

PACIFIC UNION recorder

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SANDRA ROBERTS ELECTED
Southeastern California Conference
PRESIDENT ... PAGE 28

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about the cover

On Oct. 27, delegates to the SECC constituency session elected Sandra Roberts president. Roberts is the first-ever female conference president.

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PACIFIC UNION recorder

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Of Gifts and Givers

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Now by this I'll overcome—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
Now by this I'll reach my home—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Glory! Glory! This I sing—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
All my praise for this I bring—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

As a child growing up in Michigan, I looked forward to December for several reasons. Topping the list were winter recess from school, snowball fights and Christmas with its gifts, food and family time.

Christmas was a time for giving and, in my childish mind, primarily for receiving gifts. Our home wasn't particularly religious, so the focus was on the American secular practice of Christmas as a cultural holiday to be exploited for its consumerism opportunities.

As I grew older, I learned there was no Santa Claus (hope I am not disturbing anyone's peace with that revelation). I later grew into an understanding that Jesus the Christ, God's only begotten son, was not born on December 25.

The date of His birth may not now be a point of doctrinal dispute, but I do believe we all can agree that the greatest gift that God the Great Gift Giver ever bestowed on the world is referenced in John 3:16, one of the best well-known texts from the Bible: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NASB).

What a gift! Paul refers to it as the "unspeakable gift," "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (1 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). Our great and loving God has provided us a gift that is without compare; the gift of his own Son, the incarnate God, Jesus Christ.

We rejoice not only in God gifting the world with Jesus Christ, but also for the Son for His gift, his blood shed on Calvary that provides the power to wash away our sins, and more.

As the old song says: "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh! precious is the flow, That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus" (Words & Music: Robert Lowry, in *Gospel Music*, by William Doane and Robert Lowry; New York: Biglow & Main, 1876).

We have also received the Holy Spirit, who descended to this planet in rich and full currents of power at the ascension of Jesus, to dwell in us and empower us to victory through faith in Jesus! As Paul stated, "For it is God which

worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13, KJV).

"If ye... know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:13). The Holy Spirit, the representative of Himself, is the greatest of all gifts. All "good things" are comprised in this. The Creator himself can give us nothing greater, nothing better. "When we beseech the Lord to pity us in our distress, and to guide us by His Holy Spirit, He will never turn away our prayer" (Ellen G. White, *Lift Him Up*, 107).

What gifts and what a Gift Giver! Praise God for His continuous gifts to us. Every minute in this life, every breath breathed, every meal eaten, every cell of blood coursing through our veins and arteries are gifts from God. The supreme gift, in my opinion, is the soul cleansing blood of Jesus. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17, King James 2000 Bible).

Obviously, no matter how great the gifts, they should draw our attention to the Gift Giver, who has bestowed them out of agape, the self-sacrificing love.

We thankfully, humbly live in the knowledge of God's giftedness and glorify Him as the greatest gift giver!



Ricardo Graham

Adventist Health Strives for a Culture of Safety

Some call it a job, others refer to it as their calling, and some view it as a Sacred Work. Every day, physicians, nurses and clinical staff go to work at one of Adventist Health's 19 hospitals and provide physical, mental and spiritual healing to patients. Creating a culture of safety is just one of the ways Adventist Health is working to ensure the best possible care environment for patients.

For more than 100 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been a pioneer in health care. This tradition continues as Adventist Health blazes another trail through participation in the "Safety Attitude Questionnaire." The SAQ is a reliable and validated tool that has been administered in more than 1,800 hospitals in the United States and around the world, identifying key areas where action can be taken to improve patient safety and care.

In 2008, Adventist Health partnered with Bryan Sexton, Ph.D., Duke University (formerly from Johns Hopkins University), to administer the survey and assess staff perceptions of teamwork and safety practices to provide safe and reliable care. Physicians, nurses and other clinical staff were asked to fill out a survey every 18 months reviewing nine key areas: teamwork, safety climate, job satisfaction, stress awareness, working conditions, perceptions of senior management, perception of unit management, resilience (burnout), and spirituality in the workplace. The survey provides Adventist Health with insight into focused areas where actions can be taken to improve the safety and teamwork climate in clinical departments.

"Adventist Health believes that our mission statement — sharing God's love through physical, mental and spiritual healing — applies not

only to patient care, but also to caregiver care," says Keith Doram, M.D., Adventist Health chief medical officer and vice president of clinical effectiveness.

Adventist Health is the first health care system in the United States to include questions about spirituality in its survey. Since spirituality based questions were added to the survey in 2009, three rounds of the surveys have been administered. Under the leadership of Doram, Sexton is currently analyzing the data from the past three surveys looking for associations between spirituality and increased patient safety. Preliminary data has shown a connection between higher spirituality scores and better teamwork and resilience in the work place.

"We are involved in an exciting and unique research study looking at how our spiritual climate is affecting health care and wellness



THREE

Good/God Things:

How to increase positivity +

Five Forms of Positivity
(Cultivate Positivity)

Gratitude Hope
Inspiration
Joy Love

One way clinical units are promoting positivity is through an exercise called “Three Good Things” or “Three God Things.” Spend a few moments each day reflecting on three good/God things that happened during the course of your day and what role you played in them. Try this for two weeks and see what a difference positivity can make in your life.

“Positivity” by Dr. Barbara L. Fredrickson

outcomes,” says Doram. “Enhancing our spiritual climate in all of our facilities can result in improved wellness, not only for patients, but for our workforce, as well.”

The spirituality-based survey questions ask care providers if they are encouraged to express spirituality in their department, if their spiritual views are accepted and respected, and if they feel comfortable talking about God. The survey results showed that if employees feel accepted and respected, the more they feel empowered to share their beliefs with patients and co-workers.

“Spirituality is the foundation of patient care,” says Gloria Santos, vice president of patient care services, and registered nurse at Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif. “As a result of our culture of spirituality and faith, we have seen a reduction in patient medical errors.”

Feather River Hospital has consistently ranked high in the categories of teamwork and safety. Santos attributes that to the culture of teamwork, compassion and spirituality found at the hospital. Visitors and patients find it common to see employees praying with patients and fellow employees.

In an effort to encourage the culture of safety at Adventist Health hospitals, leadership teams from each facility visit the clinical units on a regular basis to talk with employees and gain a better understanding of ways they can improve teamwork and safety. While all Adventist Health facilities strive to make these a priority, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, Calif.,

was the top ranked hospital in the system for teamwork climate in the 2012 survey.

Leadership visits are one way the same day services outpatient department team at Feather River Hospital saw a dramatic improvement in its culture of safety score. In 2008, the department had a score of 50 percent. By identifying a few key areas of improvement, the SDSO department was reorganized and restructured. By 2012, the teamwork climate results from the survey were up to 100 percent.

Adventist Health’s Central Valley Network (Adventist Medical Center – Hanford, Reedley, Selma and Central Valley General Hospital) use the survey to develop action plans for any

clinical unit found to be in danger zones. Diane Hoyt, vice president of quality and patient safety at CVN, and Nancy Troxel, patient safety officer at CVN, attribute the strong spiritual culture with the ability to have a more resilient staff. The team at Central Valley Network uses the motto, “Patient safety is everyone’s job.”

As researchers continue to better understand the correlations between spirituality and patient care, Adventist Health is working to develop a strategy which will continue to improve patient safety.

Jenni Glass



Sisters Minister in Havana, Cuba

Hi, Nancy! Hi, Ginger!" called out the eager students at the Cuba Adventist Seminary in Havana when sisters Nancy Van Pelt and Ginger Snarr arrived on campus. They were greeted with waves, hugs and kisses from students, pastors and teachers who had become friends over the years. This was Van Pelt's third trip and Snarr's fourth to the island.

Although a travel embargo between the U.S. and Cuba keeps Americans from traveling directly to Cuba, a religious visa and help from friends in the Grand Caymans purchasing tickets made the trip possible.

The mission of the ladies was two-fold. Van Pelt's expertise is family life. She has written many books on marriage, courtship, parenting, puberty and teens — also women's ministry. The 40 books she's written have been translated into 30 languages, and literature evangelists around the world sell them, which is why she is asked to visit so many countries. She was in Cuba to teach at the seminary and to visit area churches.

Their second emphasis was distributing much-appreciated clothing, literature and finances that had been donated for students, workers and their families. Felt sets with an accompanying book in Spanish and other

handouts for children made by Lew and Frieda Tanner of Eugene, Ore., were a favorite. Snarr also brought a suitcase filled with clothing donated by members from Snarr's home church at Peoria-Sun Cities.

"At the school, I put all the men's clothing in a suitcase and brought it over to the classroom and laid the many ties and shirts out on the benches so the men could make choices," said Snarr. "They were thrilled! Each got at least three items. The gifts included a man's leather belt with a tag of \$45 which went to a pastor (equivalent to two month's wages for him), and a student received a pair of men's shoes to replace his very worn ones. Nancy and I were able to give each of them \$20, for which they were very surprised and grateful."

When it came time to give the ladies'

clothing away, 15 girls from the dorm took turns choosing their favorite items.

Besides teaching at the school, Van Pelt was able to speak at three churches — one a very poor church in a rural area. Snarr quietly gave \$40 to the pastor. "He was overwhelmed and very thankful," said Snarr. "He sent many thanks over and over to the donor."



Seminary students display Bible tracts provided by members of the Peoria-Sun Cities church.



Ginger Snarr presents Cuba's children's ministries director Maria del Carmen Abreu with bags of Bible story felts.



Janet Amador translated Nancy Van Pelt's messages.

Wages aren't the only thing behind the times in Cuba. Time seems to have stopped 50-60 years ago. Old colorful cars from the '40s and '50s are everywhere. The high humidity can cause mold on buildings and damage to roads. Endless billboards tell how wonderful socialism is and praise the leadership of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. The people mostly ignore them, however, because they see the effects of this government on their lives.

Van Pelt and Snarr also endured small inconveniences, such as carrying their own water and toilet paper, because toilets do not have seat covers and paper is rarely provided. Showers often don't have hot water. Area transportation is mostly by bicycle taxis, though some are fortunate enough to have a bicycle of their own.

Horses and buggies are very common outside of the big city. At one of the larger churches in Havana where Van Pelt spoke, two of the pastors came to church on very old motorcycles. Seminary Pastor Luis Amador has created a 'family bicycle' with a wooden seat in front for his son and a makeshift seat on the back for his daughter.

"We do the best with what we have," commented one pastor. "We don't complain."

Students at the seminary come from many countries, including Angola, many from Mexico, currently one from the U.S., many from Central America and a few from South America. Tuition there is very low; Cubans pay \$25 per month, which includes room, board and tuition. Anyone from outside of Cuba pays \$100 per month. Since the average wage in Cuba is about \$25 per month, many still need assistance with tuition. A gift of \$250, donated by a friend and fellow church member from Snarr's church, paid the full tuition for two married seminary students for a year.

There are 207 Seventh-day Adventist churches and 147 companies in Cuba. The membership continues to grow, in part because of the work of ShareHim evangelistic teams and Maranatha volunteers. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is now the largest Protestant denomination in Cuba.

"It was a privilege to spend time with these dedicated workers," said Van Pelt. "They have been persecuted in the past and live in extreme poverty. But they have hope for the future and look forward to Jesus' soon return."

Shirley Chipman



Cuba Adventist Seminary Pastor Luis Amador, his wife Janet and their two children enjoy active lives on the campus. Janet is a translator, while Luis teaches classes and pastors.



Cuban students show off the clothing given to them by the Peoria-Sun Cities church members.

Small Group Festival Celebrates Ministry of Belonging

At the third annual Small Group Festival held Sept. 21 at the Pasadena church, small-group leaders and participants from area churches, including Glendale Filipino and Central Filipino, came together to share experiences and details about their groups' varied formats.

Small groups "are to help members and friends experience fellowship on a level that is deeper than it was before," said Edgar Lloren, pastor of the Pasadena church.

"A small group is *the* ministry of the church," said Samuel Lee, director, Asian Pacific Region. "We need small groups before we can have revival and reformation."

"I was won to Christ in a small group," said J. P. O'Connor, Norwalk church pastor, detailing how his brother invited him to a church attended by friends with whom the O'Connor brothers had formerly hung out in a bar.

On drugs and suicidal, O'Connor decided to go. He heard people talking about Jesus, enjoyed hugs, free food and friends talking in groups, "But why," he asked, "do you worship on Saturday?"

His friends opened their Bibles and gave him a study. "Can I have a Bible?" O'Connor asked. When they gave him one, he began reading it nearly eight hours every day.

"Why not come to our house?" his friends asked. "We'll have food, Bible study, a youth leader, guitar, singing and videos."

"I was transformed," O'Connor said, "because I believed — and now they took me in and made me feel that I was in the family; I belonged. Three months later, I was baptized."

Lay people shared stories of the diverse groups in which they were involved: Greg Sewell meets with the youth of Pasadena church for Friday vespers. "I lead the youth because of the need and the guidance opportunities," he said.

Vhon and Joy Umadhay started a Sunday-evening group called Paladin CALEB in their San Bernardino County home. "Our purpose was to gather for Bible studies," noted Vhon. "We also study *The Adventist Home*, a chapter per week,

and pray. New parents come and topics are chosen based on the group's needs."

"Personally," said Joy, "I want to get closer to God."

"Establishing our kind of small group," explained Vhon, "you are belonging, with your family. Sometimes families have difficult times. Small group members know that they have 'family' to pray with and be comforted by; it is that kind of relationship."

Lloren announced that one "small" group of 35 people had been meeting and studying independently and decided they wanted to join with the Pasadena church. "Our church has grown by about 45 people this year, largely because of this group," he said.

"For most traditional evangelism," O'Connor said, "we want people to believe, and we hope they feel that they belong. With small group evangelism, we want people to feel they belong" as group members learn to believe, together.

EILEEN LIGAN



Pasadena church youth and leader Greg Sewell maintain a calendar of social activities, discussions and community outreach, including helping in a kitchen serving the homeless each month.



EDGAR LLOREN

One portion of a group of 35 that has joined with the Pasadena church is meeting for nurture in a Loma Linda residence.

Betty Cooney

Iki Taimi Ordained to the Ministry

Iki Tolu Taimi, senior pastor of the Gardena Genesis Community Adventist Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry Sept. 7 in the Long Beach church. University colleagues Jodi Cahill, Community & International Relations, Executive Education, La Sierra University; Samuel Leonor, LSU campus chaplain; Maury D. Jackson, LSU assistant professor of pastoral ministry; and Terry Swensen, campus chaplain, Loma Linda University, were among those participating in the program. Sonatane Vunileva, pastor, Los Angeles Tongan church, and other SCC pastors and administrators also participated.

Taimi was born in Tonga, the grandson of Pastor Suliasi Taimi and the son of Lio and Anaukilatai Taimi. Lio was a teacher in Adventist schools around the Pacific Rim before going into business and eventually moving to the U.S.

Graduating from Monterey Bay Academy and then La Sierra University with a degree in biblical studies, Iki Taimi completed his Master of Theological Studies with high honors.

As student director of HomeBase Ministries at La Sierra University, he traveled throughout North America giving worship programs for schools, camp meetings, churches and conferences.

Shortly after graduation, he received the call from the Southern California Conference. Administrators had been praying for a young adult pastor to come and work on a church plant project.

For seven years, Taimi has actively worked with the Genesis church plant with a passion for young adult singles and families who didn't have an active relationship with Christ before connecting with the group. Two years ago, the Gardena Community church merged with the Genesis plant to become the Gardena Genesis Community church. He also serves as the chair for the SCC senior youth and young adult committee, and is one of the founders of the SCC collegiate ministry called Pheron.

Taimi and his wife, Melanie, are the parents of a 9-month-old daughter, Mikayla Evalynn Clarion Taimi.

"My faith has grown at each turn as God made a way for education, finances and opportunities, so I just kept utilizing all the blessings

He granted me," reflected Taimi. "I continued through Adventist schooling and pushed on to LSU, not because I wanted to get a degree, but because I wanted to understand God better so that I could reach more people. Along the

way, I had a wrestling match with God in which we agreed that if He would use my style and personality I would always minister for Him."

Betty Cooney



Colleagues from SCC and area universities joined with Iki and Melanie Taimi during the pastoral welcome.



Gardena Community members and worship team recently participated in a local festival, offering free health screenings and musical numbers.

Central Spanish Church Hosts Series with 3ABN Latino Network

LUIS RODRIGAS SR.



Jorge Jaque, production director of 3ABN Latino Network, introduces his production crew that worked throughout the series to air the Central Spanish church meetings.

As part of an ongoing program to serve the community, the Central Spanish church conducted a series in October titled “Chosen and Transformed” (Escogidos y Transformados), featuring 3ABN Latino speaker Andrés Portés. To promote the series, the church held three concerts: the first in nearby MacArthur Park.

“About 200 people attended the first concert, one-third of whom were from the community,” said Senior Pastor Enoch Calderon. “One man who was out walking his dog stopped by. A couple who had been drinking attended, and the music moved them to tears. We handed out up to 150 bags of lunch and a number of food baskets. In addition to sharing music, we shared a message of hope and invited the people to come to the meetings that were to start in our church the following Saturday evening.” Another concert opened the evangelistic series, and the final one closed the meetings.

The church also held children’s meetings for nearly 40 youngsters. Prior to each meeting, Miguel and Netty DeFrancisco, a husband and wife family therapist team, offered family counseling services. The series drew 125 visitors, several of whom continued meeting in one of the church’s 10 home-based small groups.

“Initially, only four people came to the church from the park concerts,” Calderon reported. “Two individuals requested Bible studies, and one person is active in a small group in the home of a member whose apartment is near the park.”

A young member came to church, bringing a boy who was on drugs. After attending a meeting, the visitor returned with his sister, who was later baptized, and soon brought his brother.

Currently he and his family members are active in the church’s small groups.

The series concluded with 12 baptisms. Later, a few weddings and five additional baptisms grew the church family.

In his opening sermon, Portés challenged, “God wants to speak through you to speak to others, to save them. My question is this: will you dare say yes to God? Si o no? [Yes or no?]”

The Central Spanish church has answered “yes” by regularly hosting job fairs, health fairs, and revival and evangelistic meetings for young and old. Each event or service is designed to let the community know that Adventists are in the heart of their neighborhood, caring enough to share messages of hope.

Betty Cooney

LUIS RODRIGAS SR.



A concert in MacArthur Park attracted neighborhood residents, where they received invitations to the evangelistic series at Central Spanish church.

Two Hundred Young Adults Respond to Can U Hear Me Now? Youth Conference

End Times Like These Ministries held its first Can U Hear Me Now? Youth Conference at Camp Cedar Falls Oct. 11-13. The weekend was a time of fellowship, prayer and inspirational messages for the more than 200 young people who gathered for the retreat.

On the opening night of the conference, Pastor Larry Caviness joined the youth in united prayer, led by Elgin Jenkins of the Central Filipino church. During this prayer session, leaders invited the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the attendees and onto the campground.

The youth came from several churches within the Pacific Union and from as far away as the Bermuda Conference. Sermons and breakout sessions on various topics were designed to revive and lead youth into reformation. Presenters included lay evangelists Dwayne and Alexandra Lemon; Magna Parks, Ph.D.; Pastor Gerzon Gomez; Thom Mayer; Isaac Olatunji, Ph.D.; and Pastor Alvin Maragh.

Olatunji, a professor at Oakwood University, shared a Sabbath morning devotional in which several youth took a stand for Christ for the first time. From there, they became deeply interested in the breakout sessions that address the challenges they face as young people.

Dwayne Lemon, who directs Preaching, Teaching & Healing Ministries, shared a presentation for the Sabbath morning worship service, which captivated the youth. This led several participants to come together privately in groups to pray for each other.

At Sabbath evening's general session, Gomez, a teacher at Bakersfield Adventist Academy, spoke of how God's Word should be studied and applied to everyday lives.

At the conclusion of the conference, 10 young people decided to take Bible studies in preparation for baptism and several for rebaptism, personal counseling and prayer. The End Times Like These lay evangelist team has been following up with these individuals.

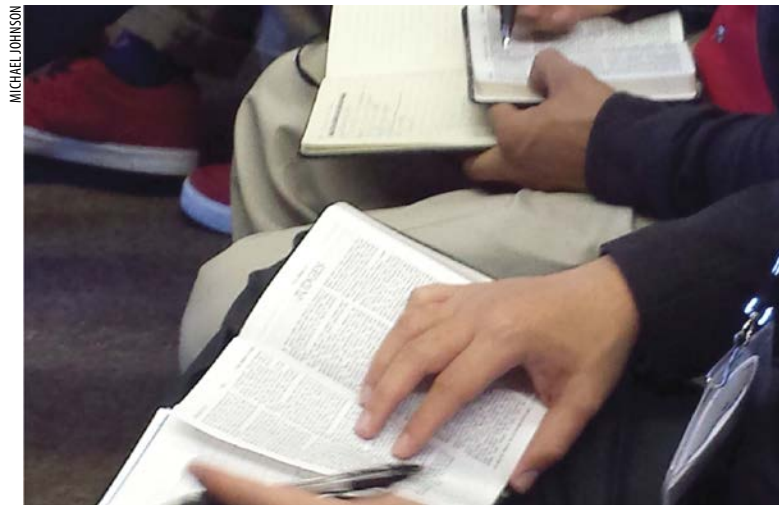
David Darrett Jr., a young adult from the Valley Crossroads church, shared his excitement about what he had experienced at the conference. "I can't wait until the 2014 conference (May 23-26)," he exclaimed. "I am going to invite all of my friends and every youth I know, because this conference has made an impact on my life and on many others who attended. Every youth should attend this conference!"

"We are grateful for this opportunity to help the youth with their challenges and struggles to surrender their hearts and lives to Christ," said lay evangelists Michael and Denise Johnson. "The mission of the Can U Hear Me Now? Youth Conference is not only to help the youth through the barriers that block them from hearing God, but also to

develop and equip youth disciples for the end times."

"Can U Hear Me Now was a huge blessing," added Maragh, associate pastor of the Central Filipino church. "The young people were very attentive during all of the meetings. I believe that many were converted by hearing the still small voice of the Holy Spirit."

Michael Johnson



Many took detailed notes regarding their personal relationship with Jesus.



Dr. Isaac Olatunji gives an early morning appeal to the youth.

Young Adults Empowered for Mission and Evangelism



Pastor Ron Pickell shares his passion and experience sharing Christ on public college campuses.



Pastor Ben Lundquist facilitates a vision session with Oahu young adults.



Young adults were empowered and inspired to impact their island for Christ.

In September, pastors Ron Pickell and Ben Lundquist trained and inspired 30 young adults for community and campus outreach and evangelism. Pickell, North American Division coordinator of Adventist Christian Fellowship, trained and challenged attendees to have an effect on their public campuses. Lundquist, director of young adult ministries for the Arizona Conference, explained how identity can be found in Christ and mission in the world. What began as a simple felt need has become a movement of young adults eager to grow spiritually and to reach out to their generation.

"I didn't know what to expect and even thought of not coming," said one attendee, "but as soon as Pastor Ben started speaking, I realized this was for me!"

All who came were aware of a problem: the church is losing many in this generation. And attendees wanted to be part of the solution. In the weeks that followed, a number of attendees from across Oahu began to invest themselves and include others in ministry. Andrew and Natasha Geigle kicked off Taco Tuesday, a networking venue for young adults. Adam Hori and Allie Tsai invited others to their small group to study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy (Ellen White). Luis Beltre made plans to start a small group Bible study on a college campus. A group of young adults partnered to host a convocation potluck in an attempt to strengthen mentoring relationships with youth.

"Young adults and college students from around Hawaii seemed energized and empowered by the Campus Catalyst training to minister to other young adults and to start ministries on their campuses," said Pickell. "The room was popping with ideas during the Saturday evening visioning session as we discussed ways to build on what had already begun in our time together. We all sensed the movement of God's Spirit among us. This weekend was the start of something new and great for young adult/collegiate ministry in Hawaii."

A team of young adults are currently planning another retreat called RECLAIM, scheduled for Jan. 17-20 at Camp Waianae, which focuses

on engaging and empowering college students and young adults to walk in fellowship with Christ. The young adults will teach workshops on finances, missions, spiritual growth, Bible study, prayer and many others.

Jesse Seibel

HMA K8 Celebrates Pastor Appreciation Week by Returning a “Tithe” to Churches

Adventist schools operate on a very limited budget and often request additional funding from churches and conferences for school operations, tuition assistance and special capital projects. Churches subsidize the schools, and many churches are scraping the bottom just to keep their constituent schools open.

Through an increase in enrollment and careful budget management, Hawaiian Mission Academy K-8 ended the 2012-2013 school year with a significant positive balance. For nearly 100 years, the constituent churches have faithfully and sacrificially supported their school through subsidies, student aide and special projects. When Principal Miki Nelson and the finance committee realized the significant year-end financial gain, they began to think of many ways to utilize this special blessing to improve an aging facility by preparing for future needs.

As they prayerfully considered the options, the committee was impressed to return a tithe on the increase as a “thank offering” to its constituent churches as a way to help churches with their significant student aide.

“Since the churches gave unconditionally to help the children of the school,” said Nelson, “my hope is that the money gifted back will benefit the children of the churches.” The school board unanimously supported the recommendation. The funds were apportioned according to subsidy and student aide paid to the school.

On Oct. 4, the supporting pastors were invited to a special Friday morning celebration breakfast for pastor appreciation week. Students put on a program with music selections and readings of thanks from all K-8 classes. Then the pastors received monies totaling \$21,493 as a token of thanks to the churches for their years of faithful support.

“I think HMA K-8 has done something historic,” said Pastor Jesse Seibel. “I’ve never heard of a school giving funds to a church. This is a great way to demonstrate how church and school can assist each other.”

Adventist schools cannot survive without significant church support. When classrooms and congregations are united in the effort to share the gospel through education, both are strengthened.

PHOTOS BY BRITTANY ASATANI



HMA Principal Miki Nelson (in red) presents a check to pastors (l. to r.) Walt Nelson, Mark Duarte, Jon Clark, Gerry Christman, and Tim Nelson, with the help of Superintendent David Escobar and President Ralph Watts.



HMA students perform during the pastors' appreciation breakfast.



Pastors get high-fives from the kindergarten class. Athalia Faletofo connects with President Ralph Watts.

David Escobar

Granite Bay Church Celebrates Official Organization

The Northern California Conference has organized the 140th conference church in its territory. The Granite Bay company officially became a church on Oct. 5, with about 300 charter members. The new church's senior pastor is Doug Batchelor, who also serves as senior pastor of the Sacramento Central church.

The congregation had its beginnings more than six years ago when a group of about 15 church members from the Sacramento Central church began meeting in a home during the week to pray, study and talk about growing a new congregation in Granite Bay, a suburb north of Sacramento. A number of the church's members were living in the area, and it was rapidly growing — making it a good territory for evangelism.

The new church plant met for the first time on Sept. 20, 2007, at a local elementary school. About 50 worshipers attended, most of whom came from the "mother" church (Central) to support the "daughter" church. A little over a year later, the congregation had outgrown the school and moved to a rented church in Loomis, near the Granite Bay border, where about 350 worshipers still meet each Sabbath. Several years ago, the group was organized as a company, the second step in the process to becoming an official church.

From the beginning, the congregation has been led by Jëan Ross, Amazing Facts vice president for evangelism, assisted by John Quedzuweit, who now serves as the new church's

head elder. Since its earliest days, outreach has been a major focus. "Once we were all set up, we advertised and immediately started doing evangelism," said Ross. "We've been very encouraged by the spirit of the members in their enthusiasm and commitment to evangelism, both financially as well as with time and effort."

The congregation holds a major evangelistic series almost every year. (The most recent one concluded in May.) Leaders have discovered some effective ways of reaching the prosperous Granite Bay area, such as emphasizing health outreach along with traditional evangelism, and mailing invitations rather than trying to go door-to-door in gated communities. Members who attend nearby Sierra College have started a Bible club on campus to reach out to their fellow students.

This energetic outreach is a result of the members' spiritual commitment. When Assistant Pastor Dan Garza first began attending, he

was surprised to see typically 70-80 — sometimes 100 — people attending a mid-week service to pray and share. "I have never seen a prayer meeting so large in my life," he said. "The natural outflow was that people were starting to tell their neighbors. Evangelism and witnessing were direct results of revival taking place inside the church."

The congregation also seeks to witness to those outside its immediate community. They have raised money for projects in Honduras, the Ukraine, Madagascar and Mexico. On the most recent annual church family mission trip to a Navajo reservation, members participated in health outreach, a kids' program, and a building project. "The congregation's commitment to mission activity is part of the reason it's been blessed," said Ross.

Julie Lorenz



Conference and church leaders gather at the church organization service. From left to right: Head Elder John Quedzuweit, NCC Assistant to the President Ed Fergusson, Senior Pastor Doug Batchelor, Assistant Pastor Dan Garza, Amazing Facts Vice President for Evangelism Jëan Ross, NCC President Jim Pedersen, NCC Treasurer John Rasmussen and NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson.

Vallejo Berea Church Focuses on Innovative Friendship Evangelism

When a church's neighborhood hits hard times, sometimes the congregation's first impulse is to move somewhere else. However, the members of the Vallejo Berea church have a different philosophy. "We really have a conviction at Berea that God keeps us right where we are, to keep doing what we're doing," said church elder Bob Hoffman. What they are doing is reaching out to their local community for Christ in a variety of creative ways.

Kids' Club

When 18-year-old Priscilla Morgan wanted to make a difference in the neighborhood, she started a Friday night kids' club in the fall of 2012. Throughout last school year, every other week about 15 kids, ages 5-14, came to the church for dinner, a VBS-style program and children's choir practice. The choir, conducted by Wanetta Daniel, sang once a month for the Sabbath worship service. "The program was such a blessing, and Priscilla was so eager to do it," said her aunt, Cherlyn Morgan. Although the club took a break for the summer, the kids took a couple of field trips to a jelly bean factory and the library.

This school year, Priscilla is away at Pacific Union College, but her aunt and other volunteers continue the program every Friday night. "We didn't want the flame that she started to go out," said Cherlyn Morgan. "The program is definitely a need in the community." Several parents who came to hear their children sing in the choir have begun attending church functions regularly. Morgan especially appreciates

the difference she sees in one single mother and her two children. "They have made a total change, and they come faithfully on Sabbath," she said.



Priscilla Morgan reads a story to members of the kids' club she started at the Vallejo Berea church.

Block Party

This past July, the church hosted its fifth-annual free block party in nearby Washington Park. "The party's goal is to help the community identify our little church as a resource for their physical and spiritual needs," said Hoffman. "We believe that it takes as much frequent contact as possible for the neighborhood to get to know us." Carnival games and fair-style food got the kids' attention, while professional haircuts, health checks, dental screening and live gospel music attracted the adults. This year, neighbors signed up in advance to receive bags of groceries. Some of the same people stop by the church during the year when they are hungry. "We

make friends by being in the park every year," said Hoffman.

Other committed Adventists — members of the Novato church — came to the block party with a special ministry: foot care. Inspired by Christ's service, the church members bathed people's feet in warm water, applied lotion, and gave pedicures. A number of homeless people benefitted from this care.

Backpack Giveaway

Each August, just before school starts, the church gives away 100-150 backpacks containing school supplies to community kids whose parents have difficulty making ends meet. Local businesses donate some of the supplies, but church members pay for the rest. A sign in front of the church and some posters are all the advertising that is needed.

In all their outreach, Vallejo Berea church members see their neighbors not as a project, but as potential friends. "God wants us to get out to the community; that is what we're told to do," said Morgan. "So many people are hurting — regular people who are just trying to make it."

Julie Lorenz



Kids' club members enjoy a summer trip to a jelly bean factory.



Facepainting is part of the fun at the block party.



Visitors receive free haircuts at the Vallejo Berea church block party last July.

NCC Ordains Three Pastors

The Northern California Conference ordained three people to the gospel ministry in the late summer. Each one has a unique story to tell of God's guidance and calling.

Christopher Hagen

Christopher Hagen believes he is living answered prayer, as he serves as chaplain at St. Helena Hospital Center for Behavioral Health. "When I think of how God has done so much for us, my work becomes my prayer of gratitude!" he said.



COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER HAGEN

Christopher Hagen, chaplain at St. Helena Hospital Center for Behavioral Health, and his wife Julia have two daughters, Chloe (left) and Amelie. Hagen was ordained at the Elmshaven church on Aug. 17.

Born into a family with deep roots in Adventism, Hagen's childhood was spent in Lancaster, Calif. During his teens, the family moved to Turlock, and Hagen attended Modesto Adventist Academy, where he enjoyed varsity sports, drama, choir and competitive swimming.

In 1989, he chose to attend Pacific Union College. A highlight of his college experience included two years as a student missionary in Micronesia, serving as acting principal and teacher at a 10-grade school and church plant. Upon returning to PUC, he became active in student leadership and campus ministries. During

the summers, Hagen worked with his brother, directing creative programming for the Hawaii Adventist summer camp program.

Hagen graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications in 1995, was hired by PUC as an enrollment counselor and met Julia Andersen; within a year they were married. Shortly afterward, the couple moved to Los Angeles, where they became active in the Hawthorne church's ministry programs. Hagen's sense that God was leading him to pastoral ministry became clearer.

The NCC affirmed his calling and sponsored his study at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Three years later, he received his Master of Divinity, and the couple — along with new daughter Chloe — returned to California so Hagen could serve as associate pastor at the Napa Community church. After several years, he became PUC's director of student activities and creative ministries. During this time, daughter Amelie was born.

The foreshadowing of hospital chaplaincy began when six-year-old Chloe was diagnosed with brain cancer. The family entered a four-year blur of tests, treatments and inpatient stays at various children's hospitals. Friends and family became God's love to the Hagens as they rallied across the globe for prayer and support. In 2009, due to worsening cancer and uncontrollable seizures, Chloe's left hemisphere was surgically removed. Four years later, she continues to be cancer and seizure-free in addition to overcoming much of her original paralysis.

Inspired by the presence of God his family had experienced in a hospital setting, Hagen

felt drawn toward chaplaincy. He explored this avenue through an extended program at UC Davis Medical Center, and continued in a clinical pastoral education residency at Stanford Hospital and Clinics. He now serves as a full-time chaplain.

Trevor Barnes Jr.

Sacramento Capitol City church Associate Pastor Trevor Barnes Jr. feels a special burden to reach youth and young adults. "I want every young person I meet to be unashamed of who he or she is in Jesus," he said. "Most of all, I want to bring a message of hope to everyone that God is love, and the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, can indeed cover our sins."

When he was almost 5 years old, Barnes moved with his family from Mandeville, Jamaica, to Oakland, Calif. Church participation was very important to his parents, so at a young age he and his two sisters were active in the Oakland Immanuel Temple church. Barnes participated in Pathfinders, choir and the Adventist Youth Society (which he eventually led). Sabbaths were high days at the Barnes' household, and their home was always filled with young people. This strong foundation greatly influenced their son.

Educated at Golden Gate Academy, Barnes was actively involved in campus life, participating in music, sports, yearbook and student



COURTESY OF TREVOR BARNES JR.

Pastor Trevor Barnes Jr. and his wife Jasmine have been blessed with daughter Nia Ann Vivica and son Trevor Douglas III.

government. Despite his church and school activities, he did not always make the best decisions. One night while praying over these issues, he felt God's presence and knew that Christ's blood covered all his sins. This pivotal experience turned the direction of Barnes's life. He decided to attend Oakwood College (now University) to pursue a degree in theology. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in ministerial theology in 2003, Barnes conducted an evangelistic series in Port More, Jamaica, baptizing more than 20 people.

He then headed to the SDA Theological Seminary, where he served as vice president of its Black Student Association, and as pastoral intern at the Hyde Park church in Chicago. Following his graduation in 2006 with a Master of Divinity, Barnes completed his first unit of clinical pastoral education in Atlanta, Ga.

During this time, he received a call from Pastor Earl Canson Jr. to be the youth pastor of the Fresno Westside church. Barnes worked beside his mentor for three and a half years, focused on discipling young people. He also conducted evangelistic series, taught Bible classes at Fresno Adventist Academy, and provided weekly counseling sessions for students.

While in Fresno he met Jasmine Canson, and they were married in 2009, the same year he received the call to the Capitol City church. Since then two children have joined the family — Nia Ann Vivica and Trevor Douglas III.



Sacramento Capitol City church Associate Pastor Trevor Barnes Jr. was ordained at his church on Sept. 14.



Long Thatcher (Thach Long Hanh) was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Oakland Market Street church on Sept. 28 in a service conducted in both English and Vietnamese.

Long Thatcher

Long Thatcher's dramatic life experiences have served to strengthen his belief in Christ's life-changing power. "I believe that He offers everlasting life, heals broken hearts, and changes the destiny of those who invite Him into their lives," he said.

Thatcher, whose Vietnamese name is Thach Long Hanh, was born in Tra Vinh, South Vietnam, into a military family who helped aid American interests during the Vietnam War. After the country's fall in 1975, the family faced many difficulties.

When Long was eight, his mother began asking God for guidance. Although she didn't know Him, she felt that He was calling her to leave the country along with her son and two daughters. They made the dangerous trek to Cambodia, and then walked through a minefield to a refugee camp along the border of Thailand. The family hoped they could continue to the United States, but their paperwork did not go through, and they were stuck in the camp for four years. However, God used that difficult time; Thatcher's camp unit was next to an Adventist church. Curious by what he saw, he visited the church, and the seed of faith was planted.

Finally, the family was allowed to move to Los Angeles in 1986, where Thatcher began his schooling and started learning the English alphabet at age 14. The Holy Spirit continued to work, and Thatcher finally met God. A few years later, the family was blessed with a stepfather and later a new sister. Thatcher's stepfather led the family to attend the Adventist church, and in time they all were baptized. Thatcher became actively involved at the El Monte Vietnamese

church — preaching and conducting Bible studies.

In 2001, Long graduated from California State University Long Beach with a Bachelor of Science in business administration. He worked for a time as a supervisor, but then felt God calling him to ministry. Long completed his Master of Divinity from the SDA Theological Seminary in 2005. (While there, he served at the Lakeview church in Chicago and helped conduct an evangelistic series.) Afterward, he served as associate pastor of the El Monte Vietnamese church until he was called to the NCC in 2006.

That same year, Long married Vicky Bich Hien Nguyen. The couple has been serving at the Oakland Market Street church and the Oakland Vietnamese church plant ever since. (Thatcher also earned two units of clinical pastoral education at Stanford University Hospital.) In 2009, their son Andrew was born.

Julie Lorenz



Pastor Long Thatcher (with his wife Vicky and son Andrew) pastors the Oakland Vietnamese church plant, a ministry of the Oakland Market Street church.

Conference Hosts First Conference-wide Rally for Junior Youth, Youth and Young Adults

In late October, the Nevada-Utah Conference held its first conference-wide event for young people, which included concurrent junior youth, youth and young adult rallies held at the Mountain View church and nearby facilities.

“Ever since my first area youth rally in Las Vegas as a youth director for the Nevada-Utah Conference, I’ve wanted to see the young people from all over the conference come together for one big rally,” said Pastor David Solomon Hall. “I wanted the youth to come and get to know each other so that they would know that they are not the only ones — a feeling common for kids in small churches. Now my dream has come true!”

The rally began on Thursday, Oct. 24, with a Festival of the Arts, where kids could display

their artistic and musical creations. “The idea is to have young people showcase their God-given artistic talents in ways that are not always noticed,” said Angel Heredia, Mountain View’s interim pastor.

Afterward, members of the River Church, which rents the Mountain View buildings on Sundays and Thursdays, provided music and ended up staying for the rally, where Gilbert Cangy, General Conference youth director, preached the evening sermon. “The River Church members were amazed when several of our Adventist young people joined their prayer meeting,” said Hall. “They said some of their prayers were the ‘most genuine and poignant’ prayers they have ever heard.”

On Friday, Elden Henry-Pottinger organized basketball and volleyball tournaments, held at the Las Vegas Junior Academy gymnasium. Youth from the Abundant Life and Paradise churches won first place in those sports.

That evening, kids were divided by age and each group heard a message specifically for them. Ruben Rene Rios, youth pastor at the Kansas Avenue church in Riverside, Calif., was the junior youth speaker. Chaplain Major P. C. Willis Jr., United States Army, addressed young adults, and Cangy was both the youth speaker and the main speaker.



David Solomon Hall Sr., NUC youth director; Pastor Ruben Rios; Gilbert Cangy, General Conference youth director; Chaplain Philip Willis; and Larry Unterseher, NUC president.



Contemporary Christian musician Laura Whidden addresses the crowd.



Saved By Grace performs during the rally.

Sabbath, the final day of the rally, was a full day of attending seminars, participating in activities, and listening to preaching. Representatives from Monterey Bay Academy, Rio Lindo Academy, La Sierra University, NAD Public High School Ministry and Youth Rush showcased various service and learning opportunities.

“The music on Sabbath by the Faulafo Brothers was incredible,” said Hall. “The sermon was uplifting and inspiring. There was even a baptism!”

“This was one of the best worships that I have attended,” said Conference President Larry Unterseher. “Everything flowed so perfectly. The Holy Spirit was definitely here.”

That evening, Laura Whidden, a Seventh-day Adventist contemporary Christian musician from Berrien Springs, Mich., “took the attendees on a musical journey that dealt with a panoply of emotions,” said Hall. “She shared her own story and struggles and, in the end, all who attended knew that Jesus can help them through the rough times.”

“Best concert I’ve ever attended,” said Pastor Carlos Camacho.

Alicia Adams



Church Applied

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

Beauty FOR ASHES

I am a Survivor of...

Sometimes ministries are born out of our heartaches and trials. We asked Hannah Banks about her story and ministry.

My life story fuels my passion for ministry and life in general. I moved a lot as a child and never really established who I was or where I fit in. I was outgoing, athletic and was always into something. I made average grades and excelled in sports. My life changed from that spunky little girl when I was 13 years old. I was raped. After that, I struggled with depression, self-mutilation, drugs, alcohol, men and eventually suicide.

I was in and out of psychiatric hospitals and group homes for years to follow. When I was 17, a man from a church came and visited the group home I was in. He talked about a man named Jesus who could heal my heart and change my life. I was intrigued at the thought of my life being changed. He showed me how easy it was to talk to Him.



Hannah and Anthony Banks

Read our full interview with Hannah, and view her videos online at: www.visitinspire.org/survivorof

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR evangelism?



If your church is planning a creative outreach effort and you are located in the Pacific Union Conference, you may be able to secure special funds to jumpstart your project. Check out the guidelines and learn how it works.

Go to: paucevangelism.adventistfaith.org

Church: A Haven for Renewal

And Interview with Pastor Matthew Gamble



Matthew Gamble, lead pastor of the Elmshaven Seventh-day Adventist Church talks about his calling as a follower of Jesus and a pastor/teacher.

Editor – Matthew, I have followed your ministry from afar and have been encouraged by your fresh approach to sharing Jesus with your audiences. You are presently serving as lead pastor of the Elmshaven church in Napa Valley, and I understand that God is working there in exciting ways. But before we talk about that, please tell us about you — about your past, and about God’s hold on your life.

Gamble – I met the Holy Spirit when I was 19. Granted, I didn’t know it at the time, but God started revealing Himself to me through the things of the Spirit and His creation. I had been a professed atheist since I was 13. God had never been a part of my life (that I had previously realized). Then one day, while exploring a religion known as Rastafarianism in Jamaica, a conviction was birthed in me that there had to be a Creator somewhere.

That conviction took me on a journey for several months until one day I ended up at a wedding in Maryland which happened to be in the Spencerville SDA Church. Pastor Rob Vandeman was officiating that day, and after the wedding I requested to meet with him. I explained the journey that I was on and, having never heard of a Seventh-day Adventist before in my life, I was curious as to what his perspective was. At the end of our conversation together, Pastor Vandeman handed me the *Message Bible* (which at that time was only the New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs).

What happened next was really quite simple. I started reading the New Testament and read about the life and teachings of Jesus. His teachings made a significant impact in my life, and I decided fairly shortly after studying the Scriptures that I wanted to at least give this Guy a shot in my life.

Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/gamble

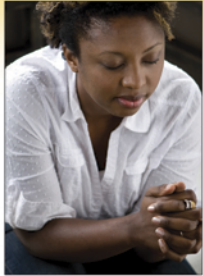


Hell and Mr. Fudge (DVDs now available)

As a Bible-belt preacher in 1970s Alabama, Edward Fudge faced prejudice and injustice when he challenged a long established theology of hell held by prominent churches in his community. Branded a heretic, Fudge ended up an outcast in his own town. MacKenzie Astin, Cody Sullivan, and a supporting cast of veteran actors bring this true story to life.

Purchase your copy of this great DVD! Length 96 minutes. Closed-captioned. LLT production. Price: US\$19.95. To order, call 707-965-2786 or visit www.visitinspire.org/fudge.

Resources YOU CAN USE



Prayer Journaling – Many have discovered that keeping a prayer journal helps them stay focused while praying, and it provides them with a way to remember God’s blessings over the years. Some use beautiful journals with gilded pages, notebooks, or inexpensive composition books with lined pages. If you’re techy and would like to do your journaling on your iPad or Smartphone, here are some apps you may want to consider:

- **Pray!:** pray.zerodeviation.net
- **Prayer Notebook:** www.prayernotebookapp.com
- **PrayerMate:** www.geero.net/prayermate
- **SharePray:** www.shareprayerapp.com



Don’t Just Sit There! – A 2010 study, published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, of people who sat more than six hours and were minimally active in all aspects of leisure time proved especially concerning for women. Females who sat more than six hours daily showed a 34 percent increased risk of dying prematurely, while men registered a 17 percent increase. (*Portland Monthly’s Health Guide*, 2013).



LivingIT App – Now you can keep the LivingIT resources you love with you at all times, right there in your pocket! The LivingIT app is free for iPhones and iPads in the App Store. Enjoy inspiring videos and devotionals, and be alerted to new content as soon as it’s available. For more info visit: www.churchsupportservices.org/livingit.

Story-telling at Church

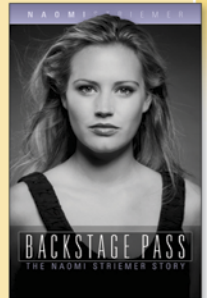
Today’s culture is media-driven and video expectant. People want to experience content both audibly and visually. As Internet download speeds increase and more people engage with the web via smartphones and tablets, they’re hungry for short videos that tell stories. If your church is interested in producing outreach videos, click here for tips and examples:

Get Started With Video:
www.churchsupportservices.org/video



Backstage Pass: *The Naomi Striemer Story*

Eighteen-year-old Naomi stepped into one of the most prestigious boardrooms known to musicians—Sony Records—and walked out a few minutes later with a record deal in her hand.



Hailed by critics as the next Celine Dion, Naomi Striemer thought her dreams of fame and fortune were right on track. She soon found herself rubbing shoulders with the likes of Randy Jackson, Carlos Santana, Steven Tyler, Britney Spears, Sean Puff Daddy Combs, Justin Timberlake and Avril Lavigne.

But just when her future looked brightest, one conversation changed it all. On one unforgettable evening, in the narrow hallway of a hip-hop studio, a chauffeur told her, “I had a dream about you last night. An angel came to me and told me he had a message for me to tell you.” As she listened to the stranger, the message he shared shook Naomi to the core and forced her to re-examine her life and her priorities.

As she stood on the threshold of achieving all she had ever dreamed for herself, Naomi knew she had to make a decision. Would she stay and watch with almost certainty as her dreams began to unfold, or would she walk away to pursue the unknown, following an incomparable God?

Backstage Pass is the candid account of an up-and-coming recording artist who left everything to follow Christ. Available at your Adventist Book Center or Amazon.com: Kindle: \$9.99; Paperback: \$14.22

Go to:
www.naomistriemermusic.com



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Connecting WITH OTHERS



You don't have to be a coffee drinker to try this approach. Starbucks and many other coffee shops offer a variety of drinks and foods that are in keeping with healthful diets. Plus they offer free wifi if you need to get online.

One morning, as I was eating my oatmeal and fruit breakfast at a Starbucks in Westlake Village, Calif., I couldn't help but notice three older gentlemen who were sitting nearby chatting and enjoying each other's company. Sitting nearby was another man who occasionally joined in the

discussion, but he kept looking at his iPad and seemed to be intent on what he was reading. Suddenly, a woman stopped in front of him and said, "Pastor, thank you so much for the sermon last Sunday. It really spoke to my heart." Then she said, "this is to show my appreciation for what you do," and she gave him a Starbucks gift card.

Read full article:
www.churchsupportservices.org/connecting

Web Round-Up

Answers for Me
www.answersforme.org

Connecting with Others
www.tinyurl.com/6ml4cjz

Wasatch Hills SDA Church
www.wasatchhills.org

Hilo SDA Church
www.hilosdachurch.adventistfaith.org

Free eCards
www.spiritrenew.org

weebly Websites
www.weebly.com

Arionza Young Adults
www.arizonayoungadults.com

Two New Blogs on Answers For Me



Jael Amador promotes finding sanity and spiritual purpose in our busy, everyday lives.

Visit: www.answersforme.org/inbetween



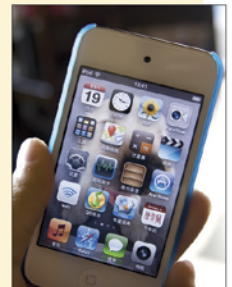
Michael Temple shares short human interest articles about what it's like to follow Jesus in the 21st century.

Visit: www.answersforme.org/crossings

To view them on the smartphone app SpiritRenew visit: www.spiritrenew.org

Telling Stories with Your SmartPhone

Are you looking to learn how to shoot iPhone or Android videos that



are a cut above the average? Check out Web Video Chefs with Amani Channel and Chip Dizard as they share a free ebook and practical tips to create stunning mobile stories.

www.webvideochefs.com/mobile

La Sierra University Reaches Another Record Enrollment

La Sierra University has reached the highest enrollment in its history, with 2,478 students enrolled for the Fall 2013 term as of Oct. 4. This is the fourth year in a row that La Sierra has seen an enrollment increase. Over that time, the student body has grown by 33 percent.

"We are especially pleased with the large number of returning students," says President Randal Wisbey. "I believe this reflects their satisfaction with the quality education they are receiving at La Sierra."

The H.M.S. Richards Divinity School saw the largest growth this fall, with a 29 percent jump in undergraduate majors and a 16 percent increase in graduate students. Biology students have enrolled in such large numbers that the university has outfitted two new labs to accommodate demand.

The film and television program, launched last year, has already more than doubled in enrollment. The criminal justice program has grown to 183 students and expanded to a second campus in Ontario. And residence halls

are filled nearly to capacity, continuing a trend from last year.

"We are excited to see this record enrollment," says Wisbey. "It is our honor to be able to provide a strong academic environment within a context of Christian faith and service to our growing student body."

Marilyn Thomsen



Nearly 500 first-year students arrived for orientation in September. These newcomers helped push La Sierra University to record enrollment for the fourth straight year.

Youth Rush Literature Evangelists Lay Foundation for Bridges

The 12th largest city in the U.S., San Francisco, has a rich history. Its population exploded during the Gold Rush in 1849, it was devastated by the 1906 earthquake, and it opened the Golden Gate Bridge in 1937, which was the world's longest suspension span until 1964 (it is currently the ninth longest).

Today, it holds another distinction — one of the most difficult cities to share the gospel. In August, 30 Youth Rush student literature evangelists and five leaders worked person-to-person and door-to-door to help.

"The last time Youth Rush student literature evangelists were in San Francisco, only two books were sold. We decided it was not a productive field to work," says Bill Krick, director of literature ministries for the Central California Conference.

In the summer of 2011, that perception began to change. Ricardo Camacho, a Youth Rush leader, and a few students spent three days in San Francisco. They met people open to spiritual things, sold books and discovered a church congregation that kept the Sabbath.



Literature evangelists approach people door-to-door.

Word spread. "I was part of a mission trip this past Christmas," says Jessica Minton, a student LE leader in the Northern California Conference. "We sold 100 books, which is unheard of. Right then, my heart was filled with a burning desire to work in San Francisco."

Minton is now working with Bridges — Bay Area for Jesus, a multi-year initiative launched June 22, 2013. A partnership between Central and Northern California conferences, the initiative's single focus is to spread the gospel

to the more than eight million people in San Francisco, Oakland and the surround Bay Area communities. Minton coordinates and trains adult volunteers to teach church members how to meet people and give Bible studies.

The Summer Blitz

Thirty Youth Rush student LEs and five team leaders came to help. For five days in August, they covered as much of the city's territory as possible, also spending one day in Oakland. Getting literature to interested people and finding Bible studies were their assignments. Church members would follow up.

"We often met people where we didn't expect to. God set it up at the perfect time," says team leader Ricardo Camacho. Like at the end of a long day without much success. "A young woman rides up on her bicycle and begins a conversation with us. We showed her a cook book and, when she found out we were vegetarian, she was super excited."

As a Hare Krishna, she was curious about Christianity. Camacho shared his beliefs and began telling her about what was happening in the world right now. After purchasing the cook-book and *The Great Controversy*, she left saying, "I feel so lucky to have met you today."

Monica Pham, an LE from San Jose, Calif., stopped at a crowded bus stop. Only one lady talked to her. At the end of their conversation, she purchased a *Steps to Christ* and *The Desire of Ages* just as the bus arrived.

At one door, a couple bought *The Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ* and *Christ's Object Lessons*. "We were feeling the need to know about God and were planning to buy a few books, but then you showed up at our door," they said.

Particularly challenging was the city's northern section. People would give donations to help with school but refused books. At the mention of anything religious, they would close down, often responding in anger. But the LEs were ready.

"Would you like a book that explains what's wrong with religion?" they asked, and offered *The Great Controversy*.



The team prays together before their work day begins.

"Despite the anger and harsh rejections, many people are interested in spiritual things," Camacho says. "It's great knocking on doors there."

He adds, "I realized more than ever why God has spared the city. There are so many people. God has people in this city."

Caron Oswald

The Stats

- Dates: July 21-26, 2013
- Areas/Districts Worked: Pacific Heights (near Presidio and Golden Gate Bridge), Cole Valley, Mission, Diamond Heights, Bernal Heights, Laurel Heights, Inner Richmond, and others; some of Pacifica and Daly City; Oakland.
- Homes Visited: 18,000
- Literature Distributed: 2,890 books & DVDs
- 49% message books (not including *Steps to Christ*)
- 207 *The Great Controversy*
- 1,047 *Steps to Christ*
- 10,000 GLOW tracts with earthquake cover
- Young People Working in Blitz: 35
- Total Received: \$18,923
- Spiritual Interests: 38 people requested personal Bible studies (not including correspondence)

30th Annual Convocation Renews Commitment As One Family

The 30th annual African-American Convocation, hosted at the Fresno Westside church in Fresno, Calif., Sept. 20-22, was an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "Dream" speech and recommit to being one family in Christ.

Using the theme "Glorifying God . . . Committed," Fred Anderson, African-American ministries coordinator for Central California Conference, called members to not just see the event as an African-American convocation, but rather a Central California family convocation.

"This is the time to reestablish the theme, that we are one family," he said. "We are one family, with one hope, one salvation and one Jesus [who is] coming back to receive us all."

Guest speakers included Debleaire Snell, pastor of the First SDA Church in Huntsville, Ala.; Anthony Jeremiah Kelly, region director of African-American ministries in the Greater Los Angeles area; and Rebecca Davis, associate pastor for the Berean church in Atlanta, Ga.

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

This year, the conference prayer team led the Friday evening service. The "Prayer Power and



NBC's "The Sing-Off" winners, *Committed*, performed Sabbath afternoon.

Praise" vespers included testimonies, a dedicatory prayer for the pastors, and an anointing service for Jeremiah Kelly who is battling cancer. Kelly then challenged the congregation to no longer view the five foolish virgins as hypocrites. "They believed they were doing the right thing," he said. "But unless the Holy Spirit has infused our hearts, we won't have a connection with Almighty God."

Yvette Kerbs and her family attended convocation for the first time. She admits she had no idea what to expect. Her girls loved seeing NBC's 2010 "The Sing-Off" winners *Committed* in concert, exclaiming, "Those guys were crazy!"

"There was a sweet spirit here with us," Kerbs said. "Pastor Snell spoke with authority, and you can tell he is a deep thinker."

One highlight of the convocation is the Bible quiz competition, Quiz-A-Rama. Linda Mackey celebrated her 10th year hosting the game, which her father created more than 40 years ago. "Quiz-A-Rama is more than a game," Mackey explained. "It's all about the journey of our kids studying the Bible."

"You can't really see the impact of the game until you see how excited these kids are about studying the Bible" explained parent Yvonne Lynam. Her family recently moved from East Palo Alto to Atlanta, but flew back so her three sons, all 18 and under, could participate in Quiz-A-Rama. "Convocation is lovely, but it wouldn't have such an impact on the kids without Quiz-A-Rama. It's the one thing that gets the kids to really study the Bible."

This year's winner, Fresno Westside had members ranging from 12-20 years old. They spent three months reading, quizzing themselves and acting out the book of Daniel. After maintaining a commanding lead for most of the game, they won by 20 points over second place finishers San Jose Ephesus. "Quiz-A-Rama gives our kids an opportunity to see Jesus," said Fresno Westside youth leader Myron Randles. "It puts the Word in their hearts, and that's what saves."

"Glory to God for the many years of committed service to the work of God," Anderson said. It is his hope that each member of the Central California Conference family would leave the convocation committed. "It is a wake up call to each person to continue personal revival and reformation in our homes, schools, churches, and communities."

TaneShia Kerr



Quiz-A-Rama first place winners Fresno Westside TIGERS (Teens in God Enjoying Real Service), stand with their pastor and youth leaders. Pastor Earl Canson (front left) customarily requires the team to present a sermon to the church following the competition. This shows what they have learned and understood after three months of study.

San Antonio Christian School Holds Benefit Concert

On Oct. 5, more than 400 community members from Ontario came together to attend the San Antonio Christian School Benefit Concert. The idea for the concert came to Bonnie Cole, Ontario church member, in the spring of 2013.

"We invited the SACS students to be a part of our benefit concert," Cole explains. "My own two children attended our school in Ontario in the 1990s. Your children's school becomes a part of your family's history." Because of this connection and the need she saw, she began to consider methods to raise money for the financially challenged school. After being "blown away" at a concert featuring THOKOZA, an African gospel group, the idea for this concert was born. She set a goal to raise \$10,000 and asked THOKOZA

to provide entertainment for the fundraiser. They agreed.

Once the event and goal were set, Cole and a committee of presenters made appointments with 14 area churches to discuss Adventist education. They presented church members with a two-part questionnaire addressing why children leave the church and how to get children to stay in the church. They found that children leave because they can, and they stay because of Adventist education. Armed with this knowledge, the committee pushed forward with the fundraising goal, even getting the children of SACS involved.

At SACS, organizers set up a contest to see who could sell the most tickets for the events. Those who sold three or more tickets won prizes. Kindergartener Juliana Morris won first prize selling 19 tickets, and Beauty Gurning won second prize, adding their ticket sales to the 200 tickets sold by children of SACS. With the help of the committee, participants sold a total of 475 tickets for the event.

"It was a wonderful cultural experience, all glorifying God," said Diane Testerman, kindergarten teacher at SACS. THOKOZA was not the only talent featured that night, however. Heinrich Strydom, Ontario church pastor, acted as emcee for the event while Kento Salazar and Jema Figueroa provided more music. Later in the evening, Debra Dorst-Porada, Ontario City

Council member, presented SACS with a certificate of appreciation for more than 50 years of educational excellence.

"It was a blessing to listen to beautiful music as we closed the Sabbath with family and friends," said Diane Zollo, SACS alumnus. "I attended San Antonio Christian School, and I am proud that my nephew attends now. It was a great fundraiser."

By the end of the evening, the event had raised \$6,500, but Cole and the committee are not stopping there. They have many more events planned and hope to continue to make their presence known in the community for providing quality entertainment for a good cause.

Shane Wood



First prize winner Juliana Morris and second prize winner Beauty Gurning display their ribbons.



Student musicians Gema Figueroa and Kento Salazar perform.



THOKOZA performs for the San Antonio Christian School fundraiser event on Oct. 5.

New Church Forms in Apple Valley

On Sept. 28, the Apple Valley All Nations company received church status, a milestone 19 years in the making.

While the current membership is 107 people, the company began as a Sabbath school group consisting of two Filipino families, a grand total of 10 people. Living in the High Desert of San Bernardino County, where there was no Adventist congregation, these families decided to fellowship together. In the summer of 1994, they met in a rented room at the Church of the Valley Presbyterian in Apple Valley.

According to Starlie Luna, church member, the group grew slowly but steadily.

“Church members Fidelino Adlawan and Benjamin Moralde pioneered and took on the leadership,” said Luna. In 1995, they were able to secure support from the Waterman Filipino church for aid with sermons and services to accommodate the growing assembly. By the time the membership had grown to 40 people, consisting of not only the original families, but also other believers of different ethnicities, the group was named the Apple Valley All Nations company.

“They rented the small chapel from CVP with Pastor Penaflores as the first volunteer pastor in 1997,” said Luna.

Currently under Mario Asumen, pastor of Apple Valley All Nations church, the company-turned-church continues to flourish. “It is a privilege to be recognized as a full church among the sisterhood of churches in SECC,” said Asumen, who is the church’s first officially recognized pastor.

“The journey from a company to a church status is just like the normal growing experience of an individual person. What follows is more intense and serious involvement in the Lord’s work,” said Asumen.

The congregation celebrated this growing experience with a church organization day. The congregation rented an auditorium to accommodate not only the current church members, but also their personal guests and SECC administrators. After the organization ceremony, the church collected a special offering, ate lunch and continued into an afternoon celebration.

In keeping with their new church status, members are raising money for the building fund. A new church would provide not only adequate space for growth, but also serve the community better. Due to the space that the church currently rents, their community involvement is “sporadic and limited,” said Asumen. The church already owns property, and is looking forward to constructing a new sanctuary in the future. While the members participate in regular literature outreach and community home visits, a new building would allow for a more stable ministry that can meet the basic needs of the community.

Luna noted that “in spite of the economic meltdown, our tithes and offerings keep going up.” Fundraising has also been steady despite these difficult times. Although the current goal to raise \$1.3 million for the building project may seem steep, Asumen is confident that the fundraising can be accomplished within the next five years. “The celebration was inspiring,” Asumen said, “and it has evoked more commitment to support the newly organized church and to prepare others for the second coming of Jesus.”

Natalie Romero

PHOTOS BY FENNO MÜLLER



Local church leaders celebrate with conference officials during the celebration of becoming a recognized church within the Southeastern California Conference.



Gerald Penick, former SECC president, addresses church members, and calls them to be active in the community and a light to those around them.



The Inland Empire Filipino Chorale sings for the Apple Valley All Nations church organization day.

Sandra Roberts Elected President of Southeastern California Conference

PHOTOS BY GERRY CHUDLEIGH EXCEPT AS NOTED



Delegates applaud the election of Sandra Roberts, seated, as the first female conference president in the North American Division.



Sandra Roberts conducts business during the session.

On Sunday, Oct. 27, delegates voted (72-28 percent) to elect Sandra Roberts as president of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Roberts had served since 2004 as executive secretary of SECC. Previously, she worked as a teacher, chaplain, youth director and pastor. She received her master's degree from Andrews University in 1984, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Claremont School of Theology in 2006.

In her new role, Roberts took the opportunity to recognize the new conference officers and to thank the delegates for their involvement in the constituency session. In her address, she expressed her desire — and challenged the audience — to follow Jesus in the work that needs to be done throughout the territory of SECC.

Referring to the dusty feet that Jesus had during His time on earth, she said, "Following Him means that we are going to get our feet dirty with the dust of Southern California. ... We must do this without fear that differences will pull us apart. Christ will always be our anchor point."

Delegates also elected five other key administrators. These included Jonathan Park, executive secretary; Verlon Strauss, treasurer; Elizer Sacay, vice president for Asian/Pacific Ministries; George King, vice president for Black Ministries; and

Alberto Ingleton, vice president for Hispanic Ministries.

Prior to the election of Roberts, delegates had the opportunity to speak to the motion on the floor. Many delegates lined up to share their views. There were some opposing opinions, but most people expressed their support for Roberts as president.

Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union, reminded delegates that the General Conference does not endorse women's ordination, and he passed on a message from Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the world church, clarifying that the election of a woman as president would not be recognized by the General Conference (see following story).

But Graham continued by stating that because delegates to the Pacific Union Special Session voted in 2012 to authorize the ordination of women, that the recommendation of the SECC nominating committee is in harmony with conference and union bylaws and policies (see following story).

Before dedicating the new officers, former president Gerald Penick, who had asked the nominating committee not to consider him again for president, was the recipient of a tribute for his years of service. Delegates concluded the tribute with a standing ovation. Penick thanked the delegates

and the entire constituency for their faithful service during the years he was president, and expressed his confidence that God would continue to lead.

“May God bless us under this new leadership,” he said.

The Constituency Session began with worship. After music, prayer and Scripture, John Brunt, senior pastor of Azure Hills church, delivered a homily that focused on Peter’s vision in which he was asked to eat unclean animals. Peter was confused, said Brunt, until he realized the vision was about people, not animals.

“God doesn’t play favorites,” he said. He challenged the attendees to trust God to lead the way.

Fifteen new churches and companies were voted into fellowship, members of the executive committee and the bylaws committee were appointed, and changes to the bylaws were adopted.

Rudy Carrillo, youth ministries director, and Carmen Ibanez, director of Pine Springs Ranch youth camp and conference center, presented the PSR report, including images of the damage caused by the fire in July. Delegates approved a spending request to begin the rebuilding process.

After the newly elected officers affirmed that they were eager to listen to their constituency, the session was closed with a benediction.

ENNO MULLER



Sandra Roberts, center, poses with the other administrators of the Southeastern California Conference (l. to r., front row): Jonathan Park, executive secretary; Verlon Strauss, treasurer; (l. to r., back row): Alberto Ingleton, VP Hispanic Ministries; George King, VP Black Ministries; Elizer Sacay, VP Asian/Pacific Ministries.

Mario Munoz



Emma Leech, delegate from the Paradise Valley church, addresses her fellow delegates.



Sandra Roberts speaks to delegates after being elected president of the Southeastern California Conference. Behind her are the other elected administrators (l. to r.): George King, VP Black Ministries; Alberto Ingleton, VP Hispanic Ministries; Elizer Sacay, VP Asian/Pacific Ministries; Verlon Strauss, treasurer; and Jonathan Park, executive secretary.



Jason Turner, SECC executive committee member, speaks to other delegates before voting at the SECC constituency session.



Gerald Fenick, retiring from the presidency, surrounded by family and newly elected SECC leaders, at microphone, speaks to delegates.

PUC Sees Highest Enrollment in 24 Years

Pacific Union College began the 2013-2014 school year with the highest enrollment in 24 years. On Oct. 14, the college's census date, total enrollment stood at 1,678, an increase of 62 students over the 1,616 students at this time last year. The college realized both an increase of new students and growth in retention. Enrollment is the highest it has been since 1989, when the exact same number of students, 1,678, attended PUC.

Significantly, the college saw an increase of 89 students attending PUC on the Angwin campus. There are currently 1,610 people pursuing degrees at PUC's destination campus in the Napa Valley. "We are delighted to have many more students on campus and pray that each student will truly thrive at PUC," shares Lisa Bissell Paulson, vice president for student services and dean of students. "We are already experiencing such a strong campus climate as students get involved in spiritual and

social life. Student participation is amazing and we look for opportunities to continue to enrich the student experience at PUC."

A remarkable jump in new students fueled the enrollment increase. Between freshmen and transfers, PUC has 503 new students this year. The freshman to sophomore retention rate leapt from 77 percent to 84 percent as students who began their college experience at PUC returned for a second year.

"This is my fourth year here at PUC, and it is very exciting to see the high enrollment with students who came from around the world," says Ivan Ostrovsky, Student Association president. "To have so many students on this campus is a huge blessing. I am very excited about this year, and can't wait to see how it is going to turn out."

Cambria Wheeler

Jose Rojas Inspires Students During Fall Revival

During the week of Oct. 6, PUC welcomed Pastor Jose Rojas to campus as the speaker for Fall Revival, an annual week of spiritual emphasis. Rojas, a PUC alum and acclaimed speaker, inspired and electrified the student body for a solid week, leaving many individuals with the new resolution to devote more of their time to ministry and missions.

ALLISON REGAN



Jose Rojas preaches during PUC's Fall Revival.

Rojas delivered weeknight sermons before concluding with vespers on Friday night and two church services the following morning. The well-attended weeknight meetings followed the theme of "Believing God," while the special vespers and church services were focused on the missionary aspect of one's Christian journey. The Friday night vespers program was streamed live to 532 viewers around the globe.

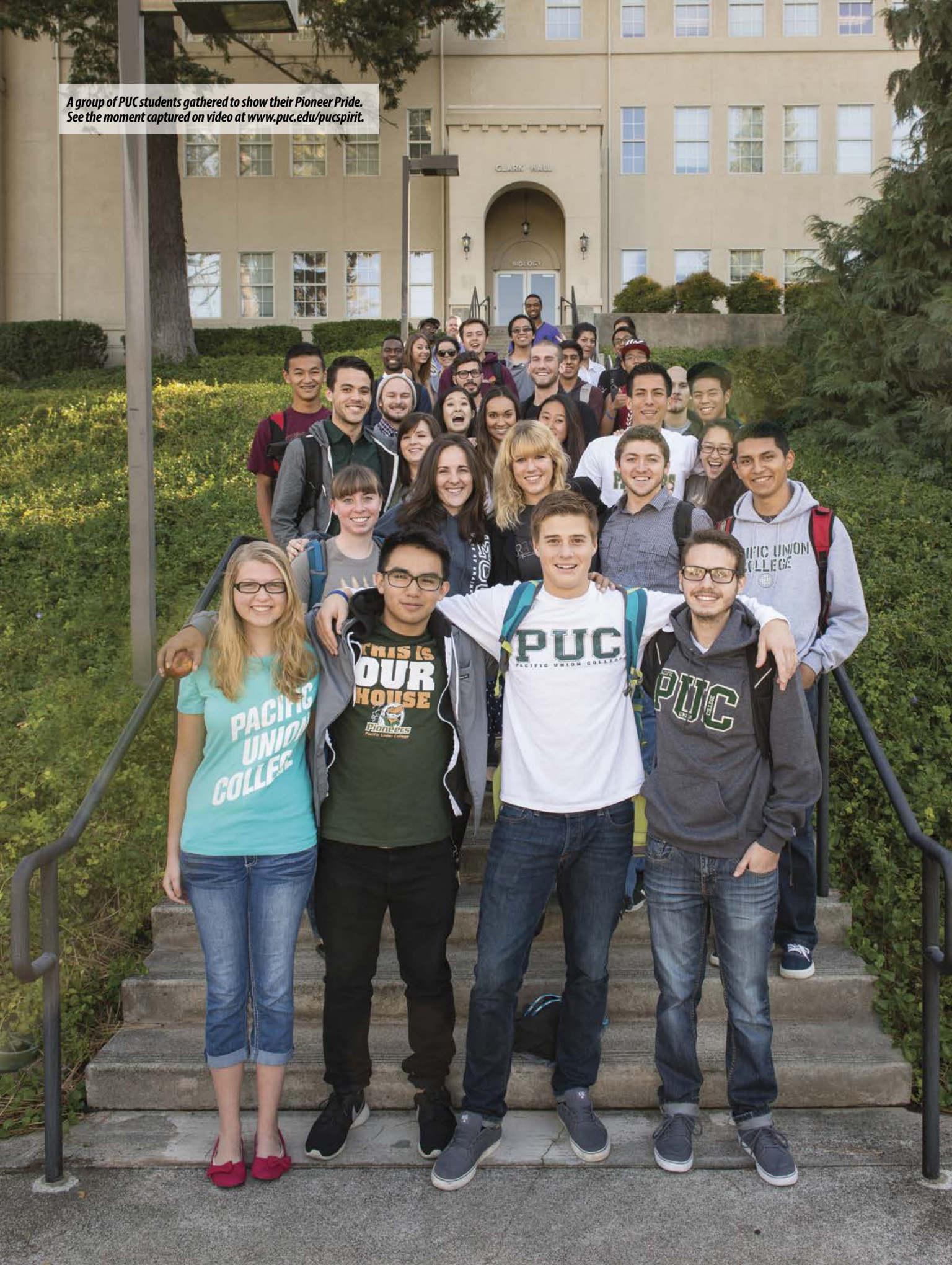
Rojas emphasized the deep importance of missionary service, particularly during the college years. At the conclusion of Fall Revival, a total of 105 PUC students had already signed up to be student missionaries, and 200 students signed up for campus service activities, such as homeless ministries.

Rojas' speeches weren't limited to just the sanctuary; he also visited the residence halls and lectured to the Ministry Colloquium, a weekly class attended by theology majors and the faculty of the department of religion. "I didn't want him to speak just for the Revival, but to mobilize people," explained PUC Chaplain Laffit Cortes.

During the week of revival, 25 students answered Rojas' call for baptism; one sophomore, Zach Tierce, was baptized during church on Sabbath, Oct. 12. "It was awesome to see the commitment the students were making, whether through baptism, student missions, or just giving their life up into God's hands," said Kristen Beall, one of PUC's student chaplains.

Emily Mathe

A group of PUC students gathered to show their Pioneer Pride. See the moment captured on video at www.puc.edu/pucspirit.



Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

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

Arizona

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

Central California

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

Hawaii

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

Nevada-Utah

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

Northern California

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

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

Southeastern California

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

Southern California

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

Pacific Union

Holbrook SDA Indian School



**ONE UNIVERSITY
CHANGING
THE WORLD**

Name: Audrey Gaspar

Hometown: Jamaica & Moreno Valley, CA

Position: Student Financial Services
Assistant Director & Awarding Manager

Commitment: Every school year, Audrey's heart for students and their families, combined with her vast experience navigating the world of college financial aid, allows hundreds of students to find the resources that allows them to benefit from a Christian Education.

Passion: Audrey and her husband formed a nonprofit organization to provide much-needed food to international students at La Sierra, Loma Linda, and other area colleges. Along with the rice, flour, cereal, noodles and other staples, Audrey offers these international students counsel and prayer.



La Sierra
UNIVERSITY

*Where Academic Investigation,
Christian Faith, and
Service to Others Unite.*

CALENDARS

Arizona

ABC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE (Dec. 8) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Adventist Book Center, 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale.

RETIREES' CHRISTMAS DINNER (Dec. 8) Arizona Conference Office, 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. Reservations: Shirley Chipman, 480-991-6777.

LIVE VEGETARIAN COOKING SHOW (Dec. 10) 6 p.m. with celebrity chef Mark Anthony at the Paradise Valley church, 2727 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. Info: Barbara Wijatyk, 602-330-6005.

RENOWNED SONORAN DESERT CHORALE Christmas Concert (Dec. 14) Camelback church, 5902 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. Concert is presented during 10:50 a.m. worship service. Info: 480-947-3781.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SURVIVAL EXPO (Dec. 15) Learn about your health and survival. Presented by Consortium of Women's Ministries of Arizona. Get health tests. Learn about healthy eating. Hear health professionals and survivalists. Contact us about being a vendor or a sponsor. Be Davis, 480-494-4480 or o2bespecial@hotmail.com.

"O NIGHT DIVINE," a Christmas Celebration (Dec. 21) 4 and 7 p.m. Glendale Sanctuary 80 voice choir and orchestra, kid's choir and hand bell choir. Glendale church, 6801 N. 43rd Ave., Phoenix. Free concert; doors open 40 minutes before. Info: glendale.adventistfaith.org or 623-934-3295.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Adventists in Mesa, Arizona (March 1) hosted by Mesa Palms church. King's Heralds concert Sabbath, 5 p.m.. Info: 480-985-3140; Facebook: Mesa Palms church; mesapalmschurch.com.

Northern California Conference

YOUTH REVIVAL/EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS (Dec. 1-7) 7:30-9 p.m. Sacramento Samoan church, 3526 5th Avenue. Featuring Dwayne Lemon. Info: 916-706-0266.

ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS 6 (Dec. 8) 6:30 p.m. Fireside Room, St. Helena church, 1777 Main Street. Herald in the Christmas season with musicians young and older. Guitar, violins, mandolins, keyboards, voices. Bring family and friends to this free concert. Enjoy an evening of song and friendship. Refreshments served. Info: info@shsda.org, 707-963-7143.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" (Dec. 13) 7 p.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Combined choirs and orchestras of the Carmichael church and Sacramento Adventist Academy, under the direction of Arladdell Nelson-Speyer. Free! Info: 916-487-8684, ext. 110.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 14) 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sacramento Central church, 6045 Camellia Avenue. Televised holiday special will be recorded live. Join us for inspirational Christmas music featuring singers and musicians from around California and beyond. Children's program provided. Tickets required. Info and free ticket reservations: 916-457-6000 or www.SacCentral.org.

JAIME JORGE CONCERT (Dec. 21) 6 p.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 S. Fairmont Avenue. Free! Come hear this violin virtuoso! Info: 209-334-1844.

SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE RETREAT (Dec. 27-30) Hyatt Regency Monterey. 20th and last retreat. Reflect on the old year; look ahead to the new. Speakers, seminars, free time, programs for children and youth. Info: jhughson@puc.edu or 707-965-7106.

Pacific Union College

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 6, 7) PUC sanctuary, two concerts, one on Dec. 6 at 8 p.m., and one on Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. Info: 707-965-6201.

ONE CHURCH (Dec. 7) Special Sabbath with a single service beginning at 11:15 a.m., Laffit Cortes speaks, PUC church. Info: 707-965-7297.

NICARAGUA AND PROJECT PUEBLO Mission Trips (Dec. 13-21) Two student groups embark on mission trips over Christmas vacation. Info: Fabio Maia, 707-965-7190.

CHRISTMAS VACATION (Dec. 13-Jan. 5) Residence halls except Winning and Newton close for vacation at 6 p.m. on Dec. 12.

COLLOQUY SPEAKER SERIES, Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Day (Jan. 9) 10 a.m., PUC sanctuary. Eboo Patel, author and founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, speaks. Info: colloquy@puc.edu.

ALBION RETREAT and Learning Center (Ongoing) Comfortable lodging for visitors and groups available along the Mendocino Coast. Perfect for classes, retreats, reunions, weddings, or vacations. Info: www.puc.edu/albion or 707-937-5440.

Southern California Conference

SLEEP, IT DOES A FAMILY GOOD (Dec. 7) 4-5:30 p.m. Presenter, Archibald D. Hart, Ph.D., author, former dean of the Fuller Theological Seminary School of Psychology. The negative effects of sleep deprivation are felt most acutely in families. Altadena church, 2609 N. Lincoln Ave. Info: 626-794-3953.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA (Dec. 14) 7 p.m. Northridge church, 17700 Plummer St. Info: 818-349-8770.

FOOD FOR YOUR SOUL (Dec. 14) "Sacrifice of Praise," 6 p.m. A musical celebration featuring God's Favor & Friends. Free will offering. Presented by Altadena Praise Productions. Altadena church, 2609 N. Lincoln Avenue. Info: 626-437-5969; Facebook/Altadena Praise Productions.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (Dec. 24) Celebrating the first Advent and the Christ to come. Join us as we worship in word and carol. Light refreshments to follow. Santa Clarita church, 24436 Valley Street. Info: 661-259-5420.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (Dec. 27-28) Speakers: Pastors Dan Belonio, Chris Famisaran, Kevin Morris; Elizabeth Talbot, Ph.D. Pasadena church, 1280 E. Washington Blvd. Info: 626-798-0544.

SACRED VIOLIN CONCERT (Dec. 28) 2:15 p.m. featuring young virtuoso Miden LaiPang, a recipient of the 2013 scholarship from the American Institute of Fine Arts (AIFA) in L.A. Hollywood church, 1711 N. Van Ness Ave. Hosted by the Hollywood Thai company. Free-will offering. Info: Pastor Somchai Piromgripakd, 323-428-6727.

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

SUNSETS

	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27
Alturas	4:32	4:32	4:35	4:40
Angwin	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:56
Calexico	4:36	4:37	4:40	4:44
Chico	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:50
Eureka	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:56
Fresno	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:50
Hilo	4:42	5:44	5:47	5:51
Honolulu	5:49	5:51	5:54	5:58
Las Vegas	4:25	4:27	4:29	4:34
Lodi	4:45	4:46	4:48	4:53
Loma Linda	4:39	4:41	4:43	4:48
Los Angeles	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:52
Moab	4:55	4:56	4:59	5:03
Oakland	4:49	4:50	4:53	4:57
Phoenix	5:19	5:21	5:24	5:28
Reno	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:43
Riverside	4:40	4:41	4:44	4:48
Sacramento	4:44	4:45	4:48	4:52
Salt Lake City	4:59	5:00	5:03	5:07
San Diego	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:50
San Francisco	4:50	4:51	4:54	4:58
San Jose	4:49	4:50	4:53	4:57
Tucson	5:18	5:20	5:22	5:27



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FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION opening. Mt. Rubidoux church, Riverside, Calif. Education and/or experience: any combination equivalent to: bachelor's degree in business, public administration, information technology, or related field and successful experience in a facilities or logistical management. Hours/Status: Part-Time/Non-Exempt Benefit Eligible. Interested applicants, please submit resumé to Pastor Yelorda: pastorseth@me.com.


SCHOOL OF RELIGION, Loma Linda University, invites applications for a full-time tenure-track position in its ethics area, to begin Aug. 15, 2014. We seek candidates who have Ph.D.s in theology or philosophy or a related area. Immediately contact ghainrich@llu.edu, for more information.

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IF YOU WERE A FAN of Sam Campbell's nature books, you'll be glad to know that his last and only narrated film, *Come to the North Country*, is now available at your local ABC Bookstores or at samcampbell.com. This film is a beautiful invitation to come out into nature.

Missing Members

SAN JOSE. Contact: *Merly Ortiz, Asst. Clerk, San Jose Central Adventist church, 2345 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116-2103, 408-923-8757*: Richard Adrian Anaya, Jacque Andre, Vincent Apocada, Mildred Bolosan, Sonny Bolosan, Celeste Brewer, Brandon Roy Brockett, Roger Caldwell, Morena Carpio, Christopher Carter, Dasie Mae Carter, James Carter Jr., Mechelle Carter, Carl Chaney, Charles Christian, Jr., Jimmie Christian, Stephen Christian, Carol Contreras, Robert Contreras, Susan Dalton, Richard De Vries, Leorenzo Gervacio, Marcela Gervacio, Kenneth Greene, Louise Handley, Sandra Handley, Lakeisha James, Jessica Mae Kalin, Mary Ann

Lawton, Asalia Lopez-Rocha, April Lutz, Tim MacLaren, Crusefina Castro Mahinay, Beatriz Martinez, Gina Martinez, Jeanette Nivison, Jesse Maratinez Orapeza, Isaias Palib, Julia Palib, Jerry Perez, Luz Perkins, Kathy Rapisura, Tessie Rapisura, Charlie Lee Redmond, Mary Reyes, Piwai Rugube, Irma Simovich, Jacob Michael Smith, Christopher Taylor, Mai-Chi Ngoc Tran, Mai-Linh Ngoc Tran, Christopher Vega, David Vega, Jason Whiteside, Stephan Whiteside, Alberta Williams, Arashiek Williams, Shirley Wiskenberg.

Real Estate

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Reunions

MOUNTAIN VIEW ACADEMY Alumni Sabbath (April 12, 2014). Speaker, Gary Swanson, '65. Honor classes: '44, '54, '64, '74, '84, '94, '04 and '89. Call, 650-967-2324 or e-mail alumni@mtnviewacademy.org for more details including reunions for honored classes. To update contact information, www.mtnviewacademy.org/#/alumni-and-giving/update-alumni-info.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING (April 3-6, 2014) Honor classes: '44, '54, '59, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, and '04. Special tribute to veterans and MCC. Info, contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, 3800 S. 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68516, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Vacations

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If you don't make a will, you won't have a say.



Throughout her 90 years, Louise Johnson* touched the lives of many.

Like many Adventists, she spent her younger years serving in various mission fields. Later, she dedicated her time to both her local church and church school. In her personal life, she was a loving wife to her late husband and an important person to her many relatives.

Though she passed away several years ago, her commitment to help others learn about Jesus lives on through unrestricted bequests to her local conference and church school.

After a lifetime spent spreading the good news of the Gospel to those around her, it is fitting that Mrs. Johnson's legacy will live on in the lives of those who follow in her footsteps, those committed to do as she did—tell the world about Jesus.

To have a bequest included in your Will or Revocable Living Trust, take a moment to contact one of the organizations listed at left.

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

**Louise Johnson is not a real person. This story is for illustrative purposes only.*

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

AT REST

ALIMON, GERALD H. — b. Sept. 6, 1967, Iloilo, Philippines; d. July 13, 2013, Harbor City, Calif. Survivors: spouse, Leah; son, Kyle; daughter, Keira.

BERMUDEZ, MARIA — b. June 23, 1919, Usulután, El Salvador; d. Aug. 17, 2013, Victorville, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Berta Flores, Lidia; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.

BLANCHARD, MARGARET M. (BEARDSLEY) — b. Oct. 19, 1923, Kalamazoo, Mich.; d. Oct. 31, 2013, Loma, Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Jerald Newton; daughter, Rashelle Stirewalt; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren. Served as a nurse at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

BOICE, ELOISE (CYPHERS) — b. Nov. 8, 1918, Glendale, Calif.; d. Sept. 29, 2013, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: ex-husband, Ben; son, Charles; daughters, Deanne Boice Hanscom, Jeanette Boice Emery; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild. She and her husband, along with Drs. Paul and Helen Anspoch, co-founded Sonora Community Hospital. Helped establish the Sonora church and school.

BULLER, EVELYN LORRAINE (DAHL) — b. Dec. 23, 1920, Taft, Calif.; d. Sept. 30, 2013, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Patricia Stump; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister, Dorothy Monson.

CHO, NAM-SUB (SONG) — b. Nov. 30, 1929, South Korea; d. July 10, 2013, Monterey, Calif. Survivors: husband, Sung-Yong; son, Sung-Kyu.

DAVIS, CHESTER — b. March 27, 1920, Baker, Ark.; d. Oct. 3, 2013, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: sons, Jim, Joe; daughters, Linda McMullin, Judy Smith; six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren.

DEVRIES, ELAINE (EVANS) — b. Oct. 1, 1924, Detroit, Mich.; d. Sept. 18, 2013, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Shirley Ellis, Sandra Thorn; three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren.

EBERHARDT, ELMER A. — b. Jan. 3, 1931, Shanghai, China; d. Oct. 12, 2013, Roseburg, Ore. Survivors: son, Will; stepson, John Alsobrook; four grandchildren; brother, Glenn; sister, Evelyn Dick.

ESPINA, HILARIA — b. Nov. 3, 1918, Magdalena, Jalisco, Mexico; d. Aug. 18, 2013, Salinas, Calif. Survivors: son, Marcenlino Jr.; daughters, Josephine Morales, Chris Vazquez, Many Olvera,

Magdalena Nixon, Virginia Santiago; 20 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren.

FORD, CHARLES WILLIAM — b. July 7, 1925, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. July 22, 2013, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife, Wanda; daughters, Karen, Kim Stewart, Jan Hamlin; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

GASPAR, JERRY — b. July 3, 1953, Bishop, Calif.; d. Sept. 5, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: father, Mitchell; sisters, Sherri Rosinski, Donna.

GROSS, GERALD JOHN — b. Oct. 6, 1932, Nyack, N.Y.; d. Sept. 20, 2013, Oroville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Pat; son, Don; daughters, Sandie, Julie; stepson, Curtis; stepdaughter, Charlin; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Helen Henry, Janice Cobb.

GUADIZ, ELSIE (BARBERAN) — b. Oct. 18, 1936, Laguna, Luzon Philippines; d. Sept. 3, 2013, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: husband, Loreto; daughters, Donna Guadiz and Gayle Vaday; three grandchildren. Served as registered nurse at White Memorial Medical Center.

HEISER, DONALD — b. Jan. 24, 1931, Lodi, Calif.; d. Oct. 11, 2013, Woodland, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nola; sons, Greg, Scott; daughters, Pamela Heiser Greek, Debra Heiser Murphy; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

HOLMES, MARGARET — b. Jan. 19, 1915, Winnebago, Neb.; d. Oct. 22, 2013, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: husband, Harvey; sons, Terry, David; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

HOYT, JEANETTE L. (RICE) — b. Sept. 8, 1937, Madras, India; d. Aug. 18, 2013, Napa, Calif. Survivors: son, Steve; five grandchildren; brother, David.

KENT, BOB C. — b. May 7, 1946, Trenton, N.J.; d. May 1, 2013, Galt, Calif. Survivors: wife, Judy; daughters, Alissa, Amy; five grandchildren; father, Edward; brother, William; sister, Marjorie. Creator of HopeNet International Resource website which distributed hundreds of thousands of *Secrets of Peace*.

KIBBLE, DONNA GOINS — b. Aug. 1, 1932, Pocatello, Idaho; d. Sept. 27, 2013, Albany, Mo. Survivors: son, Gerald; daughters: Rachel Ruth, Donna Marie Seaman; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

KIMBLE, WESLEY — b. July 28, 1930, Byers, Colo.; d. Dec. 11, 2012, Anderson, Calif. Survivors: wife, Floy Simpson; son, Michael; daughters, Sandy; step-daughters, Gena Greens, Traleca Chadwick; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

LAYER, TONI — b. Nov. 26, 1928, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Aug. 15, 2013, Taft, Calif. Survivors: husband, John; daughters, Wend McCall, Darda Harrison, Kathleen Robison, Heidi Monterroso; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren.

LUCE, SHIRLEY DIANE — b. March 3, 1935, Boise, Idaho; d. Sept. 30, 2013, Napa, Calif. Survivors: cousins, Carolyn Savage, Pat Ruziuka, Pat Golden, Max Bowers.

MELL, JUDITH KAY (BUIS) — b. Feb. 17, 1944, Brawley, Calif.; d. Oct. 27, 2013, Snowflake, Ariz. Survivors: husband, Raymond; son, Ray; daughter, Lori Mell; brother, Jeff; stepmother, Peggy; stepsister, Kathleen Owen; stepbrother, Matthew Newell.

PETERSON, ORVILLE — b. March 9, 1919, Tacoma, Wash.; d. Aug. 25, 2013, Visalia, Calif.

RUIZ, LORENZO — b. Sept. 25, 1920, Laraos, Lima, Peru; Oct. 8, 2013, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Esther; son, Hugo; daughters, Myrtha Urrutia, Nancie Lawson; eight grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren. Served as choral director for the La Sierra Spanish church.

TIGNER, DAVID L. — b. May 28, 1951, Santa Rosa, Calif.; d. Dec. 11, 2012, San Francisco, Calif. Survivors: brothers, Joseph, Jonathan; sisters, Linda Tigner-Weekes, Lois Saunders.

TONGE, DELMAR — b. Nov. 5, 1930, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Sept. 27, 2013, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: wife, Cher; son, Archie Richard; daughters, Adorey Kramish, Kathleen Tonge, Kristine Johnson; seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild.

VEJAR, MAVIS — b. April 8, 1924, Stockton, Calif.; d. Oct. 18, 2013, Walnut Creek, Calif. Survivors: son, Craig Reeder; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served as a teacher at Pleasant Hill Discoveryland Preschool.

VOLLMAR, BERTILDA — b. April 24, 1926, Guatemala; d. Sept. 9, 2013, Adelanto, Calif. Survivors: son, Raul Gomez; daughters, Olga Rodriguez, Dora Cardona, Judith Wunsch, Violeta Rivera, Maritza Hernandez, Blanca Castellanos; 30 grandchildren; 63 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

WALLING, BYRNA-DEANE (SMITH) — April 29, 1923, Forest Grove, Ore.; d. Oct. 20, 2013, Banning, Calif. Survivors: son, Kenneth; daughter, Teresa Mitchell; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

WARD, KENNETH CLIFFORD — b. Nov. 13, 1927, Sanchez, Ariz.; d. Oct. 10, 2013, Modesto, Calif. Survivors:

wife, Naomi; son, Ken; daughter, Carol Forsman; four grandchildren, eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

WELEBIR, DANIEL S. — b. Dec. 17, 1946, Glendale, Calif.; d. Oct. 25, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Christine; son, Jonathon; daughter, Juliette Fardulis; five grandchildren; mother, Benita Welebir; brothers, Douglas, Timothy; sisters, Carolyn Doran, Benita Welebir-Lewis.

ZAPARA, IRENE ETHYL LOUISE (KLEBE) — b. Jan. 18, 1923, Walker, Minn.; d. Sept. 20, 2013, Sutter Creek, Calif. Survivors: husband, Wilbur; sons, Ronald, Dale, Randy, Terry; daughter, Charlene Borris; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

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