

PACIFIC UNION

# recorder

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>> FEBRUARY 2012



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## PACIFIC UNION recorder

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

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### about the cover

GNTV's "new" television production truck, formerly owned by FOX 10 in Phoenix, will allow the station to record and broadcast special church and conference events.

PHOTO BY PHIL DRAPER.





“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

## God is our every day Valentine

February is known for a few things that might be considered notable. Two of our outstanding U.S. presidents were born in February — George Washington, the first president of our nation, known as “the father” of our country; and Abraham Lincoln, who guided the United States through the Civil War and is credited for keeping the union together and for freeing the slaves.

February is also noted for Valentine’s Day, a day to renew the vows of love, giving recognition and appreciation to those who are the objects of our affections, especially filial and romantic love.

When it comes to our love for our Heavenly Father, there is no scheduled holiday on the calendar. Those who know and love God do so all year round, and are free to express it 24/7, at least in this country.

The reason we love God is no great mystery. The Bible makes it clear from beginning to end that God initiates this love in our hearts and minds, and we respond to it. We love Him because He first loved us. And He loves us unconditionally, no strings attached.

John proclaimed in 1 John 4, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:7-11, NKJV).

The Bible writer gives a lot to think about in these few verses. First, we are reminded to love each other because true, altruistic love — agape or unselfish love — is from God. Not only that, but loving others is a testimony to knowing God. John also reminds us that the premier token

of God’s love for us is that He sent His Son, Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins. Propitiation isn’t a word we use in daily conversation; it is the atoning for sin. Jesus is our atonement. But Jesus’ death and resurrection is not limited to this. John also points out that we are to “live through Him.”

Not only has Jesus paid the price for our sins, but He assures us of our future as we live in Him (see Jeremiah 29:11; Jeremiah 31:3).

“In every true disciple this love, like sacred fire, burns on the altar of the heart. It was on the earth that the love of God was revealed through Christ. It is on the earth that His children are to reflect this love through blameless lives. Thus sinners will be led to the cross to behold the Lamb of God” (*Acts of the Apostles*, 334.1).

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. ... Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:1,2).

And one of the most well-known passages of Scripture states: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16, NKJV).

We are blessed to know that God loves us all the time. What a joy to love Him in return, every day of our lives.

*Ricardo Graham*





*Tuipal Poti, from the Yucaipa Samoan church, rides the zip line on Sunday during the 50th anniversary of Pine Springs Ranch, Dec. 17-18.*

# Pine Springs Ranch celebrates 50 years of changing lives

**W**hen the Southeastern California Conference purchased property in Idyllwild in 1932 for the J.M.V. Pathfinder Camp, the 16 acres of pine trees and meadows next to Strawberry Creek must have seemed huge. But by 1960 every week of camp was overflowing with baby boomers. The escalating enrollments, plus close neighbors and water shortages, compelled conference youth director Walt Blehm to look for a larger and more remote site.

PHOTOS BY GERRY CHUDLEIGH



*When the PSR property was purchased in 1961, this ranchhouse and a wooden barn (where the pool is now) were the only buildings on site. In 1961, the ranchhouse served as kitchen, dining hall, medical clinic, housing for women's staff and camp store.*

In April 1961 the conference purchased a 316-acre cattle ranch at the end of a five-and-a-half mile, primitive, dirt road and named it Pine Springs Ranch. The youth camp and retreat center is located in Apple Canyon, about 10 miles southeast of Idyllwild.



*Former PSR summer camp directors (l. to r.) Winston Morgan (1993-2001), Sandra Roberts (1992) and Steve Blue (1982-1991) pose next to the 50th Anniversary ice sculpture in December.*

Immediately PSR played a key role in changing the way Adventist camps were built and conducted across North America for several decades. The increased acreage permitted more and larger cabins; the increased camp enrollments, often far exceeding 200 kids per week for as many as 10 weeks, required more and better-trained summer staff members and innovative programming.

In 1964, with the completion of the original lodge, the camp also became a busy, year-round location for church retreats, Bible conferences and organizational training sessions for Pathfinder leaders, youth leaders, educators, physicians, pastors, nurses, literature evangelists and



*Colin McKaig, PSR kitchen worker, delivers fresh rolls for breakfast at the 50th anniversary of Pine Springs Ranch in December.*

many other groups. Soon any group wanting to use the camp for a weekend event had to make reservations at least two years in advance.

Though there is no way to know the exact number, it is probably safe to say that over the years tens of thousands of children, youth and adults have accepted Jesus as their Savior at



*From left: Scott Weber, Manny Vitug, Steve Zurek and Danette Zurek look at old Pine Springs Ranch staff photos.*

Pine Springs Ranch, with more added every summer, if not every week.

In addition, scores, probably hundreds, of summer camp staff members, and even campers, have decided at PSR to devote their lives to ministry as pastors, teachers, missionaries, Pathfinder leaders, etc. One PSR history website ([www.gchudleigh.com/pinespringsranch](http://www.gchudleigh.com/pinespringsranch)) lists 16 PSR staff members or campers from just 1961 to 1971 who went on to serve as conference or union youth directors or associates in North America. It seems unlikely that any other camp in the world has produced that many youth leaders in that short a period of time.

PSR alumni celebrated all this and more Aug. 5-7 and Dec. 17-18. The August meeting was mainly a time to renew old friendships and



*When the Town Hall was completed in 1970, it offered the first hotel-style accommodations at Pine Springs Ranch.*

observe the current program, but the December event featured a banquet and silent auction on Saturday night, and hayrides, tours, free food,

## Southeastern California Conference

crafts and camp activities (zip line and go carts) on Sunday.

Before the December event, PSR Director Carmen Ibanez placed ads in the Idyllwild newspaper inviting local residents to visit the camp on Sunday. About a dozen took advantage of the offer, enjoying the food, tours and activities.

Instead of cooking the food themselves or paying a caterer, the camp paid several Pathfinder clubs to prepare food, bring it to PSR, and serve it to guests.



**Idyllwild residents (l. to r.) Bailey, Oniee and Lily Easley, make careful selections at the dessert table at the 50th anniversary of Pine Springs Ranch, Dec. 17-18, 2011. None of the family had visited PSR before.**

Conversations at both weekend events were punctuated by expressions of how much the camp has meant to campers and future leaders.

"Pine Springs Ranch has meant a life of ministry and following Jesus," said Steve Blue, who has spent more than 20 summers at PSR, including serving as summer camp director 1982 to 1991. "The most rewarding part has been the decisions made here for my life, and then just to see hundreds of other kids come to know Jesus." Blue is now pastor of the Escondido church.

Winston Morgan, camp director 1993 to 2001, expressed similar thoughts: "It was here that I fell in love with Jesus. The first year I worked here, when Dennis Nutter was director, I decided I wanted to direct the camp some day. I loved it." Morgan is now principal at San Diego Adventist Academy.

Saturday night, Sandy Roberts, director of camp operations from 1987 to 1992, and now SECC executive secretary, presented an overview of the master plan for future development.



**A hayride leaves the dining hall.**

"The master plan was approved at the 2008 SECC constituency session," said Roberts, "but development is on hold until funds are available." The plan focuses on three areas: a new dining hall and kitchen, a recreational pavilion and new cabins.

For more information about Pine Springs Ranch, visit [www.pinespringsranch.org](http://www.pinespringsranch.org). To watch a silent video of the special work camps held in 1961, before any cabins or buildings were erected, go to [http://youtu.be/KA4Z6pLP\\_4g](http://youtu.be/KA4Z6pLP_4g).

*Gerry Chudleigh*



*Gerry Chudleigh, now Pacific Union communication director, felt called to enter the ministry while working as a counselor at the J.M.V. Pathfinder Camp in Idyllwild in 1959. After one more summer at that camp, Chudleigh taught outdoor skills at PSR the summers of 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1965, before attending the seminary and helping with or directing camps in Washington, Oregon and Texas. From the fall of 1976 to early 1984 he was SECC youth director and PSR executive director.*

# Kansas Avenue church dedicates a year to evangelism

**K**ansas Avenue church members can sum up their 2011 priorities in one word — evangelism. This word was the focus of the pastoral staff from the beginning of the year. The mission of the church is to share to all people the good news of the gospel. In a response to Jesus' command to go into the entire world, Bron Jacobs, senior pastor, guided the church through a process that provided opportunities for members to be active participants in the mission.

Throughout the year, the pastoral staff planned an evangelistic series and informed the church of specific goals and necessary preparations. They formed an evangelism team, and Jacobs presented a model with three phases that included planning, program and retention.

The planning phase included several activities. The first was "Kansas University," which involved several groups in the church conducting Bible studies in the weeks leading up to the meetings.



*Baptismal candidates wait for their turn in the shade.*

glory here at Kansas Avenue by giving us an abundant spiritual harvest from our evangelism meeting, and allow each willing member of the church to experience a life-changing transforming and renewal during the 40 days."

The church also brought in eight Bible workers, who worked in the Riverside and Moreno Valley areas starting six weeks before the series began. They prayed in many homes and invited people to the evangelistic meetings.

The program phase started when Jacobs, featured speaker,

began the evangelistic series. He focused on Jesus being "The Answer" to questions about life and spirituality. Each night, he included a quiz based on the "Jeopardy" concept using the previous night's sermon for questions. Translators addressed the language needs of the diverse audience.

The series ended on Sabbath, Oct. 29. After a short church service, attendees loaded into charter buses and drove to the Drayson Center

at Loma Linda University, where 61 people were baptized.

The church is now engaged in a comprehensive retention program, which began with relationship-building during fellowship dinners on the four Sabbaths following the baptism.

*Jordan Trent*



*Bron Jacobs, senior pastor of Kansas Avenue church and featured speaker for the evangelistic meetings, preaches.*

PHOTOS BY JORDAN TRENT



Another planning activity had interested church members participating in was a 40-day fast and prayer program. They hoped "to receive from God a renewed sense of spiritual purpose, direction, and Holy Spirit anointing," said Jacobs.

During the fasting period, the members were encouraged to abstain from sweets, flesh foods and juices. Vegetarians were encouraged to use alternatives to their regular foods.

They also received a prayer guide, which included this sample prayer: "Lord show us your

# Pittsburg church members promote health at empowerment expo

Many residents of Pittsburg, Calif., experienced first-hand a group of Christians doing good on the Sabbath day, as they learned ways to be healthier and happier.

Members of the Pittsburg church gave back to the inner city community by participating in the African-American Health Empowerment Expo at Pittsburg High School on Sept. 24, 2011. Sponsored by community leaders, the expo was a call to action for local businesses and organizations to be part of the solution to help African-American families take better care of

to learn about their health and what they could do to lower their health age.

Additionally, the church offered free neck massages, printed materials on how to achieve a healthy lifestyle, give-a-ways and prizes related to physical activity and health. Many people asked about the beliefs of the church and requested information on the services that the church offered.

"As a mental health professional, I was honored to represent my church," said member Denise Tarvins, a marriage and family therapist. "It provided a unique opportunity to step outside of the church building and connect with other churches, agencies and individuals in our community at large, so they might know that we are here not only to provide support for

their spiritual needs, but for their physical and psychosocial needs, as well."

*Kathy M. Batchelor*



KRISTINA BATCHELOR

**Earlene Hubbard and Denise Woods perform health screenings for community members at the African-American Health Empowerment Expo, attended by about 250 people.**



KRISTINA BATCHELOR

**Wayne Batchelor talks with a visitor to the booth, made possible through the combined efforts of the Pittsburg church and the NCC African-American Ministries/Inner City and Health Ministries departments.**

their health. "I believe it is important to partner with credible organizations that currently do inner city work," said Gregory Johnson, Pittsburg church pastor. "Our church will gain more trust and credibility in our community as we work with others who already earned that trust."

Vendors from local health centers and better living organizations came together to provide valuable information on how to live a healthy and happy life. The main attraction at the church's booth was the opportunity for attendees to receive a free health age analysis assessment to learn how old their bodies were compared to their actual ages. Visitors completed a questionnaire about their lifestyle (including diet, exercise, sleep, etc.), and NCC health screener Darwin Forster measured their body fat and facilitated the health age analysis. A constant stream of people came to the booth

JOYCE RICHARDSON



**Pittsburg church members Earlene Hubbard, Kathy Batchelor, Tanya Clay and Gloria Flowers prepare to give away gifts and magazines at the booth.**

## 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 Paradise church in Paradise, Calif., on Sunday, May 20, 2012, 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 and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

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

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





Roger Keaton (right), NCC associate treasurer for Trust Services, presents Doris McWilliams's legacy gift to Oroville church head elder Virgle Seaton and treasurer Kay Baird. "In these times when so many faithful Adventist brothers and sisters are struggling to make ends meet and perhaps are not able to give what they would like to give, it is those like Mrs. McWilliams and her legacy that ensure the future growth of the Adventist mission in Northern California and beyond," said Keaton.

## Two NCC church members leave lasting legacies

Sonoma church member LaVerne Cleveland wasn't rich, but she was generous with her time and energy. Her former pastor, Steve McHan (now Sacramento-Woodside/Davis district pastor), remembers Cleveland sharing the harvest from her fruit trees with her neighbors and temporarily keeping dogs for the animal shelter. "She practiced frugality so that she could share. She was generous," said McHan.

Cleveland was also known for her devotion to Adventism. "She was an interesting, caring woman who loved the church," said Sonoma church member Lessie Murphy. "If there was an evangelistic meeting, she was there." When Cleveland passed away last year at age 99, her church learned that she had remembered them in her will with a gift to fund a lasting legacy for ministry.

Doris McWilliams also left a gift in her will designed to advance the kingdom of God. A member of the Oroville church for many years, McWilliams moved to Montana after her husband died in 2009. Although she left, she

was certainly not forgotten. "She was always into the ministries of the church, helping out wherever she could and assisting people needing any kind of help," said her friend and church treasurer Kay Baird. "She gave of her means and her time." McWilliams gave her church family a generous gift when she died in 2010 at the age of 96.

Many beneficent and devout people are not able to support the church as much as they would like during their lifetimes, but their gifts can make a big difference to their local congregations after they pass away. "A charitable clause in your will is an excellent way to remember the ministries you care about," said Rich Magnuson, director of Northern California Conference Trust and Property/Risk Management.

According to Magnuson, more than half of all American adults do not have a will or any type of formal estate plan. "One of the best reasons for making a will is a desire to support the ministries you love," he said. "With just a few words,

you can take care of your family and ensure a legacy so your passion for good work continues well beyond your lifetime."

*Julie Lorenz*

### Live Beyond Your Years. Live and Give Within Your Means.

NCC Trust and Property Management staff can help by providing you with a personalized will and other vital estate planning documents at no cost to you, regardless of the size of your estate or planned gift. Why not use this opportunity to make sure you have secured your legacy for your family, friends and for yourself? We've made it easy by including a free online will planner at [www.TrustNorthern.org](http://www.TrustNorthern.org). Just click on the "Plan Your Will" button or call 888-434-4622.

# Many celebrate Christmas through outreach

People throughout the Northern California Conference celebrated this past Christmas by reaching out to their neighbors in a variety of creative ways. Here are a few:

## Family focus

A week before Christmas, hundreds of kids received presents, thanks to the Napa Community church. Led by Sharon Ketelson and Darryl House, the church's women's ministries team spearheaded the project, which gave food and presents to 51 families, including 215 children. Each of the families received two festively decorated boxes of groceries, including fresh produce and food staples, and every kid (aged 17 and younger) received several presents.

The church has helped families in this way for many Christmases, and this year it helped more than ever before. "You've got to be out in your community," said Ketelson. "This is what Jesus did when He was on earth. He met people's needs."

## A community of music

Musicians from eight Adventist churches and surrounding communities came together at the Lodi-English Oaks church to present the fourth annual Community Christmas Musical. More than 1,000 people attended the event, with musicians ranging in age from fifth-graders to octogenarians.



Rick Fickess directs the fourth annual Community Christmas Musical at the Lodi-English Oaks church.

The program's director, Rick Fickess, conducted the Community and Church Chorale, as well as the 51-piece Community Orchestra. Participants included several Adventist school groups, professional music teachers and conductors, as well as members of the Stockton Symphony who volunteered their time.

Fickess wants the annual program to show people that the church is their friend. "I know that music talks to the heart," he said. "We can bring everybody together when we have something in common — a love for music."

## The Christmas gospel

The Roseville church Nativity Drive-Thru portrays more than just the Christmas story. Its 10 scenes illustrate the plan of salvation, from prophecy to the second coming. "It's the whole gospel story from beginning to end," said Kathie Kordenbrock, co-director this year with Jane Poynter.

MARLENE MCCRAW



Tom Dwyer, Bob Ensminger and Sonny McCraw portray wise men at the Roseville Nativity Drive-Thru. Carly Maloratsky and Trinity Gallaher serve as assistants.

More than 2,500 people attended the 13th annual event, held on four evenings. Each car received a CD narrated by Fred Kinsey, Voice of Prophecy speaker/director, describing each scene. The recording includes a message from Pastor Jon Terry and four stories from the radio program "Your Story Hour."

Kordenbrock hopes people listened to the CD again after they left. "We pray that the Lord will continue to water the seed in the hearts of the people," she said.

## A visit from children

Children from the Colfax church cheered residents at a local care center as they sang a Christmas concert for them. Afterward the kids, dressed as shepherds, wise men and angels, presented the patients and staff with gifts — wrapped copies of *Steps to Christ* — and visited patients' rooms.

The children had been preparing for the concert since September, when church member Christina Escamilla formed the choir, made up

KAYLENE CHADWICK



The Colfax church children's choir performs for their church family a week after singing at a local care center.

of 37 kids. Five years ago, the church had no regularly attending children. "We prayed for children to join our church and are now thanking our Heavenly Father for bringing people like Christina to help minister to the children that God has blessed us with," said church member Kaylene Chadwick.

**Amusement park witness**

As two Vallejo churches were planning a nativity festival at the amusement park Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, their event coordinator went online and discovered photos of the Santa Rosa church live nativity.

The coordinator invited Sarah Smith — who has directed the live nativity 15 times — to bring a team of actors, support staff and props to portray a scene at the park. For four hours one afternoon, 10 people from the Santa Rosa and Sebastopol churches took turns portraying Mary, Joseph and three shepherds.

The actors invited passersby to come into the scene and pose for photographs. "The live nativity team encountered several people who had not yet heard of the birth of the Savior," said church member Kathie Morgan.



Grand Advent church members present the cantata "Specially for Shepherds."

"Inviting people to a music program is a non-threatening, fun and interesting way to reach out."

**A musical invitation**

Grand Advent church members invited family and friends to the church's production of the cantata "Specially for Shepherds." Directed by NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson and church member Al Rincon, about 35 people were involved. They were all surprised when the cantata's composer, renowned musician Ralph Carmichael, attended the performance. In planning the program, organizers realized that besides attracting their church members, this musical tradition could be an even bigger outreach to their community.

After the cantata, attendees responded enthusiastically, requesting that next year's Christmas program be performed several times so that more people can be invited. "The Christmas season is the perfect time to reach out to neighbors, family members and friends who may not know Jesus," said Woodson.



Charles Williams, NCC Trust & Property Management planned giving consultant, and Bill Keresoma, superintendent of schools, sort shoes for the charity Christmas for Everyone.



Instead of a traditional Christmas party, conference office employees voted to help three local charities.

**Lending a hand**

Staff at the NCC headquarters in Pleasant Hill also mirrored the holiday spirit of community outreach. Instead of the usual office Christmas party, employees voted to help at various East Bay charities that provide food, clothing and gifts to children and adults. The conference group gathered together for worship and then divided up into smaller teams to work at local charities: the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Christmas for Everyone, and Shelter, Inc. The employees got back together for a lunch prepared by several office staff members.

"In this economy, there are many people who are hurting," said NCC Communication Director Stephanie Leal, one of the event's planners. "I'm glad our office could help a few local charities that were reaching out to people in need during the holiday season."

*Julie Lorenz*



Previous L.A. Chinese church pastors Jonathan Foo and Wai Chow Leong and current pastor Ming Gao join the celebration.

## L.A. Chinese members celebrate 50 years

“When I came,” said Pastor Jonathan Foo, former pastor of the Los Angeles Chinese church, “there was just one Chinese Adventist church in all of L.A. My desire was for the church to multiply. Now we have four additional churches: Loma Linda Chinese church, San Gabriel Valley Chinese church, Hacienda Heights Chinese church, which Pete Liu and others started; and the newest group, the L.A. Cantonese fellowship. To me, this is a good thing. As children grow, they should leave and plant other churches!”

The church’s 50th anniversary on Thanksgiving weekend celebrated its daughter congregations, with representatives or messages from each of them. The event also celebrated a key factor in the growth and vibrancy of the church — its long-held focus on youth and the involvement of lay members in outreach utilizing their medical, technical and other skills.

Plans for a Chinese church in Los Angeles were first developed by a group of campers in the summer of 1959 at the first Chinese

Adventist camp meeting held at Camp Wawona in Yosemite. Some in the planning group committed to help with the church, though doing so meant commuting as many as eight hours to come to Los Angeles.

“Today, we celebrate the completion of a 50-year journey,” said Norman Wong. “There is much work still to do. We are encouraged to work together to spread the gospel. We embrace the new future, thanks to God.”

Along with the stories of past outreach, two Pathfinders came to the stage to give their testimony about feeding the homeless in the L.A. Mission. “At first it was scary; a little dark,” said Stephanie Chow, “but the people were nice and respectful.”

With its growth and community service, the potluck ministry was also noted. “This church is famous for 50 years having a meal after every church service,” said Pastor Ivan Loo. “We’d like to thank all the people who helped do all the work for the meals!”

Pastor Ming Gao, the current pastor, affirmed the congregation’s half-century of hard work and dreams, reporting: “We had 49 baptisms in the last one-and-a-half years. How? Some new members are very active and have adopted the church as their own family. When there are differences, they help each other as a family. When needs arise, they stretch forth their hands. Since August 2011, we have held weekly worship services at a nearby rehab center where more than 35 attend; one person has already been accepted on profession of faith.

“We have a very active Friday evening Bible study group in which more than 30 participate. Many gather in prayer bands to pray fervently for this church. The love of brothers and sisters is also a blessing that God has given us.

“God has unending blessings for us to give,” Ming added. “When every brother and sister places Jesus as the center, then we will have real church growth.”

*Betty Cooney*

# Surgeon develops a mission within a mission trip

**E**ight years of mission experiences began for Simi Valley surgeon Laurence Weekes, M.D., when a colleague asked if he would like to go to Jamaica on a one-week medical mission trip. Remembering that he began his medical training thinking he would be involved with mission service at some point, Weekes rearranged his schedule so he could go.

"We went to a remote area where many people were very sick and had never seen a doctor," he recalled. "They had clinics with no running water. I treated people for high blood pressure and diabetes, and never opened the duffle bag filled with surgical supplies and instruments that I had brought along."

Following that experience, Weekes immediately looked ahead to the next trip. "Next time," he told his colleague, "Please get me into a hospital so I can do surgery." His one-week mission trip had hooked him.

The hospital they went to had a backlog of elective surgeries. "I thought at first I would work on the backlog list," he said, while a larger purpose began formulating. Weekes, a specialist in laparoscopic surgery, knew that, with



*The medical team for Jamaica included family: (l. to r.) nephew Jeremiah Weekes; wife Linda J. Tigner-Weekes, M.D.; Myrtle Arthur, RN, a friend; and brother Jeremiah Anthony Weekes, D.O. Daughter Jhana Weekes was the photographer.*

laparoscopic equipment and physician-training, Jamaican patients would benefit from the less invasive procedure, cutting recovery times and lowering infection risk.

A mission within a mission soon emerged in a grant proposal to help make Weekes' vision a reality. The proposal to the Jamaica Awareness Association of California envisioned setting up a laparoscopic training program in Jamaica. More intensive training would be given twice annually, with some doctors and nurses coming to learn in Simi Valley-area hospitals.

When Weekes first spoke of his vision with Ray Fraser, M.D., senior medical officer of Annotto Bay Hospital where the program would be initiated, neither believed it would really happen. "I believe that the fact that it did happen," added Weekes, "is an indication that it was meant to be." By June 2011, seven hospitals were involved in the laparoscopic program, spanning Jamaica's entire four Health regions.

The five-year basic training program was held from 2004–2009. Doctors who received the training, now train others. Since the program has been so successful, JAAC continues to help and support the program.

"The work we do in Jamaica is definitely a ministry," said Weekes. "I think it is guided by divine forces."



Photograph by Jhana Weekes

*Simi Valley church member Laurence Weekes, M.D., operates in Annotto Bay Hospital, Jamaica.*

*Betty Cooney*

# Church pantry touches lives in Camarillo

CAREN SILVESTRI

A family of four: the father does concrete work. With the economy faltering and the housing market still underwater, he works only sporadically. He earns less than \$15,000 a year and has trouble deciding which bills to pay each month and how to feed his family.

A retired couple: she is ill with cancer, he is recovering from a stroke. Despite his own physical challenges, he is her caretaker. They live on a fixed income, with little money for food or extras. They request a prayer circle to plead for her recovery and ask if someone could visit them and tell them about the Adventist church.

A single woman lives in her car filled with her possessions. She says she is without family or job prospects. She finds safe parking lots in which to sleep, showers at shelters and drives to churches and food pantries for groceries and meals. She sometimes asks pantry volunteers and other recipients for gas money.

Camarillo is an attractive Ventura County community 10 miles from the ocean and blessed with beautiful weather. The percentage of people at the poverty level in Ventura County



Two regular pantry volunteers are Pastor Dennis Stirewalt (right rear) and Associate Pastor Will Sellers (not pictured), who see the pantry as a vital church mission and an essential community outreach.

is lower than national or state averages, but as in many American communities, people are falling on hard times. These families attend the Camarillo Church's food pantry. They need food and clothing assistance; most hope that better days are ahead.

Supported by church members and led by Milly Johnson, more than one dozen volunteers work each Tuesday, distributing food and clothing in the community. In conjunction with the Ventura County Food Share, the church's pantry feeds 70-90 families weekly with food donated by local farmers and businesses. For several

hundred dollars each week, the church procures several thousand pounds of groceries from the Ventura County Food Share. Volunteers drive to Food Share, load cases of food onto trucks and trailers, then deliver the bounty to the church to be packed into bags and distributed that evening.

In 2011, the mission was expanded in a way that gratified church members and volunteers alike. During the Christmas holiday, each church member sponsored one or more pantry children and purchased a toy for sharing at a Christmas party, complete with festive decorations and lights, a roaring fire and music and entertainment centered on the birth of Christ. Members served refreshments.

Last summer, members donated 130 new backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies. Some parents broke down in tears saying, "I don't know how to thank you! We had no money to prepare the kids for school."

"It is clear that the community needs the church," said Pastor Dennis Stirewalt. "Being able to give, particularly to the children, heartens members."



Youth volunteer Gabe Phearson-Castro helps a young man select a gift.

Caren Silvestri

# Yorba Linda Company organizes

The Yorba Linda Company was officially organized on Nov. 12, 2011, with 43 charter members. Nearly 150 members and friends attended the service, including a large contingent from the Cerritos Korean church, where the group began their journey. Robin Park is the pastor.

"The pastor looked for a church location for awhile," said David Yoo, head elder, "but he could not find a church. Though the building we worship in is just outside Southern California Conference territory where we originated, it is centrally located between Orange County and the Inland Empire, where many of our members live." With the blessing of both Southern and Southeastern California conferences, members are reaching out in Yorba Linda and beyond.

"The church allocates 10 percent of the church budget for community service," Yoo continued. "We have helped with a local family shelter and served as the primary sponsor of a

benefit concert to raise awareness with local musicians." The congregation's Facebook page invited people to "enjoy a night of great music with your friends and neighbors, while simultaneously battling the epidemic of homelessness affecting children throughout L.A. and Orange counties. All ticket proceeds from the concert will go toward making sure that children and their families have a warm place to call home."

Other community services have included beach cleanings and a free dental clinic. "We want to be involved!" Yoo added.

Sabbath messages are shared in Korean and English. The congregation is largely second- and third-generation Koreans and a mix of other nationalities, along with a core group of Korean members who worship in Korean and are very supportive of the younger generations, who have worship services in English.

"We are really praying about our small group ministry in Orange County," said Park. "We first

met with 20-25 people. They became friends and wanted to do something more spiritual every other Friday night in a member's home. We plan to plant an additional small group in an area near where some of our members live."

In a sermon on Revelation, Park described the direction of the church. "We want to be a loving and caring church. At the same time, we want to have very high moral standards without being legalistic. We can do this if we love each other."

That love is in evidence during services, and the young company has been growing. "Twelve young families joined recently," Park reported. "They heard about us by word of mouth. They had not been attending church, but they had been looking for a church family. Our goal is to reach people like this."

*Betty Cooney*



*The Yorba Linda pastor and elders pray for the congregation's leaders in an ordination service.*



Wayne Dunbar (left), principal of Central Valley Christian Academy and manager of 90.5 KADV, Ceres, Calif., and Loren Olsen, manager of 89.7 KARM, Visalia, Calif., are all smiles after signing the Location Management Agreement between the two stations. The partnership broadcasts from Stockton to Bakersfield to a potential audience of approximately 1.2 million.

# Radio stations combine to form The Promise FM

Since radio was invented, broadcasts have carried words and music on airwaves around the world — and even beyond. Through this technology, geographical and ideological barriers have been penetrated with the Word of God. Today, radio remains an integral part of fulfilling the gospel commission.

To guarantee that Adventist Christian radio continues to broadcast in California's Central Valley, two Adventist-owned radio stations have partnered in ministry: 90.5 KADV, located on the campus of Central Valley Christian Academy (CVCA) in Ceres, and 89.7 KARM, located on the Visalia church property.

"Christian radio has the ability to be a companion to folks in a very real way. In a world of chaos and conflict, having God's promises

whispered in your ear through music and encouragement I think is vital," says Loren Olson, manager of The Promise FM.

From Stockton to Bakersfield, to a combined potential audience of approximately 1.2 million people, The Promise FM went on the air on Dec. 16, 2011. The first joint broadcast opened with the song "All His Promises Are True." The call signs haven't changed, and the mission of leading listeners to Jesus remains the same.

With challenges resolved and concerns satisfied, the Local Management Agreement (LMA), signed by Wayne Dunbar, KADV manager and principal of CVCA, and Olson, completed a two-year process. The LMA allows KARM to provide programming for KADV. The agreement will

be re-evaluated in two years. The two stations together now make The Promise FM.

"We were at the point of either closing the station or selling it, which we didn't want to do. Allowing KARM to come in, we will be able to keep an Adventist presence in the Central Valley," Dunbar explains.





## The Visionaries

In 1983, Gaylord Boyer discovered a radio station for sale. The frequency, which covered from Stockton to Merced, placed the Modesto/Ceres area in the center. Boyer, a former principal of Modesto Adventist Academy (now CVCA), passionately believed this was a God-ordained opportunity that couldn't be missed.

That he knew nothing about licensing or operating a radio station did not dissuade him. Seeking help, he invited Steve White, a religion graduate who worked at WAUS, the Andrews University radio station in Berrien Springs, Mich. "He had found his first transmitter in a garbage dump," remembers White, program director of KADV from 2001-2011.

White agreed to a one-year commitment to prepare and submit the license application to the Federal Communications Commission. The license would be owned by the academy, which would also house the station and offer curriculum and on-air broadcasting experience for students.

once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. When he learned about an available radio frequency that reached from Fresno to Bakersfield, he shared the idea of a local Adventist radio station with a few friends.

"He was a very forward thinking person," says Carolyn Lombard, a long time board member who worked for Wahlen. With resources from individuals and several churches, KARM went on the air in 1990 with one full-time employee.

Volunteers were



*Gaylord Boyer installs equipment at the KADV radio station in the early 1980s. Located on the campus of Central Valley Christian Academy (formerly Modesto Adventist Academy) in Ceres, Calif., the new radio ministry included curriculum and on-air broadcasting experience for the academy students.*



*The original board of advisory committee for KARM pose for the dedication of the new station. They are (l. to r.): Phil Lilley, Ray Wahlen, Tammy Losey, Bill Hardt and Jim Finn.*

When KADV began broadcasting 12 hours a day in 1988, volunteers played their own records for the evening broadcasts. A series of task force workers and music from KCDS, Pacific Union College's station, helped supplement the programming. In 2001, KADV went full-time (24/7) and hired its first full-time employee.

A few years after KADV went on the air, another communication window was opening 150 miles south.

Dr. Ray Wahlen knew little about radio broadcasting. But he did understand a

essential to promote, support and staff the new ministry, which was housed in an addition built at the Visalia church. "Technology did not exist. Music would be shipped on reels from Pacific Union College station KCDS," Lombard adds. "We had to borrow Arbitron books from other Central Valley stations to find out how we were doing."

## The Promise for the Future

The PrayerWorks feature, now found at [my-promisefm.com](http://my-promisefm.com), offers listeners a community of support. "This is one of our most important

additions and is a tremendous blessing," Olsen says. In addition to live Wednesday morning prayer time, listeners can post requests, pray for others and share God's promises to encourage others, too.

"We can sell the station for quite a bit of money, but would lose the chance to have an Adventist presence in the community," says Matt Tresenriter, CVCA board chair. "I am thrilled! The Lord's timing is always perfect."

"I believe The Promise FM was led to this moment because the harvest is ready as we are nearing the end of time," adds Richard Dunn, KARM board chair. "God has really led. It has been an amazing journey."

To visit the PrayerWorks page or for more information, go to the [mypromisefm.com](http://mypromisefm.com).

*Caron Oswald*

# Evangelistic series goes global via conference call

Communicating under the sea, on land, in the air and beyond — the impossible has become reality through the exploding world of technology. There are few barriers to reaching out and touching someone, anytime, anywhere. Still, it can be as simple as dialing a phone.

Michael Manivah believes anyone can be a missionary to anywhere in the world without ever leaving home. “We need to reach the world, not just those who can come through our doors,” says the local church elder. His mission field reaches far beyond his San Jose, Calif., community.

Fluent in the Laotian language, Manivah has an international Lao small group ministry for non-English speakers. Daily, via conference call technology, he gives Bible studies to underground church groups in multiple locations in Asia. He also studies with above-ground groups in Thailand and the United States.

When his church family began making plans for a public outreach series, Manivah immediately thought global and began translating the sermons into Laotian for broadcast.

Resources for a live international evangelistic series, simultaneously broadcast to predetermined locations in several countries, wouldn't be necessary. He already had an international calling plan and a network. “We need to reach

the world, so why not use the conference call to do it!” he shares.

The San Jose Central church hosted War in Heaven, a 16-night series, this past October. Carol Barron from the North American Division joined Pastor Tony Rodriguez at his local church as a guest evangelist. Each preached a week of the series.

Rodriguez and Barron preached in English. Church member Sayuri Rodriguez translated the sermons into Spanish for guests from the local Hispanic community. Manivah covered the international Laotian audiences and one Lao small group in Modesto, Calif.

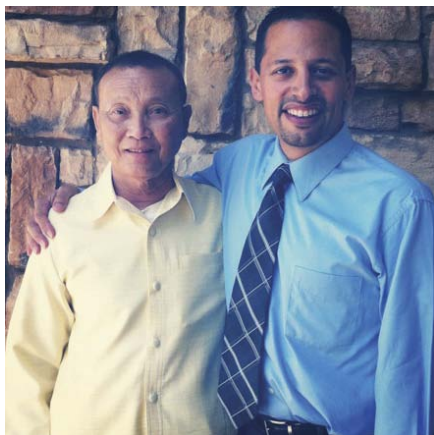
Peter Veulvilavong connected by conference call and repeated the Laotian sermons to 10 people gathered in his home. A Baptist minister for most of his adult life, Veulvilavong became an Adventist in January 2011. His living room now serves as a place of worship for Sabbath mornings and weekly small group Bible studies.

One week into the series, Veulvilavong suddenly developed a health crisis. Not losing faith, his family called church members in San Jose with the news. Church member Kelly Manivah called his house and said, “He has to preach tonight, so put the phone to his ear and let us pray.”

Veulvilavong completely recovered within hours. He translated the sermon that night and every night for the rest of the series. “That is



*Local elder Michael Manivah prepares to translate one of the sermons from the War in Heaven series. Each night, more than 50 people from underground churches in several areas in Asia listened in via conference call.*



*Peter Veulvilavong (left), a former Baptist pastor who became an Adventist in January 2011, and Tony Rodriguez, pastor of the San Jose Central church, shared preaching responsibilities for the War in Heaven evangelist series.*

a miracle!” Manivah says. “God is showing His people that He is still working in everyday life!”

“It's even greater to see the moving of the Holy Spirit among God's people,” Rodriguez adds.

Fifty-four people were baptized at the conclusion of the meetings — 10 from San Jose, four from Modesto, and at least 30 from the underground churches and Thailand.

Since then, the number of underground church participants continues to grow. “Every day they call in and are inviting more and more people to join them,” Manivah reports.

“They have no pastor but the Holy Spirit is opening their hearts, and they are ready to serve.”

*Taneshia Farquharson*



# Church Applied

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

## FILLING EMPTY *by Rich DuBose* Pews

In any given community, there are dozens (in some communities potentially hundreds) of former Adventists who have left the Seventh-day Adventist church for various reasons. From time to time, we as a church talk about what it would take to “bring them back.” Realistically, some will probably never come back. They have chosen to live without us, and we need to respect their decision — regardless of how we feel about it.

Others might come back if they thought it was safe. Some felt the churches they attended were so “toxic” that they no longer enjoyed being in our midst. Regardless of why people choose to leave us, we as a church family need to grow in our ability to love unconditionally. This is something we all struggle with.

Scripture clearly teaches:

“Let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows

God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:7-8 NLT).

“No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us” (1 John 4:12 NLT).

Our problem is not that we have people missing from our churches. Our real problem is that they are missing from our hearts. We simply think we don’t have the time to care. Many of us are so busy and preoccupied with our daily lives that we don’t give much thought to the needs or spiritual welfare of anyone else. There is simply no connection between us...

**Read full article:**

[www.churchsupportservices.org/emptypews](http://www.churchsupportservices.org/emptypews)

## Invitation Greeting Cards

Church Support Services has developed two greeting cards that can be personalized and sent to a non-attending or former member. The key word is “personalized.” These are not designed for mass distribution. They require someone writing a personal note on them that conveys the message to the recipient that an Adventist member still thinks and cares about them.

Pacific Union Conference churches may request a free sample at [css@puonline.org](mailto:css@puonline.org).



# Resources YOU CAN USE

**Recommended books that probe what it means to share Jesus with church insiders and outsiders. Books are available at your Adventist Book Center or Amazon.com.**

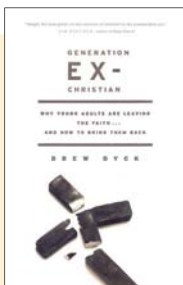
## Generation

### EX - Christian,

by Drew Dyck.

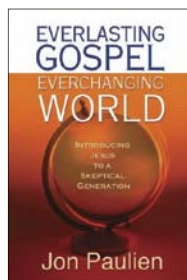
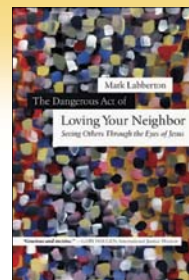
For anyone who ministers to young adults — or

whose own loved ones have walked away from the faith — this provides a guidebook for engaging prodigals effectively and helping point their steps back toward home.



## The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor, by Mark Labberton.

Jesus didn't see a sick woman, he saw a daughter of God. He didn't see an outcast from society, he saw a child of Israel. He didn't see a sinner, he saw a person in the image of the Creator. Are we able to see others with the eyes of Jesus?

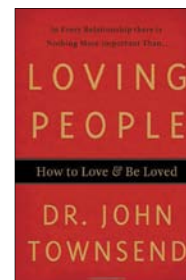


## Everlasting Gospel: Ever-Changing World, by

Jon Paulien. Postmoderns are highly skeptical of absolute truth claims that are said to be valid for all people. They seek their own reality. Jon Paulien offers his insights into the mission of the church and the opportunity we have to witness in new ways to new people. Published by Pacific Press.

## Loving People: How to Love & Be Loved, by Dr. John Townsend.

What is more important than loving and being loved? Everyone wants it, but we often don't know where to begin, whether it be about family, friends, spouses, or dating relationships. The good news is that love can actually be learned. *Loving People* shows you how to be more loving in these key areas: 1) Connecting, 2) Truth-telling, 3) Healing, 4) Letting Go, 5) Romance.



## Leading With Presence

by Karen Spruill

While reading in a devotional book, I came across some of the philosophy of Rabbi Edwin Friedman, who was also a specialist in family systems. I suppose I had seen his name in

earlier textbooks, but the relevancy now is important. I have been thinking about the qualities that pertain to leaders (government, church groups, workplaces and families). Problems about leadership inevitably come up in counseling situations and are part of everyday life for most of us.

Read full article:

[www.answersforme.org/leading](http://www.answersforme.org/leading)



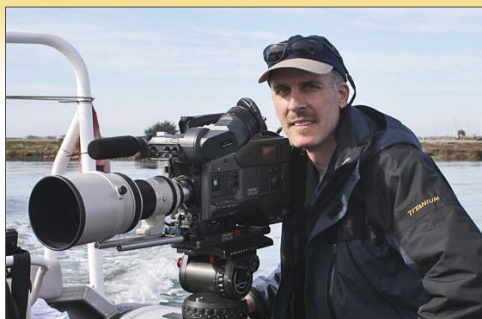
Sharing Christ Through the Arts

If you are an Adventist songwriter, poet or artist living in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada or Utah, we would like to connect with you. Whether your creative efforts are considered professional or amateur, you have unique gifts that can uplift your faith community and the world. We want to celebrate your gifts and challenge you to think of them as potential doorways to ministry!

For more information, visit our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/visit.inspire](http://www.facebook.com/visit.inspire) or [www.churchsupportservices.org](http://www.churchsupportservices.org).

# CHURCHAPPLIED: *in Motion*

Watch for new additions to our Church Applied video series in 2012. We appreciate what Jonathan Beitz did to help us get started. Now that he has moved on to other things, I'm delighted that we have connected with Paul Zenk, an Adventist film producer who has extensive experience working with Hollywood and industrial film production. We are excited to be able to work with him on a contract basis.



To view our previously produced videos visit:  
[www.vimeo.com/churchapplied](http://www.vimeo.com/churchapplied)



## Quiet Flame

Dorothy Stiegler always believed that God was real and that He cared for her. Along the way, that belief was severely tested by people and circumstances. Discover how Stiegler, a blacksmith artist, uses her artistic abilities to bless others.

Read full article:  
[www.vimeo.com/quietflame](http://www.vimeo.com/quietflame)

## *Unexpected Blessing*

by Leah Robinson

My friend Lidija and I had purchased some well-deserved ice cream after work one day, and as we were sitting by the river, chatting up a storm, we were suddenly interrupted by a homeless woman who staggered over to our picnic table. She swung one hip out, threw one hand on our table, and stuck the other out, palm up. "Can I have a dollar?" she slurred.



Normally, I would help the needy, freely and without question. But this woman's unbalanced demeanor made me hesitate. I asked what she intended to buy with that dollar.

Read full story at:  
[www.storyharvest.org/blessing](http://www.storyharvest.org/blessing)

## *WestPoint Changes Venue and Broadens Focus*



WestPoint – April 8-11, 2012, San Mateo, California

"The only constant in life is change." And change is happening all around us in ministry. The challenge for church leaders is remaining positioned to meet that inevitable change with enthusiasm and optimism. We do that by connecting with people who can help us acquire the tools we need for success.

WestPoint 2012 is exciting because of the speaker line-up and new unique location, creating a synergy to equip you not only to meet the waves of change, but also to enjoy the ride.

For more details visit:  
[www.westpoint2012.com](http://www.westpoint2012.com)



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# Soul Food

*(Devotional content for busy people)*

Over 17,000 people have downloaded our free devotional app that features content about family life, health, spiritual growth and first-person stories of faith. It is available for smart mobile devices as: spiritrenew.

**Free Sharing Cards** – Tell your friends about spiritrenew with a free supply of sharing cards. It's a great way to direct others to Jesus and promote positive living. For more info visit: [www.spiritrenew.org](http://www.spiritrenew.org).

## Health Education in 2012

We have a health message that many desperately need to hear. Is your church hosting a seminar in 2012? There are many directions you can go to promote healthful living in your community. If you haven't made any plans, a great resource person for health ministry ideas is Gordon Botting, Northern California Conference. Botting conducts a limited number of events in churches each year and can steer you to some relevant resources. Contact Northern California Conference (925) 685-4300 ext. 1272.



# Web Round-Up

### Online Health Lessons

[www.churchsupportservices.org/health](http://www.churchsupportservices.org/health)

### Google Analytics

[www.google.com/analytics](http://www.google.com/analytics)

### Compression Guidelines

[www.vimeo.com/help/compression](http://www.vimeo.com/help/compression)

### WestPoint

[www.westpoint2012.com](http://www.westpoint2012.com)

### The Joshua Project

[www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

### Psalter

[www.psaltermusic.com](http://www.psaltermusic.com)

## Need Help Promoting a Health Event?

Church Support Services has designed an attractive 4-color brochure that churches can personalize and use to promote their health events. All that is needed is for you to personalize the flier with details about your event. Check it out here: [www.churchsupportservices.org/flier](http://www.churchsupportservices.org/flier).



## God at Work



### FREE e-letter

Get monthly updates that feature ministry news, videos, people, ideas and more. Sign up at: [www.churchsupportservices.org/news](http://www.churchsupportservices.org/news)

### Visit us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/church.applied](http://www.facebook.com/church.applied)



# Spiritual master plan affirms commitment to students' spiritual development

A new Spiritual Master Plan recently adopted by La Sierra University establishes a more integrated and unified approach to students' religious and spiritual development. The result of more than six months of research, conversation and prayer, the master plan sets an ambitious agenda for making La Sierra University even more intentional about nurturing students' love of God.

The new plan lists seven outcomes LSU desires its graduates to reflect. These include:

1. A sense of vocation and calling: Have our students articulated or demonstrated in their college experience a sense of purpose, vocation and calling?
2. The ability for critical thought: Do La Sierra University graduates use critical thinking skills as they build their world view and religious commitments?
3. Decidedly concerned about mission: Do La Sierra University students show interest in being involved in community service, mission service or evangelistic outreach?
4. Personal religious development: Are students involved in the religious life on campus, in their local churches, or in their community involvement?
5. Awareness of personal stewardship: Are students learning responsible stewardship of the world and their own personal possessions in relationship to the ongoing mission of the church?
6. Rich and growing faith: Are students growing in areas of life that constitute Christian maturity, including trusting and believing, personal well-being, seeking spiritual growth, and serving the world compassionately through acts of love and mercy?
7. Understanding Seventh-day Adventism: Do students understand and accept that as part of the community of faith, Seventh-day Adventist mission, message, beliefs, values and commitments are central for their self-understanding?

For the first time, the spiritual master plan is fully incorporated into the university's overall strategic plan. The new plan revises University Studies requirements to give students an exceptionally robust opportunity to deepen their understanding of Adventism.

"Part of our work was devoting considerable time cataloging all activities on campus that are spiritual in nature or already are contributing to the master plan goals," says Sam Leonor, campus pastor and chair of the master plan subcommittee. "The sheer number of programs, activities and clubs the university already provides is staggering. We knew we were a busy campus, but we didn't really realize how much our students are offered."

The master plan document identifies and briefly describes La Sierra's current spiritually-focused activities — a list that runs for more than 13 pages. The list also reveals that students' spiritual development is a focus of attention at all levels of the university — from general activities such as university worship and the student missions program, through the school level, the departmental level and down into the classrooms.

"This new plan includes a strong evaluation component," says Leonor. "Our intent is that our spiritual master plan will be regularly updated based on how the many activities are accomplishing their goals."

To read the complete La Sierra University Spiritual Master Plan document, go to: [www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=8122](http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=8122).

University website visitors can see more on La Sierra's spiritual development efforts, including:

- University Worship video archives at [www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=3833](http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=3833).
- Video archives of First Service, the student focused worship service held Friday nights in the La Sierra University church, at [www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=3834](http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=3834).
- Blogs, videos and photos of student missionaries serving around the world at [www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=773](http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=773).



NATAN VIGNA

*La Sierra University students, along with 70 students from La Sierra Academy, were able to pack more than 10,000 meals as part of one of the many service opportunities on campus. The meals will be delivered by the humanitarian organization Kids Against Hunger to West Africa.*

The La Sierra University church partners with the university in nurturing students' spiritual growth. Video archives of the student-focused "Church at Noon" services can be seen at [lsu-church.org/churchatnoon](http://lsu-church.org/churchatnoon).

*Larry Becker*

## Notice of La Sierra University constituency session

The biennial Constituent Membership of La Sierra University will convene at the La Sierra University Alumni Center, 11500 Pierce Street, Riverside, on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at 1 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is (1) to receive reports from the University and its auditor, (2) to amend the Bylaws, (3) to appoint Trustees as specified by the Bylaws, and (4) to transact such other business as may be submitted by the Board of Trustees.

*Ricardo Graham, Chair  
Randal Wisbey, Secretary*

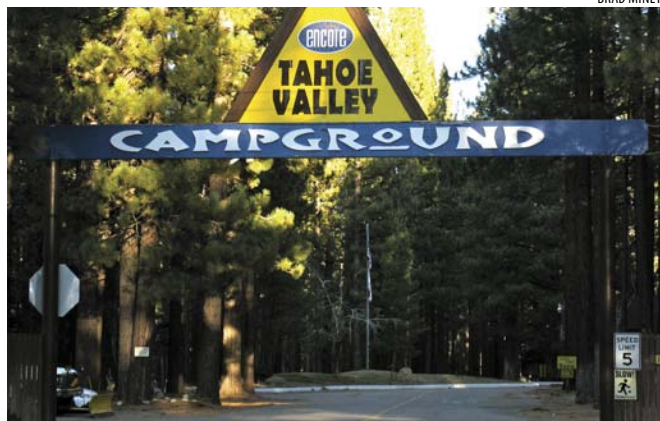
# Tahoe camp meeting moves on down the road

The lay-driven, Tahoe camp meeting is moving to the privately-owned Tahoe Valley Campground, less than three miles from the former location. The new site is close to the intersection of Highway 50 and Lake Tahoe Blvd. RV and tent camping sites are numerous, and there is plenty of room for the big tents.

The same tall pines and sunny blue skies fill the camp with natural beauty. However, many new amenities and services will be available for the 2012 event, which is scheduled to begin Monday evening, July 30, and conclude Sabbath evening, Aug. 4.

A streamlined phone and online reservation process directly through Tahoe Valley Campground offers substantial discounts for camp meeting attendees. With discounts, camping fees for 2012 will be lower than previous years.

The new camp meeting venue offers additional recreational opportunities for adults, teens and children alike, including: volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts; horseshoes; children's playground; walking paths and a heated outdoor pool.



BRAD MINETT

*Tahoe camp meeting 2012 will be at the Tahoe Valley Campground.*

be there to offer books, media and food with plenty of camp meeting specials.

Hot vegetarian/vegan meals and deli service will be available during all mealtimes for those who wish regular or occasional prepared meals. Sabbath meal tickets will be sold until noon Friday.

"This year's Tahoe camp meeting will be a wonderful new adventure," said Pastor Al Tilstra, "but will provide the traditional blessings of a Spirit-filled camp meeting experience. I am excited!"

For general information or questions, e-mail [tahoecampmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:tahoecampmeeting@gmail.com), call Virginia Rose at 916-967-5932 or visit [www.tahoecampmeeting.adventistfaith.org](http://www.tahoecampmeeting.adventistfaith.org).

For Tahoe Valley Campground information and reservations, call 530-541-2222 or visit [www.RVontheGo.com](http://www.RVontheGo.com). Early reservations are recommended to insure RV and tent space is available.

*Denny Krause*



BRAD MINETT

*The general store serves as an efficient registration location.*

To make for a more pleasant camp meeting experience, onsite conveniences include: laundry facilities, a general store, propane, ice machine, dump station, dog run (pets are allowed), fax service, WiFi and e-mail access.

Camping and RV sites feature asphalted lanes, full hookups, pull-through RV spaces, fire pits, picnic tables and plenty of room for tents.

On the programming side, Christ-centered, thought-provoking morning and evening speakers will be featured, along with three daily seminars and inspirational music. Daily activities — stories, music, crafts, outings, and beach fun — from beginners to teens will keep the entire family occupied. The Heralds quartet will provide a Sabbath afternoon concert.

A "ministry lane" will provide opportunities to learn about academies, colleges and other ministries. As always, the Adventist Book Center will



BRAD MINETT

*Spacious RV sites feature full hook-ups and pull-through convenience.*



# Whitehorse leads Navajo Nation evangelism projects

For many years, the Seventh-day Adventist church has had an important presence within the Navajo Nation through medical work, churches and schools, and evangelism has always been a high priority.

Charlie Whitehorse, pastor of the Monument Valley church, is an American Indian who grew up in the Navajo Nation. For many years, Whitehorse has had a palpable passion for evangelism in his home territory. In an effort to bring consistency and efficiency to Adventist work within Navajo Nation, Whitehorse has been named the Native American Coordinator in the Nevada-Utah Conference. The Arizona Conference appointed him to the same position in their territory, allowing him to work seamlessly across the Nevada-Arizona border. The Pacific Union has also named Whitehorse director of Native Ministries.



*Charlie Whitehorse*

Three major evangelistic events are scheduled for the Navajo Nation in 2012. Only about 15 percent of Navajo Nation members are Christians, with 85 percent clinging, at least marginally, to Navajo traditional customs and spirituality.

Two other major projects are in the works which focus on the Monument Valley area.



*The new health center is currently under construction.*

Many Navajos experience medical issues that are preventable or that can be successfully alleviated through simple treatments. With this in mind, a health center, emphasizing health education and providing simple hydrotherapy and massage treatments, is currently under construction. An opening is planned for the fall of 2012.

An adequate supply of drinking water is a pressing problem in Navajo Nation. To this end, a well is being drilled on Monument Valley church property. This well will significantly increase the water supply available to Navajo families, who transport their water in tanks mounted on pick-up trucks.

Near the new well, a new, large garden area will allow Navajo families the opportunity to grow fruits and vegetables to supplement their diet in a healthy way.

"This is a great opportunity for our Adventist Native Americans in the Navajo Nation to unite and exercise evangelistic effort to reach our people and other Native Americans in the Pacific Union Conference," says Whitehorse.

For more information, contact Whitehorse at [whitehorse.ministry@citlink.net](mailto:whitehorse.ministry@citlink.net) or call 928-240-8680.

*Denny Krause*



*The 221-member Mounement Valley church.*

# GNTV acquires production truck for pennies on the dollar

The airwaves of Phoenix, Ariz., are filled with messages of hope and salvation in Christ through the 24/7 broadcasts of Good News TV and Mas Alla del Sol television. These digital channels are broadcast free to residents who have an antenna. In addition to local programming, viewers are treated with a custom mix from 3ABN, LLBN and the Hope Channel.

Both GNTV and MasTV have been working to improve their studio facilities in preparation for introducing new programming. While investigating options for extending the broadcast beyond its current borders, the ministries received a major blessing.

For two years, GNTV has needed a remote production truck. Multiple grant requests had been denied. "I was just driving by and happened to see this big television production truck sitting at the back of a used car lot," said Leland Preston, long-time volunteer at GNTV. "I thought of our needs at GNTV." He immediately sent a text to Luke Skelton, GNTV general manager to say that GNTV could get a television production truck with a 20kw generator at an amazing price, and they all began to pray.

Within an hour of the call, Chris Kassay, a former satellite truck engineer for a FOX sports

contractor, and Ted Prouty, former lead for the 3ABN production road crew, arrived at the car dealership to investigate the opportunity.

The dealership had purchased the recently retired FOX 10 truck through a vehicle auction. They planned to "part it out" the next day. The only reason it was on the lot and visible from the street that afternoon is because their garage was full, and they needed to move cars out before they could move it in to start the dismantling process. "It would not have been here tomorrow," the dealership manager said.

"If you bought this rig new," said Kassay, "it would cost over \$250,000. This is an absolute miracle!" As the team continued to inspect the truck, they found many hidden treasures. Kassay later confirmed from two different sources that the current going rate for this used truck with similar features is \$95,000 to \$100,000.

"It definitely is a miracle," Prouty explained. "Each of these individual pieces of equipment alone would cost you well over what they are selling this whole truck for." The four GNTV volunteers started getting emotional about the amazing find, so they huddled inside the truck to pray once more to confirm that this vehicle should be secured for the ministry.

Skelton approached the lot owner and told him how the production truck could be used for Christian television ministry. The owner agreed to sell the truck — and its contents — for just \$8,000.

"I just really feel like I want to help you guys out," the dealer told the surprised and grateful team.

"Previously," says Skelton, "I imagined that we would eventually purchase an old rental moving truck, which we would then retrofit as a production vehicle. But, now as I see all of the features this truck has built right into it (like A/C units, air ride, full insulation, generator, built-in production racks and desk surfaces, an external patch panel and so much more), I realize this is a dream come true. The Lord has saved us literally tens-of-thousands of dollars in additional expenses, plus thousands of volunteer hours that we would have had to spend to get to this point ourselves."

"This is a miracle — an affirmation from the Lord for this ministry," said Tony Anobile, Arizona Conference president.

And as an extra blessing in the deal, the self-supporting ministry did not have to pay one dime for the truck. The purchase money was donated by supporters of the ministry.

The GNTV volunteer staff is now working to raise funds to stock the truck with the necessary video equipment to take it on the road. Fitting it with a combination of new and used production equipment will cost approximately \$15,000.

"Many viewers' lives have been transformed as they accept Christ and follow Him in baptism," reports programming manager Susan Skelton. "What has been accomplished in Phoenix can be duplicated in other communities of the Pacific Union Conference. And we're willing to help — just ask!"

To watch online, donate or learn how to start your own local Adventist TV channel in your community, visit [www.mygoodnewstv.com](http://www.mygoodnewstv.com) or call 480-264-1116.

PHIL DRAPER



Leland Preston, Chris Kassay, Luke Skelton, and Ted Prouty are eager to outfit the newly-acquired television production truck for ministry.

Phil Draper



*Chris Kassay, GNTV manager Luke Skelton, Ted Prouty and Leland Preston praise God for the newly-acquired television production truck that was originally valued at \$250,000 and was purchased for just \$8,000.*

# The Learning Commons

## *Developing a 21st century library at PUC*

KERRY CHAMBERS

For the first time since 1958, Pacific Union College's Nelson Memorial Library has received a major renovation — not only aesthetically, but also in the way it functions as a learning center. As the main form of knowledge transitions from books to electronic media and from individual study to collaborative learning, PUC is taking steps to ensure that its resource center has made the leap into the 21st century.

The new floor plan features a bright and open space, illuminated by abundant natural light and spacious seating areas for individual and group study. It also includes a pair of glass-walled private rooms that larger groups of students can reserve for study sessions and collaborative projects.

New study tables dominate the room facing the campus mall, each wired with dozens of electrical outlets to accommodate students who take their computers to go. For those who don't, the computer lab on the main floor has also been expanded, with a new fleet of Apple computers to supplement the existing PCs available for public use.

The floor is equipped with all new furniture, including mobile individual desks, a unique curved sofa installed with more power outlets, an inviting lounge area in the foyer, and a new circulation desk that enhances not only the look of the lobby, but also the accessibility for

wheelchair-bound guests.

The biggest change in library function, of course, was the rise of Internet, database and computer technology as a dominant means to store and transmit knowledge. Before the mid-'90s, the most vital practical concern of managing a library was having the space to store all the books. That need is rapidly declining in importance, replaced by a need for better access to online resources.

"The resource has shifted from print to electronic. So what has that changed?" says library director Adu Worku. "There has been a perception that since the Internet is here and you can Google, why are libraries relevant anymore? They are relevant for the same reason they have always been relevant — they are a resource center and an access point."



**The open, inviting study areas of the library have become a popular venue for student collaboration.**

means a team of librarians trained to help students find and select the most relevant and accurate information from the dross that can be found on the web.

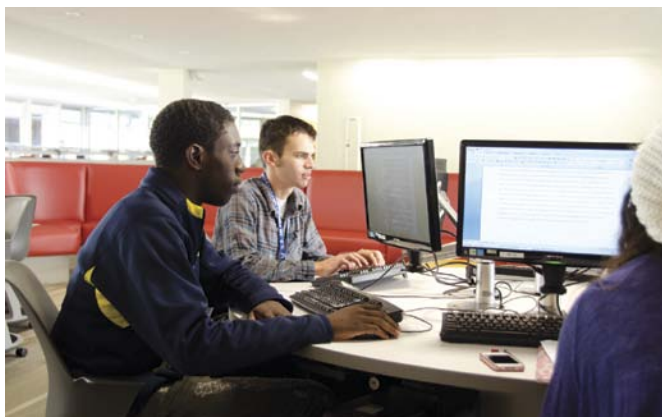
It also means wall-to-wall Wi-Fi accessibility and the now-ubiquitous power outlets for students using laptops and tablet computers. Before the renovation, such students often had to scramble to find an available outlet. "Now it's much more convenient for students," says academic dean Nancy Lecourt, who oversaw the planning stages of the project.

But the technological aspect of learning is not the only thing that has changed in recent years. Concurrent with the rise of Internet technology, the education world has seen a shift from the traditional lecture-based approach to a model based on student collaboration with their professors and with each other.

Many educators describe the benefits of this approach — better learning outcomes, improved knowledge retention, more creativity,

The electronic factor has two implications in PUC's library — providing better resources, and providing opportunities for students to use their own resources. That means plenty of well-equipped computer workstations. It means subscriptions to hundreds of databases of research archives and peer-reviewed journals online. It

KERRY CHAMBERS



**Part of the renovation project involved enhancing the technology resources, including new computers, wall-to-wall WiFi accessibility, and additional outlets for charging laptops.**

and the development of cooperative skills vital in the modern workforce. For these reasons, colleges and universities across the country are changing their libraries from mere book depositories with carrels for individual study, to spaces that facilitate group learning and group work. This philosophy sees the contemporary educational library as something more — a learning commons.

“When done well, [collaboration] enhances the learning process,” says PUC communication professor Tammy McGuire, who teaches courses on group interaction. “According to studies done at Harvard and elsewhere, for example, learning groups score better on tests than those who study alone. And in the area of critical thinking, groups can bring a multitude of perspectives and ideas that lead to a richer, more nuanced survey of issues.”

“Working together in diverse groups helps students learn to solve problems as a team and sharpen their own understanding with serious listening,” says Lecourt. “The new learning commons in the library is meant to support

and foster collaborative learning and prepare students for life and work in the 21st century.”

Since the completion of the library renovation, PUC students appear to be enjoying the changes. “Our door count compared to last year has shown a significant increase in students using the library,” Worku says. “We want to do a formal study to find out the students’ opinions, but anecdotally, people seem overwhelmingly pleased.”

“I love the new set up in the library. I think the design is very well done and easier to concentrate in,” says visual arts student Jasmine Kelley. “Ever since the library was redesigned, I’ve found myself in there a lot more, studying by myself or with others. It was a great idea to redo the library, and if I was a student in high school coming for academy days and saw this — I would want to attend.”

This renovation is just the first phase of a larger library overhaul. The second phase will have a greater impact on the physical structure of the library, connecting the main student space with the media services department,

installing an elevator, and retrofitting the building for better earthquake stability. Tentative plans also call for the creation of spaces for several unique research resources the college owns, including the Walter Utt Center for Adventist History, the Pitcairn Island Study Center, and literary collections from several Adventist pioneers and scholars.

In addition to the library, President Heather J. Knight has also described plans to enhance classrooms across campus and expand the residence halls to keep pace with PUC’s continuously growing enrollment.

“As a Christian college, we’re called to be the model for best practices in higher education — to be excellent as a reflection of the excellence of Christ himself,” says Knight. “The library is an important part of that calling, and we can be truly proud of our new and improved academic resource. But we’re not done yet.”

For a gallery of more images of Nelson Memorial Library, visit [puc.edu/renovation](http://puc.edu/renovation).

*Larry Peña*



*Students enjoying the new lobby of Nelson Memorial Library. Student traffic in the library has increased since the renovation.*



The first eight students accepted into LLU School of Dentistry's associate of science in dental hygiene program, shown in front of the Palm Desert facility, include (from left): Jennifer Lora, Andrea McGinty, Wendy Marquez, Brianna Gatti, Priscilla Blow, Selina Cardenas, Margine Hernandez and Sarah Woodhead.

## New dental hygiene program opens in Palm Desert

An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony Monday afternoon Nov. 28, 2011, at Pointe Monterey Business Park made official and visible Loma Linda University School of Dentistry's dental hygiene associate of science degree program that opened in Palm Desert on Sept. 28, 2011.

The public, administrators and faculty from Loma Linda University and its School of Dentistry, administrative leaders from the College of the Desert, and representatives from state, county and city government were welcomed by Loma Linda University President Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., and the Coachella Valley's congenial winter climate: a clear and quiet 75 degrees at sundown.

School of Dentistry Dean Charles Goodacre, D.D.S., who just returned from a trip to Israel, presided in a buoyant mood over a very optimistic associate degree launch. The eight young women who compose the program's student vanguard were all on hand to assist visitors with a tour of the 10,411-square foot, state-of-the-art

space at 34-280 Gateway Drive where their training is nearly nine weeks under way.

Remarking that "Palm Desert has a proud history of being the Coachella Valley's foremost destination for higher learning," Mayor Pro Tem Robert A. Spiegel welcomed the "creation of this new associate of science degree program in dental hygiene" as "a wonderful thing for our city and for the Coachella Valley as a whole." Spiegel was particularly pleased that "local students who aspire to become dental hygienists will be able to study and train close to home," and that "area residents will also enjoy better access to dental and oral health care through the program's new public clinic."

On behalf of the California State Legislature, California Senator Bill Emmerman, D.D.S., M.S. (and LLU School of Dentistry alumnus), congratulated the school with a handsomely framed joint member resolution (No. 617) resolving that "they draw special attention of the public to . . . the Loma Linda University dental hygiene program and clinic in Palm Desert, and point with

great pride to the outstanding opportunities it will provide to its students well into the future."

Dean Goodacre recognized the essential administrative contributions to the program's development made by department of dental hygiene chair Kristi Wilkins, M.A., and Joseph Caruso, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H., associate dean for strategic development.

The School of Dentistry's new program will matriculate 28 students annually, including a large number of students from nearby College of the Desert where many will receive their general education and biomedical science prerequisite education.

Loma Linda University professors will provide the dental hygiene science and clinical training for the program — a teaching staff of seven, including a full-time dentist and board-certified hygienists. For more information on programs at LLU, see [explore.llu.edu](http://explore.llu.edu).

*Doug Hackleman, M.A.*

# Adventist Health sponsors largest number of teams at California International Marathon

To promote a healthy lifestyle and great team spirit, Adventist Health recently sponsored the largest corporate participation at the California International Marathon. More than 135 employees from all across the four-state, 18-hospital system made up 35 relay teams with several full marathon runners for the Dec. 4, 2011, race. This year marked the fifth that Adventist Health has participated in the race.

The CIM is a 26.2 mile race from Folsom, Calif., to the state Capitol in Sacramento. Ranked as the 14th largest marathon in the country, the most recent CIM had 8,000 marathoners and 4,000 relay runners. The course is slightly downhill, and is known as a great race to earn a Boston Marathon qualifying time.

Several California hospitals participated in the race, including Adventist Medical Center – Hanford, Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Howard Memorial Hospital, St. Helena Hospital



Some of the runners celebrate on the steps of the Capitol.

pay employees' registration fees for the race. Adventist Health also provided bright yellow T-shirts with the company logo for runners to wear during the race to add to the team atmosphere. Adventist Health runners were known as "Team AHSome" and proudly wore the Adventist Health name on their shirts.

In addition to training regularly for several months in advance, participants encouraged each other and engaged in healthy competition for motivation. While some participants were seasoned runners, others had never done a distance race before.

George Bailey, an employee at the system headquarters,

was a first-time runner this year with a remarkable story. Several years ago, Bailey decided to improve his health and lose weight. He has participated in the CHIP program, Adventist Health-sponsored health programs and walks daily. He wears a pedometer every day to keep track of his steps and spends lunch breaks walking.

Since his decision to be healthier, Bailey has lost more than 100 pounds. Initially, he was nervous about signing up for the CIM and wanted to drop out. His teammates encouraged him to do the race, and with their support, he was able to run his portion of the relay successfully.

By promoting health among employees, Adventist Health is working to set a good example for its patients and the communities its hospitals and other facilities serve. For health and fitness tips, quizzes and other online tools, visit [AdventistHealth.org](http://AdventistHealth.org) and click on the Health Library tab.

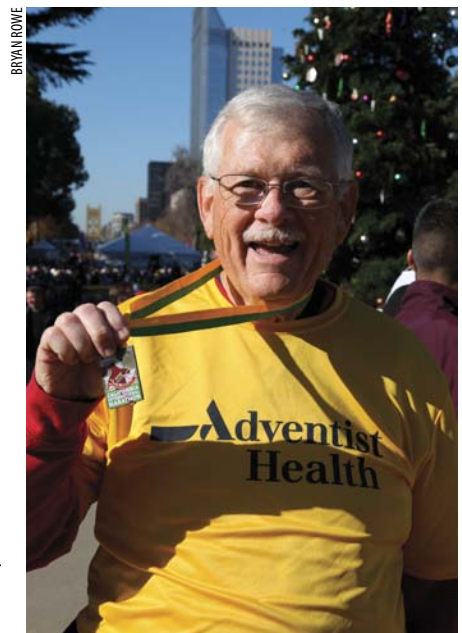
*Brittany Dobbs*



Adventist Health's fastest relay team finished the race in 3:06:46.

Napa Valley and Sonora Regional Medical Center. Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, Calif., had the largest hospital participation with seven teams, making up 20 percent of the entire corporate team.

To get employees excited about running, the Roseville, Calif.-based organization offered to



George Bailey shows off his medal at the end of the race.

# There is hope with prayer

For several years, Juan Ramos has worked as a meat cutter at Mercado Esperanza in Madera. Earlier this year, his schedule was changed, and he was required to work on Sabbath. He was about to get fired when he contacted Pastor Eliezer Benavides, associate director of the Church State Council. Benavides told Ramos that there is hope in prayer.

After they talked and prayed, Benavides contacted management. Management relented and changed the schedule, but only allowed him to work four days a week. His family suffered with the loss of wages.

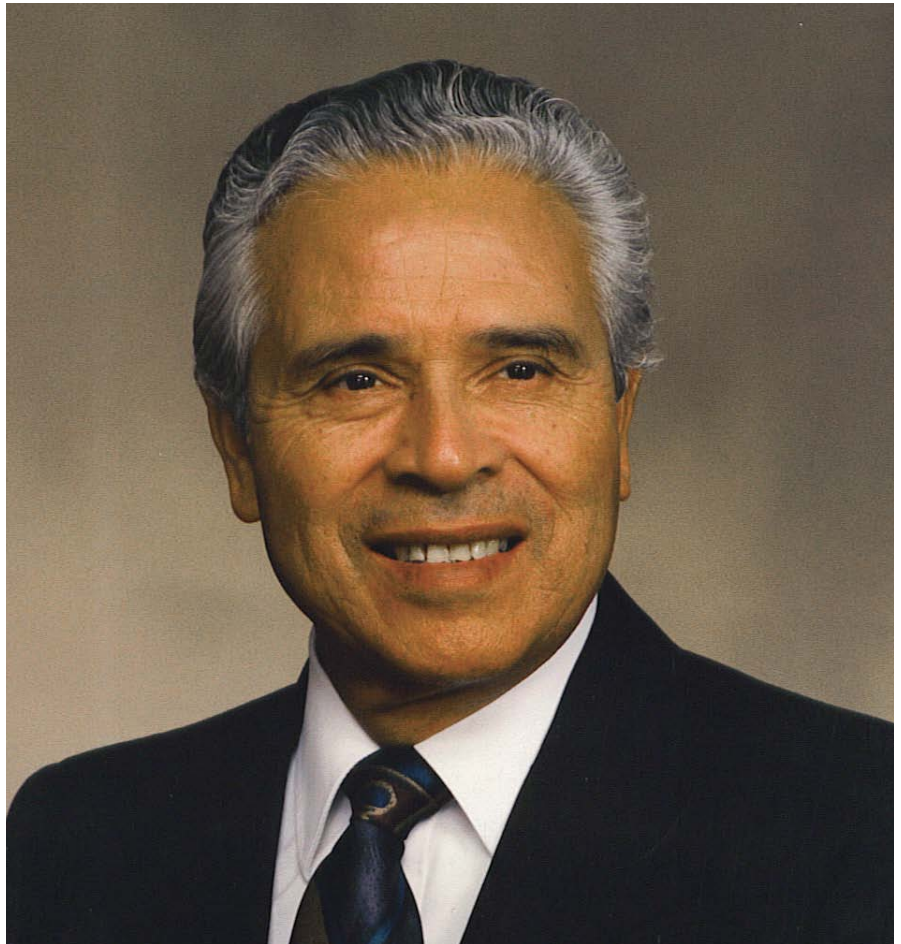
Again, Benavides prayed with Ramos, and then counseled him to file a charge of discrimination and retaliation with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He did so, but still approached his managers with kindness and gratitude for his job. Eventually, the combination of prayer, efforts and a positive, thankful spirit paid off. Ramos's church-assigned attorney contacted Mercado's lawyer and asked that Ramos be permitted to work on Friday during the day to restore his full-time schedule. Shortly thereafter, Ramos reported to Benavides: "Problem solved, case closed."

"Prayer changes things," insists Benavides. "We pray with those facing Sabbath problems, but our entire church also prays each week for those facing Sabbath problems. We have seen so many wonderful answers to prayer!"

For the past six years, Benavides has been assisting church members with Sabbath problems. Before his formal retirement, Benavides was the first director of Hispanic ministries for the Pacific Union. Recently, Benavides learned that diligent effort must sometimes accompany prayer.

Maria Sermeno worked at a hotel in Reno, Nev., for more than a decade without ever being scheduled on Sabbath. Last year, after the economy forced staff reductions, she was scheduled on Sabbath for the first time. Benavides repeatedly counseled with her, prayed with her, and wrote letters and spoke to the hotel's human resources representative. The case went back and forth for many months, with Sermeno's job hanging in the balance.

One day, Sermeno called Benavides and told him she would be fired the next day. Benavides called his fellow Public Affairs & Religious



*Eliezer Benavides serves as associate director of the Church State Council.*

Liberty staff members, and they prayed. Benavides called his contact in the hotel's human resources department and asked her whether she was a Christian. "Yes," she replied.

"How can you, as a Christian, put this lady out on the street in such an economic environment?" Benavides questioned. "This is not the Christian thing to do. She has worked faithfully for this hotel for so many years. You should give her the schedule change she requires." This bold move paid off. Sermeno's schedule was changed, and she is still working there today.

Eduardo Montalvo had worked at a heavy equipment rental company for four years doing maintenance and repair. Early in 2011, his schedule was changed from days to evenings, which created a problem on Fridays. His pastor, Edwin Mendoza, referred him to Benavides, who counseled with him, prayed with him, and

promised to write a letter. Benavides wrote the letter, but did not mail it. That night, he woke up at 3 a.m. and felt impressed to pray for Montalvo, which he did for half an hour. Later that morning, Montalvo was called in by management. He expected to be fired, but instead, he was told that his schedule would be changed, and he would not have to work on Sabbath.

Benavides has many more stories of answered prayers. Every year, he helps dozens of church members just like Montalvo, Sermeno and Ramos. For information about religious liberty issues or help with a Sabbath work conflict, contact the Pacific Union Department of Religious Liberty & Public Affairs at 805-413-7396.

*Alan J. Reinach, Esq.*



# Council files two new cases

**J**ose Carrizosa was hired to serve in environmental services at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. He was informed that his work required weekends, but he reasoned that he could work all day Friday, until sundown, Saturday night, after sundown, and all day Sunday. After completing his training, Carrizosa was placed on a schedule requiring him to work on Sabbath. When he politely informed management that he was an Adventist, and presented a letter from his pastor, he was immediately terminated.

In the past couple of years, the economic downturn in the United States has taken its toll on Seventh-day Adventist workers. Carrizosa is one of an increasing number who are losing their jobs because they seek to obey God and keep holy the Sabbath. As a result, the Church State Council has established a new litigation review committee to screen such cases and determine which ones to accept and fund. Legal services are provided by Alan J. Reinach, Esq., director of Public Affairs

& Religious Liberty for the Pacific Union, or by other attorneys. Carrizosa's case was the first one approved for funding by the Church State Council litigation committee. The Church State Council is the religious liberty arm of the Pacific Union, serving the five-state western region.

A second case was filed late last year on behalf of Brandon Chamberlain, also approved by the litigation committee. Chamberlain was laid off from Les Schwab Tire when the retread plant where he worked in Redding was shut down. However, he was permitted to apply for transfer to other stores. These stores all schedule their workers with rotating days off, and everyone is required to work on Saturday. Although Chamberlain had worked for the company for many years, and had been an assistant manager, his complaint charges that he was denied a transfer because he would not work on Sabbath.

"The Church State Council is a ministry, first and foremost," said Reinach, the executive director. "When church members are hurting because they

lost their jobs over the Sabbath, who will help them? How can the church teach people to keep the Sabbath holy, and then abandon them when they get fired? We cannot! We do not evaluate cases based on how much money they are worth. We look to see whether they are sincere people of faith who need our help."

Churches everywhere have members who feel forced to work on Sabbath. The Council stands ready to help those who will step forward in faith and seek a schedule change. "God has blessed us, and we have helped many church members to get a schedule change," said Pastor Eliezer Benavides, associate director. "I have many cases each year, and in most of them, the Lord intervenes. I am grateful that we can go to court when we have to, but most of the time, it is not necessary, praise to God."

For more information, e-mail [parl@puonline.org](mailto:parl@puonline.org) or call 805-413-7396.

*Alan J. Reinach, Esq.*



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