

PACIFIC UNION recorder

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>> JUNE 2013



4 *Maranatha, Northern California Partner on a*
Mission Trip to Panama

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about the cover

In March, NCC administrators, Pathfinders and church members traveled to Panama to build a school and hold VBS.

PHOTO BY
BORIS SAAVEDRA

PACIFIC UNION recorder

Recorder Staff

Editor / Layout & Design

Alicia Adams — alicia@puconline.org

Publisher

Gerry Chudleigh — gerry@puconline.org

Administrative Assistants

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

Printing

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Editorial Correspondents

Arizona 480-991-6777

Phil Draper — phildraper@azconference.org

Central California 559-347-3000

Caron Oswald — coswald@cccsda.org

Hawaii 808-595-7591

Nevada-Utah 775-322-6929

Northern California 925-685-4300

Stephanie Leal — sleal@nccsda.com

Southeastern California 951-509-2200

Enno Müller — communications@seccsda.org

Southern California 818-546-8400

Betty Cooney — bcooney@sccsda.org

Adventist Health 916-781-4756

Ruthie.Montgomery@ah.org

La Sierra University 951-785-2000

Larry Becker — lbecker@lasierra.edu

Loma Linda 909-558-4526

Dustin Jones — djones@llu.edu

Pacific Union College 707-965-6303

Haley Wesley — hwesley@puc.edu

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God's Truth is Our Truth

Perhaps one of the greatest discussions on truth took place between Jesus and Pilate. The Roman governor had the opportunity to free Jesus, but did not, conceding to the chant of the crowd that fateful Friday to "crucify him, crucify him."

In the midst of his investigation of this righteous Rabbi, Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all." (John 18:37-38, NKJV).

In this encounter with Pilate, Jesus acknowledged his status as universal king, though his kingdom was not then or now an earthly kingdom. On this fact, the entire event is focused. He boldly asserted that He came into the world to testify and confirm truth.

Pilate's response, "What is truth?" may indicate that during his lifetime, he had seriously sought truth. While Pilate didn't wait for an answer to that last question, the question remains for us in the 21st century, "What is truth?" Jesus also described himself as "the Truth" that leads to the Father (John 14:6).

One could determine that all truth centers on Jesus and is revealed in His rabbinic teaching. Many Christians would say that no objective truth exists without Jesus, or that reality is shaped by a worldview that is Christ-centered. Jesus, through His life and teachings, informs His disciples in all ages how to live. He is the final authority of faith and life, because He *is* truth.

This is a challenging reality for those who believe, as by it, self is removed from the controlling position of our lives, and Christ, through His teachings and the ever-present Holy Spirit, is enthroned in us, taking command, as we yield to His influence. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would lead believers into all truth (John 14:17). To live as Jesus lives becomes the one, all-consuming goal. He is the Master who has pre-decided how His disciples will live.

Perhaps you remember the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) fad that moved through many evangelical Christian groups in the 1990s. It originated in Charles Sheldon's 1896 book, *In His Steps*, which was subtitled "What Would Jesus Do?" WWJD? found its way to T-shirts, bumper stickers, wristbands and bracelets, and other paraphernalia. An excellent

question, it was designed to bring Jesus' principles into active consideration when making decisions and responding to actions of others. For some, it was more than a fad, but a real reminder of Jesus and what He stands for as revealed in the Gospels of the New Testament.

We seek Jesus as truth, because truth matters. It is important to know what the Creator God expects of us, not as a quest to merely acquire knowledge or achieve great things, but in a position of a learner, learning daily how to follow Jesus.

Truth as it is in Jesus trumps our individual experience and feelings.

There are many voices today, both inside and outside the Adventist church, teaching alternate sources of truth. But if we accept the Bible as the primary textbook for life, the notion that we can guide ourselves by our experiences or feelings is debunked. It is "worldly wisdom," no matter how it's disguised and regardless who presents it.

Truth, biblical truth, is the final authority, not my limited experience, or our combined experience. As such, it is essential to know the Bible and to rightly understand its contextual framework and apply it to our lives.

There are many voices today, both inside and outside the Adventist church, teaching alternate

sources of truth. Some say that feelings are a safe guide for life's journey. Others insist that experience is a dependable director through life. But if we accept the Bible as the primary textbook for life, the notion that we can guide ourselves by our experiences or feelings is debunked. It is "worldly wisdom," no matter how it's disguised and regardless who presents it.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness'; and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile'" (1 Corinthians 3:19, 20, NKJV).

"The Word of God is to be our guide. About the truths that this Word contains there is no guesswork. Let us not leave this unerring guide in order to seek for something new and strange. . . . There are many such doctrines that have not for their foundation, 'It is written.' They are but human suppositions" (Ellen White, *That I May Know Him*, p. 210).

Scripture doesn't record Jesus answering Pilate's question, "What is truth?" But for those of us who read the complete gospel story and are confronted by the question in this modern era, we do have an answer. Jesus and His teachings are the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help us God!



Ricardo Graham

Maranatha and the Northern California Conference Partner on a Mission Trip to Panama

A year ago, a group of Joel Wagness's friends went on a Maranatha Volunteers International mission trip to Nicaragua. When they returned, Wagness heard their stories and felt a wave of regret. He couldn't help but think that he should have gone, too. So when he heard about the Northern California Conference mission trip to Panama this year, he didn't want to miss out. To be precise, he felt God didn't want him to miss out.

"God was kind of calling me," said Wagness, a student at Sacramento Adventist Academy. "I feel like he was nudging me along [saying], 'I want you to experience more. You need this.'"

He hesitated at first, uncertain. Then, Wagness dove in and began fundraising as quickly as he could. He offered to do chores for church members, wrote sponsorship letters to family and friends, and even carried a jar with him from place to place, asking for mission trip donations.

Eventually Wagness had enough money for the project, and on March 20, he joined 60 other volunteers from all over Northern California in Panama. For the next 10 days, they threw mud and laid bricks to continue work that had

already begun on the very first Adventist school in Santiago. Some of the volunteers conducted an outdoor Vacation Bible School for about 65 local children, complete with songs, stories, crafts and skits.

When all stages of building are complete, the new school will serve hundreds of elementary and junior high students. Church leaders in Panama expect that much of the enrollment will not come from Adventist families, but from parents seeking private, value-based education for their children. "We are pleased because we have found that in the society around us, Adventist education is perceived in a very, very good light. They consider our schools today to be doing the work that should be done in the education field: teaching values and spirituality," said Braulio Concepcion, president of the West Panama Conference.

History has shown that Adventist schools are an effective way to share the gospel in Panama; about 10 years ago, Maranatha built six schools there, and church membership has increased most in areas surrounding those schools.

But as with every mission trip, the volunteers weren't just building a school. Mission trips



Chico church member Katie Bue (left) works with Jennifer Pappas, teacher at El Dorado Adventist School.



Pittsburg church member Mary Johnson served as a translator for the Vacation Bible School programs, which were held outdoors for about 65 children.



NCC volunteers of all ages worked on the Maranatha project.

have a way of building people — transforming lives — in a way that would be difficult from the comforts of home. “I find that a mission trip reminds me of the passion that we have as a church to spread the gospel. And I see — through an experience like this — we’re preparing something that is going to be used for generations to come,” said NCC President Jim Pedersen, who went on the mission trip. “It is infrastructure that people can use to spread the message of Jesus. And even though we’re just simply laying blocks, we’re making a difference for the kingdom of God for the long term.”

This infrastructure expands to include the volunteers themselves. In this case, the project inspired a diverse group of people from Northern California to collaborate on a cause greater than their individual churches and schools and themselves. “For the same reason it’s nice to connect with another culture, it’s nice to connect with other kids from your conference that you may not know,” said Craig Heinrich, Leoni Meadows executive director. He served as construction leader on the project. “You start as a bunch of individuals, and by the end of the time, you’re a team.”

BORIS SAAVEDRA



Volunteers move concrete blocks.

For volunteer Terry Parsons, the camaraderie between volunteers goes beyond the typical team. “They’re my family now and always will be. Because we’ve been through hardships together,” said Parsons, who is from Paradise. “And my family is growing from one mission trip to the next. I love it.”



Workers wear the on-site “uniform”: hard hats and neck kerchiefs.

Parsons also commented on the unique experience of working with several of the conference leaders who went on the mission trip. “You see their names in a magazine, you hear their names here and there, but now you’re working side by side. You get to hear their side of their spiritual life, and it builds you up.”

Sharing spiritual walks — from triumphs to struggles — was an important part of the mission trip. Each night, the group gathered to worship together. And on Friday night, they had a special communion. However, it’s not structured worship programs that end up having the biggest influence on the volunteers. Rather, it’s the act of service itself. “It’s amazing to see how the lives of people of all ages are impacted through service,” said NCC youth director Eddie Heinrich, the trip’s project leader.

From backbreaking construction to preparing crafts for Vacation Bible School, the volunteers worked long days to impact a community. “I’ve definitely learned hard work, because this is hard work!” said Brianna Cassidy, a senior at Paradise Adventist Academy. “I’ve definitely learned how people live on the other side of the world. I’ve definitely learned that God can use you to help people. He can use you in 10 days;

BORIS SAAVEDRA



Jack and Neoma Wisdom, Paradise church members, lay block for the new school.



Sacramento Adventist Academy student Megan Bush helps kids make a craft during Vacation Bible School.

MICHAEL BYLARD



Project construction leader Craig Heinrich speaks to volunteers on the first day at the building site.

He can use you in five days if you’re willing to let Him. He will use you. And that’s probably the most powerful thing.”

As for Wagness, there won’t be any regrets this time. He relished every moment of his first mission trip — even those 6 a.m. wake-up calls and the blistering days in the sun. When asked why — what makes the fundraising, the hard work worthwhile — Wagness furrowed his brows. He considered the question for a few seconds, then looked up. “I think the simplest answer would be because it matters. Because there’s a purpose for what we do here.”

Julie Z. Lee

In alphabetical order in each section by last name

Pepperwood Pavilion



Adult II



Campamento Hispano de Redwood



Cooking School



Seminars



REDWOOD CAMP MEETING

THEME: "HE'S ON HIS WAY" **JULY 18-27, 2013**

Pepperwood Pavilion

Jim Ayer, Vice President for Advancement, Adventist World Radio • *Terry Butler*, Co-investigator, Adventist Health Study-2 • *Dan Jackson*, President, North American Division • *Tim Jones*, Evangelist, Amazing Facts • *John Lomacang*, Host, "A Sharper Focus" on 3ABN • *Lonnie Melashenko*, Revivalist, Columbia Union Conference • *Jim Pedersen*, President, Northern California Conference

Adult II

Herb Montgomery, Director/Author/Speaker, Renewed Heart Ministries • *Rudolph Peters*, Pastor, Richmond Beacon Light • *Jim Redfield*, Pastor, Colfax/Penn Valley District • *Gary Venden*, Pastor, Glendale (Arizona)

Campamento Hispano de Redwood

Rodolfo Paredes, Lay Pastor, Marysville Spanish Group

Cooking School

Neva Brackett, Cookbook Author/Speaker, Live Long, Live Better Seminars

Seminars

Jim Brackett, Cookbook Author/Speaker, Live Long, Live Better Seminars • *Del Dunavant*, Director of Church Growth/Evangelism, Northern California Conference • *Tyler Long*, Associate Speaker/Evangelism Coordinator, Amazing Facts • *Reuben Lorenson*, Associate Professor of Health Science Emeritus, Canadian University College • *Karen Nicola*, Author/Speaker/Teacher • *Maureen O'Kane*, Lay Bible/Science Presenter • *Jennifer Jill Schwirzer*, Counselor/Musician, Michael Ministries

Plan now to attend this year's event.

Nestled in a campground in Northern California near Fortuna is one of the most beautiful camp meeting locations ever found. Beneath the giant Redwood trees, come to hear inspirational sermons and educational seminars. There will also be musical concerts, including special musical presentations by **The Coyote Bandits** and **Jennifer Jill Schwirzer**.



For more details about the speakers/presenters and to download a registration form, visit www.ncc.adventist.org/redwoodcamp.



2437 Dyerville Loop Road, Redcrest, California 95569

(707) 946-2452 | E-mail: redwoodreg@ncc.adventist.org

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“I had been shown that San Francisco and Oakland were missionary fields and ever would be.”

Ellen White
Testimonies Vol. 4, p. 284.3



BAY AREA
FOR JESUS

Bridges

June 22, 2013

RALLY

The **Central California** and **Northern California** Conferences are partnering together to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in San Francisco, Oakland and the surrounding Bay Area. On June 22, two events are planned for the members of each conference.

Don't miss this opportunity to come together to pray, to be inspired and to hear about upcoming plans for this large-scale outreach to these cities.

Central California Conference

9:20 a.m. • Sabbath School & Worship Service (Lunch will be provided)

San Francisco Central
Seventh-day Adventist Church
2889 California Street, San Francisco

Northern California Conference

**4:00 p.m. • Hour of Prayer
5:00 p.m. • East-Bay Rally**

Grand Advent Seventh-day Adventist Church
278 Grand Avenue, Oakland

“What would happen if the will of God is done in Oakland, as it is in heaven? ... How about in San Francisco? And what would it take on our part, creatively and intentionally, to answer Christ's prayer? My dream is that this program is indeed that answer.”

Jonathan Henderson, Pastor
Grand Advent Church

Parking and other information can be found at ccc.adventist.org or www.ncc.adventist.org/bridges

“A lot of people are ready and willing to study the Word of God. We need people who will really focus on the work here.”

Roldan Abello, Associate Pastor • San Francisco Central Church



Valley View Jr. Academy Celebrates 100 Years



The Valley View Adventist School was built in 1938. According to architectural standards, the school is considered a historical building. As such, the façade of the 80-year-old structure must remain in the same style.

Adventist education often excites passionate discussions. The second largest world-wide school system has a primary purpose — to educate children to be champions for Jesus in this world and to live forever with Him in the next.

Since the first Adventist congregation began in Arroyo Grande, Calif., its members have been passionate about training their children to live for Jesus. The first church building, which housed an elementary school, opened just in time for the 1911-1912 school year.

Valley View Jr. Academy in Arroyo Grande, celebrated its 100-year anniversary on April 5-7, 2013. More than 600 guests, including 300 alumni, attended the weekend event held at the Clark Center for Performing Arts. "It was more than we thought," says Cheryl Vines, celebration coordinator. "It was a God thing!"

Friday night's guest speaker was alumnus Atonte Myers, member of the Templeton Hills constituent church. Alumnus Dr. Scott Nelson taught Sabbath school, and Chris Blake, former

English teacher, spoke for worship. An afternoon concert by Monterey Bay Academy's Oceanaires and Wood Winds, a Saturday night mixer where alumni and friends shared memories, and a Sunday morning golf tournament completed the celebration.

Guests gave more than \$70,000 to the school's building fund. The 80-year-old

schoolhouse needs to be completely renovated. According to architectural standards, the school is considered a historical building. As such, the façade of the 80-year-old structure must remain in the same style. With nearly \$900,000 of the \$1.3 million goal raised, phase one will begin with ground breaking on June 10, 2013. Maranatha volunteers arrive July 23 to frame the classrooms. Skilled church members are donating their time for plumbing and other specialties. The renovation will be a two-year project.

Pioneers' Passion for Education

The Arroyo Grande township was established in 1862, with 300 square miles of territory. Building a schoolhouse and blacksmith shop granted town status in 1867. The rich soil attracted farmers and families and, by the 1870s, new businesses sprung up like new crops. The arrival of the Pacific Coast Railway and the Pismo Wharf in 1881 brought Arroyo Grande to a place of considerable importance.

Three students from Healdsburg College (now Pacific Union College) came to town in the summer of 1886 to hold their first evangelistic meetings. Though the early settlers had little interest in religion, a few people came to the rented storefront to hear what these preachers had to say.

Dr. Edwin Paulding, the town's only doctor, became the first Seventh-day Adventist in



Members of the Allen Street Gang, named for the address of the first Adventist church and school, celebrate with friends. Pictured left to right are: Harold Rowe, George Juler, John Robison, and Leta Jane and Ken Juler. The oldest one of the group is 91. "We had such a great time," said John Robison. "We look forward to the next one."

town. Clara, his new wife and a Presbyterian, refused to attend and never agreed with his new religious beliefs. Expecting an imminent end of the world, Paulding had little interest in building wealth. Instead, he and two friends bought land for a church near the corner of Short and Allen Street.

Camp meetings continued to grow the congregation. John and Elfrida Becket, successful land owners, joined the Adventist church in 1912. After the tragic death of their son in 1928, the Becketts deeded land to the Adventist church for a school. Built in 1938, in their son's memory, it sits on a hilltop with a view of the ocean and valley hillsides.

Passion of Today's Pioneers

A community couple gave a surprise gift of \$150,000 to renovate the 80-year-old building. Their children attend VVJA because their parents believe the school's education is superior. But the building was in desperate need of renovation.

The school board agreed. They hired Tony Reyes in September 2011 as the school's director of development to organize and lead a \$1.3 million fundraising campaign.

Peter Nelson, a dentist and member of the San Luis Obispo constituent church, agreed to chair the capital campaign committee. "I love this school," Nelson says. "My kids got a great education here. I feel like I can contribute to upholding and sustaining Christian education for our church and community."

Phillip Ermshar, school principal for six years, describes the current facility as an enormous challenge. "Fix one problem and something else happens," he says. "Because of termites, new doors are impossible to hang." He is looking forward to a facility to house a superior education.

Reyes thought the campaign was off to a good start until he discovered the school's 100-year anniversary was during the 2011-2012 school year — his first year at the job. Planning a centennial event was overwhelming.

The Centennial Celebration

Reyes called Cheryl Vines. She grew up in the area, attended the church school and knew a lot of people. She agreed to serve as secretary of the volunteer centennial committee and spearhead the 100-year celebration.

There was no budget, but there were plenty of things to do: finding 100 years of alumni



Kindergarten and first-graders are in training to be God's champions in this world. Friends and nice teachers are their favorite things at school. Current enrollment is 68 students; 24 percent are non-Adventist.



Alumni take time to enjoy a wall of pictures from the last 100 years. More than 600 people, including 300 alumni, attended the Centennial Celebration weekend April 5-7 in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

records, choosing a date, and contracting on a venue. "The Lord will provide" was our motto," Vines says.

Several of the seven constituent churches volunteered to provide Sabbath lunch. Researching 100 years of alumni records was challenging. Often, the early years' information did not exist.

As the database began to fill with alumni, former staff, church members, and names by word of mouth, the numbers were amazing. "You usually don't see this kind of turnout for elementary schools," Reyes says. The response from former and current students, staff, pastors, parents and church members is evidence of their passion for Christian education.

"I was humbled at the solemnity of the hour. It represents the tireless work of countless parents, teachers, church members and all of the resources prioritized for these precious little ones for one purpose — to prepare them for the kingdom. I was honored to be among them," says Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference.

"[Adventist education] really gives us a good foundation for life," Vines says. "It plants those seeds anywhere."

Caron Oswald

Mayra Thompson Hired as New CCC Treasurer

Mayra Butcher Thompson always wanted to be a teacher — math or physics. She would tell her sister, “I’m too smart to be an accountant” — and now she is one. At that time, she had an associate’s degree in science and planned to become a math/physics teacher.

Thompson became the new treasurer of the Central California Conference on April 1. She follows Nelson Tabingo, who served as treasurer for 15 years and recently retired. Lucille Tabingo, an auditor, retired with her husband.

Thompson has a bachelor’s degree in business and a master’s in business administration, both from California State University, Fresno. A magna cum laude graduate and a member of several honor societies, she is currently working on her Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

She has served the conference as an auditor since 2002 while also lending her experience to

Fresno Adventist Academy as business manager for the past two years, and Monterey Bay Academy as vice president of finance from August 2010 to February 2012.

“My personal prayer has been, ‘Lord, please surround me with the right people to accomplish Your will for this conference,’” says CCC President Ramiro Cano. “God has responded several times over, and now, once again, the Lord has chosen a very capable and well-trying servant. Central is more strongly equipped to realize heaven’s plan with Mayra at the helm of God’s financial resources.”

The Journey

Born in Panama City, Panama, Thompson grew up in a blended family. English was the language at home, Spanish the language at school. Her mom was a Catholic, Dad was a Protestant.

One day, an Adventist lady knocked on the

door and asked Thompson’s mom if she would like to study the Bible. Weekly Bible studies began. When the studies ended, Mom was convinced that church school was the best environment for her children. When she was 8 years old, Thompson decided to be baptized.

At 19, she married a young man she had known since primary Sabbath school. Later, a daughter and son joined the family. Thompson had to go to work.

She got a job as a receptionist. One day, her boss told her she wasn’t a good secretary and gave her an accounting project.

He eventually sent her to school for accounting. The rest is history.

When political unrest began in Panama, Thompson’s mother-in-law brought the family to California. Sadly, after 15 years, Thompson’s marriage ended.

Redirected

When her children graduated from FAA and left for college, she went back to school. She had been working on her CPA license. Challenged by the length of time to complete her CPA, she earned an MBA instead.

Weyerhaeuser called with a job offer. “My dream job! I have arrived,” Thompson says. She was finance and administrative manager. A few months later, the company was downsizing and offered her a job in a new location. She couldn’t move because she had not completed her degree.

At church, she learned about a job opening at the conference office for accounts payable and auditing. “I am not good enough to work for the conference,” she believed.

In spite of her lack of confidence, she began working for the conference in 2002. As an auditor, she worked with local church treasurers. “My first year I wanted to quit,” she says. “It broke my heart to see the needs.”

A church elder told her, “This is the Lord’s work. God wants you to be there.”

Back to the Beginning

“Auditing is a waste of time if the treasurers don’t know what we are auditing. Tech support and training are the most important things,” Thompson says. She has trained more than 120 treasurers. A teacher at heart, she trained a lady who had never turned on a computer. “When I call her now, she can do whatever I ask.”

She educated the treasurers in Jewel (the preferred accounting software), conference policies and IRS regulations. She told her treasurers that she would be available any time to help. One newly trained woman said, “Now I know my ministry.”



Mayra Butcher Thompson

Caron Oswald

Hand 'N Hand Training Events Held on Maui and the Big Island

Hand 'N Hand, Hawaii Conference's annual weekend training for leaders of children and youth, has for five years taken place on the Island of Oahu. While most of the Hawaii Conference membership is located on Oahu, a large number of leaders serve on five neighboring islands.

Leaders on one of those sister islands requested that the conference hold the next Hand 'N Hand on Maui. That request was granted and, in addition, was extended to the Big Island. These regional events took place on back-to-back weekends in February: 15-17 (Maui) and 22-24 (Big Island).

Speakers Eldon Ramirez, then Central California Conference youth director, and James Black, North American Division youth director, kicked off the weekends with enthusiasm and inspiration in general sessions at each venue.

Sabbath morning on Maui, guest speakers Candy DeVore, editor of *Kid's Ministry Ideas* magazine and director of Kids Ministry Network for Review and Herald Publishing, along with Ramirez and Black, visited area churches to speak for worship services. Sean Ramos, Kory Char and Edgar Ines provided music throughout the weekend.

"This was one great event," said Pastor Juan Rivera of the Kahului church. "People attended who I never thought would. The outcome was very promising, and the enthusiasm was contagious. The folk left with a clear vision on the matter of children and youth ministries shared by well-prepared presenters."

On the Big Island, Roland Graham, principal of Hawaiian Mission Academy, joined DeVore and Black to present worship services in area churches. HMA students J.J. Reynolds, Riley Kim, Reignette Antonio, Alex Avendano, and Sharmaine Domingo provided music, skits and general help. Break-out sessions and vespers followed the fellowship meal, and many attended a social event for the youth that evening in Hilo. Sunday's break-out sessions began early with workshops focused on the different age groups.

Each Sunday afternoon, attendees learned about a program called "Go Fish," which teaches children and youth how to evangelize other children and youth.

"While we have done this kind of event numerous times, wide based support from the pastors, teachers, parents and lay leaders was unprecedented," said Pastor Jesse Seibel, Hawaii Conference youth director. "We often focus our training on people in positions. This time was different. Whole churches were growing

together. That is truly what Hand 'N Hand is about."

At the end of each weekend, attendees received gifts donated by Review & Herald, Pacific Press, AdventSource and ADRA.

Feryl Harris



Hawaiian Mission Academy students leave their mark during "Go Fish," an interactive child evangelism training program.



Pastor Eldon Ramirez challenges leaders on Maui to a higher level of ministry.

Bishop Adventist Christian School Puts the Fun in Fundraising

Nestled between the White Mountains and the Sierra Nevada Mountains at an elevation of 4,000 feet is the town of Bishop, Calif. This is the picturesque home of the Bishop Adventist Christian School and its annual ice cream social fundraiser.

As cars crept along Home Street on the evening of April 25, drivers saw an unusual number of cars parked along the road near Bishop Adventist Christian School. Its parking lot was completely full. Families walked up the street toward the school. Children ran ahead, urging the adults to hurry.

Smiling students sold tickets for ice cream, face painting, a football toss, and two bounce houses. Others sold freshly shelled walnuts. Rainbow Preschool children serenaded visitors with a rousing collection of religious songs and guitar music. Inside the gym, students sold home baked goodies and performed more music. Attendees also participated in a silent auction with all types of gift baskets, ranging from toys to fitness classes to private music lessons and more. The main attraction was an all-you-can-eat buffet, including fruit salads, cookies, cupcakes, ice cream sundaes and root beer floats.

To wrap up the fundraising event, a professional auctioneer took the stage to garner bids on a new laptop, two brand new bikes, horse back riding lessons, and other big ticket items. Everyone laughed as a bidding war broke out over a small child's chair and footstool — the seventh-grader who donated the chair was speechless.

The school raised approximately \$9,000 during this year's fundraiser. Bishop Adventist Christian School has 31 students in grades one through eight; only four of them are Adventist.

Andrea Jackson

PHOTOS BY JEFF JACKSON



Pastor Jerry Waggoner and a fifth-grader pose with their ice cream mustaches.



The event has an old-time, small town feel, with a football toss, bounce houses, walnuts and ice cream.



Students from the Rainbow Preschool and the first- through third-grade classes greet people by singing religious songs.



Girls from grades four through eight perform while guests enjoy ice cream and baked goods, and bid on the silent auction items.

Sunset Congregation Celebrates Church Status

It was evident for those coming to church in Sunset, Utah, on April 20, that this wasn't going to be an ordinary Sabbath. Faces were glowing with big smiles, and everybody was wearing their best suits and dresses. The waiting was over. Finally, members from the Sunset Spanish church were ready to receive their official "church" status, belonging to the Nevada-Utah Conference.

A slide show, running through entire program, revealed how the small group of passionate church members was growing, moving from one location to another. Many "amens" resounded as special music raised words of praise and worship to God. Many guests joined the celebration. Larry Unterseher, president of the Nevada-Utah Conference, presented an uplifting message to the congregation.

During the program, the three founders of the church came to the stage to receive a plaque in recognition of their dedicated labor and faithfulness. Pastor Arturo Jeronimo also received a plaque from Unterseher commemorating the occasion.

Nevada-Utah Conference Hispanic coordinator Sergio Romero called every member of the congregation to the front. They carried candles as a symbol of their unity in Christ and a reminder to let their light shine in the community.

Then Unterseher made a call to those remaining in their seats. The appeal was clear, "If you want to join this group of dedicated church members, come to the front and receive a candle." More than a dozen people came to the stage, making a decision to belong to the new Sunset Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Unterseher offered a prayer of dedication, the final touch to an emotional ceremony.

"This is like a dream," said one church member. "We prayed about this moment for so long. God is so good."

"Now we need to fill this place and plant another church somewhere else," said another.

Sergio Romero



Pictured from left to right: Arturo Jeronimo, pastor; Guadalupe Diaz and Mauricio Medina, church pioneers; Daniel Rodriguez, head elder; Larry Unterseher, Nevada-Utah Conference president; and, Sergio Romero, Nevada-Utah Hispanic coordinator.



The Sunset Hispanic church congregation anticipates the presentation of the plaque representing their membership in the sisterhood of the churches of the Nevada-Utah Conference.



Pastor Arturo Jeronimo receives the commemorative plaque from Larry Unterseher, Nevada-Utah Conference president.

Study Attributes Smoking Cessation During Pregnancy to Significant Prevention of Low Birth Weight and Pre-Term Infants

Researchers at Loma Linda University Health have conducted a study that documents the impact of mothers who smoke during pregnancy on adverse birth outcomes in San Bernardino County. "Estimating the Impact of Smoking Cessation During Pregnancy: The San Bernardino County Experience" has been published in the online edition of the *Journal of Community Health*.

The analysis of all births in the county during 2007-2008 indicated that for every 35 women who quit smoking during pregnancy, one case of low birth weight or pre-term birth was prevented. The cost of 35 women enrolling in a maternal smoking cessation program was estimated to be far less than the cost of a lengthy stay in the hospital for a low birth weight or pre-term infant.

"These data immediately translate into modeling the effectiveness of existing programs and allocating limited resources to new programs for San Bernardino mothers," says lead author, Michael Batech, M.P.H., research analyst at Loma Linda University Center for Health Research.

"To our knowledge, this is the first county-wide study measuring maternal tobacco use from San Bernardino County," says Jayakaran S. Job, M.D., Dr.P.H., principal investigator on the study and the chair of the department of global health at Loma Linda University School of Public Health. "We are very proud of the work that has been done on this study and only hope that it will have a positive impact on the community and beyond."

The research team was comprised of Loma Linda University faculty and Loma Linda University Medical Center physicians who began the study in 2008 as part of the National Children's Study work being done by LLU/LLUMC to enroll

mothers and their infants in a long term follow-up study.

The authors of the study are Michael Batech; Serena Tonstad, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., professor, School of Public Health; Dr. Job; Richard Chinnock, M.D., chair of pediatrics, School of Medicine and physician-in-chief, LLU Children's Hospital; Bryan Oshiro, M.D., vice-chair of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine and director of the Perinatal Institute and maternal and fetal medicine, Children's Hospital; T. Allen Merritt, M.D., professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine; Gretchen Page, M.P.H., Southern Inland Counties Regional Perinatal Programs at LLUMC; and Pramil N. Singh, Dr.P.H., director, Center for Health Research.

The research team discovered that mothers who quit smoking during the pregnancy had reduced risks for low birth weight and preterm outcomes compared to those who continued to smoke during pregnancy. There is also a significantly lower risk of pre-term birth and low birth weight in mothers who had never smoked.

The study also incorporated variables such as age, race and years of education, which also had an impact on birth outcomes related to smoking.

"We hope that these findings will not only influence the community and contribute to better birth outcomes," says Page, "but demonstrate the need for more education on smoking and pregnancy as well as smoking cessation programs for expectant mothers."

The project, which was funded by the National Institute of Child and Human Development, was inspired by the fact that as the largest county in the contiguous United States, San Bernardino County has experienced one of the highest rates of infant mortality, low birth weight, and pre-term birth in California since 2009. The county also ranks among the lowest in California based on indicators of good health according to an analysis done by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Briana Pastorino



The research team, from left to right, includes Gretchen Page, T. Allen Merritt, Pramil Singh, Richard Chinnock, Jayakaran S. Job, Michael Batech, and Bryan Oshiro. (Serena Tonstad not shown.)

La Sierra Celebrates 50th Year of Study Abroad Program

Fifty years ago, an overseas study program launched at La Sierra University when a group of 25 daring students crossed the country and an ocean to learn the French language in France.

First called La Sierra College Overseas, the Adventist Colleges Abroad program is now based in Washington, D.C., and has grown since its inception in 1962 to involve Adventist college and university students throughout North America. Courses are offered in 10 languages in 13 countries. All told, about 20,000 students from around the continent have participated in ACA over the years.

Members of that first adventurous student group were recently honored for their pioneering efforts. La Sierra's alumni weekend, held April 19-21, celebrated the Adventist Colleges Abroad program and recognized La Sierra alums and LSC Overseas participants Tom Smith, class of 1963, and lone Brunt, attended 1964. "Don't we owe a bit of gratitude to these people who were willing to break new ground?" said La Sierra University President Randal Wisbey during a Friday evening banquet.

Smith was also recognized with an Honored Alumnus Award for his role in developing the ACA program and leading its expansion after it moved to the North American Division in 1970.

He later worked at La Sierra as registrar and director of enrollment services.

In 1962, the initial group of 22 La Sierra students, including Smith and Brunt, and three others from Pacific Union College faced an arduous journey to reach their home for the next nine months — an Adventist college, Collonges-sous-

Salève, France, in the mountainside village of Salève overlooking Geneva, Switzerland. Before they could sail to France from New York City, they first had to traverse the United States, a harrowing adventure in its own right.

Once in France, the group, led by faculty sponsor and music professor John T. Hamilton and his wife, Arlene, enjoyed a cornucopia of cultural experiences while enduring record cold and snow. They traveled the European continent during school breaks and met Princess Grace in Monaco, visited the famed Louvre museum in Paris and attended a Christmas Eve performance of "Silent Night" in Austria's Franz Gruber chapel named for the composer of the much-loved Christmas carol. Students also received an education in manual labor. They cleaned animal stalls in the college dairy barn, herded cows and washed dishes. (A full account of the first ACA group and an historical background of the program is

available in the Spring 2012 edition of La Sierra University Magazine.)

On April 20 during alumni weekend, La Sierra held a reunion for Adventist Colleges Abroad alums with special guest Odette Ferreira, the ACA director for the North American Division. La Sierra ACA students recited Scripture in several languages, and former ACA students described the impact of the program on their lives.

"I look back at my time with ACA as one of the best times of my life," said Jonathan Davidson, a 2012 business graduate and former ACA participant who took Spanish language classes in Sagunto, Spain, in fall quarter 2011. "I made lifelong friendships and was inspired by great professors."

Smith recounted with humor the struggles he and other students faced in taking that first trip to study overseas and the strength they found in each other and in God. "You're never by yourself. You're always part of a group," said Smith to the alumni audience. "And the biggest part of the group is up there," he said, pointing skyward.

Between the start of the school year last fall and this spring, a total of 46 La Sierra University students have studied abroad or are currently doing so in Spain, Japan, Italy, Argentina, France and Brazil.



Odette Ferreira, Adventist Colleges Abroad director for North America, and Tom Smith, one of the very first ACA students from La Sierra, share their memories during La Sierra University's recent homecoming weekend. Ferreira paid tribute to La Sierra for its innovation in launching the study abroad program.



Tom Hamilton, whose father, John T. Hamilton, founded the study abroad program at La Sierra, shares memories of the early experiences in Europe. Hamilton spoke at the recent golden anniversary celebration for Adventist Colleges Abroad held at La Sierra.

Darla Martin Tucker



PUC students renovate a local school in Brazil with a fresh coat of paint.

PUC Student Mission Groups Build Relationships and Sabbath School Rooms

For the 60 PUC students who attended one of four mission trips this spring break, their evangelical and humanitarian work was preceded by hundreds of other Adventist students who came before them and worked in the same location. As the current students of PUC toiled in tropical heat and lay foundation at construction sites in foreign lands, they may not have known that their predecessors had laid a different type of foundation during the mission trips of previous years.

Fabio Maia, the Service and Mission Coordinator for PUC, explained that returning to familiar work sites is part of greater mission strategy for the college, one that develops stronger relationships between locals and PUC volunteers, as well as allowing for better quality work to be done on location, work that has an increased chance of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the mission population.

"We decided to continue going back to the same sites and build relationships with the communities that we are serving," Maia said. "That's our goal. We go, become friends, and then it's easy to introduce Jesus."

During just one week, four separate mission trips took place. In the South American nation of Brazil, 22 students joined Maia on a humanitarian expedition to provide health education to people along the Amazon River. While in Brazil, the volunteers lived and traveled on a riverboat in cooperation with a medical missionary school. In Costa Rica, 13 students assisted in the construction of a three-room Sabbath school facility at a Seventh-day Adventist church.

Several hundred miles northwest of Costa Rica, in the Central American country of Nicaragua, 12 PUC volunteers returned to Empalme de Boaco to renovate a medical clinic they had constructed the previous year. At the same location, students also refurbished a children's playground adjacent to the facility. Lastly, here in the United States, 19 students traveled to Page, Ariz., to the Navajo Indian Reservation as part of the Pueblo

Project where they refurbished and cleaned a church constructed by a PUC group in past years. The trips to Brazil, Navajo Nation, and Nicaragua, were all trips where PUC groups had served in previous years, and in each scenario, the previous work of students was invaluable to the continued mission work.

Maia explained that it is less glamorous and sometimes less exciting to continue to minister in the same locations, but that it's vital for successful ministry and successful humanitarian intervention.

"It would be fun to find new places, but it's not the most effective way. We're making friends this way, and we're building relationships, which are very special for our students and for their communities, too. We're there to minister to their practical needs."

"Yes, there are challenges in going back to the same place," Maia continued. "We need to always be working to create new projects and create new venues for them to work in."

However, Maia — who heads the Office of Service, Justice, and Missions at PUC — described the planning process for each site, making it clear that the groups from PUC were not in charge, per se, but were part of a cooperative, international team, and that even when continuing to return to the same spots, the work never quite finishes.

"When we go there, we're not just going to tell them what to do," he said. "We sit down with students and the communities to see what the next project should be and see how we can best support the community."

While the construction work and medical efforts directly benefit the local populations, the people of Costa Rica, Brazil, Nicaragua, and the Navajo Nation are not the only communities to benefit from these trips. In perhaps a less noticeable, yet still tangible manner, PUC's academic community benefits also. Student volunteers gained a greater understanding of international topics such as exposure to the Spanish and

Portuguese languages, tropical biology, developing world economies, and practical theology. Students on the mission trips are then able to take what they learned back into the classroom with them.

Nancy Lecourt, academic vice president, pointed to the educational relevance of international trips, such as those taken to Brazil, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, which offer "high-impact learning practices" for those in attendance.

"High impact practices are activities that research has shown to make a difference in student success in college," she explained. "They are active learning experiences where the students are so fully engaged that they learn more deeply. They allow students to take theoretical knowledge and try it out in the real world."

One of those students who participated in a mission trip over spring break was Jamie Wittwer, a biology major from Las Vegas, Nev. Among other things, Wittwer appreciated how the trip taught her to be grateful in her own life.

"Going to the Amazon actually made me really realize how good we have it here," she said. "Honestly, just living on the boat, showering in disgusting water and always feeling dirty, it just made me really thankful for the things I have here."

"It was really challenging talking to the people in Brazil," Wittwer continued, "but it was fun being able to communicate even though there was a language barrier that we had to cross. The most positive thing for me though was just helping so many people and having a lot of fun getting to know the other students that went on the trip with me."

Maia shared that the transformation he observed in the lives of the students was quite incredible. "It's great to see how the students change in just one week when they have an opportunity to go and serve a community. We're already looking forward to going back."

Martin Surridge

New SCC Education Programs Enhance Quality Leadership

The Southern California Conference Office of Education is taking new steps to ensure that every school has a quality educator at the helm. The department has initiated several new programs to ensure that its principals receive the training and recognition they deserve.

The first of these newly implemented programs focuses on showing appreciation for principals' hard work. To accomplish this, the Board of Education has implemented a special recognition program. An outstanding principal is chosen each year based on performance and dedication to Adventist education.

The recipient, chosen by a committee from the Office of Education, receives two round-trip airfare tickets to Hawaii to enjoy a week in a beautiful Waikiki time-share. Harold Crook, Ed.D., superintendent of schools, said of the award, "We really wanted a way to show that they were appreciated and that their hard work and dedication were not unnoticed."

This year the award went to Susan Vlach from South Bay Junior Academy. "Mrs. Vlach has served South Bay Jr. Academy as principal for 28 years," said Rita Henriquez-Green, Ed.D. "She is a leader with a team that loves her for her leadership and vision." The award was made possible by an anonymous donor.

Additionally, the Office of Education has implemented the new Principal Enrichment Program. Principals are in-serviced for 25 hours,

learning the ins and outs of school leadership. The aim is to inspire an administrator to take his or her school to the next level. Participants are required to attend five in-service classes that focus on individual and group activities. They must also complete at least a half-day of shadowing a mentor-principal in their daily routine. Once these and other projects are completed, principals submit pre- and post-visioning statements outlining their vision for their school. At this year's enrichment program, the 13 participants completing the entire program received an iPad Mini and a certificate of completion.

The Board of Education and Southern California Conference also voted the new Principal Retention Program, which grants an award incentive at the beginning of the school year to elementary and high school principals for their hard work and dedication of the previous year. With this program to help retain principals,

elementary principals who stay with their current school receive \$600, and returning high school principals get \$1,000. This new Principal Retention Program will (a) provide consistency of leadership in schools, (b) reduce the high cost of relocating new principals and (c) recognize principals' hard work to help make student and teacher life better.

"The central theme of the Office of Education is to create an environment on our campuses in which teachers and administrators mentor Jesus to every student," explained Crook. "Christian education is evangelism, and is the primary focus of all of our Southern California schools. Nothing is more important to a school than a quality leader or principal who effectively implements this central theme."

The Office of Education recently hired a marketing director for the 2013-2014 school year. This director will assist SCC schools with marketing materials to help recruit new students. Another focus includes the implementation of fundraising programs (jog-a-thons, silent auctions, etc.) and raising the schools' social media presence.



James G. Lee, Jr., left, SCC vice president, and Harold Crook, right, SCC superintendent of education, present an appreciation award to Susan Vlach, principal at South Bay Junior Academy.



Harold Crook, Ed.D., leads a Principal Enrichment Program inservice class.

Rita Henriquez-Green and Harold Crook

Adventist Councilman Witnesses in the City

Sergio Infanzon is mayor pro tem of the community of Bell Gardens in Los Angeles County, and an elected member of the Bell Gardens City Council. He is also a member of the Spanish American Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"When he works, he is usually helping people," said his pastor, Rogelio Paquini. "He conducts workshops for young people, 100 of whom attended one of his recent workshops at our church, to learn about getting documentation."

"Mr. Infanzon helped me definitely to understand how I could be more focused in school and not worry about money," said Luis Pascual, who attended one Infanzon church workshop.

"I have participated in the community for more than 20 years," Infanzon reported. "When I was in school, I was involved in student government and other activities. When people in church noticed how involved I was, some people were concerned.

"You shouldn't mix political action with religion," one person had warned him.

"I have always thought helping in the community is the best way to make a difference; it also is an opportunity for witnessing," countered Infanzon. "When you're helping, every day can be an opportunity to do missionary work."

"When I go to conferences, people ask why I don't drink or smoke," Infanzon said. "I tell them it is because of what I have learned through my church. During the last three years I have been involved with an early care and education taskforce and have emphasized the importance of care during the first five years of life. I told the group that I learned about these principles from a book written more than a century ago by Ellen White. Taskforce members wanted the book!"

Infanzon's current political involvement is enriching his life in the sense of personal satisfaction, but, he noted, "I work full-time as a project manager for a local school district. Pay for a councilmember is somehow symbolic; I couldn't live on it. I usually invest four to six hours daily on city issues.

"With the proper tools and resources a person can create opportunities that will open doors to help them become better individuals and benefit society," Infanzon said. "I am committed to providing those tools and resources."

In the past three years, Infanzon has attended meetings in California and elsewhere concerning public health needs and resources. He plans to work with the new pastor of the Bell Gardens church to launch a campaign focused on health that will incorporate city public-health policies.

Infanzon has been active in seeking funding for the health initiative. "One of the first steps will be to create a brochure that will concentrate on nutrition and exercise and include other lifestyle topics," he explained. "My goal is to train a group of parents for leadership in public health, to help in providing information to kids in local schools.

"I know that I go beyond the line of duty on the projects that I work on for the city, particularly with the emphasis that I am placing on health," Infanzon noted. "It is because of my beliefs."

OSCAR FLORES



Councilman Sergio Infanzon participates in a ribbon-cutting event for a new soccer field in Bell Gardens, one of the many community activities and presentations in which he participates.

Betty Cooney

Compton Samoan Church Celebrates 40th Anniversary

On April 20, members and friends of the Compton Samoan church, the first Samoan church in the North American Division, gathered to celebrate their 40th anniversary of ministry to the Samoan community within the Southern California Conference. Former pastors, church members and supporters traveled from Hawaii, Michigan and New Zealand for the event.

“I was pleasantly surprised to see the renovation work that was just completed,” said Pastor Meshach Soli, pastor of the Xcell church group in the Los Angeles area. According to the Compton Samoan church pastor, Eliu Lafo, members of the Compton Samoan and L.A. Tongan churches

did the extensive renovation work, with added help from an Iowa mission group. Compton community businesses donated carpet and other merchandise to help.

Soli reminisced about his days growing up in the Compton church. “I remember being a Pathfinder and not being able to afford the proper gloves,” he said, “and my two grandfathers who had their funerals at this church. Although I like reminiscing, I believe the prize is not in the past. It’s not right here; it’s heavenward.”

The praise team along with the ministers continued to remind the congregation of the calling given to them as a church. “The Compton Samoan church was planted with a prophetic message and as a prophetic movement. This weekend is to remind you of the blessed hope,” said Pastor Siaosi Tolai, who now resides in Hawaii.

The church was filled to capacity. A narration on the history of the church was delivered, allowing everyone to reflect on the 40-year

journey. Ministers who had labored at the church received awards and recognition.

“This is where I was introduced to Bible prophecy,” said former Pastor Siaosi Tolai, who at one time baptized 65 members in the parking lot of the church.

Pastor Fred Toailoa, currently ministering at the Sacramento Samoan church, reminded the congregation of the building of the Talofa Youth Hall. Toailoa spoke of the men who lined up and carried heavy beams from one end to the other in order to complete the construction of the hall. “Tears, sweat and blood went into the building of this church. It was not easy, but God provided,” he said.

As the congregation sang, laughed and cried, they were reminded of one thing: “The appearance, the face, the names of this church may have changed, but God has never changed. He is the One who preserves the legacy of this church,” said Lafo, as he closed the service for the evening.

Huge white tents were set on the parking lot behind the church to host dinner after the ceremony.

The Compton Samoan church is the mother church of four Samoan groups, which Compton members helped to plant in the Southeastern California Conference.



The Melodies, an old-time reunited group, sang while the youth performed a pantomime showing the changes in time and history.



A newly reconstructed walkway and stairway led members and visitors to the open doors of the church. Hand-inscribed stones include the names of every pastor who has served at the church, as well as of some members.



Samuel Lee, Asian Pacific Region director, and Sung Oh, SCC treasurer (left), along with pastors and elders of the church, led a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9 o'clock Sabbath morning.

Felicia Tonga

Pastor Cherise Gardner Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Cherise Gardner, associate pastor for Children and Family Ministry of the Glendale City church, was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, April 27.

In her sermon at the 11 o'clock worship service, Gardner spoke of the handprints people leave in life. "As we go through this journey we call life," she said, "we are continuously leaving behind a spiritual handprint. Our treatment of others, the examples that we set, the paths that we choose, and the decisions that we make are imprinted on the minds and hearts of those closest to us. . . . The question is, what type of impression will we leave?"

Speaking of her own pastoral journey at Glendale City church, she noted, "Personally, I will never have the gift of story that Pastor Mitch Henson did, or the intellectual acumen of Pastor Smuts Van Rooyen, who mentored me and taught me how to lead, to minister. And I know that I will never have the confidence of Pastor Todd, who can speak so eloquently, without notes. I have to have my notes on paper, as a crutch," she added, smiling and waving her notes.

"I read somewhere, though, that, 'Living to make our own mark is too small a thing to give our whole lives to. But to be positioned in a way that God can make His mark through us — now that's worth giving our lives to!' And," she added, "I want His handprint to shine through me.

"On this day, when we celebrate what it means to be called to ministry, I hope you recognize that we are all called; this is not just my calling, but yours as well. On whatever our hands touch, we leave prints. It's my prayer that wherever we go today, we leave the handprint of God: handprints of compassion, of understanding and love, of kindness and genuine concern."

A native of the Bahamas, Gardner was first drawn to the idea of serving the Lord in some aspect of ministry around the age of 5, when she decided to become a pastor like her grandfather. She attended Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica, earning degrees in

GERRY CHUDLEIGH



Velino A. Salazar, executive secretary of the Southern California Conference, presents ministerial credentials to Cherise Gardner at her ordination service.

religion and business administration. After graduating, she served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve, where she learned skills in leadership and responsibility. At La Sierra University, she earned a Master of Arts in religion with a concentration in Christian social ethics.

Since then, Gardner has served in many roles in both the church and community, but believes one of the greatest enrichments to her ministry came from her experience working under Clifford and Freddie Harris at the Drug Alternative Program. It was there, she notes, "I learned to compassionately minister to people's emotional, physical and spiritual needs. Working with the young people and families of the church also has been one of the highlights in my life," she added. Gardner volunteers as a youth leader for

GERRY CHUDLEIGH



Pastor Cherise Gardner visits with a group of youth after her ordination.

the Pathfinder club and works closely with the A+ Adventist Children's Center associated with Glendale City church.

For the past 14 years, Gardner has been the wife and best friend of Hugh Gardner. Together, they are raising her niece, Katelyn, age 4.

Betty Cooney

Holbrook Senior Receives Gates Millennium Scholarship

Virginia Dedman's life on the Navajo Reservation in Nazlini, Ariz., was vastly different from the life of billionaires Bill and Melinda Gates. The youngest of five brothers and sisters, home school was the focus of her daily activities for three years before enrolling at Holbrook Indian School.

Her mother, Sarah, a reading specialist, worked hard raising her children to make school a top priority. She helped Virginia with her studies late at night after returning home from work.

Eager to learn, and desiring a professional career some day, Dedman applied herself diligently to her studies — and her hard work has paid incredible dividends.

Dedman was one of 54,000 applicants for the Gates Millennium Scholarship. Of those, 1,000 high school seniors, including Dedman, were selected for a full scholarship to finance their education, including tuition, room, board, supplies, travel between home and school, and a monthly stipend for living expenses. The scholarship will continue through a doctoral program.

Winners are chosen from specific minority groups. Entrants must have outstanding grades and volunteer experience with worthwhile causes. Only 10 of the 1,000 chosen to receive the prestigious scholarship were Native Americans.

For the past three years, Dedman has attended Holbrook

Indian School. In May, she completed her senior year and graduated.

Dedman plans to attend Southern Adventist University next fall to begin her studies to become a pediatric dietician. She wants to help Native children with problems like obesity, diabetes and other eating disorders, which are common to the Reservation.

Dedman is an active member of the Kinlichee Seventh-day Adventist Church in northern Arizona. Over the past few years, she has preached in several Arizona Conference churches, including Show Low, Kinlichee, Holbrook, Sedona and Flagstaff. The past two summers, she has participated in Maranatha mission trips.

During summers, she works as a counselor at Arizona Conference's Camp Yavapines in Prescott.

Holbrook Indian School Pastor Phil Vecchiarelli, who is married to Dedman's aunt, Sharon,

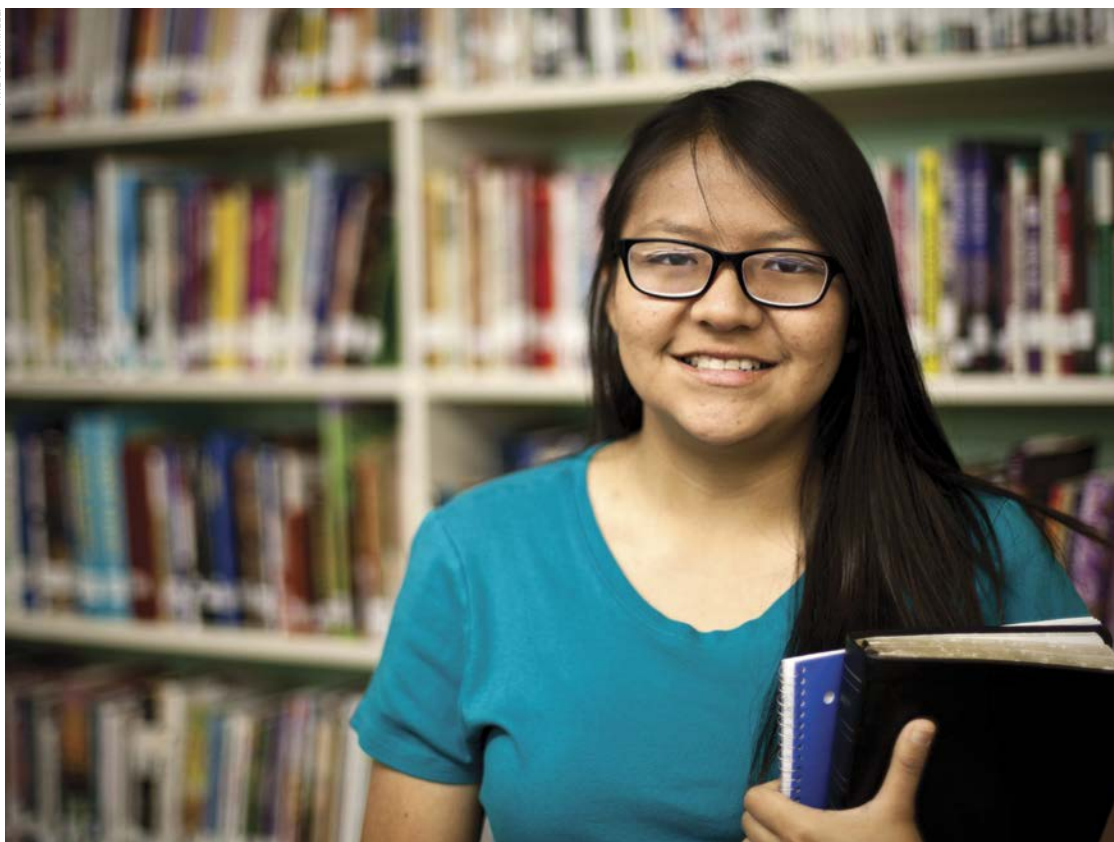
is extremely thankful for all Dedman has accomplished in her young life. "Virginia began attending church as a young girl with our family," said Vecchiarelli. "She was always praying her mother would join. So she began reading *Steps to Christ* to her each evening at age 12. In 2007, Virginia invited her mom to an evangelistic meeting we were conducting in Nazlini. That's when Sarah embraced the Adventist faith and was baptized and has been very active in the church work in Kinlichee and Holbrook."

Dedman's hobbies include reading, studying and photography. She is often seen taking pictures on the Holbrook Indian School campus.

Vecchiarelli adds, "We are very proud to see not only what she has done, but what she wants to do with her life. She has a deep desire to help people!"

Phil Draper

PHIL VECCHIARELLI



HIS graduate Virginia Dedman received the Gates Millennium Scholarship and hopes to become a pediatric dietician.

Alejandro Bullón's Evangelistic Caravan Stops in Arizona

Anticipation was high as Pastor Alejandro Bullón's five-day evangelistic campaign came to the Arizona Conference April 18-21. Traveling to the U.S. from his home in Brazil, Bullón embraced the meetings with the energy of his youth, not that of a seasoned, retired South American pastor.

"I have no words to describe what happened during Pastor Bullón's Evangelistic Caravan, but I am convicted we saw the glory of God in Arizona," said Jose Marin, assistant to the president for Hispanic ministries. "God worked through our pastors and laity who joined forces to transform lives from condemnation to new lives in Christ."

The meetings in Tucson, Ariz., encountered an early snafu when Bullón's flight from Brazil was cancelled. Hispanic churches in the Arizona Conference formed a prayer chain to ask God to intercede. Fortunately, the airline found a direct flight to Tucson, and Bullón arrived just in time to begin his series, "Jesus the Great Hope."

More than 600 guests attended opening night at the Tucson Holiday Inn. Fifty accepted Christ.

The following night, the team traveled to Yuma, Ariz., where more than 400 people attended, 42 people accepted Christ, and seven people were baptized. Visitors were given the book, *Hope*, by Mark Finley, plus a gift of locally grown produce.

The Phoenix Central Spanish church hosted the final three days of the caravan. Bullón, a well known and much loved speaker who had been to Arizona in years past, attracted so many visitors that many stood in line two hours waiting to get in the church. Eventually, organizers opened the gymnasium and the chapel for overflow, and closed-circuit televisions delivered the sermons to the people. More than 1,000 people attended the Phoenix meetings, during which 13 were baptized.

"Pastor Bullón did not need to ask twice in the call because people were jumping out of their seats to fill the hallways in response to the voice of the Spirit of the Lord," Marin said.

The meetings were broadcast live on television. The Central Spanish Church media team made the live broadcast available on MAS TV, which reaches all of Phoenix.

"Alejandro Bullón has had the greatest impact on the Hispanic work of the Adventist church of anyone I know," said Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile. "As a close friend, I always enjoy being with him and hearing stories of God's blessings and the impact his ministry has made on so many lives. Bottom line — you can't share what you don't have. Pastor Bullón not only loves Jesus, he KNOWS Jesus. What he shares is what he has experienced in his own personal walk with God!"

Phil Draper



Phoenix Central Spanish church hosted a capacity crowd each night of Alejandro Bullón's meetings.



Pastor Noe Ramirez baptized Esperanza Perez at the Alejandro Bullón meetings in Yuma, Ariz.



South American Evangelist Alejandro Bullón held meetings in Tucson, Yuma and Phoenix during his five-day caravan through the Arizona Conference.

Lobby Day Participants Reach California Legislators with Religious Liberty Info

Students and other interested adults gathered in Sacramento April 8 to speak with legislative staff about current bills impacting religious freedom and church institutions. The Church State Council hosts the annual Lobby Day.

Fifty-three people, including 38 students from four schools, attended the event, during which they conducted some 35 scheduled lobby visits and distributed religious liberty materials to all 117 of the legislative offices. Students came from Sacramento Adventist Academy, Central Valley Christian Academy, Pacific Union College and Weimar College. Other interested individuals came from the Central California, Northern California, Nevada-Utah and Arizona conferences.

Lincoln Steed, Editor of Liberty Magazine, delivered a challenging devotion. Then,

Arturo Salaires, legislative director for Assembly member Mariko Yamada, spoke to the group about the legislative process and the importance of citizens making their voices heard. Alan J. Reinach, Esq., executive director of the Church State Council then gave an overview of the three bills we were addressing — SB 327, SB 323 and AB 1085.

Assembly Bill 1085 is a measure to restore draconian cuts to the Cal Grants for students attending private and religious colleges and universities only. There were no cuts to Cal Grants for students attending state schools. The Cal Grants were cut some 40 percent for students at private schools.

Senate Bill 323 would impose an excise tax on youth groups that discriminate, which is to say, all youth groups. As applied to religious youth

groups, it is considered blatantly unconstitutional and in violation of the rights of religious organizations to practice their religious beliefs. There is no constitutional obligation to grant tax exemptions to religious groups, but such tax exemption should not be taken away from religious groups who refuse to violate their own teachings, Reinach explained.

Finally, Senate Bill 327 is a measure to address the problem of human trafficking, and the difficulty of obtaining cooperation from victims.

The group met at the Citizen Hotel near the state capitol, and after a luncheon, divided into 10 teams. They reconvened at 4 p.m. on the capitol steps for pictures, recounting the experiences they had with legislative staff.

Dennis Seaton

STEVE ALLRED



Lobby Day attendees pose on the steps of the State Capitol.

Adventist Health Releases Third “Our Stories” Book

Much like the creation of a colorful patchwork quilt, the mission of Adventist Health is accomplished in countless ways that involve more than relieving physical pain and disease. Historically, Adventist health care has recognized that sympathy and tact often prove a greater benefit to the sick than the most skillful treatment given in a cold, indifferent way.*

What follows are personal experiences shared by Adventist Health employees in the third collection of *Our Stories*. They highlight the spirit of compassion of those who uphold the mission and values of Adventist Health.

“My prayer is that these experiences will inspire others to share their hearts and lives with those we are privileged to serve,” states Gloria Bancarz, vice president and chief nursing officer.

*Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 244.

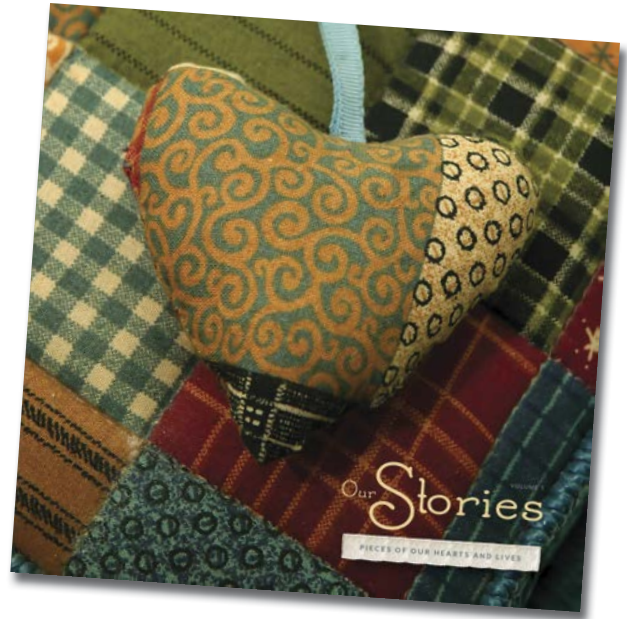
Change of Heart

I had cared for Mr. Smith off and on for several years. While I was saddened whenever his illness brought him to the hospital, I always enjoyed his eccentric personality. One day, I noticed a big difference in his behavior. He was not smiling as usual, and he seemed withdrawn and quiet. That evening before I went home, I asked if I could pray for him.

“I don’t believe in God,” he said firmly.

With no more persuasion on my part, he finally said yes. I thanked him and proceeded to pray. The next morning he greeted me with a huge smile — and confided that now he knew God was real. Unfortunately, he died later that day. I think God impressed me to pray with Mr. Smith even if he did not believe. God knew his heart.

Suzette Lewis, RN, Director, ICU/Medical Staff, St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake



Love in Our Hearts

After the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, a delegation of nurses, doctors, therapists and volunteers from our hospital went to Port-au-Prince at their own expense to help with medical care and clean-up. They returned to work, showing pictures and telling stories of how they fell in love with the people there — so much so that the group decided to “adopt” an orphanage for young girls.

Hearing their stories and seeing the pictures from Haiti tugged at my heart until I finally decided to do something about it. A friend and I got busy and made 30 patchwork quilts for the girls and their teachers. We arranged for a Christmas delivery, and the teachers surprised the children by spreading the colorful quilts on their beds without their knowledge. I wish I could have been there to see their faces as they realized the love in our hearts expressed through the work of our hands.

Kathy Davidson, Registration Associate, Admitting, Ukiah Valley Medical Center



These stories are excerpts from *Our Stories III: Pieces from Our Hearts and Lives*. To read the book in its entirety, download the free PDF at adventisthealth.org/about-us/our-stories.

Desert Churches Encourage Youth Community

Experiencing community with fellow believers is an important aspect of the Christian life — perhaps especially so during the teenage years. With this in mind, Southeastern California Conference pastors and local youth leaders planned an event in February for youth groups from six low-desert area churches: Blythe, El Centro, Hope Community, Indio Spanish, Palm Desert and Palm Springs.

Several of the desert churches are located far away from other Adventist congregations, and the youth don't often have a chance to get together. "My favorite aspect of this event was seeing all these young people, of many different cultures and ethnicities, praying and playing together as one body in Christ," said Roy Rantung, Palm Springs church pastor.

"There were many old friends that I was able to reconnect with, and I also was able to make

new friends," said Theo Moen, an eighth-grader from the Desert Hot Springs church.

The event began with a Sabbath afternoon worship service at the Indio Spanish church. The "G.I.G." (God Is Good) group from the El Centro church led praise music, drama sketches and mixer activities. Eric Penick, SECC associate youth director, presented a message based on the story of Esther, encouraging the youth to stand boldly for God wherever He places them. "The way he was able to get our attention was incredible," said high school senior Sierra Sicairos, from the El Centro church. "I liked how he gave the youth hope by telling us we are important, too, and we have to be brave and stand up for what we believe in."

After a meal in the church's fellowship hall, the entire group travelled to Desert Adventist Academy for a family gym night, organized by DAA principal Tim LaPierre. The youth and some adults formed teams to play basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer. About 100 people participated in the evening's activities. "It was great seeing the pastors and their youth come together," said Jerrold Thomson, associate district pastor of Hope Community church in Palm Springs. Thomson said he appreciates "the fact that Tim LaPierre desires to work closely with the pastors — and the pastors with him — because it shows unity and builds community."

At the worship service earlier in the day, the teens sat with their home church friends, but as they spent more time together, they mingled



SECC associate youth director Eric Penick speaks to the young people on Sabbath afternoon at the Indio Spanish church.

and got acquainted with youth from the other churches. For the sports activities, the kids were assigned to teams that combined youth from all the churches. "By the end of the evening, they were all intermingled. You couldn't tell who was from what group," said El Centro church pastor Mark Tatum.

"I enjoyed spending time with friends, and I would love to do it again," said seventh-grader Sahian Fuentes, from the Palm Springs church.

The youth groups plan to hold joint events each quarter, hosted by the different desert churches. Future activities may include community services and literature evangelism. At each event, kids will learn that they are not alone as they live for the Lord in their communities. "We are a network of churches, working for and proclaiming God's goodness," said Tatum.

El Centro church 10th-grader Julissa Castro agrees. "Events like these are important, because you can see you're not just in your own little bubble," she said. "You're not facing things by yourself."

Mark Tatum and Roy Rantung



Youth from six desert churches join together for worship, fellowship and fun.



Students enjoy game night at Desert Adventist Academy, rotating through sessions of basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer. "I really liked how the games were organized and that we all got to play all the games," said ninth-grader Sharon Romero, from the El Centro church.

Palm Springs Church Hosts Winter Camp Meeting

Nearly two decades ago, the Palm Springs church began a tradition that remains to this day. Jack Blanco, best known for writing *The Clear Word* Bible paraphrase, was serving as the pastor at that time. He had the original idea to start a winter camp meeting.

The church is one of the first Seventh-day Adventist churches built in the Coachella Valley some 30 years ago. For many years, the church has had a demographic of senior citizens, but the region has expanded and the demographic changed, so the church is also focused on reaching out to younger generations.

The winter camp meeting provides a way to bridge the generational gap. While the tradition arises from the tent camp meetings of old, it

also draws newer generations in search of a spiritual and authentic worship experience.

This year, the church hosted the camp meeting on Feb. 8 and 9. Church leaders and volunteers helped organize, set up and execute the programs.

Over the last couple years, interest in the camp meeting has been growing. As a result, the church rented a high school auditorium next to the church to accommodate the anticipated crowds. While the church seats approximately 450 people, the high school auditorium allows for more twice that number. The foresight paid off, as close to 850 people attended the main service on Sabbath morning.

Speaker Lonnie Melashenko headlined the camp meeting. He is best known for his previous work as speaker/director of Voice of Prophecy. Currently, he serves the Columbia Union Conference as an area-wide revivalist, making his ministry available to hundreds of churches.

In addition, Leonard Bailey, a surgeon from Loma Linda University Medical Center known for his heart transplants on children, led a presentation called "Healing Little Hearts." The Melashenko Quartet, Desert Adventist Bell Choir and the La Sierra University Chamber Singers provided music.

While the adult attendees met in the rented auditorium, the church building did not remain empty. This year, the church ran a children's camp meeting in tandem with the main

program. They also organized a petting zoo for the children.

Attendees came from near and far. Many people who attended Palm Springs church in the past, but have since moved away, made the journey to join their former church family. In a way, the camp meeting is like a homecoming event.

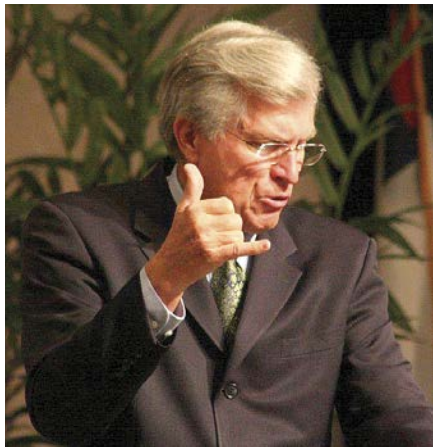
People traveled from as far as Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Some reminisced about the times when camp meetings were common. "I talked with people that are 80 to 90 years old," said Lyle Burke, the church's communications director. "They remember the days when actual tents would be set up in front of the church lawns for camp meetings."

Palm Springs church is open to both classic and innovative methods for presenting the gospel. While the winter camp meeting grows year by year, the church also has airtime on a local television station.

Through this arrangement, the church service is broadcast twice a week, Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m. This helps reach a much wider audience, and younger families are starting to take notice of the church.

Mario A. Munoz



Lonnie Melashenko preaches at the Palm Springs church winter camp meeting.



A choir performs at the Palm Springs church during their winter camp meeting.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the First Quinquennial Session of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene as follows:

La Sierra University Church
4937 Sierra Vista Ave.
Riverside, California
9 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports; elect conference officers, vice presidents for ethnic minorities, the executive committee, and the bylaws committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Gerald Penick, president
Sandra Roberts, executive secretary
Verlon Strauss, treasurer

Chaplains Touch the Hurting with God's Tender Care

Compassion. The word means having sympathy for the suffering of others, often including a desire to help those in need. It means asking the question, "What are you going through, and how can I help? This is how chaplains minister on a daily basis. A chaplain is a pastor who has received advanced training for the specialized area of chaplaincy ministry.

The Call of Chaplaincy

"I knew I wanted to be a chaplain from the time I was 16-years-old," says Beth Bentzinger, staff chaplain at Loma Linda University Medical Center. "My older brother was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when he was young. I spent a lot of time with him in his hospital room when we were growing up."

Those years of being immersed in a clinical setting began to work on Bentzinger. "God planted seeds of compassion in my heart during this experience," says Bentzinger. "One day, as I was praying about what I wanted to do with my life, I saw myself praying over people in a hospital."



Chaplain Beth Bentzinger felt the call of God to chaplaincy when she was just 16.

This made an impression on Bentzinger. Having grown up as a pastor's kid, she knew that pastors made hospital visits, but she didn't feel called to a parish ministry. "One day my dad and I were spending some free time on our boat,"

says Bentzinger. "During our conversation, he asked me what my career choices might be. I told him about what I had experienced during my prayer time. When he told me chaplains did that type of ministry, I was so excited."

Bentzinger spent time as an intern working at Fish Memorial Hospital in Florida. "My internship experience confirmed that I was called to be a chaplain," says Bentzinger.

Those early days of exposure to chaplaincy led Bentzinger to continue her education at Southern Adventist University. After graduation and completing a Clinical Pastoral Education internship, Bentzinger began her chaplaincy ministry at LLUMC, where she works in the 96-bed NICU and mother-baby unit.

"There is a lot of pain, both emotional and physical, that our patients are experiencing," says Bentzinger. "Our unit is for high-risk mothers, and we have many patients transferred from area hospitals." Bentzinger helps patients cope with tragedy on a daily basis in the unit. "One young mother delivered her triplets at 25-weeks," says Bentzinger. "They were just too tiny to survive. The mother's emotional and physical state didn't allow her to fully comprehend at first that



Chaplain Themba Mzizi and fellow church members have planted a church in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

she had lost all three babies. When that realization finally hit home, my role was to help her cope with the enormity of the situation."

Bentzinger is also an animal lover. She regularly meets people grieving over the death of their pets. "Grief is grief when you experience loss," says Bentzinger. "Four times a year, I conduct grief recovery groups specifically for those who have lost a pet. We deal with their grief, and guilt if they are experiencing that."

Neighborhood Compassion

Themba Mzizi works as a correctional chaplain with the Riverside County Sheriff Department. His full-time ministry is with inmates at the corrections center, but he also has compassion for meeting people's needs in the community. "Several years ago I was asked to join the pastoral team of my local church," says Mzizi. "I would oversee the evangelism and outreach of the congregation." There was excitement among the congregation to plant a new church in an unreached area. With prayer and planning, it was decided to reach into the community of Rancho Cucamonga, although it was 50 miles away. "We organized teams to go into the community each Sabbath for a year,"

says Mzizi. "It was vital that we understood the needs of the community and that they became acquainted with us."

Friendships were built and the group began to grow. "Our emphasis is outreach to families and helping all newcomers feel like they have come home," says Mzizi. "When we eat, cry, laugh, and work together, it binds us to each other. When people are involved, they want to remain a part of the group."

Why would a chaplain who works nine hours a day in a prison choose to pastor a church? "I believe my calling is to serve as a pastor both outside and inside the church," says Mzizi. "Being the pastor of a local congregation helps me remain fully connected with my church," says Mzizi. "It keeps before me that I am a representative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in my work in the prison."

Binding the Wounds

For Joel Mpabwanimana the wounds of war and the status of refugee are all too familiar. "While I was a student at Andrews University, war broke out in my homeland," says Mpabwanimana, who is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. "Suddenly I was a refugee with no home to return to. Those early days were difficult and confusing." Faced with legal hurdles and endless government documents that needed to be filled out, Mpabwanimana waded through it all and was given refugee status.

Today, he ministers as a chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz., where he works 12-hour night shifts in order to provide another ministry outside the medical center that is near to his heart. "From Sunday through Tuesday, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and every other weekend I am at the medical center," says Mpabwanimana. His workweek doesn't end on Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. however. That is when Mpabwanimana begins his other full-time (but unpaid) job.

"In 2008, I began to meet many refugees in the Phoenix area. There were people from Rwanda, Burma, Burundi, and my homeland of Congo," recalls Mpabwanimana. "I remembered the difficulties that I faced as a refugee, and I knew that I had to help this growing population, who were becoming my neighbors."



Chaplain Joel Mpabwanimana offers support to refugees who have come to Tucson, Ariz., from all over the world.

Mpabwanimana accompanies refugees to their meetings with social workers and other government representatives. "As I became acquainted with these individuals, invitations were extended for me to become a member of local refugee committees," says Mpabwanimana. "I became the voice for the refugees on the committees."

Knowing how important it is as a refugee to have spiritual interaction, Mpabwanimana began to assist refugees to connect with their local faith communities. "Often a refugee is also faced with the loss of their self-identity," says Mpabwanimana. "I know of refugees who have earned Ph.D. degrees and highly educated, but have been reduced to working at menial labor because they lack English skills." This is also true for medical personnel, including doctors, nurses and pharmacists, who earned degrees in their home countries, but can't practice in their newly adopted countries, because they haven't received the necessary licensing.

Mpabwanimana spends Wednesday through Friday each week meeting with individual refugees, helping them fill out paperwork, find jobs, etc. On Wednesday and Friday nights, prayer meetings are held for anyone who wants to attend. Sabbaths are spent at the Glendale Adventist church.

For Mpabwanimana, binding up the wounds of others is a natural as breathing. As his wounds have healed, Mpabwanimana seeks to help others find that same healing.

Adventist chaplains around the world offer a ministry of presence and prayer. They pray in the rooms of hospitals and medical centers. They encourage students on school campuses. They minister to police and firemen, as well as the victims of violence in local communities. They bring hope within prison walls to those who have committed crimes against fellow human beings. They are on the battlefield, aboard the ships, and in the barracks with those who stand watch to keep our nation free and safe.

On Sabbath, June 8, the ministry of Adventist Chaplains will be recognized and supported by a North American Division-wide offering.



Chaplain Joel Mpabwanimana prays with Karen refugees he ministers to in Tucson, Ariz.

Deena Bartel-Wagner

Pacific Union Pathfinders Among Best Bible Scholars

The College View Seventh-day Adventist Church, Union College, Lincoln, Neb., was crowded with highly trained Bible scholars April 19-20 when 38 Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) finalist teams from across North America arrived to participate in the final testing program for the 2013 PBE Division Finals. Pathfinders from the United States, Canada and England, ages 10 to 16, demonstrated their knowledge of the Bible books of Acts and 1st and 2nd Thessalonians by answering 90 questions of varying difficulty and point value.

"Their level of knowledge was phenomenal," said one event judge. "They definitely know their Bible." Many of the young people had memorized large passages of Scripture, often six to eight chapters, and they knew a lot of the content of the additional chapters.

NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience coordinator Gene Clapp reported that the 38 participating teams represented eight of the nine unions of the North American Division, plus one team from London, England. Each team was made up of six members plus an alternate.

The conferences represented were Allegheny East, Arizona, Carolina, Central California, Chesapeake, Florida, Indiana, Iowa/Missouri, Kansas/Nebraska, Michigan, Minnesota,

Northern California, Ohio, Ontario, Potomac, Southern England, Southern New England, Texas and Wisconsin. Many more teams and conferences from across the division had participated in the first three levels of testing: area, conference and union. The teams at Lincoln represented only the first place teams from each union.

"With team members, staff and families, we had approximately 650 persons in attendance for the weekend," said Clapp.

On Friday night and Sabbath morning, each team participated in the programming by sharing a musical "special," and everyone became involved in the rest of the programs, which consisted of mixers focused on the books of the Bible that they had been studying.

On Saturday evening, following all the testing and tallying of points, parents, staff and team members screamed with delight as each team was called to the front and awarded their placement certificate. Twenty-six teams made first place, meaning the team score was at least 90 percent of the highest score. One team from the Pacific Union finished in this first

place group: the Tucson (Arizona) Desert Valley Mountain Lions.

An additional 11 teams made second place, including the Camp Verde (Arizona) Cavalry, the Mesa (Arizona) Spanish Roadrunners, the Orosi (Central California) Prospectors, the Pacific Union College (Northern California) Howell Mountaineers, and the Sonora (Central California) Stars. And one team, depleted by sickness but still choosing to compete, placed third.

Clapp added that the Bible Experience program has a major impact on participants. "Several students stated that their school grades have gone up because they are applying how they study for PBE to how they study for school." A team member from England told his director that he was supposed to take a school assessment exam while he was traveling to the United States for this event. When the proctor heard why the student was not available to take the exam, he said the young man need not sit for the exam because his grades had improved so much since he began studying for PBE.

The 2014 Pathfinder Bible Experience will cover the book of 2 Samuel.



Angwin Howell Mountaineers, from the Pacific Union College church in the Northern California Conference, at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals. From left: Emme Lighthouse, Joy Paulson, Caleb Jeske, Linda Duncan, Andy Penners, Willy Duncan, and Katie Booska.



Orosi Prospector Pathfinders, from the Central California Conference, at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals. Pathfinders, from left: Lorinda Ledington, Yanessa Forbes, Cole Ledington, Daniel Toews Jr., Robert Verduzco, Auriana Toews. Adults (L-R) Dan Toews, director; Manny Cruz, assoc. NAD youth director; Jerry Peifer, area co-ordinator; James Black, NAD youth director.

Gene Clapp, Brenda Dickerson and Mark O'Fall

DENISON SAGER



Six Pathfinder clubs from the Pacific Union participated at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals in April.

DENISON SAGER



Camp Verde Cavalry Pathfinders, from the Arizona Conference, at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals.

DAVID COREY



Angwin Howell Mountaineers, from the Pacific Union College church in the Northern California Conference, at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals. From left: Willy Duncan, Andy Penners, and Caleb Jeske; Girls: Joy Paulson, Linda Duncan, and Emme Lighthouse.

DENISON SAGER



Sonora Stars Pathfinders, from the Central California Conference, at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals. Front row from left: Tawni Lloyd, Megan Ronneburg, Chelsea Scott, Levi Renner, Aurora Jones. Second row: Mickey Clough, director; Manny Cruz, NAD associate youth leader; Jerry Peifer, area coordinator; Louie Dale, and James Black, NAD youth leader.

DENISON SAGER



Tucson Desert Valley Mountain Lions, from the Arizona Conference, took first place at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals.

DENISON SAGER



Mesa Spanish Roadrunners, from the Arizona Conference, at the 2013 Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals.



Seventh-day Adventist Pastor Willie Ramos, "The Ghetto Preacher," appeals to youth at the West Coast Youth Conference to give their lives to Christ. Photo by Gerry Chudleigh.

SECC Hosts West Coast Youth Conference

From April 24 -27, the Southeastern California Conference hosted the West Coast Youth Conference, sponsored by both Pacific and North Pacific unions. The conference occurs once every five years and brings young people together to talk about issues in their church, community and school life. Teens were invited from all the represented conferences within the two unions to share their love of God.

The theme of the conference was, "STAND: Stay True to Christ and Never Deviate." In a culture that is inundated with temptations at every turn, teens were encouraged to look at role models that have taken a stand against cultural norms. They were reminded that amongst the social and moral challenges they face, God gives them the strength to overcome.

This year, the conference was held at the Ontario Convention Center. Approximately 750 young people attended.

Each day consisted of one or two general sessions, which included music and preaching. The high energy of the music allowed the young people to worship with enthusiasm. The speakers challenged the youth to take their relationships with God to the next level.

"My favorite part has been the music," said Roland Williams, a teen from the Mt. Rubidoux church. "It is interesting because they play some music that I know, and some that I don't know. Different churches or schools lead out in music, which keeps it interesting."

"I enjoyed the speakers most," said Sydney Joseph, a 16 year-old from Bakersfield Southside church. "They talked about what I could do with things that are coming up in the future."

Paige Hurd, actress from the sitcom "Everybody Hates Chris," gave her testimony during the general session on Thursday evening.

"I was also really surprised to see the actress," said Williams. "It was very cool!"

In addition to the general sessions, attendees had a chance to select from nearly 40 workshops. Topics ranged from spiritual growth to peer pressure, music, social media, dating, self-esteem and youth leadership.



Hasani Tait, center, associate pastor of the Emerald City church, Seattle, Wash., leads the praise and worship team in singing.



The "STAND" sign reflects the theme of the West Coast Youth Conference.



Participants listen to a workshop facilitator.

Kasey Harry, from the Riverside Kansas Avenue church, especially enjoyed the workshops. "One of the things I learned is that we shouldn't do things for us, but rather for the glory of God," she said.

On Friday, instead of hosting an afternoon workshop, the organizers encouraged the attendees to participate in a community service event.

"What I enjoyed most was the community service," said Rahnae Scott, from the Capitol City church in Sacramento. "We packed food for needy families. It is important to remember that people are always in need, not just during the Christmas or Thanksgiving season."

The teens were also given a chance to participate in recreation. An entire room was devoted to games such as dodge ball, basketball and bounce houses.

Micha Fisher, also from the Riverside Kansas Avenue church, said that she especially enjoyed the activities. "My favorite activity was the bungee run, but I also like the music and the preaching," she said. "I learned how to be strong



During the last general session, youth share challenges they want to turn over to God.

and to believe in myself — and that I can do that by drawing close to God."

On Saturday night, during the final general session, Eric Penick, associate youth ministries director, made an appeal for young people to push away anything that was keeping them from drawing near to God. Microphones were set up around the conference hall and teens lined up to state what they would be "pushing away." Many of the things named were fear, insecurity, anger, peer pressure, negativity, stubbornness, racism, hate and selfishness. Throughout the duration of the conference, teens were encouraged to pray for one another. A prayer wall was set up at the back of the main

hall where anyone could go at any time and write a prayer request, or pray for those that were written.

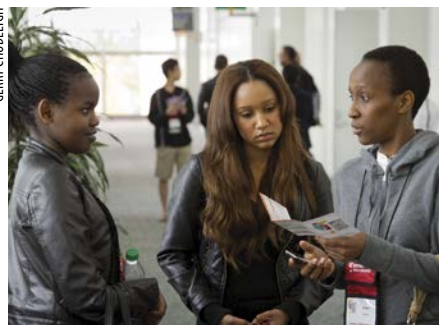
Also, a special Twitter hash tag was set up, #StandWCYC, where anyone could send in prayer requests or words of encouragement. A special prayer team continuously monitored the feed, and some of the requests were projected on the main screens for others to see, as well.

As the conference wound down, many friends, new and old, reflected on their time at the conference. "I didn't expect to meet people of so many different nationalities," said Scott.

"I met people from Seattle and Las Vegas," said Williams. "I also met some people who came from New York and New Jersey."

Teens were encouraged to keep in touch with one another, and to pray for one another. Attendees say they felt renewed and revitalized and ready to stand against any challenges they face.

Mario A. Munoz



From left: Grace Wainai, Rosalyne Waweru and Janet Wambui, from the Lighthouse church in Glendale, Calif., decide which workshop to attend.



Paige Hurd, actress in the TV sitcom "Everybody Hates Chris," talks about her faith in God.



Baron Sovory, pastor of the Celebration Center, Redlands, Calif., prays with person who responded to altar call.

CALENDARS

Arizona

CAMP MEETING Camp Yavapines, Prescott, Ariz. "Light the World with Jesus' Love" (June 7-15) Opening weekend; Alex Bryant, NAD exec. secretary; night meetings weekly; Ron Clouzet, director NADEI; closing weekend; Randy Roberts, pastor, Loma Linda University church; Adults, Herb Montgomery; Youth, Harvey Gil, Okla. Conf.; Young Adults, Jonathan Leonardo, Andrews Univ.; Morning Devotional, Dr. Dianne Burnett; Mid-week Seminars, Dr. Alfonso Valenzuela, Pastor Tony Moore, Pastor John Schachinger, Dr. Schubert and Yolanda Palmer, and Dr. Pedro Martinez. Musicians: first weekend: T. Yolanda Innocent-Palmer; second weekend: Christian Edition Men's Chorus. RV/ Camper/Tent reservations: Angie Blake, 928-445-2162; Cabin reservations, Sandra Leski, 480-991-6777, ext. 147.

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING Camp Yavapines, Prescott, Ariz. "Jesus, La Gran Esperanza" (June 17-22) Main Speaker: Elizabeth Talbot, Jesus 101 Biblical Institute director; Devotional Speaker, Professor Victor Yaeger, Universidad Peruana Union; Seminar Speakers, Dr. Miguel Angel Nunez and Dr. Katia Reinert; Hispanic Youth Speakers, Chaplain Laffit, Pacific University, Pastor Many Arteaga. Special music guests: Verushka Zarate, Tony Avila. Info: Cynthia Riffel, 480-991-777, ext. 117.

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP to Guatemala (Machaquilo-Poptun-Peten) (June 18-July 12). Info: Judy Leeper, 928-639-1414.

Central California

"BRIDGES: BAY AREA FOR JESUS" San Francisco Rally (June 22) 9:20 a.m. San Francisco Central church, 2889 California St., San Francisco. Hear about upcoming plans for a large-scale outreach to the Bay Area. Lunch provided. Info: ccc.adventist.org.

CLERK & TREASURER'S TRAINING (June 30) CCC office. Clerks: Debbie 559-347-3194, damador@cccsda.org; Treasurer's: Claudia 559-347-3196, carias@cccsda.org.

La Sierra University

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND (June 14-16) Consecration service, Friday, June 14, 8 p.m., LSU church; Baccalaureate service, Sabbath, June 15, noon, LSU church; Educator dedication, Sabbath, June 15, 4 p.m., LSU church; HMS Richards Divinity School Consecration service, Sabbath, June 15, 4 p.m.,

Matheson; Commencement Concert, featuring performances by graduating seniors, Sabbath, June 15, 6 p.m., Hole Memorial Auditorium; and the Confering of Degrees, Sunday, June 16, 8 a.m., Founders' Green on campus.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERTS Choral Home Concert (June 1) 8:15 p.m.; Wind & Percussion Chamber Concert (June 5) 7 p.m.; Spring Big Band concert (June 8) 8:15 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium.

SUMMER SESSION Begins June 17. Info: www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=1875.

Northern California Conference

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (June 16-20) 6-8:30 p.m. Pleasant Hill church, 800 Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill. "Kingdom Rock" Ages 4-12. Friday, June 21: community barbeque and VBS open house. Info: 925-934-5803.

"BRIDGES: BAY AREA FOR JESUS" East Bay Rally (June 22) 4 p.m. Grand Advent church, 278 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Hear about upcoming plans for a large-scale outreach to the Bay Area. Info: www.ncc.adventist.org/bridges.

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING (July 18-27) 2437 Dyerville Loop Road, Redcrest. Spiritual refreshment in a beautiful setting! Speakers include Jim Ayer, Dan Jackson, John Lomacang, Lonnie Melashenko and Herb Montgomery (Adult II). Concerts and seminars! Hispanic Camp Meeting: Rodolfo Paredes. Info: See advertisement in NCC section or www.ncc.adventist.org/redwoodcamp.

Southeastern California

SECC CAMP MEETING (June 19-22) Loma Linda University, Drayson Center. Camp meeting will provide services for adult, youth, and children. Info: Danielle Arceneaux, 951-509-2298, or danielle.arceneaux@seccsda.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (June 24-28) La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave, Riverside. Children are invited to explore the life of the Apostle Paul on his dangerous journey to share the truth. Info: lschurch.org/children/vbs.

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURE Family Camp (June 26-30) Pine Springs Ranch. Info: Stephanie Strode, 951-509-2266, or www.psrcamp.org.

CHRISTIAN CAMP: Discovery Camp (June 30-July 7) Pine Springs Ranch. Discovery camp for children ages 8-10.

Info: Stephanie Strode, 951-509-2266, or www.psrcamp.org.

BENEFIT CONCERT (August 24) 7 p.m., Loma Linda Filipino church, multi-purpose center, 11180 New Jersey Street, Redlands. Steve Green will be performing. Funds raised will benefit an alumni center for Mountain View College in the Philippines. Info: 909-798-3822.

Southern California Conference

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING (June 1) Athens: Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth. 3 p.m. Norwalk church, 12191 Firestone Blvd. Info: 818-546-8448.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of the White Memorial church Pathfinder & Adventurer clubs (June 1) 11 a.m., 5 p.m. Investiture; 7 p.m. dinner. All former club and staff members are invited to join in the day-long festivities. White Memorial church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 323-264-2170.

YOUTH VIGIL RE-ENCOUNTER (June 1) 7 p.m.-12 a.m. Youth re-encounter with Jesus, preparing for disciple-making. (In English). Three speakers; music, David Alberto Venegas, Cecilia Garcia. Free food, games. Panamericana Spanish church, 2912 E. Guirado St., Los Angeles 90023. Info: 323-317-4764.

11TH ANNUAL KALEIDOSCOPE of Nations International Day (June 1) 11 a.m., featuring 50-flag processional, international lunch; 4 p.m. afternoon concert and AY with international music and drama groups. Berean church. Info: Daphne Morgan, 323-298-1189.

THE SECOND SATURDAY Series presents Thérèse in Concert (June 8) 4 p.m. featuring Jennifer Wallace as Thérèse, with pianist David Clemson. Also featured: Kevin St. Clair, Aram Barsamian, Aaron Ball, Owen Lovejoy and Franco Rio. Glendale City church. Reception following. Free will donations received at the door. Info: www.glendalecitysda.org, 818-244-7241.

CHILDREN'S BENEFIT CONCERT (June 1) Proceeds go to an Adventist orphanage in Ukraine. No admission fee; a freewill offering will be received. 5 p.m. Russian-American, 1809 Gardena Ave., Glendale 91204. Info: 818-662-9044 or 818-274-2844, agurduiala@yahoo.com.

HEALTH LECTURE (June 15) 3 p.m. Presenter, Benjamin Lau, M.D. Free. Everyone welcome. Free childcare. Healthy refreshments afterward. South Bay Adventist church, 401 S. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach 90277. Info: 310-214-3123, www.SouthBayChurch.net.

L. A. ADVENTIST FORUM (June 22) 3 p.m. "Finding Peace in the Midst of Pluralism." Speaker, Smuts van Rooyen, D.Min., former senior pastor, Glendale City Adventist church. Location: Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City Adventist church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies.

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City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. Website: www.summitridgevillage.org or call Bill Norman at 405-208-1289.

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Bulletin Board

DEMAND IS HIGH for managers of skilled nursing facilities and senior care centers. Southern Adventist University's degree in long term care administration is available on campus or online. Enjoy being a leader in the business of caring. Call 800-SOUTHERN or e-mail ltca@southern.edu for information.

HAVE YOU WRITTEN a children's book, life testimony, story of God's love, or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH Services at 800-367-1844, ext. 3 or e-mail: publishing@teachservices.com, for a FREE manuscript review.

I AM A NATUROPATH, Master Herbalist, and a CMT (advance therapeutic massage) interested in bringing together other health practitioners to develop a holistic clinic in Northern California or join one that is established in a suitable area. Please e-mail edenrejuvcenter@comcast.net or call 530-717-7708.

SEMI-RETIRED ATTORNEY/real estate developer seeking position as estate caretaker (prior experience; references available). Military and police medical training; care provide care for homebound person(s), pets or plants. Seventh-day Adventist, cooks vegan, vegetarian, ethnic. Shop, oversee contractors, home school children, care and dispense medications for homebound, etc. Room/board/salary (depending on responsibilities to be assigned). Contact: WTSO, Box 711747, San Diego, CA 92171 or e-mail williamtsohara@aol.com with outline of duties to be assigned.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | Hospital Sabbath Program
Elders Charles White, great grandson of Ellen White, and Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University
Concert by Sandi Patty, acclaimed Christian vocalist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | Centennial Gala
A fund-raising celebration for WMMC

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To learn more about the weekend or to order the book, visit whitememorial.com/centennial.

White Memorial Medical Center
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Employment

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY of Health Sciences is seeking applicants for an accounting, finance or economics professor for their new Master of Healthcare Administration program. A doctoral degree is required. Submit CV to: Dr. Benita David, Chair of Healthcare Administration, Adventist University of Health Sciences, 671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803; benita.david@adu.edu.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks an Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology. Candidates should have an earned doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology. CCC-SLP is required. For more information and to apply visit: www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

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NURSE PRACTITIONER or Physician Assistant job opportunity for growing outpatient psychiatric practice in Auburn, California. Beautiful Minds Medical, Inc., provides whole-person care by integrating holistic lifestyle principles, Christian

counseling, and evidence-based practice into mental health treatment. Nestled in the beautiful Sierra Foothills, great place for outdoor enthusiasts! Contact info: 530-889-8780, www.beautifulmindsmedical.com.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST Guam Clinic is embarking on a major expansion and is seeking physicians in internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, OB/GYN, Urology, Pediatrics, ENT, Optometry, and Dermatology. Contact us to learn about our benefits and opportunities by calling 671-646-8881, ext. 116; e-mailing hr@guamsda.com; or visiting our website at www.adventistclinic.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Counseling & Testing Services / Student Success Center seeks Licensed Professional Counselor. Candidates must have a Master's degree and licensure in counseling (LPC) and a minimum of three years of successful counseling related experience. Candidate must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be a Seventh-day Adventist church member in good and regular standing. Submit résumé and cover letter to Jim Wampler, Southern Adventist University, Student Success Center, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315-0370 or jwampler@southern.edu

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a chef for their Village Market Deli. This position is a working manager, working with and directing student cooks in preparing all hot foods for meals and any special orders. Culinary Art School Preferred. Organization, communication skills, and ability to lead and motivate others a necessity. View job description at www.southern.edu/HR. Please send application and résumé to Amy Steele, Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370 Collegedale, TN 37315-0370 or amym@southern.edu.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Dean for School of Business and Management. A Doctoral degree required. Will oversee the undergraduate and graduate programs. Priority given to applications received by July 1, 2013. The successful candidate must have a strongly expressed commitment to Jesus Christ, and be an SDA church member in good and regular standing. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Pat Coverdale, Director of Human Resources, plcoverdale@southern.edu or Human Resources, Southern Adventist University, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37363.

VP FOR FINANCE. Christian Record Services for the Blind. Responsibilities; accounting, financial planning/analysis, treasury activities. Business/accounting degree (MBA/CPA preferred), five years financial experience. Understanding non-profit accounting, reporting, marketing,

passion for church's ministry to help the blind see Jesus. Contact President Larry Pitcher, 402-488-0981, ext. 212, lpitcher@christianrecord.org; or Alicejean Baker, HR Assistant, ext. 222, prhr@christianrecord.org. CRSB, Box 6097, Lincoln, NE 68506.

WEIMAR COLLEGE seeks a dedicated medical professional to serve as Director for the Associate Nursing Degree Program. Must have a Masters degree or higher, a minimum of one year administrative experience, two years teaching in a licensure RN program, and one year of full-time experience as a Registered Nurse. To apply visit www.weimar.edu/jobs.

WEIMAR COLLEGE seeks a dedicated medical professional to serve as Assistant Director for the Associate Nursing Degree Program. Must have a Masters degree or higher, medical-surgical and geriatric nursing experience within the last five years, a minimum of one year experience teaching registered nursing related courses, or completion of a post-baccalaureate course with teaching practice. To apply visit www.weimar.edu/jobs.

WEIMAR INSTITUTE is currently looking for qualified individuals to fill the following positions: Cafeteria Shift Supervisor, NEWSTART Program Nurse, Male Hydrotherapy & Massage Therapist, Plant Services & Maintenance Employee.

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Events

ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN celebrates its 31st annual conference, "Moving Forward in Christ" (Oct. 31-Nov. 3) Oakwood University. Keynote speaker is Linda Penick. Visit www.aaw.cc or like us at www.facebook.com/AssociationOfAdventistWomen.

WORSHIP WITH US at Yellowstone National Park every Sabbath from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Services at 10 a.m. in employee recreation hall connected to Old Faithful Lodge.

YOU'RE INVITED to the 2013 Maranatha Volunteers International Convention (Roseville, Calif.) Sept. 20-21) This FREE event features speakers from around the world and musical guest Steve Green. Register at www.maranatha.org.

Real Estate

COLLEGEDALE HOME for sale. 2,850 sq. ft., brick 2-story on partially wooded 1.9 acres. 4-bdrm., 2.5-baths. Extra-large 4th bdrm. + bonus room. Tile flooring, fireplace in family room. 2-car garage. In quiet neighborhood 2 miles from

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Reunions

FORT BRAGG SDA CHURCH is celebrating its centennial on October 26, 2013. Past members, friends, pastors, teachers, please contact our centennial secretary, Brenda O'Bryant, 18501 Hare Creek Terrace, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 with your name, address and phone number so we can send information.

MADISON COLLEGE ALUMNI Association Homecoming (June 21-23) honor classes '43, '48, '53, '58 and '63. Madison College, Academy and Anesthesia School alumni welcome. Activities and meals, Friday thru Sunday morning. Contact: Henry Scoggins, president, 615-919-7767 or Jim Culpepper, Sec./Treas., 615-415-1925.

OAK PARK ACADEMY Alumni Homecoming (Sept. 27-28) Nevada, Iowa. Honor classes: '63, '73. Speakers: Michael Porter, '71, Friday evening; Ron Karr, '63, 11 a.m. worship; Teresa Hoover, '73, Sabbath vespers. Jaime Jorge, internationally known violin virtuoso in concert. Info:

Michael Porter, mporteratp@gmail.com or 202-746-0744.

Vacations

LIVING LANDS of the Bible presents three all-inclusive, Bible-based November tours with Dick Fenn, former Jerusalem pastor. Follow Jesus from Egypt to Galilee to Golgotha. Experience Paul's Italy from Puteoli to Rome. Depart from/return to Lufthansa gateway cities coast-to-coast. Visit MTSTravel.com for complete itineraries. E-mail: RLF@DrWordsmythe.com. Phone: 503-659-1020.

RELAXING MAUI VACATION, 2013 Summer Special Rates - July-Sept. \$98/night (4 night min. stay). Only a 3-minute walk to the beach! 1-bdrm w/king-size bed. 4 guests. Clean & well-maintained. Full kitchen, washer/dryer. FREE Wi-Fi, parking, & calls to U.S./Canada! 20-minute drive to Kahului church. Visit www.vrbo.com/62799; call 909-307-8570.

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AT REST

ANDERSON, BRUCE MARLIN — b. Nov. 11, 1934, Glendale, Calif.; d. April 17, 2013, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Darlene; sons, Rick, Kent; daughter, Kim Trood; two grandchildren.

APPLE, KAREN — b. Aug. 25, 1949, Hong Kong, China; d. April 14, 2013, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: husband, David; daughters, Nicole, Angela Ozaeta.

BENNETT, DONNA JEAN — b. April 3, 1928, Minneapolis, Minn.; d. Feb. 7, 2013, Westminster, Calif. Survivors: son, James Wagner; daughter, Cathi Wagner; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Correction: **CALVITTI, CORA** — b. April 8, 1925, Union City, N.J.; d. Jan. 12, 2013, El Dorado Hills, Calif. Survivors: sister, Olga Haines.

CAMARA, MARIA E. — b. Jan. 10, 1917, Madera, Portugal; d. Jan. 14, 2013, San Leandro, Calif.

CRAWFORD, LELAN H. — b. July 13, 1917, Alliance, Neb.; d. April 14, 2013, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: stepsons, Claude Hutchinson, Tom Rosendale; daughter, Linda Reiswig; stepdaughter, Kathy Fredricks; 11 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; brother, Raymond; sisters, Edith Bartels, June Powell.

CULBERTSON, ROBERT REID — b. Nov. 17, 1935, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. March 20, 2013, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sally; daughters, Lori, Connie; brother, Richard.

DARBY, HARRY E. — b. June 17, 1928, Marshall, Mo.; d. April 20, 2013, Sandpoint, Idaho. Survivors: daughter, Cyndee; grandsons, Brom, Daniel Glidden; brothers, Bob, Calvin Darby; sister, Shirley Brown. Served as a pastor in Arizona, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Washington and Wyoming; was a conference auditor.

DARNELL, RILEY DEVERN — b. Feb. 25, 1915, Lodi, Texas; d. Jan. 6, 2013, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Melva; son, Ron; daughters, Marlene Sanford, Beverly Follett; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

DRAEGER, FRANK E. — b. Aug. 19, 1921, San Antonio, Texas; d. April 15, 2013, Petersburg, Alaska. Survivors: wife, Evelyn; sons, Jim, John, Jay; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

FANELLA, JIM — b. Jan. 2, 1926, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Feb. 20, 2013, San Diego, Calif. Served as a missionary in

China and worked extensively for the church in Wisconsin.

GARRISON, TIMOTHY J. — b. May 31, 1950, San Diego, Calif.; d. Feb. 4, 2013, Camarillo, Calif. Survivors: wife, Leanne; daughters, Michelle, Amy. Served at the General Conference in the Temperance Dept.; as an associate pastor at Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Md; and as pastor in the Southern California Conference.

GOMEZ, GAIL ANN (CAMPAINHA) — b. Jan. 18, 1954, Honolulu, Hawaii; d. March 31, 2013, Vallejo, Calif. Survivors: husband, Mike; brothers, Marvin Campainha, Dale Campainha, Darren Campainha; sister, Margo Cassidy.

HAFFNER, EDWARD L. — b. May 23, 1935, Hitchcock, Okla.; d. April 20, 2013, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carol; sons, Eddie, Rick, Jon; daughters, Heidi Nieuwenhuis, Lisa Kooren; seven grandchildren; brother, Harold; sisters, Erma Webb, Carol Hayes.

HAMILTON, ROSALIE A. (BROWN) — b. Sept. 3, 1910, Brawley, Calif.; d. April 3, 2013, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: sons, Alfred, Roland; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

JOHNSON, THOMAS EDWARD — b. Nov. 30, 1931, Charlottesville, Va.; d. Dec. 28, 2012, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jodie; sons Roger, Greg, Edward; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

LEMASTERS, HERSCHEL GLENN — b. March 8, 1928, Doddridge County, W. Va.; d. March 12, 2013, Hemet, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jane; sons, Roger, Jim; stepson, Jerry Noland; daughter, Cindy Korbeck; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brother, Kenneth.

MARSH, ETTA LOU (MCCLINTOCK) — b. March 9, 1928, Waterloo, Neb.; d. April 24, 2013, La Selva Beach, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Yvonne Hayes, Nancy Rouse, Dolly Milholland; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sisters, Jane Gebhart, Elsie Holt.

MCEWEN, LAWRENCE E. — b. April 28, 1933, Portland, Ore.; d. Feb. 21, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sandra; son Gregory; daughters, Angie Betts, Traci Bradshaw, Lisa Wettstein; 10 grandchildren; sister Audrey Lunsford. Practiced dentistry in Placerville, Calif. Became an orthodontist and practiced in Riverside, Calif.

MILLER, PHYLLIS M. (WEDEL) — b. March 28, 1933, Yuba City, Calif.; d. April 7, 2013, Monterey, Calif. Survivors: husband, A. H. "Peter"; sons, Steven, Gregg, Mark; five grandchildren. Served as a registered nurse at White Memorial and Glendale Adventist medical centers; as a minister's wife the Bellflower,

Simi Valley, Downey, La Crescenta and Monterey Peninsula churches.

OLSON, ROBERT W. — b. Oct. 25, 1920, Oshawa, Ontario Canada; d. April 15, 2013, Hendersonville, NC. Survivors: wife, Lorraine Hudgins Hirsch; son, Wesley Olson; daughter, Evelyn Georgeson; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren. Served as a Bible teacher, Secretary of the White Estate, and public speaker.

PADILLA, MANUEL — b. July 2, 1933, Long Beach, Calif.; d. April 19, 2013, Littleton, Colo. Survivors: wife, Betty; sons, John, Robert, Daniel; daughters, Linda Aumack, Julie Ammon, Kristy Unrein; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother, Daniel; sister, Carmen Souza.

SUNDEAN, HAROLD C. — b. July 21, 1926, Santa Cruz, Calif.; d. March 16, 2013, Santa Cruz, Calif. Survivors: wife: Marjorie, sons, Marvin, Mel; daughters, Connie; two grandchildren. Practiced anesthesia, OB/GYN, and served as medical director for Santa Cruz Community Hospital.

TAYLOR, STEVEN EDWARD — b. March 30, 1957, Wareham, Mass.; d. March 1, 2013, Carmichael, Calif. Survivors: wife, Deorah; daughters, Brittany, Kaylee; mother, Geneva; brothers, Pat, Brian.

TAYLOR, VICTOR WAYNE — b. April 28, 1934, Covington, Tenn.; d. March 17, 2013, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Survivors: wife, Jeanette; son, Glenn; daughters, Carol Stroud, Karen Rigsby, Julie Marsh; four grandchildren; brother, Charles Keith Taylor; sister, Joelena Taylor King. Served as director of Risk Management for Adventist Health System; as director of Insurance Services for Adventist Risk Management and manager of the Riverside office.

VARGAS, DOLORES GERMONO — b. Dec. 27, 1950, Urbiztondo, Philippines; d. Feb. 27, 2013, Paramount, Calif.

WARREN, JEANNINE (MADDOX) — b. Oct. 18, 1932, Hereford, Ore.; d. March 15, 2013, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: sons, Clay, Van; daughters, Kim, Tara; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brother, Dale; sisters, LaRene Spady, Alberta Shull.

WILLIAMSON, NADINE (FILES) — b. Aug. 19, 1934, Ashland, Ore.; d. Jan. 25, 2013, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: son, Don; daughter, Lori Pope; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

YAEGER, FRANCES EVELYN (HILL) — b. Nov. 12, 1926, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. March 8, 2013, Corona, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Neddi; four grandchildren.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

The Recorder pages are assigned to the local conferences, colleges and health care institutions, and all content comes through the communication directors in those organizations. If you have a news story/idea, calendar announcement, etc., please contact your local communication director (except Hawaii, contact the editor, below). See page 2 for contact information. Want tips for writing for us? See www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news.

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