doug Batchelor, senior pastor of the Sacramento Central church, "because we're doing 'exhibit A' of what Jesus talked about — converting earthly resources into the currency of heaven. If you'd like to help expand the kingdom of God, then support Your Neighbor Thrift Store."

Operating a project on this scale not only requires a large volunteer staff, but also a constant flow of merchandise to sell. "Please don't give the store anything that you yourself wouldn't want. It can't be garbage. We need furniture and seasonally current clothing," said Buddy Harper.

Along with merchandise donations, Your Neighbor Thrift Store also needs volunteers. "Sundays are the perfect day for an influx of volunteers, because we need to hang clothes, clean, stock the store, and keep up the antique shop," said Harper. "What better way to be a witness than to offer your service and help this store be successful in ministering to our



Shoppers explore the merchandise, from clothes to home furnishings.



A group of volunteers prepares for the store's grand opening.

brothers and sisters? Everyone can take ownership in this ministry. We can all share Jesus!"

For more information about Your Neighbor Thrift Store, e-mail yourneighborthrift@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/YourThriftStore.

Debbie Thompson Kippel



Antonio Cruz, Christany Harper and Jessie Gabriel help in the antique section.

PICM graduates eight lay pastoral assistants

This year, the Pacific Institute of Christian Ministry (PICM) conducted graduation ceremonies for eight students in its Certified Lay Pastoral Assistant (CLPA) program. On Aug. 1, two graduates received diplomas in a ceremony at the Shasta Lake Bible Fellowship company, and on Oct. 27, six others graduated during the Northern California Conference Asian/Pacific Convocation held at the Fairfield Community church.

Now an official ministry of the Pacific Union and the North American Division, PICM was founded in 2006 by VicLouis Arreola, III — then pastor of the All Nations church of Elk Grove, now director of Asian/Pacific ministries for the Pacific Union and the North American Division. Since its beginning, the institute has grown from 24 students to 318 students enrolled from 15 countries. “My goal is to give the students a shadow of seminary,” said Arreola. “PICM is an

equipping ministry for local churches where many graduates have gone on to become Bible workers, lay leaders and lay pastors.”

PICM’s objectives are to help church members discover and use their spiritual gifts effectively; to provide professional training in ministry for all church members; to prepare gifted members to disciple others in the local church; to encourage more lay leaders to work with pastors in fulfilling the great commission; and to adapt the concept that every pastor is an equipper and every member a minister.

The institute’s main campus is at the Fairfield Community church, with an extension campus at Shasta Lake Bible Fellowship company. “We are very fortunate to have this type of training available for our laity,” said James Crabtree, Mount Shasta church/Shasta Lake Bible Fellowship company pastor.

Upon graduating, the newly commissioned lay pastors were eager to return to their home churches to put their ministry dreams into action. Shawn Anderson, an elder at the San Andreas church, reaches out to his local community through the church’s community garden. Ted Neely works with prison ministries in the California correctional system. David Brown serves as lay pastor/leader for the Shasta Lake Bible Fellowship company and as PICM student services coordinator. Yvonne Gabrys (Livermore), Christian Po’oi (Sacramento Tongan company) and Mike Fui (Riverside) are all active as elders in their local churches.

DAVID BROWN



Barbara Allen, Christian Po’oi, Shawn Anderson, Dennis Reed, Yvonne Gabrys and Mike Fui (not pictured) received their Certified Lay Pastoral Assistant diplomas on Oct. 27.

BRADLEY BELLINGTON



VicLouis Arreola, III, far right, gives the pastoral charge to graduates at the Shasta Lake Bible Fellowship company, as spouses, friends and family listen.

JOSHUA BROWN



“I would strongly encourage any elder or lay leader to consider this training to help them in their local church to assist their local pastor. It gives you the tools and knowledge necessary to be effective,” said David Brown (far right) with PICM director of academic affairs Imelda Arreola and PICM director VicLouis Arreola, III.

LONG THATCHER



David Brown and VicLouis Arreola, III, present graduates with their diplomas at the Fairfield Community church.

Barbara Allen serves as an elder at the Market Street church. “This course has caused me to get more involved in homes and hospitals, offering prayer, singing, reading Scripture with and for members and their families who just might need a spiritual lifting,” she said.

Dennis Reed, an elder at the Hayward church, has served as an international lay evangelist with ShareHim. “Lay people are the frontline ministers,” he said. “They don’t just minister in church; they minister in factories, offices, schools, hospitals, clinics, neighborhoods and health clubs.”

PICM has announced the creation of an additional advanced program — Certified Pastoral Ministry Associate (CPMA). Registration begins in the spring. For more information, contact David Brown, student services coordinator, at picministry@aol.com.

David Brown

“Braille Readers Hangout” provides learning and friendship

Once a month the Fremont church hosts an educational ministry — the “Braille Readers Hangout” — where visually challenged adults learn to read Braille using the 28 fundamental beliefs of Adventism as their study materials.

Dexter Thomas, pastoral assistant at the Richmond Beacon Light church, designed the curriculum and teaches the classes with the help of Fremont church members. He used the children’s version of the fundamental beliefs as the basis of the study materials “because of its brevity and simplicity,” he said.

Each lesson uses one of the fundamental beliefs to illustrate a Braille concept. For example, Thomas explains one of the many contractions in Braille, and then the students read a

fundamental belief to see how the contraction is used. “Blind individuals improve their Braille literacy and at the same time learn these precious biblical truths,” said Thomas, who is blind.

Although many audiobooks and other listening materials are available for visually challenged people, Thomas stresses the importance of Braille. “Recorded materials do not teach sentence construction or spelling; therefore, reading Braille is essential to a blind individual’s literacy,” said Thomas, who holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Even more important than the lessons is the fellowship. Many blind people feel very lonely and isolated. “We advertised our free Braille classes as a fun and exciting learning experience

with food, friendship and fellowship,” said Thomas. “The food and fellowship not only attracted the visually challenged, but also their caregivers and Fremont church members, all of whom create a warm, non-threatening ministry environment.” Thomas advertised the classes at schools and organizations for the blind and spread the word through PhoneFaith, the free telephone ministry that he created for the visually impaired (www.phonefaith.org).

Volunteers drive to the homes of interested people to bring them to class. “They impress me; they are so eager,” said church member Minerva



Dexter Thomas (far left) teaches a Braille class at the Fremont church. “Visually impaired individuals are used to people rushing by them and feeling lonely in a sighted world,” he said. “When we reached out to them, we were able to bring confidence and assurance to them that there are still people in the world who care.”

Mostrales. When drivers arrive to pick them up, “they are already waiting outside.” Mostrales is also impressed with the way the students help each other in class. “A faster reader will put his hand on another’s hand to guide it,” she said.

Fremont church members have enjoyed getting to know their guests. “They have a wonderful sense of humor,” said Barbara Cook. “We’re forming bonds with them. They want to be our friends.” In October, church members organized a surprise birthday party for one of the class members, complete with a whole meal, cake and gifts.

Last fall, the Fremont church received a grant from the Pacific Union to help start the classes. “Our prayer is that such a ministry will spread throughout the unions as churches partner with the disabled and their families for their wholeness and to give them a foretaste of the unconditional love and acceptance we will all experience in the earth made new,” said Thomas.

To find out more information about bringing a Braille reading ministry to a local church, e-mail Dexter Thomas at phonefaith1@gmail.com.

Julie Lorenz

PHOTOS BY MINERVA MOSTRALES



Dexter Thomas helps one of the students at the “Braille Readers Hangout.”



A student guides a classmate’s hand during a Braille lesson.

Forty-nine baptized at Hispanic youth retreat

The SCC Hispanic Youth Ministry held its 2012 retreat at Camp Cedar Falls, Angelus Oaks, Calif., on Labor Day weekend. More than 300 college and high school-aged youth attended. They represented the more than 53 SCC Hispanic churches and the Fontana Hispanic church from the Southeastern California Conference.

Themed “Coexist: The Supremacy of Christ,” the weekend was filled with challenging messages by Pastor Gilbert Cangy, youth ministries director for the Adventist world church; stirring devotionals given by youth pastors; and uplifting music shared by the San Fernando Spanish praise team.

When an invitation was given for campers to connect or reconnect with Christ through baptism, 49 accepted the call.

“I still cannot believe what we experienced here,” said Pastor Pablo Gaitan, HYM leader. “The Spirit of God showed us that He still calls young people to Jesus in huge ways.” To see so many youth around the swimming pool witnessing the baptismal ceremony of their friends, sometimes entering the swimming pool themselves — in groups of 5, 10; up to 30 at one point — to show support and share in the joy, singing, applauding, crying, shouting amens, was not just the highlight of the retreat, it was its main purpose.



Andrea and Santos Rivera embrace after their baptism by Pastor Herbert Hernandez. On Facebook the next day, Andrea posted, “It’s all a new beginning for me and my brother, Santos.”

of El Sereno Spanish church and a student at California State University at Northridge, posted on Facebook the next day, “God did wonders that day.”

The following week, Cangy wrote on the HYM Facebook wall, “That was a real special event, where 49 second- and third-generation Hispanic youth of Southern California got baptized over the weekend. We give Him the glory and reap the blessings.”

Sam Del Pozo

PHOTOS BY JAVIER NAVARRETE



Retreat participants had 24-hour-a-day access to the prayer room.

Away from the pressures, noise and distraction of Los Angeles urban and suburban life, attendees enhanced their special encounter with God in nature by participating in two other activities that allowed them plenty of time to connect and mingle: a talent show and a soccer and volleyball championship.

In one of the main sermons titled “Dare to Dream,” Cangy challenged youth to reflect on the story of Moses, who received God’s grace and overcame his failures, then saw the fulfillment of his dreams. The message ended with a call for the youth to accept the love of God in spite of themselves and their pasts, because they are never beyond His love.



Pastor Gilbert Cangy interspersed his sermon with his own testimony of failure, hope, healing and forgiveness.

West Coast Worship & Music Conference trains and inspires music ministers

It was lights, cameras and Holy Ghost action throughout the 6th Annual West Coast Music & Worship Conference Sept. 26-29 at the Berean church in Los Angeles. Doors opened on Wednesday evening to 202 participants from around the U.S., as well as to local guests and church members.

Seven presenters taught sessions on Thursday and Friday evening. Participants were exposed to a myriad of information to use in their music ministries. "I learned that having worship privately reflects on how effective or impactful your public worship will be," commented Lara Dada of the 54th Street and Smyrna churches.

"Public worship starts with private devotion," affirmed David Simpkins, a Compton Community church member.

Dr. James Doggette Sr. delivered the consecration message. Bobby Mitchell, director of African-American ministries for the Pacific Union, presented devotions. "I received answers

to a lot of questions that I had been pondering," said Ernie Perez, a first-time participant and member of a local Lutheran church.

Kyle Richardson, a Wings of Love church member, led song services. Azusa Pacific University's 80-voice men's chorale also performed.

Lancaster church member Ruth Bergstrom

Jones received recognition for her songbook, "Songs of Love and Praise." Her husband, retired Pastor Edmund Jones, sang one of her songs for participants. Two other awards went to first-time honorees Wayne Bucknor, Ph.D., and James Doggette Sr., D.Min.

"I am returning from the music conference to my church so full and ready to be used by God," reflected Nichole Dorsey.

The next West Coast Music & Worship Conference is scheduled for Sept. 25-28, 2013.

Deidre Hodnett



(L. to r.) Honoree Ruth Bergstrom Jones; Larry L. Caviness, SCC president; and Deidre Hodnett, event founder and coordinator.



The WCMC 125-voice mass choir had only two days to rehearse the songs presenters taught them for the Saturday evening concert.

Four Reversing Diabetes seminars held in 2012

About 200 members and guests attended Reversing Diabetes, Obesity and Heart Disease seminars at four different locations during 2012. Physicians volunteered at each site, sharing presentations on nutrition, exercise, stress management and other lifestyle issues, answering questions and accompanying participants on walking and exercise options. Lorayne Barton, M.D., M.P.H., served as medical coordinator and a presenter for the weekend initiatives, held Friday evenings through Sunday afternoons.



Odette Johnson, the cooking instructor for the Kellogg Center RDOH, and her assistant, Rolene Hanson (not shown), demonstrate healthy cooking techniques.

The first of the four seminars was held at the 54th Street church in South Los Angeles. The church's health ministry director, Millicent Lee, and a team of volunteers prepared the meals; Adolphus Garnett, pastor, coordinated location aspects. People attending the seminar expressed relief for one-on-one physician responses to longstanding concerns. Worship featured a sermon incorporating health principles and belief, delivered by Barton. Yolanda Palmer, a certified cooking instructor and lifestyle educator, taught two cooking classes.

The largest seminar was held at the annual May Hispanic health retreat at Camp Cedar Falls. Coordinated by Josefina Montiel, Hispanic

Region health ministry leader, it was the first RDOH seminar conducted in Spanish. "One of our members experienced life-changing, even life-saving, results," said Gloria Huerta, seminar co-coordinator. "For five years, Irma had uncontrolled blood sugar levels of 250 and above. Since she has put the seminar principles into practice, her blood sugar level has normalized.

"Her doctor asked her what she has been doing to achieve her good results. After she explained the RDOH program, he agreed that it had apparently helped, and discontinued all but one of her medications."

A second seminar in May was held on the campus of Cal PolyTech, in a hotel facility that is part of the university's Hotel Management School. Two Adventist doctors actively promoted attendance with patients and colleagues, resulting in two non-Adventist physicians and a nutritionist from a nearby hospital attending, and a number of patients.

The final seminar was held at the Hawthorne church for Polynesian Adventists and their friends. Felicia Tonga, a senior La Sierra University communication major and a Hawthorne church member, designed the flyer for the event and helped with promotion. Participants came from the Los Angeles and La Sierra Tongan churches and the Tongan group at the Hawthorne church, as well as from the Compton Samoan church. Others from the Hawthorne church also attended. Polynesian women who helped purchase food and prepare it for the six seminar meals expressed appreciation for the hands-on learning. "I learned so much, even before the seminar began," said one cook. Seni Tonga, a medical missionary from the Arizona Conference, presented the event's cooking



Gloria Huerta (left), co-coordinator for the Spanish-language seminar, leads a group in one of the walking sessions, conducted after most meals during the weekend as part of the Reversing Diabetes program.

classes and coordinated a health-related VBS on Sabbath so parents could attend the meetings.

Young adults expressed appreciation for the meetings. "I realized that the way I was living will drive me to an early grave. If I keep eating the way I eat, my parents will end up burying me," said Travis Faletiu, a young Compton Samoan church member. "What good am I to God if I am dead? This program helped me realize that [dying young] can be prevented. God has a plan for all of us, but we have to be healthy so He can use us to the best of our ability."

Pastor Javier Elenes, who attended the Kellogg Center seminar, reported, "I have lost 20 pounds, am continuing to eat a plant-based diet and walk three miles a day."

Betty Cooney



Velma Manu Naki teaches a VBS class at the Polynesian seminar.

“Bethlehem” rebuilds after destruction by storm

PHOTOS BY BONNIE IVERSEN



Students, staff, alumni and community participate in the annual Journey to Bethlehem event.

An annual three-night event planned to highlight the promise of Christ as Savior of all has had its challenges since 2007 when it was first held. In December 2011, the event had to be cancelled altogether, less than two days from opening, according to Bonnie Iversen, coordinator.

The event, which San Gabriel Academy hosts, is a community-oriented outreach titled “Journey to Bethlehem,” said Iversen. “Student guides in Hebrew costumes lead visitors past scenes depicting the Christmas story. Live animals being tended by the shepherds add authenticity.

Last year, 90 mile-per-hour winds destroyed almost everything just before opening night. “Preparing and staging the event takes months,” said Iversen. “We were devastated, but determined to rebuild in 2012.”

Messages from alumni and parents flooded in with offers of help in rebuilding for 2012. “I will come back from my college to help rebuild,” said one alum. “This annual event was one of the most significant events of my high school experience.” International students say that the event changed them, giving them a different picture of who Christ is.

More than 7,000 people have attended the events; many were new to Christian education.

Because of the event’s purpose, Iversen added, “Satan has tried repeatedly to thwart the efforts of this school. For the first event in 2007, a very strong and slow major storm was predicted. For two weeks before the event, K-12 students and faculty circled the soccer field daily, praying for God’s blessing, good weather and increased faith. On opening night, as the

skies grew darker, a few students asked Iversen, “Don’t you think we should take in some of our props? It looks like it’s going to rain.”

“We’ll be fine,” she said calmly. “It won’t rain here.” Inside, she pleaded, “Please, God, don’t let us down.”

All that evening there was a circle of clear, starry night sky above the field. Parents called to ask, “We’re a mile away, and it’s hailing here. Did they have to cancel?” They were told that the sky over the campus was clear. Word began to spread. Almost 1,000 people came, and people talked about the miracle on the soccer field. The students’ faith grew because of that weekend. Parents marveled at how the storm was all around the school, but the campus was dry.

But in 2011, the huge beams of the marketplace were left in a pile of rubble the morning after the wind storm; backdrops and scenes were ripped apart, and projectiles had

pierced through the wood of the scenes. Lights were shattered, glass littered the field, and electrical wires were exposed. No scene was left standing — except one: the manger. To many, that was a sign that, in spite of the devastation, God still stood ready to enable rebuilding. Satan had not won.

Journey to Bethlehem 2012 is scheduled for Dec. 7-9, ready to once more share the story of Christ with the local community.

Betty Cooney and Bonnie Iversen



Only the star hovering over the manger scene was untouched by the 2011 storm. Props valued at \$70,000, borrowed from a film production supply warehouse, remained safe in the truck that brought them.



Months of work culminated in near total ruin in 2011.

Adventist Health presents physician mission awards

Adventist Health doctors are on a mission. The mission is to heal — not just the body, but the mind and spirit, as well. “It’s our privilege to acknowledge the compassionate work of those who distinguish themselves from the ordinary,” says Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for Mission and Spiritual Care.

Each October, Adventist Health presents Physician of the Year Mission Awards at the annual Physician Leadership Symposium. This two-day symposium brings together more than 200 attendees, including physician leaders, as well as other key hospital and corporate administrators and staff from across California, Oregon, Hawaii and Washington.

A highlight of the event, in addition to a performance by Take 6, was a dinner ceremony that recognized the Mission Award winners, who are chosen from among more than 4,500 physicians associated with Adventist Health’s hospitals and clinics. The honorees, selected by

their hospitals, are chosen as exemplary health care providers because they embody the organization’s mission and focus on whole person care. Characteristics of the nominees include:

- a life of integrity,
- incorporating loving care into their practice,
- empathy for patients and staff, and
- integrating spirituality into the patient care plan.

“Our mission motivates us to seek the best for our communities. We remain focused and dedicated to patient safety, quality, innovation and stewardship as we each aim to be living examples of our mission,” says Crampton, who also served as master of ceremonies for the dinner.

Peggy Martin

2012 Physician of the Year Mission Award Honorees

KORE LIOW, M.D.

Castle Medical Center
Kailua, Hawaii

PAUL GRIFFIN, M.D.

Central Valley Network
Coalinga, California

JAY KERR, M.D.

Central Valley Network
Hanford, California

ALEX MOIR, M.D.

Central Valley Network
Selma, California

DONALD MANSELL, M.D.

Feather River Hospital
Paradise, California

ACE BARASH, M.D.

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital
Willits, California

RENE PIDOUX, M.D.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center
Glendale, California

JOHN HODGKIN, M.D.

St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake
Clearlake, California

TIMOTHY LYONS, M.D.

St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley
St. Helena, California

NADIM SARKIES, M.D.

San Joaquin Community Hospital
Bakersfield, California

ALFRED YU, M.D.

Simi Valley Hospital
Simi Valley, California

EVERARDO LOPEZ, M.D.

Sonora Regional Medical Center
Sonora, California

RUSSELL HARDY, M.D.

Ukiah Valley Medical Center
Ukiah, California

FAISAL A. KHAN, M.D., FACS

White Memorial Medical Center
Los Angeles, California



The 2012 Physician of the Year Mission Award honorees pause for a photo.



Take 6 performs at the event.



Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for Mission and Spiritual Care, speaks at the Physician Leadership Symposium.



Church Applied

• Networking Pacific Union Churches with Ministry Resources, Ideas and People •

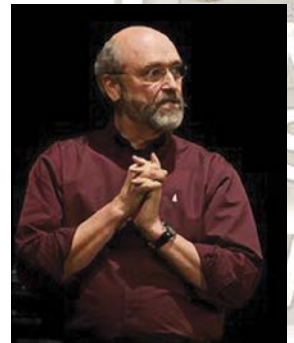
INSPIRING Others

One of the things we have discovered about reaching postmodern-thinking people is that experience and story trumps meta-narratives. In other words, people today are more willing to hear your story than your theology. While this doesn't diminish the importance of truth, it should push us to be more personally engaging. To put it bluntly, we cannot expect to reach people's hearts by simply talking to their heads.

Ellen White understood that ministry is a changing, dynamic venture that requires innovative and creative effort:

"Whatever may have been your former practice, it is not necessary to repeat it again and again in the same way. God would have new and untried methods followed. Break in upon the people — surprise them."
—Manuscript 121, 1897 (*Evangelism*, p.125)

Art, music and personal narrative provide compelling opportunities for us to speak eternal truths with those who may not listen otherwise. God has gifted many in our midst with creative abilities and skills that we want to affirm and enlist.



Dick Duerksen

Enjoy the first ever Adventist inSpire weekend in Berkeley, Calif., April 26-28, 2013. Participate in presentations, discussion groups, new music, art and poetry — a weekend of creative celebration, great music, networking and inspiration (with Dick Duerksen for Sabbath worship).

Learn more about it at:
www.visitinspire.org/berkeley

Attention Adventist Designers and Songwriters

Participate in a one-of-a-kind creative arts contest and be eligible to win an Apple iPad.

Entry deadline February 22, 2013

www.visitinspire.org/contest



Setting the Captives Free

An Interview with Karen Nicola

We asked Karen Nicola about her efforts to help people who have been victimized by abuse — a plague that is happening all over the world, including the United States.

Editor – Karen, you are involved in an incredible project that seeks to rescue victims of human trafficking. We want to hear about this, but before we go there, give us a little background about yourself and what motivated you to direct your energies in this direction.

Nicola – I was first introduced to the existence of modern day slavery by watching a segment of CSI on Russian women who were trafficked for brothels in the U.S. I was horrified and felt totally hopeless to do anything about the abuse and devastation in these women’s lives. As a middle

class American, I had no idea this kind of criminal activity was happening. Neither did I know that there are nearly 30,000,000 slaves around the world. I was determined to do what I could to restore justice and mercy, but I had no clue where to turn.

About four years later, I attended The Freedom Summit in Fremont, Calif.

Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/captives



Karen Nicola

WESTPOINT 2013 Sailing to Heaven’s Shore

March 31 – April 3, 2013, aboard the historic Queen Mary Hotel harbored in Long Beach, California. The theme of “Sailing to Heaven’s Shore” beckons this year’s attendees to experience the energizing inspiration and instruction for ministry in the local congregation to reach the community as well as nurture and mobilize members.

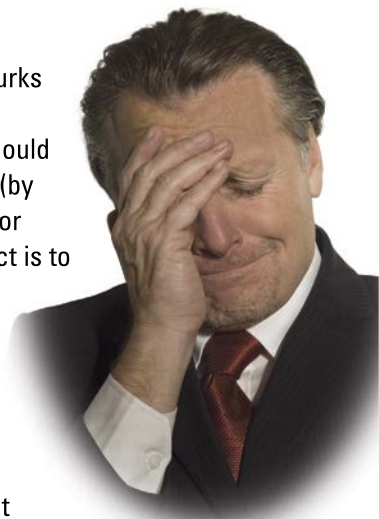
Check out the WestPoint 2013 video at:
www.adventistwestpoint.org



Comfort FOR THE DAY with Karen Nicola

A ChurchApplied Video

One of the fears that lurks in the recesses of every parent’s mind is that they could lose a child through death (by accident, disease, murder or suicide). Our natural instinct is to do everything we can to protect our children from harm, and it is truly heart-rending when tragedy strikes and renders us helpless. Listen and watch as Karen Nicola talks about her journey through heartache and loss, and discover how God is using her to bless those who mourn.



Watch video at:
www.vimeo.com/49837481

Should Christians Spend Time on Social Media?

by Christiane Marshall

It was late, and I noticed I had a new message from Kim: “can you help me out? I need someone to call my sister and wake her up cuz she can’t hear me yellin. kinda weird, I know, but you’re the only person I can find online...”

Kim had ALS and was unable to walk and had minimal use of her hands. I had never met Kim in person. She lived in Texas, and I lived in Ohio.

I was glad to help.

I joined Myspace years ago because my adult children were scattered in five different states. They were on Myspace,

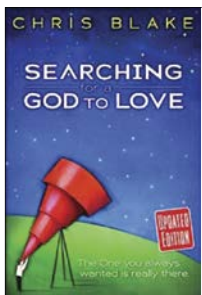
so I signed on, too! I soon began communicating with other people, and realized that I was gathering a little community around me. Kim was one of my new friends. I eventually followed my children and some of my new friends to Facebook.

I found myself encouraging others and bouncing ideas around. Others noticed my comments and asked to be my friend. It was almost like being in grade school again. “Will you be my friend?”

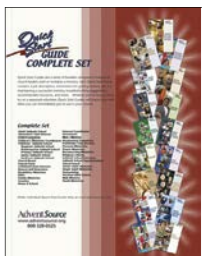
Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/social



RESOURCES YOU CAN USE



Searching for a God to Love, by Chris Blake – Author Chris Blake has revised and updated his best-selling book of a decade ago. Do you have questions? Do you have doubts? Have you been hurt? Are you aching for something more? Great. You qualify to take the journey this life-changing book defines. Price: US\$13.99. Available at Adventist Book Centers. Website: www.adventistbookcenter.com



“Help, I’m a New Ministry Leader!” – You’ve been asked to lead a ministry in your local church, but no one gave you any idea of what you are to do. AdventSource has prepared “Quick Start Guides,” a series of booklets designed to help local church leaders start or revitalize ministries. Each “Quick Start Guide” contains a job description, instructions for

getting started, tips for maintaining a successful ministry, troubleshooting suggestions, recommended resources, and more. Whether you’re new to ministry or a seasoned volunteer, “Quick Start Guides” will inspire you with ideas you can immediately put to use in your church. Available through AdventSource. Price, US\$79.95. Website: www.adventsource.org

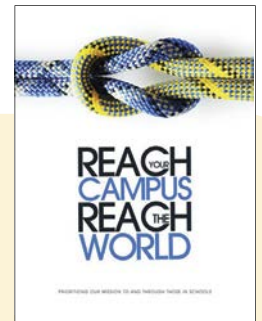
Reach Your Campus Reach the World

by Steve Case – An estimated 70% of Seventh-day Adventist college and university students attend non-church sponsored schools. Many of these students are not finding a spiritual community they can connect with, creating a tremendous need for public campus ministry.

How can the Seventh-day Adventist Church intentionally foster biblical community on public college and university campuses? How can we reach both Adventist and non-Adventist students? How should we conduct evangelism to fit a changing world? These and many other questions were addressed at the 2009 180° Symposium held on the campus of Andrews University.

Papers presented at the 180° Symposium covered three major themes:

- Campus Ministry Models
- Campus Ministry Networking
- Campus Ministry Resources



cont. on page 4

Web Round-Up

Evangelism Coach
www.evangelismcoach.org

Grand Avenue SDA Church
www.grandadvent.org

inSpire Creative Community
www.visitinspire.org

Paradise Valley SDA Church
www.pvchurch.org

SOULSwest
www.soulswest.org

SpiritRenew
www.spiritrenew.org

TED Talks
www.ted.com

How to witness Without Embarrassing God

by Frank D. Bondurant

I gave up on witnessing. It's not that I wasn't grateful for the salvation I have through Jesus. I was grateful and really wanted to tell others about His love and how He changed my life. I took classes on how to share my faith. I memorized scripts. I learned proof texts and how to answer objections. Yet in spite of my best intentions, my efforts failed miserably.



source: Shutterstock.com

Something that should have been a natural, free-flowing exchange, was stiff, awkward, and mechanical. Mine was not a winsome witness. People were put off, and God must have been embarrassed at my misrepresentation of Him. Traditional methods of evangelism just didn't seem to match my personality and spiritual gifts. I was like David wearing Saul's armor. Did I really have to be pushy, insensitive, or confrontational to be an effective witness?

Later, as a pastor, I learned that only about 10 percent of my church members were comfortable sharing their faith using traditional methods. Many of them also gave up on witnessing. Why would

God require a particular model for witnessing and then equip so few of His people to use it successfully? I have since discovered a different approach to witnessing, or as I call it, evangelism. If you are ready to build up the kingdom of God, here's how to get started.

Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/witness

Frank D. Bondurant, serves as the vice president for Ministries Development for the Columbia Union of Seventh-day Adventists. His responsibilities include partnering with local conferences in developing and supporting outreach ministries that transform and evangelize the communities within the Union territory.

Reach Your Campus, Reach the World, cont. from page 3

Among the 23 papers included in *Reach Your Campus Reach the World*, you will find powerful ministry ideas presented by Steve Case, Kirk King, Ron Pickell, Alex Espana, Martin Weber, and many others. Topics covered include rethinking evangelism, campus-based youth ministry, social networking and the faith community, and supporting our youth. Is your congregation ready to reach out to public campuses? Available through AdventSource. Price, US\$14.95. Website: www.adventsource.org

Hispanic marriage retreat draws 100+ couples

The Arizona Conference Hispanic Ministries and Family Ministries departments sponsored the third annual Hispanic marriage retreat in early September at the Westin Downtown Phoenix.

"I felt great emotion sweep over me as I looked into the eyes of my husband of 20 years," confessed Betty Valenzuela. "Praying together, asking God to bless and direct our marriage was such a comfort. For me, time together means marriage enrichment!"

"Prayer and communion together were key to the success of the weekend," explained Pastor Jose Marin. "We wanted to create an atmosphere where couples could feel safe to discuss their marriages in light of God's plan for their home. So many said they found new direction and promise as they rekindled their love for each other."

Cinthia Riffel and her team worked for many weeks to ensure the success of the meeting.

"We had a dream," she explained, "to provide a special venue for couples to rediscover the love and romance they once felt, which for some had grown a little less vibrant over time. Last year we were grateful for the 70 couples that made decisions to attend. This year we grew in attendance to more than 100 couples."

The weekend's events were designed to create an atmosphere of love and romance that would enhance the spiritual theme of commitment to the marriage vows.

Dr. Henry Barrios, guest speaker, provided a series on the dynamics of marriage intimacy. Every meeting contained an activity for couples that opened up discussion regarding their own areas of interest and desire for growth in the marriage relationship.

Saturday night, more than 100 couples marched arm-in-arm down the red-carpeted aisle for the formal banquet, one of the highlights of the romantic weekend. The gala featured local talent and a professional disk jockey.

The weekend ended with a re-consecration service on Sunday morning. Upon request, many couples were anointed and prayed for by the pastors. Then each couple "nailed" their promises on a cross that had been placed at the front of the room.

"This year our Hispanic marriage retreat took a bold step by entering into a partnership with the Family and Hispanic Ministries departments," said Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile. "The result was a first-class event that was such a blessing to our families. My wife, Lisa, and I encourage other couples to attend our future marriage retreats."

"We are already planning the fourth Hispanic marriage retreat for Labor Day weekend 2013," said Marin. "We have made arrangements with the Westin Kierland in Scottsdale and hope to have 200 couples attend. God is blessing as men and women rekindle their love for each other in light of God's promises."



Couples dressed in their best for the Saturday night banquet.



Arturo and Maria Eugenia Gonzalez from the Chandler Spanish church walk the red carpet to the Saturday evening banquet.



Dr. Gustavo and Cinthia Riffel embraced the weekend with great enthusiasm.

PHOTOS BY PHIL DRAPER



Conference President Tony Anobile and his wife, Lisa, were active participants in the marriage retreat.



Pastor Renato and Betty Valenzuela renewed their wedding vows after 20 years of marriage.

Phil Draper

29th annual convocation gives urgent call to ministry

The 29th annual African-American Convocation, hosted by the Fresno Westside church, Fresno, Calif., on Sept. 14-15, called for urgency in sharing the gospel message.

Emphasizing the theme, "Knowing the times . . . Where do you stand?" Fred Anderson, African-American ministries coordinator for Central California Conference, made a strong appeal for hope and urgency.

"There is no time for the saints to be asleep, ambivalent or lazy," he said. "It is not where you sit in the pew of a church but where you stand in life and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Guest speakers included Henry Wright, senior pastor Community Praise Center, Alexandria, Va.; Bobby Mitchell, director of regional



Quiz-A-Rama is a fixture of Sabbath afternoon. Eight teams of youth under 30 years old spent six weeks preparing. They were required to remember passages from the Book of Romans. A combined team from Hanford House of Hope and San Francisco Philadelphian took the top honors.



Approximately 600 people attended this year's African-American Convocation. As is custom, the congregation paused for a moment of silence. This year they remembered the families affected by 9/11 and those members who have lost loved ones in 2012.

ministries Pacific Union; and Dr. Erylene Piper-Mandy, faculty, California State University, Long Beach, Calif.

Since 1983, convocations for the African-American church members have been a time for spiritual renewal, baptism, praise and progress reports. Anderson explains that because of the large geographic territory in Central California, this is the one time in the year when the black Adventist community comes together in unity and love.

The convocation is not just a family reunion. "It is a time for sharing church growth ideas, with special focus on evangelistic problems," Anderson said.

Roberta Evans from Bakersfield, Calif., has attended convocation every year. "It's a fellowship with new people and old friends," she said. "It's a chance to hear what others are doing in their areas and in their churches."

Music is a highlight each year. Stevie Mackey, esteemed vocal coach and award winning performer, ministered to attendees. Gideon St. Helen from St. Lucia was part of the music team. He and his wife, Nichelle, were attending their first convocation. "Being part of the music was such a powerful show of unity," St. Helen said. "Being called to take action was truly inspiring."

At the convocation's close, Khandie Waugh, said she was deeply touched by the sermons. "I realized how afraid I am to let people know about God," she said. "But it hit me how urgently I need to share Him."



Sunday morning, the women's ministries at Fresno Westside church hosted a neighborhood women's tea. Approximately 70 women gathered in the church's Mendingal Better Living Center for breakfast. Dr. Erylene Piper-Mandy brought words of encouragement from the love story of Ruth and Boaz. Fourteen tables were individually decorated by sponsors. Pictured above are guests at a table themed, "The final summer picnic."

Taneshia Kerr

Revelation of Hope series renews members, nets 23 baptisms

The fellowship hall at the Mountain View Central church was packed for the Revelation of Hope seminar held Sept. 21 through Oct. 6. Visitors and members sat together at round tables, enjoyed supper, listened to dynamic presentations and studied the Bible together.

This was the first series of public meetings with a live evangelist in more than 30 years for the Mountain View, Calif., church. Attendance numbered 170-200 nightly and grew to standing room only, then overflowing into the hallway.

Non-Adventist attendance averaged 50 each night. Visitors included church neighbors (several were baptized), previous contacts and community members. Members from area Adventist churches also came and brought their friends.

"Praise God for the leadership of Pastor Fraser, the Bible workers and the faith of church members in stepping out to reach this community for Jesus with the everlasting gospel," says Taj Pacleb, conference evangelist. "I've been extremely blessed seeing all the action here night after night."



Visitors and members had supper and the evening meeting at round tables. This seminar model created a venue for connecting, interacting, establishing friendships, and studying the Bible together.

A Flurry of Activity

Church members provided the necessary support for the event. They organized a prayer team and a children's program, organized registration, led round table discussions, ushered, cleaned, attended the parking lot,

translated meetings into Spanish, called and visited interests, and prepared and served the nightly supper for more than 200 people.

"I was surprised how many volunteers were needed, but the members were consistently there every meeting," says Paul Harris, church elder.

Preparing and serving meals for 200 five nights a week, plus two meals on Sabbaths, required a very large group of volunteers. Meals reflected the congregation's diverse culture.

"We divided into teams, and each decided their own menus," explains Karen Chan. A detailed schedule kept everyone organized. Additional volunteers supported the cooks with table preparation, serving and clean up. "It was so heart-warming to have the ladies to be so willing," Chan says.

The Sabbath

When the Sabbath message was presented on a Friday night, many of the visitors attended church the very next morning. Rachel Miller came, but this was not the first time she had heard about Sabbath.

A few years earlier, her nephew, a former military pilot, began to search Scripture, seeking God's will for his life. He and Miller talked often, and when he discovered the Sabbath, he told his aunt that Seventh-day Adventists were true to Scripture.

"I didn't think it was that serious whether I went to church on Saturday or Sunday," says Miller, a Methodist.

When she lost her job in Palo Alto, Miller found work on the East Coast at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C. She began watching Sunday morning church programs and discovered Doug Batchelor.



Twenty-three candidates gather together just before their baptisms begin. They live in Palo Alto, Mountain View, East Palo Alto, and other Bay Area cities.

Soon, she attended a local Adventist church. "I met the nicest people in all heaven and earth there, and I made friends," she says.

When the job ended, Miller returned to Palo Alto and returned also to her Methodist church. "But it wasn't satisfying," she says.

Needing something more, she visited the Mountain View Central church. "Everything seemed to fall in place," says Miller. "The next Sabbath, I asked my husband Charlie to go." That day, she received a brochure for the Revelation of Hope seminar and decided to attend.

"I was on the edge of my seat!" she says. "I had never understood Revelation before." Charlie joined her for most of the meetings. When Pacleb gave an invitation for baptism, Miller knew it was for her.

She told Charlie about her decision. "He is an engineer and a very cautious person," Miller explains. Together, they made the decision to join the Seventh-day church and were baptized.

Closing Sabbath

When 23 new members were baptized Oct. 6, the church was packed. After an afternoon concert, many of the new members told their conversion stories.

"We live in a world that has the devil so anxious to keep us upset, and having meetings revives and transforms us all," says Pastor Kenny Fraser.

Caron Oswald



Pictured are inmates who were baptized on Aug. 12 at the Hollister, Calif., county jail.

Hollister members celebrate 20 years of county jail ministry with baptisms

Thirty inmates in the county jail in Hollister, Calif. — 29 men and one woman — lined up to be baptized on Aug. 12. Each praised Jesus for forgiveness and His gift of salvation.

“We baptized them into a non-denominational family of God,” explains Ben Caputo, leader for the outreach and the weekly Sunday night Bible studies. “We lead them to Christ. Once they accept Jesus, everything will fall into place.”

It was about two years ago that Caputo told his church family about the growing need for volunteers in prison ministry and asked if anyone felt impressed to get involved. Soon, two additional evening worship meetings were added: Mondays with Steve Chavez and Wednesdays with Nancy McDowell, Irene Ames and Mauricia Perez for the women.

“I have done jail ministry off and on for several years,” says Chavez. “Those gentlemen need the gospel just like every one of us. Makes you buckle down and hit those Bibles.”

Nancy McDowell describes herself as a “retread” — a former Adventist who has experienced a transforming relationship with Jesus. She tells the women she meets about how God begins the relationship first. “I have to be able to present the gospel of Christ and His intentions to us. I need to hear and know all of that for myself,” she says. “The good news is that Satan is your enemy — not God. Once they can see that God is on their side and they can depend on them, then they can believe.”

Like Chavez, McDowell is diligent about her own personal Bible studies and depends on the Holy Spirit for the rest. “It’s learning and being

able to express the simplicity of the gospel. I can’t talk over their heads, no Christian-speak,” she adds.

Caputo describes jail as a holding tank — the first stopping place while the judicial system reviews and decides the next step. Some are released, some serve their time in local jails while others are transferred to state prisons.

“With overcrowding conditions in prisons, the girls do a lot of prison time in the [local] jail,” McDowell says.

“We get to see them longer than before.” Chavez adds, “We try to keep up with them when they are released. We invite them to church and a few have come, but the biggest percent move on.” At times, letters come from prison.



Celebrating the baptism of a female inmate are (l. to r.) Steve Charvez, Irene Ames, Nancy McDowell and Ben Caputo. On Wednesday nights, Ames and McDowell are joined by Mauricia Perez (not pictured) to lead the worship and Bible study meeting for women in the county jail.

“It’s a beautiful ministry, especially when someone asks for baptism,” Chavez says. “That’s the most joyful experience!”

The Dream

Twenty years ago, Caputo had a dream that God was telling him to go to jail. “In this dream, I had all the directions from the Lord for what I was to do and why,” he explains. “They [inmates] are waiting for you. Go ahead, do not be afraid.” This was way outside of his comfort zone, and he fasted and prayed for the next week.

“You preach the word of salvation, and I will perform the miracles,” he heard God say in his head. So, the Sunday night Bible study meetings began. His first visit was an education. “I had to walk through four computer controlled doors. As the last door locked behind me, fear came. But he remembered God’s promise: “Do not be afraid. I will be with you.”

Caputo’s ministry started in juvenile hall. Meeting with adults followed. Sometimes a man would ask, “Do you remember me? I used to be in juvenile hall,” he says. “County jail is a catch place. Some are released, others are sent to state prison.”

Raised in New York City, Caputo discovered the 10 commandments while reading his Bible. “I wanted to obey the Lord, so I began to keep Sabbath. I had no idea there was a Seventh-day

Adventist church.” When he told his boss he couldn’t work on Sabbath anymore, he was told to get a letter from his pastor. But Caputo didn’t have one. He kept his job.

Caputo and his wife, Maria, were baptized into the Adventist church in Brooklyn, N.Y., in May 1967. When they relocated to California, he worked at Pacific Press in Mountain View, Calif., before moving to Hollister.

After 20 years of weekly visits to those in his local jail, he says, “When the Lord blesses a person to do something, there is a joy doing that. How can you get tired? I have the privilege to do this.”

Caron Oswald



Steve Charvez and Ben Caputo baptize one of 29 men that have chosen to accept Jesus as their Savior. The baptisms are the result of the Sunday and Monday night weekly Bible studies.

Elko church hosts successful evangelistic series

Elko, Nev., a gold mining boomtown of just over 18,000, is isolated. The closest town of at least 5,000 is Winnemucca, Nev., with just over 7,000, 124 miles west. To reach a town of over 10,000, one must travel north 164 miles to Twin Falls, Idaho; east 230 miles to Salt Lake City, Utah; west 289 miles to Reno, Nev., or south 431 miles to Las Vegas.

The Adventist church in Elko, led by contract pastor Angel Leon, has 50 members “on the books” and an average attendance every Sabbath of 25-30, including many children. Compared to larger city churches, leadership is slim, finances are thin, and evangelism always seems to take a back seat to survival.

Leon, however, kept the dream of Elko evangelism tucked into the back of his mind. It was on his mental “to do” list, and it surfaced at a Reno area Adventist pastors meeting some months back where public evangelism was the topic.

Although Leon had to travel almost 300 one-way miles to attend the three-hour meeting, it was worth it. While the group discussed the difficulties of evangelism in Elko, one pastor suggested that a possible solution might be for a group of the Reno area pastors to assist the Elko church to make evangelism possible.

At that meeting, an idea was born that would come to fruition months later. Leon’s dream (and the dreams of his church members, as well) of Elko evangelism was realized in October with public series held in a local hotel, with the

help of five pastors and two Bible workers from the greater Reno area.

Assisting Leon in Elko evangelism were: Angel Cuenca, stipend pastor of the Hawthorne and Yerington, Nev., churches and the Tonopah, Nev., group; Julio Juarez, stipend pastor of the Truckee, Calif., church; Brad Minett, Bible worker of the Heavenly Valley church in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; Kingsley Palmer, pastor the Sparks, Nev., church; Joyce Rapp, Bible worker from the Tonopah, Nev., group; Robert Roth, stipend pastor of the Winnemucca, Nev., church; and Jerry Waggoner, pastor of the Bishop and Lone Pine, Calif., churches.

Held at the Elko’s High Desert Inn, about 20-22 individuals attended the nightly meetings, with speaking responsibilities shared between all the pastors, coordinated by Leon. Children

attended their own meetings each evening, as well.

Pastors and Bible workers assisting at the meetings were housed at the hotel and received breakfast there, with church members



ROSELYNE LEON

Pastors and Bible workers participating in Elko evangelism (l.-r.): Angel Cuenca, Brad Minett, Robert Roth, Joyce Rapp, Jerry Waggoner, Kingsley Palmer, and Angel Leon. Not pictured: Julio Juarez.



ROSELYNE LEON

Children in a concurrent meeting pay close attention to a Bible skit.



ANGEL LEON

Robert Roth, stipend pastor of the Winnemucca, Nev., church, address the audience with a visual aide.



ANGEL LEON

Brad Minett, Bible worker of the Heavenly Valley church in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., delivers a point to the audience.

providing lunch and dinners. During the series, the guest workers and their families developed close friendships that may not have happened otherwise.

The Elko church publicized the meetings through radio, television and newspaper ads, flyers, and give-away books with meeting information included.

As the meetings began, Leon was concerned for the success of the meetings in terms of non-church members attending and ultimately for resulting baptisms. As the meetings progressed, however, his concerns vanished as he saw the positive impact on the church family.

ROSELYNE LEON



Elko Pastor Angel Leon wears a costume for a children's meeting skit.

Church members were energized through the planning and implementation of the meetings. The messages brought forth each evening served to strengthen church members.

By the end of the meetings, five individuals chose to join the Adventist church through baptism — including two young people who wanted to give their hearts to Jesus. An additional Bible study resulted, as well, to add a continuing element of success to the meetings.

"I am so happy we took positive action to bring evangelism to Elko," Leon says. "God blessed our church family for stepping out in faith, and His blessings will continue. We are also thankful to God for bringing together all the pastors who participated in our meetings, who made it possible for a small church in a small town to receive such a big blessing."

Denny Krause

Bishop church school attracts many non-Adventists

The Bishop Adventist Christian School is unique among Adventist schools in North America.

First, all four school-aged children in the small Bishop church are enrolled at the school. Second, the school offers a preschool option for church and community students. Third, its ratio of Adventist students to community students is 1 to 10 in the K-8 portion of the school.

The church members have a strong commitment to Adventist Christian education, and desire every school-aged student to be enrolled at the church school. This, they feel, is important to transmitting Adventist beliefs to the next generation.

The Bishop Rainbow Connection is the preschool arm of Bishop Adventist Christian School. In operation for a number of years, it has served well as a feeder for the elementary school. Community students enrolled in the preschool program naturally want to continue on with their friends into the elementary school. Currently, there are 48 students in the preschool program.

The preschool program, highly regarded by parents, together with positive word of mouth about the Adventist elementary school, work together to boost enrollment. K-8 enrollment presently stands at 41 students — a significant accomplishment for a small, rural Adventist church.

"Quality education in a caring environment with a Christian emphasis wins the parents over," says Jeff Jackson, principal and upper grades teacher. "Community members love our school."

"What's even more exciting," Jackson points out, "is when we periodically do a program for our church worship service, all the community parents are there — standing room only. It's awesome!"

When Jackson first arrived eight years ago, there were only 12 students in the elementary school. Steady growth has occurred each year, and now the elementary school enrollment is up to 41.

Denny Krause

JEFF JACKSON



Bishop Adventist Christian School and the Rainbow Connection Preschool create a strong connection between the church and the community.



JEFF JACKSON

Bishop Adventist Christian School K-8 elementary students pose for a photo.

La Sierra University sees large enrollment increase

La Sierra University enrollment grew by another 8.8 percent this school year, making this the third straight year of increase. Since 2009, the university's student body has grown 28.9 percent, from 1,857 to 2,393 — an average of more than 7 percent growth per year. This year's class of 528 first-time freshmen is an increase of 17.1 percent over 2011's enrollment of 451.

"Students and their families are choosing La Sierra University in record numbers, because we are doing our work with the utmost of care and commitment," says President Randal Wisbey. "La Sierra is increasingly being recognized, and applauded, for the manner in which we have embraced our mission as a leading Adventist university."

The biggest percentage jump in enrollment came in graduate students in the School of Education — up 28.4 percent to 149. La Sierra is one of only two Adventist universities in North America to offer doctoral as well as master's

degrees in education. Overall, graduate enrollment at the university is up 14.6 percent.

"We're delighted to see a significant increase of students in all three departments of the School of Education this year," says Ginger Ketting-Weller, the newly appointed dean of the school. "As we pursue new initiatives, we're also adding scholarly and professional opportunities for these students."

Among undergraduates, the Zapara School of Business led the way, with 20 percent growth. Including those in the Master of Business Administration program, the school now has 469 students. This spring they will begin taking classes in the university's newest facility, the state-of-the-art Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business building. (To follow construction of the new facility, go to www.lasierra.edu/business.)

La Sierra's new film and television production major has already drawn 15 majors. The off-campus criminal justice program, launched two years ago, has grown to 134 students. Biology

continues to be the largest department, with 259 majors this year.

The number of students living on campus took a big jump this year, with 12 percent more students filling campus dormitories. Student Association (SALSU) president Melody Ilacas and the leadership team are holding regular activities for students, whether they live on or off campus. Activities range from Midnight Café after First Service that welcomes the Sabbath, to fitness and social events. "SALSU is trying to promote school spirit and a sense of community for the students," says Ilacas.

"We never forget that we are called to educate mind, body and spirit," says Wisbey. "La Sierra is a remarkable place of discovery, commitment and faith. Every day, I sense God's blessing in the lives of our students, faculty and staff."

Marilyn Thomsen



La Sierra University welcomed a record freshman class to campus this fall. University enrollment went up 8.8 percent this year, to 2,393, thanks to the large freshman class and a school-wide retention rate of 79 percent.

Plan of salvation unfolds at fall revival



ALLISON HEGAN

Pastor Jonathan Henderson led PUC's fall revival with a series of messages shedding new light on foundational Adventist beliefs.

Pacific Union College presented its annual fall revival week from Monday, Oct. 8, through Sabbath, Oct. 13. The week's featured speaker, Pastor Jon Henderson, '99, focused on Adventist foundational beliefs. Henderson is the lead pastor at Grand Advent church in Oakland, Calif., and a popular Seventh-day Adventist preacher.

Over four days, Henderson explored God's plan of salvation, starting at the beginning with the creation story. "In the beginning, God created," he said. "His first introduction to us is as Creator. [Those are] His credentials." He said that everything we come into contact with has a creator and a designer. "Yet, somebody wants me to believe when it comes to us, it just happened," he pointed out. "The proof there's a painter is you — you're the painting."

Other topics in the series included the Sabbath, the nature of organized religion, and the origins of sin and sorrow. "Sin hijacked God's creation. . . . It's like God had a perfect plan for

us, and we weren't even happy," Henderson said. "We weren't even supposed to experience depression, we weren't supposed to go through divorce, we weren't supposed to deal with death, we weren't supposed to have sickness. This was not part of the plan. Something went wrong."

"The one that demands death is not God, it's sin," Henderson explained. "The wages of *sin* is death."

Although Henderson was able to speak for the first four nights, a previous speaking commitment prevented him from staying through to the end of the week. Student Association religious vice president Cameron Haley and campus chaplain Laffit Cortes took over for the Friday night and Sabbath morning meetings, preaching about God's enduring love and His concern for even the smallest parts of our lives.

The week was packed with shared testimonies, special musical offerings, and heartfelt prayers. "I liked the speaker, Jon Henderson, and

how he was able to relate stories from the Bible in a very real way for my generation," said senior business major Oscar Villa. "I also liked how he was able to bring a lot of important issues — like the Sabbath, Jesus, hell, and eternity — how he was able to bring a new perspective to them."

As the week came to a close, Haley connected this revival week with the spiritually charged opening of the school year. "The reason that I know that God is still working is He still continues to change lives in this way — we've had a baptism every weekend since we've started school. Amen? God loves us and He will not stop pursuing us."

Lauren Armstrong

Affording Adventist Education

Not sure how to afford a great Adventist college? PUC offers a traveling series of free workshops explaining financial aid. Don't miss an upcoming workshop near you. Workshops begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Call PUC at 800-862-7080 for more information.

- Jan. 7 – Bakersfield Adventist Academy
- Jan. 8 – Fresno Adventist Academy
- Jan. 9 – Armona Union Academy
- Jan. 10 – Lodi Academy
- Jan. 14 – El Dorado Adventist School
- Jan. 15 – Pine Hills Adventist Academy
- Jan. 16 – Sacramento Adventist Academy
- Jan. 17 – Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy
- Jan. 22 – Redding Adventist Academy
- Jan. 23 – Paradise Adventist Academy
- Jan. 24 – Central Valley Christian Academy
- Jan. 28 – Napa Christian Campus of Education
- Jan. 29 – PUC Preparatory School
- Jan. 30 – Redwood Adventist Academy
- Jan. 31 – Mountain View Academy
- Feb. 12 – Hawaiian Mission Academy (6:30 p.m.)

Non-Discrimination Policy Statement

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

Arizona

Adobe Adventist Christian School
Desert Valley Christian School
Glenview Adventist Academy
Maricopa Village Christian School
Prescott Adventist Elementary School
Saguaro Hills Adventist Christian School
Thunderbird Adventist Academy
Thunderbird Christian Elementary School
Verde Valley Adventist School
Yuma Adventist Christian School

Central California

Armona Union Academy
Bakersfield Adventist Academy
Central Valley Christian Academy
Chowchilla Adventist Elementary School
Dinuba Junior Academy
Foothill Adventist Elementary School
Foster-Moore Adventist School
Fresno Adventist Academy
Hollister Adventist Christian School
Kern Adventist Elementary School
Los Banos Adventist Elementary School
Mariposa Adventist Christian School
Miramonte Adventist Elementary School
Monterey Bay Academy
Mother Lode Adventist Jr. Academy
Mountain View Academy
Oakhurst Adventist Christian School
Peninsula Adventist School
San Francisco Adventist School
Sierra View Junior Academy
Templeton Hills Adventist School
Valley View Junior Academy
VHM Christian School
West Valley Christian School

Hawaii

Adventist Malama Elementary School
Hawaiian Mission Academy (9-12)
Hawaiian Mission Academy (K-8)
Hawaiian Mission Academy-Windward Campus
Kahili Adventist School
Kohala Mission School
Kona Adventist Christian School
Maui Adventist School
Mauna Loa School

Nevada-Utah

Abundant Life Christian Academy
Bishop Adventist Christian School
Deamude Adventist Christian School
Eagle Valley Christian School
Fallon SDA Elementary School
Las Vegas Junior Academy
Monument Valley Mission School
Riverview Christian Academy
Summit Christian Academy
Susanville Adventist Christian School

Northern California

Adventist Christian Elementary School of Red Bluff
Adventist Christian School of Willits
Adventist Christian School of Yuba City
Bayside SDA Christian School
Chico Oaks Adventist School
Clearlake SDA Christian School
Cloverdale SDA School
Crescent City SDA School
Echo Ridge SDA Elementary School
El Dorado Adventist School
Feather River Adventist School
Foothills Elementary School
Fortuna Junior Academy
Galt Adventist Christian School
Hilltop Christian School
Humboldt Bay Christian School
Lodi Academy
Lodi Adventist Elementary School
Magalia Adventist School
Manteca Adventist Christian School
Middletown Adventist School
Mission Hills SDA School
Napa Christian Campus of Education
Orangevale SDA School
Pacific Union College Elementary School
Pacific Union College Preparatory School
Paradise Adventist Academy
Pine Hills Adventist Academy
Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy
Redding Adventist Academy
Redwood Adventist Academy
Rio Lindo Adventist Academy
Sacramento Adventist Academy
Sutter Hill SDA Elementary School

Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School
Ukiah Junior Academy
Vacaville Adventist School
Westlake SDA School
Yreka Adventist Christian School

Southeastern California

Calexico Mission School
Desert Adventist School
El Cajon SDA Christian School
Escondido Adventist Academy
Hemet Adventist Christian School
Laguna Niguel Junior Academy
La Sierra Academy
Loma Linda Academy
Mesa Grande Academy
Mentone Adventist Team School
Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian School
Needles SDA School
Oceanside Adventist Elementary School
Orangetown Academy
Redlands Adventist Academy
San Antonio Christian School
San Diego Academy
Valley Adventist Christian School
Victor Valley SDA School

Southern California

Adventist Christian School
Adventist Union School
Antelope Valley Adventist School
Conejo Adventist Elementary School
Crescenta Valley Adventist Elementary School
East Valley Adventist School
Glendale Adventist Academy
Linda Vista Adventist Elementary School
Los Angeles Adventist Academy
Newbury Park Adventist Academy
San Fernando Valley Academy
San Gabriel Academy
Simi Valley Adventist School
South Bay Junior Academy
West Covina Hills Adventist School
White Memorial Adventist School

Pacific Union Conference

Holbrook Adventist Indian School

CALENDARS

Arizona

RAW FOODS POTLUCK (Dec. 8) 6:30 p.m. 2nd Saturday of each month at Central church, 777 W Montecito, Phoenix. 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.

RETIRES CHRISTMAS DINNER (Dec. 9) Conference office, 13405 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Reserve by Dec. 5; space is limited to 100. 11:30 a.m. Info: Shirley Chipman, 480-991-6777 or shirleychipman@azconference.org.

THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY Chamber Orchestra, chorus and soloists. Handel's Messiah conducted by Michael Christie, (Dec. 15) 7:30 p.m. Camelback church sanctuary, 5902 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. Admission is by ticket only; tickets are available in the Camelback church office. Info: Cherie, 480-947-3781.

Central California

SINGLES RALLY (Dec. 1) Fresno Westside church. Guest speaker: Dr. Erylene Piper-Mandy Info: 559-341-3142, ministries@cccsda.org.

TREASURERS TRAINING (Dec. 2) CCC office. Info: Claudia, 559-347-3196, carias@cccsda.org.

EARL MEYERS HOLIDAY CONCERT (Dec. 8) 4 p.m. Fresno Westside church. Info: 559-233-3648.

CHRIST CHILD CELEBRATION (Dec. 15) 7 p.m. Modesto Central church. Featuring the Bay Area Men's Choir, PRAISE men's group, Advent Herald handbell choir, a brass ensemble and several soloists. Info: Harold Larsen, 209-537-2135.

HISPANIC CHURCH OFFICERS Training (Jan. 5) San Jose Spanish church. Info: Florina 559-347-3144, fmorales@cccsda.org.

HEALTH SEMINAR (Jan. 5) Bakersfield. Info: 559-347-3142, ministries@cccsda.org.

CHURCH OFFICERS TRAINING (Jan. 12) Mountain View. Info: 559-347-3142, ministries@cccsda.org.

HEALTH SEMINAR (Jan. 19) Bay Area. Info: 559-347-3142, ministries@cccsda.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT (Jan. 25-27) Tenaya Lodge. Info: Pat, 559-342-2396.

Applications: cccwomens.adventistfaith.org.

Nevada-Utah Conference

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING for Master Guides (Dec. 2) Riverview church, 7125 W. 4th St., Reno, NV 89523. Info: David Hall, 775-322-6929, nucyouthdirector@gmail.com.

Northern California Conference

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 8, 9) Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. Lodi English Oaks church, 1260 West Century Blvd. Info: Rick Fickess, 209-334-1608.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 8) 6 p.m. Sacramento Central church, 6045 Camellia Ave. Doors open 5:15 p.m. Concert will be recorded live for future broadcast. Light refreshments. Info: 916-457-6511.

SPECIALLY FOR SHEPHERDS (Dec. 15, 16) Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 6 p.m. Grand Advent church, 278 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Christmas cantata by Ralph Carmichael. Free. Info: 510-452-0785 or grandadvent.org.

CARMICHAEL CHURCH CHOIR and Orchestra (Dec. 21) 7 p.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Christmas cantata "Heaven's Child" by Pepper Choplin, directed by Arladell Nelson-Speyer, shows the truth about the Child and the promised salvation. Free. Info: 916-487-8684, ext. 111.

"CHANGED BY A BABY BOY" (Dec. 21, 22) Friday, 7 p.m.; Sabbath, 11:15 a.m. Napa Community church, 1105 G Street. Come hear the church's orchestra and choirs. Info: 707-252-2444.

19TH SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE RETREAT (Dec. 28-31) Hilton Garden Inn, Monterey-Carmel. Come to this unique family retreat for thought, insight and renewal. Presenters include Charles White, George Saxon, Jim Pedersen, Becky Wang-Scriven, Charles Scriven and Stanley Patterson. Info: 707-965-7297 or jhughson@puc.edu.

FISHIN' ON A MISSION with Jesus (2nd and 4th Fridays, monthly) 5:30 p.m. Vallejo Berea church, 833 Louisiana Street. For kids ages 4-18. Info: 707-644-3015.

TUTORING (2nd and 4th Sundays, monthly) 1:30-4 p.m. Vallejo Berea church, 833 Louisiana Street. Free math and English tutoring for kids in grades 4-12. Info: 707-644-3015 or 916-320-5852.

Southeastern California Conference

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT (Dec. 7) 7:30 p.m., La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. The concert features University's Chamber Singers, chorale and orchestra. Info: 951-354-7095.

RAINCROSS CHORALE Handel's Messiah (Dec. 8) 6 p.m., LSU church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. A collection of choirs will perform Handel's Messiah. Info: 951-354-7095.

BLUE CHRISTMAS (Dec. 12) 7 p.m., LSU church, 4920 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. A comforting service for those experiencing grief, sadness and depression. Info: 951-354-7095.

CHRISTMAS CANDELIGHT CONCERTS (Dec. 15) 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St. Tickets are available online www.lluc.org. Info: 800-965-9324.

EVERLASTING LIGHT (Dec. 15) 4 p.m., LSU church, 4920 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. A musical concert with children and adult choirs. Info: 951-354-7095.

MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA (Dec. 16) 2:30 p.m., Moreno Valley church, 12649 Indian Street, Moreno Valley. Info: Gwen Ward, 951-242-8983.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 21, 22) Calimesa church, 391 Myrtlewood Dr. Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass will perform each evening. Info: 909-795-4960.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 21, 22) 7:15 p.m., 11 a.m., Inland Empire Filipino church, 604 East State St., Redlands. Directed by Jun Israel. Info: 909-709-8448.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (Dec. 24) 6 p.m., LSU church, 4920 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. A family-friendly worship reading of the story of Christmas with hymns. Info: 951-354-7095.

Southern California Conference

EAGLE ROCK CHURCH 90th Anniversary Celebration (Nov. 30-Dec. 1) Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Sabbath, starting at 9:40 a.m. Featured speaker, Pastor Tony Anobile, president, Arizona Conference. Info: 323-257-5803, www.seektobe-family.org.

BLOOD DRIVE (Dec. 2, 9 and 16) Sponsored by the Ephesus Church Pathfinder Club, the American Red Cross, Greater Los Angeles Region, and other SCC Pathfinder Clubs. RSVP/info: gwalkerf@yahoo.com; 951-442-6514.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 7) 7:30 p.m. Includes strings, bells and a 120-voice choir performing music by Mendelssohn, Finzi, Vaughn Williams, Gruber and Handel, along with some favorite Christmas carols. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM (Dec. 7-9) 6:30-9 p.m. Free family event featuring outdoor journeys departing throughout the evening. Discover the true meaning of Christmas as you experience the sights and sounds of a trip to Bethlehem. San Gabriel Academy, 8827 E. Broadway. Info: 626-292-1156.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL (Dec. 13) 6:30 p.m. South Bay Junior Academy, 4400 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance 90503. Info: 310-370-6215.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY Academy Christmas Concert (Dec. 14) 7 p.m. 17601 Lassen St., Northridge 91325. Featuring traditional carols, Scripture readings, and music from students' participation in Disneyland's Candlelight Processional and Sea World's Shamu Christmas. Info: 818-349-1373.

CRESCENTA VALLEY ADVENTIST Elementary School Christmas Concert (Dec. 18) 7 p.m. Living Stones church, 6235 Honolulu Ave., La Crescenta 91214. Info: 818-249-2492.

LIVE NATIVITY (Dec. 20) 6 p.m. Walk through the Christmas story! Adventist Christian School, 555 W. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest 93555. Info: 760-375-8673.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG (Dec. 8) 4 p.m. Santa Clarita church, 24436 Valley St. Directed by Maurita "Bunny" Phillips-Thornburgh. Featuring soloists and an orchestral ensemble. Scores available, but please bring your own if you have one. Info: 661-259-5420.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (Dec. 24) 6:30 p.m. Santa Clarita church, 24436 Valley Street. Liturgy for young children begins with a light supper. Evening includes a Cambridge-style lessons and carols format with members of Christ Church, plus other services. Details/info: 661-259-5420; <http://santaclarita.adventistfaith.org>.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD Really Love Jesus (Jan. 12) 3:45 p.m. Altadena church, 2609 N. Lincoln Ave., Altadena. You're invited to an interview and Q&A with the author, Dr. Donna J. Habenicht. Info: 626-794-3953.



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Bulletin Board

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LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY seeks a Student Financial Services Counselor. Bachelor's degree required with previous experience in a similar position. See posting: lasierra.edu/index.php?id=6913.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Dean for School of Business and Management. A doctoral degree required. Will oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs. Priority given to applications received by January 31, 2013. The successful candidate must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a SDA church member in good and regular standing. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Pat Coverdale, director of Human Resources, plcoverdale@southern.edu or Human Resources, Southern Adventist

University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37363.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE of Seventh-day Adventists department of Information Systems Services is seeking to hire a Microsoft SharePoint/ASP.NET application developer to continue the development and maintenance of their SharePoint document management infrastructure. Applicants should have multiple years of development and server administration experience and be able to implement complex web architectures using ASP.NET/IIS/SQL Server. Previous exposure to SharePoint administration and development would be ideal. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members who consistently financially support their church. Applicants may apply by faxing or e-mailing their résumés to GC Human Resources, 301-680-6768, or stavenhagen@gc.adventist.org.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION has recently acquired the worldwide rights to the CHIP program, therefore Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing is looking for a Global Manager to lead and manage their international team. The position will be based in either Australia or USA and will be pivotal to the success of the CHIP program globally. For more information and to apply, visit www.sanitarium.com.au/about-us/career-opportunities.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position as Dean of the School of Education & Psychology to begin July 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in Biology. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. The position will remain open until filled.

Events

BUTLER CREEK SEMINARS (A division of Wildwood Health Retreat): Conquering Lifestyle Disease! Diabetes, Hypertension, Osteoporosis, & More. Dec. 30-Jan. 6; Jan. 20-27; Feb 17-24. Natural prevention/treatment for lifestyle diseases. Hands-on cooking classes (oil-free, total vegetarian, whole foods), exercise program, health presentations. Cost: \$370. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Contact: Charene, 931-724-6706, www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org.

BUTLER CREEK SEMINARS (A division of Wildwood Health Retreat): Lose weight, feel great! Jan. 6-20; Jan. 27-Feb. 10; Feb. 24-March 10. Change your life, eat healthfully, control stress, exercise for energy. Hands-on cooking classes (oil-free, total vegetarian, whole

foods). Cost: \$740. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Contact: Charene 931-724-6706, www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org.

LOMA LINDA VEGETARIAN Congress. Researchers and experts will present the latest scientific facts about plant-based diets and health February 24-26, 2013. Loma Linda University. Speakers include Dr. Gary Fraser, principal investigator of the Adventist Health Study-2, and Dr. Neal Barnard, author and advocate. Visit www.vegetariannutrition.org to learn more.

For Sale

IN GOD'S LOVE SONG, Ginny Allen shows God's love through stories that come from the deepest places of the heart. God's Love Song is the women's sharing book for 2013. To order, call 800-765-6955, or shop online at AdventistBookCenter.com.

END-TIME HOPE. Terrorist threats, devastating tornadoes, a shaky economy is enough to frighten anybody. Mark Finley's *End-Time Hope*, the 2013 sharing book, provides answers to the turmoil the world is facing. To order, call 800-765-6955 or shop online at AdventistBookCenter.com.

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Missing Members

BREATH OF LIFE. Greer Bosworth, P.O. Box 8039, Inglewood, CA 90808, 310-674-4061, breathclerk@gmail.com. Erin Allen, Albert Amoyaw, Joy Amoyaw, Cynthia Anderson, Tanya Anderson, Leland Bell, Nichole Bell, Vincent Bluiitt, Jerry Bradshaw, Eric Brown, Marc Brown, Valerie Brown, Don Budd, Wallace Burns, Kenneth Callihan, Joan Canzius, Brittany Carriger, Alexandra Cham, Eric Cooksey, Vera Crockett, Errycia Davis, Margaret Donaldson, Wendy Duplantier, Carmelita Freeman, Dwight Griggs, Breanna Harris, Dajon Harris, Kristina Harris, Audrey Hayes, Mabel Hayes, Regina Hennon, Edward Hill, Alea Johnson, Veronica Johnson, Jerry Kelley, Rodgena Lee, Cecil Lewis, Dana Lewis, Doreen Lewis, Giovanni Lewis, Dexter Lindo, Carmela

Lopez, Kenneth Mathis, Pearl Mintz, Essie Moore, Joy Nailor, Antonio Nelson, Ronald Orme, Carmencita Pasqual, Marcus Peoples, Elizabeth Poole, Rodney Poole, Dante Redondo, Carmelita Riego, Elsa Romero, Melchizedeck Rowe, Walter Simpson, Robert Smith, Robin Smith, Demetrius Stevenson, Anthony Stoll, Paulette Surjue, Ruby Swasey, Barnell Thomas, Stowell Thomas, Christine Thompson, Jocelyn Thompson, Brian Verrett, Rachelle Waight, Curtis Williams, Yvette Williams.

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Reunions

SAVE THE DATE. Valley View Adventist Academy, Arroyo Grande, Calif., marks 100 years of providing Christian Education on the Central Coast. The Centennial Celebration is April 5-7. If you're an alumnus of VVAA or know of anyone who is, please contact Cheryl Vines at sc_vines83@att.net or call 805-929-3706.

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AT REST

ACEVEDO, LUZ MARIA — b. March 5, 1953, Aguada, Puerto Rico; d. May 10, 2012, Huntington Beach, Calif. Survivors: husband, Julio; son, Joel; daughter, Eileen; one granddaughter.

BLAIR JR., EDMUND B. — b. Feb. 27, 1929, Rock Springs, Wyo.; d. Sept. 17, 2012, Orange, Calif. Survivors: wife, Janice; sons, Kelly, Kevin; brother, Mardian. Served as a teacher, principal and manager with the Adventist church educational system in Southern and Southeastern California conferences.

CARROLL, LEO GLENN — b. Dec. 13, 1915, Yates Center, Kan.; d. Oct. 14, 2012, Paradise, Calif.

COMER, ANITA PEARL — b. Oct. 30, 1916, Woodward, Okla.; d. July 5, 2012, Escondido, Calif. Survivors: son, Darwin Helmer; daughter, Ramona Britton.

DARNELL, RUTH K. (BULLOCK) — b. Sept. 24, 1922, Woodworth, N.D.; d. Oct. 16, 2012, Deer Park, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Lorna Miller, Shirley Allen; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

DORSEY, TWYLA — b. Feb. 14, 1934, Benedict, Neb.; d. Oct. 21, 2012, Glendale, Ariz. Survivors: sons, Richard, Robert, Shannon; daughter, Jeannie Dennis, seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

ENRIGHT, ARDIS KLOETY — b. April 15, 1928, Oakland, Calif.; d. Oct. 25, 2012, Banning, Calif. Survivors: sons, Paul, John; daughter, Merrilee McCain; seven grandchildren.

GALLEHER, VERN "BOB" R. — b. March 14, 1927, Long Beach, Calif.; d. Sept. 16, 2012, Redding, Calif. Survivors: wife, Eunice; sons, Sean, Mark; daughters, Robyn Kidd, Shannon Barnett; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

GRENZ, ELOUISE LITCHFIELD BRONNER — b. Sept. 26, 1923, Lodi, Calif.; d. June 15, 2012, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: husband, Kenneth; son, William Bronner; daughter, Charlene Prettyman; stepdaughters, Klinda Rath, Alice; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served as a church school teacher in Huntsville, Ala.

HANSEN, WALTER J. — b. Nov. 2, 1929, Kerman, Calif.; d. Oct. 16, 2012, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Virginia; sons, Robert, Jordan, Todd, Dick; daughters, Kathy Russell, Sandy Farmer, Marna Theroff; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

HANSON, RUSSELL THEODORE — b. Aug. 17, 1978, Loma Linda, Calif.; d.

Sept. 30, 2012, San Bernardino, Calif. Survivors: wife, Madison; daughter, Virginia McJee-Leone; father, Matthew; mother, Michael Leone.

HAYDEN, JESS, JR. — b. Jan. 30, 1926, Eugene, Ore.; d. Oct. 24, 2012, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Anita; sons, Joel, Roderick, Gregory; daughter, Janie MacArthur; stepson, Steve Campbell; stepdaughters, Janelle Ehrler, Jill Campbell; five grandsons; six step-grandchildren; brothers, Steve, Cedric. He was a dentist and anatomy professor at Loma Linda University.

HEWITT, LAWRENCE LEROY — b. Oct. 21, 1929, Pierce, Neb.; d. Oct. 2, 2012, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Gloria; sons, Bruce Norris, Jerry Norris; daughters, Karen Radford, Teressa Slack, Shari Johnson; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

KUIZINAS, ROSIE ANN (PEREZ) — b. April 10, 1949, San Diego, Calif.; d. Sept. 23, 2012, Tillamook, Ore. Survivors: husband, Paul; son, Jon; daughters, Alissa Carscallen, Monica Nelson; four grandchildren. Served as a nurse in St. Helena and Loma Linda, Oregon, Arizona and Montemorelos, Mexico.

LEWIS, SHARON (STEBNER) — b. Sept. 27, 1944, Hutchinson, Minn.; d. Sept. 7, 2012, Caldwell, Idaho. Survivors: husband, Frank James; daughters, Kara Tanzi, Kelley Lewis; two grandchildren; sisters, Donna Cornwell, Cheryl Romeo; brother, Richard Rome. Served as a teacher in Los Banos and San Jose elementary schools; worked at Pacific Press in Idaho.

MEJIA, LUISA — b. June 24, 1922, Lima, Peru; d. July 14, 2012, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: sons, Fernando, Jose, Juan, Victor; daughters, Luisa, Ana Hughes, Isabel Soto, Julia Vargas; 52 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.

NASH, JAMES IRA — b. July 28, 1918, Huntington, W.Va.; d. Sept. 5, 2012, Peoria, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Alice; son, Sid; daughter, Carol Trujillo; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one great-great-grandchild.

PEARL, HENRY F. — b. April 20, 1922, Des Moines, Iowa; d. Aug. 12, 2012, Glendale, Calif.

RIEHEL, WILLARA (LARRIE) — b. Dec. 7, 1915, Minneapolis, Minn.; d. Oct. 11, 2012, Scarborough, Maine. Survivors: sons, James, Ronald; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, Bill Shasky.

RUEB, LYLIA KATHERINE — b. July 31, 1933, Hillsvew, S.D.; d. Aug. 25, 2012, Surprise, Ariz. Survivors: husband, Melvin; sons, Craig, Chris; brothers, Harold and Roger Maisch; sisters, Mary

Voegle, Gloria Gerber, Debra Hardy; four grandchildren.

SMITH, ELDEN LAMAR — b. June 6, 1945, Provo, Utah; d. Sept. 27, 2012, Chula Vista, Calif. Survivors: wife, Rita; daughter, Glenda Tso; four grandchildren; father, Elden, mother, Wanda; brothers, Ralph, Robert. He served as pastor for the Karen Refugee Group, El Cajon, Calif.

VAN ORDEN, ADDIE — b. Jan. 2, 1920, Artichoke Lake, Minn.; d. Aug. 23, 2012, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: sons, Britt, Roy; eight grandchildren.

VENEGAS, DAVID ANTHONY — b. Sept. 22, 1958, Sanitarium, Calif.; d. Oct. 16, 2012, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: mother, Luz; brother, Daniel; sister, Alicia. Served the St. Helena Hospital pharmacy.

WALLACE, ANN (BRADDOCK) — b. Feb. 7, 1915, Tunica, Miss.; d. March 22, 2012, San Francisco, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Beverly Wallace-Scotfield; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

WEAVER, MELODY ROXENE GONZALES — b. Aug. 26, 1967, Wheatridge, Colo.; d. Oct. 5, 2011, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: son, Weston; parents, Don and Betty Gonzales; sister, Jacinda Gonzales; brothers, Curt Gonzales, Kent Gonzales.

WILSON, DANA JUNE — b. June 22, 1922, Union City, Mich.; d. May 23, 2012, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: son, Delbert; daughters, Sharon, Janet; 13 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.



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FEEDBACK:

The Recorder welcomes feedback to articles, suggestions, or comments which contribute, in a positive way, to the thinking of the church on important issues.

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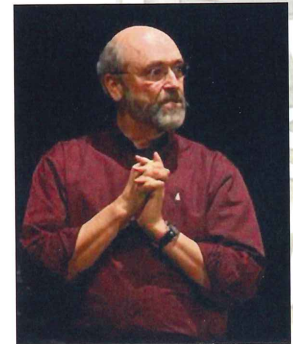
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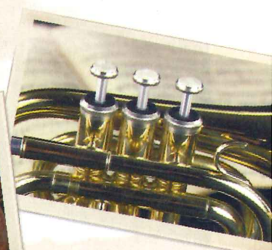
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Setting the Captives Free

An Interview with Karen Nicola

We asked Karen Nicola about her efforts to help people who have been victimized by abuse — a plague that is happening all over the world, including the United States.

Editor – Karen, you are involved in an incredible project that seeks to rescue victims of human trafficking. We want to hear about this, but before we go there, give us a little background about yourself and what motivated you to direct your energies in this direction.

Nicola – I was first introduced to the existence of modern day slavery by watching a segment of CSI on Russian women who were trafficked for brothels in the U.S. I was horrified and felt totally hopeless to do anything about the abuse and devastation in these women’s lives. As a middle

class American, I had no idea this kind of criminal activity was happening. Neither did I know that there are nearly 30,000,000 slaves around the world. I was determined to do what I could to restore justice and mercy, but I had no clue where to turn.

About four years later, I attended The Freedom Summit in Fremont, Calif.

Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/captives



Karen Nicola

WESTPOINT 2013 Sailing to Heaven’s Shore

March 31 – April 3, 2013, aboard the historic Queen Mary Hotel harbored in Long Beach, California. The theme of “Sailing to Heaven’s Shore” beckons this year’s attendees to experience the energizing inspiration and instruction for ministry in the local congregation to reach the community as well as nurture and mobilize members.

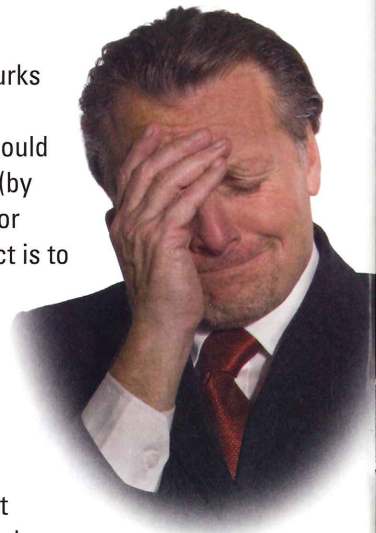
Check out the WestPoint 2013 video at:
www.adventistwestpoint.org



Comfort FOR THE DAY with Karen Nicola

A ChurchApplied Video

One of the fears that lurks in the recesses of every parent’s mind is that they could lose a child through death (by accident, disease, murder or suicide). Our natural instinct is to do everything we can to protect our children from harm, and it is truly heart-rending when tragedy strikes and renders us helpless. Listen and watch as Karen Nicola talks about her journey through heartache and loss, and discover how God is using her to bless those who mourn.



Watch video at:
www.vimeo.com/49837481

Should Christians Spend Time on Social Media?

by *Christiane Marshall*

It was late, and I noticed I had a new message from Kim: “can you help me out? I need someone to call my sister and wake her up cuz she can’t hear me yellin. kinda weird, I know, but you’re the only person I can find online...”

Kim had ALS and was unable to walk and had minimal use of her hands. I had never met Kim in person. She lived in Texas, and I lived in Ohio.

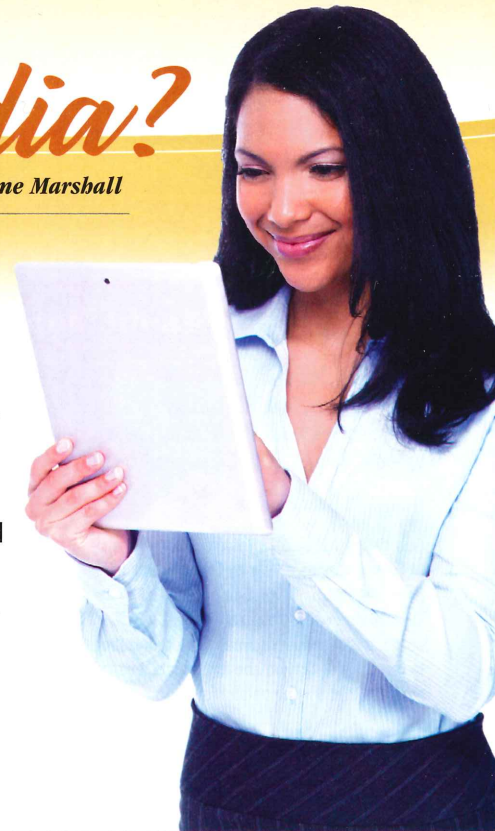
I was glad to help.

I joined Myspace years ago because my adult children were scattered in five different states. They were on Myspace,

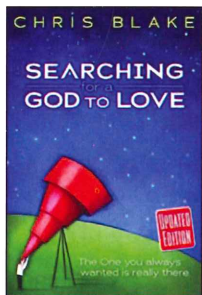
so I signed on, too! I soon began communicating with other people, and realized that I was gathering a little community around me. Kim was one of my new friends. I eventually followed my children and some of my new friends to Facebook.

I found myself encouraging others and bouncing ideas around. Others noticed my comments and asked to be my friend. It was almost like being in grade school again. “Will you be my friend?”

Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/social



RESOURCES YOU CAN USE



Searching for a God to Love, by Chris Blake – Author Chris Blake has revised and updated his best-selling book of a decade ago. Do you have questions? Do you have doubts? Have you been hurt? Are you aching for something more? Great. You qualify to take the journey this life-changing book defines. Price: US\$13.99. Available at Adventist Book Centers. Website: www.adventistbookcenter.com



“Help, I’m a New Ministry Leader!” – You’ve been asked to lead a ministry in your local church, but no one gave you any idea of what you are to do. AdventSource has prepared “Quick Start Guides,” a series of booklets designed to help local church leaders start or revitalize ministries. Each “Quick Start Guide” contains a job description, instructions for

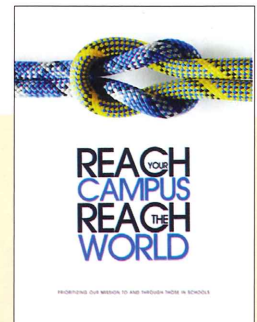
getting started, tips for maintaining a successful ministry, troubleshooting suggestions, recommended resources, and more. Whether you’re new to ministry or a seasoned volunteer, “Quick Start Guides” will inspire you with ideas you can immediately put to use in your church. Available through AdventSource. Price, US\$79.95. Website: www.adventsource.org

Reach Your Campus Reach the World, by Steve Case – An estimated 70% of Seventh-day Adventist college and university students attend non-church sponsored schools. Many of these students are not finding a spiritual community they can connect with, creating a tremendous need for public campus ministry.

How can the Seventh-day Adventist Church intentionally foster biblical community on public college and university campuses? How can we reach both Adventist and non-Adventist students? How should we conduct evangelism to fit a changing world? These and many other questions were addressed at the 2009 180° Symposium held on the campus of Andrews University.

Papers presented at the 180° Symposium covered three major themes:

- Campus Ministry Models
- Campus Ministry Networking
- Campus Ministry Resources



cont. on page 4

Publisher: Pacific Union
Church Support Services

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Design: Palimor Studios

ChurchApplied © 2012 Volume 7, Number 4, is published 4 times a year by Church Support Services, Pacific Union Conference, 2686 Townsgate Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361. Our purpose for listing resources and organizations is to provide information about products, events, and services that may be helpful for church ministries. ChurchApplied or the Pacific Union Conference does not accept payment in exchange for listing resources. Some of the items may need to be adapted for Adventist usage. For more info, call (805) 413-7372.

Web Round-Up

Evangelism Coach

www.evangelismcoach.org

Grand Avenue SDA Church

www.grandadvent.org

inSpire Creative Community

www.visitinspire.org

Paradise Valley SDA Church

www.pvchurch.org

SOULSwest

www.soulswest.org

SpiritRenew

www.spiritrenew.org

TED Talks

www.ted.com

How to witness Without Embarrassing God

by Frank D. Bondurant

I gave up on witnessing. It's not that I wasn't grateful for the salvation I have through Jesus. I was grateful and really wanted to tell others about His love and how He changed my life. I took classes on how to share my faith. I memorized scripts. I learned proof texts and how to answer objections. Yet in spite of my best intentions, my efforts failed miserably.



source: Shutterstock.com

Something that should have been a natural, free-flowing exchange, was stiff, awkward, and mechanical. Mine was not a winsome witness. People were put off, and God must have been embarrassed at my misrepresentation of Him. Traditional methods of evangelism just didn't seem to match my personality and spiritual gifts. I was like David wearing Saul's armor. Did I really have to be pushy, insensitive, or confrontational to be an effective witness?

Later, as a pastor, I learned that only about 10 percent of my church members were comfortable sharing their faith using traditional methods. Many of them also gave up on witnessing. Why would

God require a particular model for witnessing and then equip so few of His people to use it successfully? I have since discovered a different approach to witnessing, or as I call it, evangelism. If you are ready to build up the kingdom of God, here's how to get started.

Read full article:

www.churchsupportservices.org/witness

Frank D. Bondurant, serves as the vice president for Ministries Development for the Columbia Union of Seventh-day Adventists. His responsibilities include partnering with local conferences in developing and supporting outreach ministries that transform and evangelize the communities within the Union territory.

Reach Your Campus, Reach the World, cont. from page 3

Among the 23 papers included in *Reach Your Campus Reach the World*, you will find powerful ministry ideas presented by Steve Case, Kirk King, Ron Pickell, Alex Espana, Martin Weber, and many others. Topics covered include rethinking evangelism, campus-based youth ministry, social networking and the faith community, and supporting our youth. Is your congregation ready to reach out to public campuses? Available through AdventSource. Price, US\$14.95. Website: www.adventsource.org