

Connecting the Pacific Union Adventist Family

Recorder

January 2010

A photograph of a man with curly hair, shirtless, and completely covered in mud. He is standing in a muddy area, possibly a triathlon obstacle course. In the background, there is a yellow caution tape with Hebrew text. The man is looking towards the camera with a slight smile.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Thunderbird Adventist Academy junior Tommy Zirkle finishes the 2009 Mud Madness Triathlon with a splash. The community outreach event raised money for Adventist education and promoted health and wellness in the local community. Photo by Phil Draper.

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A New Year, New Mercies

Ricardo Graham, President, Pacific Union Conference

As 2009 comes to a close, right on the heels of it, the New Year commences.

The year that fades into eternity past has been a tumultuous one. Jobs lost, retirement savings whittled away, homes foreclosed and loved ones who have died. Is there anything we can look for different in the dawning New Year? Or will it be more of the same, or worse?

I thought of the Prophet Jeremiah and his book rightly titled Lamentations. It may not be one of the more popular books in the Holy Bible, but it has some very significant things to say.

Jeremiah writes out his passion for the once proud Jerusalem in a series of poems, each poem arranged as a chapter in our Bibles. Using an acrostic or alphabetical fashion, he starts each chapter with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is though he is weeping over the special city from A to Z. His mournful language is deep and moving.

The Lamentations climaxes Jeremiah's 40 years of prophecying that national apostasy would lead to God's judgment.

In the midst of his lamenting, Jeremiah realizes that God has been faithful, even to the unfaithful people who are His children and that God would continue to be ever faithful to His own. No matter how things may grow progressively worse, there is hope in the Lord.

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him" (Lam. 3:22-24).

This passage speaks to us all. No matter how bad things get, our hope in the Lord springs eternal, because He is eternal. We have not been "consumed" because God is continually compassionate to us. In fact, Jeremiah tells us that God's mercies are new every morning because He is faithful.

And that is always the point. God is faithful. He is faithful no matter what. He can be counted on to

be merciful to us, because that is just the way He is. And because that is true, we have hope for today and tomorrow.

While each new day brings its own set of challenges, God is with us. It is a promise that is repeated throughout Scripture, even captured and used by Jesus Himself, when he says, "I am with you, even unto the end of the World." God's Spirit has not let us down. He has not forsaken us and never will. We have His word on it.

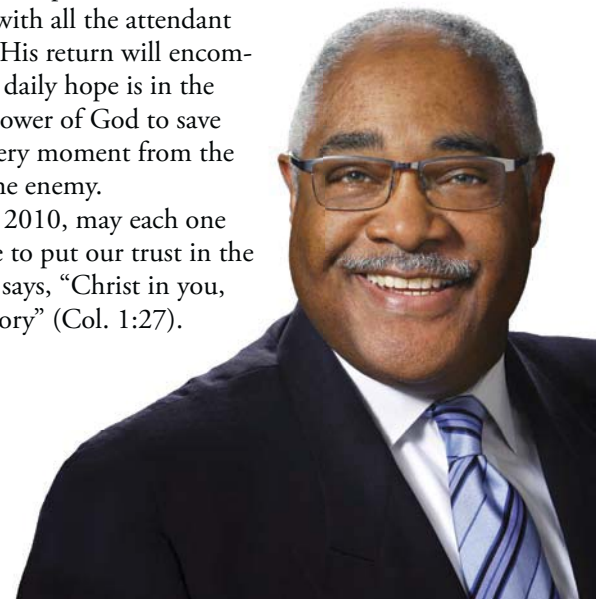
We people of faith have hope. And our hope is manifested in so many ways. We hope that in this New Year we can grow closer to God every day. Hope that we will overcome in the strength of Jesus all that needs to be overcome. Hope that our children will learn from our mistakes.

David said it well when he said, in Psalms 130:7, "Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption."

Our hope must be found in the Lord. Systems will fail. Organizations will fail. Other people, friends and loved ones will fail. Governmental leaders will fail to realize our grandest hope. But if we trust in the Lord, our hope will never be disappointed.

Our ultimate hope is the Second Coming of Christ with all the attendant blessings that His return will encompass. And our daily hope is in the ever-present power of God to save us now, this very moment from the influence of the enemy.

As we enter 2010, may each one of us continue to put our trust in the Lord. As Paul says, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).





J. Gary Norman Retires as Conference Secretary/Treasurer

Connie L. Smith Hall

For the past 10 years, the Nevada-Utah Conference has been blessed by the dedicated work and presence of J. Gary Norman, conference secretary/treasurer. He has worked diligently to maintain the conference finances, which is, in most cases, not an easy task. “I’ve really appreciated Gary’s skill in the treasury, as well as his friendship,” said Larry Unterseher, conference president. “He is truly a friend to the pastors and teachers in this conference and a friend to God.”

Norman never thought he would work for the church, but when he transitioned from the Adventist hospital system to the conference office, he had no doubts that the Lord had called him, he says.

Norman grew up in the Galveston and Keene, Texas, area. He is a Vietnam veteran who served his country for two years at the Biological and Chemical Warfare Center of the Army. He was a courier and carried classified and top secret information to various places around Washington, D.C.

Norman decided that he wanted to further his education and

enrolled in Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University). While there, he met Rosanne

J. Gary Norman



Conference President Larry Unterseher, right, and his wife, Rhonda, left, present Gary and Rosanne Norman with a token of appreciation for Gary’s years of service.

Ahl, now his wife. He transferred to Pacific Union College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in business administration with an emphasis in accounting.

After he graduated from PUC, he went to his first assignment at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he was the staff accountant. He has since worked in three other Adventist hospitals and two other conference offices.

Norman and Rosanne have two children: a son, James, is a lab technician in Hawthorne, Nev., and a daughter, Angeliqua Kripps, works for the Adventist Media Center Simi Valley, Calif. He has

three grandchildren — Jaci, Cerria, and Caleb — with whom he enjoys spending time.

Norman’s hobbies include bicycling, four-wheeling, water skiing, camping and rebuilding classic cars. After his retirement, he is looking forward to traveling with Rosanne throughout the United States and abroad. They would like to take some cruises, too.

He is glad to see how the Lord has blessed the conference with growth throughout the years. “I have really enjoyed working with all the wonderful people in the Nevada-Utah Conference for the past 10 years,” Norman said.



Mud Madness Triathlon Raises \$30,000 for Adventist Education

Phil Draper

The steam rolled off the pool at 6 a.m. The bike racetrack received its final sweeping as volunteers walked one last time over the run course. The anticipation was almost tangible as athletes of all shapes, sizes and ages arrived to participate in the Mud Madness Triathlon 2009 on the campus of Thunderbird Adventist Academy.

Participation was not limited to students and church members. The community was invited to enjoy the day of adventure, ending in a 75 ft. mud pit at the finish line.

Event creators Jay Warren, Mark Tamaleaa, Erik VanDenburgh and Benjamin Lundquist, all youth leaders of the Arizona Conference, led a team of approximately 80 volunteers who helped to make the event a success.

Mud Madness Triathlon 2009 was designed with a purpose of reaching out to the Scottsdale community in a positive way to promote health and wellness and to create an awareness of the benefits of a Christian education. Event organizers wanted every participant

to go home from the event feeling affirmed, encouraged and inspired to become healthy and to participate in community events.

“Little did we know that God had bigger things in store for this triathlon,” Lundquist said. “His timing is always perfect. God knew He would use this event to help a Christian school in need.”

Thunderbird Christian Elementary School viewed this triathlon as an opportunity for their students to solicit sponsors and raise money for their school. Total raised for TCE was well over \$20,000.

Charles White, senior pastor of the Camelback church, was the most “seasoned” competitor in the triathlon. He was such a favored participant that he raised nearly \$6,000 in sponsorships. Last to run the final lap around the track, White faced the pond of mud with agility and no fear, diving head-first into the murky, muddy waters, knowing that his participation was not simply providing entertainment to his congregation, but was also raising money for TCE.



Phil Draper

Camelback Senior Pastor Charles White raised \$6,000 from his sponsors for the Mud Madness Triathlon.

“This is one of the greatest events I’ve witnessed that involved community and church,” said VanDenburgh, conference youth director. “Our young people were totally pumped as they participated and promise to bring their friends for next year’s event in late October.”

“The joy on the faces of our 125 participants as each received their medal was priceless,” remembers Lundquist, Camelback church youth pastor. “Young and old were united in effort as if this was an actual Olympic competition. And they grasped their awards as if they were actual gold medals.”

White proclaimed the event a huge success for the school and the community. “This event was far larger than I ever anticipated it would be,” he said. “I commend our young pastors for continually creating events of this nature that involve our youth — and even those of us who are a bit more senior!”

Mud Madness Triathlon participants — 125 of them — raised \$30,000 for education and youth-sponsored events.



Phil Draper



Baptism at Crystal Cathedral Highlights 2009 Hispanic Outreach

Jocelyn Fay

Members of Hispanic Adventist churches in Orange County ended the month of November having welcomed 241 people into their congregations by baptism and profession of faith during the previous six months.

This brought them well within sight of their goal of 300 new members by Dec. 31, according to Alberto Ingleton, vice president of Southeastern California Conference for Hispanic ministries. More baptisms were scheduled for December, said Ingleton, who was confident that the goal of 300 would be reached.

The largest baptismal service during the past summer and fall was conducted Oct. 17 at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. Seventy-three new members were baptized outdoors in large swimming pools on that sunny Sabbath afternoon, the massive glass structure towering behind them.

The Crystal Cathedral baptism concluded a weeklong series of meetings by Frank Gonzalez, speaker/director of La Voz de la Esperanza.

More than 1,000 people attended the meetings every night, experiencing the Holy Spirit's work through Gonzalez's series on the eternal gospel of Jesus.

Planning for that event, and the

baptismal services that followed during the remainder of October and November, began about 18 months earlier, according to Caleb Jara, pastor of the Anaheim Spanish church and director of El Instituto de Discipulado (Institute of Discipleship) in Orange County.

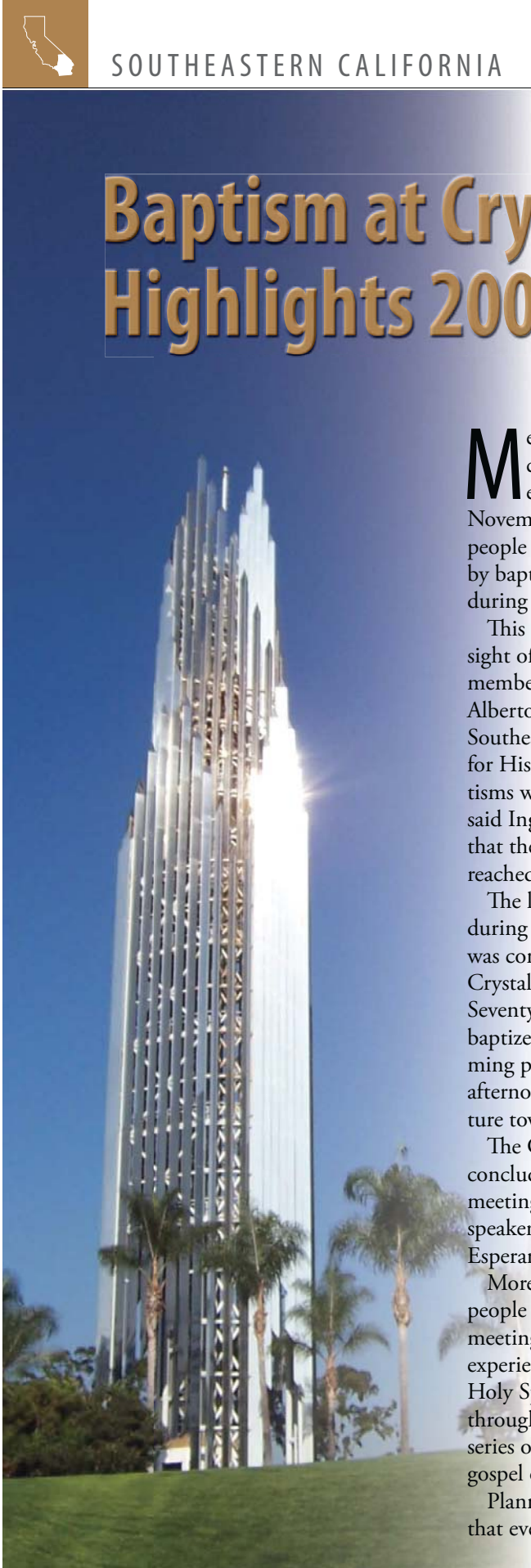
"Bringing disciples to the kingdom of God is our mission," Jara said. "I was encouraged and very excited that for the first time 100 percent of our Spanish churches in Orange County participated."

By the beginning of the year, evangelistic plans for 2009 had been made by Ingleton; Yohalmo Saravia, Southeastern's Hispanic evangelist; and the Orange County pastors.

Sabbath afternoon, Jan. 10, the pastors gathered the members of their congregations together at the Crystal Cathedral's arboretum for seminars on spirituality, small groups and how to share their faith. Gonzales met with them to inspire, train and challenge them.

Each church then began small group ministry in its part of the county in preparation for the

"I was encouraged and very excited that for the first time 100 percent of our Spanish churches in Orange County participated."





Frank Gonzalez, speaker/director of La Voz de la Esperanza, assisted Orange County pastors in planning and carrying out their 2009 evangelism plans, speaking Oct. 12-17 at meetings that concluded with the baptism of 73 people.



Gerald Penick

Gerald Penick



Frank Gonzalez's series of meetings in Garden Grove's famous Crystal Cathedral drew 6,500 attendees.

thousands of Adventist members were prepared to attend and to bring with them the nonmembers with whom they had been studying.

I understood that salvation is a gift from God, and that I needed to accept Jesus as my personal Savior, so I got baptized."

The new members were not raised from the baptismal water to negotiate the challenges of their new faith alone. Every new disciple has been assigned a *padrino spiritual*, a spiritual guide and adviser. Sabbath school lessons and the La Fe de Jesus (Faith of Jesus) Bible study series will be provided to help them maintain their spiritual growth.

Most important, the new disciples are being encouraged to share their walk with Jesus with their relatives and friends to expand the kingdom of God even further.

Alberto Ingleton and Nicole Jara contributed to this article.

evangelistic meetings that would be conducted in the fall.

Morena Zavala, leader of one of those groups, called the Crystal Cathedral baptism the "coronation" of the year of evangelistic work.

"As a member, host and leader of small group Bible study, I felt so blessed to see four of the Bible students of my group baptized, and another student became a member of my church by profession of faith," she said.

The group leaders were the key to the success of this venture, according to Jara. One of the main tools used in the groups was the Descubra-El Destino Feliz (Discover the Happy Destiny) DVD produced by La Voz de la Esperanza.

By Oct. 12, when Gonzales began his Crystal Cathedral series,

About 6,500 people in all attended the meetings, 1,500 of whom were non-members.

Among them was Ana Moreno, who had been attending the Adventist church in Anaheim for some time but had never joined it.

"I finished a series of Bible studies but did not want to be baptized, because I thought I had to be perfect before taking this step," she said. "During the week at the cathedral,

Altogether about 6,500 people, 1,500 who were not members of the Adventist church, attended. On the sunny Sabbath afternoon of Oct. 17, 73 people were baptized in pools at the Crystal Cathedral.



Gerald Penick

University Celebrates New Centennial Complex Opening

Larry Kidder, M.A.

Donors, university administrators and staff, architects, contractors, and other guests gathered on the north side of the Centennial Complex at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009, for the grand opening ceremony.

The event marked the culmination of fundraising efforts resulting in nearly \$60 million given to the project, as well as the near completion of the complex. Students began using the facility at the beginning of the fall 2009 quarter.

On hand for the event were major donors for whom areas of the building have been named, as well as the Loma Linda University Councilors, who gave more than \$13 million to the project, and a host of other contributors.

“The Centennial Complex now stands proudly as a monument on our campus,” says Richard H. Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University. “This building has fulfilled our dreams, enabling our divine mission to the world. With 151,000 square feet of classrooms, laboratories, and offices, this building is our first new academic building in more than 30 years.”

The Centennial Complex is a marvel of health care and communication technology. Areas such as the medical simulation center and advanced anatomy laboratories will allow students to receive the very best training long before they ever practice on real patients. The components of telemedicine will

be used to prepare students for an ever-evolving health care delivery system that will increasingly utilize distance technologies.

All eight schools in the university share the Centennial Complex, making it unique on the Loma Linda University campus. The building is designed to put students in touch with online resources. Study areas abound and are designed for student comfort and convenience. Amphitheaters have seats with power and connectivity for laptop computers.

The School of Religion, which serves students in all of the other schools, is housed in the new complex, along with the Center for

Spiritual Life & Wholeness and the Center for Christian Bioethics.

Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were: Dr. Hart; B. Lyn Behrens, M.B.B.S., president emeritus of Loma Linda University; Lowell Cooper, M.Div., M.P.H., chair of the LLU Board of Trustees; Brian Bull, M.D., chair and professor of pathology and human anatomy, School of Medicine; Chen Fong; Patrick Chen; Frank and Anna Damazo; Shawn Casey-White, granddaughter of Marge Jetton; William and Rose Swatek; Patrick and Linda Wong; Carlton and Raye McAnally Lofgren; and Carleton and Patti Shryock Wallace.

Loma Linda University Councilors who were able to attend the grand opening ceremony gather for a group photo following the event. As a group, the councilors donated more than \$13 million toward the Centennial Complex project.



Loma Linda University Celebrates Life-Saving Legacy of Baby Fae

Heather Reifsnnyder

More than 2,000 people came to Loma Linda University Church on Oct. 31 to hear the until-now untold story of Baby Fae — an infant who captured the nation’s attention in 1984 when Loma Linda University doctors gave her the heart of a baboon to save her from certain death.

Baby Fae, whose full name was Stephanie Fae Beauclair, lived for three weeks after her successful surgery and then died for reasons still not understood. During all of the media coverage at the time, her mother chose to remain anonymous.

But during this program, marking the close of the School of Medicine’s centennial celebration, a short version of the documentary “Stephanie’s Heart” was shown, telling the whole story for the first time. In it, Stephanie’s mother, Teresa Beauclair, details what she and her daughter went through during Stephanie’s short life.

Key members of Stephanie’s medical team also shared their experiences. The film brought tears to the eyes of some in the audience.

After the documentary, Beauclair came on stage for a conversation with Leonard Bailey, M.D., distinguished professor, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, LLUSM, who performed Stephanie’s surgery, and his wife, Nancy. Beauclair received a standing ovation at several times during the program.



Teresa Beauclair (left) speaks candidly with Nancy (center) and Leonard Bailey about her experience more than 25 years ago when her daughter, Stephanie Fae, received the first infant heart transplant at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.

Bailey remarked on the dignity and grace that Beauclair, who was only 24 years old at the time, showed during the ordeal. She said that is not how she felt. “I just felt like a mother who wanted so much for her baby to live,” she said.

There were lighthearted moments in the program, such as when Beauclair revealed she wore a lab coat to go in and out of the hospital in order to escape media detection, and more serious ones, such as when she credited Bailey for his courage in trying to save Stephanie’s life. She thanked him on behalf of Stephanie and the many infants who have since had successful heart transplants.

Because of the awareness raised by her surgery, Bailey was able to successfully perform the world’s first infant-to-infant heart transplant a year later on Baby Moses, who is now in his twenties. Since

then, more than 2,000 infant heart transplants have been performed worldwide, with more than 500 performed at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital. Being born with a condition such as hypoplastic left heart syndrome — what Stephanie had — is no longer necessarily a death sentence.

One of those saved babies — Amethyst Lewellin, now 5 years old — came on stage to give Beauclair flowers and a long hug.

About a dozen children and young adults who received heart transplants earlier in life at Loma Linda came on stage with their parents to share their stories. At the end of the program, about 50 of them gathered while a special musical number was performed.

For more information about the legacy of Baby Fae, visit www.babyfae.com.



SCC Pastors Ordained to Ministry

Betty Cooney

Three Southern California Conference pastors were among the latest to be ordained in 2009: Joseph Oh, Salvador Garcia and Moises Benitez. (Other ordinations were reported earlier.)

Joseph Oh



Joseph Oh, associate pastor of the Los Angeles Central Korean church, has been involved in youth and other ministries at that church since 2000. Oh has contributed widely in the Korean Adventist community by teaching, developing and coordinating a variety of programs. He is currently working on a Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University and was ordained on May 16. Joseph and Sarah Oh are the parents of Rebecca. “My calling is to introduce people to the God who can change their lives,” Oh said.

Salvador Garcia



At age three, Salvador Garcia was hit by a car, and his mother’s prayers were that he would live and become a minister. Through the experience, the family became acquainted with the Adventist church.

Baptized at 16 by evangelist John Carter, Garcia served his church as a lay leader until receiving the call to ministry and leaving for Pacific Union College.

Graduating in 2003, he served as youth pastor in the El Sereno, Lincoln Heights and E. Los Angeles Bilingual congregations and was employed by SCC as associate pastor of the Glendale Spanish church. Garcia earned a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in 2007, returning to serve as associate pastor at the La Voz/Sylmar church and currently at the Central Spanish church. He was ordained Sept. 26, 2009.

Moises Benitez Ponce



Moises Benitez Ponce is a third-generation Adventist. After earning a B.A. in education at Montemorelos University, Benitez accepted the call to continue his education. He went on to complete a B.A. in theology in 2003 and a master’s degree in family relationships.

Benitez’s SCC ministry has included pastoral assignments at the Lynwood and South Gate Spanish churches. He currently pastors the Panamericana, Silver Lake and South Central Spanish district and was ordained to the ministry Nov. 21, 2009.

Moises and Luz Ofelia Benitez are the parents of four children: Ericka, Grecia and twin sons Alberto and Mario.

“To join the pastoral team has been a privilege and a great opportunity God has given me after a personal struggle with the Lord for more than 20 years,” Benitez said.



Hollywood Church Reaches Community on Foot and On Camera

Betty Cooney

Early in 2009 Dennis Hill, a member of the Hollywood church and a working actor, noticed a number of talented young adult artists attending the church with one thing in common: they were all struggling to develop film careers. “I saw their need,” said Hill, “and I wanted to share — and learn as well. I began pulling together a group willing to volunteer and get involved, and I discovered, it’s fun!”

Hill’s “fun” involves four days of preparation weekly for artists’ workshops that he conducts. “Our goal is to spark interest for Adventist projects and show that we have the talent to handle everything behind and in front of the camera,” Hill explained. “One reason for the artists’ workshop is so we can work on films without Sabbath or other conflicts.”

Another major facet of the church’s ministry to the area’s artistic community is development of a media ministry program coordinated by Julia Alty, a member and film industry professional. “The main way we will use the original media we produce will be for outreach,” she said.

“We hope to reach out to other creative individuals, bringing them in to work on Christian



“When we talk to people along the way, they feel safe to give their e-mail address for our list,” noted Nathan French (center, holding sign). “We also post blog updates with neighborhood pictures and discussion questions.” Pastor Ryan Bell is on the left. For more info: www.hollywoodsda.org.

productions with us. We will also document the church’s community service work. Our media ministry will go hand in hand with the outreach plan for this coming year,” Alty added, “helping to get the word out about events; supporting them in any way we can.”

For a Neighborhood Walks outreach overseen by Nathan French, the congregation’s “peace and justice coordinator,” members and friends explore the neighborhood within a one-mile radius of the church.

“There didn’t seem to be a sense of community in the

neighborhood,” French reflected. “I wondered if we would help eliminate isolation if we invited people to walk with us.

“I had an appointment with a neighborhood councilmember to ask for his verbal support of the walks,” French added. “Is this going to be to convert people?” he asked. I explained that our church’s mission is to serve the city in tangible ways, to participate in healing in all ways. After that, he talked openly about the neighborhood. Prior to this, he had not really known much about our church.”



Three Northern California Pastors Respond to God's Call

Julie Lorenz

The Holy Spirit's call to ministry has been confirmed for three Northern California Conference pastors in ordination/commissioning ceremonies.

Michael Kontes

Michael Kontes, Antelope Hills/Rio Linda district pastor, was ordained at the Antelope Hills church on Aug. 1.

Born shortly after his parents emigrated from Greece to Sacramento, Kontes grew up in a traditional home — with Greek food, Greek school and Greek culture.

After a year in college, a job at UPS, and a lot of fishing (on the professional West Coast Bass circuit), Kontes married his wife, Ragan, whom he had met at Capital Christian High School. They soon had two children — son Lucas and daughter Arianna.

Ragan began to pray that God would reveal Himself to her husband. Six months later, Kontes was watching a religious television

program when the speaker asked: "If you die tonight, do you know where you will go?"

"As I shut off the TV and went to bed, my heart was heavy. I realized that I was not as good as I thought I was, and that I was in need of a Savior," he said. "I gave my life to Jesus."

Kontes began to study the Bible and investigate different denominations. In 1997, he and Ragan were baptized by Doug Batchelor, Sacramento-Central church pastor. The next year, Kontes was ordained as a lay pastor.

In early 1999, the family received the terrible news that little Arianna had an inoperable brain tumor. She passed away six months later.

Not long after this devastating event, Kontes enrolled at Pacific Union College. Shortly after his graduation, the family was blessed with a second son, Micah, and Kontes became pastor of the Rancho Cordova and Shingle Springs churches.

Three years later, Kontes began studies at the Adventist Theological Seminary. After graduating with his Master of Divinity degree, he returned to the NCC to pastor the district where he is today.

As a result of his life's experiences, Kontes's desire is to encourage and bring hope into people's lives — whether ministering to many in a public setting or reaching one person through a hospital visit. He says: "I want to be where God wants me to be; I want to be doing what God wants me to be doing."



Mary Maxson is surrounded by her family: husband Ben, daughter Laura, grandson Benjamin, daughter-in-law Kartini, son Benjie.

Mary Maxson

Mary Maxson, Paradise church associate pastor, was commissioned Sept. 26. A Tennessee native, Maxson married her husband Ben (now Paradise church senior pastor) the year after she graduated from Southern Missionary College.

After working in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, the couple served in Argentina (where daughter Laura was born) and Uruguay before heading to the seminary, where Ben continued his studies. After he graduated, they worked in Missouri (where son Benjie was born) and again in Georgia.

In Georgia, Maxson made an important spiritual transition. Although she had been an Adventist all her life, "I didn't know Jesus as my personal Savior," she said. One evening during a period of great discouragement, Maxson prayed and asked God what she had to do for Him to love her. "His grace-filled response was: 'I love you because I died just for you.' That was the defining moment in my spiritual journey," she said.

Michael Kontes and his wife, Ragan, are joined by his mother, Stella, and their sons, Lucas and Micah.





When the family moved to the Carolina Conference, Maxson worked as a secretary in the conference office, coordinated the Shepherdess organization and edited the pastors' wives newsletter. She later became the conference women's ministries coordinator.

Another move took the Maxsons to the Upper Columbia Conference, where she worked as a secretary and Shepherdess coordinator.

When the couple relocated to the East Coast, Maxson served as editorial secretary for *Adventist Review* and later worked for Adventist World Radio. She also became a volunteer hospital chaplain associate at a local medical center. For six years, she was the North American Division women's ministries director.

Now at Paradise, Maxson is the pastor for discipleship and nurture. "My passion is to know Jesus passionately and to personally lift Him up to those with whom I come in contact," she said. "My mission is to serve, to nurture, and to disciple people, and — as a leader — to train and equip members for ministry."

Gregory Johnson

Gregory Johnson, Pittsburg church pastor, was ordained at his church on Oct. 3. Growing up in Southern California, he attended the Protestant chapel services at the nearest military base. His father was a retired military man and his mother was a deeply spiritual woman who laid the foundation for his road to the ministry.

When he was 18, Johnson met a young Adventist woman who often invited him to her church. He didn't want to go, but one day "I decided I would endure a couple of hours of boredom and attend the church service." He was pleasantly surprised. "It was exciting — with plenty of

singing and inspiring preaching. The people were friendly, ... and I felt an acceptance that I had never experienced before," he said.

Johnson decided to take Bible studies, and he was baptized at the Juniper Avenue church in Fontana by the church pastor, now NCC Ministerial Director Ivan Williams.

A year later, Johnson volunteered to help his church conduct an evangelistic rally. He expected to serve as an usher, but so few people had volunteered to help that he was assigned to do Bible work and knock on doors. By the end of the rally, he had led a woman to Christ and felt his call to ministry.

After working as a youth pastor at the Juniper Avenue church, Johnson moved to Alabama to attend Oakwood College. While there, he worked as a Bible instructor for several evangelistic meetings; he also served as assistant pastor at the Madison Mission church. And he married Ayanna Scott — the young lady who had invited him to church as a teenager.

Joyce Richardson



Gregory Johnson was invited to church as a teenager by his future wife, Ayanna.

After graduation, Johnson became assistant pastor of the Sacramento-Capitol City church. Two years later, he enrolled at the Adventist Theological Seminary. After completing his Master of Divinity degree, he returned to the NCC as the Pittsburg church pastor.

Johnson and his congregation have committed themselves to service, including outreach to the residents of the El Pueblo housing project near their church. "Service comes before proclamation," said Johnson. "People will not hear or believe the message until they can trust the messengers."



Notice of Constituency Meeting of the Northern California Conference

Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Pacific Union College Church in Angwin, Calif., on Sunday, May 16, 2010, at 9 a.m.

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

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

James E. Pedersen, President
Marc Woodson, Executive Secretary



Prodigal Son Returns Home

Caron Oswald

Church members affectionately nicknamed the three 40-something new members — all baptized last summer — Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego because of their fire and zeal for following Jesus.

It was the love of baseball that created the divide in Rindon Heinz' heart. "I was raised in a great Adventist family," he says. Little did Dennis and Phoebe Heinz know that a storm of rebellion was brewing.

"I'd always been very supportive of Rindon's love for baseball," says Dennis, who played catch in the back yard. "He played little league and was a very good left-handed pitcher. I didn't know this, but his coach told him if he stuck with it, he had 'the potential to go far, possibly the majors.'"

When ninth grade arrived, Rindon wanted only one thing — to go to public school and play baseball. Phoebe made it very clear that church school was the only option. For the next four years in academy, his anger and bitterness grew.

Phoebe could tell he was pulling away, but he never voiced his feelings.

"Moms sometimes don't listen," she says. "Sabbath was in the way of being a ball player, and I just couldn't hear it." Dennis knew he was angry about something, but Rindon never would answer his questions.

His freshman year at Pacific Union College was the catalyst to finally take action.

"I met a bunch of like-minded people who wanted to get out of religious prison and taste the world," Rindon says.

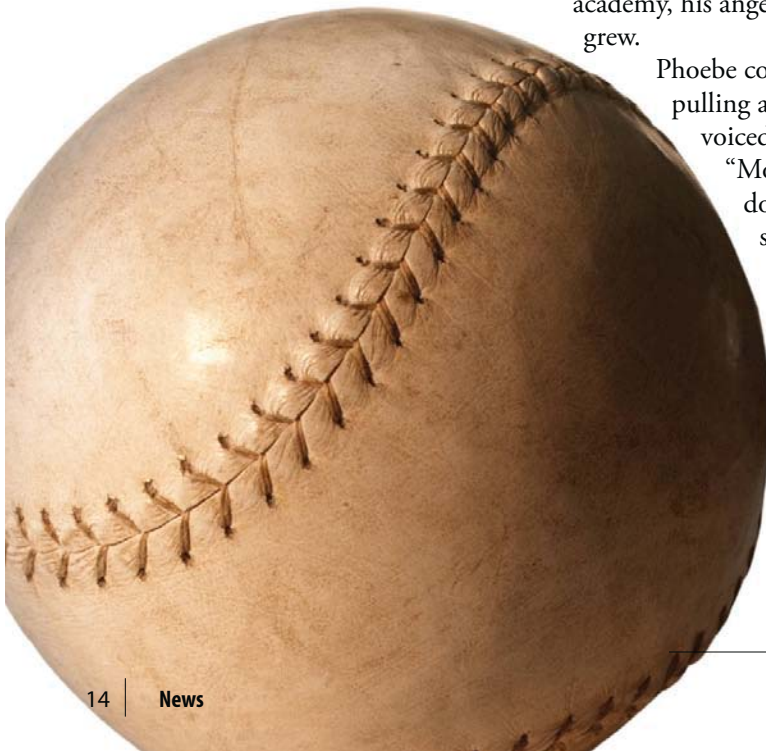
The question in his heart kept churning: "Why didn't my parents afford me the opportunity to do what I was passionate about, to live my life the way I wanted to do?" He all but stopped speaking to Dennis and Phoebe for about 20 years. "My parents sort of left me alone. We had maybe a total of 10 to 15 hours of phone calls and visits during that time," Rindon shares.

Phoebe depended on prayer. "I just knew God would work a way," she says. "Sometimes we didn't know where he lived. He didn't call. We had to make the effort if he was going to be in our lives. My constant prayer was to bring him back to us and to God."

Dennis got mad at God, something he had been most of his life when things were extremely difficult. Rindon's turning his back on his family, God and His church was too painful.

God's Perfect Timing

Rindon left his successful Sacramento business and moved to the Santa Cruz area to be closer a woman he loved. Ten months later, alone and hurting financially, Rindon remembered something his mom had taught his sister and him





— Jesus is with you all the time. “I began to talk to God, and I could feel the peace of mind,” he says. “I wasn’t alone anymore.”

He made the decision to try God again — his choice this time — to see what He was like. He began visiting Adventist churches in the area. At the Santa Cruz church, member Hugh Seagraves invited him to lunch. “It was a match made in heaven!” he says about the people he met.

There he also met Phil Frisbie, another newcomer, and together they began their spiritual growth journey. An upcoming Amazing Facts seminar provided a welcomed immersion in God’s Word, as did another new friend, Terry Helton, who was also seeking God.

Church members affectionately nicknamed the three 40-something new members — all baptized last summer — Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego because of their fire and zeal for following Jesus.

20 Years Later

“Looking back, my life was pretty empty,” Rindon says. “I’m not happy; I’m hurting me; I’m hurting my parents. There is more to life than bitterness and anger. It took me that long to finally see it.”

Rindon’s November 2008 phone call announcing that he was coming home for Thanksgiving was a “happy shock!” It had been 15 years since he’d been home for the holiday. Dennis and Phoebe had



Dennis and Phoebe Heinz stand arm-in-arm with son Rindon in July at Soquel camp meeting after sharing their story of reconciliation and healing.

visited him the year before to try to keep in touch.

“He came home to reconcile,” Dennis says. “There was a lot of crying, praying and laughing the whole time. It was a turning point.”

Last May, Dennis and Phoebe received another “shocking” phone call. “I’m getting baptized this coming Sabbath,” Rindon announced. “I have turned everything over to God. Now I know why God placed me where I am, doing what I’m doing. I don’t have to worry about working on the Sabbath.”

And about playing baseball? “I am grateful for parents who stuck to the belief that God has a plan for us; and even if it makes no sense in the moment, it will eventually crystallize,” he says.

Today, the Heinzes talk almost every day. “He really is dedicated to the Lord, he just loves His ministry,” Dennis says.

“Continue to have faith in the Lord,” Phoebe shares. “It isn’t what I want, it is the timing that God wants. And claim His promises!”

Piano Fantasia Promotes PUC Music

Larry Pena



Bob Wilson

Performers at the second Piano Fantasia concert included 15-year-old cello prodigy Nathan Chan, with Rena Ling on piano.

While Piano Fantasia is the keystone event of the Pianos for Paulin Project, the concert is not really about money. Yes, it's part of the process of expanding and continuing renovation. But it's also about creating community and celebrating the role of music in life. Pam Sadler, PUC's vice president for alumni and advancement, is encouraged by the response to Piano Fantasia and the pride with which community leaders have supported it. The response demonstrates that "We can engage the community in PUC's mission of providing an academically excellent Adventist education to young people," she said. "Our community believes in what we do and wants to be a part of this important mission."

Lillian Wu, a Mondavi family friend who helped coordinate Piano Fantasia, said how proud PUC was to present once again "some of the cream of the music society." She noted that the young musicians especially exemplify the high standard of musical excellence, with young performers from the first concert going on to yet greater achievements. The hope of Piano Fantasia, she said, is that music majors at PUC will follow in these musicians' paths — "particularly," she added, "if they possess quality instruments!"

At the end of the concert, Margrit Mondavi, the event's honoree, summed it up: "Art makes us richer. It makes us appreciate."

When he was 6, David Tsao started piano lessons at Pacific Union College's Paulin Hall. A few years later, he and his family left Angwin for Hong Kong, but David continued taking piano lessons until he came back to PUC to study biochemistry — and to take five years of lessons from music department chair Lynn Wheeler.

"It was a surreal experience going back to Paulin Hall when I was in college," he remembers. So when Tsao, now a class of '99 alum, unexpectedly acquired a concertized Steinway grand piano much too large for his Bay Area apartment in 2007, he could think of no better place to keep it than at Paulin Hall.

Tsao's generous indefinite loan inspired a new effort at PUC: "Pianos for Paulin," a push to replace

flagship event, a concert called "Piano Fantasia." The event was so inspirational that a second Piano Fantasia followed in October of 2009. The concerts are a celebration of music at Paulin Hall featuring some of the Bay Area's best performers, and they serve a dual purpose: to honor Robert and Margrit Mondavi, longtime Napa Valley arts patrons; and to promote sponsorship of PUC's music department to the local community.

This year's concert featured renowned concert pianists Daniel Glover and Thomas Hansen, PUC music professor Rachele Davis, ballerina Jeraldine Mendoza from San Francisco's City Ballet School, and 15-year-old cello prodigy Nathan Chan, whose innovative rendition of Mark Summer's Julie-O brought the audience to its feet.

the aging pianos and renovate the practice rooms in PUC's music department. In October of 2008, PUC held the campaign's

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Board of Trustees Affirms Support for Church's Creation Doctrine

Larry Becker

The La Sierra University Board of Trustees has reaffirmed the school's foundational commitments as a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education with particular focus on the Church's official doctrine of creation.

The board's first action supported the university's responsibilities to the Church through:

- Committing to a spirit of open inquiry and discussion in the university's classrooms and laboratories.
- Inspiring, challenging, and supporting the university's faculty in their sacred academic work.
- Affirming that both academic responsibility and commitment to Adventist beliefs are important parts of a vibrant university, as articulated in Ellen White's statement "It is the work of true education to ... train the youth to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other men's thought" (*Education*, p. 17).

In a second action, the board called for scientists and administrators in Adventist higher education to work together with Church leadership in a study group. This group would propose a college curriculum fulfilling the General Conference Executive Committee's call for a scientifically rigorous affirmation of a literal, recent six-day creation. The study group would obtain assistance

from the Geoscience Research Institute in forming model course outlines in life and earth sciences. These could inform curricular revision throughout Adventist higher education.

Additionally, the board requested that a research project be launched to study the spiritual development of Adventist students in higher education throughout the North American Division, with special attention to students in the sciences. It recommended that La Sierra University's John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry, home of the ValueGenesis research project, coordinate the program in cooperation with the North American Division Office of Education.

The actions voted at the board meetings of Nov. 11-12, grew out of several days of board discussions on the issue.

"These board actions are an important, positive moment for La Sierra University," said Randal Wisbey, university president. "Our board members and faculty take seriously their obligation to teach our students in a manner that develops a mature, enduring faith while thoroughly preparing them for careers in the sciences.

"At the same time, our board members recognize this important conversation requires thoughtful input from the entire spectrum of Adventist higher education," Wisbey said.

The board identified the university's new general biology seminar, launched during fall quarter 2009, as an important initial addition to the La Sierra biology curriculum. Required of all students as they begin the university's general biology sequence, the seminar brings students together with scholars from biology, religious studies, and the Geoscience Research Institute. It provides time to explore the role and function of science, the importance of faith, and the relevant doctrinal positions of Seventh-day Adventists.

"The La Sierra biology faculty have faith that God is their Creator and Sustainer," said James Wilson, Ph.D., department chair. "Each faculty member understands the important responsibility to facilitate broad education in biology in ways that embrace the Adventist perspective of God as the Creator of all things."

"Moving forward, the board, administration, and faculty are committed to serving our students as they study the important issues of faith and science," said Ricardo Graham, chair of the La Sierra University Board of Trustees. "As board members, we are appreciative of the wide range of comments on the issue shared by thoughtful church members, and for the many prayers offered during our discussions."

The complete text of the board's two actions can be found on the university's website at www.lasierra.edu/board.

Evangelism Push Continues on Leeward Oahu

Lloyd Munson

Hawaii continued its Year of Evangelism events in Leeward Oahu Aug. 15 through Sept. 12 as the Waipahu and Waipahu Samoan churches joined the Aiea church for a series of public outreach meetings.

Brian McMahan and his team, returning after five years, brought together a team of faithful lay leaders from each of the participating churches to reach out to the Leeward suburbs through direct mail and personal contact. The effort resulted in capacity attendance with an overflow crowd watching on closed circuit big screens in the social hall. The deaconesses provided potluck meals for those who came directly from work to the meetings.

Michael Harris provided an hour-long concert the first night. Then, at each meeting during the first week, he set the spiritual tone and closed the program with an appeal song. At the beginning of the second week, the local Samoan Gospel Heralds sang to a standing room only crowd. Heidi and Kara McMahan and dozens of musicians from the various leeward churches provided additional musical offerings.

Jennifer Hernandez and her dedicated staff held the attention of as many as 50 children in a separate V.B.S.-style program.

Pastors and members from the leeward churches coordinated their varied gifts and responsibilities. "It is thrilling to hear the Bible

truths presented so clearly and to see so many new believers and how excited they are about the things they are learning," one said. "We go home energized each evening!"

As expected, the devil seemed to discourage some who attended. Richard, a top sales associate at Volvo Motors, was convicted of the Sabbath and faced the loss of his job. Yet he knew he had to confront the manager about his need to get Sabbaths off. The conflict was resolved, and that very day he sold a car. On Sabbath, Sept. 12, Richard and his wife, and 18 others joined God's family through baptism.

The weekly new believer's class continues through video and Bible



Pastor Lloyd Munson prepares to baptize Eddie Hamamura.

study to help prepare many more for baptism and to nurture them for service in the Kingdom.

Notice of Constituency Meeting of the Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Quadrennial Constituency Meeting of the Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 25, 2010, at Hawaiian Mission Academy, 1415 Pensacola Street, Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports, to elect conference officers and the Executive Committee, and to transact other business as may properly come before the constituency meeting.

Each organized church shall be represented by one (1) delegate and one (1) additional delegate for each forty (40) members, or major fraction thereof.

*Ralph S. Watts III, President
Robert H. Lloyd, Executive Secretary*



GAMC Loses Former Cancer Center Manager

Emily Young

Last year, Glendale Adventist Medical Center lost a remarkable woman who dedicated more than four decades of service to the Southern California hospital. Liliane McLaughlin, former manager of the cancer center at GAMC, died after suffering a massive stroke. Those who knew McLaughlin will always remember her life of service to God and those around her.

From Belgium to California

Born in Belgium to devoted Seventh-day Adventist parents, hours of daily piano practice as a child showed the first signs of the determination that became a strong part of her character. Just after she turned 26, her family moved to California. She and her younger brother left Belgium before their parents, and did their best to adapt to life in a new country.

McLaughlin found a job at what was known as Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital. Little did she know that she would work in Adventist health care for the next 43 years.

An avid traveler, she was introduced to Harry McLaughlin on a

trip to Tahiti. After spending only 21 days together, they married. The couple continued to take vacations through the years, going to 100 countries, including treks in the Himalayas, African safaris and cruising the Antarctic.

Passion for radiology work

McLaughlin also maintained a thriving career at GAMC. Within two years of being hired, she became an X-ray technician and held certifications in radiation therapy and nuclear medicine. She was soon promoted to chief technologist and then to the head of the Radiology department. Both positions gave her opportunities to minister to

cancer patients and their families.

When GAMC opened its cancer center and needed a manager, McLaughlin's years of experience with cancer patients made her perfect for the job.

Cancer hits home

McLaughlin's experience with cancer became personal when doctors diagnosed her with

colon cancer in 1987. The cancer was so advanced that doctors gave her a five percent chance to live six more months. She underwent major surgery, chemotherapy and



Harry and Liliane McLaughlin

radiation. Remarkably, she returned to GAMC while she continued to battle her cancer, and worked for another 13 years.

In 1997, McLaughlin celebrated 40 years of working at GAMC. In honor of her service, she received a congratulatory letter signed by President Bill Clinton, which said, "Your steadfast devotion serves as an example of caring and leadership to which we can all aspire."

Three years later, her small intestine was so ravaged from the cancer treatments that it had to be removed, and nutrition was injected into her veins daily. Even in her declining condition, McLaughlin found a way to stay positive. She played the "glad game." In every situation, she would try to find something to be glad about. The more difficult it was to find something, the more fun the game was for her.

McLaughlin will be remembered for what made her distinctive: her dedication to GAMC, her care for patients and their families, and ultimately, her positive attitude that could not be dampened by trials or illnesses.



Liliane McLaughlin



SECC Hosts Religious Liberty Luncheon for the Inland Empire

C. Norman Farley



Religious Liberty activists in the Inland Empire gather for a networking luncheon. Back row: Karl McCalla, Vigil Solijon, Ali Agins, Heinrich Strydom, William Hull, Norm Farley. Front row: Hans and Betty Luehr, Audray Johnson, Sarah Jackson, Enrique de Velez, Larry Christoffel.

On Nov. 2, Audray Johnson, SECC religious liberty director, hosted a luncheon at the Lotus Garden for loyal supporters of religious liberty in the Inland Empire. She had recently returned from a World Health Organization Symposium in Geneva. General Conference President Jan Paulsen addressed that body with ideas about how the Adventist church might contribute to the health needs of a global society. Johnson briefed the luncheon guests about Paulsen's report, including her thoughts about how SECC churches might serve a global society.

Dr. C. Norman Farley, a director of the North American Religious Liberty Association — West, helped organize the luncheon. He told the group: "Many of our members are lethargic because they have been

conditioned to look for the loss of religious freedom and are indifferent to the loss of civil freedoms. Justice William O. Douglas put it succinctly: 'As nightfall does not come all at once, neither does oppression. In both instances there is a twilight when everything remains seemingly unchanged ... We must all be most aware of change in the air ... lest we become unwitting victims of the darkness.'"

Members were present from six churches: Campus Hill, Corona, Kansas Avenue, Loma Linda University, San Bernardino 16th Street, and Yucaipa. They were all reminded that more than change was in the air, and that NARLA — West is ready to help local congregations form NARLA teams and get active in the freedom business.

A NARLA team can be started with as few as three people. A NARLA director will help to organize the team. The Inland Empire has two directors in the

immediate area — Fabian Carballo and Norman Farley. Additional teams are being formed throughout the Pacific Union. All local teams function under the guidelines of NARLA — West. NARLA is committed to "motivational spontaneity." This gives a team latitude to be creative. The ultimate aim is to build NARLA's membership and effectiveness to strengthen the ministry of religious liberty.

For churches interested in freedom of conscience issues, there are local resources to tap. The Pacific Union religious liberty department maintains an extensive speakers bureau. Farley has created considerable interest in freedom issues by presenting his sermon, "Freedom Creators and Destroyers," followed by an afternoon seminar, "Portraits of the Demonic Struggle in the Apocalypse," which deals, in part, with the latest Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI and the current economic tsunami as they relate to freedom of conscience.

For information about guest speakers and more, contact Pat Silvia at 916-446-2552, pat@churchstate.org, or visit the website at www.churchstate.org.



Sam Yook Korean SDA Language School Celebrates 40 Years

Nancy Kim

On Sept. 18, 2009 — 40 years to the day after the Sam Yook Language School (formerly the SDA English Center) opened — the facility celebrated its anniversary.

The sanctuary of the school was overflowing with former and current teachers, directors, students and many others. Guest speakers included Maurice Bascom, the second director of the school; Whitaker, one of the first teachers; Yonglin Moon, a former student who was the Korean Minister of Education at that time and is now a professor at Seoul National University; and Myeongkwon Hong, the president of Korean Union College.

The school has its own three-story building of classrooms and labs adjacent to a second building that houses the administrative offices and the sanctuary of the school. There are currently 50,000 students enrolled in 63 Sam Yook Language Schools located throughout South Korea. The four millionth student ever to enroll in an SDA language school enrolled just before the anniversary celebration.

Things didn't look so bright on registration day, Sept. 18, 1969, though. Four student missionaries — Doug Havens, Dave Whitaker, Janene Conley and Nancy Follett — had worked hard in the three weeks prior to Sept. 18 to advertise the new school. (All but Whitaker are currently members in the Pacific Union; Whitaker just moved away last year.) The SMs handed out flyers to students on college and university

campuses, business people at office buildings, and people on the street. They glued posters to fences and light posts. Announcements and advertisements appeared in newspapers.

On opening day, the staff gathered in their rented space on the seventh floor of Dae Wong Corner, ready to register students. They waited through the morning, the lunch hour, and the afternoon. No one came. The school, a dream of Dean Hubbard, a missionary working for the Korean Union in Seoul, looked doomed before it started.

Finally, about 4 p.m., someone walked registered. About 10 minutes later, a few more came to register. Then floods of people crowded in. Doubt turned into amazement as the number of students reached 700 late in the evening.

How in the world were four teachers going to handle 700 students? Hubbard made some desperate calls, and a handful of additional teachers came from as far as Japan and Florida.

Forty years later, the director and his associates decided to include as many as possible of the first group of teachers at the big anniversary

The former teachers attended a traditional dance program during their visit.



First year teachers at the SDA English Center in Korea, 1969, stop for a photo op. To see more photos, visit the *Recorder* website.

celebration. Five responded and attended the activities.

During the celebration, the vision for the future was unveiled, including a new motto: "Embrace the World." As always, each teacher leads a Bible class along with English classes. Over the 40-year history of the SDA English Language Schools in Korea, 13,000 people have been baptized into the Adventist church as a result of the ministry.

More schools in additional cities throughout the country are in the works. Curriculum will expand to other subjects. And there is already a pilot after-school math program in place. The current director, Dr. Siyoung Kim, is working on using technology to add online classes to the school's program.

"Forty years ago, we saw it as an adventure," says Havens, country director for ADRA Myanmar. "It may have started with one administrator and four teachers, but thousands working together through the years have made it a success."



Mythbusters: Revealing the Truth Behind Paying for College

Jay Miller

Young people and their parents are often intimidated by the finances of attending college. Our Adventist colleges and universities have an abundance of resources, experts, and benefits that make the process (and payments) much more manageable — but sometimes it's hard to know where to begin. Financial aid expert Jay Miller, new student financial counselor from Pacific Union College, debunks myths to help clear up a few mysteries.

Myth #1: Adventist higher education is not affordable

Many people are surprised at how little it actually costs to attend after all financial aid is considered. Most people look at the top line — the big number — and not the bottom line after financial aid is subtracted. A mother recently told me she paid more to send her sons to a state college than I was quoting for her nephew to attend an Adventist college, and she was going to spread the word!

Compared to most other private institutions, Adventist colleges are significantly lower in price even before financial aid is considered. So don't assume you can't afford it — talk to your student's financial aid counselor to get the facts.

Myth #2: Students should never take out loans for college

While some respected financial advisors counsel against any debt for education, you have to consider the long run. A reasonable amount of debt may make sense if you consider your student's education to be an investment. Anti-education-debt advisors don't take the same approach to home ownership — they suggest a reasonable 15-year loan could be good.

Most student loans can be paid off in 10 years or less, and that investment continues to pay dividends through an entire career. Once you've gathered as much free money as you can, a modest educational loan may be worth considering.

Myth #3: Adventist higher education isn't worth the sacrifice

There are many levels of value. From a selfish perspective, it's an investment in the student; and statistics show that employees with college degrees earn significantly more than high school graduates. But more importantly, if we consider how to make a difference for others, equipping ourselves to be better servants of the gospel to a hurting world makes a ton of sense. Yes, your student might be able to get a cheaper degree from a local school, but what would they be missing? Professors who care and have time to listen to questions, other Christian students who will help inspire big ideas, and an atmosphere where generosity and faith are important parts of everyday life.

Myth #4: If parents don't help financially, the student is considered independent

Unless a student is 24, married, has dependents, is an orphan or a vet, or a few other possibilities, they are considered a dependent and will have to list their parents' income on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This is true even if the parents don't give the student a dime. If parents refuse to sign, the student can get some federal loans but no other grants or need-based aid will be available.

Myth #5: You have to wait until your taxes are complete to fill out the FAFSA

Many well-meaning advisors think that the IRS is just waiting to catch you filling out a FAFSA too early. But nothing could be further from the truth. The FAFSA gives three choices for whether parents completed tax returns: Yes they did, No they are not going to, and Not yet (will file, not completed). This means you can fill out an online FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov on January 1! Download and print the worksheet ahead of time to collect all the appropriate numbers and make sure you have applied for student and parent PINs in November or December (and keep them safe for future years). The government will understand that your income numbers



College students may qualify for more financial aid than they realize. The colleges have financial aid professionals on hand to help untangle the web.

entered are estimates and will not penalize you — they encourage you to get the FAFSA done early. Later on, your student's financial aid counselor can help you correct or update numbers if necessary.

There is no excuse for waiting to do the FAFSA!

Myth #6: There aren't any scholarships out there for my student

You may have heard about a U.S. student who applied for 1,000 scholarships and received 30 for a total of \$38,000. There's a lot of money to be paid for writing essays! Many local businesspeople want to help students but don't have the resources to advertise their scholarships. Every year millions in available scholarships are unawarded for lack of applicants.

Nobody has to give up a week's worth of sleep to apply, either. Set aside a few hours each week and you will be surprised at how many applications can be sent. Have your student talk to local service clubs, chambers of commerce, foundations, your family insurance agent and other local business professionals. Ask them, "Can you help me?" and "Who do you know that has scholarships?" Also look for national scholarships at websites such as www.schoolsoup.com, and focus on scholarships with a narrow focus since there will be less competition for these dollars.

Myth #7: I'm not going to get anything from filling out the FAFSA

There are two general types of aid: merit money (from various sources), and need-based money (from the FAFSA). Anyone can apply for merit money based on GPA, test scores, leadership activities, etc. But many families assume they make too much money to get government grants (free money).

What they don't know is that Adventist colleges and universities offer need-based grants to many students when their income is too high to qualify for free government money — but students miss out on this if they don't fill out the FAFSA! In addition, things can change.



Haley Wesley

If the family's income decreases, we can adjust their FAFSA and help them qualify for more aid.

Finally, student loans from the government and schools are only available to students who fill out a FAFSA. (And high school seniors and community college transfer students up to age 28 in California need to beat the March 2 deadline to be considered for a Cal Grant). So get your FAFSA done as soon after January 1 as possible, regardless of family income!

Five Things to Do Now

Focusing on these five things right now will help make the upcoming financial aid process pain-free:

- Fill out your FAFSA (after January 1)*
- Get good grades
- Be active in leadership
- Look for scholarships online and in your community
- Work with a college financial counselor (see the ad on page 35 for a schedule of up-coming financial aid workshops)

*California residents must also turn in the GPA verification form by March 2 for Cal Grant.



CALENDARS

Central California

HISPANIC SABBATH SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICERS TRAINING (Jan. 9) San Jose Spanish church. Info: 559-347-3150 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT (Jan. 29-31) Tenaya Lodge. Info: 559-642-2396 or 1patcurtis@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S RETREAT (Feb. 5-7) Soquel Conference Center. Info: 559-642-2396 or 1patcurtis@gmail.com.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT (Feb. 5-7) Tenaya Lodge. Info: 559-347-3150 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

HISPANIC CONVOCATION (Feb. 10) Bakersfield. Info: 559-347-3150 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

MARRIAGE RETREAT (Feb. 19-21) Pismo Beach. Info: 559-347-3176 or lpaillas@cccsda.org.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RALLY (Feb. 20) Fresno Central church. Info: 559-347-3150 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

Northern California

POWERFEST YOUTH RALLY AND LOST & FOUND CONCERT (Jan. 9) 10:30 a.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1280.

HISPANIC LAY LEADERS RETREAT (Jan. 15-17) Leoni Meadows. Info: 925-685-4300 ext. 1292.

"YOUTH EXPLOSION" (Jan. 30) 11 a.m. Featuring musical artists Steve Mackey and Wendy Williams. Sacramento-Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Ave., Sacramento. Info: Pastor Trevor Barnes, 916-381-5353.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE RETREAT (Feb. 5-7) Leoni Meadows. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1280.

NORTH COAST YOUTH RALLY (Feb. 13) Ukiah church. 1390 Laurel Ave., Ukiah. Info: 925-685-4300, ext. 1280.

Pacific Union College

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (Jan. 3) Students new to PUC for winter quarter can learn key info and tips for transitioning into college life. Dining commons, 1 p.m. Info: 707-965-7362.

EVENSONG (Jan. 9) Mark the end of the Sabbath with uplifting music and the spoken word. PUC church, 4 p.m. Info: 707-965-6201.

ART SHOW (Jan. 9) "Reprise: The Howell Mountain Community Art Exhibition" will be on display through Feb. 4. The opening reception Jan. 9 is at 7 p.m. in the Rasmussen Art Gallery. Info: 707-965-6303.

LONGO LECTURE (Jan. 28) David Neff speaks for this biennial lectureship dedicated to topics of faith, knowledge, and human values. Dauphinee Chapel, 7:30 p.m. Info: 707-965-6303.

FINE ART SERIES CONCERT (Jan. 30) PUC faculty musicians perform for this

concert in the Fine Art Series. Paulin Hall, 7 p.m. Info: 707-965-6201.

Southeastern California

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING (Jan. 15-17) Pine Springs Ranch. Info: 951-509-2260.

OFFICE CLOSED (Jan. 18) Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.

JUNIOR/SENIOR ACADEMY BIBLE CAMP (Jan. 21-23) Pine Springs Ranch. Info: 951-509-2321.

HISPANIC MINISTRIES DISCIPLESHIP INSTITUTES (Jan. 23) Orange County. Info: 951-509-2333.

(Presidents' Day Weekend)


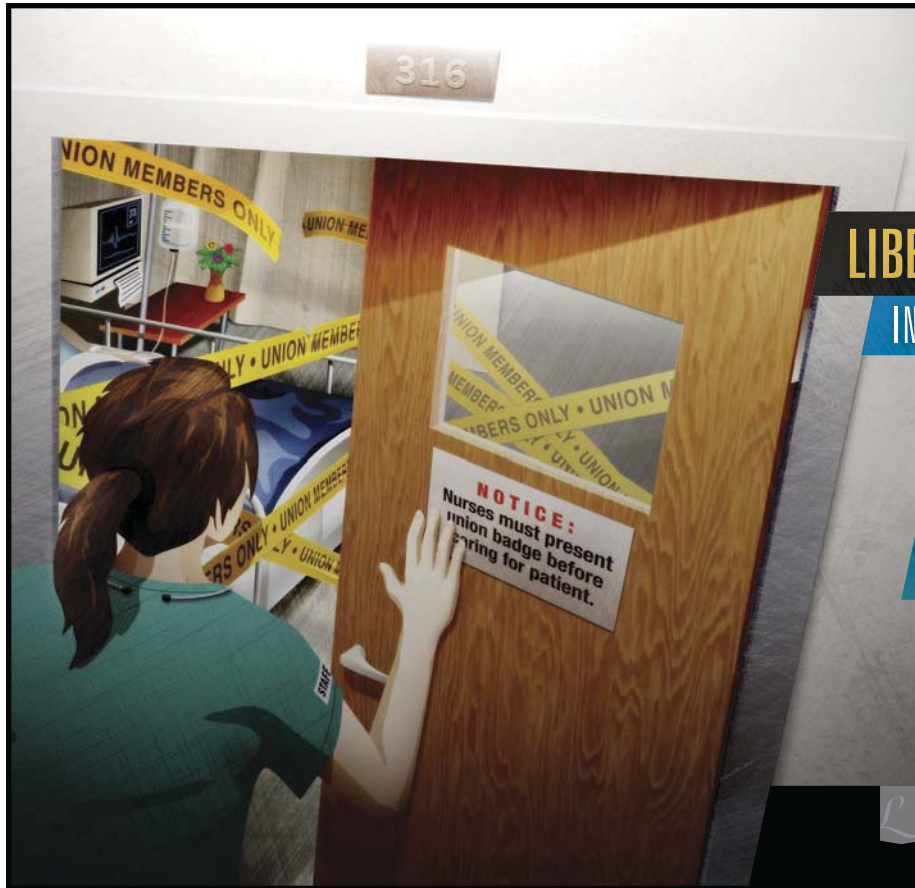
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FYBY RELAUNCH (Jan. 30) For Youth by Youth. Info: 951-509-2260.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SABBATH SCHOOL WORKSHOP (Jan. 30) El Cajon church, 1630 E. Madison Ave., El Cajon. Info: 951-509-2260.

ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL, CHURCH GROWTH AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SEMINAR (Jan. 31) 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Arlington church, 8778 Magnolia Ave., Riverside. Guest speaker, Jonathan Kuntaraf, GC director of Sabbath school and personal ministries. Info: 951-509-2337.

Southern California

SURVIVING DOMESTIC ABUSE (Jan. 9) Speaker, Debbie Brownfield, 4-6 p.m. Thousand Oaks church, 480 W. Gainsborough Rd. Presenters: Women In God's Service. Other Survivor stories, Apr. 10, "Surviving in a World of Addictions," Yoli Hernandez; July 10, "Surviving While a Parent Has Alzheimer's," Donna Wyman; Oct. 9, wrap-up. Info: 805-373-0320.

WEBCLINIC TRAINING SESSIONS (Jan. 10, 11) Jan. 10: 9 a.m.-1 p.m, netAdventist, hands-on training; introducing new features; hands-on training for AdventistChurchConnect webmasters, with updated information/instruction; brunch. Jan. 11: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. netAdventist training only; SCC office, 1535 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale. Info: 818-546-8461; bcooney818@sbccglobal.net.

"MAKING YOUR MARRIAGE YOUR TOP PRIORITY" SEMINAR (Jan. 24) Presenter, Jim Burns, author and president/founder of HomeWord. Learn how to preserve time and energy for each other. 5-7 p.m. Burbank church Info: 818-848-7051; burbanksda.com.

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THE WORD... FOR THESE TIMES

BROADCAST LIVE
9:45 am – 1:30 pm (PDT)
Tuesday, April 20, 2010

First Congregational Church of Pasadena
464 E Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91101

(At Fuller Seminary)



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Alumni Reunions

LA SIERRA ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (April 23-24) Friday golf tournament, vespers, Sabbath services at LSA gym, class reunions, basketball game; yearbooks available for sale. Visit campus, renew friendships. Honor classes '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05. Info: 951-351-1445, ext. 244, or lsaalumni@lsak12.com.

MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY WEST Coast Alumni Chapter (Feb. 8) Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace, CA 92324; 909-825-8611. Please note the change of meeting place. Info: rachel.hill@cox.net or 619-420-2816.

MONTEREY BAY ACADEMY Alumni Modesto Area Reunion (Jan. 23) 12:30 p.m., hosted at Central Valley Christian Academy, Tonge Auditorium, potluck luncheon, table service and drink provided. 2020 Academy Place, Ceres, Calif. Host: Charlotte Henderson, alumni director, 831-728-1481, ext. 1222.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (April 9-10) Honored classes years ending in 0 and 5. Plan now to renew friendships from academy days. Call 650-967-2324 or e-mail alumni@mntviewacademy.org for info.

RAINBOW CHURCH 25TH Anniversary Celebration (Jan. 22-23) 1400 Palou Ave., San Francisco, Calif. Info: 415-822-3200.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S annual "Keenite" alumni reunion is (Feb. 7) 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Info: bevm@swau.edu or 817-202-6232.

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Bulletin Board

ADVENTIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY seeks tractor and farm implements to maintain 50-acre semi-rural foothill location. Prefer orchard-sized tractor, with 3-point hitch, power take-off, mower, spring tooth, slicker, front loader and scraper; an "orchard ape" or similar pruning lift/attachments. Prefers donated items or low cost. Contact John Featherstone, Sonora--c-estates@sbcglobal.net or 209-532-6535.

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

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SPONSOR A CHILD in India! \$30 a month can send a child in India to an Adventist school. It pays for tuition, housing, food, uniform and books. Adventist Child India is an official project of the Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists. For information: 308-530-6655, www.acchild.com or childcare@sud-adventist.org.

Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, an international Seventh-day Adventist Christian University with over 3,500 enrolled domestically and over 4,000 enrolled off site, is seeking a new Provost. The Provost reports to the President of the University and is responsible for all the academic programs, educational services, quality/program review, student success, teaching & learning resources, faculty development, outcome assessment, university accreditation and providing Christian leadership to the seventh most diverse campus in the nation. The preferred candidate should hold an earned doctoral degree and have experience in mobilizing and leading a diverse structure to demonstrated levels of achievement. The successful candidate will have significant academic/management experience in diverse institutions of higher learning. This candidate will also possess academic vision, problem solving skills, collaborative style, strong interpersonal skills, and an ability to champion positive change. Andrews University encourages applicants with diverse backgrounds to apply at: www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a graduate dean for the School of Graduate Studies and Research. An earned doctoral degree is required. For more information and to apply

please go to: www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor in the Mathematics Department beginning August 2010. Candidates will hold a doctoral degree in mathematics or mathematics education. Applicants with expertise in real analysis and/or geometry, and are qualified to direct secondary mathematics teacher education program. The successful candidate will be a member in good and regular standing of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae (including a statement of teaching philosophy), and at least three references to Kevin Brown, Mathematics Department, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Department of Biology/Allied Health, Fall 2010. Prefer Ph.D. in Biology with emphasis in Anatomy and Physiology. Desire scientist committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. The successful candidate will be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to: Keith Snyder, Chairman, Biology Search Committee, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Phone: 423-236-2929. Fax: 423-236-1926. E-mail: kasnyder@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S School of Visual Art and Design seeks full-time professor to teach painting, foundation drawing/design, and color theory. M.F.A. in painting strongly preferred. Current teaching experience desirable. Must be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Send letter of

application, curriculum vitae (including a statement of teaching philosophy), portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art and Design, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY School of Education and Psychology seeks applicants for a full-time tenure track position in Education. An earned doctorate in Education is preferred, with a specialty in math or science education or curriculum and instruction. Experience teaching at the secondary level is essential. Visit our website at: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

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Events

SAN DIEGO FORUM (Jan 9) 3 p.m. Andrew Howe, "The Intersection of Faith and Film." Tierrasanta church, 11260



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JANUARY 2010

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Alturas	4:44	4:50	4:58	5:07	5:15
Angwin	5:00	5:06	5:13	5:21	5:29
Calexico	4:48	4:53	4:59	5:06	5:13
Chico	4:54	5:01	5:08	5:16	5:24
Eureka	5:00	5:07	5:15	5:23	5:31
Fresno	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:14	5:22
Hilo	5:54	5:59	6:03	6:08	6:12
Honolulu	6:01	6:06	6:11	6:15	6:20
Las Vegas	4:37	4:43	4:50	4:57	5:05
Lodi	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:25
Loma Linda	4:51	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:17
Los Angeles	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:21
Moab	5:07	5:13	5:20	5:28	5:36
Oakland	5:01	5:07	5:14	5:22	5:30
Phoenix	5:31	5:37	5:43	5:50	5:57
Reno	4:47	4:53	5:01	5:09	5:17
Riverside	4:52	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:18
Sacramento	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:17	5:25
Salt Lake City	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:34	5:42
San Diego	4:54	5:00	5:06	5:12	5:19
San Francisco	5:02	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:31
San Jose	5:01	5:07	5:14	5:22	5:29
Tucson	5:30	5:36	5:42	5:48	5:55

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www.btlministries.org

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www.bolministries.com

Faith for Today

www.lifestyle.org

Freedom's Ring

www.churchstate.org

Hope Channel

www.hopetv.org

It Is Written

www.iiw.org

La Voz de la Esperanza

www.lavoz.org

Lifetalk Radio

www.lifetalk.net

Loma Linda

Broadcasting Network

www.llbn.tv

The Quiet Hour

www.thequiethour.org

Voice of Prophecy

www.vop.com

Faith is formed at La Sierra University.



Campus worship options
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27

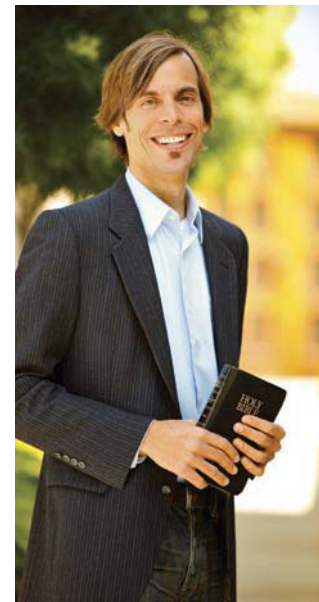


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13
Students baptized into
the Adventist Church during
the past school year.



7
Countries where La Sierra
student missionaries
are currently serving.*



45,172
Hours given by
La Sierra students in
service activities.**

112
Students involved in
short- or long-term
mission experiences.**

47
Service-learning
courses offered,
matching students with
community needs.**



1,144
Students directly engaged
in community service.**

*Czech Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Micronesia, Rwanda, South Korea **2008-09 school year



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AT REST

ADAM, VIOLA (READING) – b. Feb. 2, 1921, McAlester, Okla.; d. Oct. 2, 2009, Orosi, Calif. Survivors: sons, Terry, Bill; daughter, Chole Pruitt; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

CARL, FREDERICK ARTHUR LEONARD – b. June 6, 1931, San Francisco, Calif.; d. Oct. 26, 2009, Vallejo, Calif. Survivors: wife, Audrey Jeanne; daughter, Julie Uusinarkaus; one grandchild.

CELEKETIC, ANNA P. – b. Nov. 1, 1917, Mikusevci, Croatia; d. July 18, 2009, San Pedro, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Helen Tabakovic; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

FELIX, ELIAS JR. – b. July 3, 1992, Tijuana, Mexico; d. Nov. 4, 2009, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: parents, Elias and Blanca; brother, Emmanuel.

JOBÉ, RAMIRA STEEN – b. July 7, 1922, Sao Paulo, Brazil; d. Oct. 22, 2009, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: sons, Christopher, Meredith; daughter, Meg Richman; five grandchildren.

JONES, CECIL H. – b. Jan. 29, 1912, Avenger, Texas; d. Nov. 7, 2009, Roseburg, Ore. Survivors: daughters, Janis Inman, Barbara Gober; eight grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Was

a member of the La Sierra University church for 81 years.

KASHIRSKY, TATIANA – b. Dec. 12, 1924, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (Russia); d. Oct. 23, 2009, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: sons, Peter, Alex, Jacob; daughter, Anna Baughman; brother, Jacob Volko; sister, Nadia Gorbenkov; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

LAW, GENEVA – b. Sept. 29, 1920, Strand, Okla.; d. Oct. 31, 2009, Lindsay, Calif. Survivor: sister, Jennafaye Reynolds.

MARTIN, PETRA (MORA) – b. Nov. 6, 1952, Guadalajara, Mexico; d. Oct. 18, 2009, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: husband, Wilbert; sons, Tony, Alex, Gabriel, Daniel, David; daughters, Nadia Pitt, Sara, Magdalena.

MCHENRY, MURIEL A. (WESTERMEYER) – b. Dec. 20, 1922, Shelton, Neb.; d. Nov. 12, 2009, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: son, Milton; daughters, Clareen Eagan, Lottie Cline, Esther; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Served as a missionary in Southern Asia for more than 20 years.

MEREDITH, LILLIE MAE – b. July 28, 1921, Ida, Ark.; d. Sept. 16, 2009, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: sister, Opal Blevins; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

PIA, ELIZABETH (ERNS) – b. July 24, 1917, Chino, Calif.; d. Nov. 4, 2009, Caldwell, Idaho. Survivors: sons, Ray, Phillip; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Worked in food service at St. Helena Hospital; ran a rest home; served at an academy.

POWERS, MARIE MUNSON – b. June 22, 1915, Monroe, Mich.; d. Oct. 11, 2009, Redwood City, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Barbara Kirkpatrick; daughter-in-law, Brenda; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

SHIPLEY, ROBERT LEWIS – b. April 20, 1961, Napa, Calif.; d. Oct. 18, 2009, Napa, Calif. Survivors: son, Christian; daughter, Melody.

STRIPLIN, WARNER – b. Sept. 26, 1934, Tulare, Calif.; d. Oct. 14, 2009, Oakdale, Calif. Survivors: wife, Cheryl; sons, Douglas, Donald; three grandchildren.

YANKEE, DOROTHY – b. Aug. 6, 1928, St. Louis, Mo.; d. Oct. 8, 2009, Willows, Calif. Survivors: husband, John R.; son, John V.; daughters, Januane Yankee Settle, Debbie Henderson; five grandchildren.

YARED, KARL – b. July 20, 1924, Beirut, Lebanon; d. Oct. 19, 2009, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Zena; son, Roy; daughter, Sandra; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

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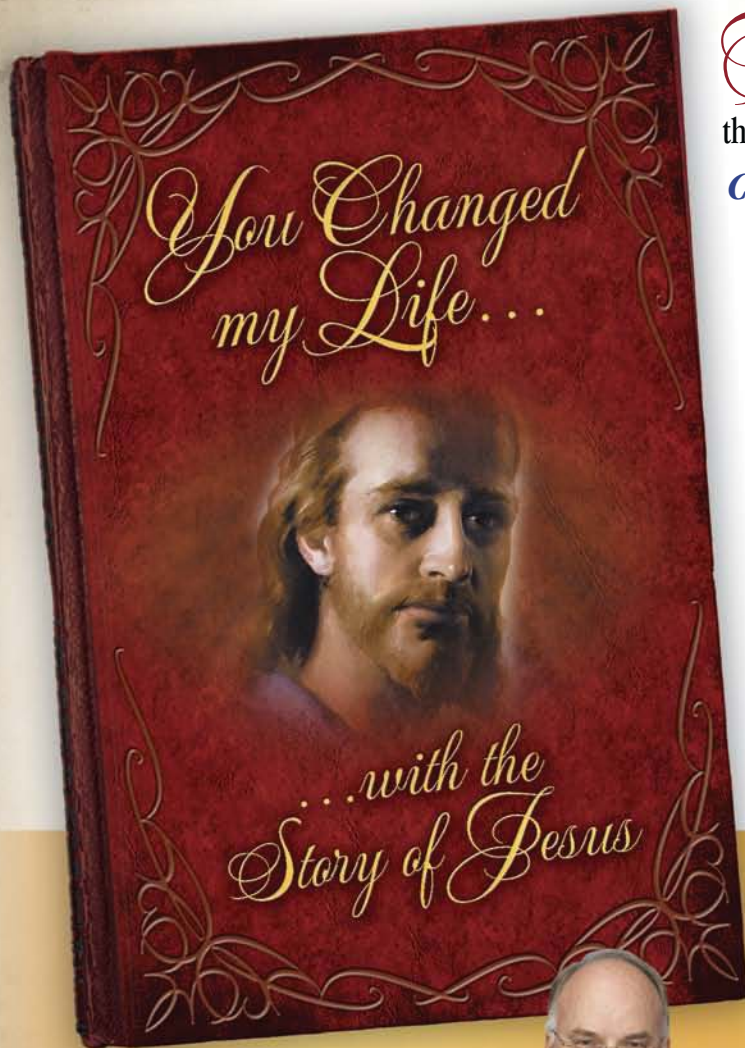


Financial Aid Workshop Schedule/January 2010

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4 Mountain View Academy | 19 Escondido Adventist Academy
Monterey Bay Academy |
| 5 Loma Linda Academy
PUC Preparatory School | 20 Redding Adventist Academy
Napa Christian School |
| 6 La Sierra Academy
Redwood Adventist Academy | 21 Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy |
| 7 Central Valley Christian Academy | 25 San Gabriel Adventist Academy
Mesa Grande Adventist Academy |
| 11 Glendale Adventist Academy
Sacramento Adventist Academy | 26 Redlands Adventist Academy
Los Angeles Adventist Academy
Lodi Adventist Academy |
| 12 San Fernando Valley Academy
El Dorado Adventist Academy | 27 Fresno Adventist Academy |
| 13 Bakersfield Adventist Academy
Paradise Adventist Academy | 28 San Diego Adventist Academy |
| 14 Newbury Park Adventist Academy
Orangewood Adventist Academy
Pine Hills Adventist Academy | |

All sessions begin at 7 pm

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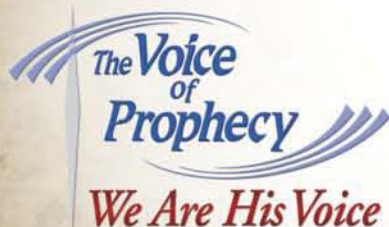
at three of four weekend events celebrating Voice of Prophecy's 80th anniversary.

* **Napa Marriott, NapaValley, CA**
February 26-28

* **Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA**
March 19-21

* **Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA**
April 23-25

* **Renaissance Esmeralda, Indian Wells, CA**
May 21-23



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