

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> FEBRUARY 2014



YOUNG ADULTS
Wash Kids' Feet, Distribute
NEW SHOES
... page 6

When Will We Be Home?

As a child, going on a family trip was exciting. No matter where we were going, the excitement of doing something new was palpable. If the trip was long, one of us would inevitably ask, "Are we there yet?" It seems like a silly question, because the car was obviously still moving. "Soon," our parents would assure us. Then, when the fun had subsided, we'd usually ask, "When will we be home?"

Thinking about some of those childhood memories reminds me of the heavenly home we have been promised. For many years, we have heard the preaching of the "soon" return of Jesus. In John 14:1-3, the Lord promises that He is preparing a home for us. I try to imagine what a grand place heaven will be, and my imagination gets lost just thinking about the prospects.

Have we heard the message that He's coming "soon" for so long that we have become complacent? After Christ ascended to heaven, His disciples and other believers had a passion for sharing the good news because they had been with Christ. Today, many are passionate about Christ and His return, but there are many who seem to care little about that promise. Even as believers, sometimes it appears that we do not need to worry because we have inside knowledge, and surely this will get us through.

There are so many things to take up our time and keep us from studying God's word. Even as workers in the church, the daily routines, committee meetings, and travel can fill our calendars and crowd out time for personal study and reflection on the higher things. And if there are not enough distractions at work, there are plenty of other distractions — e-mail, Facebook, TV and so on. Sometimes, when the distractions become too great, I realize that distractions are getting in the way of my relationship with my Savior, and I need to stand back and re-evaluate my priorities.

We sing the song, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," and in the song is a phrase "... and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." When I find the things of earth having an attraction that draws my eyes away from Jesus, it is time to stop and re-evaluate. This is a daily process of prayer and study to keep the connection with my Savior open. The wonderful thing is that if the connection is cut, the Savior patiently waits for us to reestablish the connection.

While we live here on this earth, the challenge of keeping our eye on the goal will be tested daily. But the more I stay connected with Christ, the more excited I become that we are almost home. We can ask, "Are we there yet?" And even though we know the answer, we also know that this world can't continue much longer. We have been promised in Revelation 22:20, "Surely I come quickly. Even so, come, Lord Jesus," and take us home! We are tired of asking, "When will we be home?"

Ted Benson, Pacific Union Treasurer



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FEBRUARY CONTENTS:



about the cover

In December, young adults from the Scottsdale-Thunderbird church washed underprivileged children's feet and gave them new shoes.

PHOTO BY ALLAN NIVEA

- 27 *Adventist Health*
- 29-36 *Advertising*
- 6-7 *Arizona*
- 12-15 *Central California*
- 28 *Church State Council*
- 24-25 *Hawaii*
- 26 *La Sierra University*
- 3 *Loma Linda*
- 16-19 *Northern California*
- 4-5 *Pacific Union College*
- 20-23 *Southeastern California*
- 8-11 *Southern California*
- 33 *Sunsets*

New Procedure Gives Patient Back His Vision and His Life

After two decades of gradually losing his vision due to macular degeneration (AMD), Roy Kennedy agreed to take part in a new procedure at LLUMC that implants a tiny telescope in his eye. Dr. Howard Gimbel, a renowned ophthalmologist, performed his surgery.

A few weeks after having the telescope, the size of a pea, implanted in his right eye, the 77-year-old Moreno Valley, Calif., resident is thrilled. "It's the best thing I've done; it allowed me to come out of a shell I'd created for myself because of my lack of eyesight," says Kennedy, a retired educator from Banning School District.

The FDA-approved telescope is the main feature of CentraSight, a new patient care program for treating patients with AMD, the leading cause of blindness in older Americans. The telescope implant is believed to be the only surgical option to improve vision by reducing the impact of the central vision blind spot caused by AMD.

Patients with AMD suffer from a central blind spot and have difficulty seeing when they look straight ahead. They may have difficulty or find it impossible to recognize faces, read the newspapers, or watch TV.

The telescope implant uses micro-optical technology to magnify images that can be seen by one's central vision. The images are projected onto the healthy portion of the retina not affected by the disease.

"For people who have severe difficulty seeing anything they are looking at directly, as when reading, any improvement in their eyesight makes a big difference in their quality of life," Gimbel says.

He said there are strict criteria for candidates, including that patients must not have had cataract surgery.

According to Dr. Michael Rauser, vice chair and associate residency program director, LLU department of ophthalmology, the addition of the implantable miniature telescope is an important new therapy for patients living with end-stage macular degeneration. "Instead of a standard intraocular lens, a miniature telescope is inserted into the eye after cataract removal. This provides improved distance visual acuity while minimizing the loss of peripheral vision that is associated with the use of external telescopes."

Since having the procedure done in the fall, Kennedy has been working with therapists at LLUMC who are trained to help low-vision patients, to help him get used to going about his daily life with the telescope implant. He said he's grateful for the little things that people with good vision often take for granted. "Before, when I went to the grocery store, all I did was push the cart," he says. "Now, I can go to the store pick out the items that I like."

Herbert Atienza



Roy Kennedy works with Emily Rice, an occupational therapist at LLUMC, on reading exercises to help him get used to a new miniature telescope that was implanted into his eye.

Local Active Learning Opportunities Abound for PUC Biology Students

Students in the department of biology at Pacific Union College know they will encounter more than slides and lectures when taking a class from Professor Aimee Wyrick. Wyrick incorporates one-of-a-kind, hands-on learning practices in Napa County to her courses. These high-impact learning opportunities provide valuable experience while teaching important principles about stewardship of the created world.

Wyrick, a specialist in ecology, herpetology and paleontology, partners with local landowners and organizations to provide opportunities for students in courses such as ecology, flowering plants, and conservation biology. "Each quarter I have opportunities for students for internships, for research, for service-learning, and it's not always in the same place or for the same organization," she explained.

Wyrick is currently doing research on the Calistoga popcorn flower, a federally listed rare species that occurs in two locations less than 20 minutes from PUC in the town of Calistoga, Calif. Specially adapted to geothermal wetlands, there are about 5,500 plants on the two sites. She and the students are involved in getting baseline data on the plant; later, they will suggest small experiments and monitoring projects to maintain the plant's population. "Nobody has done studies on this species of plant or a plant that lives in this sort of environment. It's going to be providing a lot of really important scientific data," Wyrick commented.

Studying the Calistoga popcorn flower also provides incredible opportunities for students to perform research on a site that has so far been untouched by scientists. "There are other geothermal sites in other places around the world, but to have it so accessible, so easy to get to, to have the buy-in from the landowner and the permission to work there, to have the excitement of our local Fish and Wildlife officials, and to have the opportunity for our students 20

minutes away makes this a truly fantastic site," said Wyrick.

Angelo Maniego, a 2013 graduate of PUC, agrees. Maniego assisted Wyrick in surveying the site and collecting data. "Professor Wyrick's dedication to the project has taught me to value my work and to have pride in the research," said Maniego. "I also learned the importance of being descriptive and precise in taking data. Overall, I have grown to appreciate flowers in a different light." Maniego, who is pursuing post-baccalaureate studies at California State University East Bay in preparation for dental school, gained more than course credit for his research. "Being part of this project during my last quarter of undergrad completed my experience at PUC. It was a fulfilling and exciting achievement. Not only did I gain a first hand experience of research, but I also got to enjoy the views and outdoors of Napa," he concluded.

Students in Wyrick's courses and the student-led Biology Club have also been involved in several restoration projects at Lake Beryessa, just east of the college's location in Angwin. Wyrick has developed partnerships with both the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and a local non-profit, Tuleyome, to replant native trees, shrubs, and grasses at locations around the lake. Through these service-learning opportunities, students gain knowledge about the local natural environment and how to preserve it. "Initially, some of the students were a little not-so-excited about it. Then they get out there," said Wyrick. "When we have a group of five or more, within 2-2.5 hours they can actually see the difference they have made. I have had so many students say 'Wow, that was so cool.'"

Students don't just plant native flora, they also remove invasive plant species. Wyrick is a member of the Linda Falls Preserve Committee, which makes recommendations to the Napa Valley Land Trust about the management and needs of the preserve. Her classes have done a survey for invasive species within the reserve

and a stream survey for aquatic insects. "This information doesn't yet exist, and the students were out there doing it for labs. The students were getting actual experience that we will use to create a report that we turn over to the Land Trust so now they have this data for Linda Falls. It's a win-win-win situation!" Wyrick exclaimed.

PUC's location in Napa County makes these incredible opportunities possible. "I tell my students all the time: it's incredible, here we are in Napa county, which is one of the most diverse geologically, botanically, within California, which is one of the most unique in the world, and we just go out the door and here we are," said Wyrick. "The things that I've done and that we've been involved in can certainly happen elsewhere, but here it's in spitting distance, you drive at most 20 minutes."

"Care for the created world is a core value at PUC, since it expresses both gratitude for God's good gifts and the stewardship that we urge students to practice in all areas of their lives," shared Nancy Lecourt, vice president for academic administration. "These active learning projects not only reinforce this core value, they are shown by extensive research to improve deep learning by engaging students, both 'hand and heart,' in the curriculum."

"In the long run, I think these are practical skills and practical knowledge for bettering our world," concluded Wyrick. "Doing these sorts of environmental or ecological projects is really long-term, and they really have an effect. And we get to do it right here in our back yard."

Cambria Wheeler

Biology professor Aimee Wyrick provides hands-on learning opportunities, including some at the Linda Falls Preserve.

Linda Falls Preserve



Natural History

Overview
The Linda Falls Preserve (LFP) Linda Falls Preserve, located on Forest Hill Road, approximately 17 miles northwest of Napa, California. The Preserve is a 100-acre site that is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland.

Historical Resources
The Linda Falls Preserve is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland.

Wildlife Resources
The Linda Falls Preserve is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland.



Linda Falls Preserve Visitor Guidelines

Welcome to the Linda Falls Preserve in Napa County's Linda Falls Preserve! We ask that you observe the following guidelines to help ensure the preservation of species and habitats, and the safety of other users.

Visitor Guidelines
Stay on trails.
Do not touch or remove plants, wildlife, or historic artifacts.
Do not feed animals or pets.
No motorized vehicles, bicycles, or ATVs.
No camping, picnicking, or sleeping.
No alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
No dogs on trails.
No fires.
No off-trail travel.
No hunting or trapping.
No hunting or trapping.

Land Use
The Linda Falls Preserve is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland.



The Land Trust of Napa County


The Land Trust of Napa County (LNTC) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the natural resources of Napa County. We have preserved over 2,000 acres of land, including 1,000 acres of oak woodland, 1,000 acres of vineyard, and 1,000 acres of agricultural land. We have preserved over 2,000 acres of land, including 1,000 acres of oak woodland, 1,000 acres of vineyard, and 1,000 acres of agricultural land.

LNTC Permanent Preserve System

The Linda Falls Preserve is one of our permanent preserves, owned and stewarded by the Land Trust of Napa County. LNTC's permanent preserves are a vital component of Napa County's biological, geological, and historical resources. Our Land Trust provides stewardship and habitat for many unique and important species and ecosystems.

Linda Falls Preserve

The Linda Falls Preserve, located on Forest Hill Road, encompasses 177 acres of the northern end of Napa Valley. 100 acres of the Preserve were previously owned by the Napa Valley Vineyard & Winery Company. The Preserve was acquired by LNTC in 2010 and is now managed as a permanent preserve. The Preserve is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland. It is a remnant of the original Napa Valley oak woodland.



Young Adults Wash Kids' Feet, Distribute New Shoes

On Dec. 7, 2013, more than 1,000 children, parents and grandparents packed the St. Vincent de Paul Community Center's main dining room for a Christmas meal and an opportunity for 500 underprivileged children to receive a new pair of shoes. The Scottsdale-Thunderbird church hosted the event, coordinated by Benjamin Lundquist, Arizona Conference young adult ministries director.

"Our goal was threefold," explained Lundquist. "Young adult projects must meet a real need in the community, provide quality interchange between volunteers and guests, and give our young adult volunteers a specific opportunity to present the gospel of Jesus and invite guests to respond. In summary — real needs, quality time, and a gospel presentation."

During the project, which lasted approximately five hours, more than 100 young adults served an evening meal to more than 1,000 guests, shared live music through vocal and instrumental pieces, and interacted with guests table-by-table, learning the names of their guests before the foot washing and shoe exchange began.

Then, each child had a personal shoe-receiving ceremony. It began with a foot washing, during which the volunteer asked the child's name, talked about the dreams that child had for his/her life, and began a conversation about



Chris Albrecht gets acquainted with a young boy who just received a new pair of shoes.

Jesus. All volunteers had the chance to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus in a kid-packaged conversation, inviting recipients to invite Jesus into their lives.

"Why do you want to wash my feet?" asked an 8-year-old boy who had come to get a pair of new shoes.

The young adult volunteer looked directly into his eyes and asked, "Have you heard of Jesus?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Did you know that Jesus washed people's feet to show His unconditional love? That's why

PHOTOS BY ALLAN NITVEA



Young adult volunteer Rebecca Coss washes the feet of a child, and places new shoes on his feet.



Young adults Kylie Howard, Josh Jewett, Brad Patchen and Megan Gilroy help prepare 500 pairs of shoes for distribution.



Shevon Quijano witnesses about Jesus to a young boy after washing his feet and giving him a pair of new shoes.

we want to wash your feet — to remind you of Jesus.”

“If Jesus washed feet, you can wash mine!” said the boy.

“Jesus was loving, compassionate and personal,” Lundquist said. “Washing the feet of children, giving them your undivided attention for 15 minutes, says to that child, ‘You are valued, you’re important to me, and God has a plan for your life.’ As each child received a brand new pair of shoes, it was extremely important to convey that every boy and girl is worthy of a brand new life in Jesus.”

Many of the young adult volunteers had never experienced such intimate contact with the community. Some are university students and young professionals who are deeply involved in young adult ministry.

“It’s one thing to wash the feet of a fellow church member at a communion service,” said Lundquist, “but washing the feet of total strangers is a totally different experience! The foot washing gave moments of humble service where volunteers were literally kneeling before kids, getting down to their level, creating Jesus connections.”

Arizona young adults shared the project with the St. Vincent de Paul Community Center, the largest homeless shelter in Phoenix, Ariz., and Samaritan’s Feet, a non-profit organization that seeks to share the gospel of Jesus with people around the world through the ministry of foot-washing and providing new shoes for those in need.

Cynthia Bach, supervisor for the St. Vincent De Paul Children’s Dream Center, told Lundquist, “I have been involved in community outreach for over 30 years and have never seen a project



Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile and Willy Shiffer give a new pair of shoes to a young boy at the shelter.

like this happen at any of our community shelters. What you guys have done is give the gospel arms and legs and come to life for hundreds of children before their very eyes. I just love what your young adults have done. They serve like they are getting paid a million dollars each to be here, yet they are doing it absolutely for free!”

Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile attended and helped at the event. “When I came down to St. Vincent’s to experience this project, I was completely blown away at the leadership and organizational skills demonstrated by our team of young adults,” he said. “They were doing everything from serving the food to washing feet. After seeing this project, I’m convinced there is nothing our young adults are incapable of doing for Jesus!”

“This is one of the most impacting projects I have ever been a part of,” said Camelback member Mason Aitken. “I would not have missed this for anything in the world!”

“I have never seen volunteers share the love of Jesus in the

way you guys have,” one mother told Lundquist. “I want to be part of a church like this!”

Lundquist believes as many as 30 families may be visiting local churches, based on the conversations shared between guests and young adult volunteers.

Phil Draper



Ulysses Campo washes the feet of a young boy before giving him a new pair of shoes.



Young adult Victoria Mav washes the feet of a young boy as his mother looks on.

New SCC Program Links Student and Adult Literature Evangelists

Sept. 22, 2013, marked the beginning of a new Southern California Conference initiative called LINK. The program seeks to provide a stronger connection between literature evangelists of all ages and the conference. The expressed goal for LINK participants is to “hasten Jesus’ coming by spreading the gospel through literature placed in every home in the area.” This cross-cultural, cross-generational group of literature evangelists is charting the course for a new day in literature evangelism.

“The opening LINK meeting was held at San Gabriel Academy, with more than 40 in attendance,” reported Heidi Carpenter, literature ministries director. “Literature evangelists young and old were there. The testimonies shared were of such a wonderful variety that we were all blessed. LINK is the beginning of a first-time community of L.E.’s that includes both adults and students.”

Support offered to the L.E. work force through the LINK program includes monthly

meetings for fellowship, inspiration and training, as well as personal one-on-one training and assistance in the field from the LINK staff. LINK currently has more than 30 active participants locally.

Eliseo Garrido, a friend of Eric Garcia, a Literature Evangelism Training 101 graduate and Youth Rush student, joined LINK in October 2013. Garrido was inspired when Garcia shared his experiences with him. At the end of the summer student Youth Rush program in 2013, Garrido was invited to the climactic, end-of-summer weekend called iShare (ishareconference.org). Garrido couldn’t believe what he saw at iShare — so many young people on fire for God in one place. “Where has this been all my life?” he asked. “I’ve never seen something like this!”

Garrido connected the dots, recognizing the link between the fire of the young people and their experiences with literature evangelism, and decided to get involved. To begin his own journey, he applied for the LINK LET 101

program; since then, his trainers report, he has been growing exponentially.

“We decided to set up a table of books in a nearby park,” said Martha Del Cid, a mom, nurse and part-time LINK literature evangelist in Lancaster. “A small community church is located close to the park. Members from the church started coming one by one to purchase books from me! A man came over and encouraged us.”

“You are doing something very positive in our community,” he said to Del



David Fernandez teaches a Literature Evangelism Training class, part of a new initiative called LINK, intended to more closely connect literature evangelists and the conference.

Cid. “I’m the pastor of this church, and I have been encouraging our members to get books from you.” Then he purchased a copy of *The Great Controversy*.

Margarita Menjivar is another new member of the LINK team. New to California, she wanted to get involved in ministry, so she signed up for the LINK LET 101 training to learn how to go door-to-door. After each class, she applied what she had learned, and people bought books from her.

LINK is making an impact in Southern California Conference: more literature is being distributed. For more information or to become a part of the LINK team, visit scclink.org or call 818-546-8435.

Heidi Bryant



David Fernandez (left) instructs a LET 101 (Literature Evangelism Training) class, with Daniel Rodriguez translating.

JENNIFER CACERES

L.A. Member's Dream Grows in Ghana

Each Thursday, the Klutse family unites in prayer and fasting for the Aflao University in Ghana's Volta Region, West Africa. Lawrence Klutse, the only family member living in the U.S., is a member of the Smyrna church in Los Angeles. All of his siblings live in Ghana. The university has grown out of his vision. "For more than a decade," he said, "I have been praying and working with my family to develop a Christ-centered community that affirms faith in God and service to humanity, as the Holy Spirit leads."

As an answer to prayer and much planning and working by the family, the ground-breaking ceremony for the Aflao campus was held in the southern part of Ghana's Volta Region, West Africa, on Oct. 21, 2013.

The land on which the university will be built was ancestral acreage which the Klutse family donated. Frequent phone calls from Africa update Lawrence. From Los Angeles, Lawrence updates his family about connections he has been able to make from a distance, and he has made a number of trips home to help facilitate the project.

"We had planned to start small, on our own," Klutse said, "but interest from the region grew. Now we anticipate about 1,000 students. The need for an educational facility is in Ghana and the two neighboring countries, Togo and Benin.

"We have been encouraged to focus on enrollment, not just on building," he added. "The chief of the town said that he is going to go out of Ghana for funding. He had been promised a technical school and teacher training school, so he plans to ask for money from those planned projects to be combined with the Aflao campus."

The university location is in Ghana's bustling border town in the Ketu South District. This part of Ghana, and Togo and Benin have two things in common: the people speak the same language, Ewegebe, and practice voodoo worship. In 1847, Christian missionaries from Germany began evangelizing in the Keta area. In 10 years, the missionaries published the first Ewe grammar and Bible translation.

Adventism has been in the region for about 55 years. "The ground-breaking ceremony only

confirmed to us that God's Holy Spirit is moving in the hearts of the people as it did on the day of Pentecost," Klutse said. "Among those in attendance were five pastors, five chiefs, elders, a cultural group, a choir and others. Chief Awadada Ankrach was the chairperson for the event, assisted by Queen mother Mama Akuabe II and Master Agbegedi."

Keynote speaker Collins Ahodetor, Public Relations officer of the Ketu South Municipal Education Directorate, envisaged that the Aflao University would create "a very rich, mature and brilliant academic sub-community for the municipality." He urged the university's management to ensure that first-class facilities be put in place to survive the competitiveness of the country's tertiary institutions, equipping the youth with essential skills for the job market.

Torgbui Amenya Fiti the 5th, the paramount chief of the Aflao Traditional Area, lauded the initiative and praised God for the

commitment of the Klutse family. "I support the project 100 percent," he said.

Pastor Romeo S. Ligih thanked God for planting the university as a seed that will grow and glow, so that the world will come to Jesus Christ and be saved.

Residents who own property also received direct counsel from one chief. "Don't sell your land now," he urged. "We are going to need your property for the university!"

Lawrence Klutse



Community chiefs and other leaders were among those participating in the groundbreaking.



(L. to r.) Dzriedzorm Asafo, a university professor, who will teach at the school; Comfort, Lawrence, Gladys, Paul and Godwin Klutse.

Prayer Enlarges Santa Monica Sabbath School Classes

There is nothing I can do to make a difference in the city of Santa Monica," said Pastor Tom Shroer, who pastors the Santa Monica church. "So I prayed. Reaching Santa Monica seemed an impossible situation, much like the situation of Mary, when the angel told her she would be the mother of Jesus. After her questions revealed her bewilderment, the angel's response was succinct. 'For nothing is impossible with God' (Luke 1:37)."

Shroer encouraged his congregation to join him in recognizing that they could "trust God to lead in whatever deal He wanted in your life." That prayer and that trust led to some surprises for the Santa Monica church.

"When we first came," said Kay Shroer, "there were almost no children, so we began praying as we reached out in the community." People started coming to the church. About 40 people had been attending when they first arrived, but, within months, attendance doubled, including some young families.

"Our first outreach was a Thanksgiving celebration," Kay reported. "Our members invited neighbors, coworkers and people who hadn't been in church in eons. The pastor spoke about God's love. One woman who had not been to church in some time came to me and said, 'I am so touched.' God was working on her heart.

"We had so many visitors. About 220 came for church and 150 stayed for lunch. One lady from the community saw that our church meets on Saturday. She was planning a ladies' tea at her church on Sunday and knew she would be too busy to attend her own services, so she came to our church for her 'spiritual experience.' She hardly has missed a Sabbath since. Decades earlier, she had studied the Discover Bible lessons."

Ruth Watson, an 89-year-old retired teacher, was teaching the church's one children's Sabbath school class, with students ranging in age from babies to teens. Watson prayed for volunteers to help her. In response to her prayers and invitation, retired teacher Yolanda Gutierrez began praying. Impressed that she should teach preschoolers and kindergarteners, Gutierrez

started planning. "I began making the room warm and bright and welcoming," she said. "Every morning afterward, I prayed with Mrs. Watson that God would bring the children.

"On the first Sabbath after the room had been made ready," she recalled, "Pastor Shroer walked in and said, 'Yolanda, now what we need is the kids!'"

"Pastor," she responded with a smile, "God will send them." And He did: that day five young children came. The leaders were elated.

Gutierrez's class now includes seven young children. Other children visit occasionally, as well. About 80 percent of their parents are either not church members or had not attended the church for very long. Ruth Watson's prayers for help brought other volunteers. When a father said that his teenager didn't want to come to a Sabbath school class that included babies, Watson said, "Let's do something about that."

Joe Escobar, a parent with experience instructing older students, volunteered to teach the two teens in Watson's class. Escobar's daughter, Irene, a junior and a piano student of Watson's, began playing the piano for Sabbath school, freeing Watson to concentrate on her class of an increasing number of 6- to 12-year-olds.

"I've been a pastor for a long time," Shroer said, "and I still don't understand what God does, how it's all possible. But He does it, and we are blessed!"



Young adults, a group that has also been growing, enjoy an agape feast.



Children from two children's divisions rehearse for the Christmas program, led by Yolanda Gutierrez.



Pre-school and kindergarten children rehearse for singing in the church.

Betty Cooney

Churches and Schools Collaborate for Philippine Typhoon Relief

Following the catastrophic typhoon that hit islands of the Philippines with enormous force in November 2013, Southern California churches and schools have worked together to collect funds and goods to send to the devastated country.

"The Glendale Filipino church raised \$6,000 and collected, sorted and sent more than 100 large boxes of clothing, working computers for the East Visayan Conference office and other goods," reported Demetrio Robles, pastor.

"Additional offerings and goods were collected during December, through benefit concerts and other means," he added. "The Filipino Adventist Ministers and Members Association in North America (FAMMANA) collected a total of \$44,000 cash by mid-December, besides funds

donated to ADRA and the Red Cross. Pastor Ely Sacay, Asian-Pacific Ministries director; and Pastor Albert Moralde of the Waterman Visayan Church in Southeastern California Conference, were sponsored by FAMMANA to deliver the funds and goods to Central Philippine Union Conference and assist with the distribution of goods in the affected areas.

When she heard about the devastation and death of many people, Jamylyn Robles McCoy, a second grade student, was very sad. "Would we also be affected by the typhoon, if it hit us here?" she asked her grandpa.

"It's far from us, but what we can do is to help the people in the Philippines," he answered. McCoy thought for a moment, then said, "I have some money in my savings." She had received gifts on her birthday last November and saved it.

As her Glendale Filipino church got involved in promoting and collecting money, McCoy gave \$25, practically all of her savings. To collect more money, she set up a little store in her house, selling magazines and other items to guests coming to the house. As of this writing, she already had collected \$10 from magazine sales.

"The CPUC officers appeal for more funds to help rebuild the lives of families, particularly Adventist members who lost houses, livelihood and belongings. Money received by the CPUC is properly accounted for and distributed according

to need." To donate to CPUC, place donations in a tithe envelope, mark it CPUC Typhoon Relief and drop it in the offering plate at church.

The ReMax/Olson agency, with Keen and Roy Brasher, SCC Education, and churches in the West Region have raised funds and gathered needed supplies for the island of Leyte in the Philippines. The typhoon destroyed a

large number of Adventist schools, homes, and churches on that island. The Camarillo church and the SCC school system is starting a drive in February for clothes, blankets, school supplies, backpacks, used computers and more.

"One poignant experience that occurred when we were gathering items for the first shipment happened when we found the late Wayne Hooper's garage stacked to the ceiling with new children's song books," said Brasher. "We were selling his house, and when he passed away, his family did not want to throw away all the books, so we sent them to the schools in the Philippines. I wish that some day Wayne and I can review the video we took of Filipino children singing from his song books. The music ministry of Wayne brought joy and my hope is that we can help in the rebuilding in the Philippines, we can bring a song to children's hearts once again."

"Our schools in Southern California Conference have a goal of raising \$5,000 to help rebuild the East Visayan Academy and the Ormoc Multigrade Elementary schools on the island of Leyte," said Harold Crook, SCC superintendent of schools. "By the end of 2013, they had raised \$3,500 through donations and benefit concerts. Now we are working to complete our goal, which will put the roof on the school so classes can resume. We are also going to push for clothes in our Adventist churches. We have placed large containers on school and church campuses in which members and friends can place items they wish to donate."

"We are focusing on rebuilding churches and schools first," explained Brasher, "because they are the service centers. Once they are completed, they can reach out and distribute the food and clothes and schools can give out supplies. We feel the way out of poverty is through character-building education, and that it 'takes a village to raise a child.' We need to show Filipinos that the typhoon was not an act of God, but of a sin-filled world and that they are family to us."

Betty Cooney

DEMETRIO ROBLES



Second grader Jamylyn Robles McCoy set up a little store in her house, selling magazines and other items to guests coming to the house to collect more money.

DEMETRIO ROBLES



James Lee, SCC Disaster Relief director, and church members load a truck with the first shipment of donated goods at the end of November 2013.

Campbell Church Shows Christ's Love to Community

Each December, about 10 days before Christmas, the Campbell church's fellowship hall is transformed into a toy store rivaling Toys R Us — only without price tags or cash registers. The church opens its doors for three straight evenings, inviting community members who need assistance to enjoy a unique holiday experience. Parents are able to “shop” for toys for their children; there are special activities for children; and above all, each visitor hears the good news of Christ's birth and the plan of salvation.

Over the past 18 years, this annual Community Christmas Gift Program (CCGP), a 501(c)(3) organization, has assisted more than 14,000 children and adults with toys, food, Bibles and other literature. This program, serving the Campbell community, started with collaboration between the church, West Valley Seventh-day Adventist School and the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Over the years, as the church's role has grown, the program has become more Christ-centered.

The effort requires commitment and a well-coordinated organization, starting in February each year. A large network of dozens of local businesses and organizations support

the program with donations, including the City of Campbell Chamber of Commerce, Santa Clara County Fire Department, grocery stores, schools, churches and physicians.

“Our main goal is to tell people about God's love and the salvation message” said Alexis Catalaa, coordinator of CCGP with her husband, Lee. “We are showing Christ's love in a special way — helping meet people's needs and giving them the joy of selecting gifts for their children.”

Parents first visit a classroom, where they hear the Christmas story in either English or Spanish. Next, they are greeted by a personal shopper, one of more than 60 volunteers, who assists them in selecting toys for each child or gift cards for teens. Food baskets and gift certificates from local grocery and convenience stores are also provided. Each visitor is offered a Bible, *Steps to Christ* by Ellen White in English or Spanish, and Bible studies.

While parents are shopping, children are occupied in a separate classroom with their own activities. A child from each family also shops, selecting a gift for a parent from an assortment on display, which they then enjoy wrapping.

“It's such a blessing to be part of this program,” said church volunteer Karen Carlson. “I love seeing the glow on parents' faces when they select toys, and I feel good they're also learning about Jesus.”

“This program is an answer to prayer,” a single mom with three children said. “I tell my kids to be thankful even if there are no Christmas toys, but thanks to this program, they don't have to go without.”



Children from the Campbell church help with gift wrapping.



A mother from the community checks out toys for her children.

Another mom replied, “I have no money for my kids this year, so I'm happy now. I also learned things I didn't know.”

Besides the Community Christmas Gift Program, the Campbell church has a Christmas ministry for the homeless, providing food, warm socks and gloves. “We want our church — located at a busy corner on the main street of Campbell — to be a beacon of hope and Christ's love for the community,” said Pastor Joe Reynolds.

Nancy Reynolds



Children are kept busy while their parents shop for toys.

Sonora Church Warms Community's Hearts and Hands

With nighttime temperatures plummeting in many parts of Central California, people have been turning to relief agencies, such as the Red Cross, for assistance. When a Dec. 2013 snowstorm hit the Sonora community, the Red Cross' usual warming center, the fairgrounds, were being used for an event and unavailable. As such, the Red Cross looked to the Sonora Seventh-day Adventist Church to serve as an alternate site. The two organizations are not strangers, having previously forged a relationship during the Tuolumne County Rim Fire, during which the church was listed for use as an evacuation site.

Due to the inhospitable weather, the Sonora community experienced an interruption in their electrical services. Despite the power outage, the Sonora church was open for services. As congregants were dismissed, Red Cross leaders arrived to request aid and were invited to partake in the church-wide fellowship luncheon. Nathan Renner, pastor, and the Red Cross representatives were able to arrange for use of the Sonora Seventh-day Adventist School's gym as an official warming center. The Red Cross transported several dozen people to the school's gym that afternoon, located on the same property as the church. Mainly comprised of elderly and homeless individuals, the community's residents were housed through the night, with the Red Cross providing meals. On Sunday afternoon, the Red Cross warming center returned to its usual location at the fairgrounds.



Heavy snow and frigid temperatures created risky conditions for Sonora's homeless and elderly residents.

Renner says he is glad that his church and school were able to be part of the solution. "The Sonora community is small, so the need of assistance for the elderly and homeless is magnified," he explains. "I really believe that the Sonora church was able to positively impact the community, and we were honored to partner with our local leaders in meeting a critical need."

Susan Wisner

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Nancy Van Pelt: In Memoriam

On Nov. 26, 2013, the Seventh-day Adventist community of faith lost an influential pioneer and a voice that, for over four decades, sought to improve human relationships and the future of the family. Nancy Van Pelt, noted author, speaker and educator passed away near her home in Clovis, Calif., due to blood clots in her lungs, referred to as massive pulmonary emboli.

Van Pelt, who died at 79, lived a life characterized by those who knew her best as “full of adventures.” Early on, she dreamed of serving as a missionary. Growing up on Puget Sound in Washington State, she attended Stadium High School, whose other well-known alumni include Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt and Billy Sunday. She then graduated from Auburn Adventist Academy. After dating a couple of years,

in 1955 she married her husband Harry. Within a few years, they settled in Pennsylvania, where Harry Van Pelt pastored several local churches, including one in the town of Punxsutawney — home of the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil. An invitation to southern California brought the Van Pelts first to Glendale. While in California, Van Pelt taught physical education and craft classes at Newbury Park Academy, while her husband pastored throughout the region.

During the same time period, Harry completed graduate work in public health at Loma Linda University and was subsequently asked to operate a new Health Education Center in Calgary, Canada. It was here that Nancy began to blossom in her now well-known calling. She began teaching classes in areas of cooking,

exercise and self-help for women, but struggled to find comprehensive Christian-based materials in the area of parenting. “So she started researching and writing, pulling together the best of what was available plus relying on God’s guidance through the Bible and writings of Ellen White,” recounts Carlene Will, Van Pelt’s daughter. From there, she began researching and writing on a variety of relational topics, including courtship, dating, hospitality, personal organization and communication.

Together with her husband, Van Pelt continued presenting classes and seminars locally, but soon invitations came from various places around the country. The couple co-presented for the next two decades, with Van Pelt presenting solo during the last half of her ministry. In all, in a span of 40 years, Van Pelt presented



L. to R.: Sharayah Will, Jamison Will, Brian Will, Christopher Will, Carlene Will (Van Pelt), Erin Will, Nancy Van Pelt, Nicholas Will, Ruth Will, Matthew Will.

more than 3,000 seminars, traveling to more than 70 countries. “She was a hardworking and dedicated advocate for stronger and healthier families,” says Dr. Willie Oliver, Family Life director of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “Her books on family relationships were used around the world, bringing comfort and enlightenment to many. I will miss Nancy as a fellow road warrior willing to go where many would never go.”

There are, of course, some lesser-known facts behind the public figure. Despite the rigors of her travel and writing schedule, Van Pelt was also an active and engaged mother. “Mom gave me a healthy self-esteem,” acknowledges Will. “Despite my resistance, she taught me how to cook, sew and keep house. She also taught me the gift of creativity.”

Van Pelt was also a “tremendous competitor,” according to her son Rondey. “I remember Mom beating me in ping pong,” he recalls. “Mom could hit anything back. I was way better in offense, but she could return anything.” Perhaps Harry Van Pelt summarized it best. “She could do anything,” he fondly remembers.

Even though Van Pelt has passed to her rest, her voice continues to educate, challenge and inspire many around the world. Throughout her career and ministry, she wrote more than 43 books, including widely read titles such as *Train Up a Child* and *The Compleat Marriage*.

It was through this volume of works — some translated into dozens of languages — that Van Pelt had her greatest impact. Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference, recalls receiving a relationship-oriented book from a pastor early on in his marriage. The book was written by Van Pelt and, shortly before her death, Cano shared with Van Pelt the effect the book had on his marriage. “I read one chapter, and it changed my life,” explained Cano.

Capitalizing on the moment, Van Pelt quipped, “Imagine if you had read the entire book!”

“I thank God for her,” concluded Cano. “She added value to my life and my family, as she has for countless others.”

For many of her later years, Van Pelt was a resident of Central California, frequenting Soquel camp meeting as a presenter and participating in various conference ministries. Among them was prayer ministries, a passion of hers. “She was known as a prayer warrior,” remembers her daughter.



Nancy Van Pelt

Van Pelt regularly participated in weekly prayer sessions held at the Central California Conference office, as well as the conference’s Prayer Day and Prayer Partner events. “She sincerely prayed with passion for our conference leaders, pastors and their wives, churches, schools, families and much more,” says Joyce Mulligan, Central California Conference prayer ministries director. “She prayed for her children

and their families. Her greatest desire was for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit and to see all of her friends and family in Heaven.”

Nancy Van Pelt is survived by her husband Harry, as well as by her three children, Carlene, Rodney and Mark, along with 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Costin Jordache

Women's Koinonia Ministers in Jamaica



The Women's Koinonia mission team ministered in Jamaica last August.

Last summer, the first Women's Koinonia mission team spent 10 days in and around Montego Bay, Jamaica, working on a variety of service projects. Many of the 30-plus team members came from Northern California Conference churches, and the trip was co-sponsored by the NCC African-American Ministries Department.

Founded and led by NCC church members, Women's Koinonia is well known for its annual weekend retreat. Wanting to emphasize service as well as fellowship, its executive board — Sable Hughes, Ena Hunter and Ella Tolliver — made an exploratory trip to Jamaica in 2012. Their hearts were touched when they went into rural areas and saw poverty, homelessness, and a lack of medical services and information.

The mission team sought to address the needs by ministering in numerous ways.

They assisted the West Jamaica Conference in continuing their efforts to build a community services building. They also conducted a two-day Vacation Bible School for more than 200 children. During the trip, the team distributed over 1,000 pieces of clothing and shoes, as well as food to 125 families. In addition, they held medical clinics in the city and country areas. Physician Kisha Hughes, who attends the Fairfield Community church, saw over 200 patients during a four-day period. "This experience allowed me to help those in serious need and to freely pray with patients and talk about Jesus," said Hughes.

Pittsburg church member Tanya Clay served on the medical team. "So much love was felt everywhere services were provided," she said. "My love for medical ministries has totally been ignited and re-energized by this trip." An

especially memorable moment for Clay came at the local market when she met someone who shares her name. Their conversation led to further interactions between the mission team and local people. Before the team members left the marketplace, many shop owners came to ask for prayer.

A unique aspect of the trip was its emphasis on teaching. Team members presented seminars on many topics, including dental care, hypertension, parenting, money management and more. In addition, they provided training and resources to local church, school and conference leaders, sharing innovative ideas for outreach and giving away technological tools to be used for the work of the gospel — including a computer, projector and keyboard. "Being able to teach and share resources in the church and the community utilizing more advanced methods thrills my heart," said Judy Hines, member of the Chester Castle church in Jamaica. The Koinonia group also had the opportunity to participate in the annual West Jamaica Conference Women's Convention, attended by more than 2,000. The executive board provided the Sabbath school lesson, and team members presented seminars.

"Sharing the love, kindness and joy of Jesus Christ was the reason we were there and made me humble and appreciative of the opportunity we all had to participate," said Fairfield Community church member Audrey Knowlton.

Ella Tolliver



West Jamaica Conference President Astor Bowers stands with Women's Koinonia executive board members Ena Hunter and Ella Tolliver.



Pittsburg church member Tanya Clay speaks with a patient.



Frances Cenotti (left) and Donna Marie Bourgeau (middle) work with a local church member to prepare food for distribution.

Scuba Class Gives SAA Students Skills and Appreciation for God's Creation

High school students usually learn about nature through textbooks, but Sacramento Adventist Academy senior-year students gained skills to explore the ocean for themselves during a scuba class last semester. SAA alumnus Jon Salas, an experienced National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) diving instructor — who dives and teaches scuba diving all over the world — taught the class. “I want to be able to open up the underwater world first-hand to the students,” he said.

Salas and SAA science teacher Zach Mason created the class so that students in the following semester's marine biology class would be able to perform underwater research. “I want to give students the opportunity to experience underwater exploration,” said Mason, who took the class along with the teens. “I hope this program continues to grow, and we have many classes of young explorers experiencing God's creation.”

Mason worked with Principal John Soulé and the Northern California Conference to develop and accredit the scuba class. Participating students earned five physical education credits from SAA in addition to three units of college credit. Scuba instruction can be costly, but Salas volunteered his time and skills. In addition, Dolphin Scuba Center in Sacramento offered the students use of their scuba equipment at no charge and also donated pool time for their underwater lessons.

The students were required to pass a water skills test as a prerequisite to joining the class. They then spent more than 16 academic hours and 25 practical in-water training hours learning the necessary skills. “I wanted to discover what was down underneath the water for myself,” said senior Nicole Guzman. “At first it was a little nerve racking since I didn't know exactly what to expect, but now it's super fun, and I can't wait for future dives.”

In November, the class packed up their gear, blankets and courage before heading to Monterey Bay for their open-water dives. The students first took a snorkel skills test to prove their buddy tow, kelp crawl, free-dive, and weight belt removal abilities. Salas instructed the class through a total of six dives at the Monterey Coast Guard jetty. After



Instructor Jon Salas (right) observes student Brendan Collins during the water fitness test along the Rubicon Trail.



Students enter the water at the Coast Guard jetty in Monterey for an ocean dive.

the open-water dives and the written exam had been successfully completed, the students received a lifetime NAUI scuba diving certification. This enables the divers to further their passion for scuba by taking NAUI specialty classes, including rescue diving, wreck diving, cavern diving, cave diving, ice diving, and underwater photography and video.

In addition to the opportunities for future training, students gained something just as important — awareness. “I believe this class gave us a greater understanding and appreciation of the beautiful world our God has intricately designed,” said Guzman.



SAA students Emily Suani, Meredith Lovell, Nicole Guzman, Shirley Shen and Jenae Benson practice at the Dolphin Scuba Center.

Jenae Benson

Mud Run Raises Money and Community Awareness for Rio Lindo Adventist Academy

Last fall, more than 2,000 people came to the Rio Lindo Adventist Academy campus for the third Russian River Mud Run. The event raised over \$20,000 for student scholarships and community outreach programs, such as Rio's Open Table ministry to the homeless.

In all, 1,423 runners from the community participated in the 5K, 10K or 9-mile Mudder events. Rio's 360-acre campus contained 18

different obstacles, including 30-foot long trenches filled with muddy water and covered in camouflage netting. There were also massive climbing walls, two Russian River crossings, and the 300-foot-long Ultimate Slip 'n' Slide. Many of the obstacles required runners to help each other to get over or through them. At the end of the run, exhausted but happy participants were hosed off by members of the Healdsburg fire department. "The big slide was the best part of the race," said Sarah Jones, a runner from Healdsburg. "The whole run was very well organized, and I think everyone had a great time."

All of Rio's students and faculty members volunteered throughout the event. Small teams of students cheered on the runners, gave them course instructions, handed out refreshments, and sometimes physically pulled them through the tougher obstacles. In addition, student photographers shot and sold pictures to raise money to upgrade the school yearbook's photography equipment. After helping for much of the day, the volunteers ran the course for themselves,

sometimes going through their favorite obstacles multiple times. Rio junior Mandy Musvosvi enjoyed the running part of the event. "I love running, and it was fun to use more of the campus than we usually do," she said.

Runners and spectators appreciated the family-friendly event and post-race activities that included a children's bounce house, booths, snacks and free pancakes. In addition to raising money, the day's activities were designed to help Rio connect and create dialogue with community members — many of whom had heard about the boarding school but had no idea of its purpose or religious beliefs.

Mud runs and obstacle course runs have grown in popularity in recent years. Race organizer Steve Martin, Rio's community services director, proposed the idea of a school-sponsored mud run after volunteering with



Rio freshman Nicole Qin, from China, scales the ladder of the wall below Killer Hill.



Mud Run participants go through the log jam obstacle.

NCC Constituency Session 2014 Notice

Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Pacific Union College Church in Angwin, California, on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at 9 a.m.

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

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

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



Students in the Spanish Club raise money by selling snacks to participants and spectators.



Rio junior Wyatt DeAnda (top right), from Berry Creek, Calif., helps runners climb up the wall obstacle.

students for the Santa Rosa Marathon for many years. In October 2012, the school held the first Russian River Mud Run. It was very successful, so Rio hosted another one in May 2013. "We recognized a national trend and realized it was possible to incorporate it into life at Rio without compromising who we are," said Martin. To find out more about the Russian River Mud Run and to view videos of the race and obstacles, visit www.russianrivermudrun.com.

In addition to community events like the Mud Run, the school has a busy schedule of activities for its students to encourage their spiritual, mental and physical growth. Potential students interested in learning more about Rio Lindo Adventist Academy are invited to attend Academy Days on Feb. 23-24. Teens can get a taste of academy life by visiting classes, eating in the cafeteria, sleeping in the dorm, meeting

students from around the world and more. Parents are invited to attend, as well. There will be a special schedule just for parents that aims to answer questions about boarding school. To register or to find out more, visit www.RioLindo.org or call 707-431-5100, ext. 112.

Rika Meyer

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 13TH ANNUAL NCC PRAYER RETREAT

March 14-16, 2014 at Leoni Meadows

Plan now to be a part of this year's Prayer Retreat. Pray that victories will be gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power. Don't miss the prayer time, the fellowship, new friends and prayer partners, and the beautiful Leoni Meadows atmosphere.



**S. Joseph Kidder
Guest Presenter**

S. Joseph Kidder is a professor of Christian ministry at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Following more than 20 years of successful pastoral work, Dr. Kidder now teaches in the areas of spiritual growth, church growth, evangelism and leadership. He also travels extensively, teaching churches how to have a vibrant and authentic walk with God that will draw the world to His kingdom.



Rochelle Holman Boyl • Music

A native of Stockton, Rochelle Holman Boyl lives in the beautiful hill country of Covelo with her husband, Craig. A devoted wife and mother to a blended family of nine, Boyl enjoys singing, playing the piano and, most recently, preaching the word of God.

There will also be youth & children's programs.

To register for this event, please contact LynnDel Newbold at (530) 312-3831 or NorCalPrayer@gmail.com. For information about NCC Prayer Ministries, contact Naomi Parson at (916) 955-4583, nparson0@gmail.com or visit www.ncc.adventist.org/prayerministries.

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20 (NKJV)



Campus Hill Church and Drug Alternative Program Change Lives

Last year at the Campus Hill church in Loma Linda, two people who had been studying the Bible with Cristian Iordan, associate pastor, were baptized. Both of these men are part of the Drug Alternative Program, a drug rehabilitation program in Grand Terrace.

Cliff and Freddie Harris started the program in 1987. Earlier in his life, Cliff had been a drug user for 20 years and had served time in prison. After he returned to Christ and married Freddie, they decided to commit their lives to those in need.

Their mission was to extend hope and love to those who are burdened with drug addiction. By 1997, the couple had purchased two recovery homes. These are home to 12 men in the DAP's residential program, a highly structured program that lasts anywhere from 12 to 18 months.

In addition to providing the men with a support program to quit using drugs, DAP also runs a commercial lawn service through which they can work and earn their pay.

"We started with residential service," recalls Cliff Harris. "We started small." But he longed for the challenge of something larger, eventually winning a contract with Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Clients of the lawn service include the Campus Hill church, the Southeastern California Conference, and a private school system with

schools in Rancho Cucamonga and Riverside.

In addition to their work, the men also find spiritual connection at the Campus Hill church. Iordan serves on the DAP's board of directors.

"Our ministries are fairly well connected," he said, speaking of DAP and those participating in the program. "They are an integral part of our church family."

For many years, the Campus Hill church has served as a connection for individuals who go through the program. The church has hosted prayer meeting on Wednesdays and more recently conducted Bible studies for those who are interested.

"For the past three years, we've been doing Bible studies on Wednesday nights," said Iordan. "Those participating choose various themes, and a series is held for months at a time."

It is during this time that Anthony Parra and Jason Munoz decided that they wanted to be baptized. They spoke to Iordan about their desire. He arranged one-on-one Bible studies to be held before the group studies on Wednesday nights.



Pastor Cristian embraces Anthony Parra and Jason Munoz.

Early last year, both Parra and Munoz were baptized into the fellowship of the Campus Hill church.

"At the age of 42, I reentered the [DAP] program," said Munoz. "God is so good! He's been working on my spirit ever since. I started going to Bible studies with Pastor Cristian on Wednesdays, and after six months I decided to be baptized. I feel really good about my decision and look forward to more of the Lord's guidance in my life."

After the baptism, the DAP family held a celebration at the Harris household.

Both Parra and Munoz are extremely thankful for the ministry of DAP and the open arms they encounter at the Campus Hill church. The program gives them a way to integrate back into a world without drug addiction, while the church provides a family that loves them unconditionally.

The effects of this partnership are long lasting. "Many of the DAP graduates remain in the area and remain in the church and serve in various ministries," said Iordan. "Many who remain in the Loma Linda area remain with us as permanent members of our church family."

Mario A. Munoz



DAP Lawn Service crew mow the Loma Linda University Medical Center lawn.

Children's Ministry Reaches Out to Fullerton's Homeless Community

On Oct. 12, children's ministries at the Fullerton church conducted a shower and lunch event for the homeless in their community. They had begun in August to collect donations for the project, which they hoped would embody their mission, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The church family, including the youth group and several Community Services volunteers, helped the department gather supplies that would be useful to the homeless community of Fullerton.

Church kids, accompanied by adults, distributed fliers advertising the shower and lunch. They focused on areas of the city where the homeless often congregate. Church members also handed out fliers any time they saw a homeless person on the street. The word spread quickly.

At the event, volunteers handed out two packages to each homeless person who attended. During Sabbath school, children assembled care packets that contained towels, washcloths, new socks and underwear, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs and bar soap. Food packets contained granola bars, bottled water, crackers, cookies, chips and peanut butter. Used Bibles were also distributed.

Although plenty of adult church members were present, children did the majority of the distribution. In addition to handing out the packages, they sat and talked with the homeless people. They also played with the dogs — Shadow, Lady and Tracks — that attended with their owners.

One standout feature of the event, as noted in the event's name, was the chance for attendees to take a shower. Jim Manning, a member of the La Sierra University church, donated the use of a semi-truck with four private showers mounted on it. The truck was hooked up to the church's electricity, water and drainage system, and allowed 30 people to bathe. "I feel like I won the lottery," said one man.

According to Julie Baga, children's ministry leader, the idea originated during the summer after a trip with the children and youth to local parks. "We had taken water, GLOW tracts and sack lunches to the homeless," said Baga. "We saw how dirty they were and wished we could do more."

Church members learned a lot about Fullerton's homeless community that will help the church serve them better in the future. Baga took extensive notes on what the homeless people wished they had, aside from food and a hot shower; many of them mentioned that they longed for fresh fruit, that their teeth were too loose and that they needed dog food for their pets.

As a follow up, the church held a Thanksgiving meal for the homeless on Nov. 23, in keeping with the ministry's mission, as well as their vision "to teach and model service to God and others."

The children who participated in the shower and lunch are eager to do even more. "I did not realize what a difference we could make," said Micah Baga, 8. "I don't want to ever stop helping them and showing them that God loves them, too."

Natalie Romero and Glo Haya



The children await the start of the event.



Adults provided support services for the event, but kids did most of the work.



The church distributed two goodie bags — one with food and one with hygiene items.

THE STORY OF ACTS

Adventist Schools Get Serious About Service

Murrieta Springs Students Extend a Hand on Outreach Fridays

Fridays are joy all year at Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian Academy. "Parents love the service program we have," said Darena Shetler, principal of MSACA. "They feel blessed to have their children involved outside classroom walls, doing things for the community."

The kids love it, too. When asked what he likes about Outreach Fridays, Billy Johnston, a first grader said, "I like singing, because it makes other people happy." All 70 students participated in a full Christmas musical,

themed "Adeste Fideles (O Come, All Ye Faithful)," at two assisted-living facilities and Loma Linda University Medical Center-Murrieta on Fridays during the holidays. "We squeeze in tight," said Shetler. "The music has brought such encouragement that the staff has requested our return for three years."

Language arts and music teacher Liz Capizano led the musical. For weeks leading up to Christmas, students made a trove of presents to give to residents.

MSACA dedicates every other Friday to community outreach. Cherline Hunter, kindergarten teacher and outreach director, coordinates kindergarten through 10th grade with regularly scheduled group trips to provide hands-on service and encouragement to the community throughout the school year. Hunter explained that students come to realize that joy is in giving what they can offer. "The highest joy comes in service," she said. "Everybody can give something."

Not all Fridays are the same. Children bake cookies and drop them off at local fire stations, businesses or churches. Other Fridays they minister to shut-ins through songs and Scriptures, or by cleaning, weeding and other yard work. Students have also handed out water bottles and distributed evangelistic tracts with a dollar neatly stuffed in each. They have even straightened out stray shopping carts at local supermarkets and distributed their own Scripture sheets that they studied in class.

The entire school sponsored a young child named Sampath, who lives in India, with an education, which included food, housing and tuition. "It's a bonding experience; we become family," said Shetler. Outreach Fridays start with chapel and a group prayer before going out. Then after their community service, the kids come together to share their adventures.

"If our students are to experience the best things of life, then we'll offer opportunities for them to give of themselves with their talents and time," said Hunter. "It points back to God. He is the author of joy."



MSACA students share faith-building tracts with people in their community.



MSACA students do yard work during Outreach Friday.

La Sierra Academy Students Bond During Costa Rica Service Trip

"I'm not going to like it," thought 17-year-old La Sierra Academy junior Megan Ward as she boarded a plane for Costa Rica. Her parents had arranged for her to go on a mission trip. On Nov. 19, 26 students from LSA, along with nine faculty and parents, left Los Angeles International Airport for San Jose, Costa Rica. They arrived the next morning in time for breakfast and a site-seeing trip to Poás Volcano National Park before heading to the worksite.

The project was to build a church in Tacacori, near the Adventist University in Central America, UNADEC. They worked four days completing the foundation of the church and

starting the block walls. Making concrete, hauling it to the foundation and putting it down was messy, heavy work. Ward admitted that learning everything on the first day was difficult. "We were hot, grumpy and tired," she said.

The students couldn't speak Spanish and didn't know what to do. Ward felt separated. "We didn't know each other well," she said. "I don't think any of us would have become friends unless we had been put together; we were completely different personalities."

Steve McClain, mission trip coordinator and LSA science teacher, commented, "The four local construction guys looked at 26 high school kids and thought, 'Wow. They won't be much help.'" But for 10 years, McClain had developed a group of experienced faculty members and parents who had construction skills and were good with the kids.

They quickly assigned jobs. "You shovel dirt, you run the mixer, you sift the sand, you guys run the wheelbarrows," he said. "It was well organized. They worked very, very hard."

By the second day, the local crew realized work was getting done. "They didn't have to hold our hands," McClain said. Individuals became a team with a common goal — working together in such a way that "nobody was the boss and nobody slacked off."

McClain was impressed that the team rotated around, watching out for each other. Ward worked the water line. It felt cool and she wanted to stay there, but she saw her friend shoveling dirt in the heat.

She asked, "Do you want me to do that for a while? You look really tired." They switched, and Ward discovered that shoveling was her favorite task, and while doing it, she bonded with one of three LSA international students she hadn't gotten to know back home.

On the last workday, the local workers and church members joined everyone around the building project to pray. Yami Bazan, mission trip devotional leader and La Sierra University vice president of Student Life, led a popcorn-style dedication prayer.

"It really hit me that the international kids, who had no Christian background, volunteered to pray first," McClain said. "They had bonded with their classmates on this trip in a much deeper way than during normal school."

"Looking back, I see how sad my attitude was," Ward said. She had limited herself to hanging out with friends she knew. Her advice now, "God puts people into our lives — make new friends; work together. When you think you might not have a connection, really try to get to know people."

Ward feels God asked her to get to know Him, too. Before the trip she thought "the Bible was a boring book, but I've discovered it's awesome. My goal is to read it through with my church this year."

Kimberly Grace

LSA students learn construction skills as they help build a church in Costa Rica.



LSA students lay the slab for a church in Costa Rica.



Hawaii Members Reach Out to Another Island

Many Hawaii members are used to traveling from one island to another, but few have ever island-hopped all the way to Cuba. But last June, under the leadership of Pastor Eliezer Graterol, members of the Hawaii Conference participated in a 15-day evangelism-focused trip to the island nation.

“I coordinated a ShareHim campaign in 2012,” said Graterol. “When I came home, I decided to go back to Cuba one day, but not alone.” He hoped to expose Hawaii church members to another lifestyle, meet the needs of people in Cuba and inspire members to be involved with mission when they returned. The group’s main agenda was to six different week-long evangelistic campaigns to follow up on an existing foundation.

Many of the participants had never preached a sermon. They raised funds, practiced their sermons, and prepared to travel 5,000 miles.

Participants’ ages ranged from early 20s to 70. Neither Paula Castillo nor her adult daughter, Kelly Castillo, had ever been on a mission trip, and they decided that they would go on their first one together. Kelly would speak and Paula would work behind the scenes serving in any way she could. “The people were so friendly,” said Paula. “They welcomed us with opened arms, and they were so hungry for the truth.” The Castillos, and other participants, were amazed how the Cuban people, with limited resources and little freedom of speech, were able to witness to and serve their communities.

Besides preaching, the Hawaii group assisted the local churches with many other needs. Many churches were without basic utilities, including running water and adequate lighting, so the group purchased and distributed water pumps and light bulbs. The group ran one-day events with Vacation Bible School and youth ministry. Local children seemed excited to learn about Jesus — and about receiving the rare treat of ice cream and cake!

The team was also able to provide food, clothing and other supplies for the community and church members. Cuban pastors struggle with reliable transportation, so the group provided funds to purchase 13 bicycles, allowing pastors to minister to a much larger territory on a daily basis. The group also invested in placing trained Bible workers at each site to help follow up on Bible study interests.

When the meetings were over, nearly 50 people were baptized, and more than 200 expressed interest in further Bible study.

Jesse Seibel



Missionaries visit church members in a very poor village two hours away from the city of Camaguey to distribute clothes, dental hygiene supplies, school supplies and prayer.



Arleen (second from right), a Cuban Bible worker, receives a bike from the Hawaii mission group. Back row: Kelly Castillo, Eliezer Graterol, Brian Williams. Front row: Paula Castillo, Antonia Avendano, Eric Ramirez, Maria Denny, Arleen, Alberto Olivas.



Pastor Eliezer Graterol (center), baptizes a couple at Florida church in Cuba. Nearly 50 baptisms took place in response to the efforts.

Kaneohe Church and Family Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Kaneohe church commemorated their 50th anniversary in September with a special Sabbath program designed to recognize how God has used the church to bless so many generations. Members from each era shared how God used the church to encourage them in their spiritual growth.

Elsie Frisby spoke about founding and building the church, highlighting how everyone was united in the cause. Rose Teruya recounted the early years and the growing membership. Lisa Leonardo and Mandy Bourne gave an account of what it was like to grow up in the church. Ken Rose shared how his family recently moved to the area and was welcomed into the Ohana. Revivals Ministry, His to Own, and the Kaneohe Children's Choir provided music.

Pastor Walt Nelson and his son, Pastor Tim Nelson, both participated. Walt ministered at Kaneohe from 1983-1999. Tim has served since 2009. Walt spoke of the "Love That Binds," reminding everyone that it is Jesus who gives churches a reason to exist.

"Kaneohe church has always valued the family," said Tim Nelson. "You can see evidence of



Generations of pastoral families who served Kaneohe church: Miki and Tim Nelson, Lynnette and Steven Clement, DeeDee and Walt Nelson.

this by the number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren of founding families baptized into this church."

The Yrojo family celebrated the 50-year anniversary of both their church and of their own

marriage. In 1960, land was acquired to build a new church. In those days, much of Kaneohe was still open land. Through volunteer labor and donations, the founding members were able to dedicate the building in 1963. While the building was being finished, a young couple was making plans to marry. Eddie and Melinda Yrojo had hoped to be the first couple to wed in the new sanctuary.

The week of their wedding, they were told by the building inspector that they would have to wear hard hats during the ceremony if the church roof was not completed. Benny Pascal, a professional roofer, got a crew together and went to work. They completed the roof that week and the wedding party was able to avoid the unfashionable headwear. Today, Eddie is an elder, and Melinda is the treasurer and secretary. They have seen children and grandchildren make decisions to live for Christ in the same church they wed 50 years ago.

"By God's grace, Kaneohe church will continue to be a place where every generation can find a friend in Jesus," said Tim Nelson.



The Yrojo Family celebrates the baptism of Zelma Leonardo, the granddaughter of Eddie (far left) and Melinda Yrojo (far right).

Jesse Seibel

La Sierra Business Class Raises \$4,500 for After School Programs

Christmas came three weeks early this year to youngsters at two Riverside elementary schools.

On Dec. 5, at Orrenmaa Elementary School on Filmore Street, dozens of young students fidgeted while sitting cross-legged on an auditorium floor in front of a stage, uncertain why they were there. They listened to a brief introduction by students from La Sierra University's Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business. Then a stage curtain was pulled back and the elementary children, with many 'wows' and 'ohs,' witnessed the reason for their assembly: a colorful bounty of numerous games, balls, hula hoops, books, art supplies, stacks of notebook paper, baseball helmets, mini ping pong tables and many other items filled the stage.

It was all for them and their counterparts at Foothill Elementary School to play with during their after school programs; in total, more than \$4,500-worth of supplies purchased with funds raised by the La Sierra students.

The schools are part of the Alvord Unified School District which administers funds for approximately 2,000 students in the district's after school programs. The donation of supplies helps meet the one-third matching requirement for the state grant through which the programs are funded.

The donation of needed supplies "shows our students other people care. It shows them the importance of assisting others," said Carmen Phillips, Alvord's after school programs coordinator. In addition, the university students are good role models for the elementary children and reiterate the district's philosophy that everyone can go to college, she said.

The La Sierra business students, part of a fall quarter university studies class taught by associate professor of law and management Jere Fox, raised \$4,526.97 in cash and in-kind gifts over six weeks. The fundraising was part of a service-learning component of the class that aims to benefit the community and instill volunteerism.

Before engaging in efforts to raise money, the students visited the two schools to

determine the resources needed. Once money began coming in from various activities, the students set up an online shopping cart on Amazon.com and began electronically selecting the needed items which were eventually purchased and shipped to Fox's Riverside home during Thanksgiving week. After the Thanksgiving break, the business students picked up all the shipped items and delivered them to Orrenmaa Elementary for the presentation.

The La Sierra students' many fundraising activities included a yard sale and bake sales, and a car show and raffle held at the Riverside Hyundai dealership on Auto Center Drive in Riverside. Rathyna Gomer, a senior human resources management student and motorsports competitor, organized the show, which included a 350Z Nissan, NSX Acura and other autos. Gomer reached out to her fellow car enthusiasts on Facebook to find exhibitors and ultimately raised between \$450 and \$500 through the event.

"It was so nice to see their faces," Gomer said following the student presentation at Orrenmaa. "It was really heartwarming. They're so cute."

"It melted our hearts. It was just in time for Christmas, too," said senior accounting and finance major Christine Del Mel.

The class was divided into fundraising teams who competed to raise at least \$1,000 and win a free dinner courtesy of Fox. Nichols, Gomer and Del Mel teamed up and brought in more than the required amount at \$1,800 in donated funds.



La Sierra University business students present \$4,500-worth of games and supplies to Orrenmaa Elementary School.

La Sierra undergraduates are required to take three service-learning classes and complete 14 hours of service for each class. Fox said his class this fall far exceeded the 14-hour requirement with their efforts to aid the after school program. In 2011-2012, the university's nationally recognized service-learning program offered 43 service-learning courses taught by 38 different faculty members. Nearly 1,000 students carried out more than 13,500 service-learning hours.

The university studies course taught by Fox incorporates the service-learning component with the social responsibility part of the course curriculum. "By doing so, the business students in the class experience first hand the importance, purpose and rewards of helping and serving others within their communities in a responsible way," said Fox.

This is the fourth class Fox has led in service-learning fund raising for Alvord's after school programs. His classes combined have raised approximately \$14,500 over the past 18 months, which have helped 12 out of the 16 Alvord programs. Fox's next university studies class in spring quarter 2014 will provide supplies for the remaining four programs.

Darla Martin Tucker

News Notes

Adventist Health Sponsors California International Marathon

Adventist Health was represented by 60 relay teams coming from Central and Northern California hospitals, as well as from the corporate office, at the California International Marathon in Sacramento on Sunday, Dec. 8. Adventist Health was the largest corporate sponsor at the event.

The California International Marathon was founded by the Sacramento Running Association to bring a world-class running event to the Sacramento area. The CIM is a Boston Marathon qualifier and an Olympic Marathon Trials qualifier.

A field of 7,368 runners lined up on race day in frigid conditions near Folsom Dam on Sunday morning, and 7,056 crossed the finish line at the State Capitol, officials reported, including both full marathoners and members of relay teams.

Adventist Health started participating in CIM in 2007 when a few IT employees at the AH corporate office rallied together and encouraged Alan Soderblom, vice president and chief information officer, to run with them in the marathon. Years following, more corporate employees joined, including members of the executive team. As the CIM increased in popularity among the corporate employees, employees

from the hospital sites were also invited to participate, which led to this year's large turnout, according to Soderblom.

The race helps Adventist Health promote its health mission amongst its employees. The event has also helped improve visibility for Adventist Health, says Soderblom.

Amy Mishleau, care management support specialist at the corporate office, says the event also spurs bonding. "The race was teamwork at a level that few ever get to experience," said Mishleau. "I feel like I got to know my coworkers so well — better than I ever would have had it not been for the race."

Eller Appointed President of Northern California Network

Jeff Eller was named president of the Northern California Network on Dec. 17, according to Bill Wing, senior vice president of Adventist Health. Eller will replace Terry Newmyer, who announced his resignation in Oct. 2013. Eller will leave his current position as CEO of Sonora Regional Medical Center to assume this role, effective Feb. 3, 2014.

The NCN includes Howard Memorial Hospital, St. Helena Hospital Center for Behavioral Health, St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake, St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley and Ukiah Valley Medical Center.



Jeff Eller

"I am looking forward to working with the excellent caregivers in the Northern California Network to expand Adventist Health's mission and reputation in Northern California," said Eller.

Castle Medical Center Purchases Kailua Professional Center Buildings

Castle Medical Center purchased both Kailua Professional Center buildings on Nov. 20, 2013. The buildings represent approximately 65,000 square feet of office space. The purchase is expected to increase CMC's involvement in the Windward community and is part of a larger plan to provide the community convenient access to physicians and outpatient services,

according to Travis Clegg, vice president of operations.

"Health care is really moving in a direction where it's more and more community based," said Clegg. "The hospital is seeing the need to work very closely with our physicians. We've always been a part of the Kailua community, and I think this just extends our mission."

Dinya Joseph



Adventist Health runners pose after the race in the Capitol Mall in Sacramento, Calif.

The Legislative Year in Review

Each year, the Church State Council monitors the five state legislatures within the Pacific Union territory for bills that impact the church and religious freedom. Last year provided some very serious challenges and some notable successes.

California's Senate Bill 131 would have reopened the statute of limitations on stale child abuse claims against private and religious institutions only. Ninety percent of all children are in public schools, but their claims were excluded. The bill was flagrantly discriminatory in at least two ways: first, it was obviously targeting religious institutions, such as Catholic schools. Secondly, it provided remedies only to those families who could afford private schools, thereby discriminating against the poor and minorities. Finally, the bill did not impose liability on perpetrators, only on institutions.

The Church State Council joined with other non-profits to form the California Coalition of Non-Profits to fight the bill. It was a tough battle. Assembly Democratic leadership lobbied heavily to pass the bill, but Governor Jerry Brown eventually vetoed it. Dennis Seaton, legislative director for the Church State Council, spoke to Brown's legislative aide for 45 minutes, explaining the harm the bill would cause.

The CSC issued regular e-mail alerts and updates, and received widespread reports of grassroots support throughout California

from Adventist churches, schools and members.

SB 323, the so-called "Boy Scout" bill, targeted youth groups, and threatened their exemption from an excise tax if they did not submit a statement of non-discrimination. These groups would be required to forfeit the right to practice their faith as a condition of maintaining their exempt status. The bill was narrowly defeated. But it sent a clear message to religious groups that their tax exempt status is a target. Sponsors of SB 323 are especially offended by religious teachings regarding sex and marriage.

One bill that has received much public attention was the transgender bathroom bill, giving youth the right to identify as something other than their biological gender. The Church State Council did not oppose this bill, because its provisions apply only to public education, and the CSC's mandate does not extend broadly to "morality" issues, but exclusively to issues that impact religious freedom.

The Hawaii legislature pushed through a same sex marriage bill over strong objections from thousands of constituents who signed up to testify against the bill, and, some believe, in violation of the state's own constitution. The CSC submitted written testimony urging stronger protections for religious freedom. Same sex marriage is not itself a religious freedom issue, but the changing social mores may pose a threat to religious institutions, such as hospitals, schools and social services agencies, that hold to traditional teachings about marriage.

Another Hawaii bill, SB 535, applies basic labor laws, including non-discrimination laws, to domestic help. The CSC urged an amendment to exclude religious discrimination from the bill. Domestic help often have a strong influence on children. Yet, parents who use religious criteria in hiring child care run afoul of the law. The bill passed without such an amendment.

Meanwhile, a Nevada Religious Freedom Restoration Act was introduced, restoring strong protection for the free exercise of



Alan J. Reinach, Esq.

religion. Church State Council staff lobbied in person and testified in committee for the bill, but it was stalled in committee. It is expected to be reintroduced in 2015, when the legislature reconvenes.

Religious freedom has broad implications, as in the issue of human trafficking. Liberty of conscience requires personal autonomy. There is no more complete deprivation of the rights of conscience than to enslave someone. Hence, the CSC regularly supports measures addressing human trafficking. One of the bills promoted during the CSC's annual Lobby Day was SB 327, giving victims of human trafficking an opportunity for a sentencing review post conviction. Human trafficking victims are often required to engage in illegal businesses, such as the sex or drug trades, and when caught, are too embarrassed to admit their status as trafficking victims. The bill passed the Senate, and was stalled in the Assembly.

The Church State Council monitored too many more bills to mention here. Success often depends on grassroots involvement. For more information, sign up at www.churchstate.org and "Like" Church State Council on Facebook.

ON THE HORIZON



CHURCH STATE COUNCIL

February 1 — Fresno, California

February 8 — Fairfield, California

March 8 — Bakersfield, California

April 8 — Pacific Union College, Lobby Day

April 12 — Phoenix, Arizona

May 5 — Sacramento, Annual Lobby Day

Sept. 13-14 — Sacramento,

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More dates/info: www.churchstate.org



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CALENDARS

Arizona

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE (Feb. 1-2) Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Info: Lisa, 480-991-6777, ext. 125.

RAW FOODS POTLUCK Supper (Feb. 8) 2nd Saturday of each month, 6:30 p.m. Central church, 777 W. Montecito, Phoenix. Newcomers — please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. For recipe ideas, visit www.hacres.com. Info: stanhowerton@yahoo.com or call 480-430-5492.

INTIMACY AND BROKENESS Retreat (Feb. 14-16) Info: Pastor Glen Sta. Ana. Info: 480-991-6777, ext. 111.

YOUNG ADULTS IGNITION (Feb. 19-23) Miami. Info: Pastor Ben Lundquist, 480-991-6777, ext. 149.

NATIVE LEADERSHIP MEETING (Feb. 23) Kayenta. Info: Pastor Charlie Whitehorse, 928-240-8680 or e-mail whitehorse.ministry@citlink.net.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Adventists in Mesa, Ariz. (March 1) hosted by Mesa Palms SDA church. Former members, pastors, friends

invited to celebrate with us. King's Heralds concert Sabbath afternoon, 5 p.m. Information on special hotel rates, call 480-985-3140; Facebook: Mesa Palms SDA Church; Website: mesapalmschurch.com.

Central California

WOMEN'S RETREAT (Feb. 7-9) Tenaya Lodge. Info: Women's Ministries, 559-642-2396.

HISPANIC CONVOCATION (Feb. 14-15) Bakersfield area. Info: Florina, 559-347-3144.

MARRIAGE RETREAT (Feb. 21-23) Cliffs Resort at Shell Beach. Info: Marlyn, 559-347-3142.

Northern California Conference

FRANK R. HOWARD MEMORIAL Hospital Prayer Breakfast (Feb. 6) 7 a.m. Willits Community Center, 111 E. Commercial Street. Motivational speaker Jessica Cox. Read about her: www.rightfooted.com. By invitation only. Info: Chaplain Dennis Long, 707-456-3295, longdj@ah.org.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER Jessica Cox (Feb. 7) 7 p.m. Willits Community Center, 111 E. Commercial Street. Born without arms, Cox earned a Taekwondo black belt and a pilot's license. Free. Open to the public. Info: Willits church, 707-459-5714.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE STUDENT Retreat (Feb. 7-9) Leoni Meadows. For all high school-aged freshmen and sophomores. Emphasis on student-led, small group Bible study. Info: Youth Ministries Department, 925-603-5080.

RETIRO DE MATRIMONIOS (Feb. 14-16) Leoni Meadows. Speaker: Dr. Rene Quispe. Info: Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

CHRISTIAN EDITION CONCERT (Feb. 22) 5 p.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 South Fairmont Avenue. Men's chorus directed by Calvin Knipschild. Info: 209-334-1844.

RIO LINDO ADVENTIST Academy Days (Feb. 23-24) Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, 3200 Rio Lindo Avenue, Healdsburg. Activities for potential students and their parents. Info: 707-431-5100.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (Feb. 28-March 2) Sacramento-area hotel. For couples wanting to deepen and strengthen their marriage. Next

dates: April 4-6, Oct. 17-19. Info and registration: Rob & Debbie Purvis, 530-622-4798.

NCC JUNIOR HIGH Choral Festival (March 4) 7 p.m. Hilltop Christian School, 2200 Country Hills Drive, Antioch. Info: Education Department, 925-603-5065.

NCC SENIOR HIGH Choral Festival (March 5) 7 p.m. Clinician Stephen Zork. Hilltop Christian School, 2200 Country Hills Drive, Antioch. Info: Education Department, 925-603-5065.

PARADISE ADVENTIST ACADEMY Homecoming (March 7-9) Paradise Adventist Academy, 5699 Academy Drive. Honor classes: graduation years ending with "4" and "9" from all eras — PJA, PAS and PAA. Every former student and every former staff member invited! Info: www.mypaa.net, or Linda Corbit, 530-877-9610.

CONCERT (March 8) 5 p.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 South Fairmont Avenue. Ralph and Terry Bain. Info: 209-334-1844.

NCC WELLNESS Weekend (March 7-9) Leoni Meadows. Speakers: Katia Reinert, NAD health ministries director, and Don Hall, Wellsource and Lifelong Health founder. Local church health



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leaders and teams encouraged to attend. Info: Health Ministries Department, 925-603-5073.

NCC PRAYER RETREAT (March 14-16) Leoni Meadows. See ad in NCC section. Info: Naomi Parson, nparson0@gmail.com, 916-955-4583.

Pacific Union College

PUC MUSIC FACULTY Recital (Feb. 1) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall. The PUC music department faculty will showcase their talents during this performance. Info: 707-965-6201.

COLLOQUY SPEAKER SERIES: Dr. Ben Carson (Feb. 6) 10 a.m., PUC Church. Dr. Carson, a prestigious neurosurgeon and Professor Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University, will speak on the topic of his book, *Think Big*. Info: colloquy@puc.edu.

ONE ACT THEATER Festival (Feb. 13, 15 & 16) 8 p.m., Alice Holst Theatre. PUC students put on a series of one-act performances. Info: 707-965-7550.

COLLEGE DAYS (Feb. 13-16) Prospective students are invited to experience life at PUC. Includes meeting professors, sitting in on classes, and touring the campus. Info: 707-965-6336.

RASMUSSEN ART GALLERY (Feb. 15-March 15) Featuring new work by faculty from PUC's visual arts department. Opening reception Feb. 15, 7 p.m. Info: 707-965-7362.

ACADEMY BAND FESTIVAL (Feb. 19-22) Academy bands from across the Pacific Union learn and perform music together. Festival concert Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Paulin Hall. Info: 707-965-6201.

MATH/SCIENCE WORKSHOP (Feb. 23-24) Academy students explore college-level biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics and related careers. Info: 707-965-6303.

ESCHER STRING QUARTET (Feb. 25) 11 a.m., Paulin Hall Auditorium. The acclaimed Escher String Quartet will perform at PUC for the benefit of music majors and community. Info: 707-965-6201.

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.

Southeastern California

SECC JR. HIGH CHORAL Festival (Feb. 7) 7 p.m. Campus Hill church, 11057 Hill Dr., Loma Linda. All are welcome. Info: Teri Vasquez, 951-509-2313.

Southern California Conference

FIRST QUARTER BIBLE Bowl (Feb. 1) focused on the Book of Joshua. 3 p.m. Alhambra church, 220 S. Chapel Ave. Info: 626-289-6137.

"THE ART OF MARRIAGE" (Feb. 1, 8) getting to the heart of God's design, remainder of a six-week date night video series. 5-7 p.m. Altadena church, 2609 Lincoln Ave. Details: 626-794-3953; altadenafamilylife@gmail.com.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT Series (Feb. 8) 4 p.m., presents USC Thornton School of Music Performance & Presentation Award Winner. Reception with the artist. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Freewill donations received. Info: 818-244-7241; www.glendalecitychurch.org.

BEYOND, A ONE HOUSE SCC Senior Youth and Young Adults event (Feb. 15) Featuring Jon Henderson, speaker; Steve Mackey, worship. Starts 10 a.m.

with Prayer Breakfast. White Memorial church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 1housescc@gmail.com.

HISPANIC REGION LAITY Retreat (Feb. 21-23) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd, Mountain Center 92561. Presenter, Ricardo Norton, Andrews University Seminary. Retreat purpose: to introduce the Seminary program for SCC laity, training members as Bible workers. Participants will meet every two months, as they had with the SCC School of Evangelism. Info: 818-546-8448.

LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST Forum (Feb. 22) 3 p.m. "Neuroscience for Thriving the Brain, Learning, Stress Management and Relationships," speaker, Linda Caviness, Ph.D., chair, La Sierra University Curriculum and Instruction Dept. Undergraduate/Graduate Levels; director, Graduate Brain, Affect and Education Concentrations. Glendale City church, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

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LOOKING FOR AUTHORS who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844.

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is limited to students who have finished only one year of law school. Ideal candidates would be in the top 25% of their class. Duties include legal research and other projects. Please send résumé and transcript to david.gordon@ahss.org.

BLACK HILLS HEALTH & Education Center is adding a new program in Drug and Alcohol Recovery, and is seeking to fill new positions and expand our existing Wellness Program with missionary-minded professionals: MD, PA or NP (with interest in preventative medicine), Nurse, Vegan Chef, Food Service, Housekeeping, Massage Therapists, LCSW. Applicants must be licensed professionals and able to come for an interview as part of the hiring process. E-mail résumé: stan@bhhec.org.

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GENERAL MANAGER, PROMISE FM (KARM / KADV); Visalia, Calif.; Full-time. The Promise FM is looking for an individual passionate about leading listeners to Jesus through radio, social media, partnerships and events. Please contact Dr. Richard Dunn at chair@mypromisefm.com.

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Missing Members

RIVERSIDE. Contact: Rita Carleton, Riverside Community SDA Church, 4850 Jurupa Ave., Riverside, CA 92504, 951-686-1886, rita_carleton@yahoo.com. Amber Casey, August Champlin, Priscella Chapman, Steven Curtis Chapman, Ricardo Cisneros, Ashley Coffey, Claude Coffey, Joey Coffey, Katie Coffey, Michelle Coffey, Mike Coffey, Tammy

Coffey, Sarah Cordett, Tim Cordett, Joseph Cowan II, Michael Creamer, Laurie Crisp, Robert Cronk, Wendy Cronk, Caitlin Curtis, Dan Curtis, Hazel Curtis, Shane Curtis, John Dalesandro, Diana Davis, Lori Davis, Mark Davis, Trenton L Davis, Elsa De La Torre, Lorenzo DelVecchio, Michelle DeMott, Rick DeSefano, Sherry Drew, Lisa Elmes, Shasta Emery, Cindy Erikson-Folkerts, Valeria Espinoza, Manny Estrada, Dawn Farnham, Jacqueline Fiorello, Jason Frey, Lorena Frey, Joseph Gallant, Efrén Galvez, Laura Gasca, Cynthia Graham, Donald Graham, Stacey Graham.

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Reunions

MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY West Coast Alumni Chapter (Feb. 23) 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Lunch to follow, \$12. Azure Hills church, 2263 Barton Road, Grand Terrace, CA 92324. Info: Beth Bernotas, 909-883-6886.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ACADEMY Alumni Sabbath (April 12). 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.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE Academy Reunion (June 6-8) for alumni and schoolmates of 1964 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich.: Honor classes: '34, '44, '54, '64. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information you may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or visit www.glaa.net.

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SUNSETS

	2/7	2/14	2/21	2/28
Alturas	5:27	5:35	5:44	5:52
Angwin	5:39	5:47	5:55	6:02
Calexico	5:21	5:27	5:33	5:39
Chico	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:59
Eureka	5:42	5:51	5:59	6:07
Fresno	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:53
Hilo	6:17	6:20	6:23	6:26
Honolulu	6:25	6:29	6:32	6:35
Las Vegas	5:14	5:21	5:28	5:35
Lodi	5:36	5:43	5:51	5:58
Loma Linda	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:45
Los Angeles	5:30	5:37	5:43	5:49
Moab	5:47	5:54	6:02	6:10
Oakland	5:40	5:47	5:55	6:02
Phoenix	6:06	6:12	6:18	6:24
Reno	5:27	5:36	5:43	5:51
Riverside	5:27	5:33	5:40	5:46
Sacramento	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:58
Salt Lake City	5:53	6:02	6:10	6:18
San Diego	5:27	5:34	5:40	5:45
San Francisco	5:41	5:48	5:56	6:03
San Jose	5:39	5:47	5:54	6:01
Tucson	6:03	6:09	6:15	6:21

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AT REST

BARRIER, WILLA MAE (JOHNSON) — b. Sept. 19, 1918, Drumright, Okla.; d. Nov. 27, 2013, Antioch, Calif. Survivors: son, Don; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

BOBST, RICHARD T. — b. Feb. 24, 1962, Boise, Idaho; d. July 1, 2013, Yucca Valley, Calif. Survivors: son, Richard; sister, Kathy; mother, Marilyn; grandmother, Janet.

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

DULAN, BOYCE — b. June 24, 1941, New Orleans, La.; d. Sept. 18, 2013, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: wife, Monica; son, Michael; six grandchildren. Served as teacher at Golden Gate Academy; practiced medicine; director, Kern County's Dept. of Public Health.

HUSSONG JR., RULAND WALCOTT — b. March 22, 1935, Phoenix, Ariz.; d. June 10, 2013, Salt Lake City, Utah. Survivors: brother, Gerald; sisters, Adrienne, Rosalind; four nephews, five nieces.

KNITTEL, ORLANDO EUGENE — b. May 22, 1929, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; d. Dec. 10, 2013, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: wife, Barbara; son, Marlan; daughters,

Carrie, Beth, Martal, Heidil; stepson: David Schippmann; three grandchildren; brother, Eugene; sisters, Virginia Goodwin, Evangeline Bowen. Served as a laboratory technician at Hillside Community and Ukiah Valley Hospitals in Ukiah, Calif.

KNOLTY, DEBBIE MICHELLE — b. Dec. 18, 1959, West Covina, Calif.; d. Sept. 23, 2013, Highland, Calif. Survivors: son, Herbert Tucker, mother, Cynthia, brother, Ronald.

LEARD, ESTHER L. (MCVICKER) — b. Nov. 18, 1917, Oswego, Kan.; d. May 21, 2013, Santa Cruz, Calif. Survivors: Bill Maxwell, Brian Maxwell, Michael Maxwell, Kerry Maxwell, nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

MARSHALL, JANET — b. May 22, 1939, Fresno, Calif.; d. June 12, 2013, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: sons, David and Glenn; daughter, Anita; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

MARTIN, CECIL C. — b. Feb. 20, 1929, Glendale, Wash.; d. Nov. 16, 2013, Sequim, Wash. Survivors: sons, Steve, David; daughter, Diane Cowles; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Worked at Pacific Press in Mountain View, Calif., and San Pasqual Academy.

MCMILON, DORIS — b. Jan. 20, 1921, Lawton Okla.; d. Nov. 7, 2013, Homeland, Calif. Survivors: son, Mark Bogle; daughters, Gail Bogle-Munson, Yvonne Gardner, Linda Colston; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

NANNEY, GENE GRAY — b. July 5, 1928, Paris, Tenn.; d. Nov. 17, 2013, Citrus Heights, Calif. Survivors: sons, Clarence, Kelvin, Mark; daughters, Jean Adell, Lillie Henderson.



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NELSON, H. DEAN — b. Jan. 13, 1938, Portland, Ore.; d. Nov. 26, 2013, Irvine, Calif. Survivors: wife, Robyn; daughters, Tina, Kelly Nelson Eismann; two grandsons. Taught for eight years at Sacramento Union Academy.

NISSEN, HAZEL — b. Aug. 17, 1921; d. Sept. 26, 2013, Modesto, Calif.

RETZER, JIM — b. March 1, 1948, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Oct. 29, 2013, Chico, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marti; sons, Travis, Gregory. Served as seventh grade teacher and former principal at Paradise Adventist Academy; worked as an educator for 42 years in the Colorado, Central and Northern California conferences.

RUPERT, WILLIE — b. March 1, 1943, Woodland, Miss.; d. April 26, 2013, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: wife, Shirley; sons, Nathan and Jethro; daughter, Yolanda Cole; mother, Louella Brown; sister, Ella Mae; brothers Frank and T.C.

SAWYER, ROBERT J. — b. Aug. 29, 1933, Gazelle, Calif.; d. Dec. 17, 2013, Fallon, Nev. Survivors: wife, Joy; son, Robert; daughter, Ivy Diezel; stepson, Doug Mowatt; stepdaughters, Sherry Olivier, Kathleen Olds; two grandchildren.

SELTZER, MABEL F. (HEILAND) — b. March 26, 1920, Muscatine, Iowa; d. Oct. 3, 2013, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: sons, Richard, Marvin; daughter, Pat; two grandchildren; six great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren.

SHANKEL, LORNA ELAINE — b. Jan. 7, 1932, Glendale, Calif.; d. Oct. 27, 2013, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: husband, Stewart; sons, Stewart III, Jeffrey, Theodore; daughter, Martha Nell Ward; six grandchildren.

SMITH, GERILD "JERRY" ALLYN — b. July 22, 1937, Shafter, Calif.; d. Dec. 10, 2013, Las Vegas, Nev. Survivors: wife, Olline; son, Geoffrey Allyn; daughters, Gerri, Crystal Smith-Haughey; two grandchildren.

STODDARD, VIRGINIA M. — b. Dec. 14, 1926, Galion, Ohio; d. Nov. 14, 2013, Redwood City, Calif. Survivors: son, Jeff; daughters, Sharon, Carol Belcourt; five grandchildren, one great-grandchild.

THORNBURG JR, HARRISON W. — b. March, 26, 1942, Pampa, Texas; d. Nov. 9, 2013, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Margaret; daughters, Lori Owen, Lisa Dickinson; three grandchildren; brother, Ralph; sisters, Pauline DeLoe, Allene Ramey, Darlene Adcock. Served at the Loma Linda Market.

VAN KOMEN, BERT — Aug. 13, 1929, Bennington, Okla.; d. April 20, 2013, Fallon, Nev. Survivors: wife, Emma Jean; daughters, Kathy Melendy, Karen

Zimmerman; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMS, JUNE — b. Dec. 3, 1922, Wis.; d. Oct. 25, 2013, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: son, Timothy; daughter, Sharon Martin; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

YOO, MYUNG-KYU — b. Dec. 31, 1931, South Korea; d. Dec. 10, 2013, Monterey, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sheja Hyun (Yoo).

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