

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

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BRIDGES TO HEALTH
Brings Free Health Care to
3,000 PEOPLE ... pages 6-13

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about the cover

Four-year-old Mia Velazquez watches Dr. Richard Beckermeyer treat her mom, Estella Velazquez, during Bridges to Health.

PHOTO BY GERRY CHUDLEIGH

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Lessons Learned

Sometimes in life, we are thrown challenges that are hard to understand. These challenges can be loss of a job, family problems, health issues, death of a loved one, and the list goes on. When these hard-to-understand experiences come our way, in the long run, there are lessons that can be learned.

Last fall, I was diagnosed with cancer in my mouth and jaw. When I heard the diagnosis, it was a shock. I experienced anger, frustration, and fear of the unknown. I was reminded that even in the darkest hours, God was beside me, guiding each step of the way. Through this experience, I have learned several lessons.

Perceptions

Shortly after surgery, a friend whom I had not seen for a while kept staring at my face and finally commented that there were no visible scars on my face. I assured them that all the surgery had been done inside the mouth. That got me thinking that cancer is like sin, because many times the cancer can't be seen, even though it is there. Sometimes we hold on to sins that no one knows about, which can be like a cancer to our souls.

When Samuel was looking for a king to lead Israel, he was instructed to look at Jesse's sons. As each son came to Samuel, the Lord told him to keep on looking. In 1 Samuel 16:7, Samuel is told by the Lord, "Do not look at his appearance ... for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

When the diagnosis is cancer, we are willing to do whatever is needed to get rid of it, and

we go through some painful processes. A friend reminded me that we need to have a similar attitude about getting rid of sin in order for the heart to be truly right with God.

Patience

As I visited with physicians, I was told that the recovery time would be at least six months. Patience has never been one of my strengths. As healing progressed, it has become increasingly difficult to swallow and to speak clearly. The doctor told me to be patient. It is hard to be patient when you know what needs to be done and can't do it.

When Elijah fled from Jezebel, he was on the run. Finally, when he was exhausted, the Lord came to him in a still, small voice. Elijah had to be reminded to be patient, to listen, to communicate. In today's society, we are always on the move, and sometimes it takes a major event for God to get our attention. The fast pace of modern life makes it harder to listen for His still, small voice.

Prayer

During my lifetime, I have seen the power of answered prayer in the lives of individuals. During this dark time, there have been many prayers offered on my behalf — that is a humbling experience. Friends and associates have called to pray with me when I needed it most. I feel so blessed to be part of a church family that cares. Throughout this experience, I have seen the Lord leading on many occasions. As we were making decisions where to go for treatment,



my prayer was that the Lord would lead — and He did.

We had met a surgeon who gave his opinion, but he agreed with our choice to seek a second opinion. When we went for the consult with the next doctor we had chosen, we did not tell him which doctor we had seen first. After his exam, he said he could not help and suggested we should go see another very skilled surgeon that he knew, which turned out to be the one at the office we had visited the day before. I had to ask a second time to make sure I heard him correctly. In a metropolitan area as large as Los Angeles, the likelihood of one surgeon referring you back to one you'd seen before is very slim.

While recovery is slower than I would like, I am reminded over and over that we serve a Savior who cares about our every need. Sometimes we don't see or feel His presence, but He is there. I look forward to the day when I can sit down with Jesus and thank Him for what he has done, and continues to do, in my life.

During this dark time, there have been many prayers offered on my behalf — that is a humbling experience. Friends and associates have called to pray with me when I needed it most. I feel so blessed to be part of a church family that cares.

Ted Benson

Rio Lindo Adventist Academy Students Discover “Love Does”

What does love do? That was the question that Rio Lindo Adventist Academy’s mission trip set out to answer during two weeks in March. Called the “Love Does” mission trip, its theme was to look for and embody ways to be love to a world in need. Unlike most mission trips, this one took place within the United States.

The students spent the first week with The Dream Center, an organization that ministers to the homeless and less fortunate in all parts of Los Angeles. One of its 200 ministries is the Food Truck, which distributes food to hungry people throughout the area. Rio students bagged groceries, handed them out, and then prayed for the guests. “It was amazing to see how many people within our own country need food, and how easy it is to use food donated by grocery stores to help those in need,” said senior Sarah Sagehorn.



After distributing groceries at the Food Truck, students pray with a guest.

Another Dream Center ministry is Adopt-a-Block. Volunteers choose a city block to pray for and, once a week, go door to door visiting the residents, asking about their needs, and working to meet them. Rio students helped with this ministry by tutoring kids, cleaning up a yard, holding Bible studies, cleaning up trash on the streets, handing out food, and helping with a kids’ after-school program called Kidz Jam — a once-a-week Vacation Bible School held in the park.

The mission team then headed to Disneyland. But this wasn’t just any normal teen trip to The Magic Kingdom. The Rio group sponsored 10 foster kids from a local group home to spend the day in the park with them. Half the foster kids had never been to Disneyland before. “It was amazing how simple yet powerful it was to just listen to people and hang out with them for a day, and how much quality time can change lives,” said Stacy Kainer, a junior.

Next the student group traveled to Las Vegas and worked for a week with Youth With a Mission (YWAM). The students learned how to articulate their own personal testimonies and how to share the gospel with someone on the street. They also prayed with strangers in the downtown area.

During the prayer outreach, junior Brittney Finck and senior Dashka Thelusma met a homeless and hungry teenager. They listened to his story, but wanted to do more than pray for him. They asked the teen to write a grocery list, with items that would total no more than \$15. He thought they were joking, but went ahead and gave them the list. The two students then bought the food he needed. Surprised, the young man thanked them repeatedly.

The students discovered that love prays, but it also goes a step further: love partners with God by becoming the answer to someone’s prayer. “I didn’t know serving others could be so fulfilling and at the same time so fun,” said senior Spencer Scarbrough. “I’ve never experienced until now the joy that serving brings.”

PHOTOS BY STEVE MARTIN



Senior Michael Kainer talks with children at Kidz Jam.



Junior Brittney Finck (center) and senior Dashka Thelusma (right) pray with a man in Las Vegas.



At Kidz Jam, sophomore Lulu Kabanje asks a girl about her prayer needs.

Krystalynn Martin

Shingle Springs Quilt Makers Bring Comfort to Those in Trouble

How can Christians reach out to people affected by domestic violence? Some members of the Shingle Springs church have discovered a way to share Christ's love with women and children they may never meet — by giving them homemade quilts. "You may not be able to preach or witness, but everybody loves a quilt," said Kathy Bryant, who heads the church's quilting group with her husband Howard Bryant Jr.

Most Wednesdays, the group gets together in the church fellowship hall to make quilts for The Center for Violence-free Relationships in El Dorado County. Sewn to each finished quilt



Members of the Shingle Springs church quilting ministry meet on Wednesdays: (from left to right) Paula Denham, Howard Bryant Jr., Kathy Bryant, Will Scheideman, Leroy Kirk, Darlien Kirk, Ollie Haines, Roberta Hicks.

is a label that reads: "Made especially for you by Shingle Springs SDA church." Women and children use the quilts while they are staying at the center's shelter, and they can take the quilts with them when they leave. So far, the group has made and delivered about 30 quilts to the center. "They always send us a nice thank you card," said Roberta Hicks, who has been part of the quilting group for about a year. "They are just so thankful to get the quilts."

Kathy Bryant calls the group's creations "utili-quilts" — not fancy, but attractive and warm — and the church members can make them quickly. Typically, they finish two to four "nine-patch" quilts every week. Their rapid pace is due to their hard work, as well as to an efficient system, developed over nearly a decade of quilt-making ministry. "You've got to be organized if you want it to be a success," said Howard Bryant Jr.

To begin the process, someone measures and marks squares to be cut. The cut squares are coordinated by color to look appealing. They are then sewn together to the appropriate size. (For the shelter, the group typically makes twin-sized quilts.) Then the three quilt layers are sewn together with the patchwork top, middle batting and bottom sheet. Kathy Bryant has perfected a system of folding the edges a certain way to make tidy-looking, mitered corners. The last step is tying — or knotting — the quilt.

The trick to doing the work every week is to keep everyone interested by mixing up the



Ollie Haines and Howard Bryant Jr. demonstrate that each quilt is created through a team process.

various jobs. "If people feel burned out, we tell them to do something else," said Howard Bryant Jr. Socializing also makes the experience fun. Once a month, the group enjoys a potluck lunch. "My favorite part of this ministry is getting together with all the people," said Hicks. "We just have a grand time."

Members of the Shingle Springs church quilting group highly recommend this ministry to others since it is low cost and doesn't require advanced sewing skills. Another advantage is that it is "green" because sheets and other fabric can be recycled as quilt pieces. The Bryants are willing to serve as a resource for people who are interested in starting their own quilting ministry at their local churches. They will be happy to send a diagram of their quilting process. Contact them at bryantjr@pacbell.net.

"We have a lot of enjoyment doing this!" said Kathy Bryant. "It is fun, and it helps others."

Julie Lorenz

PHOTOS BY LARRY HICKS



Will Scheideman marks squares to be cut.



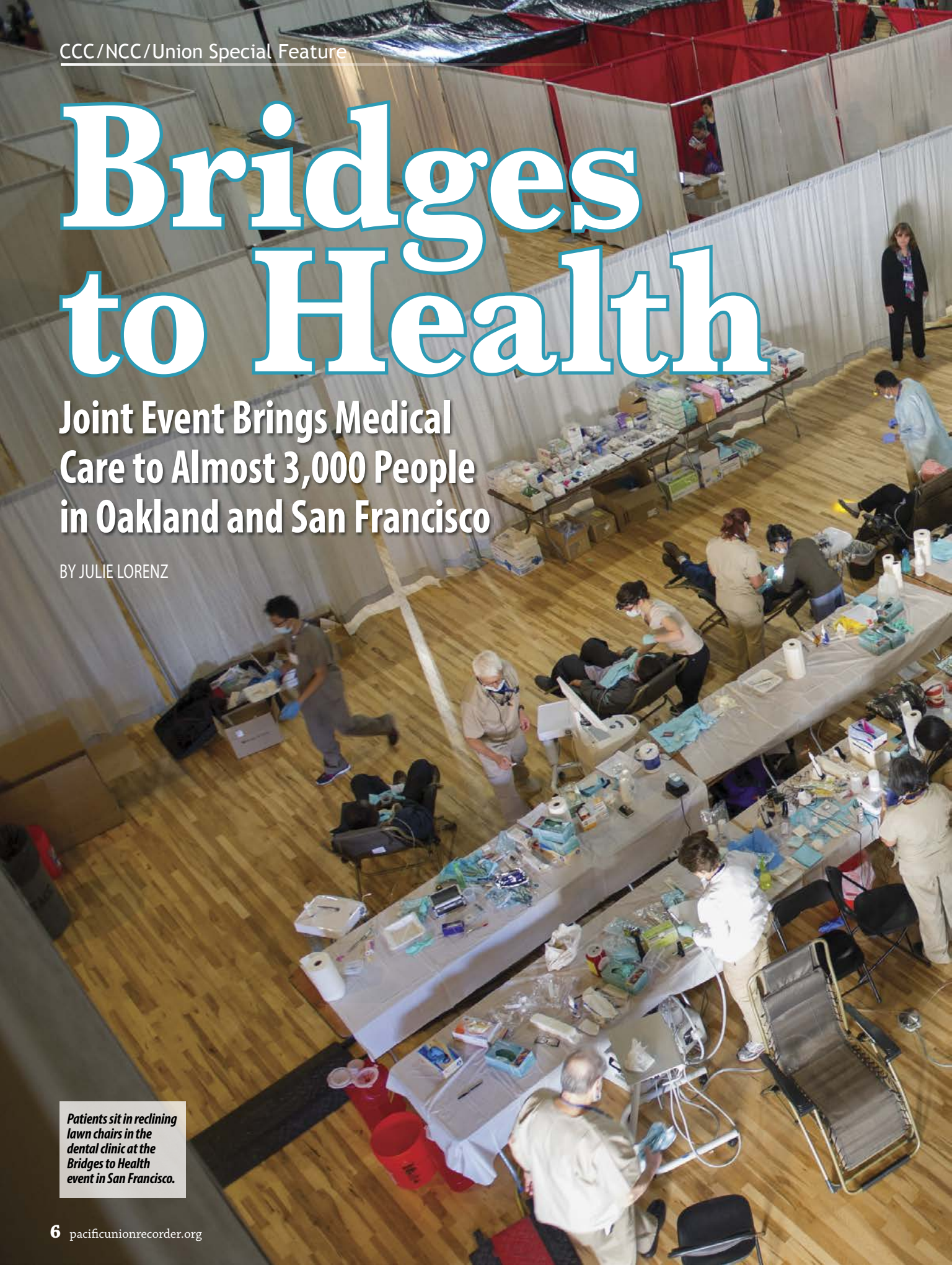
Roberta Hicks works on a quilt edge.

Bridges to Health

Joint Event Brings Medical Care to Almost 3,000 People in Oakland and San Francisco

BY JULIE LORENZ

Patients sit in reclining lawn chairs in the dental clinic at the Bridges to Health event in San Francisco.





About 600 Adventist volunteers participated in Bridges to Health, an outreach event that brought free medical and dental services to almost 3,000 people in San Francisco and Oakland over a three-day period. Some community members lined up overnight to make sure they could receive care at the San Francisco Armory on April 23 and 24, and O.co Coliseum in Oakland on April 25. In all, more than \$5.2 million worth of medical services were provided for free.

The “medical mission trip” was organized and sponsored by the Pacific Union chapter of Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI). The Pacific Union, the Central California Conference and the Northern California Conference served as co-sponsors. Many organizations within

the Adventist church, including Adventist Health, were involved in the event.

About half of the volunteers were medical and dental professionals. Other volunteers served in a variety of supportive capacities to help as many people as possible. “We were working together for one goal — sharing Christ with those who are most in need,” said event organizer Lela Lewis, a physician from Ridgecrest, who serves as ASI Pacific Union president.

Many people mentioned that they could feel the presence of God throughout the three days. “The Holy Spirit energized and focused the health professionals, pastors and volunteers as they did the work Jesus asked us to do — helping other people,” said Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union.

VICTOR CARREIRO



People in need of medical, dental and vision care line up at the San Francisco Armory.

A Visit to the Clinic

Each morning as potential patients approached the doors, volunteers gave them paperwork to complete. Once inside, they were directed to registration tables where assistants helped them fill out the forms. Translators were available in a number of languages, including Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Then patients went to the medical triage station to get their vital signs checked. Hospitality volunteers escorted patients between stations — screened off by curtains for privacy and containment — so that everyone moved as efficiently as possible. From triage, patients went to various clinical areas to receive medical and dental services.

Dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants provided a full spectrum of services, including crowns, root canals, extractions and teeth cleaning. The Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) provided most of the dental equipment. Dentistry was the most requested service, and appointments filled up early in the day. “The need for dental services is just as great right here in our own country as it is in many of the 25 other developing countries I’ve done mission dental trips in,” said Peter Nelson, a dentist from San Luis Obispo.

VICTOR CARREIRO



Rae Zaracki of the Weimar HEALTH program counsels a man on healthy lifestyle practices.

GERRY CHUDLEIGH



While their father, Chris Joslyn, receives medical care, homeless shelter residents Christopher, 6, and Charley, 2, play games in the children’s care corner.

The need for people to hear about Jesus is also just as great. Ted McDow, a dentist from Modesto, treated a man who asked what the volunteers were getting for doing their work. McDow told him that they were followers of Jesus and wanted to do what He did. When the patient said that he hoped he could go to heaven, “I was able to tell him just how easy it is,” said McDow, who prayed with him. The man later told McDow that he planned to visit an Adventist church in the area.

Eye care was the second most requested service. After their eye exams, patients chose from an assortment of glasses frames, trying them on, with the assistance of eye care volunteers. (Their prescription glasses were available for pickup several weeks later at local churches.) As nurse Gertie Warnick, from Martinez, performed eye exams, she met a 71-year-old man who hadn’t had new glasses in 20 years. Warnick was moved by the gratitude that her patients displayed. “They all were very thankful,” she said. “They couldn’t believe we were doing this work for free.”

Other medical services included primary care, women’s health, pediatrics, mental health, HIV/STD screening, x-rays, lab tests and minor surgeries. One man had a grapefruit-sized lipoma removed from his

GERRY CHUDLEIGH



Students from Weimar Academy sing for the patients.

With tears running down her cheeks, Man Ru Lin, from San Francisco, tells a reporter from Asian TV channel NDTV how she no longer has to use a magnifying glass to read since she received reading glasses at the clinic.



GERRY CHUDLEIGH



Physicians, nurses and other volunteers gather in the surgery area to pray together.

back. A number of the caregivers commented that they enjoyed serving patients in this venue because they could take extra time to make connections. “It was very freeing to work without the usual time restraints,” said occupational therapist Teresita Davis, from Martinez. “Usually it’s a choice between the patient and productivity standards.”

In the women’s health area, physician Melinda Skau, from Oroville, examined a woman who was unhappy with the 70 pounds she had gained. “We spent about 30 minutes handling the four issues that added to her weight,” said Skau. “At the close of our visit, when I asked if we could pray together, she responded excitedly, ‘Jesus helped me quit drugs, and now He is going to help me get healthy!’ She even prayed for me and the other caregivers.”

Throughout the event, pharmacists dispensed medications prescribed by the physicians. After helping an older woman, and arranging for follow-up care, pharmacist Susan Reed was surprised to see her come back the following day, saying that she had returned because Reed cared about her. “That was very heartwarming,” said Reed, who serves as corporate director of pharmacy operations at Adventist Health in Roseville. “If we touch but one life in a small way, we can make a difference.”

Extra acts of service meant a great deal to the visitors. Massage therapists gave many chair massages to surprised and grateful patients. Irma Nunez had come in for eye care, but after her exam she received a relaxing massage while her daughter interacted with volunteers in the childcare area. It was just the treatment that the busy mother needed. “It was beautiful! Oh my!” she said.

There were other extra touches designed to give the patients a positive experience. Students from Weimar Academy and Fountainview Academy serenaded the patients throughout the day with choral and instrumental

music. Patients in the building at lunchtime received a free healthy meal. A children’s area kept kids and babies happy and safe. Weimar Academy students and other volunteers introduced the children to the eight principles of health at different stations, using a variety of fun activities. Before going home, each child received coloring books, storybooks and a stuffed animal.

After their exams and treatments, patients met with lifestyle counselors from the Health Evangelism And Leadership Training for Him (HEALTH) program of NEWSTART Global. The counselors reviewed surveys

VICTOR CARREIRO



Stan Ramley, D.D.S., of Redding, Calif., prays with a patient, Felicia, as she sheds tears of joy after receiving much needed dental work.

GERRY CHUDLEIGH



After dental work, Miguel Duarte, left, from San Francisco, looks at Bible-based health tips and prays with volunteer Davern Francis.

the patients had completed to document their lifestyle practices, such as smoking, exercise and diet. They then talked with the patients about the eight laws of health, suggested ways they could improve their health through lifestyle changes, and gave them a magazine about NEWSTART principles. "People really appreciated the one-on-one interaction," said Sivasu Laupati, who works for NEWSTART Global.

Spiritual Health

Just before leaving, patients had a chance to meet individually with chaplains. During their conversations, the chaplains emphasized the connection between spiritual health and physical health. "We told them they are healthier when they are connected to a faith community, and we asked, 'Do you have one?'" said Teresa Nelson, chaplain at Sonora Regional Medical Center.

They also asked if they could pray with the patients. "Most people said yes to prayer," said Weimar College English instructor Cosmin Ritivoiu, who served as a chaplain. "Usually they were very thankful and open to telling me what their requests were." Common requests included help with addictions and help for children and grandchildren.

Oftentimes just a few caring words made a difference in the lives of the people who attended. Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for mission and spiritual care at Adventist Health in Roseville, began talking with a couple waiting in line, and the woman burst into tears. He was afraid he had offended her, but it was just the opposite. "It's been so long since someone has treated us with dignity that I couldn't contain my emotions. Thank you so much!" she said. At the end of the day, Crampton saw the couple again. "They commented about how loving and caring everyone had been," he said. "They told me, 'I've heard it said many times that God is love, but today we experienced it through you people.'" They requested a referral to a local church.

A Year in the Making

The idea for Bridges to Health began almost exactly a year before at the 2013 ASI Pacific Union convention. Don Mackintosh, HEALTH director and campus chaplain for Weimar Institute, challenged the ASI members to plan a project for their next convention that would be in accordance with ASI's motto: "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace." "The Holy Spirit very

The Littler Patients

BY STEPHANIE LEAL

Four-year-old Mia Velazquez hid under a blanket in her stroller in the long line at O.co Coliseum in Oakland on Friday morning. But the rain couldn't dampen her spirits. She enjoyed throwing back the blanket and yelling "Cheese!" for a photographer.

Mia was in line with her mother Estella; both needed to visit a dentist. Mia needed a dental form completed in order to enter kindergarten in the fall. Even though her father had a job, and her parents had been working hard to get her covered by their insurance, the paperwork maze had left them anxious to get Mia's dental form ready. Estella hadn't seen the dentist since Mia was born and needed a deep cleaning.

As Richard Beckermeyer, a dentist from Niles, Mich., worked with her mom, Mia slowly climbed into his lap to better see what was happening and to hold her mother's hand to comfort her. When it was her turn, Mia became a bit more fearful, but Beckermeyer's calm assurance helped her finish the exam.

Mother and daughter left with the paperwork that Mia needed to start school and the dental procedure that Estella needed. "God is a great choreographer, and He positions people in particular spots to meet a particular person's needs," said Beckermeyer. "It was so important, whether we saw a little child or an adult, to realize the purpose was to uplift Christ and glorify His name."



Richard Beckermeyer, D.D.S., from Niles, Mich., treats Estella Velazquez, from Richmond, while her 4-year old daughter, Mia, watches carefully.

The Long Lines

BY STEPHANIE LEAL

Tracy Hogan, along with her friend Dominic Rea and assistance dog Edgrrr (“he named himself,” she said) were the first people in line at the San Francisco Armory on Wednesday morning. Her determination to get in line almost 24 hours before the doors opened had guaranteed her a spot, and also — she hoped — help. Unable to work due to a disability, she was discouraged by the lack of services available in the community to a person in her position, especially optical and dental care.

Chuck Scott, several spots behind Hogan and Rea, had spent the night waiting in line. He was visiting the Bay Area when he learned about Bridges to Health. Recently retired, he has health insurance, but his plan has no dental coverage, and he is still two years away from receiving Medicare.

As the doors opened and patients started spilling into the Armory, Hogan, Rea and Scott patiently filled out the paperwork and waited for their appointments. By mid-morning, Hogan had received an eye exam and had picked out new glasses. Rea met dentist Tim Sheu, from Cupertino, and smiled from the lounge chair where he was about to get a healthier smile. And Scott celebrated his 63rd birthday — the day of the clinic — by having two bad teeth extracted by Stan Ramley, a dentist from Redding. Scott couldn’t have been happier about his birthday gift. “It’s wonderful that you guys are doing this,” he said.



Alegria Tuazon, right, from Salinas, reviews medication instructions with Rabia Sana, from San Francisco, at the pharmacy.

much inspired the board and me: this is definitely what God wants us to do,” said Lewis.

She and the board decided to host a large medical outreach event in either Los Angeles or San Francisco. They sent out proposals to the mayors’ offices in both cities and prayed that the Lord would direct them. The San Francisco mayor’s office gave an enthusiastic response. “They called, basically begging us to come,” said Lewis. “We took it as a sign that God wanted us to go to San Francisco.” Later she discovered that the Central and Northern California conferences were planning joint evangelism work in the Bay Area through a project called Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus. The medical event fit well into the conferences’ goals, and the organizations joined forces. It was decided to add a day of medical outreach in Oakland in order to offer help to both sides of the Bay.

Originally, Lewis and her team had planned to recruit about 20 medical providers to work with volunteers from other non-Adventist organizations. However, as time went on, enough Adventists signed up so that 98 percent of the volunteers were church members. They came from all over the United States and other parts of the world, including a woman from Saudi Arabia. “God orchestrated the whole thing, moving the plans in multiple directions to make it entirely a Seventh-day Adventist event, and getting us the support of the mayors and their health offices,” said Lewis. “In both cities, we saw multiple, blatant miracles of God.”

Spreading the Word

A challenge that worried organizers was discovering ways to reach the people who could benefit from Bridges to Health. Local church members, Weimar Academy students and others distributed flyers and put up posters in neighborhoods. Students from SoulsWest handed out tens of thousands of flyers. Local newspaper owner and Adventist Paul Cobb promoted the event throughout Oakland. Signs were posted in BART stations, in buses and on billboards. Press releases went out, which brought the media in droves. During the event, all major Bay Area news outlets reported on it, including the three major television stations in the area — several doing live feeds from the event itself. In all, almost 20 media outlets carried stories about Bridges to Health, including *USA Today*. A photograph of the event became one of *The Wall Street Journal’s* “Photos of the Day.”



Tracy Hogan (left), her service dog Edgrrr, and their friend Dominic Rea stand first in line.

GERRY CHUDELEIGH



CBS Channel 5 reporter Cate Cauguiran interviews physician Lela Lewis, president of the Pacific Union chapter of ASI.

The advertising and publicity worked. More than 1,700 people received care during the two days spent in San Francisco, and more than 1,100 received care at the one-day event in Oakland.

The Need Is Great

While there are numerous stories about the many who were helped during the three days in San Francisco and Oakland, unfortunately there are many people who had to be turned away. In Oakland alone, about 3,500 people had lined up by 7 a.m. on Friday. Organizers had to estimate how many could realistically be served and let the others know that they wouldn't be able to receive treatment.

The need for future events such as this is enormous. NCC President Jim Pedersen and CCC President Ramiro Cano want their two conferences to continue to reach people in these cities through the joint-conference program, Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus. "I am really excited about reaching these communities and neighborhoods more — with the hope that Jesus has given us. This medical event was just the beginning," Pedersen said.

Cano agrees. "I'm so grateful that so many of us are coming together from many walks of life with one purpose," he said, "and that is to relieve the hurting in our communities."

Lewis hopes that Bridges to Health will serve as a model for others interested in this type of mission work. "There is no reason this can't be replicated everywhere in cities across the nation," she said. "Our goal is to be able to equip our people on a nationwide city effort." Plans are in the works to bring a similar event to San Antonio, Texas, prior to the General Conference Session there in 2015.

Events like Bridges can be done on a smaller scale, as well. "At the union, we are already developing plans to implement this model at the local conference, local church and local hospital level," said Arnold Trujillo, vice president of the Pacific Union.

Lewis gives all the credit for the event's success to God. "Prayer moves the mighty arm of God. We saw this on many, many occasions," she said. "I believe with all my heart that God blessed in such a mighty way because we sought to do His will and present his love, without wanting a specific result. We sought to follow His blueprint according to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, which implore each of us as Seventh-day Adventists to go out and do these humanitarian efforts on a local level — to do work just as Christ did for those in need." ■

Want more? To see a video review of the Bridges event, scan the QR code with a code-reader app on your smartphone or visit <http://vimeo.com/95311484>.



GERRY CHUDELEIGH

Jean Quan, mayor of Oakland, thanks the volunteers and sponsors who made possible the Bridges to Health medical and dental clinics.



Recognition from Mayors' Offices

BY JULIE LORENZ

Bridges to Health coincided with the annual convention of ASI Pacific Union, this year held south of San Francisco in Burlingame. On Sabbath afternoon, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan spoke to the volunteers, thanking them for their work in her city. "All your work has truly been a blessing for our city. We want to thank you for the work you did," she said. "We hope you can come back sometime."

Representing San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee was Kara Zordel, executive director of Project Homeless Connect in San Francisco. She repeated Alexis de Tocqueville's famous quote: "America is great because she is good" and told the volunteers, "Thank you for bringing good to our community."

During her response to the officials, ASI Pacific Union President Lela Lewis said: "It's been a tremendous blessing. We are so happy as a Seventh-day Adventist group to work with you and collaborate with you to help those in need."



On behalf of the mayor of San Francisco, Kara Zordel, executive director of Project Homeless Connect, presents a certificate of appreciation to Lela Lewis, M.D., president of the Pacific Union chapter of ASI.

FAA Mission Team Travels to Peru

Like spring blossoms waiting to burst from their wintry cocoons, students, parents and faculty members of Fresno Adventist Academy waited eagerly on the school's south lawn on the afternoon of March 12. A mission trip to Peru that had been a year in the planning was finally about to begin.

As travelers gathered in a large circle to pray for God's blessings and protection during their adventure, they were filled with both anticipation and excitement — some, with nervous apprehension. Fifty-eight volunteers boarded the school bus the first day of spring break. Comprised of FAA students, teachers and principal, along with several doctors, nurses, contractors and a local pastor, the team was relatively small compared with its sizable mission, "To Seek and To Save." Those words, along with an image of a life preserver printed in red on official T-shirts, were about to become real for each member of the team.

After a long bus ride and even longer flight, the missionary team landed safely in Cuzco, greeted by friendly church members in native dress. After a warm welcome — including a gift of a bright red alpaca snow hat and a cup of coca tea for everyone — luggage was loaded into buses and trucks, and the travelers were transported to an Adventist Development and Relief Agency facility. There, hosts Pastor Bucky and Bonnie Weeks checked all team members into comfortable rooms.

As the sun rose above the misty clouds over the Andes that first morning, the mission team gathered in the spacious dining room for breakfast and worship. There they met the

Peruvian members of their team and enjoyed a meal that included a variety of fruits, grains and vegetables, many of which were unfamiliar. Those first days were challenging as everyone adapted to the new culture, the altitude (almost 11,000 feet above sea level), and not one, but two languages — Spanish and Quechuan. Alpaca, sheep, cows and pigs roaming freely soon seemed almost as commonplace as domestic pets back home. Team members settled into a routine and began learning names of people and places. The names of various church sites were soon rolling off their tongues with ease: Urcos, Cusipata, Pinipampa and Quinihana.

Each day after breakfast, team members would board either the blue bus or the white bus to the worksite assigned on a rotation basis. Students would don their scrubs one day to assist the medical or dental teams, and suit up in work boots and gloves the next to pound nails, sand walls and paint plaster with the construction crew at two church sites. The end of the work day found everyone back at "camp" sharing experiences around the bright blue cloth-covered tables in the dining hall. Then it was back to the buses, headed for the nightly church services and Vacation Bible School programs.

Days at the clinic began with long lines of patients anxious to get relief from their various maladies. Women in traditional dress carrying rosy-cheeked babies bundled in colorful shawls tied on their backs, students dressed in stylish school uniforms, and men with weather-beaten faces in broad-brimmed sun hats waited patiently for eye, medical and dental exams.



FAA students paint the Adventist church in Cusipata.



Student Taylor Stanic assists Dr. Maria Kidwell with a dental procedure in Urcos.

Translators kept busy relaying messages between patients and staff. A particular highlight for a number of students, including seventh-grader Blake Johnson, was the opportunity to extract a decayed tooth. "It was awesome," exclaims Johnson. "I wanted to do it again the next day." Altogether, the team treated more than 600 patients and dispensed dozens of eyeglasses and medical prescriptions.

Meanwhile, at the worksites, contractors and their assistants labored to make improvements to two of the churches. New wiring and fluorescent lighting, fresh coats of paint, gravel walkways, and aluminum awnings were just some of the projects tackled by the team.

Nightly attendance at the evangelistic meetings in four churches increased steadily as students shared the good news of salvation under less-than-ideal circumstances. Neighborhood children eagerly greeted the buses each night in anticipation of hearing Bible stories, creating crafts and singing multiple verses of *Yo Tengo Goza, Goza, Goza* at the top of their lungs. "I definitely saw God at work through the hearts of the children as they arrived more and more



Students Abrham Garrido and Vanessa Sulit help Dr. Margie Recaldo with optometry.



Deanna Bullington passes out toys at the orphanage in Cusipata.



The mission team visits Machu Picchu.

excited each night," explains freshman Vanessa Sulit.

One highlight of the Peruvian experience was an afternoon spent at a Catholic orphanage that included a boisterous soccer match, gifts for the children, and one broken window. "Those kids crushed us!" lamented athletic sophomore

Adam Fernandez. And of course, a long trip to South America would be incomplete without including a day of sightseeing and shopping in the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu.

Despite many obstacles that seemed supernaturally orchestrated, including lost passports, illness, rockslides, miscommunication

and homesickness, the team experienced the faithfulness of God throughout the trip. As the Peruvian mission drew to an end, the team looked forward to its last Sabbath with mixed feelings. Anxious to return to loved ones on one hand, reluctant to leave new friends — especially the little ones — on the other. After the last Sabbath school and church service, everyone gathered around a plastic pool, and in water made fragrant with flower petals, seven people were baptized into the family of God.

That night, as team members said tearful goodbyes and took turns sharing personal testimonies, they were humbled by the realization that in their quest to seek hearts in need of salvation, their own hearts had been forever changed. "It was probably the best experience of my life," said senior Collette Ignacio.

Cathie Jones

Leah Jordache Joins Team as Discipleship Coordinator

The Central California Conference welcomes Leah Jordache to its team as the conference's new discipleship coordinator. She replaces Victoria Lauritzen, who has accepted an invitation to serve as associate superintendent of education in Central California.

A graduate of Southwestern Adventist University, Jordache has served as associate pastor at the Arlington church, the Loma Linda University church, as well as the Dallas First church. Most

recently, she served as young adult leadership development and discipleship coordinator of the Southwestern Union. During the last several years, Jordache has focused her time and energy on the development and implementation of biblical discipleship concepts and materials and has presented at trainings and retreats around the United States.

Jordache shares that her passion in life is connecting people to God in a deep and authentic way. "Growing up, church was always a part of my

life," she says. "But, as I matured, I found my experience was lacking something deeper. I was already in my 20s by the time I finally had the deep and personal experience with Jesus Christ that shapes my identity in life and in ministry to this very day." Jordache explains that discipleship has become her driving passion. She lives to

teach people how to connect personally with Christ through biblical community and personal study, and to live life as committed followers of Christ who then intentionally lead others into the same life-changing experience. Her passion matches the conference's commitment. The leadership of the Central California Conference, in partnership with locally-based ministry In Discipleship, continues to take intentional strides to inspire, support and facilitate development of discipleship ministries within the conference. "I look forward to working with all our departments, ministries, local churches, schools, homes and individuals toward our common goal of connecting people to Christ and to each other," says Jordache.

Leah Jordache is married to Costin Jordache, who serves as vice president for communication in the Central California Conference. They have two boys, Roman (8) and Lance (6). She enjoys a wide variety of hobbies, including travel, spending time outdoors, cooking and eating, learning new things, listening to music and spending time with her family.



Pastor Leah Jordache

Central California Conference

Young Adults Distribute Backpacks for Christ

Dozens of Arizona young adults spent Christmas morning with 1,000 of Phoenix's homeless, who lined up around the block to receive a meal and a new backpack.

Once-nervous volunteers relaxed as they looked into the eyes of each person, asked their name, and initiated a conversation focusing on their needs.

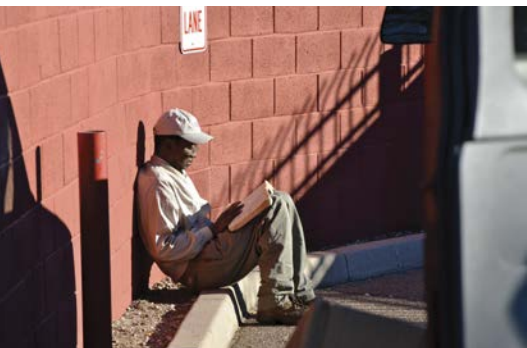
PHOTOS BY ALLAN NIEVA



Allie Miller, Susan and Ann Okrah, and Lexi Williams enjoyed making Christmas morning special for 1,000 homeless people.



A young recipient of a new backpack seems thrilled with her Christmas gift.



A Backpacks for Christ guest slips away to read his personalized copy of *Steps to Christ*.

"Backpacks for Christ started six years ago," explained project mentor Jim Curley, "when I wanted to take my son, Jett, downtown to help the homeless on Christmas morning. We wanted every homeless person to have something brand new to call their own."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the largest outreach organization for the homeless of Phoenix, was planning a Christmas meal for those in need. They were happy to include Backpacks for Christ as a part of the Christmas outreach.

The manager at St. Vincent directed Curley to look out the window, where he saw several tattered old backpacks and trash bags containing the personal effects of many transient people. They were placed for safekeeping along the backyard fence and could be left in this secure area until dark while the men and women went about their day.

He learned backpacks are not only a place for keeping personal documents and items of value; they are also used as pillows at night.

The Camelback church voted overwhelmingly to adopt the Backpacks for Christ project. It was anticipated that approximately 1,000 would attend the Christmas festivities.

Curley and his team wanted each person to have a new backpack. He went to numerous sporting goods companies and found the most inexpensive backpack cost \$45. He did the math and realized the impossibility of raising \$45,000 to cover expenses. So he continued working until he found a wholesaler in Texas who was willing to provide a quality backpack retailing for \$89.95 for just \$12.50 each. "I can't negotiate as well as God!" he says. He ordered 1,000 units for \$12,500.

The team decided to include a pair of gloves for each backpack and began the process of finding affordable options. The most reasonable pair to be found cost \$2.49. Multiplied by 1,000, that seemed like another impossible goal. Not to be discouraged, Curley contacted a glove manufacturer in Texas, explained the humanitarian project, and asked if he could negotiate a more affordable price. The spokesman for the



A homeless man shows his very worn backpack from a previous year as he receives a new one on Christmas day.



Susan and Ann Okrah present a new backpack to a guest during Backpacks for Christ.

company returned his call and said 1,000 pairs of gloves would be shipped that day — for free.

Additional items were to be placed inside, such as a copy of *Steps to Christ* and hygiene packs, which included soap, toothbrush and toothpaste.

Concerned about the cold night temperatures, Camelback member Gwen Dossey hand-knitted more than 500 hats to go in the backpacks.



Personalized name tags with hand-written Bible verses were attached to each backpack.



A teen displays his brand new backpack.

Weeks prior to the event, Curley presented blank 4 x 6 index cards to the Camelback members and asked them to take it home, pray over it, then hand-write the Bible verse that most inspired them on the card. They brought the personalized cards back to church next week.

Young adults scanned the cards, scaled them down to a business card size, laminated them and attached a hanger. The personalized Bible verse was to be placed in the hand of the recipient of the backpack. Therefore, each church member was involved in the program even if some were unable to attend the distribution.

"Backpacks for Christ means much more than providing a backpack to a total stranger," Curley stated. "Groups of volunteers are divided into greeters, presenters, counselors, and taggers. Each person had a special job. We wanted everyone involved."

After the guests finished their Christmas meal, greeters brought them to the lobby where



Camelback and local church members joined St. Vincent de Paul staff to create a memorable Christmas morning with Backpacks for Christ.

the young adults began their work of personalizing the experience. "What's your name?" they asked. Then they personalized the copy of *Steps to Christ*.

"Once personalized," Curley explained, "the book becomes a possession. I've never seen a *Steps to Christ* abandoned. In fact, one man requested a personalized copy for his wife."

Camelback Pastor Charles White led the prayer team, which was available to pray for the personal requests of the people. More than half those served were eager for prayer. The needs were heart wrenching.

"Less than 20 percent we've seen before," Curley recalled. "Eighty percent move on from Phoenix. One man had the two previous years' backpacks, badly worn but functional."

As the last of the guests trailed in, the team was a little nervous about having enough backpacks for every person. At the end of the



Gwen Dossey hand-knitted 500 hats for the homeless at the Backpacks for Christ event.

day, every backpack was used, and no one was turned away empty-handed. "I think there was some divine accounting involved!" says Curley.

Phil Draper



A guest carries his new backpack away from the Backpacks for Christ festivities.

Hawaii Pastors Take Great Controversy Tour through Western Europe

Four pastoral couples from the Hawaii Conference recently experienced a “Great Controversy Tour,” visiting vital points of church history in Western Europe, bringing the Bible stories and characters to life in the minds and hearts of the participants.

The tours are offered once or twice annually and are guided by Dr. P. Gerard Damsteegt, an Andrews University specialist in Adventist studies and church history, and coordinated by his wife, Laurel Damsteegt. The couple has been conducting these tours for more than 20 years, and their passion for helping fellow Adventists

experience the history of the faith first-hand is evident throughout the tour process.

The Hawaii Conference pastors joined a group of Adventists from all over North America and Japan, bringing the group total to 50 people. As the tour progressed, the participants found themselves bonding by experiencing the historic journey of the Christian church together.

This year, the tour began in Rome on March 28 and then progressed to the home of the Waldenses in Northern Italy and many unique places not included on most tours. Next came the reformation sites in Germany, Switzerland

and France, culminating with key points of the French Revolution in Paris.

Ralph Watts, president of the Hawaii Conference, said “It was a privilege for Sharon and myself to experience this trip with our Hawaii pastors and their wives. None of us will be the same after having visited the places where so many courageous people took their stand for Christ — even at the cost of life itself. Mahalo to the Hawaii Conference for helping provide this opportunity of a lifetime for our pastors.”

Mark Duarte



(L. to r.) Walter and Dee Dee Nelson, Sharon and Ralph Watts, Judy and Juan Rivera, and Akemi and Mark Duarte stand on the spot where Martin Luther stood for truth in 1521.



The group visits the Mamertine Prison in ancient Rome. Once used for the imprisonment of Christians, it was later transformed into a place of worship.

A Waldensian church reminds the group of those who treasured Scripture even in the midst of persecution.

Research Affirms, 'A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like a Medicine'

Experiencing joyful laughter reduces stress hormones, lowers blood pressure, and elevates a person's mood. Loma Linda University Health is a strong advocate for wholeness and "Living It," and LLUH research continues to confirm and expand the known health benefits of mirthful laughter.

"Good Morning America" recently aired a segment highlighting results of an LLUH study showing that laughing for 20 minutes can help improve memory in healthy, older adults. "Learning ability and delayed recall become more challenging as we age," lead author Gurinder S. Bains, M.D., shared. "Laughing with friends or watching 20 minutes of humor on TV, as I do daily, helps me cope with my daily stressors." Bains is primary research coordinator, department of allied health studies, LLU School of Allied Health Professions.

This news comes from the LLUH study: "The effect of humor on short-term memory in older adults: a new component for whole-person wellness." According to Lee Berk, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., associate professor, LLU School of Allied Health Professions, and associate research professor, pathology and human anatomy, LLU School of Medicine, the act of laughing increases endorphins, sending dopamine to the brain. This provides a sense of pleasure and reward, and the immune system also functions better.



Results of a Loma Linda University Health study have shown that laughing for 20 minutes can help improve memory in healthy, older adults.

Laughter reduces stress, say the researchers, and as one's stress is lowered, memory improves. This has tremendous implications for older adults who may be experiencing age-associated memory deficiencies, as medical practitioners now can offer enjoyable and beneficial humor therapies for these deficiencies.

A second LLUH study was presented in late April at the 2014 Experimental Biology conference in San Diego. As researchers measured subjects' brain wave activity, they discovered that humor associated with mirthful laughter sustains high-amplitude gamma-band oscillations — gamma is the only frequency found in all parts of the brain.

"When there is mirthful laughter," continues Berk, "it's as if the brain gets a workout because the gamma wave band is in synch with multiple other areas of the brain that are in the same 30-40 hertz frequency. This allows for thinking more clearly and having more integrative thoughts. This is of value to individuals who need or want to revisit, reorganize or rearrange various aspects of their lives or experiences to make them feel whole or more focused."

Subsequent findings revealed that while watching spiritual videos, subjects experienced significant levels of alpha brain wave bands, similar to those of a person at rest; and while watching distressful videos, subjects experienced flat brain wave bands across the board similar to those of people who feel detached, non-responsive, or would rather not be in the situation.

"Laughter may not only be good medicine for the health of your body, but may also be good medicine for your brain," Berk says. The world is listening, as major news outlets throughout the United States continue to relay the good news.



Lee Berk, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., associate professor, Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions, and associate research professor, pathology and human anatomy, LLU School of Medicine (seated), and Gurinder S. Bains, M.D., have released new research findings that reveal health benefits that mirthful laughter brings.

Herbert Atienza and Nancy Yuen

Exceptional Alumni and Professor Emeritus Honored at PUC Homecoming

Since 1882, Pacific Union College has been preparing students for a lifetime of service to God and humanity. From April 25-27, the college welcomed alumni back to its Angwin, Calif., campus to celebrate that heritage, share special memories, and to recognize the impact of PUC graduates. During the homecoming weekend festivities, the college recognized a group of alumni that have made significant contributions as the 2014 Honored Alumni. The annual Honored Alumni awards are given to individuals who are truly representatives of the PUC pioneer spirit, and this year's recipients were no exception.

During the Sabbath morning worship service, PUC President Heather J. Knight, Ph.D., presented the first of the 2014 awards. First to be honored was Lawrence Longo, M.D., pioneering researcher and founder and emeritus director of the Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University. Longo graduated from PUC in 1949 and established the Frank A. and Florine A. Longo Lecture series at his *alma mater* in 1993. Though Longo was unable to attend the service, his daughter Celeste de Tesson came to accept the award on her father's behalf.

The next recipient was Joe L. Wheeler, Ph.D., a 1959 graduate of PUC's history department and a beloved and prolific author of books, including the *Christmas in My Heart* and *Great Stories Remembered* series. After accepting the award, he encouraged the students and fellow alumni to never accept the limitations of age. "As long as the good Lord gives us strength and marbles . . . I guess we'll keep going," Wheeler said. "In order to



PUC President Heather J. Knight presents the Honored Alumni Award to Joe L. Wheeler.

keep coming to alumni, I want to encourage you all to never, never retire."

Daniel Kido, M.D., '61, was recognized for his nearly 50 years of contributions to the medical field as a leader, researcher and author. Kido has charted a diverse path in neuroradiology and education, teaching at Harvard Medical School and leading one of the largest neuroradiology departments in the world as Chief of Neuroradiology at Washington University. Now a professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Kido encouraged students to dream big: "When I was at PUC, I didn't dream that I would ever have a chance to do all of this . . . and yet the dreams that started all of this began at PUC."

Following Kido's acceptance, Knight presented an Honored Alumni award to Fred M. Lee, class of 1962, recognizing the unique perspective on healthcare outlined in his bestselling book *If Disney Ran Your Hospital—9 1/2 Things You Would Do Differently*. Lee honored his parents, longtime missionaries and PUC alumni Milton and Helen Lee, in his acceptance speech. "It's such an honor to get this award — I feel a bit like an imposter growing up in the shadow of my two parents," the author and former hospital vice president said. "To me they set a bar so high I've never felt like I could ever achieve that kind of commitment."

Elissa Kido, Ph.D., '64, was honored for her work leading the *CognitiveGenesis* research project as director of the Center for Adventist Education K-12 at La Sierra University. "Never in



Bill Hemmerlin accepts the Honored Pioneer Award.

my lifetime did I believe that we would have a film on PBS, nor that I would have a small role in it," she stated. "That goes all the way back to my time at PUC where I became beneficiary of Adventist education." Kido shared that she met the two most important individuals in her life at PUC: God and her husband, Daniel.

In addition to the recognitions given to the Honored Alumni, on Friday evening, April 25, the Honored Pioneer award was presented to Bill Hemmerlin, Ph.D. The Pioneer Award is given each year to a non-alumnus who has made a significant impact at Pacific Union College. The beloved educator, a member of the department of chemistry faculty from 1979-2010, was honored for his decades of service as a professor, department chair, and advisor to hundreds of students on their path to medical and dental school. Hemmerlin, now a professor emeritus, was a two-time recipient of PUC's Educator of the Year award and continues to serve as a PUC ambassador by traveling throughout California and beyond with the college's alumni relations team, often interacting with former students who benefitted from his compassionate mentorship.

Those interested in hearing more of the Honored Alumni's perspective on the church and Adventist education can find the alumni Sabbath school and worship service online at <http://new.livestream.com/pucchurch>.



Fred Lee, Heather Knight, Elissa Kido, and Daniel Kido celebrate the impact of PUC graduates.

Emily Mathe

Gotta Tell Somebody

by Rich DuBose

The moment we're touched by grace and brought to the foot of the Cross, our attitudes and perspectives begin to change. Many of the things we once loved we now hate! Where before we worked to keep God at arms-length by staying away from his "people," we now gravitate toward those who embrace God-centric thinking and a biblical worldview. Something inside of us is different. It's like we have a new set of eyes and a new processor that uses a different formula for interpreting data. Wow!

And the very first thing we want to do is tell somebody!

Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well resulted in her wanting to share her experience with others.

Read full article:

www.churchsupportservices.org/gottatell



Stories of Faith

Amazing Grace – Frederick Howard grew up in the San Francisco-Oakland area in a home and neighborhood that was anything but ideal. He knew nothing about God or religion, and was surrounded by drugs, pimps and robbers. They were his role models, until he met Jesus!

Visit: www.vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith



Winning Hearts

We asked David Smith to share some of his thoughts about what it takes to interest people in God's story and our faith.

Editor – David, recently we enlisted you to write a collection of short, faith-based articles that cover the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. We specifically asked you to do this without making them sound overly religious or churchy. The challenge we face today is that many people do not view organized religion as a viable option. In your view, how can we speak to our surrounding culture in ways that compel them to want to listen?

Smith – There will always be a place for open proclamation of the Bible: teaching and preaching directly from the Word. But the challenge of reaching



Photo ©Shutterstock Images

today's masses means we have to wisely fold Calvary's saving beauty into nuanced stories where the practical faith of winsome people works well for them.

I can preach to a few hundred people – and sometimes do.

Read full interview at:
www.churchsupportservices.org/winning



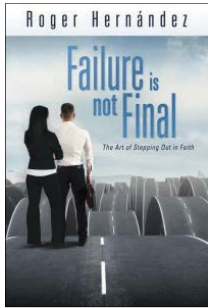
Check out the "I Believe" study and discussion guides at: www.churchsupportservices.org/ibelieve

New Adventist Brochure Now Available

Recently we came across a brochure about Adventists that was so nicely done we wanted to figure out a way to make it available to churches for wider distribution. Originally produced by Adventist Health, we secured their permission to tweak it so that it applies for more general use. Churches within the Pacific Union Conference may request a sample at: css@puonline.org, or call 805-413-7372. Larger quantities may be purchased at cost.



Resources You Can Use

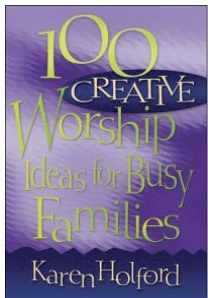


Failure is Not Final, by Roger Hernandez. Everybody wants to be a winner! No one wants to walk around with a big L stamped in the middle of their forehead. We all want to be part of the winning team. Right? But statistics remind us that everyone—yes, that means you—will experience failure in their lives. It's a fact. *Failure is Not Final* is written to get you

past your failures to the success that is often found just one step beyond. Published by Pacific Press.

Price: US\$2.49.

Available online at: www.adventistbookcenter.com

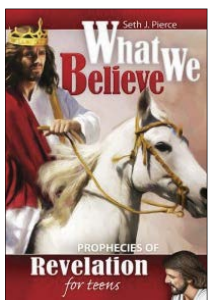


100 Creative Worship Ideas for Busy Families, by Karen Holford. Are you looking for more family worship ideas? The most important gift we can give our children is the desire to love God and to follow and serve Him. The challenge facing parents today—as never before—is carving out time for daily family worship. *100 Creative Worship Ideas for Busy Families* is the answer

to that challenge! Published by Pacific Press.

Price: US\$13.99.

Available online at: www.adventistbookcenter.com



Prophecies of Revelation for Teens, by Seth Pierce. Sometimes it's easy to forget that the whole book of Revelation is about Jesus—not horns, bowls of wrath soup, angels, or beasts. All these images are selected by Jesus to let us know something about Himself. Even entities as hideous as the beasts reveal to us how God thinks about the oppressive powers

of the world—and what happens to them in the end. Yet we can find ourselves sidetracked trying to match up dates and current events of every little detail of this book and miss the big picture: Jesus Christ.

Jesus is quite literally the beginning, the middle, and the end of Revelation—and world history. Author Seth Pierce says, "Wherever your studies take you from here my prayer is that you will always find an ever brighter picture of Jesus and how much He loves you." Published by Pacific Press.

Price: US\$17.99.

Available online at: www.adventistbookcenter.com



If You Want to Be Lonely

- Don't let anyone near you who has problems.
- Instead of working through difficult issues, ignore them and hope they'll go away!
- Pretend that your needs are more important than everyone else's.
- Put your heart where your money is.
- Keep God at arms length.
- Adopt, "I Did it My Way" as your theme song.
- Treasure things and use people.
- Avoid commitments!
- Believe that you have it harder than everyone else.
- Complain and be negative when things don't go your way.

Do the above and you'll be amazed with how easy it is to be lonely and sad! But, if you want your life to be meaningful and purpose-driven, keep reading.

View online at:

www.churchsupportservices.org/lonely

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Selling People **Short** *by Adam Case*

My muscles were screaming. I told my mind to fight through the pain. Just put one foot in front of the other. I wanted to give up. Everything in my mind was ready to quit. Then I heard it. Scuff-scuff, scuff-scuff, scuff-scuff. If he could go on, I could go on. The finish line is only a few minutes away. I could make it.

The morning had started cold and dark. My family and I had left the house at 5 a.m. and headed to Oshkosh for the start of the annual half marathon. I had been training for the last few months and this was to be the culmination of my training. At 7 a.m. the whistle sounded and the race was on. Over 1,000 runners surged forward to complete their dream.

Read online at: www.answersforme.org/case



*It's Coming and
You Can Participate!*

2014 Writing Contest

You are invited to participate in the inSpire 2014 Writing Contest. We want to shine the light on creative writing that has inspirational value; that can turn reader's hearts to God, and remind them of what an awesome God we serve. We know there are a lot of great writers out there, and we're eager to read what you have to say. A iPad mini and cash prizes will be awarded. So check out the guidelines and join in the fun!

This event is sponsored by Pacific Union Conference Creative Ministries, and is open to Seventh-day Adventist church members throughout the North American Division.

For details visit: www.visitinspire.org/writing2014



Building Bridges

www.bigcityevangelism.com

Life & Health

www.lifeandhealth.org

Millennial Matrix

www.millennialmatrix.com

No Film School

www.nofilmschool.com

Web Video Chefs

www.webvideochefs.com

Free Photos

www.freedigitalphotos.net/

SpiritRenew

www.spiritrenew.org

Word-2-Kindle

www.tinyurl.com/kxuv4pk

La Sierra Student Named Top Student Employee in Western U.S.

Senior Andrew Pedersen had no idea what was coming until he heard La Sierra University President Randal Wisbey announce his name during a campus assembly April 17 as winner of both state and regional Student Employee of the Year awards. The audience of more than 1,000 students erupted in applause.

"I was just completely blown away," Pedersen said. Adding to the jaw-dropping surprise, family members whom he had not expected to see until his June graduation walked on stage to greet him.

Pedersen, a senior religious studies/pre-nursing major and La Sierra student missions director, received the Student Employee of the Year award from the 13-state Western Association of Student Employment Administrators. It is the first time a student from La Sierra University has landed the prestigious prize, which involves the selection of a winner from a pool of about 500 students. To be considered for the regional award, the student must first win employee of the year recognition at the university and state level.

The Pedersen family had made plans to attend Andrew's June graduation, but traveled from Maryland this month after learning of the award.

"We were just ecstatic," Andrew's father Glenn Pedersen said, describing the moment two weeks ago when Andrew's supervisor, assistant chaplain Linda Biswas, called the family with the news.

"My mouth dropped open for an hour," added his mother, Wanda Pedersen.

La Sierra's Office of Human Resources officially celebrated Andrew's success as well as that of additional nominated student employees during an afternoon ceremony and reception on a patio area of the Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business. Pedersen received plaques in recognition of his accomplishment along with a \$1,000 cash prize and a \$250 scholarship.

"This particular student exemplifies La Sierra's mission 'To Seek, To Know and To Serve.' His community service involvement sets him apart

DARLA MARTIN TUCKER



La Sierra University student Andrew Pedersen (second from right) with (left to right), campus chaplain Sam Leonor, university president Randal Wisbey, assistant chaplain Linda Biswas, and senior human resources analyst Desiree Noah.

from everyone else who was nominated, at the university, state and regional levels," said Desiree Noah, senior human resources analyst at La Sierra and board president of the Western Association of Student Employment Administrators.

She added that Pedersen's work with Project: Syria, a yearlong campaign to help Syrian refugees through ADRA Jordan, was instrumental in the judges' awarding decision.

Biswas nominated Andrew for Student Employee of the Year for his tireless work helping with every department and school event that needed his assistance, and for his compassion for others. "Andrew has a drive to help others that is unparalleled. He has played a role in nearly every entity of spiritual and campus life," she said.

"You can find him helping a student with a mechanical problem at 2 a.m. on the side of the freeway, or out on a quest to bring food to a student that has not yet eaten that day. He bakes for his freshmen family group members and mentors those that are searching for God. He'll pray for a student who is mourning a loss as sure as he would give his last dollar for a person in need," Biswas said. "Why did I nominate Andrew

Pedersen for Student Employee of the Year — how could I not?"

At La Sierra University, approximately 650 students work on campus while taking classes. "Students contribute many services and perform many job functions on campus. Departments have an opportunity to recognize a student who provides exceptional service to the university," Noah said.

Each year, one or two are selected through a campus-wide nomination process as Student Employee of the Year for their excellent contributions. Campus winners are then submitted to the western association's state liaison office, which narrows the field through a ratings process. The western region consists of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Student employees in this region are nominated based on students' achievements and contributions with emphasis on reliability, initiative, uniqueness of contribution, quality of work, professionalism, and community and campus service.

Darla Martin Tucker

Anaheim Church Receives Face-lift

Anaheim church members are enjoying the recent remodel of their facilities. In the hopes of seeing the church grounds reflect their ministry goals, the congregation made the decision to update as many things as possible.

While the church building was not in need of any critical construction, there were countless

smaller projects needing attention. The carpet and pews in the sanctuary had been installed more than 20 years ago, and the outside had not been updated in some time.

The remodeling began with the portico entrance in December 2013, and continued through mid-January 2014 with the refurbishing of the sanctuary. They had the interior repainted, a new hardwood platform built, the pews and carpet replaced and new lighting and sound systems installed. The remainder of the buildings on the grounds also received new exterior paint.

Jeffrey Gang, pastor of the Anaheim church, feels that the new features demonstrate the church's intentions to be neighborly and generous toward the surrounding community and visitors. "We want the church to be a warm, friendly place to come and worship, and the campus itself must express the same intent," he said.

Gang worked closely with a designer to achieve the new inviting atmosphere. "She did a fantastic job of removing the cold blue look of the campus," said Gang. Many members have commented to Gang that they appreciate the changes, expressing their gratitude that everything looks warmer and more pleasant.

Church members were able to raise the money for the remodeling through fund-raising, as well as the utilization of a loan. One method of fund-raising within the congregation is the current plan to memorialize people with a small plaque. Members can donate \$1,000 to have a plaque placed on a pew in the sanctuary, or \$100 to have a name engraved on a stone in the portico.



Interior upgrades include a wood platform and warmer paint colors.



Members and guests prepare to enter the refurbished sanctuary.



Refreshed landscaping makes the exterior more appealing.

This not only helps raise money, but also adds to the history and appreciation of the church building for future generations.

On March 8, the congregation celebrated the remodeling with a dedication service. In the company of several Southeastern California Conference officials, including Sandra Roberts, president; Mario Perez, assistant to the president; and Ernest Furness, ministerial director, the members held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new portico entrance before walking into the church together as a family. Gang noted that the first hymn sung in the rededicated sanctuary was "The Church Has One Foundation," followed by a message and blessing for the church from Roberts.

"The members are very pleased," said Gang. "Our church is taking the ministry of hospitality seriously." The church members look forward to opening their doors every week and sharing their newly renovated house of worship with others, using their resources as tools for ministry.

Natalie Romero

Inland Empire Filipino Church Reflects on Homeless Ministry

PHOTOS BY ELIZER SACAY



Volunteers prepare the food. Pictured second from the left is Ruby Shahid, who was baptized on Feb. 2, 2013.



Church members volunteer to serve homeless people of their community.

This past Easter marked the third anniversary of the Inland Empire Filipino church's homeless feeding ministry. Over the past three years, the church has been providing food and other resources to homeless people in the Redlands and San Bernardino areas.

In 2010, the church realized that there was a hunger problem. During church potlucks, there were a handful of homeless people showing up to eat. It soon became evident that there was an opportunity to do something even greater. Bler Sacay, the church's community services director, recommended that the church start a feeding ministry.

After conducting a study of the community, volunteers from the church came together to prepare, cook and serve food. By the end of March 2011, the church opened the doors to its fellowship hall on a Wednesday evening.

"It started with only five or six people," remembered associate pastor Ray Trasporte.

Only a few came to the first meeting, and at most, only 13 people showed up on Wednesday nights. The church was surprised to find that only a few homeless people were coming.

Elizer Sacay was the senior pastor of the church at the time. He and his wife, Bler, decided to visit Joseph's Storehouse, a feeding facility located in Redlands. What they found out is that in addition to Joseph's Storehouse, there were different groups that distributed

food to the homeless community. Each ministry had selected a different day and only two days in the week were still unaccounted for, Saturdays and Sundays.

"We met at the church board and decided to move our ministry to Sunday evening, and then attendance started to grow," said Elizer Sacay.

The first time the church opened their doors to distribute food to the homeless people was on Sunday, April 24, 2011 at 6 p.m., Easter Sunday.

Since then, the ministry has grown tremendously. Now, on average, more than 50 people come each week. The ministry has affected everyone in the church.

"Young people from the church are very helpful," said Trasporte. "They help with preparation, serving and cleaning. There are even members who come willingly and joyfully to wash the dishes for us."



Attendees have the opportunity to watch sermons before the food is served.

Student groups from Loma Linda Academy as well as Loma Linda University have also come to help collect and serve food. Families from within the church donate food, money and other resources to help with the ministry. One family even went as far as to donate a pickup truck in order to collect food more expediently.

"During our last communion, I had a member tell me that they would give me \$100 every Friday for this ministry," said Trasporte. "Others give as much as they can in addition to their tithes."

Before every meal, a devotional or video series is presented to those in attendance. Sometimes attendees receive clothing. Many of them have chosen to receive Bible studies as a result.

On Feb. 2, 2013, Ruby Shahid was baptized as a result of this ministry. "She had never known or entered a church until she started coming to the feeding at the fellowship hall," said Bler Sacay. "To this day, she faithfully attends Wednesday night prayer meetings, vespers, Sabbath services and the Sunday feeding, even though she is living out of her car."

"This is a very important ministry," said Elizer Sacay, now serving as vice president for Asian-Pacific ministries. "It is an important function of the church to feed those who need it, both physically and spiritually."

Elizer Sacay with Mario A. Munoz

Azure Hills and UReach Host Block Party in Colton

The Azure Hills church and UReach Ministries, from the Loma Linda University church, held a block party Sunday, April 6, for the community in Colton. They were a part of a much larger collaboration that included a number of churches, businesses and government entities.

The block party was held at Alice Birney Elementary School and resembled a small fair. Booths set up on the grounds included everything from children's face painting, massages, blood pressure screenings, games, food and even haircuts.

Last year, Patty Marruffo, at that time associate pastor of the Loma Linda University church, had noticed that a lot of children and families visited the Re:Live thrift store behind the elementary school. She reached out to Azure Hills church to see if they would be willing to partner up and run a Vacation Bible School in that area.

As a result, last year the Re:Live parking lot was transformed into a farm-themed VBS set, with a petting zoo, games, crafts, songs and food. Everything was free. The event was a success. Many of the children who went to the event also happened to attend the neighboring elementary school.

David Hutabarat, special projects manager for UReach Ministries, remembers being astonished at just how much was needed at the school.

"This school has around 800 students. Of those, 95 percent are on the reduced lunch program," he said. "The kids needed jackets for the winter, as well as backpacks or even haircuts. After realizing that need, we decided to adopt the school."

The LLU and Azure Hills churches got to work. They gathered more than 200 backpacks to share with the kids. And for Thanksgiving and Christmas, the churches partnered with Loma Linda Academy and provided food and gifts for more than 150 families.

It wasn't long before others started noticing what was happening at the school. As plans were coming together for this year's fair, the organizers got a call from the school district.

"The timing was perfect," says Marruffo, now associate pastor for children and family ministries at Azure Hills church. "The superintendent of the Colton Joint Unified School District, Jerry

MARIO A. MUNOZ



The Colton police and fire departments were both in attendance. Fire fighters demonstrate how high the ladder of a fire truck goes.

MARIO A. MUNOZ



Children play games, attend events and visit booths.

Almendarez, heard about what was happening. He said it was time to work in the community with everyone, including faith-based, government and school programs. We created a community cabinet to ensure a better infrastructure. In addition, we were allowed to use the school grounds for the fair."

Many organizations came together

to support the event. The Campus Hill, Inland Spanish and Colton churches were all represented, as were other denominational churches, such as Colton Community Church and Echoes of Love. Other community participants included several departments from Loma Linda University, La Sierra University, Loma Linda Academy, Re:Live thrift store, El Sol Neighborhood Education Center, Mental Health Systems, Serrano's Nursery and Walmart.

Marruffo and Hutabarat both attested to the necessity of working together within a community outside the church walls. Relationships are being built for even greater things down the road.

"It was a total God thing," said Marruffo. "It was amazing to see all the different organizations coming together."

All the groups involved hope to continue conducting this event yearly. Jessica Gomez, principal of Alice Birney Elementary School, has already seen the effects on the children at her school.

"The biggest impact has been on our students," Gomez said. "I wonder, what did we ever do to deserve all of this?"

Mario A. Munoz

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Cambodian Adventists Meet for Prayer Conference

Earlier in 2014, leaders of the Cambodian Adventist church members within the North American Division held a weekend prayer conference at the Temple City church. A number of leaders and youth attended from groups from other states, as well as ones from Stockton, Long Beach and Loma Linda in California.

Pastor James Dok, associate pastor of the Temple City church, opened the conference and concluded with the baptisms of two couples. "The purpose of this conference," Dok told the group, "is to connect leaders and groups with one another in prayer, so that we can serve Christ as a team in reaching out, and gathering materials and resources for Cambodians in this country." The prayer conference concluded with an enthusiastic Sabbath worship featuring guest speaker Judy Aitken, founder of Adventist Southeast Asia Projects. Aitken is widely known among Southeast Asians for her extensive efforts to share the gospel as a nurse in the refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

"We wanted to thank God for His blessings and for enabling us to come together as one," Dok said. "We appreciated the kindness of Pastor John Aitken II, senior pastor, and the Temple City church as a whole, for their understanding and support. We were also blessed by the strong spiritual support that SCC leaders gave during the



Cambodians from around the U.S. attended the prayer conference. Guest speaker Judy Aitken is shown on far left.

meetings. One specific goal of the gathering was to find ways to develop a Cambodian-language (Khmer) translation of Ellen White's book, *The Ministry of Healing*, with lesson studies and other materials."

Personal stories highlighted the group's shared past in Cambodia. Mr. Ou Thol and his wife Narin Ny were raised Buddhists. Like many Cambodian refugees, they were survivors of "the killing

fields." On their arrival in the United States, they vowed to continue their Buddhist tradition. And then Mrs. Narin Ny accepted Jesus through the "Voice of Love" Khmer radio program sponsored by Adventist World Radio. This only made her husband more determined to continue worshipping as a Buddhist.

Narin continued praying for him. Then, Ou became ill. While he was going in and out of emergency rooms and hospitals, Narin was at his side praying, asking God to save Ou's life and to heal him. One night while lying unconscious in a hospital bed, Ou saw a bright light and the image of Jesus calling him. When he woke up and saw his wife kneeling and praying near his bed, he told her, "I saw Jesus, and I believe Jesus will heal me, and He saved my life."

Before his baptism, Ou Thol expressed his appreciation and thanks to God, "who still is in the business of healing and saving souls.

"Even though I am now committed to three days' dialysis a week, I and my wife are very happy that we found Jesus as our personal God and Savior," he told his pastor. "I have lost my kidneys, but I'm happy that I found Jesus!"



(L. to r.) Ou Thol, Pastor James Dok and Narin Ny.

Pastor James Dok

ABC Reopens in Glendale with New Name and Under Conference Management

The Glendale ABC reopened April 16 with a new name — Christian Books and Veggie Foods, an Adventist Book Center — and under the management of the Southern California Conference.

“Since the year 2000,” said Sung Oh, SCC treasurer, “the ABC has been operated by Pacific Press. This arrangement ended March 31, 2014. Prior to that date, the conference executive committee voted to assume the management of the store on April 1.

“We voted this,” Oh added, “because we believe we have a responsibility to provide the ABC services, books and vegetarian food products for our church members and the community.”

Prior to the initial reopening as Christian Books and Veggie Foods, the store was shuttered for three weeks while a complete renovation and inventory were completed. Painters and floor tilers quickly went to their tasks; a roofing company repaired leaks that had damaged ceiling tiles. Staff took an imposed vacation until the work was finished. New signage was put in place.

The communication department coordinated two video shoots featuring Connie Vandeman Jeffery as spokeswoman for the changes at the store, with videographer AJ Martinson. Links for the two videos went to conference pastoral staff and principals, as well as to other e-mail lists, alerting members that the store would reopen on April 16. Special pricing marked the day.

When the store reopened, people started coming back for favorite products — and to see the store’s new look. “It is wonderful having

our ABC back,” said Barbara Hubbard Spence, a University church member. “The newly remodeled store is attractive and the displays make it easier to find products.”



Customers browse the refurbished ABC.



The store’s new name is a reflection of SCC’s aim to serve the community as well as Adventist members and churches.

“The best part is, under the new management, prices are comparable with local grocery stores,” added Oh. “The location being close to the conference office and the credit union makes it convenient.”

“People are very happy to see the big change,” confirmed current ABC manager Irma Banelos. “We’re planning to expand the food section, because that is one of the top needs of our customers.

“We’re going to be working with distributors directly, and we will have camp meeting sale prices during May and June, plus we will have some new product lines. In general, prices are dropping markedly now, as a result of buying directly. We will have additional new items in the freezer line and, of course, books and other materials from Pacific Press and Review & Herald.”

“As technology has driven the masses to shop online for almost all goods needed in every household, Pacific Press decided to close the ABC store in Glendale,” said Bethania Diaz, SCC undertreasurer and ABC board member. “The Southern California Conference had operated the store prior to Pacific Press, and felt that it needed to rescue it if at all possible to keep its doors open. The service the store provides to our

constituency and community is too great to allow it to close without trying to keep it alive.

“The store manager, staff as well as many of us at the conference office have been working hard to give our ABC store a fresh look and to have the inventory available that our customers so much need. We need members’ help in sup-

porting the store, as well as in letting us know how we may serve them better,” Diaz said.

The store’s special grand opening is tentatively scheduled for early summer. Announcement of the date will be shared at <http://scc.adventist.org/glendaleabcstore> and in the *In Touch* newsletter.

Betty Cooney

Church Class Offers Instruction in Air Conditioning and Hope

If you thought a training class in air conditioning and heating could only be about plenums, forced-air units and indoor coils, you would be wrong. Taught in a church basement by a veteran teacher/journeyman with a passion for helping people, the class includes intensive training in the trade, with a major infusion of hope.

The free, six-month class Bobby Ruff teaches at the University church in Los Angeles has 34 students committed to learning the trade. Ruff meets with the class on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 6 p.m. and assigns homework, including online EPA tests and a seminar in Las Vegas for those able to make the trip.

"I decided to take the class," said Ken Ferrier, "because heating/air conditioning is a good field with job opportunities. When I passed my pre-test, I decided I wanted to take the class — even though we are learning that the work has a lot of responsibilities, and fines can be levied if we make errors on the job. Air conditioning work requires dedication; you have to know what you are doing because if you are careless, you can cause harm.

"I have five grandsons in their 20s, and I plan to take advantage of this opportunity so I can teach them when I am certified," Ferrier added.

"The first night of the class," said Alicia Bradley-Nesic, one of four women enrolled in the class, "the teacher gave a list of avenues

DANIEL FERGUSON



Charles Dolcey talks with Alicia Bradley-Nesic before an air conditioning class. Bradley-Nesic is one of four women taking the class.

that we could go into in the air conditioning/heating field. One avenue is layout and design, which I really like; estimating costs for installing systems in buildings is another that appeals. And I am blessed by the Spirit-led teaching and witnessing in the class."

"Some of you are almost ready to teach," Ruff said to the class. "This is an 80-hour course, and I want all of you to get certified." Ruff is retired from a successful career in air conditioning. His current "retirement" schedule includes teaching morning and evening classes as well as ones in the evening and on Sundays.

Why add the University church class to an already busy schedule? "Because I'm 70 and have done very well in the industry," Ruff said. "If

I am able to teach, I want to help people. I have plenty of energy. The most satisfaction for me is the fact that I'm teaching people who haven't had a job in years. As part of the course, I ask them to read three chapters of the Bible each day to expand themselves spiritually.

"I want to ask a half dozen companies to be part of our team and allow class members to continue studying while apprenticing with them. We will also offer training to the companies' people, since many of them are not certified."

The air conditioning class did not happen overnight. "I started trying to arrange for this class in 1999," said Charles Dolcey, SCC men's ministry director and an elder of the church. "I believed it would give an opportunity for people to have the quality of life they want and be able to create the career that they dreamed of. The class keeps their hope in Jesus that they will be able to bring home a pay check, for some for the first time in a few years."

Betty Cooney

BETTY COONEY



The University church class will continue through August, and individuals are invited to sign up. (Call 323-766-9889 for details.)

Spanish Youth Conduct 20 Evangelistic Campaigns

More Than 40 Young People Baptized

Twenty Hispanic churches in the Los Angeles area — nearly one-third of the Hispanic Region churches — conducted nightly youth evangelistic meetings April 5-10. The theme of the meetings throughout the week, and on the weekend that followed, was “Go to Christ and Go to Your Community.” Speakers for the meetings included local youth pastors, youth pastors from as far away as Michigan, Maryland and Texas; and youth leaders from local churches.

Pastor Alejandro Bullón, a widely known Adventist evangelist from Brazil, spoke to the youth at three main events on the weekend following their evangelism week: Friday night, April 11, Bullón spoke at the White Memorial church; Sabbath morning he was the featured speaker at the Hall of Liberty at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills; and he concluded his three-day presentations on Sabbath afternoon at the White Memorial church.

“If you choose to be on the side of Jesus, you’re choosing life,” Bullón told the youth. “If you choose to be on the side of Satan, you’re choosing death. There is no other choice — either life or death, *vida con Dios o muerte con Satanás.*”

On Sabbath afternoon, Bullón based his final call to discipleship on Ellen White’s message in *The Desire of Ages*: “Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary” (p. 195).

“I challenge each youth here,” Bullón said, “to live a meaningful, Christ-centered life in which, every day, you are involved in prayer, study of the Word of God, and witnessing.” Praise singers and bands from the Resurrection congregation, San Fernando Hispanic and La Voz Sylmar Hispanic churches combined to bring inspiring music to enhance the weekend.

Leaders then invited attendees to participate in leadership training seminars (preaching, community outreach, multimedia, music, vision and mission). The week ended with the baptism

of six young people; an additional 34 youth were baptized in their local churches on the two Sabbaths following the outreach.

“After waiting so long to make a decision for Christ,” said Rosa Coto, a new member of the San Fernando Spanish church, “I can’t stop singing of God’s marvelous love, at work, almost every single hour of the day.”

“She began singing non-stop even a week before her baptism,” confirmed her youth pastor, Javier Casas, with a smile.

Following the youth evangelism, 40 additional Hispanic Region churches conducted

their annual Holy Week evangelism, for which they had prepared since January. “In small groups, seminars and training events,” said Luis Peña, Hispanic Region director, “pastors in our churches worked to prepare members for the Holy Week outreach.”

Peña added, “We are encouraged by the advance reports of baptisms and other activities in the churches, and are praying that our total reaping will be around 200 new members.”

Sam Del Pozo



More than 30 responded to Bullón’s appeal to give their hearts to Jesus.



Youth met in classes of 12 to learn more about mentoring and leadership at the weekend meetings.

DayStar Academy Students Partner with Radical Rescue to Train Jamaican Rescue Workers

The cool, coastal breeze was instantly swallowed by the chilling sound of desperate voices crying for help at the two-story Jamaican school building. Wailing sirens soon joined the cacophony as the local Falmouth Fire Department pulled on scene at the Falmouth All Age School. “There has been a 7.6 earthquake which has caused massive structural damage and has left many injured and trapped in the rubble,” witnesses told the fire chief. “Several foreigners were volunteering at the school when the quake hit. I don’t know how many for sure, but I estimate about 30 were present. Please help!” The chief then joined the rest of the crew and rushed into the chaos to assist the first responders already on scene in locating and providing relief to the scattered victims.

This mock earthquake scenario marked the end of a two-week disaster response training for residents around Duncans, Trelawny, Jamaica. On Feb. 14, the Radical Rescue Team, composed mainly of students and staff from DayStar Adventist Academy in Castle Valley, Utah, taught valuable disaster response skills to Jamaican locals interested in learning how to serve their own communities in a time of need.

Jamaica is at high risk for flooding from hurricanes and other strong storms. In addition, Jamaica sits on fault lines, making it highly susceptible to earthquakes. With these vulnerabilities in mind, the Radical Rescue team planned to train 300 Pathfinders in Jamaica via three honors — tactical ropes, earthquake response, and flooding response.

Radical Rescue is a two-year student mission program that trains church members and Adventist academy and college students in community service and disaster response. It is based at DayStar Academy and partners with several other service, mission and disaster response organizations for training and relief work.

To prepare for the Jamaica trip, students at DayStar Academy committed to working with

the Radical Rescue staff to learn skills needed for responding to Jamaica’s most common emergencies, including swift-water rescue, mechanical raising and lowering systems, patient packaging, basic patient assessment, multiple casualty triage, and identifying structural hazards. The mock disaster on the final day of the training would then allow the participants to practice all of their new skills in a realistic situation.

Jason Melton, a staff member at DayStar and a member of the Radical Rescue Development Team, organized the trip. Plans were in place and on track until two days before the team’s departure from Utah. Then, the team learned that the Pathfinders they were scheduled to train would neither be able to attend the training nor host the team. “I was reminded that God was the one planning and running the mission,” says Melton. He prayed, “God, I don’t understand Your ways, yet we will trust Your leading and go.”

As soon as they landed in Jamaica, the team secured accommodations and began inviting community members to the training. “We saw God orchestrate the trip and provide for every need, often in the form of generous and self-sacrificing church leaders,” Melton says.

At the end of the two weeks of training, the group of 35 volunteers had taught disaster response skills to firefighters, police officers, school children, church members, and community residents. Many participants had inspirational stories and left lasting impressions on the visiting trainers. Team members met Birdie, an elderly Christian woman, walking along the beach the evening before the training began and invited her to attend, which she did. Although many of the trainees were unable to attend every session and some chose not to participate in the higher-risk operations, such as rappelling off a 30-foot high building or practicing defensive swimming tactics in the swift Bengal River, Birdie was present for every training and faced every challenge with focus and passion that inspired everyone around. “Mrs. Birdie was 75 years old, and she still was



Firefighters assist “survivor” Jena Flaut during the mass casualty scenario at the Falmouth All Age School.



Birdie, 75, works with firefighters and student instructor Adrianna Duehrssen to provide basic patient care during the mock disaster training.

more enthusiastic to go rappelling and jump in the water than experienced firefighters,” recalls student instructor Kendra Ward. “She definitely trusted us and God. Our trip made me realize that I can put my trust completely in God. And that when I do, He makes my life an amazing experience.”

The Radical Rescue group returned home grateful that God had used them to prepare residents of Jamaica to help in disasters. “God also used the mission to train the members of our team to firmly place their trust in His providing hand, especially when they cannot predict the outcome,” says Melton. “I have been gifted with a renewed commitment to trust Jesus and His guiding words during the chaos. Perhaps this is our greatest challenge and where we need the highest level of training!”

Jason Melton

Ed Keyes Elected Nevada-Utah President

Delegates to the regular business session of the Nevada-Utah Conference meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., on May 4, elected Ed Keyes, then executive secretary of the Arizona Conference, to serve as president; Carlos Camacho, Hispanic ministries coordinator for the Nevada-Utah Conference, to serve as executive secretary; and Douglas Reeves, vice-principal of finance at Monterey Bay Academy, Calif., to serve as treasurer.

Larry Unterseher, who had served the conference for six years as president, thanked the conference members and employees for six wonderful years and, pointing to a banner on the wall of the Paradise church, challenged them to stay “focused on Jesus” and witnessing to the world. Jason Bergmann, who formerly filled the roles of both executive secretary and treasurer in the Nevada-Utah Conference had recently accepted a position with the General Conference in Silver Spring, Md., managing church investments.

Changes in the way the nominating committee works required unusual procedures during the day-long meeting in the Paradise church. From the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1863 to the present, church leaders are selected by small nominating committees that carefully examine candidates’ qualifications and past performance, and pray for God’s direction. The leaders they nominate are then voted (or not) by delegates in session.

For many years, the Nevada-Utah Conference bylaws required that the members of the nominating committee itself be selected by the organizing committee and then be elected during constituency session. Since the nominating committee required several hours to do its work, this meant the constituency meetings started Saturday night, or even Friday afternoon, and continued through Sunday. But this year, the delegates voted to change the bylaws, so that in the future, the nominating committee will be appointed by the organizing committee several weeks in advance of the session and will nominate conference officers and leaders before the constituency meeting. With that change, future

constituency sessions may take only a few hours on a Sunday.

But this is where things got interesting. In advance of the 2014 constituency session, the organizing committee chose members of the nominating committee, and the nominating committee met and “nominated” officers to be voted on at constituency meetings — as if the bylaws had already been changed. So, to make it all legal and proper, on May 4 the delegates voted the membership of the nominating committee that had met earlier, then the nominating committee met to review and re-vote

their earlier nominations, and then delegates elected the new officers. It was a bit complicated, but it got the job done — all under the watchful eyes of Jon Daggett, attorney for the Nevada-Utah Conference and for the Pacific Union, and Todd McFarland, attorney from the General Conference Office of General Council, who served as parliamentarian for the session.

Besides the three officers, the delegates elected Oneil Madden, currently senior pastor of the Las Vegas Abundant Life church, as regional ministries coordinator. A new Hispanic ministries coordinator will be appointed by the conference executive committee to replace Carlos Camacho, who became executive secretary.

Four new churches were welcomed into fellowship: Alpha and Omega church, Salt Lake City, Utah; New Jerusalem church, South Jordan, Utah; New Life church, Las Vegas, Nev.;



Delegates elected Ed Keyes as the new president of the Nevada-Utah Conference.

and Sunset Spanish church, Sunset, Utah. The Greenville, Calif., church was disbanded, due to lack of members.

In his treasurer’s report, Bergmann said the conference is in the best financial condition in its history. While tithe has increased only slightly, and was down a little in 2013, net assets have increased from less than \$1 million in 2010 to \$2.4 million in 2013, and working capital has increased from 40 percent of the General Conference recommendation in 2010 to 90 percent in 2013.

In his president’s report, Unterseher thanked God for the best rate of membership growth in the Pacific Union, up from 8,500 in 2009 to more than 9,700 in 2013, an increase of 14.2 percent.

Gerry Chudleigh

The End of Protestantism?



Alan J. Reinach, Esq.

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, under intense public pressure, vetoed Senate Bill 1062, a religious freedom bill that had been “egregiously misrepresented,” according to a coalition of law professors who wrote in defense of the bill. The bill sought to clarify what was originally intended in an earlier bill, enacted in 1999, The Arizona Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which I drafted, and I also chaired a coalition that supported the bill. Although enacted by strong majorities in the legislature, businesses pushed hard against SB 1062. The NFL threatened to pull the Superbowl out of Arizona if Brewer signed it. Among the false charges: that it gave businesses carte blanche to refuse services to gays.

As a result of the Arizona experience, it has now become difficult, if not impossible, to enact any religious freedom protections. This episode may be seen in the long view of history as symptomatic of the end of Protestantism.

Civil and religious liberties in America, and globally, owe an enormous debt to Protestantism. Reformation doctrines of Sola Scriptura, the priesthood of all believers, the basic premise of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through faith — these all placed the emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of individual conscience before God. Eventually, in a cultural context where considerable religious diversity existed, the American colonies determined to secure protections for civil and religious freedoms in their new Constitution.

Today, our legal and social cultures are postmodern, and definitely post-Protestant. The academic efforts to secure human rights and civil liberties on a purely secular basis are flawed, as I recently discovered at an academic conference on the subject at University of San Diego Law School. When the Protestant foundations are cast off, and religious belief is seen not merely as a benign “opiate of the masses,” but as harmful superstition, the academics are hard pressed to figure out how to protect religious freedom at all, or whether it even deserves protection.

Which brings us back to the public outcry over efforts to secure religious freedom in Arizona. The religious freedom debates of the late 1990s clearly discussed the civil rights issues, and it was understood that state RFRA bills would apply when civil rights laws were invoked to restrict religious freedom. The New Mexico Supreme Court abandoned that consensus interpreting a RFRA bill nearly identical to Arizona’s to virtually nullify its effective protection for religious freedom. Arizona’s bill was intended to clarify the original bill’s intent, and to further protect businesses. But opponents cried foul, and falsely claimed the bill would undermine “civil rights,” and permit businesses to refuse service to gays. Arizona law does not protect gays in the first place, so these claims were fraudulent. Businesses do not prosper by turning away customers, and no examples of such abuses were cited, because there were none.

Protecting religious freedom protects everyone. Some examples will illustrate: a gay wedding photographer may refuse to photograph an event for Westboro Baptist Church, which espouses ideas hateful to gays; an African-American printer may refuse to print brochures for the Aryan Nation, a white supremacist group; a Jewish caterer need not serve pork, or serve a Christian wedding on Saturday. Public accommodations laws are designed to insure that everyone has access to basic services. Such laws need not compel service providers to sacrifice their own religious freedoms and convictions. The law should strive for a “live and let live” balance that protects the rights of all people.

Sadly, today’s legal, legislative and social climates are frosty to religious freedom claims, which will most often be trumped by “equality” claims. Where this will lead in the next decade is anyone’s guess. Religious freedom is playing defense. The Church State Council has served to protect and defend religious freedom for 50 years. The Council’s continued vigilance is needed now, more than ever. Your participation is also required. Be informed; get involved. Go to www.churchstate.org.

Adventist Health Leaders Come Together for Mission Day

Adventist Health has a legacy in mission focus and whole person care that has stood strong through many changing health care agendas and uncertain times. The reason for this is Adventist Health's firm rooting in its mission, says JoAline Olson, senior vice president/ chief human resources and innovation officer. To promote this mission-focused care, Adventist Health hosted a Mission Day for the system's leaders in Roseville, Calif.

More than 140 attendees included chief executive officers, chief financial officers, patient care executives and chaplain directors, as well as representatives from Cerner and Jones Lang LaSalle, two companies which are strategic partners.

"In times of changing health care policies, it is important for Adventist health care leaders to reflect on our foundations, focus on the present and to plan the future," says Paul Crampton, assistant vice president of mission and spiritual care.

The theme of the event was based on Revelation 22:1-3, which talks about the leaves of the tree of life providing healing for the nations. This was symbolic of the healing mission of Adventist Health.

The event featured many speakers from across the system and Adventist historian Ron Graybill. Graybill helped the audience understand the foundations of their Adventist health care ministry. Rodney Wehtje, vice



At the end of the conference, attendees inked their thumbprints on the limbs of a leaf-less tree to symbolize how each unique leaf comes together to fulfill a greater purpose.

president of finance and treasurer, and Tom Russell, president and CEO of Adventist Medical Center – Portland, shared stories of financial and public crisis that the organization has faced. They both emphasized how God has always led the organization seamlessly through any crisis. They told the audience that God will continue to guide even through turbulent times as leaders pursue the Adventist Health mission, "To share God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing."

Working in small groups, attendees across the four-state system shared ideas on how to deal with issues that each of them face in their workplace including health care, communication and finance. "This event brought together people we wouldn't normally see and gave us the chance to cross-pollinate ideas," says Bryan Lewis, director of mission and spiritual care at Sonora Regional Medical Center.

"Coming out of Mission Day, I felt encouraged, rejuvenated and optimistic about our future," says Crampton. "I know that the others will take this energy and vigor to staff in their individual facilities, and together we can make a difference in our communities."

The day-long event culminated with a ceremony creating a distinctive piece of artwork: attendees inked their thumbprints on the limbs of a leaf-less tree to symbolize how each unique leaf comes together to fulfill a greater purpose. "This was a beautiful symbol," says Lewis. "We Christians often say that we are God's hands, and we are also God's thumbprints. It was a beautiful depiction of who we are as an organization. We are God's representatives to heal the nations. This day rejuvenated us to do just that."

Divya Joseph

CALENDARS

Arizona

RAW FOODS POTLUCK (June 14) 6:30 p.m., 2nd Sat. of each month, Central church, 777 W. Montecito, Phoenix. Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Info: stanhowerton@yahoo.com or call 480-430-5492.

ARIZONA CAMP MEETING (June 13-21) Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Guest speakers include: Pastor Doug Batchelor, Amazing Facts (June 13-14); Dr. Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life (June 15-19); Dr. Gordon Bietz (June 20-21); and seminars with Mary Richards King, Dr. Sung Hyun Yum, Dr. Greg King and Dr. Katia Reinert. Info: 480-991-6777.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EMPHASIS Day, "Tea With God," speaker Lorraine Daniel-Palmer, Desert Cove church, 12417 W. Desert Cove, Peoria. Men and all churches are invited. Program begins 6-7 p.m., with Music Ministry, 7-7:30 p.m.; tea and snacks after. Info: Sylvia Hayashi, sphayashi@gmail.com.

ARIZONA \$100 SUMMER CAMP at Camp Yavapines (July 6-Aug 3) Adventurer Camp, ages 6-9, July 6-13; Junior Camp #1, ages 9-12, July 6-13; Junior Camp #2, ages 9-12, July 13-20; Tween Camp, ages 12-13, July 20-27;

Teen Camp, ages 14-17, July 27-August 3. Info: Lisa, 480-991-6777, ext. 125.

EVANGELISTIC PROPHECY SEMINAR (July 11-Aug. 10) Chinle. Speaker Pastor Charlie Whitehorse. Info: Pastor Dale Wolcott, 928-589-7210.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (July 28-30) Chinle on the Navajo Reservation. Info: Pastor Dale Wolcott, 928-589-7210.

PRISON MINISTRY CONVENTION (APMOA) (July 23-27) features dynamic speakers and training, including a concert with Michael Harris, Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Hotel, 3800 American Blvd. E., Bloomington, Minn., 952-854-2100. No cost to attend the worship service or the concert. To register for the FULL convention, contact www.AdventSource.org. Brochure: apmoa7@hotmail.com or 804-495-5503.

La Sierra University

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND. Consecration service, Fri. (June 13) 8 p.m., La Sierra University church; Baccalaureate service, Sabbath (June 14) 12 p.m., LSU church; Educator dedication, 3:30 p.m., LSU church;

H.M.S. RICHARDS DIVINITY SCHOOL Consecration service, Sabbath (June 14) 4:30 p.m., Matheson; Commencement Concert Sabbath (June 14) 6 p.m., performances by graduating seniors, Hole

Memorial Auditorium; Conferring of degrees, Sun. (June 15) 8 a.m., Founders' Green on campus.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERTS Student Chamber Recital (June 4) 7 p.m.; Spring Big Band concert (June 7) 8:15 p.m.; University Orchestra concert (June 8), Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business; Commencement Vespers concert (June 14) 6 p.m. Unless otherwise indicated concerts held in Hole Memorial Auditorium.

SUMMER SESSION BEGINS (June 16) Info: lasierra.edu/summer-program.

Northern California Conference

GRAND OPENING (June 7) 10 a.m. Sacramento Slavic church, 4837 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael. Info: NCC President's Office, 925-603-5001.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (June 9-13, 16-20) Fairfield Community church, 1101 East Tabor Avenue. Info: 707-426-6720.

HISPANIC EVANGELISTIC SUMMIT (June 13-14) Friday 7 p.m., Sabbath 9:30 a.m. (all day). Lodi Academy, 1230 South Central Avenue. Speaker José Rojas, with music by Re: Vive and Christal. Info: Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (June 16-20) 9 a.m. to noon. Pleasant Hill church, 800 Grayson Road. "Weird Animals: Where Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind!" Kids will worship God through songs and prayer, experience science-fun gizmos, and discover life-changing Bible truths. Info: church office, 925-934-5803.

CREATION HEALTH TRAINING Session (June 21) 2-8 p.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Session is identical to the one on June 22. Info: Health Ministries Department, 925-603-5073.

CREATION HEALTH TRAINING Session (June 22) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. NCC Headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Session is identical to the one on June 21. Info: Health Ministries Department, 925-603-5073.

CHURCH TREASURER TRAINING (June 29) 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Lunch included. RSVP required. Limited number of spots available. Training will be offered each quarter, so if you can't attend this class, you can attend another one. Info and registration: NCC Treasurer, 925-603-5009.

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING (July 24-Aug. 2) Speakers include Mark Finley, Randy Maxwell, Frederick Russell (Adult II), Robert Folkenberg. Meetings

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Pacific Union College

PUC ORCHESTRA CONCERT (June 1) 10 a.m., Paulin Hall Auditorium. The orchestra will perform its spring concert under the direction of Rachelle Berthelsson Davis. Info: 707-965-6201.

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND (June 13-15) Family and friends are invited to celebrate PUC's Commencement weekend and the class of 2014. Info: puc.edu/graduation or 707-965-6211.

SUMMER QUARTER (June 16) PUC offers a full range of courses on campus, with tuition and housing both 50% off. Info: puc.edu/summer-classes or 800-862-7080.

COLLEGE EARLY Summer in Residence (June 22-July 18) High school juniors and seniors are invited to experience PUC's rigorous academic environment while earning PUC credit in popular general education courses. Info: academicadministration@puc.edu or 707-965-7103.

WEIRD ANIMALS VACATION Bible School (June 23-27) Kids learn that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind! Info: puc-church.org or 707-965-7297.

SUMMER ART COURSES (July 6-11 and 13-18) Albion Retreat and Learning Center. Enjoy one or two-weeks of painting or digital photography in courses for artists of all levels and ages. Info: 707-937-5440 or puc.edu/albion.

Southeastern California

SECC SIZZLING SUMMER Kick Off (June 20) 3-9 p.m., Coronado Beach. Youth ministries will host the event as well as provide Big Franks and S'mores. There will be games, contests and worship. Look for the tan EZ-ups with the worship at the beach banner. Info: Liz Adams, Liz.Adams@seccsda.org.

SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY Alumni Reunion (June 21) 9:45 a.m.-5 p.m. San Pasqual Campus, 17701 San Pasqual Valley Rd., Escondido. Former students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the church service at 9:45, followed by a business meeting at 11:30, and lunch and social time from 12-5. Info and lunch reservation: www.sanpasqual-academy.com.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP (1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month) 2:30-4 p.m., Paradise Village, 2700 E. 4th St.,

National City. In this group you will be able to share your feelings and hear from others as we explore together the unique challenges of caring for an aging or ill loved one. This group is ongoing and always open to new members. Info: 619-245-5845.

Southern California Conference



GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY 2014 Graduation (June 6-8) Consecration service (June 6) 7:30 p.m., Vallejo Drive church; Graduation (June 8) 10 a.m., Hall of Liberty, Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn, 6300 Forest Lawn Dr., Los Angeles 90068. Info: 818-244-8671.

12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL Kaleidoscope of Nations, "Out Of Many — One Nation" (June 7) 11 a.m. Including members' processional with the flags of 50+ nations; International lunch; Concert, 5:30 p.m.; Vespers, 7 p.m. Speaker, Calvin B. Rock, D.Min., Berean church, 4211 W. Adams Blvd. Los Angeles 90018. Info: Daphne Morgan, 323-298-1189; e-mail, daphne640@sbcglobal.net.

SUNSET CHAMBERFEST (June 7) 2:30 p.m. Pieces by Béla Bartók, Ludwig van Beethoven, Daniel Silliman and Maurice Ravel. Artists: Clara Kim (violin), Ran Kampel (clarinet), Brendan White (piano), Melody Chang (violin), Alejandro Duque (viola) and Michael Kaufman (cello). Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: glendalecitychurch.org; 818-244-7241.

THE SECOND SATURDAY SERIES (June 14) 4 p.m., presents organist James Calhoun, DMA. Concert, with pieces from Johann Sebastian Bach, Ralph Simpson, Charles Widor and more. Reception will follow the concert, allowing a meet-the-artist opportunity. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Free will donation. Info: www.glendalecitychurch.org; 818-244-7241.

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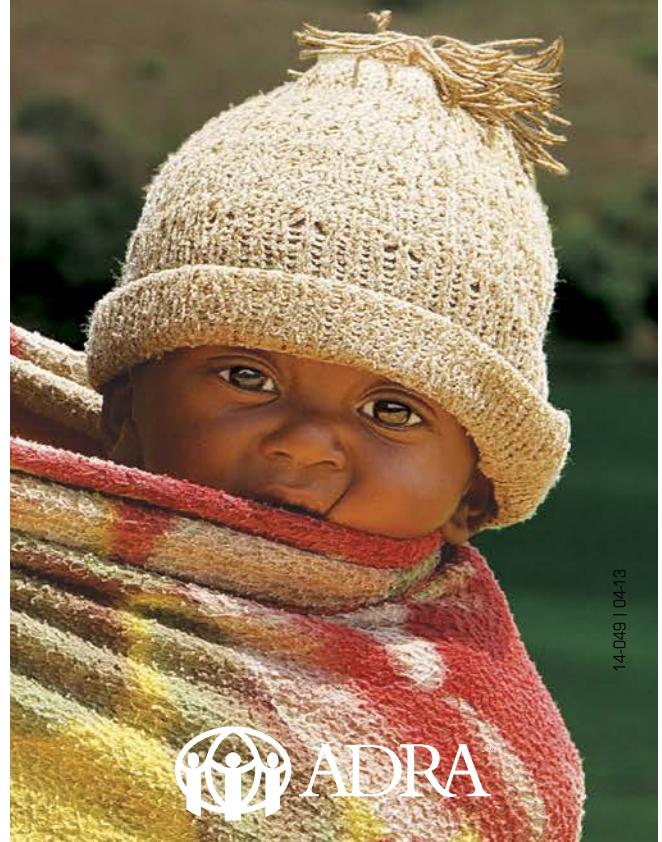
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Bulletin Board

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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personal items, or other artifacts relating to Ellen White for display in its new visitor center scheduled to open in 2015. All messages about your items will be answered. To discuss your item(s) please contact James Nix, 301-680-6557 or JimNix@WhiteEstate.org.

Employment

BETTER LIFE TELEVISION is seeking broadcast engineer to maintain 20 TV stations at our Grants Pass, Ore., headquarters. Requires knowledge of RF broadcast engineering, FCC regulations; SDA member in good standing. Come enjoy the beautiful Pacific Northwest while helping to reach millions for Christ. *Résumé:* ContactBetterLife@yahoo.com.

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HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL (HIS) is seeking to hire a licensed clinical counselor to provide much needed treatment plans, drug and alcohol counseling in individual and group

sessions, and guidance for students who have, or continue to experience abuse and/or neglect. HIS is an accredited 1-12th grade boarding school — near but not on the Navajo Reservation — operated directly by the Pacific Union Conference. As such, faculty and staff members receive remuneration and benefits according to the policies employed by all schools in the Pacific Union — it is not a self-supporting school. The current population at HIS is 60 students, split evenly between 1-8th and 9-12th grade, with an additional seven students at our one-teacher school in Chinle, Arizona. For more information, please contact Pedro L. Ojeda at 928 241-3356, principal@hissda.org, hissda.org.

Events

DIABETES REVERSAL AND WEIGHT Management. Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, Tenn. Program dates: June 29-July 11 & July 20-Aug. 1. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease. Reversal of most Type 2 diabetes and permanent weight loss. Cost: \$975 (physician fees not included). For more information, call 931-724-2443, www.butlercreek.us.

IN THE BEGINNING: Returning to God's Original Plan is the theme of our 6th Annual Secrets Unsealed Summit at Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite

National Park (Oct. 30-Nov. 2). Come for a weekend of intense Bible study with Dr. Neil Nedley, Pastor Randy Skeete & Pastor Stephen Bohr to learn God's plan for marriage, the Sabbath, our health, & the biblical roles of men and women. Register early for best price! Every attendee must pre-register. Sabbath only registration is available. Seating is limited so call 559-264-2300, 888-738-1412, or visit SecretsUnsealed.org. Tell a friend.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP at Yellowstone National park every Sabbath from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Services led by Rocky Mountain Conference pastors at 10 a.m. in Old Faithful Lodge.

YOU ARE INVITED to the annual Maranatha Volunteers International Convention weekend (Sept. 19-20) Roseville, Calif. The inspirational program features engaging testimonies and mission reports, as well as music by Grammy nominated Seventh-day Adventist recording artist Wintley Phipps. All programs are free. Please register in advance at www.maranatha.org.

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Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821-4010; 916-482-6444, woodsidesda@gmail.com. Albrooks Albert, Alclier Albert, Greg Ceballos, Amber Ceballos, Carlos Ceballos, Keleigh Fallwell, Joyce Hansen, Helen Janke, Jewell Loasby, Stephen Miars, Brina Rich, Rick Rien, Jessica Rien, Penny Rosen, Rafaeni Sitanggang, Leon Stone, Peggy Ann Taylor, Nancy Twining, Erika Urbani, David Zavas Sr., Marilyn Zavas, Odelina Zumwalt.

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Reunions

OAKLAND IMMANUEL TEMPLE church (formerly called East Oakland church), 105th Anniversary (Sept. 6) Former members, please submit contact information via e-mail to: imman4011@att.net; Attn: L. Scott, Immanuel Temple church, 2411-55th Ave., Oakland, CA 94605, or call 510-436-4011.

RENO JR. ACADEMY and Arlington St. church Sabbath School (1955-2000) Reunion (July 19) 2 p.m., Riverview Christian Academy gymnasium, 7125 West Fourth St., Reno, Nev. A fun

program with music and pictures. Do you remember when? (bring pictures and memories) louise3270@sbcglobal.net or Lorraine Stocke at 775-677-2436.

SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY Alumni Reunion (June 21) Church services, 9:45-11:30 a.m.; business meeting, 11:30 a.m.; catered lunch in the Grove, 12-5 p.m. Old Campus: 17701 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92525. Info & RSVP for lunch: www.sanpasqualacademy.com.

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SUNSETS

| | 6/6 | 6/13 | 6/20 | 6/27 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Alturas | 8:33 | 8:37 | 8:39 | 8:40 |
| Angwin | 8:32 | 8:35 | 8:37 | 8:38 |
| Calexico | 7:48 | 7:51 | 7:53 | 7:53 |
| Chico | 8:33 | 8:36 | 8:38 | 8:39 |
| Eureka | 8:45 | 8:49 | 8:51 | 8:52 |
| Fresno | 8:16 | 8:19 | 8:21 | 8:21 |
| Hilo | 6:58 | 7:00 | 7:02 | 7:03 |
| Honolulu | 7:12 | 7:14 | 7:16 | 7:17 |
| Las Vegas | 7:56 | 7:59 | 8:01 | 8:01 |
| Lodi | 8:26 | 8:29 | 8:31 | 8:32 |
| Loma Linda | 7:58 | 8:01 | 8:03 | 8:04 |
| Los Angeles | 8:03 | 8:06 | 8:08 | 8:08 |
| Moab | 8:39 | 8:43 | 8:45 | 8:45 |
| Oakland | 8:28 | 8:31 | 8:33 | 8:34 |
| Phoenix | 7:36 | 7:39 | 7:41 | 7:41 |
| Reno | 8:24 | 8:27 | 8:30 | 8:30 |
| Riverside | 7:58 | 8:01 | 8:03 | 8:04 |
| Sacramento | 8:28 | 8:31 | 8:33 | 8:34 |
| Salt Lake City | 8:56 | 8:59 | 9:02 | 9:02 |
| San Diego | 7:54 | 7:57 | 7:59 | 8:00 |
| San Francisco | 8:29 | 8:32 | 8:35 | 8:35 |
| San Jose | 8:26 | 8:29 | 8:31 | 8:32 |
| Tucson | 7:28 | 7:31 | 7:33 | 7:34 |

AT REST

BASSETT, DORIS J. – b. April 8, 1916, Omaha, Neb.; d. April 16, 2014, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: son, Ray.

BRAUER, MARY BELLE – b. Aug. 4, 1926, Colo.; d. April 5, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Stanley; two grandchildren.

CHAN, PETER TIN-KAI – b. May 3, 1942, Sandakan, Sabah Malaysia; d. April 12, 2014, Clovis, Calif. Survivors: wife, Helen; son, Bruce; daughter, Grace; three grandchildren.

FRIESEN, ELDINE ADELIA – b. May 23, 1914, Hastings, Neb.; d. March 25, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Dean; daughter, Carolyn Garvin; four grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

GEMECHU, AZEB MELLES ANDOM – b. Sept. 27, 1946, Adwa, Ethiopia; d. March 19, 2014, La Sierra, Calif. Survivors: husband, Fekede; daughters, Rahel, Aida. Co-founded the International Medical Academic Alliance, developed a kindergarten at the Kalala Learning Village in Ethiopia; owned the Royal Tea Room, Riverside, Calif.

GONZALEZ, NATALIA (PEREZ) – b. Dec. 1, 1917, Imperial, Calif.; d. Sept. 16, 2013, Calexico, Calif. Survivors: sons, David, Pedro; daughters, Natalia Oropeza, Angelina Camacho, Alicia Solis; 20 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, 15 great-great-grandchildren.

GRABLE, LOIS DARLENE – b. Dec. 7, 1921, Beech, Iowa; d. April 21, 2014, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: son, George; daughter, Patricia Thompson; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sister, Dorothy Bridges. Served as secretary to the president, Iowa Conference; as switchboard operator, Paradise Valley Hospital, San Diego, Calif.

HASTINGS, JEAN – b. April 28, 1921, Battle Creek, Mich.; d. March 26, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Jonathan Mills; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Served in the Michigan Conference and The Voice of Prophecy.

HOWARD, ROBERT CHARLES – b. July 14, 1945, Eureka, Calif.; d. April 20, 2014, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: wife, Claudeene; stepsons, Jerry Hathcock, Larry Hathcock; stepdaughter, Judy LeClere; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother, John. Served at Redwood Area Camp.

HULL, CAROLE VIOLA (SINN) – b. Oct. 29, 1932, Dinuba, Calif.; d. Jan. 26, 2014, Hemet, Calif. Survivors: husband, William; son, William Randall; daughter, Cheryl D. Foster; two grandchildren;

two great-grandchildren; sister, Donelle Stoltz. Served in music education at Fresno Academy, Rio Lindo Academy and Napa Jr. Academy; led Shepherdess and women's ministries in the Northern California and Idaho conferences.

HUTCHINS, FRANCES LUCILLE (BRADBURY) – b. June 21, 1923, Glendale, Calif.; d. Feb. 3, 2014, Klamath Falls, Ore. Survivors: son, Jerald R. Hutchins Jr.; daughter, Carol A. Perez; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

KING, ALMETA – b. Nov. 7, 1915, Keene, Texas; d. March 19, 2014, Arcata, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Lonetta McKee Williams; six stepchildren.

LOPEZ, RICHARD MANAS – Jan. 6, 1938, Winters, Calif.; d. Nov. 20, 2013, Woodland, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carol; sons, Rich Swancy, Kurtis Bruhn, Darren Lopez, Felipe Lopez, Tyler Lopez; daughters, Leda Funderburg, Sheila Shroder, Kim Bruhn, Melissa Gonzales; 22 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren.

MCCOY, RUTH MARION (HANSEN) – b. May 20, 1922, St. Johns, Mich.; d. March 17, 2014, Ooltewah, Tenn. Survivors: husband, Lyle; sons, Larry, Kenneth, Ronald, Calvin; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served in the Pacific Union College business office.

MEDEIROS, SALLY – b. Aug. 23, 1922, New Bedford, Mass.; d. Jan. 23, 2014, Grass Valley, Calif. Survivors: daughter-in-law, Maryann.

MERTZ, VICTOR – b. Jan. 6, 1917, Tolstoy, S.D.; d. April 20, 2014, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: son, Gary; daughter, Marlys; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

ROBINSON, HAROLD – b. April 11, 1932, Battle Creek, Mich.; d. Dec. 26, 2013, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nancy; sons, Robert, Brent; daughter, Elizabeth; six grandchildren.

SHELTON, EVELYN MAE – b. July 31, 1918, Oregon; d. April 18, 2014, Yuba City, Calif. Survivors: sons, Philip, Paul, David, James; daughter, Nancy Shelton Brown; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

SMITH, RACHEL LERUE (WILLARD) – b. Jan. 9, 1929, Sanitarium, Calif.; d. Oct. 5, 2013, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: husband, Leonard; sons, Leonard Jr., Steve; daughter, Lenita Gonzales; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Rodney Willard, Dudley Willard; sister, Marilyn Willard Anderson.

STEEN, JANE R. (GEACH) – b. Feb. 11, 1916, Lima, Ohio; d. April 6, 2014, Fallbrook, Calif. Survivors: daughters,



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Donna Dumbeck, Betti Anders; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; sister, June Benson.

VOIGT, WARREN H. – b. Dec. 29, 1935, Shively, Calif.; d. April 3, 2014, Fortuna, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joanne; sons, Dale, Shawn; daughter, Machel Disbro; one grandchild; four sisters.

WATTS, RUTH P. – b. June 8, 1922, Oakes, N.D.; d. April 3, 2014, Madison, S.D. Survivors: husband, Forest; son, Mike Claymor; daughters, Debra Cuny, Janet Claymore-Ross, Connie Schlotthauer; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Served as an elementary teacher in SDA schools.

WHITE, ODESSA MAE (PINES) – b. Dec. 23, 1920, Wharton, Texas; d. Nov. 23, 2013, Vacaville, Calif. Survivors: sons, Alvin Gerald, Benjamin II, David; daughters, Gwendolyn, Arlene Faustinus, Janise, Karen; 20 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; brothers, Frank Pines, Harold, Carlton and Otis Taylor; sisters, Bertha Jean Grant, Annie Mae Livingston.

ZAHID, IQBAL – b. April 2, 1921, Pakistan; d. April 17, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Zenith; sons, Joseph, Joel, Emmanuel; daughter, Victoria Siraj; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Served as a pastor in the Pakistan Union and a teacher at Pakistan Adventist Seminary College.

ZELLITTI, JOELENE LUCILLE (MIR) – b. June 12, 1934, Durango, Colo.; d. Jan. 8, 2014, Antelope, Calif. Survivors: sons, Rodney, Randy; five grandchildren.



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 October: September 2
 November: September 30
 December: October 28

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

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