

PACIFIC UNION

# recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> JULY 2014



## GOOD NEWS TV

*Reaches Arizona*

## AND BEYOND

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GNTV engineering crew includes Moses Tyler, Stephen Denny, Leland Preston, Luke Skelton, and Roger Doering.

PHOTO BY  
SUSAN SKELTON

## PACIFIC UNION recorder

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# Accident Avoidance

**A**s I was navigating a rental car along a crowded, fast-moving freeway, I was reminded of the “accident avoidance” features in the vehicle.

For instance, there are the electronic stability control system, the lane exit warning system, back-up camera system, the blind spot warning system, side mirror turn signal indicator, and more, all designed to assist the driver in operating safely and avoiding an accident.

I Googled “accident avoidance” and got 2,110,000 results (0.22 seconds). The majority focused on training courses to avoid vehicle crashes.

A quick visual scan showed that included in the listing were equipment, online courses, on site drivers

courses, military classes, software, and, obviously, many, many more.

As I drove, I thought about God’s “sin avoidance” systems.

Not only has God made it crystal clear in Scripture that He hates sin while He loves sinners, He also has provided a way for fallen humanity (all of us) to avoid or escape sin. While Satan roams around like a roaring lion seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8), God seeks to deliver us from temptation and the destructive consequences of yielding to those temptations. Thus, while the enemy tries to destroy in every conceivable way, God wants to give us the abundant life that can only be lived in a positive context with Him (see John 10:10).

Avoiding sin — a step, but not the totality of victory — is promised in the Bible from cover to cover, but here are just a few texts that make clear that God seeks to help us steer clear of sin.

How about 1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

There is wonderful truth revealed here. The fact is simply that we all will be tempted, tested and tried, but God, due to His faithfulness to us,

won’t allow us to be tempted above our capacity to resist. On the contrary, He will simultaneously provide each of us a way to endure the temptation without yielding to it.

Consider James 4:7: “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Submitting to God, and resisting evil thoughts, words and actions, informs the enemy that we are not interested in buying what he is selling, thus, the devil will flee.

James tells us what we really don’t like, and that is submitting. But there is no victory in us

**“The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action.”**

and only as we deny self and submit to God do we receive power to resist. God’s strength is revealed in human weakness. Resisting in the name of Jesus is another key to victory from God, or sin avoidance.

Let’s look at Micah 6:8, another familiar passage of promise; which is hidden in a command or declarative statement: “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” God never requires what is not “doable”. We can achieve, through His strength, what He requires.

Ellen White tells us how:

“The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To every one engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you (MYP 101.1).

“As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings” (Christ’s Object Lessons, 331-333. MYP 101.2).

Sometimes “accidents” occur because we fail to utilize what has been provided for us. Just review a partial list of God’s gifts to us for victory and to escape the clutches of Satan.

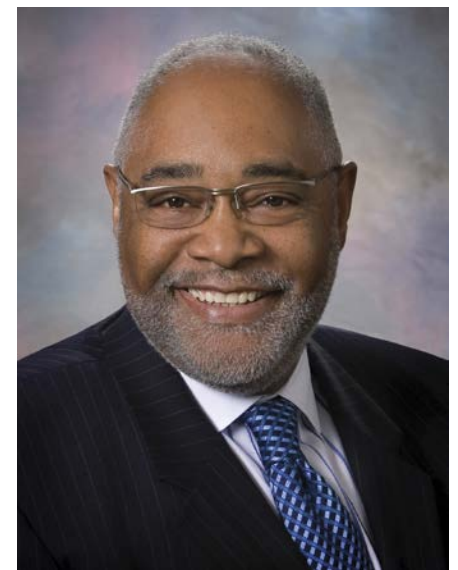
The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth (see Rev. 13:8). His blood washes (doesn’t cover) our sins, giving us victory even in his title Savior, (Matt 1:21); the declaration of John the Baptist, “The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not just a biblical fact (Acts 11:15) — it is available to us today. Plus, the angels are assigned by the Father to be with us to encourage, protect and guide us (Heb. 1:14).

(And of course, the limited space provided here will not allow a thorough exhaustive study of this or any subject. We have just “scraped the surface” as they say.)

Several news outlets report that Google Corp. has introduced its prototype “driverless” car. What a concept. There is, however, no driver-less life. In the end, the driver of the car must decide on engaging the crash avoidance training or electronic systems. They are installed in many automobiles, but the driver can ignore them and sometimes turn them off.

So too with the Christian. While God provides a means of resisting and avoiding sin, the ultimate choice is ours. I choose to continuously engage God’s sin avoidance system. How about you?

*Ricardo Graham*



# Good News TV Reaches Arizona and Beyond

**G**ood News TV (GNTV) and GNTV Latino have been broadcasting in Phoenix since 2009, and they are expanding throughout Arizona and beyond. The digital TV channels air a custom mix of spiritual programming from 3ABN, Hope Channel, Loma Linda Broadcasting Network (LLBN), plus locally produced programs. As a result, many viewers have visited and joined Seventh-day Adventist churches.

In 2010, the FCC opened a rare window to apply for permits to build TV stations throughout the US. "We had no funds to expand and build at the time," shares Luke Skelton, director of media ministry for the Arizona Conference, "but we were impressed to step out in faith and apply, asking the Lord to make new TV stations throughout Arizona a reality."

After three years of prayer and planning — plus many donations and hours of work from supporters and volunteers, the first new stations in Prescott, Payson and Flagstaff officially started broadcasting in May, with additional locations planned for the near future.

GNTV (English and Spanish) are the only Christian channels broadcasting over-the-air in

all three of these communities, as well as the only Spanish channel in Prescott and Payson.

## Prescott

The crew arrived at the tower site with the equipment and found their first challenge. Besides the nest of rattlesnakes around the work area, the antenna shipped was bright orange, not approved for the US Forest Service site. They were also missing a critical connector to attach the cabling to the antenna. They found solutions, and now the gospel message is airing in Prescott, Prescott Valley, and as far as Chino Valley on channels 32.1 and 32.2.

## Payson

After the equipment was installed in Payson, there was trouble. Every time the transmitter was powered up to start broadcasting, it shut down. Engineers rechecked every aspect of the equipment. Then a team member spoke a simple prayer: "Lord, please help this transmitter to work so we can get the station on the air." The very next time the transmitter was powered on, it worked without any problems and never



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN DENNY

*GNTV crew members Moses Tyler and Leland Preston rigging TV broadcast antenna on the Payson tower site.*

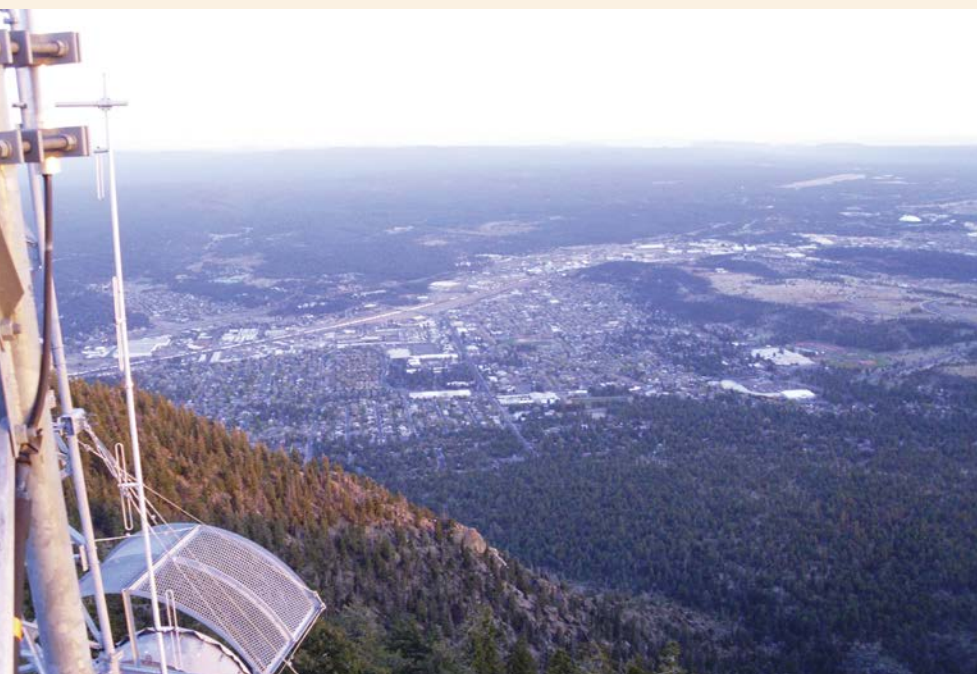
failed again, even after several subsequent restarts. GNTV airs in Payson on channels 38.1 and 38.2

## Flagstaff

Awaiting the late arrival of major equipment, the team installed what they could in Flagstaff. The next morning, the antenna had arrived to the shippers dock, but part of the transmitter was lost in shipment. The team prayed again, and the shipment turned up. With the 20-foot antenna on a 10-foot trailer, the team drove carefully to Flagstaff and installed it on the 80-foot tower on top of Mount Elden before Sabbath. GNTV airs in Payson on channels 19.1 and 19.2

## Yuma

Hope Channel informed Jose Miramontes, a Pentecostal Christian TV station owner, that GNTV was in the process of expanding. He contacted Luke Skelton, offering to broadcast programming for three years in exchange for helping him build his Yuma station by purchasing his broadcasting equipment and paying his monthly operating expenses.



*The city of Flagstaff, Ariz., will receive the GNTV broadcast signal from this tower, 2,000 feet above the city.*



*GNTV crew members were happy to complete the broadcast antenna installation just prior to sunset as Sabbath drew on.*

Skelton asked Miramontes if he would sell his station. He agreed for an over-market value price of \$150,000. The GNTV team continued praying and negotiating. Miramontes eventually sold his station for just \$10,000, because GNTV would be airing Christian programming in both English and Spanish, 24 hours a day, which



*Stephen Denny (engineer, GNTV Dallas/Ft. Worth & Brazos TV) moved to Phoenix for a month to volunteer hundreds of hours to get three new Arizona TV stations on the air. Here, he and Moses Tyler secure the antenna on the tower in Flagstaff.*

was a fulfillment of his dream. The Yuma Central church has committed financially to help build the new station in southern Arizona, whose broadcast signal will reach into Mexico.

### Future Growth

Gifts totaling over \$250,000 from churches, viewers, organizations, and individual supporters enabled GNTV to create these first four new stations. Fundraising is an ongoing process in order to help secure future stations. Presently, \$43,000 exists in matching funds to “double your donation” of any amount.

As the money comes in, they will pursue stations in Lake Havasu, Bullhead City, Kingman, and Verde Valley. In Tucson, a large metro community, plans are to lease channels from an existing station, as is done in Phoenix.

“Localized TV evangelism works,” says Skelton. “GNTV’s English or Spanish program stream can be sent to any community, large or small, where it can be localized and broadcast to reach viewers’ hearts for Jesus 24 hours a day. Our team is committed to helping any church provide broadcast media to their communities.”

To learn how to bring GNTV to a community near you, or to donate, call 480-264-1116 and visit [mygoodnewstv.com](http://mygoodnewstv.com).

*Phil Draper*



*GNTV engineering crew on the tower 2,000 feet above Flagstaff, Ariz., include Roger Doering, Stephen Denny, Leland Preston, Luke Skelton and Moses Tyler.*

# Valley United Korean Church Celebrates Building Dedication

Until 2014, the history of the Valley United Korean church followed a pattern with which many Adventist churches can identify. They began worshiping in home-group worships in San Fernando Valley. With faithful visitation and encouragement by Pastor Chong Won Cho, a Bible worker for Faith For Today, four groups were worshiping in area homes by 1984.

Members of the groups first gathered as the Valley United Korean group in the fellowship room of the Van Nuys church, segued to a rented Woodland Hills church, then collaborated with the English-speaking Adventist church at the North Hollywood church, which Valley United Korean church then purchased.

Planning to build their own church, the congregation sold the North Hollywood church and began renting again in 2013. "After the congregation sold its North Hollywood church for \$2 million, they searched and searched for a church, but couldn't find one," said Sung Oh, SCC treasurer. "The pastor and board decided to look for land on which they could build. They found a 1.85-acre vacant lot in Chatsworth and began planning."

The next 12 months were busy ones: before they could begin construction, a nearly-new church building became available in Granada Hills. "The pastor was excited," said Oh. "There

were no guarantees as to what construction would cost if they decided to build, so the pastor and the board voted to sell the land and buy the church building they had just found."

In less than one year, they sold the land in Chatsworth, purchased the building in Granada Hills, paid off their debts and burned the mortgage on May 3. After 30 years, the members of the Valley United Korean church were worshiping in their own building, debt-free.

"This church is burning its mortgage within 10 months after they moved in," said Oh. "That is God's intervention. Man makes plans; God blesses. They were able to pay off their debts (including a \$400,000 loan from the Union Revolving Fund to help buy the church) and move into their new church debt-free."

BETTY COONEY



(l. to r.) Pastor Andrew Kim, church treasurer Kil Ho Hein and Pastor Sung Oh burn the Valley United church mortgage.

Oh concluded, "Solomon prayed with his whole heart as he dedicated the temple to God. He said, 'I have already selected My place for My temple. I chose this place and put my name in this place.' Pray like Solomon, and God will answer this prayer for you."

Church youth were featured on the dedication program. Months earlier, only a handful of young people were attending, since the previous youth pastor had been assigned to a different SCC church and youth had not been attending Valley United. Two months before the dedication service, Ji Hyun Lee arrived to serve the church as its youth pastor. Through the ministry of the new youth pastor, the church has 20-30 young people attending regularly.

Pastor Andrew Kim is clear on the work before him. "My job now is to fill the church with souls," he told Samuel Lee, Asian Pacific Region director. "I prayed and asked God, 'Every Sabbath, help us try to contact a new neighbor and introduce them to the church.' We talk with neighbors, person-to-person. Some come for the Bible-study group on Tuesday evenings or for prayer meeting on Wednesdays."

BETTY COONEY



Young people performed a skit demonstrating that whenever we share love in the Lord, the love grows. (l. to r.) Caleb Kim, Julie Ham, Ryan Choe, Ellen Choe, Justin Hong and Diana Shin.

Betty Cooney

# Pastors Reach Out to the World from Los Angeles

About a dozen Los Angeles-area pastors who preach in languages other than English have begun podcasting in their language or dialect. The group, under the direction of the SCC communication department, is affiliated with Adventist World Radio.

"Adventist World Radio has provided two training sessions for the podcast groups in the Southern California Conference," said Daryl Gungadoo, AWR global distribution manager, who served as the instructor for both sessions. A grant from the Pacific Union has covered project costs.

Cecil Ma, a member of the L.A. Cantonese Adventist Fellowship, is the producer-editor of the Cantonese podcasts, which feature weekly presentations by health and Bible-story teams. According to team members, they share information as conversations. "We tried scripting," laughed Lui, "but it sounded boring, so we just talk from notes, and it is working very well."

The teams meet periodically on Sabbath afternoons and tape five or six segments each. "Before I went on a recent European vacation," said Ma, "I completed the editing for three programs and then posted them while I was away." The program had nearly 700 subscribers before local promotion began, and airs on Adventist radio stations in Guam and Saipan in addition to being listed on the AWR website.

Pastor Vinh Nguyen, El Monte Vietnamese church pastor, prepares a 30-minute program for non-Christians. His programming also airs

over a Vietnamese radio network, reaching 13 Vietnamese stations in the U.S.

Podcasts and other resources posted online can be heard globally, but more than 200 languages are spoken in the Los Angeles area. "We are delighted that the podcasts extend the reach of local SCC churches to a global audience," acknowledged Betty Cooney, SCC communication director and project manager. "However, SCC's primary goal is to reach the local language communities targeted by each church."

To accomplish this, Linguaspirit.net offers hosting for podcasts in Tagalog, Samoan, Tongan, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin dialects), Indonesian, Iranian, Japanese, Russian, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Korean and Spanish from SCC churches.

Promotional business cards in the group's various languages feature the podcasts and the website, plus any other media programming offered by the churches. In addition to the cards and optional flyers churches can distribute in their local communities, startup advertising funds enable podcasters to begin directly reaching out to their publics in L.A. A number of the churches plan to continue the initial advertising.

Pastor James Dok, assistant pastor of the Temple City church, is a native of Cambodia. "Approximately 166,000 Cambodian people live in the Greater Los Angeles

area," he said, "so I am excited about podcasting to share the good news with them." Being able to do this outreach has been challenging for Dok and others in the podcast group: some needed to invest in better computers; others were engaged in major church projects, so podcasting temporarily was placed on hold.

A major challenge for some has been finding technicians to assist in recording and editing, but with diligent searching and praying, some have overcome this hurdle. "I have someone to help whom I recently baptized," announced Denilsson Reis, pastor of the L.A. Portuguese church, with a smile.

*Betty Cooney and Daryl Gungadoo*

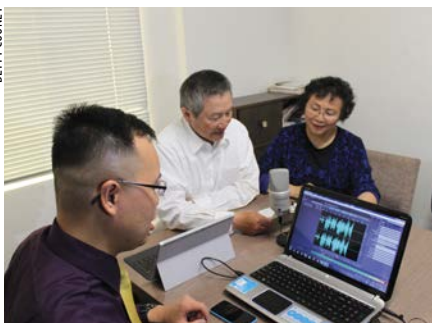


*Pastor Anatoly Gurdiuala and volunteer cohort Luchia Molla produce conversational podcasts in Russian, as well as a television program airing twice weekly on International Christian Family Network TV in the Glendale-Burbank area.*



*(L. to r.) Peter Young, D.D.S., Rosana Yung, a pharmacist; and Maria Poon, a public health nurse, prepare health segments for the L.A. Cantonese Fellowship podcasts.*

BETTY COONEY



*Tim Chan and Lana Lui are the Bible-story team for the Cantonese podcasts. Cecil Ma, producer-director of the Cantonese podcasts, is on the left.*

BETTY COONEY

# More Than 500 Delegates Meet for NCC Constituency Session

On May 18, 503 delegates met at the Pacific Union College church for the quadrennial constituency session of the Northern California Conference. During the session all three administrators — President Jim

Botting, health/community services/stewardship director; Leon Brown Sr., inner city director/African-American ministries coordinator; Walter Groff, ministerial director; Richard Magnuson, planned giving & trust services/property management director; and Eddie Heinrich, youth ministries director.

All the administrators and ministry leaders were reelected by large margins. “We are blessed to have dedicated and qualified spiritual leadership in the Northern California Conference,” said delegate Josué Rosado, who represented the St. Helena Spanish church at the session.

Two new ethnic coordinators were voted into office: James Miho Lim, Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator (also pastor of the Napa Valley Korean church); and Jose Marin, Hispanic ministries director (who joins the NCC team from the Arizona Conference where he served as assistant to the president for Hispanic ministries/Sabbath school coordinator).

Delegates also elected members to the NCC executive committee and NCC bylaws committee and approved a list of names for credentials and licenses. During the meeting, attendees heard reports from the president, executive secretary, treasurer, nominating committee, bylaws committee, and a General Conference auditor. The constituency session was overseen

by parliamentarian Meredith Jobe, Adventist Health vice president/general counsel.

As part of the president’s report, Pedersen and the Pacific Union ethnic ministries directors honored the previous NCC ethnic coordinators for their years of service. William Gemora, Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator, now serves as full-time pastor of the All Nations church

PHOTOS BY GERRY CHUDLEIGH



All three NCC officers were reelected: (from left) NCC Treasurer John Rasmussen, Raelene Rasmussen, Debi Pedersen, NCC President Jim Pedersen, Marlene Woodson, NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson.

Pedersen, Executive Secretary Marc Woodson and Treasurer John Rasmussen — were reelected.

The delegates also voted to return to office all the NCC department directors and ethnic coordinators who were up for reelection. Listed in alphabetical order by department, they are: Del Dunavant, church growth & evangelism director; Stephanie Leal, communication director; Bill Keresoma, education director; Gordon



Naomi Parson, NCC prayer ministries coordinator, offers a prayer of dedication for the newly elected administrators, department directors, ethnic ministries coordinators, executive committee members and bylaws committee members.



Walter Groff, NCC ministerial director, who also serves as senior pastor of the Gracepoint church, presents a devotional message at the constituency session.

of Elk Grove. Virgil Childs, inner city director/African-American ministries coordinator, is full-time senior pastor of the Oakland Market Street church. Richard Dena, Hispanic ministries coordinator, retired at the end of May.

During the session, delegates considered a motion to change the NCC bylaws. The changes would have extended the time between election sessions from four years to five years, and they would have substituted town hall meetings for the mid-term constituency sessions. Although the motion achieved a simple majority, it failed to receive a two-thirds majority, which was required for it to pass. “This is a changing world. Five years is a long time,” said Woodland church delegate Dale Val, who was not in favor



of the changes. "It's worth the effort to have the constituency meeting."

According to the NCC bylaws, constituent churches may submit agenda items to be discussed and voted upon at a constituency session. Three such agenda items were submitted for this session. (To read the agenda items as they were submitted, go to [www.nccsda.com/constituency](http://www.nccsda.com/constituency).) Instead of debating these issues during the session, delegates voted to refer all three agenda items to the NCC executive committee. Shortly after this vote, the session broke for lunch.

After the delegates returned from the break, the microphone was open for discussion from



the floor. Almost all of the delegates who spoke addressed one or more of the topics that were referred to the executive committee.

Pittsburg church delegate Gloria Simms was happy to see younger people expressing their opinions to the group. "Those people under 50 and under 40 need to feel that their voices are important," she said. "And the fact that these delegates felt comfortable speaking up was wonderful." Simms wasn't bothered by the differences of opinion. "Christians should be able to disagree without being disagreeable," she said. "And I think that's what happened."

This event was the first "paperless" constituency session for the conference. Instead of receiving the agenda and other materials in the mail, delegates downloaded all the information from the conference website. Also, instead of voting via paper ballots, each delegate voted by pushing buttons on an electronic voting

device (worn on a lanyard around the neck). "I was really pleased with the way the technology worked — the fact that we had no trouble getting all the votes, even from the furthest corners of the sanctuary," said Richard Bankhead, NCC information technology director.

For each motion, delegates had 20 seconds to submit their votes. During the voting time, attendees could watch a counter on a large screen, which recorded the number of votes being received. After voting closed, the results were displayed almost immediately on the screen. "The electronic voting process was efficient, saving tons of time, close to instantaneous, visual and protected anonymity," said Crescent City church member Carole Bliss. "It was great."

In addition to efficiency, constituency session planners tried to ensure that a spiritual tone was reflected throughout the session. NCC pastors urged their church members to prepare in advance. "I encouraged a lot of prayer — and for the delegates to read and understand the issues, listen to their church membership concerns and to vote according to conscience," said Lincoln Amazing Grace/Olivehurst district pastor Rob Kearbey.

The meeting began with a hymn, followed by a season of song, Scripture and prayer led by Naomi Parson, NCC prayer ministries coordinator. "I was so blessed by the singing and prayer session prior to our meeting," said Denise Benner, Middletown church delegate. "I believe it set the atmosphere and appropriate tone preceding the important work of the body of Christ."

Before any conference business was addressed, Groff presented the devotional message — encouraging the attendees to follow the example of Noah, as he invited people into the ark of safety. "His thoughts about Noah gave me pause for consideration in ways I had never explored before," said Karen Nicola, Rio Lindo Adventist Academy church delegate.

During his report to the delegates, Pedersen expressed great optimism for the work of the gospel during the next four years in the Northern California Conference territory. He said: "As we continue doing God's work here, we continue with the knowledge and hope that what we do makes a difference for eternity."

*Gerry Chudleigh, Stephanie Leal,  
Julie Lorenz*



**Pacific Union Conference President Ricardo Graham, chair of the NCC nominating committee, speaks to the delegates, along with Diana Maksoudian, nominating committee secretary.**



**Bobby Mitchell Sr. (right) Pacific Union regional ministries director, makes a presentation to Virgil Childs, former NCC inner city director/African-American ministries coordinator, and now full-time senior pastor of the Oakland Market Street church.**



**Jorge Soria (right), Pacific Union Hispanic ministries director, and Jim Pedersen (left), NCC president, congratulate Richard Dena, former NCC Hispanic ministries director, on his retirement.**



**VicLouis Arreola, III, Pacific Union Asian/Pacific ministries director, presents a plaque to William Gemora, former NCC Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator, thanking him for his service as he returns to the full-time pastorate of the All Nations church of Elk Grove.**

# Dental Practitioners' Mission Trip to St. Vincent Brings Relief and Joy to Islanders

Several dentists and dental students participated in a mission trip March 23-29 to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, islands in the Caribbean. They worked in 10 cities, including Kingstown, Georgetown and Sandy Bay.

The dental team performed surgeries, extractions, cleanings, restorations and screenings. In all, they saw more than 730 patients in five days. Alan Woodson, a dentist and a member of the Mt. Rubidoux church, led the team. His wife, two other dentists, 14 students and one pre-dental student joined him.

Last year, Woodson took a team to Guyana. It happened that another organization was

on a mission trip there, as well. Janice Bunn, a medical doctor and an alumna of Loma Linda University, led that team. She is the president of APC Medical Missions, located in New York. Her team was taking care of medical needs in that area, so they decided to work together.

Their work was so successful that they agreed to work together again this year in St. Vincent. Woodson was excited to have an opportunity to return to the mission field with his students and to join forces with Bunn and her medical team.

"When I go on the mission trips, it is a great opportunity for students to learn," said Woodson. "One of my biggest thrills is teaching students to serve."

He continued to explain that, on average, a dental student sees two patients a day. However, on the mission trip to the Caribbean, students were seeing 10 to 15 patients a day.

"I taught them oral surgery during the mission trip," said Woodson. "Even freshmen who have no dental experience learn quickly with hands-on experience."

One of the team members was Jessica Marquez, a student at La Sierra University. Before attending the university, Marquez had worked and volunteered as an assistant at various dental clinics, but she didn't know much about Seventh-day Adventists.

"I was looking for a relationship with God," said Marquez. "I started noticing how compassionate Seventh-day Adventists can be. I saw

the mission that they strive for, not only abroad, but in their communities."

After a week of prayer in May 2013, Marquez decided to be baptized. A month later, Woodson was doing a presentation at La Sierra about how passionate he was



*The Loma Linda University dental team and the A.P.C. Medical Missions team: L. to R.: Jessica Marquez, Myrna Aguilar, Giddel Thom, Nell Darnley, Jim Ervil, Michael Hall, Andrey Gaiduchick, Tim Matthews, Gaetan Tchamba, Samantha Slikkers, Michelle Hurbutt, Sabrina Hunzelman, Dallas Frantz, Lucas Kim, John Kim, Alan Woodson, Larry Holloway, Sylvia Woodson, Jacqueline Pham, Ashley Myung, Lynette Kowlessar, Caroline Howell, Janice Emmanuel-Bunn, and Ryan Yamashiro.*



*Third year Loma Linda dental student Andre Gaiduchick expresses the joy of serving the children of the Barrouallie church in St. Vincent.*



*Hundreds of patients await treatment as the dental and medical teams arrive in Chateaubelair.*

Mario A. Munoz

# El Centro Church Celebrates 100 Years

On April 11-12, the El Centro church held a commemorative weekend celebrating its 100th year since its founding. The church was established on April 12, 1914, a century before, to the day, of the commemorative weekend.

Friday night, the celebration began with a bilingual service. Other Imperial Valley churches came out in support and also participated with special music and words of encouragement from area pastors.

Sandra Roberts, president of the Southeastern California Conference, also participated, commenting on the church's endurance and faithfulness, noting that few churches in the conference have reached this milestone so far.

All throughout the program, speakers honored the heartiness and faith of the people who established this church in the low desert, before air-conditioning and easy travel were created.

After a baptism service, attendants were invited to the newly expanded fellowship hall for refreshments. The hall contained numerous montage pictures, scrolls of architectural drawings of former and existing buildings, and a timeline of pastors who have served at the church since 1939.

A reporter and photographer from the Imperial Valley Press, the local newspaper, came to

the event, and interviewed several members and leaders. The story made the cover of Saturday morning's newspaper.

The church's Adventurer club, several church board members, and teachers from the nearby Calexico Mission all participated in the Sabbath morning service. Pastor Mark Tatum preached a sermon entitled "Glancing Back, Reaching Forward," focusing on the experiences of the Israelites at Passover and the disciples at the Last Supper, relating it to the modern El Centro church as they work and pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Following the morning service, guests and members were invited to stay for a potluck lunch. The expanded fellowship hall was filled to overflowing.

Sabbath afternoon's program included comments made by Ernest Furness, ministerial secretary for SECC, as well as Sedalia Sanders, councilwoman and former mayor of the city of El Centro.

Members were shown a slideshow of former buildings and historical documents. Old letters and communications from the church in past generations (some dating back as far as the 1930s) were read out loud.

Many members wrote notes to future church members, which, along with photos and other items, will be buried in a time capsule for a future anniversary celebration.

Church members worked hard to prepare their facility for the celebration. They added new landscaping and remodeled the men's restroom. A new church sign took its place on the corner of a prominent intersection, facing the local public high school.

Several families who formerly attended the church made long treks to



*The original church sign serves as decoration and as a reminder of the church's long standing in the community.*

celebrate the occasion. One family made came from Phoenix, Ariz., while another arrived from Spring Valley, Wis.

"Many members were blessed and inspired by the history shared, as well as by the special music and messages provided by the pastors and special guests," said Tatum.

At the end of the program, members and visitors received commemorative ribbons.

"We will continue to work faithfully," Tatum said, "until we see our Lord Jesus coming in the clouds of glory."

*Mark Tatum with Mario Munoz*

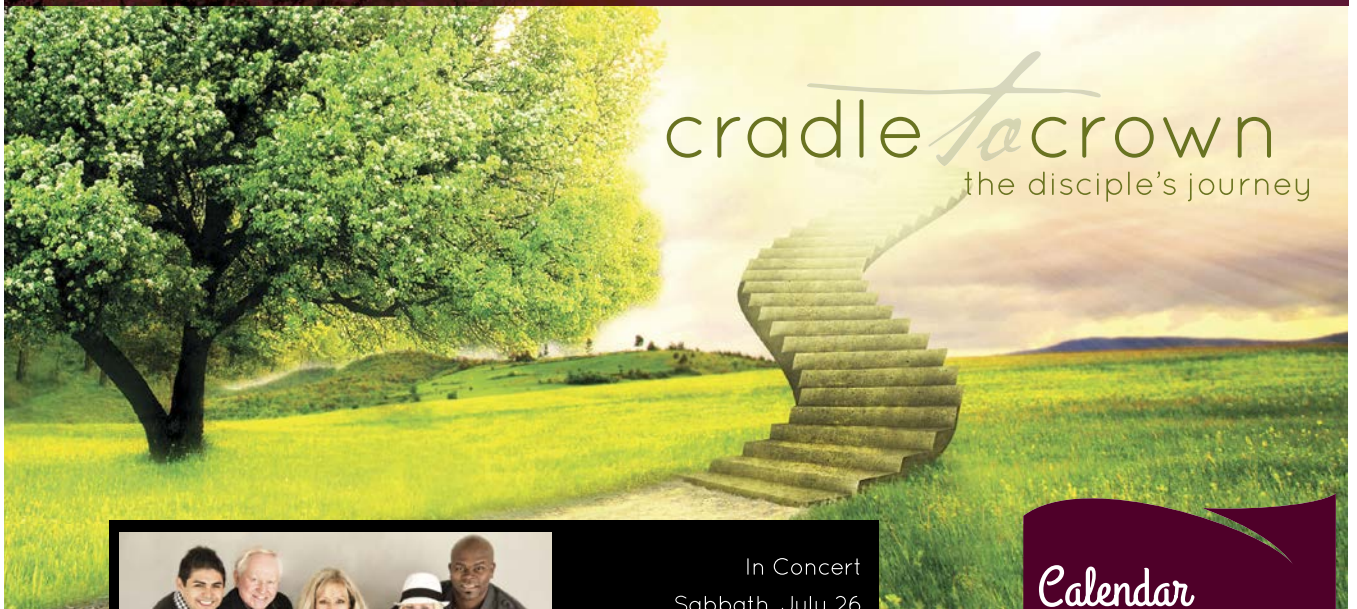


*Members, guests and visitors pose for a picture to commemorate the 100 year celebration of the El Centro church.*



*Ernest Furness, SECC Ministerial director, tells facts about the extensive church history and thanks staff and members for their years of faithfulness to their community and the conference during the service.*

Central California Conference 134<sup>th</sup> Camp Meeting, July 17-26, 2014



cradle to crown  
the disciple's journey



In Concert  
Sabbath, July 26  
3pm

*Heritage Singers*

## Main Auditorium



**Featured Speakers:**  
Henry Wright, Ted Wilson,  
Deblaire Snell



**Seminars & Devotionals:**  
Carlos Pasillas, Ivory  
Roberts-Clarke, Brian  
Billbrey, Daniel Morea, Leah  
Jordache, YET Team, Sean  
Simplicio, David Harriss,  
Kevin Hart, Jim Ayers, Ingo  
Sorke, Don MacLafferty,  
Don Hall, Myla Mendez,  
Shirley Babiencko, Gordon  
Pifher, James Rafferty  
and more...



## Carpa Hispana



**Oradores Internacionales:**  
José Espósito,  
Dr. Julián Melgosa



**Seminarios y Devocionales:**  
Daniel Escamilla,  
Gerzon Gómez,  
Ramiro Cano, Pablo  
Maldonado, Abimael  
Escalante, Jorge Soria,  
Dave Gillham, Esther  
Alonso-Neal, Suny  
Lopez, Danilo Cornejo,  
y mas...

## Calendar

**July 11 - 12**  
**Prayer Partner Weekend**  
Friday 5pm - Saturday 6pm  
Prayer Walk - Saturday 3pm

**July 17**  
Opening Night 7pm

**July 18**  
Early Devotional 6:30am  
Evening Meeting 7pm

**July 19**  
Adult Sabbath School 9am  
Worship 10:45am  
African American Ministries  
Sponsored Meeting 3pm  
Evening Meeting 7pm

**July 20**  
ABC Book Sale 4pm

**July 21 - 25**  
Early Devotionals 6:30am  
Morning Meeting 11am  
Health Seminar 9am and 2pm  
Seminars 9am, 2 and 4pm  
Mini-Concerts 6:30pm  
Evening Meeting 7pm

**July 26**  
Adult Sabbath School 9am  
Worship 10:45am  
Heritage Singers Concert 3pm  
Baptisms 5:15pm  
Closing Meeting 7pm

## Highlights

**Miracle Roadway Stories**  
Daily

**Children's Programming**  
Daily

More information at:  
[ccc.adventist.org/campmeeting](http://ccc.adventist.org/campmeeting)

*Choose you this day...*  
Choose you this day whom ye will serve...  
But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
Joshua 24:15, KJV



# CVCA Launches New CAD/3D Printing Class

Beginning in the fall of 2013, Central Valley Christian Academy began offering a new class for its sophomore students, focused on basic Computer Aided Design (CAD) concepts. Digital design environments have, for the most part, replaced the traditional drafting board, and CVCA has incorporated the cutting-edge technology into its academic curriculum.

With help from the AutoDesk STEAM curriculum, students learn and practice the design thinking process: understand, explore, define, ideate, prototype, refine and solution. Students follow this process, watching videos from industry professionals as they learn how to design first in their design journals and then on a computer using a software solution called AutoCAD. Projects range from a skyline drawing to designing a “parklet” — a small urban space transformed into a respite.

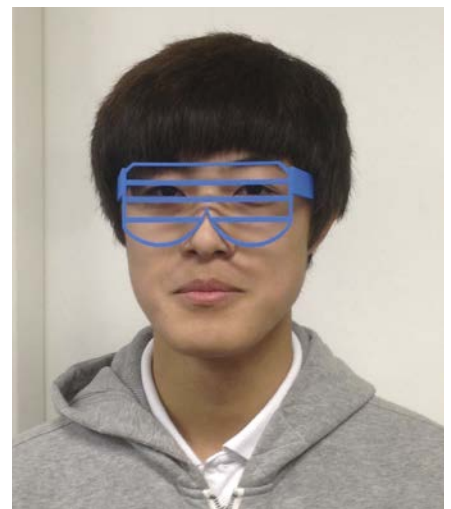
However, the Basic CAD class at CVCA offers more than design basics. The course moves beyond the flat blueprint into three-dimensional design and printing, an exciting aspect of the class for many students. Instructor Brian Snarr is a technology enthusiast who has introduced the burgeoning field of 3D modeling and fabrication to CVCA students. “What is happening in the field is nothing less than transformational,” Snarr explains. “3D printing will revolutionize entire industries. Shopping will eventually involve customizing your device online, then

paying, and downloading a file to print at home.”

3D design and printing is already being applied to artistic as well as functional projects from egg holders to shoes. Estimates are that many homes of the not-too-distant future will have a 3D printer. Several large and recognizable companies have already started using the technology. Nike, for instance, is already 3D printing shoe parts. NASA has ordered a 3D printer for the International Space Station to fix broken parts without having to wait for the next rocket. Prosthetics are being designed and printed for kids with missing appendages. In the world of medicine, a 3D printer can mix in a patient’s own cells along with a support structure, allowing a customized artery or trachea to be printed and transplanted. Part of a skull was recently designed from 3D scans, printed, and implanted as well. Soon, it is believed, 3D printers may be capable of generating kidneys and hearts, reducing the transplant waitlist time with little to no possibility of rejection.

On that note, CVCA hopes that classes like this will get students interested in and help equip them for careers that will increasingly rely on technology. These types of courses will hopefully boost interest in areas such as engineering or programs like the recently added Master of Science degree in Orthotics and Prosthetics at Loma Linda University.

Student reaction has been enthusiastic, with most eager to have their project printed. “Designing my own things and then being able to take them home that day or the next,” is the most rewarding part of the process, explains CVCA sophomore Douglas Johnsons. Fellow classmate Cesar Grijalva agrees, saying that he is



*Student David Huang shows off his Mavericks glasses.*



*The teacher printed a Cuisinart food processor plunger to replace a missing one.*

rewarded with the “satisfaction of knowing that the project you printed came from you and that you put time and effort into it.” And student Hazel Labaco says she appreciates “being able to use the geometry I’ve been learning and apply that to shapes to create objects that I can actually use.”

Student projects to date have ranged from key chains and Christmas tree ornaments to a cherry pitter and iPad stand. One student printed a part for his computer mouse to replace one that had broken at home. The teacher printed a food processor plunger that replaced a missing one. No matter how simple or complex, many say that watching the 3D printer work is mesmerizing. However, the course — along with its use of developing technology — is serving a much larger purpose. It is opening the eyes of both students and staff to the possibilities of the future, a future that for CVCA, looks very bright.



*A sample of CVCA 3D projects.*

*Brian Snarr*

# HMA Celebrates Culture, Lifts Up Cross

Since the 1940s, the people of Hawaii have celebrated Hawaiian culture on May 1. For decades, Hawaiian Mission Academy has shared in this experience through its annual May Day program. The event features many elements of the Hawaiian royalty, hula dancing, music, chants and instruments.

Yet, like all cultures of the world, the Hawaiian culture is dynamic, growing and changing. In the 1960s, HMA's May Day program began including celebrations of the many cultures represented in its student body. Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and many other cultural dances and music have been performed and celebrated at HMA in the decades since.

In the planning for this year's May Day celebration, staff, students, parents and supporting constituents prayerfully considered how God's salvation story could be included in the celebration of May Day. This question served as

a stimulus for dialogue, research and prayerful study. Years of tradition were considered and decades of history analyzed.

As a result, organizers asked each of HMA's cultural groups to tell parts of the gospel story. The Story of Redemption — creation, the fall, and God's plan for redeeming man — came to life through dance and music by Tongan, Maori, Filipino, Tahitian, Japanese, Hawaiian, Native American Indian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Mexican, Korean and Samoan students.

"Hawaii is blessed to have many cultures within it," said Miki Akeo-Nelson, current principal at HMA Ka Lama Iki and incoming superintendent of schools for the Hawaii Conference. "While each culture is so beautiful and unique, it is our Christian culture that binds us together and gives us the greatest reason to celebrate."

*Roland Graham*



**"Queen" Isabella Noheahokupaakalaninuiamahi Olsen and "King" Jordan Nathaniel Kamakanaokeakua Clark pose as the Hawaiian royal ohana (family).**



**Students gather around the cross at the end of the May Day program.**

# Truckee Church Uses English for Evangelism

The Truckee church recently hosted an innovative evangelistic outreach program for its Spanish-speaking community — a free English as a Second Language class for adults at the beginning level. It ran for 10 weeks, from February through mid-April.

Attendees met in the church's multi-purpose room. Participants became familiar with the church facility and got to make friends with church members who were helping with the class.

The ESL class, taught by Judy Barcela, met for an hour and a half each Wednesday night, after which Pastor Harold Barcelo taught a 30-minute Bible study. Then they had refreshments and a chance to talk informally with the Barcelos and each other. While parents were studying English and Bible topics, their children participated in a program which included word games, coloring activities, and an assortment of children's videos borrowed from the local library. "Thank you for this class," said one participant. "Please let us know when you will be offering it again."

Attendance averaged about 10 adults and five children per class session, with five participants receiving awards on the final night for

JUDY BARCELO



*Harold Barcelo, pastor of the Truckee church, follows the community ESL class with a Bible study.*

excellent attendance. One person who attended all 10 classes received a Spanish Bible as a prize, and on the last night everyone received a "Final Events" DVD, which included an interactive Bible study program in Spanish. In addition, several participants asked the pastor to continue with Bible Studies once a week in their homes.

A total of 20 different adults attended at least one ESL class. The church collected their contact information, and they will be invited to follow-up activities, including Bible studies, ESL classes and evangelism events.

*Judy Barcela*



Bible Bay

[www.biblebay.org](http://www.biblebay.org)

# Storm Relief

New Feature!

I Believe...

Turning Theology into Biography, with Christian author, David B. Smith

Navigate life's storms with assurance and hope!

Produced by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services

# Adventist Health Celebrates Caregivers with Hospital and Nurses Week Events

The doctors, nurses and hospital staff at Adventist Health are not known just for healing with modern medical advances, but also for their kindness, compassion and mission-focus. As a way of appreciating the service of the caregivers and those who support them, Adventist Health recently celebrated National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week with special events and activities.



*Glendale Adventist Medical Center President and CEO Kevin A. Roberts plays air hockey with employees as a part of the facility's Hospital and Nurses Week celebrations.*

## Bonding with Co-workers

Glendale Adventist Medical Center celebrated with a carnival theme. Many parts of the hospital were decorated with colorful streamers, flags, lights and balloons. "Our employees have hectic lives as they care for our patients," said Nicole Webb, recruitment specialist, who helped plan the festivities. "This was just a way of bringing much deserved fun and relaxation into their lives."

The festivities started with eight different food trucks that were brought to the hospital. They featured diverse foods including Korean, Mexican, noodles, waffles, grilled cheese, hot dogs and shaved ice. The following day, the hospital featured a barbecue on the top level of a parking garage at the hospital. Approximately 800 employees enjoyed the warm, sunny California weather, the food and the company of each other as they relaxed at polka-dotted tables with bouquets of pinwheels in the center.

Even executives, such as Kevin Roberts, president and CEO, joined in the appreciation event. "It was so much fun seeing Kevin Roberts play foosball," said Elisa Westman, marketing support specialist. "Seeing our executives participate right along with us truly makes us feel appreciated."

## Vital to Sacred Work

San Joaquin Community Hospital celebrated by ushering in the summer with picnic-themed events. The hospital's event center, which features indoor and outdoor areas, sported décor with lots of green, checkered picnic tables, outdoor flags and balloons. The celebrations featured days of special food, including a barbecue lunch, strawberry feed, funnel cakes, kettle corn and slushies.

"It was so much fun to gather with

employees across the campus and just enjoy the occasion," said Amanda Frank, director of development for the SJCH Foundation. "Hospital and Nurses Week was a great way to celebrate being a team and re-energize our entire workforce. It was fabulous to watch so many people come out with a smile on their face and interact with all of the other employees across the campus."

The leadership team at SJCH participated in every event by serving food or distributing gifts and treats. This gave the leadership team the opportunity to thank employees for their contributions, according to Teresa Adamo, senior marketing and communication coordinator.

"We have a long history of honoring our employees during Hospital Week at San Joaquin Community Hospital," said Jimmy Phillips, executive director of marketing. "Even though our employees are vital to the sacred work at our hospital each and every day, Hospital and Nurses Week is when we take a moment to pause and celebrate — it's a time to make an intentional effort to tell everyone how much they are appreciated here."

## Be Happy

Ukiah Valley Medical Center promoted a "Be Happy" theme in its celebrations. Like the other two hospitals, UVMC also hosted special meals:



a Cinco de Mayo lunch, pancake breakfast and strawberry shortcake feed. However, the highlight for most employees was the midnight glow-in-the-dark bowling for the night shift employees and a flash mob for the day shift employees.

The hospital staff loved the idea of glow-in-the-dark bowling with the hospital executives, including Heather Van Housen, chief nursing officer, and Gwen Matthews, president and CEO. A hallway was converted into a bowling lane. Water bottles with glow in the dark sticks were used as pins and employees knocked them out with a soccer ball.

"It was so simple, but everyone had so much fun," Darcy DeLeon, regional human resources director. "Our executives participating with our staff in the festivities shows the staff that they are a valued part of the system. The special attention from the executives makes us feel that every person is important to making our hospital a better place to work and a place of care for our facilities."

Amidst all the festivities, the show stealer was the flash mob that UVMC staff held on the hospital's helipad. Karene Bejarano, employee

To see a video review of the UVMC flash mob, scan the QR code with a code-reader app on your smartphone or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vj2qeF957jo&feature=youtu.be>.



*Ukiah Valley Medical Center employees participate in a spontaneous flash mob as a part of their Hospital and Nurses Week Celebrations.*



*ICU nurses Kim Jenkins and Beth White enjoy the picnic themed celebrations at San Joaquin Community Hospital's Hospital and Nurses Week festivities.*

health nurse, and Sue Passalacqua, health coordinator, came up with the idea.

Bejarano and Passalacqua informed only the few participants of the flash mob and kept the idea a surprise to most of the hospital staff. On the day of the event, the entire facility was notified that a surprise was awaiting them outside at a certain time. "When the music started playing and we started to move, everyone was surprised and happy," said Bejarano. "The audience members were all beaming with smiles and laughter. It was so much fun."

### **Caring for the Caregivers**

These special events are a way of caring for those who spend their lives in service for others. Sandoval from UVMC points out that in order to truly care for another, one must feel emotionally and physically strong. These events provide a space for that rejuvenation.

"Everyone loves free food and giveaways, so undeniably we all had fun with Hospital and Nurses Week," said Westman from GAMC. "However, the true purpose of all these events is for us to stop and appreciate all the sacrifices that our staff makes every day without expecting any rewards."

*Adventist Health Staff*

# Heinrich Named Interim CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center

**K**erry Heinrich, an attorney associated with Loma Linda University Medical Center since 1984, has been named interim chief executive officer of LLUMC and interim administrator of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

"I'm humbled to be working closely with so many talented and dedicated people at this great institution," Heinrich said after the announcement. "Our nurses, physicians, technicians, our plumbers and electricians, our housekeeping staff and food service workers — each one is integral to helping us carry out Christ's mission of teaching and healing, bringing wholeness to our patients."

Heinrich added that employees and professionals providing care at Loma Linda University Health are uniquely positioned to reach out and help people at emotionally vulnerable moments in their lives. "I believe the capacity we have to do this gives meaning to our work in this sacred place."

During his 30-year career, Heinrich has conducted contract negotiations, financial acquisitions, complex corporate restructures and other major initiatives. He received his bachelor's degree in history and a minor in business with an emphasis in finance and management from Walla

HERBERT TIENZA



*Kerry Heinrich, J.D., has been named interim chief executive officer of Loma Linda University Medical Center and interim administrator of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.*

Walla University in Washington. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oregon.

*Jiggs Gallagher*

# Center Restores Wholeness to Abused Children

JAMES PONDER



*Clare Sheridan-Matney, M.D., is applauded at the grand opening of the relocated Children's Assessment Center of San Bernardino by (l. to r.): Erin Phillips, president and CEO, Children's Fund; Gregory C. Devereaux, CEO, San Bernardino County; and Richard H. Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president, Loma Linda University Health. Sheridan-Matney has been a tireless advocate for the rights of abused children for more than 30 years.*

**R**estoring wholeness to the lives of abused children is the focus of a collaborative program of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and San Bernardino County.

Community and elected representatives honored Clare Sheridan-Matney, M.D. — the LLUCH pediatrician whose interventions have been adopted as best practices for the care of abused children nationally and internationally — during the May 21 grand opening of the relocated Children's Assessment Center of San Bernardino.

The Center opened in 1994 as a nurturing place where children tell their story one time to appropriate personnel and receive restorative treatment.

With less than 300 board-certified forensic pediatricians nationally and a desperate need for more, Sheridan-Matney, who also works with the LLU School of Medicine, trains physicians in the care of abused children.

Over the past 30 years, the entire community has been impacted by Sheridan-Matney. Thousands of children who have been restored to wholeness through her care have grown up and raised healthy families of their own.

*James Ponder*

# Unveiled

## A Visual Reminder of God's Leading at Loma Linda University Health

The intertwining of faith with the founding of Loma Linda University Health shines through the story of the 1905 property purchase. The crowning moment of this story is illustrated in a new sculpture on campus.

A failed resort hotel on a mound known in Spanish as the Beautiful Hill — Loma Linda — offered an ideal spot for a sanitarium. The hilltop covered by a canopy of trees matched Ellen G.

White's 1901 vision of a place where patients could heal in fresh air under botanical shade.

A pastor named John Burden evaluated the land for White, but it was prohibitively expensive. He kept watch, the price fell, and Burden was able to convince the owners to agree to a rock-bottom price of \$40,000 — if he acted within a few days.

"This is the very property we ought to have," White telegraphed Burden.

Burden borrowed \$1,000 to make the purchase, signing the papers May 29, 1905. There were no funds to keep making payments, but White had said money "would come from unexpected sources."

It did. Today Loma Linda University Health comprises eight professional schools and six hospitals that help the local community and people around the world.

Ellen White visited Loma Linda for the first time on June 12, 1905. She and her son, Willie,



*"This is the Very Place" illustrates the moment Ellen G. White first visited Loma Linda and knew it to be the location she had seen in a vision.*

HEATHER REIFSNYDER

arrived by express wagon.

She said, "Willie, I have been here before."

"No, Mother," he responded. "You have never been here."

"Then this is the very place the Lord has shown me, for it is all familiar," she answered.

On May 24, Loma Linda University Health unveiled the sculpture of that moment. Donor Reuben Matiko, M.D., School of Medicine class of

1945, had felt impressed a few years earlier to commission a sculpture illustrating God's leading in the founding of Loma Linda University Health.

Sculptor Victor Issa attended the ceremony, saying the work is meant to memorialize God's guidance.

Randy Roberts, pastor of Loma Linda University church, playacted John Burden reflecting back on the story of the purchase three decades later.

"The critics were present, but so was the Spirit," he said. Still in character, Roberts said he feared that people would forget this remarkable story, concluding with a quote from White in *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

HEATHER REIFSNYDER



*John Burden — played by Pastor Randy Roberts of Loma Linda University church — recalled the remarkable story of the founding of Loma Linda University Health during the unveiling ceremony for "This is the Very Place."*

Heather Reifsnyder

# Seven Elected to La Sierra's Board of Trustees

La Sierra University's constituency met May 21 to elect members of the Board of Trustees, approve changes to university bylaws, and review the university's financial status.

NATAN VIGNA



*David Geriguis, vice president for financial administration, presents a positive financial report to delegates at La Sierra's recent constituency meeting.*

Seventy-two delegates elected seven individuals to initial two-year terms on the university's Board of Trustees:

- Marla Osborn Anderson, Superior Court judge in the Monterey County Court System. She is an alumna of La Sierra University.
- Ed Boyatt, longtime school administrator, former dean of La Sierra's School of Education, and currently an educational consultant.
- George Melara, principal and executive vice president for Nelson Partners Architecture in Scottsdale, Ariz.
- Justin Sandefur, research fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C. He is an alumnus of La Sierra University.
- Zareh Sarrafian, former chief administrative officer of Loma Linda University Medical Center and senior vice president and administrator of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.
- Alina Tolan, clinical pharmacist in the neonatal intensive care unit at PIH Health, Whittier, Calif. She is an alumna of La Sierra University.

- Lisa Walcker, assistant regional manager for Youth and Community Resources, Riverside County Department of Public Social Services. She is an alumna of La Sierra University.

Delegates also reappointed Ernie Hwang, president of Security California Bancorp; Chris Oberg, senior pastor of the La Sierra University church; and Marilene Wang, surgeon and professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, UCLA School of Medicine, to renewed terms of board service.

Five board members concluded their service to the La Sierra board at this session: Alvaro Bolivar, Joan Coggin, Karen Giao Hansberger, Donald Kanen and Gerald McIntosh. Delegates offered expressions of thanks for their efforts during their terms. The five served a combined 54 years on La Sierra's board.

La Sierra University's Board of Trustees consists of 23 members, of which 14 are elected to rotating terms. Elected board members first serve a two-year term, and are then eligible to serve additional terms of no more than four years each, for a total of 14 consecutive years on the board. Constituents meet every two years to vote on bylaws, trustee nominations, and other matters.

President Randal Wisbey noted in his report to the delegates, "La Sierra University is a place that enables students to explore new ideas in a supportive Christian environment — a place that enables them to put their faith into action. For each of us as faculty and staff who work with these students, our lives are deeply enriched and profoundly affected. We know that this work matters, because we know these young people.

"Here at La Sierra, we are grateful for the opportunity to offer a transformational Adventist higher education that enables our students to embrace the promise of their future," Wisbey added. "And the young people of this campus are remarkable indeed. Scientists, musicians, attorneys, athletes, pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses, counselors, philosophers, professors, business leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and missionaries — these are not only the leaders

of tomorrow, they are leaders today, and their future is bright."

Following Wisbey's remarks, delegates heard reports on three new academic programs:

- The film and television program, directed by Rodney Vance, which has 20 majors on campus and dozens more expected next fall.
- The criminal justice program, directed by Cindy Parkhurst, operating on two satellite campuses — Corona and Ontario — with an enrollment of more than 180.
- A master's degree in student life and development, launching in fall 2014, offered by the School of Education. This innovative program enhances professional development among Adventist student life personnel. The degree is designed to increase effectiveness in counseling, crisis intervention, career planning and advising for both secondary and higher education personnel.

Auditor Linda Devlin of Ahern, Adcock & Devlin, LLP, presented the audited financial statement, which was accepted by the delegates. David Geriguis, vice president for finance, shared additional information about the financial health of the university. Geriguis identified a number of trends in the university financial statement, and the results of key financial indicators that affirm the university has enjoyed a significant positive financial position for the past several years.

"Without a doubt, our La Sierra University learning community has much to be grateful for," Wisbey concluded. "We deeply value your prayers, your counsel and your support. With the Lord's blessing, we look forward to continuing to be of service to you and all whom you represent — families, schools and congregations."

To view the electronic version of La Sierra University's 2014 Report to the Constituency, go to [www.lasierra.edu/fileadmin/documents/3d/constituency/2014](http://www.lasierra.edu/fileadmin/documents/3d/constituency/2014).

*Larry Becker*

# PUC Adds New Bachelor's in Emergency Services

Since 2007, students at Pacific Union College have been able to pursue an A.S. in emergency services. This fall, the emergency services program is expanding its offerings with a new bachelor's in emergency services. The four-year degree will prepare leaders to serve their communities in this rewarding and challenging field.

"Our mission is to prepare and educate individuals for years of service both locally and nationally with a well-rounded foundation in both vocational and professional education," says Levi Gore, who teaches both nursing and emergency services at the college.

The Bachelor of Science degree in emergency services is designed to give students both hands-on training and the management skills necessary for long and successful professions in emergency services settings. While students will receive important vocational certifications, including Emergency Medical Technician and technical rescue certifications, they will also receive important training in areas such as resource management, public safety system design, disaster response, and public health.

In addition to the four years of emergency services classes, the degree takes full advantage of PUC's liberal arts environment by integrating courses from various academic departments. The curriculum includes human anatomy and physiology courses from the department of biology; public health, pharmacology, and research classes from the nursing program; social science classes from the department of psychology and social work; and classes from the department of communication. In addition, the degree requires students to take Spanish for Health Care Professionals, already a popular choice for the college's many pre-medicine, nursing, and allied health majors.

It is the ability to provide hands-on, direct care that appeals to many students already enrolled in the emergency services program. "We are preparing people directly for service. We are not preparing people to just go sit behind a desk," says Gore. "We are not afraid to get down to the patient's level and to touch our patients

and provide Jesus' healing through us." Students can begin working as emergency medical technicians by the conclusion of their first year at PUC, and over half the students in the program serve the local community by volunteering with the Angwin Community Ambulance and Angwin Fire Department, building both résumés and credibility in the field.

"We hope that students will get the foundational vocational field experience, but not be satisfied with that but to move on to be the future educators, future thinkers, and innovators in an emerging industry," shares James Robertson, professor of physics, who teaches with Gore in the program. "The degree is well-rounded enough that you could grow in firefighting, in emergency medical services, in law enforcement," as well as in local government and policymaking, Robertson and Gore explain. Students could add minors in international communication, business, or other areas to make themselves even more competitive in these exciting and fulfilling professions.

Both the creation of the associate degree and the new bachelor's in emergency services were inspired by the students' desire to serve their communities in these important and necessary roles. "Students with our A.S. degree

ALLISON REGAN



*PUC's emergency services program provides both hands-on and important professional training.*

in emergency services have been requesting a full bachelor's degree so that they can qualify for management-level jobs," explains academic dean Nancy Lecourt. "We are very pleased to be able to offer them this expanded program."

Those interested in learning more about the B.S. in emergency services and emergency services program, which is housed in the department of nursing and health sciences, are invited to visit [www.puc.edu/emergency-services](http://www.puc.edu/emergency-services).

*Cambria Wheeler*

# Utah Employees Sue Kellogg Over Religious Discrimination, Harassment

The Church State Council called for prayer in support of two former employees of Morningstar Frozen Food Division, Clearfield, Utah, who recently filed suit, charging Morningstar's parent corporation, Kellogg USA Inc., with religious harassment and religious discrimination. Kellogg USA Inc., a Michigan corporation, is the world's leading manufacturer of breakfast cereals.

Richard Tabura and Guadalupe Diaz are both members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church and its members take literally all of the Ten Commandments, including the fourth, which calls for rest, not secular employment, from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Tabura and Diaz say that Morningstar management failed to accommodate their sincerely held

religious beliefs, even though they regularly used all their vacation time and sick time for Saturdays off, and even when other employees agreed to trade shifts with them.

According to the suit filed in February, Morningstar harassed Tabura and Diaz, and eventually fired them for failure to work on Saturdays. The two employees filed a joint suit because of many common facts, common witnesses and common legal issues.



management on every shift they traded with other employees. But then, they say, management changed the policies, making shift trades more difficult, then blocking them almost entirely. Both claim that Kellogg/Morningstar made no effort of its own to provide religious accommodation, as required by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Tabura was fired March 2012, and Diaz was fired in May of the same year.

Tabura and Diaz, who have requested a jury trial, claim that as a result of Kellogg's failure to provide religious accommodation, they have suffered loss of wages, salaries and benefits, and have suffered humiliation, plus emotional and physical distress.

Kellogg's, Inc. was founded by a prominent Seventh-day Adventist family in the late nineteenth century, an outgrowth of the church's emphasis on healthful living and a wholesome diet.

*Gerry Chudleigh*

According to legal documents filed, both employees informed their employers before they were hired that they would not be able to work on Saturdays, and they worked closely with

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[neva@churchstate.org](mailto:neva@churchstate.org)

Proclaim liberty throughout the land, to all the inhabitants thereof. Lev 25:10

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

**RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER** (July 12) 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.

**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, training, and concert featuring Michael Harris. Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Hotel, 3800 American Blvd E., Bloomington, Minn., 952-854-2100. To register: www.AdventSource.org. E-mail: apmoa7@hotmail.com for convention brochure or 804-495-5503.

**16TH ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT** Camp Yavapines (Sept. 26-28) "Breaking Bad Habits," Annual retreat with great speaker, fellowship, good food. Info: Dennis Rizzo, 602-431-1444.

Northern California Conference

**REDWOOD CAMP MEETING** (July 24-August 2) Speakers include Mark Finley, Randy Maxwell, Frederick Russell (Adult II), Robert Folkenberg. Meetings for children of all ages. A variety of seminars, including "Natural Lifestyle Cooking Instructor's Class" with Ernestine Finley. Enjoy speakers, music and fellowship in God's beautiful creation! Info: www.nccsda.com/redwood.

Pacific Union College

**PUC AT SOQUEL** (July 17-26) Stop by PUC's booth during Soquel camp meeting, then join PUC's president and alumni relations team for a special luncheon on Sabbath, July 26. Info: alumni@puc.edu or 707-965-7500.

**PACIFICQUEST** (July 20-25) PUC's annual summer program gives 7th-9th graders a preview of college classes. This year's courses include "Music and Storytelling," "The Legacy of Graphic Design," and "Physics: Beyond Mere Observation." Info: 707-965-7102 or www.puc.edu/pacificquest.

**PUC AT REDWOOD** (July 24-Aug. 2) Stop by the PUC booth, then join PUC's President and Alumni Relations team for a luncheon on Sabbath, Aug. 2. Info: alumni@puc.edu or 707-965-7500.

**KOREAN CAMP MEETING** (July 27-Aug. 3) PUC hosts the annual assembly for Korean Adventist congregations on the west coast on its Napa Valley destination campus. Info: 707-965-7362.

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**FALL QUARTER REGISTRATION** (ongoing) Incoming and returning students can register for the ideal Fall quarter schedule as they prepare for career or graduate school. Info: 707-965-6336 or puc.edu/admissions.

Southern California Conference

**"WEIRD ANIMALS: Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind"** VBS (July 7-19), 6-8:30 p.m., dinner served nightly, 5:30-5:55 p.m. Bible stories, learning experiments, dynamic games, tasty treats, lively music, surprising adventures. Free. All Nations Church, 1948 S. Peck Road, Monrovia 91016. Info: 626-357-7514; allnations.adventistfaith.org.

**VBS FUN LAB**, Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power VBS (July 11-13; 18-19) 6-8 p.m. Chino Valley Chinese church, 4136 Riverside Dr., Chino 91710. Songs, science experiments, games, Bible stories, snacks. Free. Register and receive a free gift. Info: Chervie, 951-358-9734; Pastor Cho, 626-217-5782; twitter.com/chinoSDA; vbsfunlab@gmail.com.

**SECOND SATURDAY SERIES**, presenting "INSPIRAVI," (July 12) 4 p.m., traditional and innovative chamber choral works. Sébastien Vallée, DMA, director. Meet the artists' reception following concert. Freewill donations at the door. Glendale City church, 610

E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241, www.glendalecitychurch.org.

**60 YEARS OF SERVICE** Anniversary, Culver City church (July 12) 11 a.m. Speakers: Larry L. Caviness, SCC president; Gerhard Pfandl, Ph.D., retired assoc. dir., Biblical Research Institute. Luncheon. 4 p.m., Shelia Raye Charles Concert with her inspiring personal testimony. Location, 11828 W. Washington Blvd, LA 90066. Info: Sharon Chase, 310-713-6455; chipmae@sbcglobal.net.

**SUNDAY BRUNCH SEMINAR.** "Planning for the Cost of Aging" (July 13) 9 a.m. Presenter, Lynda Park, CEO, Consultants Extraordinaire; consultant, Assisted Living and Adult Residential Industry Foundation. Free brunch. Q&A. Scholl Canyon Estates, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info/reserved seating: 818-546-8400, ext. 421; gpark@sccsda.org. Walk-ins welcome.

**SONTREASURE ISLAND VBS** (July 14-18) 5-8 p.m. A free Gospel Light program, including supper. Parents' program, (July 19) 11 a.m. White Memorial Adventist church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 323-264-2170.

**AMAZING GRACE ADVENTURE** Vacation Bible School (July 20-26) 6-8:30 p.m. Featuring crafts, games, music and drama. Free of charge. Temple City church, 9664 Broadway. Info/Registration: 626-286-5437.

**GLAR BIBLE QUIZ-A-RAMA** (July 26) 4 p.m. Books of study, 1st & 2nd Samuel, KJV and EGW writings. Ages 10-35; 10 participants per team, including runner. Los Angeles Adventist Academy, 846 East El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles 90059-3398. Info: Pastor Michael Jenkins, 562-824-8544.

**L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM** (July 26) 3 p.m. Speaker, Stuart Tyner, pastor, Nurture and Spirituality, LSU church; author, *The Colors of Grace in Our Homes; The Meanest Man in the Army*. Topic, "Framing Grace: the Art of Biblical Spirituality." Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

**4TH ANNUAL MEN'S MINISTRY** Classic Car Show (July 27) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Prizes, food, live entertainment, raffles and mostly fun. All proceeds benefit community outreach. Altadena church, 2609 N. Lincoln Ave. Info: 626-794-3953.

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**WANTED: THE WHITE ESTATE** is looking for original photographs, 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](mailto:JimNix@WhiteEstate.org).

**Bulletin Board**

**HEADED TO OSHKOSH?** If your Pathfinder club needs a place to camp along the way, stop at Union College in Lincoln, Neb. We will provide a FREE camping space for your club for one night on your trip both ways. To reserve space, call 402-486-2545 or e-mail [guestservices@ucollege.edu](mailto:guestservices@ucollege.edu).

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**Events**

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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!

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**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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**AT REST**

**BAILEY, GORDON WESLEY DENTON** — b. Feb. 29, 1916, Williamston, Mich.; d. Feb. 27, 2014, Big Bear City, Calif. Survivors: son, Gary; daughter, Collette; two granddaughters and 4 great-grandchildren.

**BAROI, GEETA** — b. Dec. 25, 1950, Bangladesh; d. April 11, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Nathaniel; sons, Dan, Glen, Allen; one grandchild.

**BOBST, JANET LOUIS** — b. Feb. 3, 1918, Modesto, Calif.; d. May 14, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Bonnie Schoberth; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brothers, Jack, Wendell.

**CLEMENT, JACQUELINE PAYNE** — b. June 20, 1928, Fairhope, Alaska; d. Feb. 25, 2014, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: husband, Richard; son, Steven; daughter, Carol Grall; five grandchildren. Served as a teacher, Kailua Mission and Mesa Grande schools; and at Castle Memorial Medical Center.

**DUNN, CAROL** — b. Sept. 8, 1926, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. April 26, 2014, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: nieces, Barbara Cherry, Julie Guilen.

**ECKERMAN, PARKER EVELYN (TARASENK)** — b. Oct. 25, 1923; Butte,

N.D.; d. May 18, 2013, Monterey, Calif. Survivors: daughters, ArvaDell Seltzer, Ginger Kent; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Sprengel Lutz. Served as a teacher at LLU elementary school.

**HANSON, JILL ANN (WALLACE)** — b. Jan. 8, 1960, Turlock, Calif.; d. April 27, 2014, Granite Bay, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Julia Jovanov, Georgia; parents, Carleton and Patricia Wallace; sisters, Patricia Marsh, Pamela Bishop.

**HAYEN, BARBARA J. (WARDLOW)** — b. Dec. 5, 1931, Long Beach, Calif.; d. April 4, 2014, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: husband, Merel; son, Jeffery; daughters, Anna Kirk, Anita Brody, Elizabeth Broomfield; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**JOHNSTON, FERN PRUETT (BOYD)** — Jan. 6, 1926, Idaho Springs, Colo.; May 10, 2014, Chico, Calif. Survivors: sons, Richard Lloyd, Rich Johnston; daughters, Ivy Jo Clark, Nancy Johnston; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother, Elwood Boyd.

**LANG, VIOLA E.** — b. Dec. 19, 1907, Mountain Home, Idaho; d. April 22, 2014, Forest Grove, Ore. Survivors: sons, Lonnie, Ed; daughters, Marlene Gaede, Sharon Haeckl, Elaine Wagner; 18 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren. Served as a church

elementary teacher in Oceanlake, Ore. and Napa, Calif.

**LASHIER, STEPHEN C.** — b. Sept. 25, 1968, Glendale, Calif.; d. May 15, 2014, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: son, Joshua; fiancée, Patricia Kelly; father, Harvey; sister, Leanne Regpala.

**MCINTOSH JR., JOHN STEWART** — b. July 2, 1925, Delagua, Colo.; d. March 30, 2014, Paso Robles, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marilyn; son, David; daughters, Jan Hice, Joy Bergquist, Jill Faber, Jeri Shepherd; stepsons, Jay Landis, Sidney Landis; stepdaughters, Sheryl Lamberton, Sandee Ingram, Marlene Landis; 19 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren. Served as educator, youth director and pastor; began student mission trips, Bible conferences and camps at Wawona; served at CCC; as administrative pastor for the PUC church.

**NELSON, IVAN THEODORE** — b. June 13, 1934, Deer Park, Calif.; d. May 19, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Donna; sons, Bruce, Tim, Don; daughter, Cindy Norton; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served Southeastern California Conference as an associate treasurer and as an academy treasurer.

**OROZCO, KIMBERLY REBEKAH** — b. June 23, 1993, Chico, Calif.; d. May 19, 2014, Chico, Calif. Survivors: father, Raul; mother, Annette; brothers, Joshua, Daniel, Joseph; grandmother, Alicia Augustine.

**PETERSON, ALICE MARY (NELSON)** — b. Oct. 2, 1911, Glenwood, Minn.; d. March 20, 2014, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: sons, LeRoy, Lowell, Thomas; daughter, Gene Sharp; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren. Served in Adventist education teaching students from elementary through college in Minnesota, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, Singapore and Rhodesia.

**REILE, LLOYD LEON** — b. June 12, 1915, Harvey N.D.; d. May 15, 2014, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Carol Joy Powers, Loella Jean Johnson; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Lloyd served as a Canadian Union president.

**SPECHT, WALLACE L.** — b. April 22, 1936, Boulder, Colo.; d. March 20, 2014, Deer Park, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sally; son, Kirk; daughters, Rebecca Miller, Ginger Jewett; six grandchildren. Served as dean of boys at Sheyenne River Academy and Thunderbird Academy, taught physical education at Pacific Union College.

**SPRUELL, MARTHA LEE** — b. Aug. 4, 1923, Akron, Ohio; d. April 23, 2014, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: husband, Fred; daughters, Karen Schulte, Sharon Spruell, Allyne Askins; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

**WAGNER, WILLIAM** — b. Oct. 6, 1920, Ogdensburg, N.Y.; d. May 2, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Kathleen;

daughters, Carol Jean, Ruthie Wagner Chinnock; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served as an associate director of health at the General Conference.

**WEEKS, FRANCES (CUDNEY)** — b. May 18, 1921, Oakland, Calif.; d. May 12, 2014, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Pat, Lorie; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; brothers, Fred Cudney, Dell Cudney; sisters, Charlotte Cudney, Inez Cudney.

**WILSON, EDWARD L.** — b. Jan. 5, 1934, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; d. May 11, 2014, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: wife, Kathleen; son, Edward; daughter, Adele; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Carol Janssen. Served as pastor in British Columbia (Vancouver, Hazelton, Chilliwack, Oliver, Creston); Oregon (The Dalles, Medford, Portland); and California (Grass Valley, Santa Barbara, Georgetown, Forest Hill).

**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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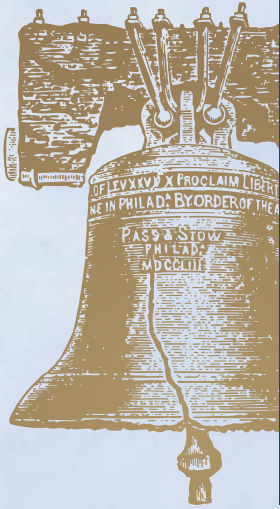
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August: July 1  
September: August 5  
October: September 2  
November: September 30  
December: October 28

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

**SUNSETS**

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
Alturas	8:38	8:36	8:31	8:25
Angwin	8:37	8:34	8:31	8:25
Calexico	7:53	7:51	7:48	7:44
Chico	8:38	8:35	8:31	8:26
Eureka	8:51	8:48	8:44	8:38
Fresno	8:21	8:19	8:15	8:10
Hilo	7:04	7:03	7:02	7:00
Honolulu	7:17	7:16	7:15	7:13
Las Vegas	8:01	7:59	7:55	7:50
Lodi	8:31	8:28	8:25	8:19
Loma Linda	8:03	8:02	7:58	7:54
Los Angeles	8:08	8:06	8:03	7:58
Moab	8:44	8:42	8:38	8:33
Oakland	8:33	8:31	8:27	8:22
Phoenix	7:41	7:39	7:36	7:32
Reno	8:29	8:27	8:23	8:17
Riverside	8:04	8:02	7:59	7:54
Sacramento	8:33	8:30	8:26	8:21
Salt Lake City	9:01	8:58	8:54	8:48
San Diego	7:59	7:58	7:55	7:51
San Francisco	8:34	8:32	8:28	8:23
San Jose	8:31	8:29	8:25	8:20
Tucson	7:33	7:32	7:29	7:25



1964/2014  
**50**  
*Years*

# CHURCH STATE COUNCIL

## “Proclaim Liberty!”

Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibiting employment discrimination the same year the Church State Council was formed to protect and defend religious freedom.

Join us for our 50th Anniversary Banquet

September 14, 2014

Sacramento, CA

Reception 6 pm ~ Dinner 7 pm

Tickets: \$60.00

Seating is limited

For more info, or to purchase tickets: Contact Natalie: 916-446-2552  
[neva@churchstate.org](mailto:neva@churchstate.org)

Proclaim liberty throughout the land, to all the inhabitants thereof. Lev 25:10

July 2014

# Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



**Tony Anobile**  
President

Most of us are comfortable with our routine and don't like change. I remember hearing a startling statistic that most people never live farther than 15 miles from where they were born. There's something safe about things being the same — for staying in our comfort zone.

I am writing about this because the Arizona Conference is going through significant changes with two of our main leaders leaving for other fields of work. While we are excited and proud others have seen the value of these Arizona team members, the reality is we are going through a change.

When I first heard these changes were coming, I felt uneasy as I thought who would be able to fill their roles and continue to lead Arizona where God wants us to go. But as I prayed, I was reminded God has all of this under control.

If you know me at all, you know my favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11. I love this verse because it reminds me of God's promise to me. The prophet wrote, ***"For I know that plans I have for you," declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"***

God knows the plans He has for the Arizona Conference. His plan is to prosper us and not harm us. Therefore, I trust God to help us find the right individuals to fill these vacancies.

The other reality that has given me peace is this — though change comes into my life, God never changes. His love for me is eternal. As long as I invite Him to be a part of my life, He will never abandon me. Once again it is a reminder no matter what comes my way, God will see me through to the end.

Corrie ten Boom was an incredible woman. So many of her quotes are powerful. One in particular came to my mind as I thought about trusting God, even when I can't see all the answers. She said, ***"When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer."***

I love that! There may be times when we don't know for sure where we are going, but God does! It is in those times we need to trust Him and have faith He will guide us safely to our destination.

Maybe you are facing a change in your life. Perhaps your kids have all left home, or you have lost a loved one. Some are contemplating a move out of state or even farther away. If God is asking you to make a change, or if a change has occurred that is out of your control, trust God to work it out for you. Have faith that while you may not be able to see the end, God knows and is leading you to a good conclusion.



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





# Maranatha Transforms Camp Yavapines

by Phil Draper

Over a period of ten days, from May 5-15, Maranatha volunteers made a great transformation at Camp Yavapines in Prescott, Arizona in anticipation of the upcoming Camp Meeting and Youth Camp season.

Camp Manager Scott Blake and his team had been scrambling to get major projects and improvements completed before the arrival of Arizona Conference campers beginning in June. A major new attraction is the lake at the entrance, which will afford a Wake Board water event plus serve as an attractive and tranquil picnic area.

Blake's list of improvements to be accomplished by the 60 Maranatha volunteers included:

- Extending the stage of the pavilion to accommodate the large Sabbath orchestra and choir for camp meeting
- Taking shingles off hail-damaged roofs and reroofing them
- Painting
- Demolishing an old bridge in an arroyo and building a new one
- Putting shower stalls in a men's restroom
- Building a restraining wall to keep dirt away from one of the lodges
- Landscaping
- Window/door replacement

Veteran Maranatha volunteer and Arizona Conference Executive Committee member Judy Leeper gladly accepted the role as team leader. She has completed approximately 25 mission trips and is often involved at Camp Yavapines.

"For several years," Leeper explained, "the Arizona Conference and Maranatha have joined together as a benefit both to our volunteers and the Arizona Conference. One of Maranatha's goals is to build people through construction."

"Stateside trips are the most economical way to do a mission trip," she explains. "The participant only has to pay for transportation to and from the project. The organization for which

they are working pays for the food, lodging, and insurance. I encourage everyone to know the joy of giving from personal talents to help those in need."

Reflecting on the completed project, Dave Schwinn, Maranatha construction superintendent, said, "The project went well. We did all of the projects Scott Blake asked us to do plus some extras. We had a great team of volunteers."

Volunteers ranging in age from 13 to 87 came by car and air from 15 different states. Sisters Kate Goodwin, 84, and Faye McColpin, 87, drove in from Tennessee. They are frequent



*Sixty Maranatha volunteers came from across the United States to improve Camp Yavapines.*



*A group from Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy came from Wisconsin to help with the camp. Pictured are Mason Wilde, Joel Campbell, Pastor Zack Payne, Taran Gillen and Tracy Weeks.*

*Dave Schwinn stands with Faye McColpin, 87, who preferred working removing roof shingles.*

Maranatha volunteers who tackle the tough jobs. Both were eager to climb up on the roofs to remove damaged shingles.

Nine students and four chaperones joined the project from Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy in Wisconsin.

Leeper says, "I like to see a mix of older and younger people working together. I feel it's beneficial to both groups. Our desire was to work with a humble, servant-like attitude which our Savior gave as an example when here on earth."

The three main workers on the bridge project bonded immediately. The final workday they had their morning devotions together. The experience was so

meaningful that when talking about it, many tears were shed.

On Sabbath, more than half of the volunteers traveled to the Sedona Seventh-day Adventist Church. After the service, they were treated to a huge potluck. Then they had an opportunity to visit the scenic Red Rocks and Native American dwellings in the area.

Arizona Conference Youth Director Erik VanDenburgh presented the first evening worship for the group. He told about the \$100 Camp and of the many campers and staff who were baptized. One Maranatha

volunteer offered \$500 matching funds as a challenge to the others. Enthusiasm spread and as a result, 15 campers will be permitted to attend camp this summer with the \$1,500 raised.

Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile presented an evening worship where he was able to personally thank Leeper and her Maranatha volunteers. "Hopefully Maranatha and the Arizona Conference can remain partners until Jesus comes!" he said.

*Maranatha volunteer Alvin McKnight drove the tractor for ten days.*



*Tour leader Judy Leeper with fellow volunteers Myron Stanley and Dave Schwinn.*

# Andrew Murphy Honored at Thunderbird Graduation

By Phil Draper

As Thunderbird Adventist Academy students and faculty gathered around the newly installed memorial fountain in the center of campus, the Graduating Class of 2014 felt a sense of loss as they remembered a classmate who should have been planning to march with them. The attached plaque read, "In memory of Andrew Murphy who boldly went, faithfully served, and successfully lived. The Class of 2014."

Andrew Murphy loved being a student at Thunderbird Adventist Academy in Scottsdale, Arizona. To him, just being there was a joy. He was kind, eager to learn, and always had a song on his heart.

On Thursday evening, September 14, 2012, Andrew was walking at a park near his home with his sisters and some friends. When he saw a man point a gun at his sister in an attempted robbery, he did what any older brother would do – he rushed to protect her. Sadly, the 18-year-old assailant pulled the trigger and 16-year-old Andrew died.

News of the tragedy tore through the Thunderbird campus as students and faculty tried to process all that had happened. Andrew was a vital part of the spirit of Thunderbird with his jovial good nature and musical abilities. His peers were devastated at his loss.

The media reported the tragedy and the incredible reaction of Andrew's family. Although taking the news of Andrew's



*Graduating Seniors honor Andrew Murphy with their class gift of this beautiful fountain.*

death very hard, the family simply did not show anger nor seek revenge.

Andrew's father, Dominick Murphy, gathered his family and told them it was time to practice everything they had learned as active members of Phoenix Beacon Light Seventh-day Adventist Church in Phoenix. He said, "We must not only forgive the young man who took Andrew's life, we must love him too!"

Andrew's family believed in investing in Christian education for their children. The family had downsized and moved in with friends in order to afford private school for Andrew and his two sisters.

Saturday night, May 24, 2014, Thunderbird's 20 graduating seniors marched to an outstanding performance by the orchestra playing "Pomp and Circumstance." Andrew Murphy's absence was observed and remembered by an empty chair placed on the stage where he would have sat.

Andrew's father choked with emotion as he thanked the graduating seniors for remembering Andrew with such genuine affection.

Thunderbird Principal Rick Maloon commented, "Andrew's life overflowed with the love of God. Just as Jesus is the Water of Life to us, this fountain reflects the Christian witness of the Class of 2014 – and Andrew in particular."

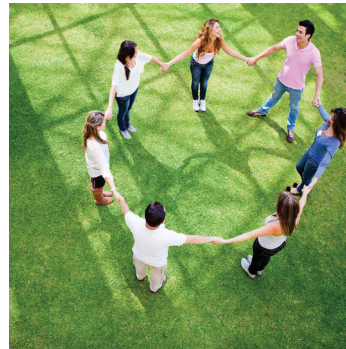
Thunderbird graduates will go on to college, jobs, and families. They will grow and prosper. And in their hearts they will always remember the fragility of life and how Andrew Murphy brought sunshine to the campus with his love and laughter.

As their class gift gurgles and provides soothing tranquility to the campus, they look forward to heaven when they will have the opportunity to greet Andrew in a better place where sin, suffering and death will be no more.



*Dominick Murphy encouraged his family to forgive the young man who took his son's life.*





# central ACTS

Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

## FREEDOM IN JESUS

central california officers' perspective

**Ezequiel Nichols**, Associate Executive Secretary, Central California Conference

**THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE** Declaration of Independence reads, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

I imagine how proud the 56 signers (ages 26 to 70) were when the Declaration was adopted; to have a document declaring the overthrow of the ruling power, while at the same time choosing to become an independent nation. It proclaimed the equality of men and the right for liberty and happiness.

I am honored to be an American when I read this document. On the other hand, I am even more pleased to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian who also holds to heart what I like to call, "the Declaration of the Gospel."

This declaration tells us that we are a holy nation and we have the right to happiness. We have liberty in Jesus and all are equal under God. Nothing nor anyone, especially the enemy can take this away. We proudly support this declaration with our lives when we show Jesus and others by signing this agreement through baptism. We gladly put aside the fortunes of this world and are willing to sacrifice everything for the cause of spreading this declaration.

I challenge you to express your independence by sharing the Gospel's declaration to someone who needs it desperately. Ask the Lord and He will lead you to the individual(s) that have not experienced freedom in Jesus.



## Calendar

**July 3**  
Conference Office Closed

**July 11-13**  
Prayer Partner Weekend

**July 12**  
Pre-Camp Meeting Prayer Walk

**July 17-26**  
Soquel Camp Meeting

**August 15-17**  
Hispanic Marriage Retreat

**August 22-24**  
KID University

**August 29 - September 1**  
Hispanic Young Adult Retreat

For additional information, call the Central California Conference at 559-347-3000



THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS HAVE WITNESSED A NUMBER OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.

With the launch of the conference's capital campaign in the year 2000, necessary and ministry enhancing projects were initiated at both the Soquel Conference Center and Camp Wawona. In addition, an educational endowment was set up, allowing more and more students to attend Seventh-day Adventist schools.

# central california CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF capital campaign PHASE I AND INAUGURATES PHASE II

**Jackie Phillips**, *Director for Capital Campaign, Central California Conference*  
**Bob and Mary Bishop**, *Co-Chair for Capital Campaign*

# where we've been: COMPLETION OF PHASE I

We are thrilled to announce the completion of Phase I of our capital campaign. Through the partnership of generous donors, volunteers and staff, we have come a long way in creating the foundation of our ultimate goals for Soquel, Camp Wawona, and the Education Endowment Fund. At Soquel, we have renovated many aspects of the main auditorium, along with the seminar room, and the North Park RV lot. In addition, a new large bathroom was constructed in Central City.

At Camp Wawona, a new yurt village consisting of eight yurts and a new bathhouse has been completed, along with a new campfire bowl. Finally, we've been able to raise \$1.5 million in the conference education endowment, allowing us to distribute over \$280,000 in scholarships and aid.

Phase I projects were jumpstarted through the generosity of many gifts, including major donations

from the Stewart family for the education endowment, Ted and Dorothy Seybold along with Don and Elaine Devries for Camp Wawona and an anonymous donor for Soquel. We thank God for those He stirred to make major donations to get our projects off to a blessed start.

However, these critical projects could not have been completed without the efforts of all who contributed in both large and small ways. The widow's mite, representative of everyone contributing in some way through his/her local church continues to come in. Every month we receive an average of \$3500 from churches throughout our conference, which, over time adds up allowing these projects to move forward. It takes all of us, carefully stewarding our blessings from God, to finish building and renovating these priceless resources that help advance the Kingdom of God. Thank you for making Phase I a reality! However, we have just begun.



## PHASE I - \$6.4M

Wawona - \$2.5M

Soquel - \$2.4M

Education Endowment - \$1.5M

# where we're going: COMPLETION OF PHASE II



Phase II at the Soquel Conference Center includes upgrading electricity, water, and sewage infrastructure for both the Central City and Meadow RV lots. Some of the work in Central City, including an upgraded cookhouse, has already been completed. In addition, we have been able to cover large portions of the Soquel camp grounds with new asphalt.

Finally, the education endowment's goal for Phase II is an additional \$3 million—enough to distribute approximately \$250,000 per year to our schools in order to help them continue their invaluable work of guiding our children in the way of the Lord in an environment of academic excellence.

The Central California Conference is now officially launching Phase II of its Capital Campaign. We are delighted to report that we already have \$4.1 million of the \$13 million planned for this phase. How great is our God! Projects during that phase once again focus on Camp Wawona, Soquel and the education endowment.

Camp Wawona projects are off to a good start, due in part to a major gift from Ted and Dorothy Seybold. When asked what motivated them to give, Ted Seybold replied, "Camp Wawona was my first wilderness experience and we both want all children in our conference to have that opportunity to experience their own wilderness experience and to learn more about Jesus." The great news is that we are almost halfway to our goal toward a new dining hall with seating for 350 and breathtaking views of the Wawona dome. Plans also include constructing a new medical care building, along with a chapel. An additional \$2.9 million is needed to complete the funding for the new dining hall. Look for more information with future updates.

To one degree or another, we are all part of the many generations that have been so greatly blessed by Camp Wawona, the Soquel Conference Center, and the education endowment. And yet we are privileged to be the generation called upon to build anew. We are the ones upon whom the honor and responsibility has fallen to make sure that our young people—for decades to come—will be wonderfully served and saved and sent forth to do God's good work in this world.

These improvements will no doubt benefit our families, children and churches as we continue to pursue these life-changing ministries here in the Central California Conference. We encourage everyone to consider ways in which they and their families would participate in achieving our goal as soon as possible, as we work together to bring Phase II to a successful conclusion.

## PHASE II - \$14M

Wawona - \$9M

Soquel - \$2M

Education Endowment - \$3M



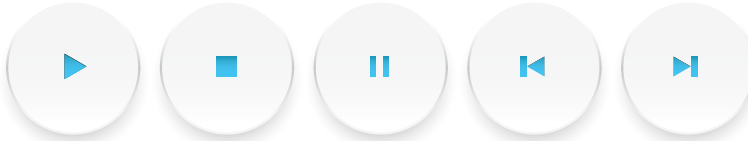
Many of you, our donors, contribute through your local church and we would like to be able to send you a thank-you note and our quarterly newsletter. Please contact either Jackie or Bianca at (559) 217-1031, [jphillips@cccsda.org](mailto:jphillips@cccsda.org) or [brivera@cccsda.org](mailto:brivera@cccsda.org). We would really appreciate being more connected as we move into Phase II. Thank you so much for all you've done!



# REWIND PAUSE BUTTONS

message from the president

Ramiro Cano, President, Central California Conference



**MOST DIGITAL MEDIA PLAYERS, WHETHER iPods, or DVD players or car stereos come with features, which give the user flexibility during playback. Among these features are rewind and pause buttons. Most cable and satellite services even allow viewers to pause live television, while online radio services give us not only the ability to create our own custom radio station, but to pause it at any time!**

Life, however, does not have those features, especially as it relates to our children. From the moment they are born, the “play” button is triggered with no opportunity to pause or rewind. Every moment and every breath taken is relegated to history, with no opportunity for replay. And yet, God does allow us in their formative years to steer the direction of their life’s journey.

Because of sin, every child comes into the world with an insatiable capacity for wrong-doing. Even before birth, every human heart is programmed for sin and selfishness. It is an inbred disposition, infected with sinful tastes and an aversion to the things of God. We are not innocent creatures who suddenly become sinners. We are born sinners.<sup>1</sup> All the potential for sin of every kind is already present in our hearts, in seed form.

Therefore, the top priority of a parent is to assume the God-given role of being an evangelist in the home. Teaching and steering your child’s tender and impressionable minds to the law of God; to the gospel of divine grace; showing them their need for a Savior; pointing them to the blessed hope of a coming King.

The enemy is constantly attacking our families with all of the gusto he can muster, ultimately, to weaken and disrupt the proper steering of our children toward God. As parents, we have a divine responsibility and the unique privilege to help steer our children toward what edifies and away from all that does not. And in the process, to ensure that they grow physically, socially, intellectually and spiritually sound, bringing them up “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”<sup>2</sup>

As a Seventh-day Adventist community, we are blessed to have divinely instituted tools at our disposal to assist in this process. One of those tools is the Adventist school system. Valuegenesis, one of the largest research studies of Adventist young people ever undertaken, reveals some very noteworthy results. When each student was asked

“How much has each of the following helped you develop your religious faith?” 74% responded that attending an Adventist school helped them “very much.” In addressing the question of whether Adventist schools assist students in their faith development, 81% selected “interested” or “very interested” in learning more about “gaining a deeper relationship with God.”

Academically, the Cognitive Genesis Study revealed that, “in all grades, in schools of all sizes, students in Adventist schools outperformed the national average in all subjects.” In addition, “students in Adventist schools had higher-than-expected academic achievement based on an assessment of individual ability.”<sup>3</sup>

With the school year at an end and the summer in full swing, many of you are already thinking about school enrollment for your children. If you have not availed yourselves of the blessing of having your children enrolled in one of our Adventist schools, I implore you to seriously consider it. God is a God of possibilities! He will make a way if you take a step of faith.

Consider the prophetic voice of inspired author Ellen White when it comes to education. “True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study,” she writes. “It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and the whole period of existence possible to man. In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one.”<sup>4</sup>

It’s true that we may not be able to hit the rewind button, but we can steer the direction of the journey that lies ahead for our children. With a Christ-centered home, church and school all working together for the same goal, God will pour out His blessings as you “train up a child in the way he should go.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>See Psalms 58:3  
<sup>2</sup>Ephesians 6:4  
<sup>3</sup>[http://adventisteducation.org/assessment/cognitive\\_genesis/overview](http://adventisteducation.org/assessment/cognitive_genesis/overview)  
<sup>4</sup>Ellen White, Education, p. 21  
<sup>5</sup>Proverbs 22:6

## From the editor

Costin Jordache, Vice President for Communication, Central California Conference

An interesting passage buried in a little known Psalm caught my eye recently.

**Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs (Psalm 84:5-6).**

These believers were on their way to Jerusalem. Their hearts were set on Zion, their final destination. However, they took the time to improve the land through which they journeyed—the Valley of Baka—an arid place in need of TLC. What a great metaphor for our call to benefit the communities around us, motivated by the love of God for humanity. Send us a quick note and let us know how you, your church or school are making a difference in your community. We’d love to tell your story!



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# HŌ'IKE

## VISIONS OF PARADISE

JULY 2014 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

**PAGE 2** | If you ever wonder if Vacation Bible School really matters, read this story to find out the answer. Also, flip over to get the summer camp schedules and youth events calendar.

**PAGE 3** | If you don't know the difference between a group, a company and a church, you can learn how Hawaii Conference defines it here. Also, good news on tithe income — it's up!

**PAGE 4** | God always seems to provide the teachers we need in Hawaii's school just at the right time. Read about the new hires and transitions in our territory, and get a link to their photos.

## NEW PASTOR ON KAUAI

BY RALPH S. WATTS III

I recently had the awesome opportunity of introducing Pastor Douglas and Meliana Na'a to the Kapa'a and Lawai Valley churches on the beautiful Island of Kauai. It was a joyous occasion to watch and witness the happy smiles and aloha as members and pastor meet for the first time. It makes me want to break out in singing the Doxology! "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." What a God moment — an opportunity to praise God for what He has done.



Ralph S. Watts, III, with the new Kapa'a and Lawai Valley Pastor Douglas Na'a and his wife, Meliana.

As part of my introduction, I give a charge to both the pastor and the church as they begin the new journey together.

### To the Pastor

#### 1) Love your people.

The Bible says that Christ loved the church that Christ gave Himself for the church. These are the people; this is the flock God has given you. But you can't love them unless you are willing to live with them. What do I mean? This was the advice my uncle, Paul Nelson, gave to me many years ago as I was a young pastor just in the early blush of beginning in my first church. He was clear and concise in his sage wisdom and counsel, "Ralph, live with your people." Ministry is most effective in relationships, and you can't have a relationship unless you are with your people. I refer to it as a ministry of presence — being there.

For the new pastor, this is a commitment to "be there" for his members. Wherever the action is, be there. Whether it's in the home, hospital, school, church functions and or

activities. Wherever your people are, be there.

#### 2) Lead your people.

You have been called to lead in the Mission Christ has given this church. It is clearly spelled out in Matthew 28 and Revelation 14. Lead your church, this church, in fulfilling that mission. Never be satisfied with just maintaining. Be driven with a passion of mission. Choose to be an impact player for the Kingdom.

### To the Church Members

#### 1) Love and accept your new pastor and his family.

The calling to be a pastor is not an easy one. One of the huge challenges for a pastor is that he is on call 24/7 and the work never ends. At the end of a long day when he walks into his own front door, there is always still more to do. Churches always are looking for the perfect pastor. Every member has different criteria for what they expect in a pastor. The fact is, no pastor can meet each of every one

of those expectations. So, love and accept your pastor for who God made and called him and his family to be.

#### 2) Encourage and support your new pastor and his family.

Your pastor cannot do everything. I can assure you that what is music to a pastor's ear is when a church member comes up and says, "Pastor, what can I do? Where can I help?" And, of course, prayer is an important and appropriate way to encourage and support the pastor and his family. You can do that each and every day.

I love new beginnings, and I also love happy endings. Years from now, I look forward to seeing a pastor and his people living and ministering and being all that God has called them to be — to His honor and glory!

Because of Him,

Ralph S. Watts III

President

# Vacation Bible School Can Make a Big Difference in the Life of a Child

BY FERYL HARRIS

It is Vacation Bible School time again in the Hawaii Conference, and churches are gearing up for this year's opportunity to bring children of their churches and communities into a closer relationship to Jesus — and to have fun at the same time. Hawaiian Mission Academy senior Jared Siok recently told the story of how he became a Seventh-day Adventist:



Jared Siok

“When I was younger, I was a very high-strung child. My teacher and parents often struggled with knowing what to do with me. Of course, children have a lot of energy, but I was different. I could practically run up walls with the amount of energy I had. This frequently got me into trouble at school, because when I would finish my schoolwork in class, I would get bored and become a nuisance in the classroom. I was looked on as a troublemaker and a ‘bad’ kid. Visits to the principal’s office were recurrent, and my teachers had no patience left for me. Eventually, I believed I was a ‘bad’ kid. My mom asked me why I was

getting in trouble at school, and I would say, ‘Because I’m bad, Mom.’

In third grade, my parents decided it was time to change schools, because my public school wasn’t exactly working for me, and I wasn’t working in their system. My parents had a certain new school in mind.

Every summer, my parents had signed me up for Vacation Bible Schools at many different churches. It worked for both of us; it was free babysitting, and I loved going because of the liveliness and because I got to meet a bunch of new kids. I went to one at Kailua SDA Church, where some people, to this day, remember the very excitable boy I was. I loved it, and the high-energy atmosphere was great for me. After a week of fun, they told me that there was also a school at the church, and that’s how I found out about Windward Adventist School (now HMAWC). That was the school my parents thought would be the best fit for me.

I was nervous about switching schools and making new friends. I wasn’t perfect upon arrival, and my third grade teacher at my new school, Karen Musgrave, had a unique approach for teaching me. Whenever I would do something wrong, she would hold my hand and pray with me. This kindness left an impression, and I began to want to do better. I learned that I didn’t have to be a ‘bad’ kid. I stayed there until I graduated from eighth grade, then I went on to Hawaiian Mission Academy where I am a graduating senior.

I know I am nowhere near perfect, but it can

## YOUTH CALENDAR

Register: [www.campwainae.org](http://www.campwainae.org)

### Camp by the Numbers

- 1 Week in South Hilo
- 3 weeks at Camp Wainae
- 24 Passionate Young Adult Staff and Counselors
- 12 Full Time Adult Volunteers
- 2 Engaging Guest Speakers
- 200 Excited Campers
- 30 Intense Games of Capture the Flag
- 4,500 Meals Devoured
- 40,000 Paintballs Fired
- 50+ Decisions for Baptism

### Coming Events

- July 4 \_ Pathfinder Parade @ Kailua
- July 6-11 \_ Adventure Camp (ages 8-12)
- July 13-18 \_ Extreme Camp (ages 12-14)
- July 20-25 \_ Camp Exodus (ages 15+)
- Aug. 11-17 \_ Pathfinder International Camporee @ Oshkosh, Wis.
- Oct. 5 \_ Pathfinder Fair @ Kapiolani Park
- Oct. 17-19 \_ Big Island Youth Retreat
- Nov. 6-9 \_ Pathfinder Honor Camp @ Camp

be said that this simple switch has put me on a much better path in life, and enhanced my elementary education and overall spiritual growth immensely. I’m very thankful to have loving parents and teachers that took time to raise me to be the person I am today. I am a living testament to the idea that it is easier to build up a child than it is to repair an adult.”

Jared is also testimony to the fact that Vacation Bible School is an important evangelistic tool in introducing children to Christ. “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” is still the most valuable message we can instill in the heart of a child.

# ENLARGING GOD'S TENT

BY GERALD D. CHRISTMAN

## Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

I, again, have the privilege of conveying to you some recent decisions made by the Hawaii Conference Executive Committee. Below are committee actions I have selected to share with you.

Ministerial credentials have recently been voted for two new pastors who have joined the Hawaii Conference. Danilo Asuncion is ministering in the Kohala and Honokaa district on the Big Island. Douglas Na'a is pastoring the Kauai district.

Hawaiian Mission Academy's (K-8) request for a new name was approved. The school's Board of Trustees, as well as constituent churches, proposed that the new name be Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki. They felt that K-8 was more a description of the school as opposed to a name. This elementary school began serving Oahu in 1920; it will continue offering the same Christ-centered educational flavor for which it is known in the community. It is expected that this name change will, at the same time, reduce confusion with the Pensacola Street campus. Ka Lama Iki means little torch — an appropriate name for a school that spreads light to young lives.

Retired Hawaiian Mission Academy principal Hugh Winn was recently asked to serve on



HMA's Board of Trustees. Professor Winn has many years of educational experience. His willingness to serve is much appreciated.

Congregations in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are classified in three ways: groups, companies and churches. These distinctions reflect, to a large extent, congregational sizes. Churches, for example, are usually larger than groups or companies; they are organized and administered differently, and are granted accompanying responsibilities and privileges.

Each conference defines groups, companies and churches differently. The Hawaii Conference Executive Committee has determined that groups will, generally, have less than 20 individuals regularly attending

Sabbath worship services. Companies will have 20 or more on Sabbaths with a \$20,000 minimum yearly tithe. An expectation for a church in the Hawaii Conference is 35 or more worshippers on Sabbaths along with a \$35,000 minimum yearly tithe.

The Hawaii Conference supervises numerous building projects at any given time. Church or school buildings, obviously, need to be functional, safe, efficient, cost-effective and financially viable. The executive committee has, as a result, conceptually voted a Building and Project Policy that will guide church and school building projects. Isaiah 54:2 (NIV) says: "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes." It is anticipated that this Building and Project Policy will provide clarity to those who are enlarging God's tent by stretching the curtains, lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes.

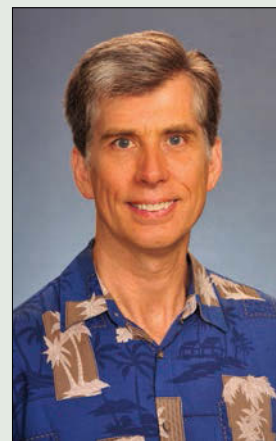
I like the words of Anne Frank, a World War II holocaust victim: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

My prayer is that you and I, through God's power, will strive to improve this sin-filled world for His glory.

## April Tithe Report Shows a 5% Increase

The Hawaii Conference is showing an \$80,862 tithe gain, representing a 5.22% increase YTD 2014 compared to YTD of 2013. We praise God for this encouraging report and the faithfulness of our members. Listed below is the report for each island.

Church	Members	2014 (21 weeks)	2013 (22 weeks)	Gain/Loss	% Change	Per Capita
Big Island	1,160	\$274,241.12	\$269,409.68	\$4,831.44	1.79%	\$236.41
Kauai	369	\$76,723.58	\$77,580.24	-\$856.66	-1.10%	\$207.92
Maui	438	\$161,385.91	\$139,450.54	\$21,935.37	15.73%	\$368.46
Molokai/Lanai	90	\$9,126.88	\$7,662.49	\$1,464.39	19.11%	\$101.41
Oahu	3,951	\$1,099,941.36	\$1,045,118.51	\$54,822.85	5.25%	\$278.40
Conference Church	18	\$9,544.12	\$10,879.00	-\$1,334.88	-12.27%	\$530.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,026</b>	<b>\$1,630,962.97</b>	<b>\$1,550,100.46</b>	<b>\$80,862.51</b>	<b>5.22%</b>	<b>\$270.65</b>



Gary G. Johnson

# God Provides Personnel for His Educational Ministry

BY DAVID A. ESCOBAR

The Hawaii Conference is blessed with nine schools, all with a specific, intentional mission to lift up Christ to young people and their families. Adventist education is a vital ministry partner to the church at large. To make the mission a reality, each facility must have a professional, Christ-centered teaching staff. The Lord continues to bless the Hawaii team with new educators who are committed to the mission. The following are personnel changes for the new school year.

**MIKI NELSON**, currently the principal of HMA Ka Lama Iki, has been appointed as the conference superintendent of schools. Nelson comes with successful experience in three Hawaii Conference schools, Northern California Conference, other private schools and the Hawaii Department of Education. Born and raised in Kailua, a high school graduate of Kamehameha schools with both a bachelor's and master's degrees in education and administration from University of Hawaii, she is well connected to Hawaii. She is the mother of two daughters and the wife of Tim Nelson, pastor of the Kaneohe church.

**TRAVIS JOHNSON**, currently principal of Shenandoah Valley Academy, a boarding school in Virginia, will be the new principal for HMA Ka Lama Iki, taking the place of Miki Nelson. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in education. His experience includes elementary, secondary and school administration. He and his wife, Niki, are the parents of three preschoolers.

**JOYCE KIM** is the new kindergarten teacher for HMA Windward Campus. Kim has been a long-time supporter of her new school as a volunteer, music teacher, kindergarten aide, and a supporter of many other school programs and projects. She and her husband, Russell, a local dentist, are the parents of three sons — all graduates of the Windward

Campus. The oldest is a freshman at Southern Adventist University. Kim holds a bachelor's degree in dental

hygiene and is working toward the denominational teaching certificate. She will be following **BRANDI AIKEN**, who has been the much loved kindergarten teacher for several years. Aiken is moving to Italy to be with her military husband.

**LUIS BELTRE**, HMA's new chaplain/Bible teacher, follows **MICHAEL LEE**, who has been elected principal of Mt. Ellis Academy, his alma matter in Montana. Beltre comes with a wide experience in youth ministry as a youth pastor, academy chaplain, Bible teacher in Indiana and Ozark academies, along with a three-year teaching stint in Asia. Currently, Beltre serves the Honolulu Central church as a Bible instructor and leader of youth ministries. His wife, Adrinna, is the fifth-grade teacher at HMA Ka Lama Iki. Beltre holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Andrews University in education, theology and religious studies.

**MELISSA CLIFFORD** has been invited to be the head teacher for the Kona Adventist School. Clifford comes to Hawaii from Auburn, Wash., where she has been an elementary teacher. She began her career in Kona and is returning to serve the families of Kona once again. Clifford's husband, Patrick, has been associate dean of men at Auburn Adventist Academy. The family comes with three preschoolers, including a set of twins. Clifford follows **GARY BROWN**, who will be returning to the mainland to continue educational ministry.

**BRENNNA NAKAMURA** and **TIFFANY GALAVIZ** have been volunteer teachers this year in Kona. These excellent educators are seeking full-time educational ministry positions. Both have been true missionaries by giving the Kona School a full year of ministry. The school could not have survived this

year without these special volunteers.

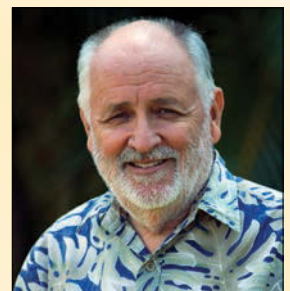
**TREVOR KENDALL** is the new head teacher for Maui Adventist School. Kendall is currently the principal of the K-12 Adventist school in Salem, Ore. His professional experience includes elementary and secondary teaching and administration. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He and his wife are the proud parents of two preschoolers. Kendall will be following **SEAN RAMOS**, who served the school for four years.

**TIFFANY GALAVIZ** will be a part time K-1 teacher for the Mauna Loa School in Hilo. She is currently a volunteer K-1 teacher for the Kona Adventist School. Galaviz holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Walla Walla University. She replaces **SAMANTH FUNES**, who has decided to develop a new ministry.

**JUDY SHANER** (Boise, Idaho) and **CAROLYN HEBBEL** (Escondido, Calif.) are the new volunteer teachers for the AMES school in Waianae. Both retired, certified teachers come with excellent experience in elementary education and leadership. They are following **RAMAEL OLIVERA**, who volunteered the past two years. Olivera will be returning to retirement in California.

God always supplies just the right teaching personnel — and right on time. God is good.

Let us continue to look to Him as together we pray and work for an effective education ministry in Hawaii.



To see a photos of the new staff, scan this QR code on your smartphone or visit <http://hoike.adventistfaith.org>.





# KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

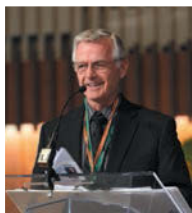
WHEREVER YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART WILL ALSO BE” (MATTHEW 6:21).



## God's Big PICTURE

In this issue . . .

Goal #8 Financial Development: Provide sufficient resources to support all aspects of the Conference's priorities.



Beauty and Friendship Are Hallmarks of the PUC Church Women's Brunch



Unexpected Gift Blesses Manteca Adventist Community



Some people say, “Love makes the world go round.” I’ve also heard a more cynical statement: “Money makes the world go round.” As clever as that sounds, money is only a tool – something we use to live in our world. To keep our thoughts about money in perspective, we constantly need to ask ourselves: does money control us, or do we control money?

People sometimes take part in lotteries or some other get-rich-quick plans. It certainly sounds attractive to be the recipient of millions of dollars! This scenario appeals to the part of our inner selves that focuses on what we want rather than what we need.

There’s a story I like about a little girl who asked her father for a nickel. Daddy was feeling pretty generous that day, so he pulled out a dollar bill. She wrinkled up her nose and said, “I don’t want this old piece of paper. I want a nickel!” Are you asking God for what you want, or are you asking Him what He wants for you and for His work?

Jesus spent a great deal of time talking about the value of life in relation to money and possessions, and in light of eternity. In fact, Jesus made more references to money and possessions than any topic other than the Kingdom of God. He clearly taught: “Wherever your treasure is, there

the desires of your heart will also be” (Matthew 6:21, *New Living Translation*). He wants us to focus on the big picture of His desires for us.

Yes, it takes money to make things happen. And we sometimes have a limited view of what God can do. However, I know from personal experience that when He is involved in all our activities and decisions, including the financial ones, we have the assurance that He sees the bigger picture – and provides for it. He will find ways to do even more than we’ve thought or dreamed about.

Through the years God has truly blessed His work in the Northern California territory. He has provided the financial resources for ministry, even in difficult economic times. So we look to the future with courage and confidence in His leading. We also want to intentionally cooperate with Him in meeting the needs that come.

The final goal in our conference strategic plan has to do with financial development: “Provide sufficient resources to support all aspects of the Conference’s priorities.” Prayerfully we seek God’s guidance in meeting the financial needs of the work here. Thank you for being part of this work – and may God continue to pour out His blessings on us all.

Peace.



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

VOLUME 12  
ISSUE 4  
JULY 2014

# Goal #8 **Financial Development**

PROVIDE SUFFICIENT  
RESOURCES TO **SUPPORT ALL ASPECTS**  
OF THE CONFERENCE'S PRIORITIES.

Recently, the Northern California Conference unveiled its strategic plan for 2012-2016. The plan includes eight goals, along with strategies to achieve them. This issue focuses on the last of the eight goals and how it is being implemented in the conference. Previous editions featured goals 1-7.

*A nickname for the new NCC Strategic Plan is "Northern California Adventists in Action" – people who are not only hearers of the Word, but doers. All the plan's goals require action, including Goal #8, which reflects the fact of life that money is often required to get things done.*

Each goal in the strategic plan includes several strategies. One of the strategies for Goal #8 is: "Establish and implement an integrated development plan." NCC administrators have recently formed a development committee, chaired by Executive Secretary Marc Woodson. As its first major task, the committee members are focusing on ways to encourage church members to return their tithes and offerings.

A recent survey of Adventists in the North American Division found that about 20 percent do not pay any tithe at all, and about 23 percent do not give offerings of any amount. (Published in 2013, this survey was commissioned by the NAD Stewardship Department & Office for Strategic Planning and Assessments.)

These statistics worry church leaders for a number of reasons, most importantly the spiritual health of the members. "Giving is a spiritual issue, and we shouldn't be shy about communicating that," said Woodson. "More than a quarter of Jesus' parables talk about money – how dangerous it is to hoard it and how we should be using it to advance His Kingdom."

The development committee is currently examining options to make it easier for church members to give tithes and offerings. "We want to explore methods that are convenient and fit people's lifestyles," said

NCC Treasurer John Rasmussen. (Have an idea to simplify giving? Write to the committee: [info@nccsda.com](mailto:info@nccsda.com).)

Of course many NCC Adventists do pay tithe. In fact, the tithe income given for 2013 was \$37,677,468 – which was \$460,374 greater than in 2012. Another task that the development committee members have set for themselves is to explore ways to express appreciation to people for their faithful tithes and offerings.

Another mission for the committee is to find effective ways of informing church members how their money is being used – and how vital it is. "People often give to parachurch ministries, rather than to the Church itself," said Woodson. "We need to do a better job of sharing with the members what the Adventist Church in Northern California is doing and what its financial needs are."

One of the committee members, Stewardship Director Gordon Botting, has made it his goal that every NCC congregation will appoint a stewardship leader. His department has purchased a new book from the NAD, *A Guide for Local Church Stewardship Leaders*, to give to each church. "It's full of many practical resources to make good stewardship appealing and accessible," said Botting.

Stewardship is a natural outgrowth of the new conference motto: Doing what matters for the Kingdom. "We need to remember that the resources we possess are God's," said Woodson. "How would He have us use these resources to advance His Kingdom?"



(Above) NCC Treasurer John Rasmussen gives a financial report to the delegates at the 2014 NCC Constituency Session, held May 18 at the Pacific Union College church. (Photo: Gerry Chudleigh)

(Below) Deacons finish collecting the offering at the Pleasant Hill church.

(Inset Top) Read the full NAD stewardship survey mentioned in this article in *Stewardship Motivations*, available from AdventSource.

(Inset Bottom) The NCC Stewardship Department will give this helpful book to each church in the conference.



Northern California  
ADVENTISTS  
*in Action*



[www.facebook.com/  
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# Beauty and Friendship ARE HALLMARKS OF THE PUC CHURCH WOMEN'S BRUNCH

Each year the Pacific Union College church reaches out to the women of Angwin and the greater Napa Valley community by inviting them to a women's brunch. A team of church members works for months ahead of time to ensure that the meal is beautiful and meaningful – “an event you can feel comfortable inviting anyone to attend,” said Marg Wilson, the brunch's coordinator.

More than 90 people attended this year's brunch on Sunday, May 4. The church invited its members and other area Adventists to

bring their friends. Ads ran in several Napa Valley newspapers, inviting women of all faiths. “We are trying as many ways as we can to reach out to this community,” said Wendy Witas, PUC church assistant pastor. “A lot of our members invited coworkers and neighbors, and they loved it.”

The women's brunch tradition at the PUC church began in the mid-1990s when church member Cindy Veness decided to reach out to the women of her church. “A lot of times, many women don't get involved in the church,” she said. “This brunch brings them to a safe place, with women of all ages together.”

This year's theme was a sentence from Ellen White's *Desire of Ages*: “Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple.” NCC Human Resources Director Kathy Batchelor presented a talk titled “Developing the Negatives,” reminding the women that God can take ordinary people who feel inadequate and turn them into extraordinary people capable of doing what He asks.

Tom Turner, PUC professor of art, gave a presentation full of tips for taking better photographs in the Napa Valley.

The room's decorations included displays of local photographers' work – including Turner's – and a collection of antique cameras. Attendees enjoyed music and a vegetarian meal, served by men from the church.

Through the years, the annual brunch has become known for its lovely decor. Each of the 15 tables was decorated in a different style, designed by church members who loaned the linens, china, silverware and centerpieces. “The fun of this whole thing is

encouraging creativity,” said Wilson. Some attendees came an hour early to spend

time looking at each of the tables.

In recent years, a variety of creatively themed displays has drawn the attention of community members. One year's brunch had a wedding theme with 22 wedding dresses displayed on mannequins. Exhibits from previous years included 50 quilts, more than 300 dolls and toys, native costumes from around the world, and works by local artists.

A number of attendees who aren't part of the PUC church community expressed their appreciation for the brunch, and some plan to bring friends with them next year. This kind of friendship evangelism is the goal of the planning team. “My conscience wouldn't allow me to put this much time and effort into something that wasn't an outreach for Jesus,” said Wilson. “I think it's a way to witness that's a lot of fun.”

*“We are trying as many ways as we can to reach out to this community. A lot of our members invited coworkers and neighbors, and they loved it.”*



(Above Top) Men from the church serve as waiters at the brunch. (Above Middle) The brunch has become well known for its unique table decorations. (Above Bottom) Women from the PUC church and the surrounding community enjoy fellowshiping together.

(Inset) Carl Ermshar serves the meal.

(Below) NCC Trust Officer Debi Pedersen, NCC Human Resources Director Kathy Batchelor (the speaker for the brunch) and PUC Church Assistant Pastor Wendy Witas participate in the event.

(Photos: Tom Turner, Marg Wilson)



# GIFTS OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES

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REDUCE YOUR TAXES  
QUADRUPLE YOUR SAVINGS



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- Receive income tax savings from a charitable tax deduction
  - Avoid capital gains tax on

the sale of your appreciated assets

- Avoid the 3.8% healthcare surtax on net investment income

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**The Manteca church (featured below) has an active congregation. Is your church or school doing something special? Send your story and photos to [info@nccsda.com](mailto:info@nccsda.com). We'd love to share your story online and in the *Pacific Union Recorder*.**

## Unexpected Gift Blesses MANTECA ADVENTIST COMMUNITY

Manteca church member Alma McDonald was not a rich woman; she lived simply. So in 2005 when she asked the planned giving department at the conference office to create a living trust for her, she didn't expect to leave a lot of money in her estate.

However, when she passed away this past January, she was able to surprise and bless the Adventist community in Manteca with her gift of nearly \$46,000 – equally divided between Manteca Adventist School and the Manteca church. Through the years her property had significantly increased in value.

McDonald's gift will be a great help to the one-teacher school, which had 13 students this past school year, four of whom just graduated from eighth grade. "For our school, this gift is huge," said teaching principal Heidi Jorgenson. She is exploring ways to invest the money in a revolving fund to make McDonald's bequest a gift that keeps on giving. "We'll use the fund to sustain our school and encourage others to support it," she said.

Adventist education was important to McDonald and her husband, David, who passed away in 1995. "They were committed to getting their children a Christian education, and it wasn't easy

for them," said George Miller, Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School board chair, who knew the family.

Manteca church Pastor Bruce Blum is also grateful for McDonald's faithfulness to the Adventist work in Manteca. "We were thankful that a dedicated church member, who cared about what was going on here, thought about us in her estate planning," he said.

McDonald's story resonates with Rich Magnuson, director of NCC Planned Giving, who helps many church members make plans for their estates. "Mrs. McDonald's story reminds me of the parable of the talents," he said. "Although she didn't believe she had very much, she gave it to the Lord, and He blessed the gift to further His mission."

God's work in Manteca will now have more options for effectiveness, thanks to McDonald's gift. "She had a heart and a blessing for our church and for our school," said Jorgenson. "When she passed she ensured that her legacy would go on."



**Manteca church Pastor Bruce Blum leads a worship service with Manteca Adventist School students. (Photo by Heidi Jorgenson)**



**(Above and Bottom Left) Manteca church Pastor Bruce Blum (with daughter Aunicka) and Manteca Adventist School Teaching Principal Heidi Jorgenson accept Alma McDonald's gifts from Charles Williams, NCC planned giving consultant. (Right) Manteca Adventist School students jump rope on the playground. (Photo by Heidi Jorgenson)**

### Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. | Mon-Thurs

President, Jim Pedersen | Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson  
Treasurer, John Rasmussen

# CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

## Boldly Following God into the Future

In our busy lives, when we are running from meeting to meeting, commuting from our homes to work, it is easy to forget who is ultimately most important. God, our creator, our all, is often forgotten in our daily routines. As leaders in SECC we want place God at the center of everything that happens in this conference, no matter how insignificant a task might appear to be. The leaders of SECC are committed to following God and fulfilling the mission of this conference. We want to dream God's dream and work boldly for His purpose.

The mission statement was voted by members in 1996 for the conference. It reads:

*The mission of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is the expansion of God's kingdom through the preaching, teaching, publishing, and living of the everlasting gospel by women and men in the cross-cultural communities of our territory.*

While we expectantly await the Second Coming of Jesus, we need to plan for and carry out our mission, to expand the kingdom of God.

Scripture has wise words for us. It serves as a reminder that we need to plan on seeking God's direction for our lives and for the ministries of our conference:

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." (Prov. 16:3, ESV).

God longs to lead in our lives and give us His vision for our ministries.

Even secular leaders acknowledge that strategic planning is helpful for any organization. Richard Mittenhal says in his article, *"Ten Keys to Successful Strategic Planning for Nonprofit and Foundation Leader:"*

*A strategic plan is a tool that provides guidance in fulfilling a mission with maximum efficiency and impact. If it is to be effective and useful, it should articulate specific goals and describe the action steps and resources needed to accomplish them. As a rule, most strategic plans should be reviewed and revamped every three to five years (p. 2)<sup>1</sup>.*

With a desire to faithfully discern and to follow Jesus, SECC administrators have begun a strategic planning process. We are keeping it prayerful, simple, focused and want it to be an achievable process. We have facilitated broad input and conversations which will identify priorities on which the conference should focus. The focus groups of these conversations have included: youth and young adults, seniors, local church elders, church board chairs, church ministry leaders, pastors, educators and conference office personnel.

These groups were carefully selected to reflect the diverse geographical,

church size, language and culture makeup of our conference.

Once the priorities of the conversations have emerged, the conference administration will prayerfully and collaboratively come up with action plans to focus on those priorities and establish tangible goals. The priorities and plans, once set, will be shared with everyone.

In order to be accountable, there will be yearly evaluations and assessments of progress as we ask these important questions:

Are we staying focused on our priorities?

Does our resource allocation reflect our priorities?

Do we need additional plans to better carry out our mission?

As God leads, we will be open to adapting the strategic plan. We will continue to evaluate how we are accomplishing our mission.

We will prayerfully continue to seek God's direction as we follow Him step-by-step. God is at work. I am filled with anticipation as to what this conference can accomplish as we prayerfully and strategically move into what God is already doing in our territory.

**"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope," (Jer. 29:11, ESV).**

1 Mittenhal, R. (2002). Ten Keys to Successful Strategic Planning for Nonprofit and Foundation Leaders. Retrieved June 3, 2014, from [http://www.tccgrp.com/pdfs/per\\_brief\\_tenkeys.pdf](http://www.tccgrp.com/pdfs/per_brief_tenkeys.pdf)

*By Sandra Roberts, SECC President*

*(Top) Students work together to program their robot for a specific mission during the robot game.*

*(Below right) Students interact with judges on how they worked as a team to develop their robot and on their research.*



PHOTOS: ENNO MÜLLER

## SECC Hosts First Robotics Challenge

On Monday, April 7, the SECC Office of Education hosted their first robotics challenge. The event took place at Loma Linda Academy. The one-day competition brought students from schools within the territories of both the Southeastern and Southern California conferences together. A total of 20 teams, with students from grades 3-8, from 10 schools participated.

The day began with Don Dudley, SECC superintendent, giving a short devotional as well as an introduction of the happenings of the day. Teams then followed a specific schedule that allowed for practice time at tables, interviews with judges about their robot and its development and finally competition. Each year the First Lego League, of which the Adventist Robotic League is a member, creates a different theme. This year's theme was "Nature's Fury."

Each challenge consists of three parts, the robot game, a research project and a display of the FLL core values. The challenge requires programming an autonomous robot to score points on the

playing field, the robot game, as well as developing solutions to problems that pertain to the current theme.

FLL started in 1998, unfortunately the challenges happened on Sabbath. In order for students in Adventist schools to be able to compete Mel Wade, IT director of Sacramento Academy, petitioned the FLL to create the Adventist Robotics League. The request was granted and the Adventist Robotics League was started.

Although this is the first year that SECC hosted the robotics challenge, SECC schools have participated in past years. SECC schools that had teams and wanted to compete joined the SCC's challenge. More and more SECC schools are offering robotics programs, and this prompted SECC's Office of Education decision to host their first event.

Adventist schools are continuing to create robotics teams for their students to join. The robotic events help promote the STEM (science, technology, education and math) initiative that is part of the curriculum in the public and private sectors of education. Beverley Bucknor, associate superintendent of schools

*During a demonstration of what their robot can do, several teammates help prepare the robot for the mission.*



said, "We are hoping to inspire students to look at the fields of science and math."

Students learned more than just programming robots, but about team building and working together as well. "It was a really good experience. It was not just academic, but it also helped us with building a team. Our team was able to see how others programed their robot and how they did the challenges," said, Chloe Cochran, an 8th grader from Oceanside Adventist Elementary.

Benjamin Allred, a 4th grader from Mesa Grande Academy, said, "I learned that you have to get used to getting along with others. We had several disagreements today but in the end we solved it all. We talked it out."

When asked about the value of these challenges, Rob Shultz, science and math teacher from San Diego Academy, said, "Competition is a powerful tool in education and it is helpful for students to actually see what math and science is for. The skills they apply during these challenges, may lead them to solve larger problems in the future."

*By Enno Müller*



## Loma Linda University Church Hosts Special Vespers

Evening vespers are often an interactive and inspirational way to bring the Sabbath day to a close, but when was the last time you had animal guests in your sanctuary? The Loma Linda University church members were able to experience a special hands-on vespers on April 5, featuring a variety of God's creatures.

Approximately 1500 attendees of varying ages were present for the animal program. Centered on the theme of "Asian Expedition," LLUC partnered with the Loma Linda University Biology Department in order to bring the message to life. There were a plethora of animals at hand, including a camel, a yak, a 17 foot python and several cockatoos.

"We want to create awareness of animals' needs and how we can properly care for these precious creations that God has entrusted in our care here on earth," said Shawna Campbell, associate pastor for children's ministries, who also elaborated on the unexpected guest. While the majority of the program took place indoors, one special creature had to stay outside due to her size. Campbell and her team arranged for Tia the elephant to arrive after the program had already started in order for her presence to be a surprise.

"[Tia] played the role as Dumbo for



(Top) Shawna Campbell, associate pastor of the Loma Linda University church, makes the memory of a lifetime.

(Right) The church members meet Tia, the elephant, face to face.



Hollywood, so she was incredibly great with kids and people. She was gentle and patient [and] gave everyone an opportunity to touch her several times," said Campbell. With the instruction of her handler, Tia even did several tricks for the audience, such as standing on one leg and striking a pose.

While the program was fun for all who attended, Campbell experienced a personal highlight when the handler asked if Tia could pick her up using her trunk. "I didn't know they could even do that!" Campbell exclaimed. "The elephant gently picked me up. It was amazing."

By Natalie Romero

## Upcoming Events

**Evangelism Series** (July 5-August 2) El Cajon church, 1630 E. Madison Ave., San Diego. Mark Fox, It Is Written evangelist, with Amazing Prophecies will share his testimony. The first meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on July 5 and the series will continue Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays until Aug. 2. Info: 619-402-8983.

**All-Beethoven Concert** (July 8) 7 p.m. Paradise Village Retirement Community, 2700 E. 4th St., National City. Internationally acclaimed pianist Gustavo Romero will present an all-Beethoven concert. All are welcome to this free concert. Info: 619-245-5845.

**SECC Youth Day at Magic Mountain** (July 13) The ticket includes a full day at Six Flags Magic Mountain and lunch. Tickets and info: Liz Adams 951-509-2260 or visit [www.seccyouth.com](http://www.seccyouth.com).

**Gear Up: Reach Out** (July 20) Ontario church, 856 N Sultana Ave., Ontario. This event is geared towards children's & youth leaders, directors, Sabbath school teachers and teens, making a difference in the lives of kids and teens in your community. Info: Liz Adams 951-509-2260, or visit [www.seccyouth.com](http://www.seccyouth.com).

## FACES OF SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

Featuring people within our conference who impact our churches, schools or communities.

### NORMA HOWARD

Norma Howard, teaching principal at Needles Adventist School, was honored with a national award on Saturday, May 10th. She was presented with the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award.

"Teaching is the joy in my life," Howard said. Invested in students' academic success, Howard uses

all the resources available to her to educate them. Howard also engages students spiritually with Bible lessons across all subjects, not just in Bible class.

"It is my desire to inspire my kids to know and love Jesus with their whole hearts," Howard said.

Howard serves in the most remote school in SECC territory. Though she



is the only teacher at her school, Howard has shown her students the love and commitment of an entire faculty.



June 1, 2014

## Pine Springs Ranch Update

*From the desk of Carmen Ibañez, camp director*

There has been a lot of activity at camp these past couple of months. The sewer plant electrical work was finalized, completing all that needed to be done in order to have the sewer plant be fully operational. We were able to install eight sewer hookups for our RV area, thanks to the generosity of the Palomar Nature Club. In addition, we were also able to repair the electrical damage caused by the fire and restore power to each of the RV sites. Also, a new large water tank was installed to replace the two tanks that were damaged by the fire.

As summer camp season approached, our staff was eagerly getting things ready in anticipation for campers and summer camp staff. The wagon area was prepped for the delivery and building of six new wagons. The teepee area was also prepared for the installation of two new teepees that will be left up permanently. The wagons and the teepees were installed just in time for summer camp.

We are beyond grateful for the hard work of our volunteers. If it hadn't been for the generosity of several church groups, youth



*(Top left) Volunteers help to rebuild the fort. (Top right) At PSR volunteers help with many small projects. (Left) Progress of the fort is coming along.*

groups, young adult groups and individuals, the fort would not have been ready in time for summer camp. They spent countless hours working with great dedication. We were blessed by their kindness and words of encouragement. The last little details and finishing touches were put on by summer camp staff that was eager to use it for the outpost skits.

The staff was also very excited when PSR received the very generous donation of a brand new 14" telescope. The individual donated it in memory of her husband, an avid star gazer. We are hoping that by the time this article is printed, we will be in the process of building a small observatory to house the telescope, and that we will be able provide our campers an opportunity to

gaze upon God's artistry in the skies.

We know we are nowhere near finishing all that needs to be done in order to get things back to where they were before the fire, however we also know that our ministry here continues, regardless of what still needs to be rebuilt. God will provide, of this we have no doubt. It brought great joy to our hearts to see campers back with us for summer camp. This is the reason we exist, to call campers to Christ. What a privilege it is to introduce these precious souls to our Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank you for your love and support. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to fulfill God's calling here at Pine Springs Ranch.

**SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**  
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SANDRA ROBERTS, PRESIDENT • JONATHAN PARK, SECRETARY • VERLON STRAUSS, TREASURER  
CONFERENCE PRIORITIES • ENNO MÜLLER, EDITOR



JULY 2014

# KEEPING *intouch*



**Harold Crook**  
Superintendent of  
Schools

## ADVENTIST EDUCATION *on the Move in SCC*

Good things are happening in Adventist education. Scientific research is validating what we have done in our educational system for more than 100 years! Seventh-day Adventist education is truly cutting-edge. While our primary goal is to introduce students to Jesus as their personal Savior, we are also providing the very best in education. SCC is perpetuating this excellence with technology programs, teacher training and staff development.

Three technology programs that SCC has incorporated in curricula include STEM, EXSEED and the National Robotics Competition. San Gabriel Academy is piloting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), a model for integrating these four subjects into projects and assignments. "STEM education is a 21st century education," stated Paul Negrete, San Gabriel Academy principal. "What we have accomplished will further and markedly differentiate Adventist education from that of public schools." EXSEED, an extension

of STEM developed by Loma Linda University, is building a professional community through partnering educators with professionals in science, math, engineering and technology industries. So far, eight SCC teachers have completed the five-day training. Finally, several schools participate in the National Robotics Competition, in which students compete by designing and building robots through the use of sophisticated hardware and software.

On-going staff development, critical

in equipping teachers to be cutting-edge instructors, focuses on Differentiated Instruction (DI). Many teachers have attended the DI convention, Staff Development for Educators. This is an instructional theory accommodating diverse student factors when planning and delivering instruction. DI theory works beautifully with research-based teaching structures, techniques and strategies that teachers use to reach all students. In June, the Pacific Union conducted Trainer of

Trainers for DI training for targeted SCC teachers. Within the last two years, various teachers have received hands-on experience in a Building Learning Communities class and training for *Exemplary Center for Reading Instruction (ECRI)*, both methodologies supporting DI.

This past school year, SCC began tracking students to see what happens once they leave our schools. Early results indicate that Adventist academies have



*San Gabriel Elementary students work on a STEM project.*  
Photo by James P. Willis

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# In Transition

(Voted Apr. 9, 30; May 28)

## New Employees

(Voted Apr. 9)

### Ronald Harrison

Maintenance, Camp Cedar Falls, as of Apr. 7, 2014

(Voted Apr. 30)

### Doo-Pyo Hong

Pastor, Los Angeles Central Korean church, as of June 1, 2014

### John Strehle

Pastor, Norwalk church, as of July 1, 2014

## Changes within the Conference

(Voted Apr. 9)

### Manuel Arteaga

From Pastor, Resurrection Group; to Pastor, Resurrection Group & Lighthouse Community church, as of May 16, 2014

### Guillermo Garcia

From Evangelist, Hispanic Region; to Pastor, San Fernando Spanish church, as of Apr. 16, 2014

### Chris Ishii

From Principal, East/West Language School; to Chaplain, East/West Language School, as of Apr. 1, 2014

### Tadashi Yamaji

From Pastor, three SCC Japanese churches; to Pastor, three SCC Japanese churches & Principal, East/West Language School, as of Apr. 1, 2014

## Leaving Conference Employment

(Voted May 28)

### Cruz Castro

Interim Pastor, San Fernando Spanish church, as of May 15, 2014

### Alvaro Diaz

Pastor, Newbury Park Spanish church, as of May 30, 2014

Evangelism, cont. from page 4

## Asian Pacific Region

The Los Angeles Central Korean church has scheduled some major outreach/bridge events during the summer months to get acquainted with the community. On June 14, they held a family fun night. On July 27 they will conduct a health fair; Aug 16, the church will host a back-to-school block party. The "party" is a fair-type event in which the church will give away school supplies to neighborhood students.



Samuel Lee,  
Asian Pacific  
Region director

## West Region



Richard Roethbler  
director

The Malibu Adventist Fellowship recently baptized three persons, one of whom was an internationally known violinist and former actor who had been an atheist. A second baptism is planned for July 19. In June, some members of the congregation went to Rio de Janeiro to help the orphans and the blind, "as God said we should do," said Judith Miranda, who leads out in Malibu. "We thank God for the kind persons who made this trip possible for Malibu church to do mission work overseas," she added.

# YOUTH RUSH 2014

## Going Door to Door in Southern California

by Heidi Carpenter

In June, as Youth Rush 2014 began, a sense of excitement was in the air. Students and leaders packed their bags for a summer of door-to-door literature ministry. What they would face, only God knew. It was a new beginning with new students and new expectations. Hundreds of thousands of homes awaited the young adults, homes in which some families were in pain and in need of a loving, personal connection. This summer, we decided to go to them, to seek them out and do what we can to show them Jesus' love.

Two leaders in the South Bay program were excited about their outreach. "I'm looking forward to empowering our team to go out and

heal people," said Brian Cruz, "to bring people the gospel as Jesus did. I'm expecting God to create in us the ultimate motivation to do this work and the power to do it effectively."

"I'm expecting God to make this summer not just eye-opening, but life-changing, for every leader and student," affirmed Tawnya Holland.

As we began the summer, we reflected on a statement from Colporteur Ministry, on page 119: "It is not the capabilities you now possess, or ever will have, that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do, and



Samuel Ream and Brian Cruz load up for their door-to-door witnessing.  
Photo by Jennifer Caceres

far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith.... to expect great things from Him." Pray for us as we are engaged in mission in Southern California!

significantly higher graduation and college-completion rates than public schools. We will continue to develop this data.

On another note, filmmaker Martin Doblmeier produced a documentary called *The Blueprint*, which premieres this fall in Los Angeles and in other selected locations across North America. Everyone should see this documentary. At 3:00 p.m. on October 11, 2014, designated by SCC as Education Day, the 60-minute documentary will be screened

at the White Memorial church. Executive producer-director Martin Doblmeier will be present in person. Elissa Kido, EDD, from La Sierra University, will also share the amazing results of the recent Cognitive Genesis Research Study. All are invited. Please plan to attend.

We are proud of our SCC teachers and students and proud to be a part of the excellent, world-wide Seventh-day Adventist educational program. As the public school system moves toward Common Core State Standards, we find

that our distinctive Adventist education values stand the test of time. Our educational criteria not only meet the Common Core State Standards—they exceed them! What a wonderful blessing God has provided through our schools!

“Adventist Education is an imperative in SCC,” declared Elder Caviness, SCC president. “We have good teachers and education is our investment in the children and youth for the kingdom of God.”

# SCC SCHOOLS HELP *Filipino Adventist Typhoon Victims*

by Zac Crook

Many have heard about the tragic typhoons that struck the Philippines earlier in 2014. Countless Adventist brothers and sisters were left with nothing to their names as the damage spread. While we cannot take back what has happened, the Southern California Conference, in conjunction with its local schools, raised more than \$5000 to send directly to sister churches in areas such as Cebu-Ilo Ilo.

Students at SCC schools such as Linda Vista Elementary were also quick to respond to the great needs of Adventist filipinos. Students brought everything from clothing to school supplies and

loaded them into large relief boxes to be shipped directly to where they were needed most. Helped by local Adventist businessman Roy Brasher, the project coordinator, the total amount raised from all sources topped \$13,000.

“It was great to see the kids not only respond by bringing in so much clothing, but also by being willing to pack the boxes and haul them to be shipped,” said Brasher. “We have some great kids in our schools!” His sentiment was shared by Newbury

Park Adventist Academy Vice Principal Sheldon Parris as he watched his students load up box after box.

Those involved in coordinating the project would like to thank everyone who contributed to this cause—your donations and prayers were much appreciated.



*Students from Newbury Park Academy, Conejo Elementary (shown) and Linda Vista Elementary helped prepare boxes for the Philippines.*

Photos by Sheldon Parris

# SCC EVANGELISM



James G. Lee, Jr.  
Evangelism director

## Evangelism in LAAA Neighborhood

A group that is meeting in the Los Angeles Adventist Academy (LAAA) is launching a three-pronged thrust in the community, including health, mental and spiritual components. Evenings will feature the Regeneration Health program that shares the eight laws of natural health and natural remedies. A second component will invite children to LAAA classrooms that some of the school's teachers will volunteer to teach and tutor, while parents learn about the value and importance of Christian education. Leading up to an evangelistic Christ-centered series on prophecy, students will be taught by the Literature Evangelism Dept. to reach out by selling Christ's Object Lessons and the Ministry of Healing books on a scholarship basis. The thrust will be held on campus in a special tent from July 10 – Aug. 27.



Anthony J. Kelly  
GLAR director

## Greater Los Angeles Region

**Fifty-Fourth Street church** prepared for its July 5-26 Redemption Revival 2014 series by hosting community activities, conducting Bible studies, knocking on doors and distributing more than 5,000 brochures. Howard J. Small is the evangelist. Goals of the series include conveying a new understanding of God's Word; Bible prophecy coming alive and current; freedom and release from every temptation

and a better relationship with God & Jesus Christ. A children's community Drama Festival Kick Off (ages 5-13) is also included and soul-stirring singing, gifts and giveaways will be featured. 7:00 p.m. nightly.

**Delaware Ave. church** in Santa Monica is following up its three-month-long preparation with a *Bible Family Life Series* July 6-26 (7:00 p.m. nightly, except Thursdays).

The **University church** had a baptism of seven precious souls on June 7, and will continue its "Year of Evangelism" efforts with a Summer Revival Series July 12-26 and a Fall Revival Series Oct 4-11.

**Aug. 2-23 – "Archeology Proves the Bible" Evangelistic Series.** The presenter will be Pastor John Aitken of the Van Nuys church. The series will meet at 7:00 p.m. Sabbaths, Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Valley Crossroads church.

## Hispanic Region

On May 30 - June 1, we had our **Laity Retreat** at Pine Springs Ranch. Around 200 were present. Our theme was, "These who transform the world" (Acts 17:6). We invited all of the School of Evangelism students to attend and many of them were present. Our guest speakers were Ezequiel González, evangelist of the Kansas Conference; and Antulio Espinoza, evangelist of the North Mexican Union. Pastor Ezequiel's dissertations focused on the theological foundation for the mission of the church, and Pastor Espinoza's presentation was



Luis Peña, director

on the practical aspects of the mission of the church; in other words, how to accomplish the mission.

More students were added to the School of Evangelism. Previously, we had 76 students—now, we have about 90. Our goal is to train lay people so they can work together with their pastors. We thank God that our goal is being reached.

## L. A. Metro Region

**June 28 – SCC Senior Youth and Young Adult Leadership Training**, on having genuine and meaningful conversations with youth and young adults. Presenter, Pastor Adam Hicks, Journey church. The event will include music and fun activities. Hosted by the SCC Senior Youth & Young Adult Dept. 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the **Glendale City church**.



Gerard Kiemeny  
director

The **Eagle Rock church** is developing a children's ministry, with the help of intern Suzanne Spence. Amy Markoch, a contract pastor for young adult ministry, has developed young adult ministry with a monthly service called, "Fusion." About 70 young people attended the first service.

According to Senior Pastor Danny Chan, the church is planning its second "National Night Out," for Aug. 5. At that block-party event, the church will launch registration for its "Community Classroom," inviting local residents to sign up for two classes to be held during the year, on a school-term basis.

"Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus," a series by Pastor Tony Moore, recently has been featured at the **West Covina Hills church**. Pastor Lewis Gray, Jr., noted that attendance has been good, with about 35 non-members attending. Following meetings in May-June, the series will resume Nov. 1-22 on Fri. and Sat. evenings at 7:00 p.m.

The **Norwalk church** hosted Amazing Facts speaker Carlos Munoz, for a week-long prophecy seminar. Fifty-nine guests came to hear the distinctive Adventist message for these last days. Of those guests, about 15 are attending church on Friday night or Sabbath morning for continuing Bible studies. Local elder Alden Smith teaches from the book of Revelation Friday evenings; Associate Pastor Albert Frederico teaches from the Amazing Facts lesson series Sabbath mornings.

Guest Rudy appreciated so much the message on the Divinity of Christ and His identity of Michael the Archangel, that he ordered 10 CDs of the message to share with his friends. Interim Associate Pastor Vasco Brown coordinated follow-up Bible Studies and 12 lay members assisted those who have more questions.

Amazing Facts speakers usually conduct month-long series, but the Norwalk church budget was limited. Aided by a private donation of \$5,000 and an SCC donation of \$5,000, the meetings went forward. "We need to save up and do the month-long series, once per year!" said Head Elder Laxmi Saquilayan.

Cont. on page 2