

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY
>> MARCH 2012

Nearly 500 attend
**women's
retreat**

21

9 Hallelujah Chorus flash mob entertains shoppers

15 Local conference newsletters

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PACIFIC UNION recorder

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about the cover



Women of all ages attended the CCC women's retreat. Here, Delight Winterberg from the Oakhurst church cradles her new great-granddaughter, Charlotte Bennett, born Jan. 2, 2012.

Jesús

la única

Esperanza

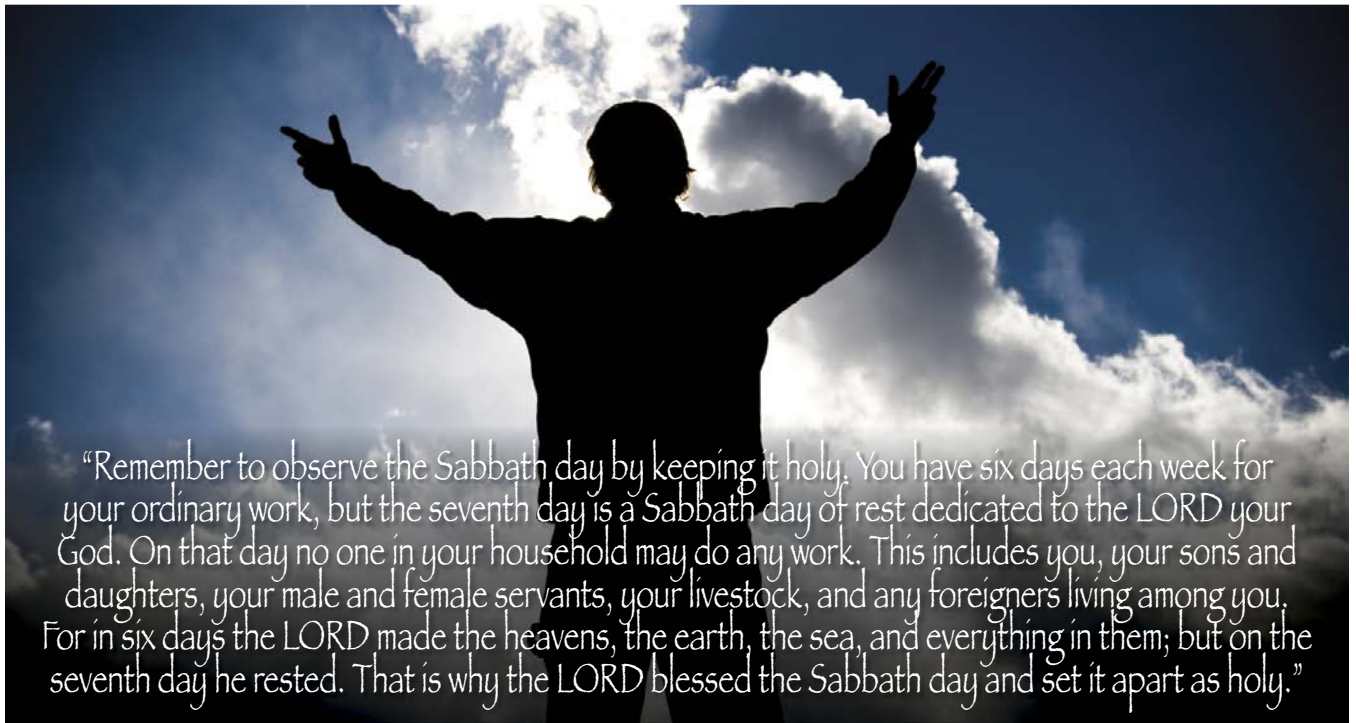
7 - 14 de Abril, 2012

Nuestra Meta

1. Activar 10,000 miembros de Iglesia en la Evangelización
2. Incluir 2,000 Jóvenes en el Proyecto de Evangelización
2. Llevar a cabo 130 Campañas de Evangelismo
3. Bautizar 1,300 preciosas almas

GRAN PROGRAMA DE EVANGELISMO

Departamento Hispano de la Unión del Pacífico



“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.”

Sabbath: a sanctuary in time

In the last few years, I have been under the strong conviction that everything Jesus did and taught was a revelation of God's grace. This conviction has driven me to re-examine Scripture — especially the four Gospels and the writings of Ellen White — looking for evidence that supports the hypothesis. I have made a number of what, at least for me, have been new and refreshing insights into Jesus' life and teachings. I want to share one with you.

Luke 4:16 states, “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read” (all references NKJV). It was Jesus' custom to go to the synagogue on Sabbath to worship. His behavior is consistent with the rest of Scripture: He was present both at creation when the Sabbath was instituted and at Sinai when the fourth commandment, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” was written in stone, spoken and delivered to Moses.

There is little question that Jesus kept the seventh-day Sabbath as the day of worship. Individuals who assert that Jesus is their Lord should follow Him and worship when He did, on Saturday, the seventh-day of the week. If Jesus is my Lord, I will follow Him, regardless of what others do. In Deuteronomy 5:15, Moses repeats the Ten Commandments and gives another reason why the Sabbath is important: “And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.” So we have many reasons to remember the seventh-day Sabbath. It helps us remember that we are created children of God and that we have been freed from the slavery of sin. God commanded us to remember.

It is also a sign that God sanctifies. Ezekiel 20:12 says, “Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.” We do not sanctify ourselves. God sanctifies us. How? What does that sanctification look like? Does it look like the God of Scripture that is grace-full? What is the relationship between the Sabbath and us being sanctified by God? Jesus said in Mark 2:27 that “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.”

I have wondered why God commanded, and Jesus modeled, Sabbath observance. Was it because He wanted the human family to gather together to sing praises to Him? Does He need our worship and praise? Is Sabbath for the benefit of God or, as Mark stated, the blessing of man? I want to suggest that the purpose of Sabbath worship is to bring us into the presence of God. It is this communion with Him that our Creator desires, not so that we can give Him praise, but so that He can “love on us.” He knows how debilitating life is. He wants to give us strength. He knows that our world is full of people who need our love and attention and who leave us empty. He wants to fill us to overflowing with love so we can be fountains of love in our homes, churches, neighborhoods and workplaces. It is my prayer that we will all experience the transforming power of His love and grace as we enter into His “sanctuary in time” each week.

Arnold Trujillo



La Sierra University breaks ground for Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business building

La Sierra University broke ground for the Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business during a celebration ceremony held Feb. 9. The two-story, 60,200-square-foot building and conference center will provide students, faculty and the community with a state-of-the-art learning environment.

The School of Business offers eight undergraduate degrees and nine Master of Business Administration degrees, including a new MBA concentration in healthcare management. It houses the Center for Philanthropy, the Edward C. Allred Center for Financial Literacy, and the Center for Conflict Resolution.

“Our new facility will allow us to build substantially upon that foundation by providing an integrative learning environment for the next generation of La Sierra students,” said business school Dean John Thomas. “The new building will help the school live out its dream of fostering transformative business education, and it can be expected to serve as a powerful draw for new students, faculty members and staff members.”

“The School of Business is poised to again move forward, to take the next step toward solidifying its role as the premier provider of business education for the world Seventh-day Adventist Church,” said President Randal Wisbey.

“Students who come here cultivate a commitment to global Christian service, and become well-rounded, lifelong learners. We are passionate about seeing a new School of Business building on our campus — one that will meet the needs of the present as well as serving us well into the future.”

The Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business will be prominently situated near the front of the campus, on a hillside just south of the Glory of God’s Grace sculpture. A center rotunda will provide views of the broader Riverside area. A central gallery running the length of the building between two wings will have portions open to the entire height of the second floor which has a 30-foot high ceiling and clerestory windows. The building will have eight classrooms, 27 faculty offices, three large lecture rooms, four seminar rooms, offices for the school’s centers, business club, accounting club, and for the award-winning Students In Free Enterprise team, two computer labs, and a digital media center.

The 541-seat auditorium and conference center will be open for use by outside groups. The center will have four breakout rooms of 400 square feet each to respectively accommodate

20 people. The center will have audiovisual presentation capabilities, a 1,362-square-foot raised platform area and green room for guest speakers, Wi-Fi Internet access, catering kitchen and sound room.

The building will be constructed with a number of green materials including several with recycled



The new business building will be located along the main university entrance road. Plans call for the new building to be open for classes for the Fall 2013 quarter.

content such as the carpet, vinyl flooring, ceiling tiles, window frames and roof. Additionally, the building will have high efficiency heating and air conditioning, water-conserving landscaping, lighting controls, windows in all offices, and low-emissivity glass in dual-paned windows.

The School of Business has been named in honor of Seventh-day Adventist philanthropists Tom and Violet Zapara, who provided the lead gift for the new building.

“Vi and I have dreamed about this new business school building for the last few years, and we’re just delighted that God has blessed it,” Tom Zapara said. “God has a great plan for that school. The challenge is for us to tune in for what God has in mind.

“We’ve been so impressed with the La Sierra business school SIFE team over the years. SIFE put La Sierra on the map. SIFE is still a very key component of that school. It became so obvious, if this [business school] is going to progress, they need more space.”

While this year’s School of Business enrollment includes 292 undergraduate and 150 graduate students, the new facility will allow the school to enroll more than 600 students over the next five years and to hire five or six new faculty as enrollment increases.

To follow the progress of the new building, updates will be posted at www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=business.



Breaking ground for the new La Sierra School of Business building are (from left) Alexis Sadakane, representing La Sierra business students; Melody Ilacas, student association president; John Thomas, dean; Ernie Hwang, chair of the campaign steering committee; Randal Wisbey, La Sierra president; Vi and Tom Zapara; and Ricardo Graham, Union president and La Sierra University board chair.

Darla Martin Tucker

La Capilla provides a comforting worship opportunity at PUC

In 2006, Hernan Granados left his pastoral position at the Central Spanish church in Los Angeles to fulfill his dream of being a dean at his alma mater, Pacific Union College. Little did he know, his pastoring days were not over. Four years later, he began a ministry that would soon become its own community.

Not long after returning to Pacific Union College, Granados began to hear Hispanic students around campus talking about how they missed their home culture. Having attended Spanish churches growing up and pastoring at one for seven years, Granados could understand their feelings. Hearing the students' comments brought his own need for Hispanic fellowship to the surface and gave him the idea to start a new program focusing on worship in a Hispanic tradition. As he began to ask around, he found that students were enthusiastic about the idea.

In 2010, Granados started La Capilla, which means "the chapel" in Spanish, a collegiate Sabbath school program that meets in Newton Hall Chapel at 11 a.m. Sabbath mornings. At first, Granados was not sure how many students would attend. He hoped for a reasonable turnout — expecting around 10 the first day. Within the first few programs, the 20 metal chairs in the chapel were not enough. Today, about 60 students attend the program each week.



A pastor and dean, Hernan Granados aims to create a worship experience that meets students' needs.

GEOFF BRUMMETT



La Capilla draws PUC students from many cultures for its lively and inclusive worship service.

"It was made for us, as Hispanics, to feel like we are at our home churches," says Liliana Archaga, senior early childhood education major. "Hispanic churches are run differently than other culture churches, and it is nice to be somewhere that reminds you of home."

A typical La Capilla service consists of singing, Bible games and a short sermonette. "Every culture worships differently," says Granados, which is what makes this ministry so important to many students. The familiarity of the program enables them to worship in a way that brings them closer to God. "La Capilla opens its doors to anyone here at PUC, but it has a special place in the hearts of the Hispanics because it retains a lot of the Hispanic culture in praise and worship," says Daniel Castanaza, senior theology major.

The ministry has found its way into the hearts of its members by supplementing the traditional worship services offered at PUC. This gives these students a worship experience that incorporates the cultural diversity on campus, while fulfilling a very personal need for the community La Capilla represents.

Interestingly, the ministry has also become popular outside of its main audience of Hispanic

students. La Capilla started completely in Spanish — song service, prayer, reading of Bible verses, and the sermon. But a significant part of the program's growth has been with non-Hispanic students as members of other cultures have begun to regularly attend.

About a month in, many students began translating for their non-Spanish speaking friends during the service. Granados saw this, and began to translate himself as he spoke. "I speak Spanish, and then I translate into English as I go," says Granados. "There's been a lot of people that go that don't even speak Spanish — and that's awesome to me."

One such student, sophomore Alesha Heinz, has been attending regularly since the onset of the program. "I enjoy the friendly atmosphere, the uplifting worship and the practical messages that Dean Granados gives that are so applicable to our everyday lives," says Heinz.

Ultimately, the ministry provides a welcoming worship environment, regardless of the native culture of the students who attend. As junior Bridgette Munoz puts it, "La Capilla is a bit of home."

Lauren Armstrong

New program trains Haitians to heal their injured

Severe hurts and injuries need more than stitches, crutches or slings; real healing requires rehabilitation. But for many Haitians wounded during the 2010 earthquake, this service has not been available. The LLU School of Allied Health Professions is resolving that.

The school will begin a rehabilitation technician certification program in Haiti on June 18 at Universite Adventiste d'Haiti (UAH), located in the Port-au-Prince suburb of Carrefour. The Loma Linda program will graduate approximately 16 rehabilitation technicians per year.

They will be needed. Currently, low numbers of occupational and physical therapists work in Haiti, and many of those who do are temporary foreign volunteers. This is for a country that, even before the earthquake, had an estimated 10 percent of its population disabled.

That percentage has only grown since then. Many people received limb amputations as a result of the earthquake. Countless others suffered spinal cord injuries, bone fractures, paralysis, peripheral nerve damage or mental trauma. To date, many have had to rely on foreign workers for rehabilitation services.

"Volunteers are starting to dwindle as memories of the earthquake fade," says Heather

Thomas, Ph.D., co-director of the rehabilitation certificate and associate professor of occupational therapy.

Emily Rivas, D.P.T., can attest to the need for trained Haitian technicians, physical therapists and occupational therapists. Now the rehabilitation coordinator at the neighboring Hôpital Adventiste d'Haiti, this physical therapy alumna first visited Haiti about five months after the earthquake.

"I came here and realized how great the need was, knew that I had the skills and abilities to help fill that need, and was compelled to return," says Rivas, who began her full-time position in Haiti during the summer of 2011.

The hospital will serve as the clinical training site for the rehabilitation program, with Rivas supervising. The hospital is part of the LLU-based nonprofit Adventist Health International, which partners with health care services in developing countries.

The rehabilitation technology program will be the second to operate in Haiti. Loma Linda University will administer the program for the first five to seven years. During this time, LLU faculty, alumni and community volunteers will teach the courses. Eventually, UAH will take ownership of the program.

Loma Linda University, through its Global Health Institute, has involved itself heavily in efforts to help Haitians rebuild their lives. The institute sent medical professionals to assist at Hôpital Adventiste d'Haiti within days of the quake and has continued to help provide volunteer clinicians and support personnel.

"What we hope is that more Haitians will be rehabilitated," says Thomas. "But we're also hoping that this will instill the idea that further rehab education is needed. Eventually a bachelor's degree program in OT and PT needs to be developed in Haiti."

The school needs volunteers to help with course instruction in Haiti. If interested, physical and occupational therapists may contact Everett Lohman or Heather Thomas.

In the future, Loma Linda may also offer a certificate program in orthotics and prosthetics at UAH. This is a discipline the School of Allied Health Professions has recently begun offering on its California campus; a new entry-level master of orthotics and prosthetics program began in fall 2011.

Heather ReifSnyder, M.A.



Hôpital Adventiste d'Haiti, one of the few functioning hospitals in Haiti to survive the earthquake of 2010, will serve as a clinical site for a new rehabilitation program offered by Loma Linda University.

LLU researcher visits Capitol Hill to ask for research funding

Xian Luo, Ph.D., a clinical research scientist from the department of trauma services at Loma Linda University Medical Center and assistant research professor at LLU School of Medicine, recently traveled to Capitol Hill as part of a 16-member delegation sponsored by the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The purpose of the trip was to remind lawmakers of the importance of continued funding for scientific research.

The delegation visited the offices of more than 40 congressional representatives during the three-day excursion.

Luo — whose research focus is on cellular and molecular mechanisms of radio-therapy-induced normal tissue reactions — was assigned to a four-member team that visited the offices of three senators and four representatives.

Luo and her team met face-to-face with Rep. Barbara Lee (D-California), Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-California), and Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-California), and talked with staff members of the other representatives.

“They all seemed receptive to our ideas,” she notes. “Congresswoman Roybal-Allard said she feels frustrated that so many programs have to be cut due to budgetary concerns, but all of them said they will do everything they can to support research funding during the budget negotiations.”

The experience helped Luo realize that scientists need to reach out to politicians to remind them of the vitally important role research plays in bringing life-saving treatments to light.

“Believe it or not,” she says, “our real-life stories are important for making progress with discovery in scientific research, especially when NIH funding is being cut.”

The ASBMB says many lawmakers appear willing to make deep cuts to science as witnessed by the House Appropriations Committee recent proposals to reduce funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$190 million, and for the National Science Foundation by \$162 million.

Luo and her colleagues argue that this is not a healthy trend. They note that NIH-funded



Loma Linda University Medical Center research scientist Xian Luo, Ph.D., consults with U.S. Representative Jerry Lewis (R-California) and his canine staffer Bruin at their office in Washington, D.C.

research has successfully reduced mortality and morbidity rates for many once acute and lethal conditions, and that research continues to make progress against heart disease, cancer and stroke, the three leading causes of death in the United States, as well as AIDS, Alzheimer's and diabetes.

Luo hopes Congress will continue to invest in the National Institutes of Health, support legislation that promotes innovation in research, alleviate the regulatory burden on research, and provide incentives to keep promising researchers in this country.

“If we do not express the need for such fiscal support,” Luo says, “and the importance of those

considerations repeatedly, politicians may not realize and prioritize those needs.”

One of the highlights of the trip for Luo was getting to meet veteran Inland Empire Congressman Jerry Lewis, who recently announced his retirement, and his canine companion Bruin.

“Congressman Lewis was very open to our concerns,” she reports. “He is aware of the importance of the need for funding for medical research, and promised to do what he can to protect it from the budget-cutters. Now that he's announced his retirement, we hope our next representative will be as supportive as he has been.”

James Ponder

Second grade class donates toys for Christmas

One day late last fall, Lauren Roos, a second-grade teacher at Loma Linda Academy, explained the meaning of Christmas to her students. During prayer at the end of the discussion, a student asked God to be with the kids who wouldn't be getting any Christmas presents.

The prayer sparked a discussion about how the students could help others at Christmas instead of simply focusing on themselves. The class decided to collect toys for kids whose parents couldn't afford presents.

Fund-raising began. A few students opened lemonade or hot cocoa stands in their neighborhoods. Others wrote letters to their parents, asking to be hired to do chores around the house. After the students earned enough money, they went shopping with their parents to buy a toy.

On Dec. 15, students brought in the hard-earned gifts. Soon, the toys were piled high around the classroom Christmas tree. In the afternoon, the students and parent volunteers took a short trip to the Loma Linda Fire Station. There they met Rob Rice, captain of the Loma Linda Fire Department and Loma Linda



Teacher Lauren Roos helps her second-graders place their hard-earned gifts in the donation bin for the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

Academy alumnus, and several other firefighters to donate 53 toys to the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

Of course, the class trip to the station wasn't complete without a tour of the fire station. Kids

learned about the protective clothing worn to stay safe while fighting fires and walked through the station to see where the firefighters make their meals and hang out between tasks. Next, students got to climb all over the

old engines and ring the bell. Firefighters answered all of the students' many questions. At the end of the tour, everyone got a firefighter hat.

The project helped the kids realize that they are not too young or too small to make a positive impact in their town, and the trip to the station taught them about the important role that firefighters play in the community.



Loma Linda Academy second-graders pose with their teacher, Lauren Roos, in front of the Loma Linda fire station.

Lauren Roos

Hallelujah Chorus flash mob entertains shoppers



Craig Jackson (center) and choir members from the Mt. Rubidoux and Kansas Avenue Adventist churches and the Redlands United Church of Christ warm up before performing Handel's Hallelujah chorus at the Galleria mall.

Diners at the Galleria mall food court in Riverside responded with wild applause after being surprised by a flash mob performance of the Hallelujah Chorus Tuesday night, Dec. 13. The choirs of Mt. Rubidoux and Kansas Avenue churches joined with the choir of the Redlands United Church of Christ. The event was initiated by Gretchen Andrews, a member at Redlands United Church of Christ.

"When I brought up the idea, people in our choir responded pretty quick," Andrews said.

"Then I put on Facebook, 'We want to do a flash mob. Who wants to play?'" Andrews said.

Her friend Sarah Velasquez of the Mt. Rubidoux church in Riverside wanted to play, so she told her choir directors, Alan Woodson and Ronald Goldsmith, and Woodson passed the word to choir director Craig Jackson at the Kansas Avenue church.

Jackson stepped up to direct the three-choir flash mob in four-part harmony.

Andrews said she had had no plan regarding a director when she started to organize the performance, but wasn't worried. "I believed it was going to work," she said.

The group held a practice early in the week, then met at 6:30 p.m. in the cold, windy Galleria parking lot to polish it up.

There were about 50 strong, so filtering into the crowded food court wasn't as inconspicuous as they'd hoped. They were communicating through nods and glances as they found seats, and the security guards, unaware of the plan, shared some glances of their own.

"I was watching the security guards," said Pam Dunn, a member of RUCC who brought a few friends to watch. "They were looking nervous at first, and then they started smiling."

When Jackson took off his hat at 7:30 p.m., the sopranos stood and sang the first few Hallelujahs.

People in lines for food and others sitting at tables stopped talking to watch. Several pulled out phones and started recording.

Then the altos, tenors and bass singers stood and joined in.

By the last Hallelujah, at least a few people had tears in their eyes.

"I looked up at the end, and a lady was crying," Woodson said.

Dianne Landeros, choir member of RUCC, was not surprised.

"I got a lump in my throat when I saw another group do it on YouTube," she said.

Lisa Slade and Karrie Courtney, shoppers in the mall, said the performance was wonderful, and it was neat to see all the shoppers stop to listen.

The performers were touched, too.

"I hadn't sung this since junior high," Vince Cilmi said. But he didn't worry about being rusty. "At the practice, (fellow singer) Adrian Grace said to me, 'Any time you raise your voice in praise of the Lord, it's a blessing.'"

Participants said making new friends with the members of the other choirs was a blessing, too.

"This is what I wanted it to be," Andrews said. "We were singing together and breaking down all the barriers."

Toni Momberger



Paul Hodson (left) and Dan Abushanab (green jacket) sing the Hallelujah Chorus with members of Kansas Avenue and Mt. Rubidoux choirs in a flash mob at the mall in Riverside.

Churches minister with year 'round giving



ERICK JARDUIN

A group of young people from the La Puente Spanish church share gifts in a neighborhood home. (L. to r.) Suzie Cerna, Jenny Ramon, Robert Gonzalez and Ernesto Alonso, and gift-bearing Gregorio Garcia.

Five families were baptized in 2011 at the Baldwin Park Bilingual church after being ministered to throughout the year with gifts, as well as physical and spiritual nourishment. The new members were among 550 community residents first drawn to the church's weekly food bank and then to a "Christmas in the Barrio" ministry that shared 400 toys in December 2010.

The church continued its sharing, distributing monthly 480 boxes of food in the neighborhood. In 2011, some 24,000 people received this help in addition to those served by the food bank. Just before the weekly food bank hour, a one-hour Bible study met, attended by 110 food bank clients. Several also are visiting the church on Sabbaths.

"I came in contact with the church when I was emotionally broken," said Oscar Aguirre, a Baldwin Park resident. "I began coming to the

weekly community Bible studies a year and a half ago, graduated from the course, and got baptized in April. My whole life has changed ever since meeting Jesus here. My family, which includes my mom, dad, sisters and nephews, also visit the church regularly and are studying the Bible."

"We will be offering a Sunday evangelistic Bible study meeting for the food bank people and the community," said Pastor Carlos Acosta. "Our goal is to hold five, week-long evangelistic meetings in 2012 and to baptize 40 new members this year."

The East Los Angeles Bilingual and La Puente Spanish churches also initiated a sharing approach with a food bank and a Christmas outreach in 2011. Instead of inviting the community to come to their churches for a Christmas program, members decided to bring gifts to their homes.

The idea resonated with both church boards as well as the members. "We worked with our Sabbath school department, Pathfinder clubs and youth groups to make sure we had enough people to distribute all the items," said Pastor Herbert Hernandez. "We collected toys, food and funds from members and others.

"Through the food bank program and personal contacts in both churches, we gathered the names of more than 75 families in need and collected the information needed for the distribution."

After an abbreviated worship service on Dec. 24, members went out to meet people in their homes with gifts from their Seventh-day Adventist friends. The experience of bringing a toy and some groceries to families, the opportunity to listen to their needs and pray for them in their homes, made an indelible impression on members — and on those they visited. "This has been a rough year for me and my family," said Mrs. Reveles. "I didn't know if my 7-year-old son would have a gift to enjoy this Christmas, but this will be a Christmas we will never forget."

"My best gift was to give to the poor," said Maria Garcia, a teenager from the East L.A. Bilingual church. Members distributed more than 250 toys and 77 food baskets.

"We will continue to pray and minister to each family," said Hernandez, "hoping that they will accept the gift of Christ, Who will bring them hope and salvation."

Betty Cooney and Herbert Hernandez



MEECHI CABALLERO

Families prepare for baptism after learning about Jesus and Adventism through the Baldwin Park Bilingual church members' year-long ministry.

Vallejo Drive's Stage 4 offers a new view for young people

"I was kind of fed up with the fact that not many people my age attended my church," said A.J. Martinson, 18, a Vallejo Drive church member. "I felt that we needed to do something to change that demographic. When I talked with Pastor Todd Leonard about it, he told me about his plans for Stage 4, a ministry for high school kids and young adults. So I started giving input, and got involved in the planning process.

"Stage 4 is a work in progress," Martinson added. "It definitely feels like it is working due to the fact that more kids are coming, which is an incredible victory."

The goal, according to Leonard, is to help young people "move out of a religion of do's and don'ts to a deeper relationship with God to serve others with His love. We want to challenge young people about what they believe and question the status quo. We demonstrate this by creating an environment that honors where young people are in their spiritual walk. In an open and loving atmosphere, young people can enjoy food and music that honor their tastes and preferences, along with topics for conversation."

The Practix conversation group considers practical life skills issues and relationships. For young adults, a Heretix group focuses on topics where they are encouraged to think about and deal with questions of why and what they believe. A monthly group called Mystix features a person who has either reflected deeply upon their spiritual journey or is actively

engaged in activities that bring love and compassion to others. The group also is invited to participate in selected community services.

"Once young people leave an Adventist environment, they are exposed to challenges," said Leonard. "We are addressing those in church, so they can find or be guided to answers."

Veronica Prout, 24, an entrepreneur with a web-development company and developer of Stage 4's website (www.stage4la.com), was raised an Adventist. "I decided to attend a non-Adventist college because it gave me an opportunity to learn about the world through science and other avenues," she said. "At UCLA, I joined a Christian group on campus and attended a local Adventist church, but the sermons were mostly about doctrine and disappointing. What draws me is Jesus and how I live my life; I sensed Jesus telling me to 'Fear not.'

"I visited the Vallejo Drive church on the Sabbath that Pastor Todd was preaching his first sermon there. It was all about the gospel. When I went to Stage 4's Friday-night meeting, I met people searching for answers to their spiritual questions in an open and loving environment.

"Since then I have brought friends, including a girlfriend who was raised an Adventist and her younger sister and her boyfriend. It was his first time and he wanted to come back again. Stage 4 is a beacon of light!"

Attendance at the Friday night gatherings quickly increased from eight or 10 to 60-80 since the ministry began in October 2011. A growing number are young adults who had not been attending church; others are high school students from Glendale Adventist Academy or from area churches.

Betty Cooney



Discussion groups including young adult and adult leaders explore questions about spirituality. Also on the Stage 4 leadership team are Lemar Sandiford, GAA Bible teacher and chaplain and Vallejo youth pastor; and Michael Delacruz, GAA chaplain and Practical Ministries teacher.

William Gemora elected NCC Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator

Last fall, the Northern California Conference Executive Committee elected William Gemora to be the new NCC Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator. Gemora succeeds VicLouis Arreola III, who held the position before becoming Asian/Pacific ministries director for the Pacific Union. In addition to his new responsibilities, Gemora will also serve as pastor of the All Nations church of Elk Grove, beginning in early March.

Gemora said that hearing of his new position was both a glad and humbling experience for him and his family: "Gladness because it reaffirms God's call for us in the ministry, and yet humbling because, despite my limitations, God has accorded me the task of leading my fellow ministers."

Now that he has served in his new role for several months, Gemora said his favorite part of the job is working with his fellow ministers — "being able to help out the pastors with their problems and interacting with them." He has asked every NCC Asian/Pacific church to hold an evangelistic effort in early 2013, and his goal this year is to help the pastors and members prepare. He invites anyone who has an Asian/Pacific family member or friend in the NCC to give the person's contact information to a pastor. "Our biggest challenge is to look for people in [Asian and Pacific] language groups to

STEPHANIE LEAL



William Gemora serves as the new NCC Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator.

be able to invite them to a small group or Bible study," he said.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Gemora became an Adventist after finishing college. Following his baptism, he conducted evangelistic meetings, which he enjoyed so much he decided to attend Philippine Union College and take theology. After graduating in 1976, Gemora served as a pastor in the Philippines before moving to the United States, where he worked as a literature evangelist in the Central California Conference in the early 1980s.

In 1986, he was asked to lead a Bible study group in Northern California.

He shepherded the group through its status as a branch Sabbath school, a company and finally a church, now known as the East Bay Fil-Am church. He became a part-time NCC pastor in 1993, and he has ministered full-time since 1997, the year he became pastor of the Stockton Fil-Am church. He served both churches until recently, when he became pastor of the All Nations church of Elk Grove.

Gemora and his wife Betsy, a nurse, have two children: Kristine, who currently works in Taiwan, and Christian, who attends college in Boston.

His experiences have prepared him for his new role as coordinator. "Elder Gemora has been an active part of the ministry team of the Northern California Conference for many years, and he is well respected across our conference," said NCC President Jim Pedersen. "I am confident that he will continue to be a blessing as the leader of our Asian/Pacific ministries."



William and Betsy Gemora have two children, Christian and Kristine.

Julie Lorenz

Orangevale SDA School community remembers teacher Vickie Altman

The Orangevale SDA School community is mourning the passing of Vickie Altman, kindergarten and junior high school teacher, who died in a motorcycle accident in early January.

More than 700 people paid tribute to Altman during a memorial service on Sabbath, Jan. 14, at the Gracepoint church in Rocklin. Friends spoke about the many ways she ministered throughout her life. The school's first- and second-graders sang a song written for Altman, and current and former members of the Orangevale Girls Chorus sang about love and hope. The school's staff and junior high students wore purple flowers, hair clips or ribbons to pay tribute to their colleague and teacher.

"It was amazing to see so many people coming together to celebrate Vickie's life and support her family," said NCC Youth Director Eddie Heinrich, who serves as youth pastor/chaplain for the Orangevale church and school. "The impact of her ministry was indelibly stamped on all those who attended."

Altman's influence lives on in the hearts of the many students and colleagues she inspired during a teaching career that spanned over two decades. "What a wonderful people-person, always interested in connecting with others!"

said Brad Davis, principal. "She had a heart for the hurting, and there was hardly a time when she was not having a meaningful conversation with either student, parent or staff member. Her enthusiasm for Jesus will be missed."

Altman put a big emphasis on relationships as a "critical component in the educational process," according to her school biography. She insisted that it was her students' relationship with God that was the most important. All the other relationships would fall into place after that.

"When Vickie entered the room, it lit up," said Shelley Kramer, third and fourth grade teacher. "Vickie had a real relationship with her Savior that she willingly shared with both students and friends. She would take the time to talk and listen. We have not only lost a co-worker — we have lost a friend."

Altman realized her passion for teaching long before she worked in her first classroom. She first felt an inclination for teaching when she was 6 years old; she would develop lessons for her brothers so she could "grade papers." After helping in church children's divisions, she just "knew" that teaching was her calling.

After graduating from Walla Walla College in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, Altman started her first teaching job with first- and second-graders in Seattle. She later taught in Oregon, becoming principal of Rivergate Adventist School in 1995. In 1999, she came to Northern California and served at Echo Ridge SDA Elementary School from 1999 to 2003 and Pine Hills Adventist Academy from 2004 to 2006. She then joined the teaching staff at Orangevale, where she

taught kindergarten in the morning and classes for the seventh- and eighth-graders in the afternoon. In 2008, she completed her master's degree in educational leadership from California State University, Sacramento.



First-grader Karsten Frost poses with Vickie Altman.



Kindergartner Emily Barbuta shares a special moment with teacher Vickie Altman.

Former junior high student Stacy Innocent and teacher Vickie Altman.

She is survived by her two children: daughter Stephanie, who lives in Oregon, and son Jeff, who lives in Rocklin.

Altman's colleagues and students are now remembering the way she touched their lives. "There were so many special things about Mrs. Altman, I can't pick one," said first-grader Karsten Frost, who was her student last school year. "She was a good hugger."

Altman also positively impacted her older students. "She would think up cool projects and art assignments," said seventh-grader Nathan Carr, one of her students this year. "She was very nice, considerate and caring."

Her love for teaching, her students and God will keep Altman forever in the hearts of many. "Vickie was no ordinary teacher. She was unique," said Mark Cimino, school board chair. "There is a big hole now in our Orangevale family. There is absolutely no question that so many lives are the better for having been touched by her."

Stephanie Leal



Students, faculty and parents gather on Jan. 9, 2012, for a candlelight vigil in memory of Orangevale SDA School teacher Vickie Altman. "Vickie was a beloved teacher, colleague and friend. She will be missed dearly," said second grade teacher Char Novack.

ARME Bible Camp comes to Hawaii

How many of you came for a spiritual retreat?" asked Calvin Kim on opening night of a four-day ARME Bible Camp at Camp Mokuleia on the north shore of Oahu. Kim is ARME's vice president of operations. Many raised their hands. "Well you might be at the wrong place then! We are in God's army, and we are at war. We can't take time for a retreat, but we are here to advance."

ARME ("Adventist Revival Movement for the End time") aims to kindle a passion and love for personal prayer and Bible study among God's people. At the invitation of the Waianae church, ARME came to Hawaii to stage the meetings. Pastors Doug Batchelor, Ivor Myers, Taj Pacleb, Keala Thompson and Martin Kim delivered messages and conducted workshops intended to bring revival to the 500-plus attendees (300 during the week days and an additional 200-plus on Sabbath). The Revelation of Hope Singers provided music and led attendees in song services each day.

The meetings, which took place under a giant outdoor tent, felt to some like an old-fashioned Adventist camp meeting. Hawaii Conference President Ralph Watts III, who attended with his wife on Sabbath, said, "ARME is probably the closest thing Hawaii islanders have seen to a real, old-fashioned camp meeting for many years! The tent was full on Sabbath, and many have shared with me how much they learned and experienced."

From Wednesday to Sunday, each morning began with a season of united prayer as people



(L. to r.) Pastors Ivor Myers, Martin Kim, Taj Pacleb, Doug Batchelor and Keala Thompson preached to attendees.

joined together in praising God, humbling their hearts, and pleading for the Holy Spirit. Then, after a devotional message, attendees spent the day in workshops learning key principles and methods of personal Bible study that enable them to see Jesus in every passage of Scripture. For many, this was a refresher course; for others, it introduced a new way of reading the Bible that made truth come alive and made Jesus seem more real.

All-day prayer sessions held inside a tranquil, ocean-side meeting hall not far from the big tent attracted attendees throughout each day, wandering in and out, spending time in individual and group prayer. On Friday night, more than 200 people participated in an all-night prayer vigil. Many reported answers to prayer during this time, including deliverance from addictions, bitterness, and estrangement from loved ones.

Another highlight of meetings included

a mock trial on Sabbath morning during which attendees were challenged to defend their faith using the Bible only. Then there was "ARME Family Time" on Saturday night, during which attendees shared how ARME was impacting their lives. One of them, a former Adventist who came only because one of his friends was a volunteer, said, "I've never experienced anything like ARME in my whole life! This camp has renewed my faith in the Adventist church and my love for the Adventist message!"

The four-day camp sought to spiritually train not only adults, but children and teens, as well. While the adults enlisted in the ARME workshops, the younger children joined the "Heir Force." The Heir Force children's program trained the younger soldiers in God's Word, prayer and discipleship. On Saturday night, during the ARME Family Time, the Heir Force cadets showcased what they had learned.

On Sunday morning, Pastor Eric Alindogan from the sponsoring Waianae church, concluded the service. Attendees, equipped with tools for Bible study and empowered by the Holy Spirit through much prayer, heard their parting command: "Forward soldiers, march forward on your knees!"

Melody Manson and Eric Alindogan



Heir Force cadets (children's program attendees) were trained in God's Word, prayer and discipleship.

Summit Christian Academy moves into new facility

Summit Christian Academy jumped into a change-of-venue process in early 2011 and completed its transition to a new facility in January.

SCA, formerly Salt Lake City Junior Academy, began as a small Salt Lake City, Utah, Adventist school in 1927. In 1957, they built a new school building on new property, which served the school for the last 54 years.

In recent years, however, the five-decade-old site was becoming a bit cramped and out-dated. Dreams for a new location were developing in the minds of administration, staff and school board members. They hoped for a more visible location, a campus that would allow expansion of academic and extra-curricular programs, space for growth in enrollment, and resources to reach out into the Salt Lake City community.

While one or two possibilities for developing such a campus came and went, and leaders decided to put the property on the market anyway, acting in faith that God would direct. An offer came in early 2011.

The offer was too good to pass up, but it required vacating the school by June 30, 2011. Without knowing where they were going, school belongings were packed up and put in moving containers.

During the summer, leaders discovered a promising building that could accommodate the dreamed-of school. They made an offer and it was accepted, but as summer was coming to an end, unforeseen problems ended the deal.

With opening day looming and no school building, faculty and staff were discouraged. They sought God's guidance in resolving their plight. The answer came quickly in two parts.

First, they found a temporary location to rent so the 2012-2013 school year could proceed on schedule.

Then, word came through that Salt Lake Lutheran High School was selling its facility and relocating. Research revealed that a local developer had made an offer to purchase the school, and it had been accepted. In a long shot move, leaders contacted the developer and asked if he would allow Summit Christian Academy to acquire the property instead. "Yes," he said, surprising the SCA leadership team. "I will resell it to you at the same price I am paying."

The final hurdle was obtaining approval from constituent churches and the school constituency for the purchase. They did, and committed to a significant, long-term loan. After a period negotiating terms and conditions, the contract was signed, and escrow closed on the new school Jan. 20, 2012.

Within four days, the school's storage containers were delivered to the new site, contents were unloaded, and classes began.

The new Summit Christian Academy has more than 23,000 square feet of space, including general classrooms, a lab, a music room, an art room, a library, an office area, a kitchen/lunchroom, and an extra-large, 9,000+

PHOTOS BY DENNY KRAUSE



Summit Christian Academy teachers and students enjoy the spacious new classrooms.

square-foot gym that's bigger than the entire old school combined.

While the "new" facility still needs major renovations, it is already a major upgrade for staff and students, local Adventist churches and the community.

"The new school fills every need for Summit and holds promise to be a center of Adventist community and outreach in the Salt Lake Valley," said Dr. Tawnya Constantino, Summit school board chair.

The long-held dreams of Summit's administration, faculty and board members have come full-circle, and a new chapter has begun.

Summit Christian Academy is now located at 4020 S 900 E, Salt Lake City, Utah. For information, call 801-255-2278 or e-mail info@scatah.org.

Denny Krause

The new Summit Christian Academy campus will provide the opportunity for increased enrollment and more services to students and the community.



From agriculture to aquaculture: *MBA takes strides toward the future*

For most of its 63 year history, Monterey Bay Academy has been involved in the agriculture and dairy industries. However, on the campus today, it would be hard to find a dairy cow or farmer. Yet, hands-on learning is still a vital part of the academy's curriculum.

MBA's marine biology science program is one example. "Students are actively engaged in learning about marine wildlife and organisms. Since we live on the coast, we wanted to take advantage of our close proximity to the ocean and allow students to get hands-on experience doing research," says Robert Nobuhara, teacher of biology and life sciences. He also heads the coral propagation project, MBA's newest foray into the growing field of aquaculture. (Aquaculture or aquafarming is the growing of aquatic organisms such as fish, coral and aquatic plants in full tanks of water.)

When Nobuhara first arrived at the academy, he was given the assignment of transforming the former home economics department into a state-of-the-art marine biology lab. Part of the transformation was the installation of an 840-gallon observation tank, recently infused with a generous donation of corals from the world-renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium. "Looking into our 840-gallon tank is like snorkeling in the Caribbean," says Nobuhara. "The observation tank brings learning to life, motivating our students and getting them excited about science."

The newest addition to the MBA marine biology lab is a 600-gallon coral propagation tank.



Marine biology student Monica Culler, a senior, attaches a piece of coral fragment to a ceramic disc as part of MBA's new coral propagation project. The coral was gifted by Monterey Bay Aquarium.

The tank, which was gifted by several generous donors, is four feet wide, 10 feet long and two feet high. Having a coral propagation tank allows students to get involved in individual coral propagation projects. (Coral propagation is the process of taking a home colony of coral, breaking it into fragments (frags), and attaching the frags to ceramic plugs or discs to grow a new colony.)

"One thing I enjoy about the marine biology program is that I am able to get lots of hands-on experience," says Redwood City junior Tammy Shafer. "Mr. Nobuhara is really excited about science, and that makes me excited, too."

Each tank is maintained by biology students who, with Nobuhara's help, actively test the system to make sure that it is balanced for optimal growth.

In the future, the marine biology department hopes the coral propagation program will become a source of revenue for the school. "If we can get a contract with a provider, we'll be able to sell each coral piece anywhere from \$10 on the low end, to \$35 on the high end," says Nobuhara. (Importing coral without a license is illegal and is subject to heavy fines. Domestic production is not.)

Additional future plans include setting up mini wet labs so that students can create their own marine biology habitats. Behind the cafeteria, there is also an "AG" project in motion where students will be able to work in groups growing vegetables and fruit.

It seems fitting that a school that used to farm dairy cows and corn is now involved in farming coral and crustaceans. "That's what this is really all about. We want to get back to the original agricultural spirit of MBA — but use modern methods and techniques," says Nobuhara.

Marci Scott



The marine biology program enters a new phase with a new 600-gallon coral propagation tank for additional hands-on learning experience.

Nearly 500 attend annual CCC women's retreat at Tenaya Lodge

Nearly 500 women attended the annual women's retreat hosted by Central California Conference Jan. 27-29 at Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park. Ninety-one attendees were guests. The theme, "Revived by His Love," was a prayer and expectation of those who came.

"I am inspired, renewed and most importantly closer to Jesus than I was when I arrived Friday evening," Jessica Tello says.

Marie Johnson agrees; "I can't stay away. I always get a deeper relationship with Christ — without a doubt!"

"I am thankful for the women that came to the retreat this weekend. The Holy Spirit was there and God moved in a mighty way. The women, along with myself, went home changed. What a mighty God we serve!" says Joyce Mulligan, CCC women's ministries leader.

The weekend included worship through music, prayer, a drama team, and guest speakers Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy; Caron Oswald, vice president of communication for CCC; and Lisa Nuss, a teacher at Central Valley Christian School, Ceres, Calif.



Cheyenne Hubbard shares her spiritual journey with Joyce Mulligan, right.

On Saturday night, an anointing service was offered. Everyone was invited to an Adventist Book Center sale, and to the heated pool, Jacuzzis and ice-skating rink.

"My job is the most perfect job because I hear and see so many answered prayers," says Pat Curtis, retreat coordinator, registration manager and volunteer since 1997. "I thank God every day for using me in this capacity. I truly believe it is not me doing this job — it is God."

One Experience

Violet Wade, from San Jose, Calif., shares her story:

"My friend Katherine is not an Adventist. For the past 10 years, I have been praying and asking God to bring her to our women's retreat. Last year I joined with two ladies to pray. And God answered! This year Katherine came. During one of Elizabeth Talbot's talks, Katherine turned to me and said, 'Why am I attending church on Sunday when the Bible clearly states that we should worship Him on the seventh day, which is clearly on Saturday?'"

"Excitedly, I shared that the 4th commandment is the only one that begins with the word 'Remember.' We both looked at each other and knew right away that God is onto something. We spent most of the time just talking about the Sabbath.

"Saturday night when I walked into the ABC sale, the first book I saw was on the Sabbath. Together we read it! It was crazy that she and I are at this retreat talking about Jesus, Sabbath and falling in love with Christ together. My God reigns, and His timing is impeccable!"

Caron Oswald



Church members from the East Palo Alto church stand behind their guests. Avis Jones invited ladies from the neighborhood around their church, others brought friends and family.

Arizona holds its first Asian-Pacific ministries convocation

The Arizona Conference held its first Asian-Pacific Ministries Convocation at Thunderbird Academy in Scottsdale, Ariz., Jan. 14. Church members representing the Asian and the Pacific countries worshiped God together at the gathering, themed “Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out.”

Approximately 300 attended, representing the Chandler Fil-Am, Tucson Fil-Am, Chandler Korean and Central Phoenix Korean churches; the Burmese, Lao-Thai and Tongan groups; and Vietnamese and other members. Each group brought a unique view of its culture in language, costume, music and ethnic dance renditions.

VicLouis Arreola III, director of Asian-Pacific ministries for the Pacific Union, delivered the Sabbath message, encouraging everyone to keep spreading the gospel, especially in Arizona, where Asian ministries are booming. Also present were representatives from the Arizona Conference, including Tony Anobile, president, and Ed Keyes, executive secretary and ministerial director.

“In this sequence — reach up to God, reach in to self, then reach out to others — shall



TONY CARMENASAS

Attendees gathered at the international potluck.

we live our lives if we are to be a part of God’s work here in Arizona,” said Anobile. “It starts at home.”

Keyes spoke about Asian-Pacific evangelism in Arizona and the evangelistic outreach to the Philippines scheduled for this month.

Pastor Glenn Sta Ana, Chandler Fil-Am pastor and president of the Asian-Pacific Ministries Fellowship, shared his vision for Arizona. As a symbol of commitment, pastors and lay people representing each ethnic group signed the convocation poster, and Anobile prayed for them.

In the afternoon, music from each group filled the air. The Tucson Fil-Am Rondalla played stringed instruments, including the ukulele, guitar, banduria and octavina. The Tongan group sang rousing praises to God. The Chandler Fil-Am children — a crowd favorite — sang “God Uses Kids.” The Korean choir, wearing colorful national costumes called hanbok, sang, as did the Lao-Thai and Burmese groups.

“It was a long day indeed,” Sta Ana concluded, “but one which embraced unity in diversity, ready to charge forward, motivated by the call

to commence the Asian-Pacific ministries in the state of Arizona. It was an inspiring day, a day of rekindling the mission in everyone. It is time to plant that we may reap.”

Magdalena B. Tio



PHIL DRAPER

Mu Yo, a member of the Phoenix Central church, is one of several Burmese students studying at TAA.



PHIL DRAPER

VicLouis Arreola III, director of Asian-Pacific ministries for the Pacific Union, was keynote speaker for the convocation.

Southern California hospital additions add to the community

Los Angeles-area hospitals Glendale Adventist Medical Center and White Memorial Medical Center are part of Adventist Health's heritage, playing huge roles in their communities for nearly a century each. Several recent additions at these facilities are aimed at making a positive change in the areas they serve.

GAMC adds patient beds

Glendale Adventist Medical Center recently opened Phase III of its West Tower and started admitting patients after receiving licensure and certification from the state.



Glendale Adventist Medical Center recently opened Phase III of its West Tower.

"With this expansion we continue to demonstrate our investment in the health of the areas we serve. By providing additional state-of-the-art patient treatment, we can better address the needs for our growing community," said Warren Tetz, senior VP of operations at GAMC.

The new 35,000-square-foot section of the West Tower adds 60 new beds to the hospital, including two new intensive care units and two new surgical telemetry units, bringing the total number of beds to 515. That makes Glendale Adventist the largest hospital, in terms of bed count, in the San Fernando Valley. It is also the largest hospital within Adventist Health.

Walking trail at WMMC

In an effort to help combat the growing obesity epidemic in the community, White Memorial Medical Center recently opened a new half-mile fitness path on the hospital campus. The path, which begins next to the east entrance of the Specialty Care Tower, is open to

visitors, doctors, volunteers and employees and offers encouraging tips along the way.

Almost 100 participants came together for the Fitness Path Inaugural Walk earlier this year. All participants received a healthy snack, bottled water and a pedometer at the finish line. In addition, WMMC has started a walking club, where anyone who wants to join, can exercise while enjoying the company of friends — or making new ones.

"The healthier you are, the longer and more pleasant your life can be. Participating in a daily walking activity and eating a least five fruit and vegetables servings per day can make a big difference," said Ruth Pupo, RD, diabetes educator at WMMC.

Experts report that just one hour of walking a day can improve your health. "Brisk walking is a great exercise that increases the rate in which we burn calories," said Pupo.

Sculpture revealed at WMMC

Aside from making healthy resources available to the community, WMMC recently unveiled a beautiful new sculpture in front of the main entrance of the hospital.

The sculpture, by Victor Issa, depicts a nurse leading children to Jesus and serves as an



This Victor Issa sculpture at White Memorial Medical Center depicts a nurse leading children to Jesus.

inspiration for anyone entering the hospital. There is also a bench where visitors and patients can rest and enjoy the sculpture.

The unveiling ceremony featured Issa's thoughts on his sculpture, followed by songs from the children of White Memorial Adventist School. Chaplain Edgar Urbina culminated the event with a dedication prayer.

"My sincere hope is that this sculpture will be a source of genuine healing," said Issa. "He has promised to wipe away our tears and heal our infirmities. [This sculpture reflects what Jesus said,] 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'"

Brittany Dobbs

Dickinson appointed to the Adventist Health board of directors

Chip Dickinson has been appointed to the board of directors of Adventist Health, effective Feb. 1, according to board chairman Ricardo B. Graham.

"We are pleased that Chip has accepted Adventist Health's invitation to serve on the board of directors," stated Graham, who also is president of the Pacific Union. "Chip's technology background will provide us



Chip Dickinson

with great contribution and insight as we continue to leverage technology across our system to help better care for our patients."

Dickinson is the president of DEX Systems, Inc., in Camarillo, Calif. With more than 20 years of information systems and programming experience, he also has a strong project management and technical background. He has been with DEX since he graduated from Loma Linda University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Brittany Dobbs

NAD embraces Great Controversy Project

In late 2008, a layman named Jack Henderson sat down with Mark Thomas, an executive from the Review and Herald, and expressed his dream to place a copy of *The Great Controversy* in every home in the country.

It was an audacious dream because Henderson didn't have the money to send millions of

books. At least not at that time. But as of today, donors have provided the funds to distribute 1.7 million copies of Ellen White's complete book in communities all across the North American Division. Furthermore, his Great Controversy Project has been embraced by the world church. General Conference President Ted Wilson says that he has pledges from the world divisions to send out more than 170 million copies.

The Review and Herald began 2012 by shipping one million copies of a short version of the book to Nigeria. They are also printing editions in Spanish and Portuguese. "It has been so exciting to see this project catch fire," says Thomas, who has since become president of the Review and Herald. "Our employees have rallied around this outreach effort. Some have donated one, two, or even three weeks of salary."

"Mark got out his pencil and found a way to get the price down on these books," says Henderson. "If not for the Review, this project would never have happened." (From now until April 15, pre-publication orders can be placed at Adventist Book Centers for a newsprint, abridged edition that costs only 49 cents each.)

In North America, every conference is designating a person to coordinate the distribution of *The Great Controversy* in their area. The division



Pressman Jonathon Smith checks the quality on a version of *The Great Controversy* destined for Nigeria.

hopes to distribute three million copies of the book, including one million of the abridged version, *The Great Hope*, in English, Spanish and French. Members are encouraged to read the book from now through September, then prayerfully distribute it to family and friends beginning in October.

It looks like Henderson's hope of covering the whole country with the book is beginning to come true. But he says that he gave up that dream a long time ago. "Now I want to reach everyone in the whole world," he says.

For more information, visit www.GreatControversyProject.org.

Kim Peckham



Jack Henderson poses with different versions of *The Great Controversy*.

App brings felts of yore to the iPad

The General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries department now has a free storytelling app: electronic felts based on the kindergarten Bible study guide (quarterlies). The app titled "GraceLink" is available for the iPad in the iTunes App Store.

GraceLink has a default library of "felts" that can be used to tell stories from Scripture. The plan is to release regular graphic packs that relate to that week's study and corresponding animation.



"Crayons" are provided so users can draw their own

stories or add color to complement the standard graphics. The app also has an e-mail feature so parents, teachers and kids can send the finished storyboard to family or friends.

The lessons for beginner, kindergarten, and primary Bible study guides are included in the app. The student and teacher editions are currently available in English; others are planned.

The app was created for kids, but has become a resource for teachers (at Sabbath school and Christian schools) and missionaries. All the felts that once filled a suitcase now fit in an iPad, and the app can be projected onto a big screen.

Falvo Fowler

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

SUNSETS

	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30
Alturas	5:55	6:03	7:11	7:19	7:27
Angwin	6:05	6:12	7:19	7:26	7:32
Calexico	5:41	5:46	6:51	6:56	7:01
Chico	6:02	6:09	7:16	7:24	7:31
Eureka	6:10	6:18	7:26	7:33	7:41
Fresno	5:55	6:02	7:08	7:14	7:20
Hilo	6:27	6:29	7:31	7:33	7:35
Honolulu	6:36	6:39	7:41	7:43	7:46
Las Vegas	5:37	5:44	6:50	6:56	7:02
Lodi	6:01	6:08	7:14	7:21	7:27
Loma Linda	5:47	5:53	6:58	7:04	7:09
Los Angeles	5:51	5:57	7:03	7:08	7:13
Moab	6:12	6:19	7:26	7:33	7:40
Oakland	6:04	6:11	7:18	7:24	7:31
Phoenix	6:26	6:32	7:37	7:42	7:48
Reno	5:54	6:01	7:08	7:15	7:22
Riverside	5:48	5:53	6:59	7:04	7:10
Sacramento	6:01	6:08	7:15	7:22	7:28
Salt Lake City	6:21	6:29	7:36	7:44	7:51
San Diego	5:47	5:53	6:58	7:03	7:08
San Francisco	6:05	6:12	7:19	7:25	7:32
San Jose	6:03	6:10	7:17	7:23	7:29
Tucson	6:23	6:28	7:33	7:38	7:43

Spread The Word!



Planning your estate provides you with an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and to support the causes you most care about.

The easiest way to implement charitable giving as part of your estate plan is through a charitable bequest.

Charitable bequests are testamentary gifts made through a will or other estate planning device like a trust. A bequest insures that your property will be put to good use after you no longer need it.

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If you are in the process of completing or updating your estate documents, and would like to consider a charitable gift in your planning, take a moment to contact one of the organizations below to see how they can help you. We look forward to hearing from you.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Arizona	Hawaii
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Northern California	Pacific Union
Southeastern California	La Sierra University
Southern California	Pacific Union College

This information is not intended to provide advice for any specific situation. Advice from a qualified attorney and/or tax accountant should always be obtained before implementing any of the strategies described.

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

CALENDARS

Arizona

DESIGNED TO DREAM (March 11) Arizona Women's Ministry Mini-Seminar with Cynthia Prime. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Paradise Valley church, 2727 E Cactus, Phoenix. Info: Shelli Marti, 623-935-6010.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING (March 11) Phoenix area. Arizona Conference Office, 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, in both English and Spanish. Info: Pastor Jose Marin, 480-991-6777, ext. 108.

ACADEMY DAYS, Thunderbird Adventist Academy (March 15-17) Junior high and high school students invited to Open House weekend. Experience life in the dorms and meet day-students on Friday and Sabbath for classes, an acro clinic, worship, and the Spring Festival. Info: Dennis Anderson, 480-948-3300, ext. 215, or danderson@thunderbirdacademy.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING (March 18) Tucson area. In both English and Spanish. Info: Pastor Jose Marin, 480-991-6777, ext. 108.

KAYENTA NAVAJO DAY (March 24) Kayenta, Ariz. Info: Pastor Charlie Whitehorse, 480-991-6777.

ALUMNI WEEKEND at Thunderbird Adventist Academy (April 13-15) Help notify others of this change. Become a friend of Thunderbird on Facebook at: facebook.com/TAA friends, or send us current e-mail addresses for other alumni/friends of TAA. E-mail: alumnmi@thunderbirdacademy.org or call Wayne Longhofer, 480-948-3300.

Central California

MARRIAGE SEMINAR (March 10) Fresno Westside church. Presenter: Carlton Oler. Info: Marlyn Novielli, 559-347-3176, or e-mail: mnovielli@cccsda.org.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN TEEN RETREAT (March 9-11) Camp Wawona. Pre-registration required. Info: Wanda, 559-347-3169 or wflowers@cccsda.org.

KID UNIVERSITY TRAINING (March 16-18) Soquel Conference Center. Pre-registration required. Info: Rosa Gillham, 559-347-3183 or rgillham@cccsda.org.

HISPANIC YOUTH RETREAT (March 23-25) Camp Wawona. Pre-registration required. Info: Norma, 559-347-3174 or nvillarreal@cccsda.org.

TREASURERS TRAINING (March 25) Central California Conference office. 10 a.m.-3 pm. Pre-registration requested.

Info: Claudia, 559-347-3146 or carias@cccsda.org.

SENIOR CITIZEN SEMINAR (April 7) Mtn. View church. Presenter: Cynthia Williams. Info: Marlyn Novielli, 559-347-3176 or mnovielli@cccsda.org.

GIRLS' RETREAT (April 13-15) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Joyce Mulligan, 559-696-3692.

GUYS' RETREAT (April 13-15) Camp Wawona. Pre-registration required. Info: Jon Tillay, 509-301-9438 or jontillay@gmail.com.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY TRAINING (April 13-15) Bakersfield Central church. Teachers, preachers and Bible students will gain new skills that will allow the Word to speak for itself on the Righteousness of Christ; presented by Pastor Bill Liversidge. Info: 661-301-1027 or alivesay@yahoo.com.

Nevada-Utah

LAS VEGAS AREA YOUTH/Junior Youth Rally (March 16-17) Junior youth speaker, Manny Vitug, Children's Ministry director, SECC. Youth speaker, Philip Wesley, associated youth director, NEC. Info: Pastor David Hall, 775-322-6929 or nucyouthdirector@gmail.com.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING (March 17-18) Adventist Community Services. Salt Lake City. Info: Charlene Sargent, 661-477-3202 or ctsargent@hotmail.com.

Northern California Conference

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND (March 2-4) Sacramento area. You CAN have a better marriage. Info and registration: Rob and Debbie Purvis, 530-622-4798.

REVERSING DIABETES (March 4-6) Fireside Room, St. Helena church, 1777 Main Street. Taught by renowned diabetes and fitness specialists Dr. Milton Teske and Dr. Harold Mayer. Info: www.shsda.org, 707-655-5185, yleonordee83@gmail.com.

ENCOUNTERED COUPLES Potluck Reunion (March 10) 5 p.m. Sacramento Area. Info: Rob and Debbie Purvis, 530-622-4798.

NCC PRAYER RETREAT (March 16-18) Leoni Meadows. "Believing Like Jesus." Speaker: Pastor Paul Goia. Youth and children's programs. Registration deadline: March 2. Registration: 530-312-3831 or norcalprayer@gmail.com.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT (March 23-25) Leoni Meadows. Speakers: Adly

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For more information about speakers, breakout sessions and women's events:
<http://paucasian.adventistfaith.org/2012 Workers Meeting>.

Campos, Christina Dena and Teresa Leal. Also, meetings for teens and younger girls. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

EASTER CANTATA (April 7) 10:45 a.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Carmichael choir and orchestra, under the direction of Arladel Nelson-Speyer, will perform "Forsaken – Remembering the Last Days of Christ." Info: 916-487-8684, ext. 110.

Pacific Union College

DRAMATIC ARTS SOCIETY: One-Act Festival (March 1, 3 and 4) 8 p.m. A selection of one-act plays, including original works by PUC students. Alice Holst Theater. Tickets: www.dramaticartsociety.com.

FINE ARTS SERIES (March 3) 4 p.m. Craig Cramer, award-winning organist and professor of organ at the University of Notre Dame, will perform classical organ selections. PUC church sanctuary. Info: 707-965-6201.

GENERAL STUDENT RECITALS (March 6, 7) 6 p.m. PUC music majors perform various works. Paulin Hall Auditorium, Info: 707-965-6201.

CHORAL CONCERT (March 10) 4 p.m. Under the direction of Bruce Rasmussen, the PUC choral ensembles will perform a

selection of sacred works. Paulin Hall. Info: 707-965-6201.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT: Winter Gala (March 10) 7 p.m. Under the direction of Rachele Berthelsen Davis, the PUC Orchestra will perform the world premiere of a work by composer and PUC music professor Asher Raboy. Featuring top student soloists. Paulin Hall. Info: 707-965-6201.

COLLOQUY SPEAKER SERIES: Women's History Month (March 15) A program celebrating women's history, drawing on the 2012 National Women's History Month theme of "Women's Education — Women's Empowerment." Info: 707-965-6303.

FINE ARTS SERIES (March 17) 8 p.m. Professor Rachele Berthelsen Davis, world-renowned violinist and conductor. Paulin Hall. Info: 707-965-6201.

Southern California Conference

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S Day of Prayer (March 3) Join in prayer with us and with several million women around the world. Tamarind Ave. church, 417 S. Tamarind Ave., Compton. Men also welcome. 9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Info: 323-774-0181.

FIRST ANNUAL KINGDOM Building Banquet (March 10) Kingdom Building inspiration. 7 p.m. DoubleTree by Hilton

Hotel Penthouse Ballroom, Torrance – South Bay, 21333 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance. Dress, semi formal. Ticket info: 805-298-5441 or visit www.endtimeslikethese.org. No tickets at the door.

MEN'S MINISTRY TRAINING (March 11) "Real Men, Awake!" 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Presenter: Glenelle O. Clarke D.Min., Total Growth Ministries counselor. Glendale Adventist Medical Center conference room, lower level, 1509 Wilson Terrace. Lunch served. Info/Registration: Charles Dolcey, Men's Ministry president, 323-734-1276, charlesdolcey23@yahoo.com.

CHIP INFO SESSIONS (March 11, 13, 15) for a CHIP program beginning March 25. Camarillo church, 3975 Las Posas Rd. David Lowe M.D., director. Select from six sessions. Registration: 805-482-4632; camarillochip@live.com; website, www.camarillochip.info.

CELEBRITY CHEF Mark Anthony's Free Dinner and a Message (March 18) Live vegetarian performing arts cooking show. Learn to cook healthfully with plant-based nutrition and save money doing it. 2 p.m. Camarillo church, 3975 Las Posas Rd. Space is limited. Donations appreciated. Info: 805-482-4632; www.camarillosda.org; www.ChefMarkAnthony.com.

TEEN GIRLS' RETREAT (March 23-25) 9 a.m.-5 p.m. "Jesus, the Healing Option." Speaker: Sandra Escudero-Suarez, M.D.

Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Road, Mountain Center. Info: Lucy Benitez, 818-546-8448.

SSC HISPANIC REGION Women's Ministry Retreat, en Espanol (March 23-25) "Jesus, the Healing Option." Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Road, Mountain Center. Hotel space is limited. Info: Antonia Elenes, 626-241-8995; Lyda Castillo, 562-633-2820; ministerio-damassccc@hotmail.com.

L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM (March 24) 3 p.m. Speaker, David R. Larson, Ph.D., Professor of Religion, LLU School of Religion. "Capitalism and Christianity Today: Friends, or Foes?" Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

2ND RECONNECT TRAINING Session (March 24-25) Sharing principles of reaching out to those who no longer worship with us. Paul Richardson, Reconnect Ministry director. Sabbath, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. White Memorial church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles. Info: 818-546-8437.

C3 RETREAT for Adventist Collegiates (March 30-April 1) "Jesus Is The Main Thing." Spiritual renewal for college students, sponsored by Pheron and Southern California Conference. Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 State Highway 38, Angeles Oaks, CA. Info: c3retreat.org.

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- **Dave Gemmell**, NAD Ministerial – the latest resources for church ministry.
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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees.

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Bulletin Board

AUTHORS WANTED. If you've written your life story, want to tell others of God's love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844, ext. 3 for a FREE manuscript review.

DONATE YOUR CAR, boat or RV to Canvasback Missions. Serving the medical

and dental needs of the Pacific Islands. Donation is tax deductible. Autos preferred to be running. Restrictions apply. For more info: 877-793-7245 or visit www.canvasback.org.

ADVENTIST PODIATRISTS are now signing up on Facebook to network, dinner devotional at national meetings, advertise for associates/partnerships (position available in Maryland), and to sell practices. Please tell every SDA podiatrist you know to visit our page and "like us" on Facebook at: Seventh Day Adventist Podiatrists.

Employment

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES for the Blind is seeking a VP for Finance. Denominational or not-for-profit accounting experience preferred. The VP for Finance is responsible for managing the financial matters of CRSB. If interested, please contact Larry Pitcher, president: 402-488-0981 ext. 212 or larry.pitcher@christianrecord.org; or Alicejean Baker: 402-488-0981 ext. 222 or phr@christianrecord.org.

GARDENER/GROUNDSKEEPER wanted to assist older couple in scenic country acreage. Private one-bedroom apartment on site (near Roseburg, Ore.). No smoking, drinking, drugs. Call Shirley 541-643-8011.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY seeks to fill an Assistant/Associate Professor (Tenure Track) position in Biology, beginning July 1, 2012. Areas: Developmental Biology, Environmental Studies, Genetics, Biostatistics, Molecular Genetics, Neurobiology, Animal Behavior, or Invertebrate Zoology. Qualifications: Ph.D. in one or more of the areas stated above. See posting: www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=8265.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for Chemistry Department. Ph.D. in organic chemistry or

biochemistry required. Teaching responsibilities include introductory and organic chemistry, and/or biochemistry. Candidate with strong commitment to undergraduate research preferred. Must be member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in good and regular standing, and hold short-term interpretation of creation. Submit vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and three letters of reference to Dr. Rhonda Scott, Chair, Chemistry Department, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; 423-236-2932; rjscott@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor to teach literature and freshman writing. Top candidate will hold a Ph.D. in English, have a record of successful teaching, be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good standing, and provide a statement of how he/she will present course content in harmony with each of the Three Angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12. Send CV and materials to Jan Haluska, English Department Chair, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370, or haluska@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, Department of Biology/Allied Health, Fall 2012. Prefer biology Ph.D. teaching upper and lower division classes and has a strong interest in origins. Desire Adventist scientist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and


research. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; Phone: 423-236-2929; FAX: 423-236-1926; e-mail: kasnyder@southern.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Social Work professor with minimum two years post MSW full-time practice experience to provide classroom instruction, direct field education program, participate in CSWE accreditation, mentor students and develop relationship with social service agencies. Contact Dr. Denise White, Chair, Human Development. dewhite@ucollege.edu; 402-486-2522.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for full-time faculty positions in Business, English; and contract faculty in many areas. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

Events

MONTEREY BAY ACADEMY 13th Annual Golf Classic (April 27) All proceeds from the tournament will go toward the Student Aid Fund. Open to everyone; \$125/person-April 12 (early bird); \$150/person-April 13-27. Questions: call the alumni office at



VP/DEAN/PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

The Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (Metro Nashville, TN) is searching for qualified candidates for Vice President/Dean/Program Administrator for the 62-year old institution. This position requires an earned doctorate degree, CRNA with Tennessee licensure, previous higher education leadership at the executive level, teaching experience/scholarship, ability to work with both internal and external constituencies including health care facility administrators and accrediting agencies, higher education curriculum building experience, and high energy with the ability to focus and lead the academic and clinical programs.

Specific application submission requirements may be obtained by contacting the President's Office, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, P.O. Box 417, Madison, TN 37116, (615) 732-7678, or kschwab@mtsa.edu.

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WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE RENEWAL & Weight Management Programs focus on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. 7-day session (March 18-25) cost: \$370. 14-day session (April 8-22) cost: \$740. Home Hydrotherapy & Herbal Basics Seminar (March 25-April 1) cost: \$370. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Contact: Darlene Keith 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org; e-mail: darlenekeith@gmail.com.

Missing Members

CITRUS HEIGHTS. Contact: *Karrón Henderson, church clerk, P.O. Box 2850, Citrus Heights, CA 95611 or 916-723-7777.* Beth Anderson, David Anderson, Joshua Crouch, Lucille French, Ranae French, Amy Holz, Christopher Holz, Cody Holz, Pedro Isquierdo, Deborah Moreno, Tamara Olivares, Amy Peterson, Michael Peterson, Philip Peterson, Natalie Rizet, Valerie Seeley, Denelle Thomas, James Thomas, Anabel Valasquez-Quintanilla, Solomon Verduzco, Floyd Ware, Mary Wendt.

VACAVILLE. Contact: *Loyd Henderson, pastor, 311 Shelduck Lane, Galt, CA 95632 or*

lhenderson@ncsda.com. Brandi Brashears, Denise Campbell, Brenda Grijalva, Sullynn Helm, Don Herschenhouse, Susie Herschenhouse, Lois Moore, Jaime O'Rourke, Jackie Osborn, Jeff Richie, Naisha Richie, Connie Slocum, Julie Slocum-Shows, Andy Vongschanphen, Janet Vongschanphen, Jon Vongschanphen, Toni Vongschanphen, Ray Wagner, Sr., Ray Wagner, Jr., Sam Wagner, Dan Wharton, Alice Whitson.

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Reunions

FRESNO ADVENTIST ACADEMY/ Fresno Union Academy Alumni Reunion (April 27-28) Friday, April 27-Alumni Golf Tournament. April 28-Sabbath Reunion Registration 10 a.m. Reunion Service 10:45

a.m. Potluck following. Please bring your favorite dish to share! Honor Classes: 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992, and 2002. Info: Richelle, 559-273-4976 or e-mail: rrickard@faa.org.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY Homecoming 2012 (April 20-22) will celebrate La Sierra's 90th year, 50 years of Student Missions, 40 years of University Honors (Interdip), and the School of Business 25th year. Reunions include: GOLD, Premium, Latino, SALSU/ASLLU Officers, Soul Church, and classes of '72, '62, '52. More information: www.lasierra.edu/alumni.

MONTEREY BAY ACADEMY 61st Alumni Weekend (April 21-24) Friday, golf tournament; Sabbath, worship services, evening Oceanaires/Westwinds concert; Sunday, 49ers brunch for classes 1950-1961. Info: alumni.montereybayacademy.org or 831-728-1481 x 1222.

ORLEANS CHURCH/School 50th Anniversary (April 14-15) Former and current members, alumni invited. Good quality photos of members, activities needed; send to Roger Williams, P.O. Box 241, Orleans, CA 95556. (Photos will be returned.) E-mail digital photos to orleansadventist@gmail.com. Info: Roger Williams, 530-469-3341. Find us on Facebook.

REDDING ADVENTIST ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (April 14) Alumni/Faculty basketball game Saturday evening and pancake breakfast Sunday morning.

VALLEY ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Alumni Homecoming (April 27-29). Former faculty, staff, and students will be honored. 12649 Indian Street, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; http://vacsonline.org; Info/RSVP: 951-242-3012 or valleyadventistchristianschool@yahoo.com.

VALLEY GRANDE ADVENTIST ACADEMY Celebrates 75 years (March 30-31) Come sing with the Sylvan choir and visit with friends again. Info: www.vgaa.org or contact Robert Saldana: eyeguy@live.com.

Vacation Opportunities

BIG ISLAND, HAWAII – Hilltop Haven. Studio vacation rental in beautiful Waimea (paradise). Private entrance, kitchen, washer/dryer, DISH & Glorystar. See vacationrentals.com #67406 for more details. Contact us for very affordable special rates through the website or call us direct, Patsy & Dale, 808-885-6467. Say you saw this in the Recorder.

OGDEN ADVENTIST TOURS. Vietnam, Cambodia and the Mekong River (Nov. 10-25, 2012). Pre-extension to Bangkok, Thailand (Nov. 7-11, 2012). The tour features a 7-night Mekong River Cruise aboard the River Saigon with daily onshore visits. Plus 7-nights in Ho Chi Ming City, Hanoi and Angkor Wat with guided excursions daily. For information, contact Merlene Ogden, 269-471-3781 or ogden@andrews.edu.

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PRIVATE HAWAIIAN RETREAT for SDA members at Kahili Mountain Park on Kauai. Free Wi-Fi throughout the park, new comfortable pillow-top beds in Aloha Cabins, and gel-memory foam toppers in Rustic Cabins. Visit www.kahilipark.org for details on cabins, and our 2012 Summer Hawaiian Family Camp Vacation packages, or call 808-742-9921.

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AT REST

ADAMS, JUNE RUTH – b. June 12, 1917, Chicago, Ill.; d. Jan. 2, 2012, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: son, George; daughter, Darlene Romero; six grandchild; two great-grandchildren.

AHL, ELSIE E. (VIETZ) – b. April 2, 1917, Denhoff, N.D.; d. Nov. 12, 2011, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: sons, Arie, Dale; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

BRISTOW, WILLARD – b. Aug. 18, 1927, Little Rock, Texas; d. Dec. 3, 2011, Turlock, Calif. Survivors: wife, Bette; daughters, Cheryl Baade, Margaret; stepsons, Dennis Whitfield, Douglas Whitfield, Mark Whitfield; stepdaughter, Kimberlee Newton; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren.

CAREY, CHLOIE FRANCES (SHELTON) – b. Sept. 12, 1925, Texarkana, Ark.; d. Nov. 9, 2011, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: sons, Charles Katzakian, Chad Katzakian; daughters, Sandra Herdt, Zorana Barger; many grandchildren; many great-grandchildren.

CARLSEN, EMILY BILLINGTON – b. July 8, 1914, St. Helena, Calif.; d. Jan.

26, 2012, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: son, Kent.

DEALY, MARJORIE C. (HARDESTY) – b. Aug. 12, 1919, Turlock, Calif.; d. Dec. 18, 2011, Vacaville, Calif. Survivors: son, Robert; daughter, Kathleen; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

DERUELLE, JASON SHANE – b. Dec. 28, 1974, San Dimas, Calif.; d. Jan. 15, 2012, Folsom, Calif. Survivors: son, Preston; daughters, Janelle, Jade.

DRIVER, CAROL – b. Sept. 3, 1951, Santa Rosa, Calif.; d. Jan. 15, 2012, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Thomas; son, Thomas Jr.; daughter, Cheryl Mason; sister, Nancy Chadwick.

EMMERSON, CLINTON CAMPBELL – b. June 24, 1919, Forest Grove, Ore.; d. Dec. 30, 2011, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patricia; son, Bill; daughter, Sharon; three grandchildren.

ENSMINGER, ELDA (WACKER) – b. Aug. 1, 1918, Robinson, N.D.; d. Dec. 14, 2011, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: husband, Chris; daughter, Nadine Fork; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

GHEORGHE, ANCA M. – b. Nov. 17, 1956, Bucharest, Romania; d. Nov. 27, 2011, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: sons, Joseph, Paul, Philip; one grandchild; mother, Anna Stansal.

GIEBEL, HARALD – b. March 18, 1930, Hanover, Germany; d. Nov. 29, 2011, Vellore, Tamil Nadur, India. Survivors: wife, Beverly; sons, Herbert, Arthur; daughter, Rita; four grandchildren. Served as a missionary physician for more than 30 years in Pakistan, Nepal, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea and India.

HAMM, VIRGINIA E. – b. Nov. 9, 1917, Portland, Ore.; d. Dec. 24, 2011, Meadow Vista, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Holly Wang, Lamara Ponti, Betty Hobbs; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

HANCOCK, JUDY – b. Sept. 19, 1942, Chicago, Ill.; d. Dec. 20, 2011, Jamestown, Calif. Survivors: husband, Jim; sons, John, Jared, Jason; mother, Elizabeth Durichek; eight grandchildren.

HEDRICK, ALICE – b. May 3, 1923, Heisson, Wash.; d. Nov. 23, 2011, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Sharron Tullius, Virginia Heywood, Sandra Rose; 10 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren.

Correction: **HIGASHI, YOSHIKO**

"DIANE" – b. Aug. 1, 1914, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii; d. Nov. 10, 2011, Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. Survivors: sons, Ronald, Raymond, Myron; daughter,

Joyce Garrigus; one grandchild; one great-grandson.

JOHNSON, THANKAMMA – b. June 21, 1922, Trivandrum, Kerala, India; d. Jan. 7, 2012, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, George, Joseph; daughters, Rosemary Sramprical, Elizabeth Charles, Margaret Tito, Valsa Samuel; brother, Davey Samuel.

KUNI, INEZ I. – b. April 28, 1931, Montesano, Wash.; d. Oct. 23, 2011, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: son, Peter Ciro; daughters, Darlene Ciro, Lorrena Timmons, Diane Lee; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

LAMBERT, CLARE IONA – b. March 10, 1930, near Rogersville, Mo.; d. Sept. 21, 2011, Desert Hot Springs, Calif. Survivors: husband, Eugene Harold; sons, Thomas Eugene, Theodore Harold, Timothy Charles; eight grandchildren.

LEARY JR., CLARENCE "JACK" – b. June 9, 1921, Lodi, Calif.; d. Jan. 2, 2012, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Elsie; son, Kevin; daughters, Jenanne Rodriguez, Shauna Unser; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

MCDONALD, MARGARET – b. Aug. 19, 1930, Klamath Falls, Ore.; d. Jan. 7, 2012, Paradise, Calif. Survivors:

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husband, Norman; sons, Dennis, Ken, Buck; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

MCMILLEN, DOROTHY — b. March 12, 1916, Harlowton, Mont.; d. Dec. 4, 2011, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: sons, Vincent, John Warren; daughter, Vicktoria Kolstad; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

MILLER, DAISY (UTTER) — b. March 24, 1931, Turlock, Calif.; d. Jan. 4, 2012, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: son, Douglas; one grandchild.

MORENO, ESTOLIA — b. Nov. 9, 1927, Kingsburg, Calif.; d. Oct. 3, 2011, Kingsburg, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Doreen Bovey; three grandchildren.

NICKEL, MARVIN JOHN — b. May 20, 1920, Nipawin, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. Oct. 5, 2011, Grand Terrace, Calif. Survivors: wife, Pearl; son, Randall; daughter, Lavonne; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Served Loma Linda University for over 30 years in purchasing and bookkeeping.

NIGHTINGALE, BERNICE — b. Aug. 18, 1919, New Home, N.D.; d. Jan. 1, 2012, Lindsay, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Carla Smith, Sharron Rose, Phyllis McLemore; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

PIANKOFF, ADVENTINA "TINA" (SHIVOTENKO) — b. Aug. 31, 1930, Letichev, Ukraine; d. Dec. 21, 2011, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Vitaly "Vic"; daughters, Julie, Janette, Jennifer Klingbeil. Established three Adventist churches in Ukraine; founded Morning Star School, Kyiv, Ukraine.

ROBERTS, FRANCES — b. June 24, 1922, Henryetta, Okla.; d. Dec. 25, 2011, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Laurel Brown; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

ROMBA, EVELYN EUNICE — b. April 19, 1919, Laramie, Wyo.; d. June 19, 2011, Bellingham, Wash. Survivors: daughter, Patricia; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

SCEARCE, ESTHER — b. April 16, 1923, Detroit, Mich.; d. Jan. 7, 2012, Vista, Calif. Survivors: son, Anthony; daughters, Victoria, Deborah; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren.

SOWERS, NELLIE VASELENKO — b. Sept. 6, 1911, Squires, N.D.; Jan. 14, 2012, Denton, Texas. Survivors: daughter, Cathy Worley; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

SPOTO, JEANETTE CONCETTA — b. Dec. 19, 1916, N.J.; d. Sept. 10, 2011, Redding, Calif. Survivors: sons,

Leonard, John; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

SPOTO, JOHN ANTHONY — b. Aug. 7, 1938, N.J.; d. Dec. 27, 2011, Weaverville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Maria; daughters, Esther, Debbie, Diana; four grandchildren. Served as a Bible worker in the Northern California Conference and worked for Christian Record Services.

STEPHENS, SHIRLEY A. — b. July 4, 1937; d. Nov. 9, 2011, Chula Vista, Calif. Survivors: husband, Alex; daughter, Nichole; stepsons, Hal, Stephen; four grandchildren.

TREICHEL, AUDREY E. (NEWELL) — b. Dec. 23, 1928, San Francisco, Calif.; d. Dec. 16, 2011, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: son, Marlan; daughter, Doree Weber; three grandchildren.

VAN DEN HOVEN, HENDRICUS C. — b. June 30, 1926, The Hague, Netherlands; d. Jan. 20, 2012, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ester; son, Raymond; daughter, Ellen Morse; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Pieter. Served as an associate professor at the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry for 26 years.

VAN GAASBEEK, RICHARD — b. March 2, 1928, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. April 15,

2011, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: son, Richard; one grandchild.

VINE, BETTY — b. Aug. 1, 1924, Sheffield, United Kingdom; d. Jan. 30, 2012, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Judy Fischer; one grandchild.

VOGT, JUANITA — b. Jan. 13, 1915, Escondido, Calif.; d. Jan. 7, 2012. Survivors: son, Glen; daughter, Yvonne; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.

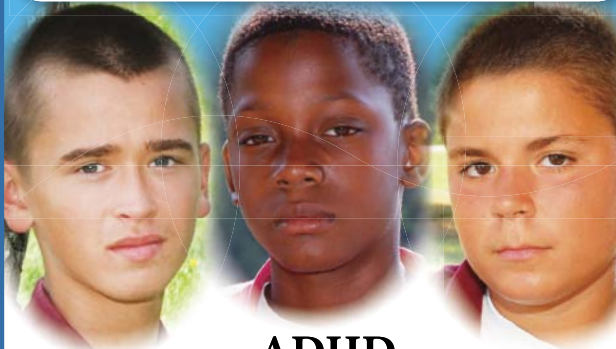
WALIKONIS, WARREN LYNN — b. Oct. 3, 1957, Culbertson, Mont.; d. Dec. 21, 2011, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Dawn; daughters, Stephanie, Janelle; father, Albert; stepmother, Jeanne; brothers, Steve, Randy, Jeff; sister, Karen Schiller.

WINN, LAWRENCE — b. Dec. 28, 1911, Roseville, Calif.; d. Dec. 14, 2011, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: sons, Richard, Steven; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Served as a physician for more than 50 years.

WORLEY, PAMELA S. (HUMPHREY) — b. July 12, 1956, Pueblo, Colo.; d. Nov. 3, 2011, Napa, Calif. Survivors: son, Andrew; daughter, Susan Kuhn.

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Arizona NEWS



Benjamin Lundquist

FROM THE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Jesus 24/7

What would happen if young adults in Arizona decided to live for Jesus 24/7? What if Jesus took the ultimate centrality in the lives of young adults instead of just being a fragment or compartment? What difference could a generation of young adults make if they were completely sold out to Jesus?

As the first Young Adult Director for the Arizona Conference, I began to prayerfully seek answers to these questions. Young adults are some of the most passionate, gifted, and talented untapped resources in our church. God's potential to use them is unlimited.

In the fall of 2011, the Arizona Conference Young Adult Ministries Department sponsored a weekend retreat at the Camelback church called "Jesus 24/7." This effort was designed to build community among the young adults, call them to live for Jesus in all aspects of their lives, and give them an opportunity to get out in their community and make a difference.

On the opening night, the guest speaker and mural artist, Milton Coronado, broke open God's word with the story of Jesus and Nicodemus from John 3. He called young adults to bring all areas of their lives out of the darkness and into the light of Christ. As the evening drew to a close, young adults stayed at the retreat until 11 that evening fellowshiping together.

On Sabbath, 75 young adults showed up at Jesus 24/7 ready to connect, grow, and serve. At the close of the Sabbath morning service, an invitation was given to

participate in an afternoon project to help meet the needs of the Phoenix homeless community. 40 young adults drove to the St. Vincent DePaul Community Center ready to make an impact for Jesus. Milton Coronado began painting a 30-foot long mural illustrating that Jesus is the way, truth, and the life from John 14.

Soon a crowd of over 120 homeless guests gathered to watch the mural take shape. As the guests watched, our young adults talked, prayed, and encouraged them for the next four hours. This homeless community met an army of young adults who took the time to listen and be the presence of Jesus that Sabbath.

As the Sabbath drew to a close and the mural received its final touches, a group circled around for prayer to thank Jesus for using a talented artist and a team of young adults to impact the lives of people they had never met until that day.

The mural illustrating Jesus being the way, the truth, and the life, painted by a gifted Adventist young adult, now hangs in the St. Vincent DePaul chapel where it is seen by thousands of homeless guests every week.

What if young adults were sold out to Jesus 24/7? I am convinced that Arizona would be changed forever. I am humbled to be serving as the Young Adult Director for the Arizona Conference, and am excited to see how God will use this generation for His honor and glory.

Pastor Benjamin Lundquist



This newsletter is stitched into the **Recorder** and is only available to Arizona Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the Recorder every-other month.

Arizona
NEWS

Nine Camp Yavapines Campers Baptized in Bullhead City

by Phil Draper

Baptizing campers was not the first priority when the \$100 camp idea was generated – but this seems to be one of the best by-products of this revolutionary plan to allow young people to go to Camp Yavapines for a life-changing week at this unheard-of price. Born in the heart of Youth Director Erik VanDenburgh and sponsored whole-heartedly by the Arizona Conference administrators, the program has been a success from the beginning.

Foremost in planning for a successful camp experienced is the selection of a camp staff made up of dedicated Christian counselors willing to spend their summer working with campers from all backgrounds.

Acceptance into the camp program does not require church membership. In fact, VanDenburgh encourages members to send friends, family members – any young person who needs to find direction and purpose. Then he presents them to his staff and they spend their week loving and encouraging each camper to find his/her place in the world, always helping them to meet and fall in love with Jesus.

Pastor Curt Bradford encouraged the members of his Bullhead City Seventh-day Adventist Church to

participate in the Camp Yavapines program. In 2010, eight campers were delivered to the camp with all of their expenses paid by the church, including transportation and some spending money for the camp store.

In 2011, when the Youth Department announced that the \$100 Camp would be continued, the Bullhead City congregation sent 13 young people.

“Three of those young people had not attended church or had any prior contact with the church,” recalls Bradford. “Three campers came from one family where an adult had completed Bible Studies and been baptized. But of the 13 we sent in 2011, five were not from Adventist homes.”

Approximately 80 campers were baptized at Camp Yavapines in the swimming pool during the past summer. Prior to their baptism, they were carefully screened as to their knowledge of what baptism meant, of their acceptance of Jesus as their personal Savior, and of their commitment to follow Him. Permission was granted from each



Pastor Curt Bradford baptized Maggie Rausch and her brother Austin Rausch.

parent or guardian prior to baptism.

Several campers returned home awaiting further study before being baptized.

Bradford remembers, “When our campers returned from camp, the Bullhead City church had a special Sabbath morning worship service introducing the young people, showing the DVD of camp and having the campers sing some of the camp songs for the congregation. It was a very positive event to share the camping experience with the church and giving the campers the opportunity to say thank you for the church’s financial commitment. This was the first time three of the campers



Sabrina Junk professed her love of Jesus and wanted to be baptized.



Brothers Uriel and Obe Bajo.



Alex Gutierrez requested baptism after his life-changing week at Camp Yavapines.

ever attended church.

“Since that Sabbath, they have attended church every week, and during a call for baptism during our Sabbath worship service, they expressed an interest in Bible Studies and baptism. This was a result of the combination of the witness of the local church and the camp’s spiritual

influence. We began Bible Studies with these young people immediately and on December 31, 2011 they, along with another camper who is a student at Thunderbird Adventist Academy, were baptized.”

He continues, “I believe that the Camp Yavapines experience and the local church, working together, have

contributed to these baptisms. We will continue to make the camping experience at Camp Yavapines available at no cost to our young people. It is a good investment in the future of the church. For the past two seasons we have baptized nine of the 21 campers the Bullhead City members sent to camp.”

Religious Liberty Rally

by Phil Draper

A Religious Liberty Rally was held at the Phoenix Central Seventh-day Adventist Church on January 21, 2012 under the direction of Pastor Ralph Robertson, newly elected Religious Liberty Director for the Arizona Conference.

Dr. C. Norman Farley, a retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor who has studied law, family counseling, and holds a doctorate in theology, was the featured speaker for the event. His interests in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights have guided much of his study and make him an authoritative spokesperson for individual liberties and religious freedom.

Personal and professional connections with law makers, government officials, and inter-denominational church leaders have given Farley great insights as to what is happening within government circles to impact the religious freedoms of our citizens. He shared many stories of how our religious liberties are rapidly slipping away with current legislative and Supreme Court activities.

Those attending were challenged to form their own Arizona state chapter for NARLA and to become actively involved in reporting both abuses and triumphs for personal liberties.

NARLA (the North American Religious Liberty Association) is



Pastor Ralph Robertson



Dr. and Mrs. C. Norman Farley

a member-driven organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is dedicated to “promoting liberty of conscience and freedom of religion, and combating religious intolerance at the local, state, and national levels.” Its mission is “to champion the God-given principle of religious liberty through public education, media, legal services, legislative advocacy, and grassroots mobilization. From the inception of our church, we Seventh-day Adventist Christians have been dedicated to free choice in matters of faith, religion, and conscience. As stated in the SDA Bible Commentary, we believe that ‘any use of force or persecution in matters of religion is a policy inspired by the devil, not by God.’ In other words, we as a church united have determined to uphold Christ’s example of free will!”

At a recent Religious Liberties gathering for the Pacific Union Conference, Farley stated, “Many of our members are lethargic because they have been conditioned to look

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

After a lively question and answer period, Robertson and Farley invited those attending to become members of NARLA and proposed a follow-up meeting when officers could be chosen to direct this program to benefit religious liberty in the Arizona Conference.

The Pacific Union Conference religious liberty department under the direction of Alan J. Reinach, Esq., offers help for any church member with items involving their personal liberties.

A Mission Field on the Edge of Phoenix

by Shirley Chipman

For weeks the Maricopa Village Christian School staff and students had prayed for help with their outreach to the Native American community surrounding their school in Laveen. Many of the local families lacked adequate food and clothing, and the mission school staff were working from early morning until late at night. “We realized how challenging it could be to get volunteers to commit to mission work,” said Arnie Suntag. “The sacrifices and challenges of participating in a completely selfless effort are not always appealing.”

Then a heaven-sent miracle happened that made those in Maricopa Village realize that ultimately God was in charge of their ministry.

Sabbath morning, December 10th, had started out like any other Sabbath with students lined up for singing, reading scriptures, and leading out in the worship service with inadequate time for rehearsal or preparation.

The program went surprisingly well, many commented, as the students did a better-than-average job of reading and singing. And the potluck was welcomed with enthusiasm.

The miracle happened during the potluck. “There must be 40 people driving up,” someone exclaimed,



This large group from the Litchfield Park church helped distribute food and clothing to families in the community.

“with truckloads of food, clothing and household goods!”

The Litchfield Park Seventh-day Adventist Church had mentioned that they planned to help distribute goods to the Native American families around the school. That Sabbath they delivered – and there was rejoicing in Laveen for the bountiful help that came unannounced.

“When our army of missionaries arrived in the community,” Suntag remembers, “there was a level of exhilaration rarely seen before. Members of the youth group marched from door-to-door distributing tracts and telling people about the mobile thrift store that had arrived in their

neighborhood. Within minutes, there was an enormous crowd in front of the home where the trucks were unloading their goods as word spread quickly throughout the community.”

People’s hearts were touched by the generous gesture. One resident, with tears in her eyes, tugged at the sleeve of one of the workers, looked intently into her eyes, and said simply, “Thank you so much for doing this!”

Community residents were able to find many things they needed, and soon all of the supplies were exhausted. Litchfield Park church and Maricopa Village had shared a pre-Christmas blessing by helping needy families with food, clothing and truth-filled literature.

“We are excited to see how the Lord will lead during this next semester,” said Susan Suntag, teacher at the Maricopa Village Christian School. “It is our sincere hope that more people will get involved in this exciting mission to a community where, despite serious trials and hardships, Native American people are reaching out for help — and many want to know more about Jesus.”



Members of the Litchfield Park church unload needed supplies for residents of the Pima-Maricopa community.



Arnie and Susan Suntag and Maricopa students (left to right) Mercedes, Xavier, Slade, Saul and Ethyn, shared with the Beacon Light church some of the blessings of their school.

Calendar

Mar. 10

Marriage Seminar
at the Fresno Westside
church

Mar. 9-11

African American Teen
Retreat at Camp Wawona

Mar. 16-18

KID University Training
at Soquel

Mar 23-25

Hispanic Youth Retreat
at Camp Wawona

Mar. 25

Treasurers Training
at the CCC office

Apr. 7

Senior Citizen Seminar
at the Mtn. View church

Apr. 13-15

Girls Retreat
at Soquel

Apr. 13-15

Guys Retreat
at Camp Wawona

Apr. 28

Singles Rally at the
East Palo Alto church

July 12-21

Camp Meeting
at Soquel



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Central Acts

Newsletter for
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Seventh-day Adventists

Conference-wide Ham Radio Training Completes Phase One

By Taneshia Farquharson

A century ago, short wave radio signals carried communication through Morse code. Today, radio signals are bounced off the moon using satellites and computers, connecting Amateur Radio enthusiasts with people anywhere in the world and beyond – even to the astronauts on the space station.

Known as hams, these Amateur Radio operators use transmitters and receivers to communicate wirelessly with other hams. But it's not just a fascinating hobby.

Hams provide essential disaster communication between those in an emergency or natural disaster and those who can help. Since this radio frequency is independent of other communication networks, it is the backup system for emergency response groups worldwide.

"Since 9/11, we have had continuous disaster training. Ham radio training is the next step to build our communication tree for our conference," says Steve Horton, vice president of ministries. "We have started an aggressive communication program to be used in the event that a disaster knocks out all communication networks."

What started as a hobby for Wendell Paypa (AE6WR) is now part of the disaster preparedness plan for the conference. So far, five training sessions have taken place in as many locations. Sixty-three new hams have been licensed and several others have been upgraded.



For the Paypa family, Amateur Radio is a family thing. Newly licensed hams Nicole (front left) and Andrei (front right) hold up their certificates. They are pictured with their parents Wendell and Cynthia and baby Christine. Wendell volunteers to lead conference trainings in numerous locations.

Paypa volunteers his time to do the trainings. "I am doing this as a ministry. I would like to see the Adventist Amateur Radio community grow and use this as a tool in sharing the gospel," he says.

The conference's goal is to have at least one licensed ham radio operator in every church. In a disaster situation, area representatives and conference administrators will be able to pass on essential information.

"Anyone can get trained, pathfinders can get it as a pathfinder honor," Horton explains. "We want at least one person in every church to be designated as a contact for the conference office."

The most recent training event at the Mountain View church included three non-Adventist participants. They saw the value

Cont. on next page

Ham Radio Training cont. from previous page

of ham radio in a disaster situation and wanted to get the free training.


Ham radio operators communicate all the time, so Paypa's team also teaches participants how to use Amateur Radio as a witnessing opportunity.

Lori and Jesse Leal attended the training at the Bakersfield Central church. "The best part for me was that our whole family was able to attend the course, all seven of us," Lori says. The Leal's are GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) leaders for the greater Bakersfield area. They believe ham radio is the best and safest way to communicate with literature evangelist teams in the field.



On 9/11/11, Adventist hams from nearby churches came to support the new hams during the training at the Porterville church.

The ministries department plans to offer additional trainings throughout the year. Lori encourages everyone to get trained. "I would recommend this course to anyone who is aware of the challenging times that not only our state is facing but the world."

"When all else fails, Amateur Radio," says Paypa, quoting the ham radio motto which explains why the training is so important. "My goal is to train and mentor as many new Adventist Amateur Radio operators as my available time permits." 

Breaking News

"The Hope Channel is going to synergize with GLOW," announces Nelson Ernst, director of GLOW (Giving Light to Our World). "Short videos will be created where people like Mark Finley will give additional information about each track on a new Web site." In other words, GLOW tracts, organized by topic, will direct the interested person to the Web site for video, additional resources and contact information. Smart phone users can simply scan the QR code. Roll out begins at the end of February. You can check the status at ccc.glow.org.



Hispanic Women's Retreat



Three hundred ninety-four women, including 29 guests, attended the Hispanic Women's Retreat on February 3-5, 2012 at Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite. The theme Tú, el Gran Anhelado de Dios (You, the Great Longing of God) created an environment of hope and worth. Guest speaker Lupita Castillo-Aragon was passionate as she challenged the audience to be better wives and mothers and practical as she shared her own day-to-day experiences with her husband and children. As they headed home on Sunday, the women were praising God for the fellowship with God and each other, and thanking Him that there was NO snow on the drive home.

GLOW, which began in 2007, is a local church-based outreach for members of all ages to expand literature ministries in every community. Funded by the Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering and developed and led by young adults (think 20somethings), this free literature ministry has spanned coast to coast and has crossed the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. "This is a huge repeat of our pioneers' Home Missionary and Tract Society. By 1884, 40 percent of all Adventists were regularly distributing literature as a part of their lifestyle," Ernst says. With Hope Channel and Hope Church Channel, going global is just around the corner.



New Construction Begins at Camp Wawona

Eight Yurt cabins and a bathhouse were completed during the summer and fall of 2011. The Yurts replace the tent cabins used for male summer camp staff and will also be available for church groups and conference sponsored retreats and trainings. The new bathhouse serves the Yurt campers.

The Yurts arrived in individual kits. Instructions for assembly were included as well as an on-site tutorial by a company representative to a small group of volunteers that included Jim Genn, Forrest and Susie Robertson and Church Wilcox, the projects' leader. In between spring rains and with help from additional

volunteers and camp staff, the last Yurt was completed in August.

"Words cannot describe the inside of the Yurts. They are light and spacious with plenty of windows and doors. French doors open onto the back of the deck for a view of Wawona Dome," reports Mary Bishop, co-chair with her husband Bob on the capital campaign.

Furniture for five Yurts has been purchased. Fund raising continues for the remaining three Yurt cabins. Electricity for these structures will be installed as the money is available.


The redevelopment of the 35-acre camp required an amendment of the Wawona Specific Plan to include "church camp" as a conforming use. On May 17, 2010 and after




a 19-year journey, new construction began.

"God has been with us every step of the way," says Jackie Phillips, capital campaign director. "Since 1929 until today, He has met our needs for this property. It is a privilege to be a part of this adventure."


The next two big projects are a new dining hall and chapel. Both will be built at the top of the hill.

To see the Master Plan or for more information, go to ccc.adventist.org and select capital campaign. You may also contact Jackie Phillips, capital campaign director, at jphillips@cccsda.org or (559) 217-1031. 







Soquel Conference Center Volunteer Project



May 22-23, 2012
Sunday - Wednesday








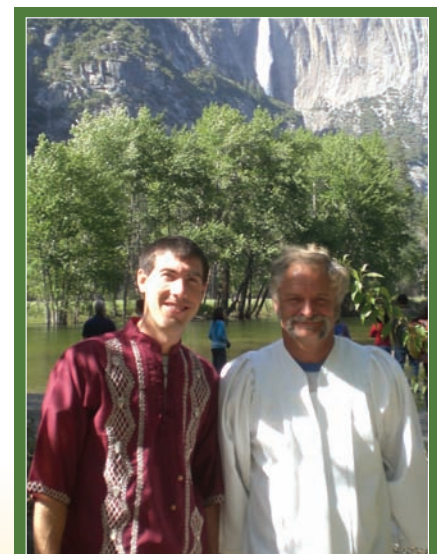
Projects:

- Central City Bathhouse
- 1. Re-roofing
- 2. Interior Paint
- 3. New Toilets Installed
- Remodel of Unused Office
- plus much more...

For More Information:

Caron Oswald
coswald@cccsda.org
 (559) 352-8675
ccc.adventist.org



One thousand ninety-six new members joined the Seventh-day Adventist church in Central in 2011, growing the total membership to 36,206.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Packing Parachutes



! was inspired by the following story I read recently. It really made me think and reflect. I pray it searches your heart deeply...

Captain Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot during the Vietnam War. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist prison in North Vietnam. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from his experience.

One day when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Captain Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, each time holding in his hands the fate of someone he didn't know.

As he closes his speaking engagements, Plumb asks his audience a question: "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day.

Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory – he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

So the philosophical question here is this: How's your parachute packing coming along? Who looks to you for strength in times of need? And more importantly, who are the special people in your life who provide you the encouragement you need when the chips are down? Perhaps it's time right now to give those people a call and thank them for packing your chute.

As I looked further into Captain Plumb's story, I found that the parachute packed for him was made

with 18 panels of silk, each panel providing the necessary air drag to slow down the fall and lead him to safety.

In further reflection, our loving heavenly Father packs our parachute daily with a myriad of human panels designed to break the fall and lead us to safety.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jesus Christ for His sacrifice and eternal love for me. I thank my parents, my sister and brothers, my wife Mary Ellen, my children and grandchildren, whom I love deeply—these have been important panels in God's parachute for me.

I pray that as long as the Lord gives us breath, that all of us here in Central will be used as the panels in many parachutes to lead others, especially our families, to safety as we walk in prayer each day, each week and each month of this year.

Ramiro Cano

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KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

“AS LONG AS IT IS DAY, WE
MUST DO THE WORKS OF
HIM WHO SENT ME”
(JOHN 9:4).



Making **His Time** **OUR TIME**

As the years click by, time becomes a more important – and elusive – commodity. And I’m beginning to notice all the expressions we use that are time related. Time flies. Time marches on. Pressed for time. No time like the present. I’m sure you can add many more to that list. Our lives tend to be framed by time, which can be both good and bad.

As a young pastor, the clock on the wall didn’t mean very much to me when I preached, sometimes much to the consternation of my congregation. In fact, at one church where I pastored, I could hardly see the little clock on the back wall of the sanctuary. So one of my members crafted a new one – about four feet square! He smiled as he let me know that I should be able to see quitting time more easily.

As I read through God’s Word, I find that time is also an important concept with Him. Repeatedly, we read about events taking place “at the appointed time.” There is order and continuity to life, based on the mind and will of God. And Solomon reminds us that

God “has made everything beautiful in its time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NIV).

Certainly time was an important factor when it came to the birth of God’s Son, Jesus. “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son ...” (Galatians 4:4, NKJV). God’s plans have a fulfillment in time, and are revealed on time.

Yet time with God is more than just a calendar of events. Time in heaven’s currency is a precious commodity, one that must be used now rather than stored for future benefit. Jesus acknowledged that even His work here had a time constraint: “As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4, NIV).

The challenge that Joshua gave many years ago to his people was also framed in the context of time: “... choose today whom you will serve ...” (Joshua 24:15, NLT). The choice is an important one. It is a daily one. And that choice will impact the eternal influence we may have on the world around us. As C. T. Studd poetically put it: “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.” I want God’s life to be mine, and I want His time to be mine. May the same be true for you as well.

Peace.

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



In this issue . . .

Community Gardens
Produce Healthy Foods
and Relationships



Garden Also Provides
Food For School



Plan now for the 2012
Redwood Camp Meeting



VOLUME 10
ISSUE 2
MARCH 2012



Community Gardens Produce HEALTHY FOODS & RELATIONSHIPS

Throughout the Northern California Conference, dedicated men and women are actively promoting the Adventist health message. They don't hold seminars or preach sermons in the church. Their mission field is literally out in the field—in their community gardens.

In 2011, the NCC Health Ministries Department granted funds to fourteen community gardens on church, school and other properties. The gardens supply food to church members, neighbors, community services and local food banks.

"To be able to augment somebody's pantry with fresh produce is just a wonderful experience," said Carmichael church Senior Pastor Keith Jacobson. His church's garden,

located at Sacramento Adventist Academy, produced ten tons of food during the last growing season. "Food banks are delighted to get fresh produce—not stuff that local grocers are trying to get rid of before it goes bad," said Jacobson.

"We like to do it and we're helping a lot of people," said Ron Zinke, the leader of the Grass Valley church garden. He gives away produce to the church's neighbors—especially senior citizens—and his Bible study interests. "It helps open doors," he said.

"Anybody can do it," said octogenarian



WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT YOUR CHURCH?

Contact NCC Community Services Director

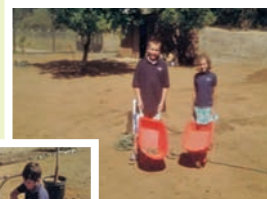


Gordon Botting at gbotting@nccsda.com.

Garden Also Provides Food FOR SCHOOL

The garden at Clearlake SDA Christian School supplies food for

the school's hot lunch program, as well as for families in the church and community who are in need. The students enjoy working in their assigned grow box with



kid-sized tools, purchased by garden leader Jeanette Wickersham. "I think it's just a great thing because not only is it teaching the children about eating and healthy food, but it's also

teaching about community and giving back," said school board chairperson Susan Jen, who championed the project. "Children love working out in that garden."

Captions: In 2011, community gardens provided fresh fruits and vegetables for hundreds of people throughout Northern California. Left page, top to bottom, gardens in Auburn, Fortuna, Healdsburg and Clearlake. Inset: Corn grows in the Auburn church garden. Right page, top to bottom, the Carmichael church garden, the Auburn church garden. (Photos courtesy of Lori Grainger, Steve Holm, Susan Jen, Reola Meadows, Jesse Perry.)

Mervin Ernst who leads the **Lakeport** church garden. He has grown gardens all his life, but not in California, so “I’m having to learn along with other people,” he said. Last year, the church garden grew more than a dozen different fruits and vegetables—including 3,000 pounds of tomatoes!

Reola Meadows did not consider herself a gardener when she started the first **Healdsburg** church garden last spring, but she refused to listen to those who tried to persuade her that the ground wouldn’t grow anything. Hard work and faith paid off at the Terrace Neighborhood Community Garden. “People have commented to me that it’s an awesome garden for a first-year garden,” she said. “I always tell them that it’s God’s garden.”

Although all the garden plots raise produce, that’s about all they have in common. A few, such as Clearlake and Carmichael, have invested in the future by planting fruit trees. At Grass Valley, they grew flowers (as well as food) last year, and plans are in the works to cultivate even more this year for use in the sanctuary, for fellowship meals and as birthday bouquets. The **Fortuna** Community Services garden earns money to help support itself by growing organic polenta and gourmet garlic to be sold to local restaurants.

Some community gardens grow in one big plot, cared for by church members, while others consist of small plots tended by individuals or groups, and others are a mix. Part of the Fortuna garden is rented to organizations, such as a diabetic support group and a home for troubled teens. The “rent” is a tithe of their harvest to be donated to food banks.

Contact with the surrounding

community is one of the major benefits of having a garden. Often local people volunteer their time and heavy equipment, and local businesses donate building and irrigation materials, fertilizer, seeds, etc. “It’s a beautiful community effort that’s so much more than the Adventist church,” said Fortuna Community Services executive director Rhonda Lewis.

Several leaders noted that just the presence of a garden makes a positive impression. “People enjoy walking or driving past. They stop and talk; it’s been well received in the neighborhood,” said Robert Westerhout, **Crescent City** church garden director.

The **Auburn** church gardeners have witnessed huge bumper crops in the past few years, but recently they witnessed a different kind of harvest when two people were baptized. The seeds had been planted at the weekly Tuesday garden barbeque, when anyone

who is hungry is welcome to come for a lunch of grilled vegetables and other food. “They were able to fellowship with a group of people who would typically not have ever found each other,” said Steve Holm, one of the Auburn church garden leaders. “They were hearing people talk around the table, hearing about Jesus, hearing about lives changed.”

A garden is a lot of work, but the rewards—providing healthy food to the hungry and interacting with the community in positive ways—may be eternal. “Any church that’s even entertaining the idea of a garden,” said Holm, “should just do it.”

By Julie Lorenz, who serves as the assistant in the Northern California Conference Communication Department.

“People have commented to me that it’s an awesome garden for a first-year garden. I always tell them that it’s God’s garden.”



“TO BE ABLE TO AUGMENT SOMEBODY’S PANTRY WITH FRESH PRODUCE IS JUST A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. FOOD BANKS ARE DELIGHTED TO GET FRESH PRODUCE—NOT STUFF THAT LOCAL GROCERS ARE TRYING TO GET RID OF BEFORE IT GOES BAD.”



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**Meet speakers
for this year's event.**

John Bradshaw

John Bradshaw currently serves as the speaker/director of the international *It Is Written* ministry. He has worked as an evangelist for Amazing Facts and served in pastoral ministry for over 15 years, conducting over 80 evangelistic series. For Bradshaw, nothing matches the joy of introducing others to Christ.



Dale Galusha

California native Dale Galusha has served 16 years at Pacific Press Publishing Association—the last six years as president. Prior to that he was a pastor and evangelist in the Northern California Conference for 13 years.

**Download the
registration form at
ncc.adventist.org/redwood**



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in March!**

Every Tuesday in March, **one** person who is a fan of the "Redwood Camp Meeting" Facebook page will be chosen to win a Redwood Camp Meeting souvenir prize packet (hat, sunglasses, pin, tote bag, water bottle) and a \$50 gift certificate to apply toward their Redwood Camp Meeting 2012 registration fee. Become a fan today to see updates as this year's event gets closer!

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www.ncc.adventist.org | info@ncc.adventist.org
Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. | Mon-Thurs

President, Jim Pedersen | Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson
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Nevada-Utah Views

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

The President's Pen

"That They All May Be One"

by Larry Unterseher • President, Nevada-Utah Conference

Look at the back of any US coin minted after 1873 will reveal the Latin phrase *e pluribus Unum* which means *out of many, one*. Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson suggested this phrase in 1776 to best describe the vision and creation of one nation out of 13 colonies. They envisioned 13 different entities, later to become states, keeping their own personalities and working together, in unity, as one.



Larry Unterseher

He knew that unbelievers in the world don't really care about doctrine or church structure. They are, however, captivated by seeing and hearing the proclamation of truth when it is accompanied by unity! They will marvel at this unity because it is not the norm in the world in which we live. All of us, in fact, are naturally drawn to a fellowship where "all the believers were one in heart and mind." (Acts 4:32 NIV)

As I write this article, Nevada Utah Conference has teamed with *It*

Is Written and the churches of Las Vegas in a unified evangelistic campaign. Ironically, there are 13 Adventist churches and companies who, while keeping their own uniqueness, are working together in unity, as one.

This unity of oneness is certainly what Jesus envisioned for the church, when praying for His disciples and for His followers through the ages.

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." (John 17:20-23, NKJV)

Jesus knew that for non-believers to believe in Him, they needed to see in His people a love for one another and a unity beyond comprehension. He already taught that we should go spread the Gospel throughout the world, but now He prayed for us to have the greatest, effective witness and evangelistic tool possible—our oneness and unity.

There are many people who keep attending the meetings because they see true unity in this blended family of believers. As a result of the working of the Holy Spirit, the truth in the messages, and the observation of oneness, many are giving their hearts to God for the first time. The true success of these meetings, of course, will be seen when these new believers continue to witness this unity manifested in the local church.

The same unity Christ prayed for must permeate every one of our schools, churches, and gatherings around our conference. It can only be obtained by keeping our eyes focused on Jesus, while we both individually and corporately model His character. Oneness can change the world!

Let us be unified to show the love of God to a world that needs to know Jesus. Let us be the answer to His prayer "that they all may be one."

March 2012

In this issue...

- The President's Pen
- The Treasurer's Perspective
- Light Through the Radio Waves
- Do You Have a Plan for the Future?



The same unity Christ prayed for must permeate every one of our schools, churches, and gatherings around our conference.

Focused on Jesus, we witness to the world!

The Treasurer's Perspective

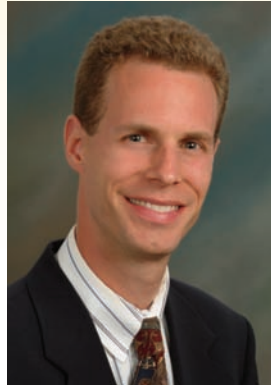
We Can Do It! Yes, With Jesus' Help, Yes We Can!

by Jason Bergmann • Secretary-Treasurer,
Nevada-Utah Conference

In 2011, through increased awareness, our conference members and friends donated over \$61,000 to Nevada-Utah **Conference Advance**, up from 2010 by a significant 34%. Praise the Lord!

Thank you, members and friends, for remembering **Conference Advance** with your generous donations!

While we made great strides in 2011, much more work is needed to provide adequate funding to the important **Conference Advance** ministry areas. Up is where we need to go!



Jason Bergmann

Conference Advance dollars support:

- **Evangelism (50%)**
- **Education (25%)**
- **Capital Projects (25%)**

If you have not participated in giving to **Conference Advance**, I invite you to join us in providing necessary resources to support important areas of ministry in our conference.

Would you prayerfully consider supporting **Conference Advance** as part of your systematic giving? We need your help as we work together in sharing the

Good News!



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

Light Through the Radio Waves

by Denny Krause
Communication
Coordinator, Nevada-Utah
Conference

Every Sunday morning at 9:00 on radio station KMRA 1550 AM, familiar Spanish words are transmitted loud and clear across the Salt Lake Valley, and find their way into the eager, awaiting ears of many Spanish-speaking listeners.

The words are welcoming and the same every week, "A good morning, dear friends, and valued listeners. Thanks for tuning into 'Una Luz en el Camino' on this Sunday, the first day of the week."

Una Luz en el Camino (A Light in the Path) is a 30-minute, weekly religious radio program led by Marcos Castillo, a member of Nueva Esperanza Adventist Church in West Jordan, Utah, a suburb of Salt Lake City.

The program is centered around the evangelistic messages of Alejandro Bullon, a popular and well-loved Adventist evangelist from South America. In a well-thought-out strategy, only a portion of Bullon's messages are aired each week.

In order for the listener to hear the conclusion of the weekly message, they must call in their request to receive a DVD containing the full Bullon message, enthusiastically delivered by church members trained to make home contacts.

Frequently interspersed throughout the aired Bullon messages, listeners are invited to call in their prayer requests, and order free Bible studies and topical literature and books. Every

LEFT: Marcos Castillo at the Una Luz en el Camino microphone
RIGHT: Marcos Castillo and Heidi Martinez after a successful program

(CREDIT: DENNY KRAUSE)



time such an announcement is made, the station phone lines start blinking incessantly.

At the end of the program, a phone number is given to make requests during the week until the next program airs. During the Sunday program and during the week, as well, often scores of requests are received to be quickly followed up by church-member visits. Even pastors of other denominations are requesting materials offered on the program.

Castillo, a machine operator by trade, has no special training to be at the controls and main microphone of the radio station, but learned merely by watching.

Also assisting with announcing and attending the phone lines is Heidi Martinez, a homemaker, but intensely involved in the ministry. Pablo Elias, a lab researcher, also assists in broadcasting the program from the station.

Awareness for the ministry comes from newspaper advertisements, a website (unaluzenelcamino.com), email blasts, and a Facebook page.

An early vision of the ministry leaders was to expand the radio reach, where possible, and Castillo and his team have trained Ogden (Utah) Spanish SDA Church members to broadcast an equally successful, sister program on a local station in that area.

Has the Una Luz en el Camino ministry been successful? Indeed, it has. New guests from the radio program show up at all Salt Lake City and Ogden area Spanish Adventist churches each week. To date, about 20 baptisms have been attributed to the program itself, but it is unknown how many baptisms from the program have flown "under the radar" and have not been counted.

Nueva Esperanza church pastor, Sergio Romero, speaks about the Una Luz en el Camino ministry, "I am very excited for the outreach the ministry provides, and for the resulting baptisms, but I am equally excited about the numbers of lay

members who are energized to work for the ministry and the church."

"Finances for the ministry are always a concern," states Castillo. He figures that the two programs, with airtime and other associated expenses, together cost about \$400 per week to air. Donations are received from Adventist church members and radio listeners, but often do not meet the expenses. When necessary, Castillo finances the difference with money from his own pockets.

Castillo and his team are just now in the process of starting up a third radio broadcast at a station in the southern part of the greater Salt Lake City area. Costs will increase, but so will reach, is Castillo's thinking. He is confident that God will provide the extra funds needed.

Says Castillo, "People are studying the Word of God, and there are many more waiting to do so. Our job is to knock on the doors through the radio programs, offering opportunities for people to explore and discover the truths of salvation for this hour. I am privileged to be a part of spreading God's message."

Beams of light for paths in the Salt Lake City area are truly going out over the radio waves.

If you would like to participate in this lay ministry, you can contact Marcos Castillo by phone at (801) 898-3864, or by email at marcos@unaluzenelcamino.com.



Heidi Martinez rapidly taking calls and contact information

(CREDIT: DENNY KRAUSE)

The program is centered around the evangelistic messages of Alejandro Bullon, a popular and well-loved Adventist evangelist from South America. In a well-thought-out strategy, only a portion of Bullon's messages are aired each week.

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

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN



ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

FOR THE FUTURE?

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Conference

March 2012

Priorities

Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Growth and Progress in Black Ministries Work

The Southeastern California Conference Black Ministries continues to put an emphasis on evangelism, with all of the black churches growing in their membership. Conference evangelist David Richardson and his team conducted three evangelistic meetings. The venues were in Perris, Victorville and San Diego. In San Diego, the Thirty-First Street, Maranatha and New Hope churches joined in a citywide meeting, which resulted in a total of 64 people baptized.

The Kansas Avenue church conducted a successful evangelistic meeting resulting in 61 baptisms, with Senior Pastor Bron Jacobs as the speaker. In 2010, Michael Kelly, II, and the Mt. Rubidoux church conducted a unique series of meetings delving into the book of Revelation. People came from all over Southern California and were blessed with 50 baptisms. Our pastors and churches are excited about expanding the kingdom of God.

Our churches have also been impacting their communities in many ways. San Bernardino Sixteenth Street, Fontana Juniper and Perris Fifth Street have started community gardens. This allows members to interact and share with the people surrounding their churches.

Imani Praise Fellowship hosted Moreno Valley's first Juneteenth Celebration. Hundreds of people attended. They also have a unique group called God's Traveling Circus. Their performances, in parks, gas stations and



*George King
Vice President
for Black Ministries*

churches, are about the gospel, laced with an urban flavor. *By George King*

Our churches are known for their acts of kindness among their congregations and communities. Valley Fellowship has a prayer ministry, community services program and a yearly mission trip to Nigeria. Kansas Avenue opens its doors to the homeless every Tuesday for showers, a hot meal and clothing. Sixteenth Street organizes a community carnival every Halloween. Del

Rosa, Kansas Avenue and Thirty-First Street conducted health fairs and offered medical and dental care to their communities.

In the past few years, our churches have shown great interest in the beautification of their property. Significant remodeling has been done in 90 percent of our churches.

Last month we celebrated Black History month, letting us reflect on the blessings of God on His people and His work.

The Black Ministries department is comprised of 17 worship centers, 21 pastors, and about 11,000 members. Our belief in the Three Angels Message causes us to be people focused, Christ centered, eschatologically driven and community minded. The mission and mandate of the Black Ministries department is to enhance the kingdom of God in this territory. □

“The Black Ministries department is comprised of 17 worship centers, 21 pastors, and about 11,000 members.”

Mt. Rubidoux Becomes a Church *For All*

By Michael Kelly, II *Editors note: This piece is an editorial written to share the story of Mt. Rubidoux, a church that has seen significant change in the past few years. Michael Kelly, II,*



PHOTOS: Roland Canscon

Marc Raphael, associate pastor, shares practical thoughts from Scripture.

senior pastor, shares the vision the church has adopted and how it has impacted the church and community.

It has been said that one of the most segregated times in the United States is when people attend church. This should be especially disturbing to Adventists as part of the Seventh-day Adventist mission is to celebrate and embrace diversity. This is exactly what has happened at Mt. Rubidoux church.

Mt. Rubidoux would typically be classified as a black church, not only because of who attends, but because of the worship style. People feel free to clap, shout, stand, sit, laugh and cry. However, in

the past two years there has been an influx of various cultures.

The question is: why would individuals from different backgrounds want to attend Mt. Rubidoux, especially when typically the worship styles are very different for each culture? The simple answer is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit drives this church and is the key element to church growth. Mt. Rubidoux has been intentionally relevant.

I believe Mt. Rubidoux has to stay relevant to reach people. We are answering the questions that people are asking. They want to know about relationships and raise questions like: Why am I still single? How do I stay in love forever? How can I stop having sex before I get married? People want to know what relevance does keeping the Sabbath have outside of going to church. People don't want to just know that something is truth, they want to see how it is relevant and applies to their lives. People are looking other places to find the answers to these questions. At Mt. Rubidoux, we not only deal with these questions, but also show them that the Bible, which is thousands of years old, actually has the answers to all of these questions and more. Through our engaging sermon series (available at

“Mt. Rubidoux has been intentionally relevant.”

Worship in music is lead by a women praise team.





PHOTOS: Roland Carson

www.rubitv.tv) we deal with all sorts of topics such as sex, money, homosexuality, pornography, verbal and physical abuse, and much more.

At Mt. Rubidoux, our members feel that the Bible can and does speak to them in 2012. “It is easy for me to invite my coworkers here to church,” one member said. “We actually talk about things that people are dealing with on a daily basis. They told me that they never knew the Bible dealt with that.”

Our church does not only talk about relevancy, but engages in various projects. This year we will be involved in a project to help end human trafficking in Nepal. Besides that, each year our church members give away over 700 pairs of shoes to our community through Sole to Sole ministry. The church has a counseling center with professional counselors that are available to members and to the community. There is also a rec room where youth from the

community can play after school. All of these contribute to Mt. Rubidoux’s relevance in our community.

These programs continue to help our church grow. People join a movement that through the Holy Spirit changes lives for now and eternity. This is what has appealed to those who attend our church. This is why Mt. Rubidoux has become so diverse, because we are relevant. We are meeting the needs of those who are in attendance. We have created an environment where people want to invite their friends, family and coworkers. □

The church is always full for the worship experience at the Mt. Rubidoux church.

“People join a movement that through the Holy Spirit changes lives for now and eternity. This is what has appealed to those who attend our church.”

(Right) Michael Kelly, II, senior pastor; preaches a sermon to his church on being relevant church members. (Below) A member of Mt. Rubidoux expresses his enthusiasm during the worship service.



High Flying Outreach *Connects Church with Community*

An exciting motorcross demonstration drew a large crowd from the community to the Valley church on the last Sunday of January.

The event included noted Suzuki rider Drew Goselaar and his Say No to Drugs high-flying motorcycle stunts. Also attending was Roger DeCoster, five times 500cc World Motocross Champion, who was on hand to autograph free posters. Bob Sparenberg's, kids motivational speaker, innovative and interactive exercises with the children motivated them to make positive lifestyle

choices that will equip them to do and be whatever they choose.

A surprise visit was made by Abraham Lincoln impersonator Chet Damron. He talked with children about making wise choices and gave a stirring presentation of the Gettysburg Address.

Throughout the week, attendees could register for nightly presentations by Sparenberg on topics such as strengthening the family. The meetings included health talks by Sally Mellgren, a physician, and musical selections by gospel recording artist Vonda Beerman.

The Valley church held the event to encourage their community to strive for a positive lifestyle. During this time they impacted several young families. Prior to the event, Larry Becker, pastor of the Valley church, Sparenberg visited local schools to invite children and their families to attend. □



Chet Damron, Bob Sparenberg and Larry Becker entertain the audience during one of the early evenings.

Coming Events

Pathfinder Kite Day (March 4) San Diego. Info: www.seccyouth.com or Judi Jeffreys at 951-509-2265 or judi.jeffreys@seccsda.org.

SECC Handbell Festival (March 9) 7 p.m. gymnasium at La Sierra University. Info: Office of Education 951-509-2311.

12th Church Anniversary (March 10) Inland Empire Filipino church, 604 E. State St., Redlands. Guest speaker VicLouis Arreola. Info: 951-509-2337.

Bible Study Series (March 10-31) Vista Samoan church on Sunday through Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Located at 1175 Melrose Way, Vista. Info: 760-758-8720.

SECC Hymn Festival (March 16) 7 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus Street, Loma Linda. Info: Office of Education 951-509-2311.

Rumble in the Jungle (March 17) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus Street, Loma Linda. Enjoy this fun filled vespers. Info: 909-558-4570.

VBS Workshop (March 25) Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd, Grand Terrace. Info: www.seccyouth.com or Liz Adams at 951-509-2260 or liz.adams@seccsda.org.

PUC Camporee (March 28-April 1) Glen Helen Regional Park, San Bernardino. Info: www.puccamporee.org or Judi Jeffreys at 951-509-2265 or judi.jeffreys@seccsda.org.

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Want to attend a seminar or social event? Looking for a church? Check out Southeastern California Conference's website. We update it regularly with new videos, stories, events and other resources. Just go to seccadventist.org.

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MARCH 2012

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Herbert Hernandez Ordained



Bethesda Adventist Volunteer Clinic



Evangelism



KEEPING *intouch*



Larry L. Caviness
President

EZEKIEL *saw a wheel*

Ezekiel saw a wheel a-turnin, way in the middle of the air; A wheel with-in a wheel a-turnin, way in the middle of the air; The little wheel turns by faith and the big wheel turns by the grace of God.

You may remember singing that chorus when you were a child in Sabbath School or at summer camp. The song recalls the vision which Ezekiel had and is recorded in Ezekiel, chapter 1.

The vision was given to Ezekiel at a most discouraging time. Israel was a broken nation and was in captivity in Babylon. The city of Jerusalem was desolate, and Ezekiel was with the captives in Babylon. As he stood on the banks of the Chebar River he was shown a vision of four living creatures and beside each creature he saw wheels moving within wheels. At first glance it appeared to be only confusion, but as he observed the apparent confusion, he saw that the wheels were impelled by heavenly beings, living beings, and all was working in perfect order.

As Ezekiel watched, he saw that above the scene was a throne that appeared to be of sapphire, and on the throne sat One who appeared to be God. God was directing the movement of the wheels and what at first glance seemed merely confusion was actually an order under the perfect control of God. Everything was working in perfect harmony.

Just as the wheel-like complications were under the guidance of the hand of God under the wings of the cherubim, so the complicated affairs of men and nations today are under divine control. Nations appear to be carrying out their own designs, but He that sits above the heavens still guides the affairs of earth to accomplish His purposes.

At times we may look at the world around us, and perhaps at our own lives, and see only confusion and complications. We may be tempted to wonder if there is any rhyme or reason

At times we may look at the world around us, and perhaps at our own lives, and see only confusion and complications.

in what often seems chaotic. Take time to rise above it all, to remember, as did Ezekiel, that God has His eye and His hand on all that surrounds us. All is under His perfect control. His divine plan on earth and in our personal lives is perfectly ordered for our benefit—each and every one of us. We can trust Him!

“The little wheel turns by faith; and the big wheel turns by the grace of God”

Larry L. Caviness, President

In Transition

(voted 12.28.11; 01.25.12)

Ordination

(Voted 12.18.11)

Herbert Hernandez
Dec. 10, 2011

New Employees

(Voted 01.25.12)

Dusty Castro
Teacher, SFVA Child Development Center, as of Jan. 1, 2012

Kelly Ann Gaines

Treasurer, Event Coordinator, Simi Valley Church, as of Jan. 1, 2012

Sheila Marie Hooks

Assistant Teacher, LAAA Discoveryland, as of Jan. 3, 2012.

Alma A. Wesley

Director/Teacher, SFVA Child Development Center, as of Jan. 1, 2012.

Changes within the Conference

(Voted 01.25.12)

Eleanor Dinwiddie

From Assistant Director, Discoveryland S. Bay; to Interim Director, Discoveryland S. Bay, as of Jan. 24, 2012

Retirement

(Voted 01.25.12)

Mary Adams

From Principal, Adventist Christian School, as of June 30, 2012

Pomona Responding to Community Need

Concepcion Lopes leads a Food Bank program that feeds 150 people bimonthly at the Pomona Church. “Families begin lining up outside and around the block at the Pomona Church every other Thursday” said Lopes, to receive fresh and packaged foods from the L. A. Regional Food Bank. It’s a privilege to serve God and the community through this program.

“Our church is in great need of a reliable heavy duty van to use to pick up all the food that is available to support this humanitarian project in our community,” she added. “The church currently rents a van from another organization and has even on one occasion had to rent a U-Haul van. Anyone interested in helping out by donating a van in good condition or to help in any other way, please contact Pastor Vasco Brown, vsaintbb@sbcglobal.net, 310-753-0878; or Darlene Adonis, 909-946-7465.



Herbert Hernandez Ordained

Herbert Hernandez was ordained on Sabbath, December 10, 2011, in the Alhambra Church. Born in San Salvador, El Salvador, Hernandez came to the U. S. in 1989, and became an active teen member of the Central Spanish Church. While in high school, Hernandez recalled, “God put in my heart the desire to serve as a minister.”

Also when attending high school, Hernandez was chosen to study Theology in Montemorelos University, Mexico. With the help of his parents and local church members, he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Theology in 2000. In 2002, he graduated with a Master’s Degree in Family Relations.

He joined the pastoral team at



Herbert, Herbert Jr. and Angelica Hernandez

Hollywood Spanish Church in 2003, under the leadership of Elder Luis Peña. In 2005, he married Angelica Arce, a nutritionist. Two years later, they welcomed their first child, Herbert Jr. Their daughter Hadassah was born into the family early in 2012. In 2009, he became the youth pastor at West

Hollywood Spanish Church and Spanish American Church. Since 2010, he has been serving as pastor of the East LA Bilingual and La Puente Spanish churches.

“My faith is placed squarely in *‘Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us;’* Hernandez affirmed. “I ask God that His Holy Spirit may continue to work in me and my family so that we can be a beacon of light through which His love, kindness and power can be shown.”

CERRITOS HEALTH TEAM

Serve Neighbors and Central Americans

By Betty Cooney

In the last several years, the Bethesda Adventist volunteer clinic in the Cerritos Korean Church in Norwalk has been actively serving health and church needs in their church area and in Central America.

In 2010, the Bethesda medical mission team traveled to Chincha, Peru, epicenter of 2007 Peru earthquake, where they treated 3,500 patients and built and dedicated the San Ysidro and Maligraso churches.

In 2011, the Bethesda team went to Pucallpa, the easternmost point in Peru. "Our volunteer team of 32 health professionals spent 12 days there, treating 5,300 patients in five long days," said Leo Kim, who coordinates Bethesda Adventist medical and construction missions. "We also built and dedicated the Santa Rosa Church there."

In 2012 the Bethesda Adventist team is focusing on Honduras, which has high rates of unemployment, illiteracy, and poverty; only 10% of the population is Adventist.

The team plans a permanent clinic there to serve people and build a base for long-term mission to the surrounding countries of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, as



"I got involved with Bethesda, said Young Wu Park MD, medical director of the Bethesda Adventist Clinic (shown with patients in Chincha), "because I saw some of the same problems in Korea that we find in L. A. and other countries, and I want to help."

well as Honduras.

The Bethesda Adventist Foundation is partnering with the Center for Adventist Education (CEA) in Honduras, which includes a full elementary and high school curriculum, with 500 total enrollment. CEA will provide land, permits and construction volunteers

to help Bethesda build and operate a Bethesda Clinic there, and train local people during the next five years to take over. They will open five curriculums in CEA as well as complete the one-day Andes Church and also the Choloma Church.

"These projects are not the projects of the Cerritos Church," Kim pointed out. "We are a small church of 130 members, with a big heart and many determined, dedicated members." Kim, a former

building inspector, and his wife Soon Lim, an acupuncturist, share their talents in the various mission projects. "This is about you and me, Adventists, doing something about the needs that we see."

June 23 – July 4, Bethesda Adventist volunteers will return to Honduras to work on the Pena Blanca Medical Mission on the CEA campus. The collaborative effort will involve 11 medical and dental

professionals and a dozen instructors for five classes in language, music and vocational arts. A construction mission for the churches and clinic there will include 35 volunteers. A musical service mission will involve the mission team and local Adventist churches in developing a marching band that will serve to keep people in the area aware of the projects. For details or to participate in any aspect of the Bethesda Adventist Mission trip, please call Leo Kim, 818-912-1521.

Jae Kim, a medical technician, is a second Bethesda director. "I wanted to help uninsured church neighbors," he said of the church clinic. "Then I started getting interested in other countries and helping people there. When I found that we could get medicines to provide the people at cost—about 20% of what they would normally have to pay— it gave me a lot of satisfaction to help people in Peru and other countries in this way. I organized the lab and do a lot of lab tests, too."

*This is about
you and me,
Adventists, doing
something about
the needs tht we see*



James G. Lee, Jr.
Vice President
Evangelism Director

EVANGELISM



Antelope Valley Cluster Planning 2012 Evangelism

Pastors in the Antelope Valley area are working on plans for a reaping series of up to 10 days, to be held in the Lancaster area in August or September. The evangelist will be Bill Santos, the speaker for It Is Written Canada, who presented a full evangelistic series in Lancaster in 2009. The cross-regional outreach will involve churches in the West, Greater Los Angeles and Hispanic regions.



Richard Roetbler

Anthony Kelly, GLAR director. Preparation for the baptisms was initiated at the Black Ministerial Fellowship Revival at the beginning of February, with a call for pastors to begin preparing for the April reaping.



Anthony J. Kelly, GLAR
director

Plans are underway for a dynamic, Spirit-led evangelistic series to be conducted in early 2013 in the Los Angeles area by Carlton Byrd, speaker/director, the *Breath of Life* television ministry.

L. A. Metro Re:Connecting Training Planned

On Friday night, March 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the White Memorial Church gymnasium, Elder Paul Richardson, North American Division *Re:Connect* director, will meet with graduates of the 2011 *Re:Connect* Seminar to:

- Receive reports on how the *Re:Connect* principles have worked in their local congregation
- To give further coaching on *Re:Connect* principles

A personal invitation will be sent to all former participants inviting them to this reporting session.

Mar. 24 – 25–Second Re:Connect Training Session will be held for members and leaders to share principles of reaching out to those who no longer worship with us. Richardson will lead us in examining the many factors related to members becoming disconnected from our churches. Issues related to church friendliness, worship styles, the ability to deal with changes in our society and many more issues will be discussed. We are encouraging anyone from our churches who did not attend the training sessions held in Sept., 2011 and who would like to be a part of this type of evangelism to plan to attend this seminar. It will be held Sabbath, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sun., 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the White Memorial Church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 818-546-8437. Lunch will be served on both days; \$10/per meal; \$20 total. Please make check payable to Re:Connect Training, Southern California Conference, and mail by March 12 to P O Box 969, Glendale 91209.



Gerard Kiemenny

Asian Pacific

Elder Mark Lastimoso, associate pastor of the Glendale Filipino Church, will conduct *Proclaiming This Hope*, an evangelistic seminar March 27 - April 7 nightly at 7 p.m. except Monday, at the church.

Sang K. Lee MD will conduct a series at the Los Angeles Central Korean Church May 7 – 12. The church is located at 1666 Michigan Ave.



Luis Peña, Hispanic
Region director

Hispanic Region plans region-wide evangelism

On March 10, a lay training class will be held at 3:30 p.m. for leaders from the Hispanic churches at the White Memorial Church. Pastor Julio Chazarreta, evangelist in the Oregon Conference, will conduct the training, in preparation for the region's 2012 evangelism.

Despartar (Awake) 2012 is the theme for a major evangelistic reaping event that will be held April 7 – 14 in the Hispanic churches, with local pastors featured as speakers. For this concerted reaping, Hispanic churches throughout the Pacific Union also will be conducting *Despartar* series simultaneously with SCC churches. Meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. The SCC Hispanic Region will distribute about 15,000 flyers, along with a special issue of *El Centinela* magazine.

Hispanic Youth Ministry, led by Pastor Pablo Gaitan, is leading out in a year-long evangelistic plan called, *Real Life*. During February and March, Hispanic young adult pastors have been involved with Phase One, Training in Discipleship. Phase Two, "Sharing the Gospel," will involve 20 churches in small-group ministry, April through July, for young adults only.



Pablo Gaitan, HYM
Coordinator; pastor,
South Gate Spanish
and Lynwood Spanish
churches

Phase Three will conclude *Real Life* with Proclamation, a week of evangelism in 20 churches in August, followed by a major harvesting event in the Hall of Liberty at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. Mark Finley, a General Conference general vice president, will speak. Baptisms will highlight the meeting.

GLAR Convocation to Feature Evangelism

The annual GLAR Convocation (April 20, 21) is being planned to highlight evangelism, with baptisms interspersing the afternoon concert. "We are asking each church to bring at least one person prepared for baptism that Sabbath," said Pastor