

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY NOVEMBER 2014

*He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings
you will find refuge.*

Psalms 91:4

ADVENTIST HEALTH

Whole-Person Care

FEATURE ISSUE

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PACIFIC UNION recorder

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

SUNSETS

	11/7	11/14	11/21	11/28
Alturas	4:48	4:42	4:37	4:33
Angwin	5:02	4:56	4:52	4:49
Calexico	4:45	4:41	4:37	4:36
Chico	4:57	4:51	4:46	4:43
Eureka	5:04	4:58	4:53	4:50
Fresno	4:55	4:49	4:45	4:43
Hilo	5:43	5:41	5:40	5:41
Honolulu	5:51	5:49	5:48	5:48
Las Vegas	4:37	4:32	4:28	4:26
Lodi	4:58	4:52	4:48	4:45
Loma Linda	4:50	4:45	4:41	4:39
Los Angeles	4:54	4:49	4:46	4:44
Moab	5:09	5:03	4:59	4:56
Oakland	5:02	4:57	4:53	4:50
Phoenix	5:29	5:25	5:21	5:20
Reno	4:50	4:44	4:39	4:36
Riverside	4:50	4:46	4:42	4:40
Sacramento	4:58	4:52	4:48	4:45
Salt Lake City	5:15	5:09	5:04	5:01
San Diego	4:51	4:47	4:44	4:42
San Francisco	5:04	4:58	4:54	4:51
San Jose	5:02	4:56	4:52	4:50
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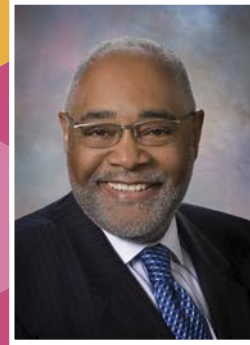


about the cover

Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif., chose this artwork for its significance during the wildfires of 2008, which caused FRH to evacuate patients and close for 10 days. The art is displayed at the Emergency Department entrance.

PHOTO BY
MIGUEL QUIRARTE

Jesus' Mission — Whole- Person Care



*Ricardo Graham,
Pacific Union President
and Chairman of the
Adventist Health Board*

Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10, NIV).

Jesus demonstrated His compassion, caring and concern, not just verbally, but as He went from village to village healing all manner of diseases. He valued all humanity and sought to alleviate suffering. As we read the Gospels, we often focus on His spiritually rich, doctrinal teaching, but we realize that while He was the Great Teacher, He did more than teach and preach.

“During His ministry, Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching. His miracles testified to the truth of His words, that He came not to destroy, but to save” (Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, page 19).

Thus, Jesus brought transformative, life-saving healing to the whole being: He healed physically, spiritually and mentally. His compassion, caring, concerned heart propelled Him forward to alleviate suffering humanity.

Since the 19th century, Seventh-day Adventists have been developing faithful, innovative approaches to health for the whole person. The successes of the past have laid the foundation for renewing a vision of faith-inspired healthcare in which patients experience seamless

excellence, integrating the best of spiritually nurturing care. The challenges of providing health care in the 21st century make the renewal of this vision imperative. The opportunities for leading our society, as it seeks to reform its health system, are unprecedented.

This year the North American Division Health hosted a Health Ministries Summit to discuss collaboration between health and ministry leaders. Church leaders called for a renewed emphasis on blending physical and spiritual healing.

The church’s mission to heal the sick is a reflection of what Jesus taught in the New Testament and is reflected not only in our Adventist Health hospitals and clinics, but also in our local congregations that offer CHIP, CREATION Health, smoking cessation classes and other health-related events.

Adventist Health believes that by embracing the mission and shared values, we will find new ways to bear witness to our Creator’s love, and new avenues for reenergizing the prophetic message of the Advent movement. Adventist Health is committed to continuing the healing practices of Jesus while seeking to utilize the best of health care available.

Challenges are nothing new to our Christ-led health institutions. God has promised that as we follow His directives and inculcate His principles, our ministries will achieve the goals He calls us to embrace. While the challenges are large, the desired future is secure. God called us all to work together. We will only truly touch the lives of people as Jesus did once we work collaboratively for Him with one mission and one vision.

Partnering to Achieve Whole-Person Care

Even in these challenging times, opportunities are abundant. Adventist Health is determined to fulfill our mission of sharing God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing. We are working to transform the health care experience for patients and our diverse communities through partnerships, which include our local churches, conferences and unions.

Health care reform, industry changes and market trends present enormous opportunities for Adventist Health to reinvent ourselves for the benefit of our employees, patients, physicians and those we serve. Senior leaders are re-shaping Adventist Health into one of the most significant health care systems on the West Coast.

Pivotal to this re-shaping is a comprehensive strategy designed to keep our organization competitive while growing and thriving in the future. Our initiatives have been carefully designed to ensure our organization achieves our goals while remaining strong and able to carry out our mission.

We are proud of Adventist Health's rich heritage of prevention and whole-person care while equally optimistic for the future. We are building upon the successes of the past while enabling Adventist Health to be even more successful in the future.

Scott Reiner, Adventist Health President and CEO

Did you know?

- 19 hospitals in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington
- More than 230 rural health clinics, physician clinics and outpatient centers
- 14 home care agencies
- Seven hospice agencies
- Four joint-venture retirement centers
- Workforce of 28,600 — including 20,500 employees, 4,500 medical staff physicians and 3,600 volunteers
- More than 2,700 beds
- Headquartered in Roseville, Calif.

In 2013 there were many opportunities to minister to those in our communities...

- 123,044 admissions
- 545,151 emergency department visits
- 2,324,895 outpatient visits
- 234,688 home care visits
- 858,501 rural health clinic visits
- More than \$358 million provided in free and low-cost services to the community



Adventist Health

Re-structuring to Achieve Better Systems of Care

Health care reform, industry changes and market trends present enormous opportunities for Adventist Health to create better systems of care for the communities it serves.

During the past few years, Adventist Health has deployed a comprehensive strategy designed to keep our organization competitive while growing and thriving in the future. Historically, Adventist Health has been a hospital-centered organization; however it is creating closer working relationships among hospitals, physicians, clinics, home care agencies and other business units.

Adventist Health now will be comprised of four geographic regions to create more streamlined infrastructure for the large, multi-division, geographically-distributed system:

- Northern California Region: Jeff Eller, President and CEO
- Central California Region: Wayne Ferch, President and CEO
- Southern California Region: Beth Zachary, President and CEO
- Northwest Region: Joyce Newmyer, President and CEO

While change is constant in today's health care landscape, three things remain the same at Adventist Health: our mission, vision and values. At the core of these three organizational cornerstones is sharing God's love with the same compassion that Jesus demonstrated throughout His ministry on Earth.

Jenni Glass

Executive Cabinet

Jeff Eller, President/CEO, Northern California Region; **Wayne Ferch**, President/CEO, Central California Region; **Rodney C. Wehtje**, Vice President, Finance/Treasurer; **JoAline Olson**, Senior Vice President/Chief Human Resources & Innovation Officer; **Douglas E. Rebok**, Senior Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer; **Mark L. Ashlock**, Senior Vice President, Physician Strategy; **Scott Reiner**, President/Chief Executive Officer; **Bill Wing**, Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer; **Jack Wagner**, Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer; **Beth Zachary**, President/CEO, Southern California Region; **John Beaman**, Vice President, Finance/Senior Financial Officer; **Joyce Newmyer**, President/CEO, Northwest Region



Adventist Health Clinical Pastoral

When Matthew Kirk, associate pastor of the Bakersfield Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church, enrolled in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at San Joaquin Community Hospital, he expected to learn how to better minister to his parishioners during health crises.

Instead, the program changed his life.

“When I went to CPE, it was like fireworks going off in my head,” he said. “I became more acutely aware of who I am and how I interact with others, both personally and professionally. I realized that you can be in any situation and make a huge impact on individuals — not because of your knowledge, your skills, or your ability, but because you’re making an authentic and deep commitment to understand each person.”

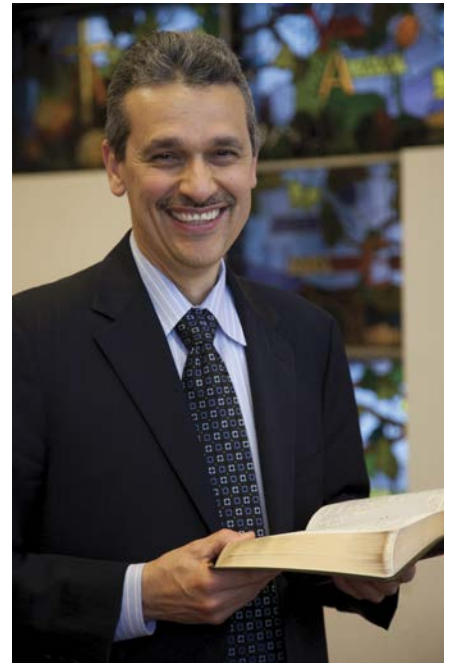


San Joaquin Community Hospital was the first hospital in Adventist Health to begin a CPE program, in January 2014. Its graduates are better prepared to serve in hospitals and communities.

CPE is a form of theological education that seeks to improve the quality of ministry and pastoral care, not just for hospital chaplains, but for all spiritual caregivers — and spiritual caregivers of all faiths, explained Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for mission and spiritual care at Adventist Health. Adventist Health is encouraging hospitals in its regions to offer CPE programs to better prepare the next generation of chaplains, build relationships with community clergy, offer spiritual support for Adventist Health clinics and outpatient entities and fill a growing need for community education in this field.

SJCH was the first hospital in Adventist Health to begin a CPE program, in January 2014. White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles started its program in October, and another program is under consideration at Adventist Medical Center-Portland.

CPE students — who can include pastors, chaplains and seminary students, as well as nurses and physicians — learn how to listen and attend to people more effectively. They learn how to establish rapport, respond to both verbal and non-verbal communication and better understand what they’re observing during encounters. Students’ own personal growth and development is a key part of the program.



Edgar Urbina, director of chaplaincy services at WMMC.

“CPE creates a space and the opportunity to make people whole,” said Tony Andrews, who pioneered the CPE program at SJCH and serves as the hospital’s director of pastoral care and clinical pastoral education. “That’s what God came here to do; restore the broken heart and heal the soul.”

A typical CPE class, he said, includes group discussion of two or three case studies; lectures focusing on crisis intervention, pastoral theology, grief, modes of therapy and similar topics; and group dynamics, which help students learn more about themselves. One “unit” of CPE consists of about 400 hours of supervised learning that takes approximately four



CPE helps give local chaplains and pastors training as they work in the local community.

Education Program Benefits Clergy

months to complete. To become a professional chaplain, most programs require at least four units of CPE. Adventist Health encourages a minimum of two units for community clergy who are interested in working with Adventist Health hospitals and clinics; four units are strongly encouraged.



Chaplains provide prayer and comfort to a patient.

And while Adventist Health's CPE programs don't focus exclusively on helping people during health crises, it is an important component.

"In seminary, we don't get training on how to visit people in the hospital," said Edgar Urbina, director of chaplaincy services at WMMC. "When you come to the hospital, it's a different environment. With CPE, you learn to provide spiritual support to people of different faith backgrounds and people with no spiritual background at all."

Urbina, who was a pastor for many years before going into chaplaincy, remembers his own experience taking CPE years ago. He was called upon to visit a family in the hospital that was preparing to take their 4-year-old daughter off life support.

"They were Christian but not Seventh-day Adventist," he said. "One of the things they were struggling with was the issue of organ donation. Was organ donation part of the Christian faith? And because she was brain-dead, they were going to withdraw life support; but would this



A chaplain prays with doctors and nurses.

mean they were killing her? It was very difficult. I had a daughter about the same age, and I kept thinking 'this could be my daughter.' CPE helped me process the visit, process the emotion and guided in providing spiritual care."

Leo Zakhariya, staff chaplain at Adventist Medical Center-Portland, said that when he went through CPE training "it was like the scales fell off my eyes." Zakhariya, who pastored for 10 years, said a pastor who has CPE education can communicate with parishioners more effectively, better understand their needs, and is better equipped to help church members find solutions to difficult or unusual solutions and

spiritual needs.

"You connect with people in the deepest way on their spiritual and emotional journey," he said. "You feel their pain, go through their grieving moments and walk with them out of that dark place. Instead of throwing a lifesaver to a sinking person from a boat, you jump in and hang the lifesaver around him. You feel the water, you feel the fear of drowning and you help him rescue himself."

Adventist Health hopes CPE will enable local clergy to be more effective in meeting the health needs of their constituents, both inside and outside the hospital, Crampton said. "There's an emphasis today on prevention, wellness and keeping people out of the hospital. But we don't have the resources to provide chaplains for the hundreds or thousands of people seeking care at all of our outpatient clinics. By providing CPE to local clergy, especially our Adventist pastors, we can collaborate in more fully ministering to all those needing spiritual care."



Sometimes a warm touch is the most important comfort.

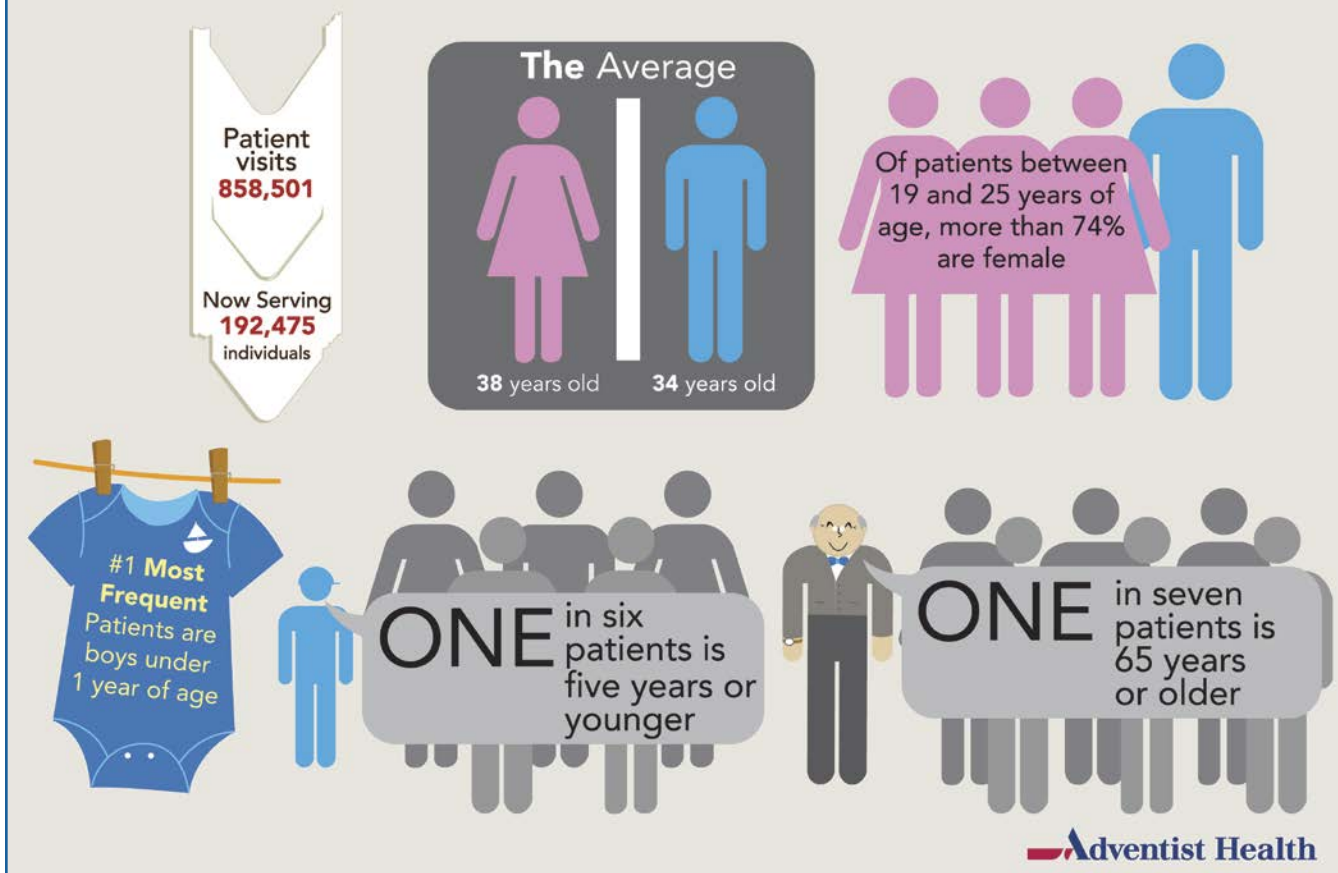
Beth Martin



Meeting the Health Needs of Rural Communities

Adventist Health Staff

Our Rural Health Clinic Patient



What is a Rural Health Clinic?

Rural health clinics provide services to publicly insured individuals and others in medically underserved communities. RHCs must be in eligible areas and meet the regulatory requirements to be certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Currently, Adventist Health has 53 RHCs providing care in eight counties in California, Tillamook and Lincoln counties in Oregon, and Walla Walla and Benton counties in Washington.

These clinics vary from small, one- or two-provider offices to large facilities with primary care, specialty medical services, dental, behavioral health, perinatal and other services. Our system has the largest network of rural health clinics in California (about 15 percent of the

RHCs in the state). Our network is also one of the largest in the nation, representing more than one percent of the nation's RHCs. Our RHCs provide care to over 192,000 individuals who mostly live in medically underserved communities.

Time Enough to Care

Enrique*, a farmworker in his 60s, was glad to have a job and wasn't happy to have to leave work to go to a clinic. However, the pain in his neck and shoulders was making work difficult. He wanted the clinic to just take care of his pain so he could be on his way.

He went to Adventist Health/Community Care-Avenal West to see nurse practitioner Colleen Black, FNP, who evaluated him and ordered X-rays, which Enrique completed, then returned to work. Later that day, alarmed by the spots on the X-rays, Colleen wrote an order for a CT scan. The clinic staff tried calling Enrique with no success. Knowing he wanted to get his work done, they were concerned that he might not have time for the scan.

Colleen and Gloria Garza, the clinic site manager, took the new orders to his home that evening and discovered that his phone was broken. They worked with his family to persuade him to get his CT scan immediately, which he did early the next morning. The CT report showed the need for urgent action as his pain was due to cancer. Having no other way to reach him, Colleen and Gloria went back to his home with the neurosurgeon referral. Enrique was in surgery three days later. He is recovering from radiation treatments and is doing well. Now, whenever Enrique or his family sees the staff anywhere, they say thank you for taking the extra time that saved Enrique's life.

**Names have been changed for patient privacy.*

Partnering with Churches to Meet Needs Through CREATION Health

Health is the gracious gift of God, but achieving and maintaining a healthful lifestyle isn't easy. To help individuals take ownership of their health, and to integrate it within the context of faith, Adventist Health has partnered with local churches to introduce Creation Health.

Pioneered at Florida Hospital, CREATION Health is a faith-based wellness plan that is centered on eight biblical principles found in the creation story and supported by evidence-based science. By consistently practicing these eight principles — Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition (CREATION) — participants improve their health, mind, body and spirit.

"In health care today, there's a huge emphasis on prevention," said Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for mission and spiritual care at Adventist Health. "We're continuously looking at new ways of partnering with our churches to improve health before people get sick. We have hundreds of churches, with thousands of members, that we'd like to see become 'wellness centers' for their communities. It's a natural extension of our Adventist health message and mission."

To that end, in 2013, Adventist Health sponsored education, training and resources to help local faith leaders bring the CREATION Health

program to their congregations and communities. Pastors and health ministries leaders from churches throughout the Pacific Union and Southern California Conference participated in two days of CREATION Health certification training in September 2013. Ten churches then piloted CREATION Health, supported by and in collaboration with their local Adventist Health hospitals.

One participant was the Eagle Rock church in Eagle Rock, Calif., working closely with Glendale Adventist Medical Center. With the hospital's help, the church promoted the CREATION Health program to its members and throughout its neighboring communities.

"Both our community and our church members had a very deep need to improve their well-being," said Senior Pastor Danny Chan. "Many of us have not been careful about the factors that contribute to health other than diet and a Sabbath day of rest."

During eight weeks of CREATION Health lectures and small group discussions, church members and a handful of non-church members learned how to make small lifestyle changes that could make a big difference. To make it tangible, participants received a giveaway at the end of each session that related directly to that week's topic. After the presentation on "Activity," they received yoga mats. To help them experience "Nutrition," they were treated to fresh fruit and a healthy snack.

Creation[®]
H E A L T H



“CREATION Health provided real, achievable goals, like better ways to de-stress, rest and eat that people are still implementing to this day,” Chan said. “What we loved most about the program is that it’s so comprehensive. Sometimes healthy living programs are too narrow in their approach, focusing on just one dimension, like diet or exercise. CREATION Health talks about many factors that all contribute to well-being.”

Pastor Benjamin Del Pozo, senior pastor of the White Memorial church, said the best thing about CREATION Health was that “it made people aware that their bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit.” He covered the CREATION Health topics once a week during the hour of worship for nine weeks, involving the entire congregation. Church attendance increased; so did baptisms.

“Our church came alive,” he said. “Everyone was so happy to participate. It was one of the most beautiful evangelistic endeavors we have ever had.”

To quantify the program’s impact on well-being, Adventist Health sponsored biometric screenings for participants at all 10 churches at the start of the program and again six months later. The screenings measured cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar and triglycerides. The results showed a 15 percent increase in overall wellness!

“This is objective, scientific data that demonstrates CREATION Health positively impacts health,” Crampton said. Now, he added, churches throughout the North American Division are working directly with Florida Hospital to introduce CREATION Health to own their congregations and communities.

“Piloting the program was another way Adventist Health could partner with our churches to effectively meet the needs of the populations we serve together,” he said. “CREATION Health is a lifestyle preventive approach that we’re bringing to our local communities to help people adopt behaviors so they can live healthier, longer.”

For more information on how your church can offer CREATION Health, contact your local conference health ministries department.

Beth Martin



Four SECC Schools Have New Leadership

The Southeastern California Conference welcomed several new members to its school administration team for the 2014-2015 school year.



Loma Linda Academy Junior High Principal Jim Weller takes time to talk with history teacher Carol Brink.

Loma Linda Academy Junior High

Jim Weller is the new principal of Loma Linda Academy Junior High. Weller previously taught at Rogers Adventist School in the Walla Walla, Wash., area. He moved to the Inland Empire two years ago when his wife, Ginger, was called to be dean of the School of Education at La Sierra University. Weller then took the opportunity to complete his dissertation on abrasive teachers and principal intervention, which earned him the Outstanding Dissertation of the Year award from Andrews University. Soon after that, he was offered the opportunity to serve at LLAJH.

Settling into this new role, Weller expressed how much he enjoys the positive environment



Desert Adventist Academy's new principal, Eugene Bartlett, works behind the scenes.

at LLAJH. "We have an excellent group of students this year — energetic and friendly. The faculty and staff are gifted and team-spirited, and the parents are amazingly supportive and encouraging. Despite starting the year with flood damage, we believe it will be a rewarding and enjoyable year," he said.

Desert Adventist Academy

Desert Adventist Academy in Palm Desert also has a new principal, Eugene Bartlett. He has taught Bible and history at various schools in California, including schools in Sacramento, Calexico, Fresno and San Diego. Bartlett most recently served for seven years as youth pastor of the Palm Springs church before answering the call to lead DAA's educational pursuits.

"It's been a delightful start to the year," Bartlett said. "Everyone has been positive at every interaction."



San Diego Academy's new vice principal, Stephanie Mayang (center), surrounded by her family; husband, Herrick (left), son, Leif (front left), and son, Alexander (right).

Bartlett summarized his goal for the school as making it not only a place for quality learning, but also a place where students and parents experience the blessings of God. "We want to be known as a positive, upbeat institution," Bartlett continued. "We'd like the school to be an oasis in the desert."

San Diego Adventist Academy

Stephanie Mayang is a fitting choice to be the new vice principal of San Diego Adventist Academy, as she's been a part of the school's



Tasha Tate (far right), director of Azure Hills Children's Center, teaches her students to pray each day.

community since her third-grade year. She has taught there for 20 years, her experience ranging from third, fifth and sixth grades to K-6 music and physical education to junior high math and history.

Though taking this position was not in her original plan, she was more than equipped to step up and meet the need. Mayang now oversees the elementary school and teaches high school ESL.

"This school is my passion," Mayang explained. "It's been a part of my life since I was 8, and now my own children attend here. I believe this is God's institution."

Azure Hills Children's Center

Tasha Tate is now director of the Azure Hills Children's Center. She previously held the position of manager/director of a preschool and childcare facility in Los Angeles, but she was happy for the opportunity to work with children in an Adventist organization.

"I love being able to work with young kids, helping them develop a Christ-centered attitude," Tate said. "You can plant a seed and watch it grow. That is our mission here, to help these kids know what it means to be an Adventist, to be kind and loving, showing all the fruits of the Spirit."

"We're excited to welcome these new administrators to our team of educators in our conference," said Don Dudley, superintendent of schools for SECC. "Each one brings expertise and an excellent skill set to their ministry. We look forward to how the Lord will use them as they provide Christ-centered leadership in each of their schools."

Amy Prindle

Mission Field Reality Series Marks New Chapter in Quiet Hour Ministries

The red carpet rolled out, flashbulbs popped and “Missions Today,” a new television series from Quiet Hour Ministries, debuted on Sept. 27.

The premiere event, hosted by Randy Bates, QHM president and CEO, was held at the Redlands church. Attendees took photos on the red carpet before settling in, bag of popcorn in hand, for an episode doubleheader featuring mission stories from Ecuador and Peru.

Interviewed during the premiere were Bill Tucker, QHM speaker emeritus; Greg Batla, “Missions Today” host; Bryan Fellows, producer and director; and Todd Rosspencer, Redlands church associate pastor.

Rosspencer had helped organize and lead a mission team from the Redlands church that was featured in the Peru episode.

Also appearing onstage was Derris Krause, Hope Channel vice president for marketing/fund-raising. Hope Channel is a broadcast partner for “Missions Today” and began airing the series on Sept. 28.

Filmed entirely in the mission field, “Missions Today” is a reality series featuring the firsthand stories of QHM’s mission team members. Season one takes viewers to 12 countries, including India, the Philippines, Costa Rica and Tonga.

“We’re so excited to launch ‘Missions Today,’” said Bates. “Just seeing how the Lord has led this program to this point, I know He has something special in store. I pray the stories of how God is working through His people to win souls around the world will rekindle the flame here at home as well.”

“Missions Today” is currently airing on Hope Channel and National Religious Broadcast Network. The series can also be watched online at missionstoday.tv.

The first QHM television program was launched in 1949 in Oakland, Calif. During the past 77 years, QHM has reached more than 135 countries through evangelistic meetings, outreach media and mission projects.



Attendees arriving at the “Missions Today” premiere event, which was held in the Redlands church community center.

Steve Hamstra



Bates (left) talks with Bill Tucker, QHM speaker emeritus, about the ministry’s 65-year television history.



Greg Batla, “Missions Today” TV series host (right), shares with Randy Bates, QHM president and CEO, about the power of seeing firsthand mission stories.

Central's Summer Literature Ministries Program Breaks Records

Central California Conference celebrated a milestone year for the Youth Rush program, an annual summer program that provides teens and young adults with the opportunity to raise scholarship funds while distributing Christian literature throughout the conference. This summer, 122 young people of high school and college age visited a record-breaking 456,000 homes.

In line with Central's Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus initiative, 22,000 of those homes were in San Francisco. "It was the best summer ever," says Bill Krick, who has served as the director of literature ministries in Central for over a decade. More books and DVD resources were distributed than in previous summers, totaling 87,896, and the greatest amount of scholarship funds to date were raised for Adventist education — a total of \$438,542. In addition, they covered more ground this summer than ever before, including territory in Oakland and surrounding cities in partnership with the Northern California Conference.



Itzel Juarez, safety radio at her side, shares a DVD with a man in the South Bay.

Besides earning scholarships for school, Youth Rush students also gained a rich spiritual experience. "This summer has been such a blessing, and I am so thankful that God led me here again!" expressed one student at the close of the program. "Thank you so much for letting me canvass. It has revived me spiritually."

Another student wrote about the experience online saying that, "So far, canvassing has been the best thing I've done in my life. I grew so much spiritually and as a person."

For some, the experience was life-changing. "Ten weeks of Youth Rush are done and, I must say, it has completely changed my life. Ten weeks of humility, patience, rejections; a small taste of what Jesus went through," writes another student. "I'm happy for the people in my group that I have met, and I'm proud to call them family."

Krick explains that one of the most exciting parts of the summer is when parents and residents confirm what leaders already know about Youth Rush. "The supernatural power of God works in the lives of Youth Rush students throughout the summer, and that's evident to those who know them best," says Krick.

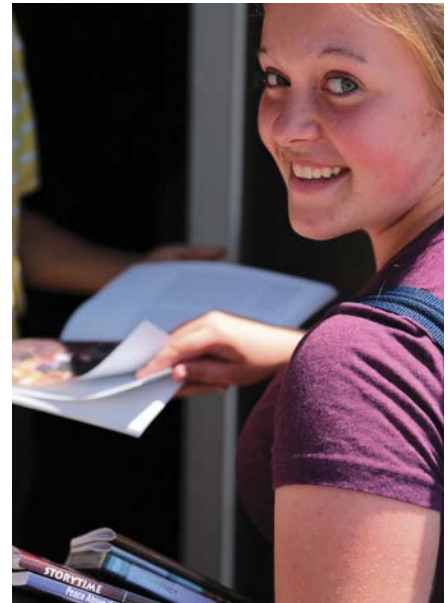
"This is a girl I don't even recognize because she has changed so much for the positive," shared a Youth Rush parent at the program's conclusion.

"It gives us great joy," shared another.

Occasionally, residents who have been visited by Youth Rush students will call or e-mail Krick's office after the visit. One man describes his experience saying that the student "was an inspiration. I enjoyed his honesty."

While the summer program has come to an end, follow-up work has only begun. In addition to distributing literature, Youth Rush students received hundreds of Bible study requests from residents in close to 100 different towns and cities across central and northern California. Local churches receive these requests and follow up

with the residents in the months following the summer. Some of the studies result in the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist community of faith. For instance, a family from Patterson, Calif., requested Bible studies from a Youth Rush student during the summer of 2013. The Ceres church followed up on the request



Becky Oxtenko shares books at a home in the South Bay.

and the whole family — mother, father, and children — were baptized at the Soquel camp meeting this summer.

"I am privileged to be a part of Youth Rush," concludes Krick. "I feel like I get to stand by with my mouth wide open all summer long, watching God's supernatural power at work through those 122 energetic young people. Truly amazing!"

A.J. Beltz



Youth Rush students in the Modesto-Oakland group pause for a photo.

31st Annual African-American Convention Continues Tradition of Excellence

It has been dubbed a “giant weekend prayer conference” and the “family convocation” for Central California Conference. For 31 years, the annual African-American Convocation, held Sept. 18-20 at the Fresno Westside church, has drawn a large and diverse audience, numbering from 600 to 1,000 participants, and a host of inspiring, dedicated speakers and musicians. Despite its longevity, the convocation, presented on behalf of Central’s African-American ministries and the African-American Advisory Council, keeps getting better.

History was made this year when the first-ever chapter of the Oakwood University Alumni Association was officially established in Central California, and David Hudgens, pastor of East Palo Alto church, was named its president. Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, president of OU, was present during the installation and spoke during Sabbath worship. Dr. William Wright, Pacific Union’s OU Alumni Association director, was also present.

In his welcome remarks, Frederick Anderson, Central’s director of African-American ministries, introduced the theme, “So Costly – Yet So Free . . . JESUS,” which focused on God’s gift of Jesus for fallen humanity. “It’s important for us to come together as one family for personal revival and to reflect upon Christ’s sacrifice for us,” explained Anderson. “We must also recommit to strengthening our families and churches, and sharing His salvation message in our communities.”

Anderson praised the historic and

continuing success of the Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus initiative, and the central role of San Francisco Philadelphian and San Francisco Rainbow churches in this significant outreach to the city of San Francisco. He also expressed concern for the need to nurture young people. “Studies show that young people today are skeptical of the country’s institutions and feel disconnected and alienated. We must let them know Jesus loves them and that we care,” challenged Anderson.

“Over the years, the family-oriented convocation has grown more multi-ethnic and multi-generational,” said Wanda Flowers, lay minister and administrative assistant for African-American ministries. “All are welcome, and there’s something for everyone, including an engaging program for children. This year’s Bible quiz-arama study on 2 Chronicles actually featured a 6-year-old Bible scholar in the competition.”

“I believe the convocation has become an even more powerful experience the last two years because of our partnership with Central’s prayer



Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University, left, and William Wright, president of the OU Alumni Association for the Pacific Union, right, welcome Pastor David Hudgens as president of the newly established Central California Chapter of the Oakwood University Alumni Association.

ministries team, led by director Joyce Mulligan, as well as the Youth Evangelism Team, led by Obed Zamot,” added Flowers. “We could feel the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit at work throughout the entire weekend.”

Nancy L. Stake

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Pastor Sung Min Lee Ordained

Sung Min (Sam) Lee was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, Sept. 6. Born in South Korea into an Adventist family, Lee attended Adventist schools, majoring in biblical theology at Sahn Yook University. He received a master's degree at SYU as well and served in compulsory military service at Pusan Military Hospital as a medical specialist. Soon after receiving an honorable discharge, he married Jae Kyung (Lydia) Yoon.

Lee served in pastoral positions at SYU before graduation and afterward, in E. Central Korean Conference churches.

"When I was young my parents always prayed that I would become a pastor," recalled Lee. "Although I was proud that they wanted me to do this and went this direction in school, I hesitated many times, because I felt I had too many faults to do something like this. I decided that I would serve God in a different kind of work. I would come to the United States and become a dentist. I received my dental technology license first, but then, due to some problems with my resident status, I switched to nursing school. God had other plans for me, though. I was like Jonah, running away from God's calling. But also as in Jonah's story, God did not give up on me. I came to know that He truly wants me to be in this position."

"The Canoga Park church was Sung and Lydia's first home church," said Pastor Will



(L. to r.) Sung Oh, SCC treasurer; James G. Lee, Jr.; Sung Min Lee; Samuel Lee, SCC Asian Pacific director; Lydia (Jae Kyung) Lee. On right, Pastor Will McCall prays for Mrs. Lee in her role as a pastoral wife.

McCall. "Sam became an elder here and Lydia played the organ for us. We are so proud of how the Lord has led them."

In January 2010, Lee visited the Olympic Korean church with his parents, who were visiting from Korea. Eventually, Lee was invited to serve as the church's associate pastor. After

sincere prayer, Lee felt a strong calling to accept the invitation. He believes that a pastor should emulate Jesus by associating with sinners and sharing happiness and sadness with them, praying with them and cooperating with them, and dealing with them as good friends who share this life together.

In his message at the ordination service, James G. Lee Jr., SCC vice president, affirmed that belief. "You and I are custodians of the most important message in the world. Preach this message. Your divine call supersedes all other professions. You are called by God to tell people what they need to know. Walk worthy of your calling. Seek earnestly the unction of the Holy Spirit. God has chosen you, pastor, to change others. No one else in society has a higher calling than the pastor, chosen by God to be His servant to shepherd His people, for the sacred work of leading God's people to Him."

"I want to be that woman at the well who left her water pot," responds Sung Min Lee, "and ran to tell everybody about this wonderful person called Jesus."



Pastors lay hands on Sung Min and Lydia Lee for the ordination prayer.

Betty Cooney

Multicultural Concert Celebrates Unity in Diversity

The first multilingual concert representing Asians in both Southern and Southeastern California conferences, was held Sabbath, July 26, at the Olympic Korean church in Los Angeles. Singers and others from nine Asian congregations gathered for the gala event and the celebratory dinner that followed.

An estimated 650 people attended, filling the church on a warm summer afternoon. “We will need to find a bigger place the next time,” said concert organizer Samuel Sun-hee Lee. “Through this event, I experienced the beauty of unity in diversity. We enjoyed a variety of music and praised the Lord in all different attires and tones. We all experienced and tasted the kingdom of God in advance.”

Choral music in Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Indonesian, Filipino and Tongan languages graced the occasion. Guitar, flute and violin solos or accompaniment were also featured.

“It was the first multicultural concert I had been to,” said Irene Choi, who directs the Bitsori Korean Women’s Choir. “I was able to hear music in many different languages, and see the singers in their beautiful national costumes. I enjoyed meeting people of different cultures — some people wanted to take a picture with me because of my Korean dress! I saw friends of my family whom I hadn’t seen in some time. It was a wonderful occasion. It was very festive.”

Southern and Southeastern California conferences, the Southern California Korean Pastors Association and the Korean Adventist Press

jointly sponsored the event. The Korean Elders Association and the Korean Musicians Association of Southern California served as hosts of the concert.

“One of the biggest fear factors for Korean churches to do such a special program with other ethnic groups is the language barrier,” Lee explained. “It’s a big challenge; I wanted to be the one who helped to break down that barrier, since no one seemed to be thinking of doing that.”

“I think now is the time for all Adventist churches in Southern California not only to open wide their doors so that everyone feels welcome, but also I envision every immigrant church being equipped with a bi-lingual simultaneous translation system. Having this equipment would make services available to everyone who does not understand Korean or other languages.

“I am trying hard to urge all Korean churches to start first with translation equipment,” continued Lee, who directs the Korean Elders’ Association of Southern California. “We need to develop more program ideas by which we can work together. Music programs are one of the easiest ways to approach this goal.”

“Whether you call it a ‘melting pot’ or a ‘salad bowl,’ the multicultural concert was an amazing and exciting experience of contacting other nations, tribes, languages and cultures,” said Samuel Y. Lee, Asian Pacific region director of the Southern California Conference. “Especially, as Adventists, this event gave us one more

opportunity to share together our unity in diversity and close fellowship in Christ. In short, it gave us a little taste of heaven in advance. Personally, I found myself more edified, encouraged and empowered by this concert experience to be able to respect and accept the otherness in people.”

“The music at the multicultural concert really touched my heart and soul,” said Christine Nguyen, director of the Vietnamese Choir of the El Monte Vietnamese church. “All the musical numbers from the various ethnic churches really inspired our members to practice more music for our church worship services. I am really looking forward to the next concert!”

Samuel Sun-hee Lee hopes to plan another multicultural concert in 2015.

Betty Cooney



Irene Choi, director of Bitsori Korean Women’s Choir, enters to lead the choir, which travels throughout the area.



The well-known Brown Brothers sang two numbers, one in English and one in Tagalog. Here, director Orlando Palitang invites the audience to join in on “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”



The El Monte Vietnamese Choir was among the featured performers at the concert.

Erik VanDenburgh Appointed Youth Director for Hawaii Conference

Erik VanDenburgh recently accepted the position of youth ministries director for the Hawaii Conference. He will be coming to the islands after spending more than a decade in the Arizona Conference, working first as literature ministries director, then as youth director for nine years.

“We are grateful to God for bringing the VanDenburgh family to these islands,” remarked Hawaii Conference President Ralph Watts. “With his gifts, skills and experiences, we are eager and excited to see how God is going to bless

Pastor Erik in leading the youth of Hawaii in the years to come. We welcome the VanDenburgh’s with hearts full of aloha.”

VanDenburgh was born and raised in Walla Walla, Wash. From an early age, he followed his father’s guidance and learned to disassemble and reassemble everything he touched. Mechanical things came easy. His attraction to airplanes began early in life, and he took flying his senior year in academy, later completing the course to become a certified airplane mechanic.

VanDenburgh’s passion for flying took him on a mission trip to Venezuela for a year where he worked as a student missionary and pilot.

Returning to the U.S., literature evangelism was a natural choice for VanDenburgh, as he loved meeting and talking to people about spiritual matters. He worked in the literature ministry for more than 12 years.

As youth director for the Arizona Conference, VanDenburgh spent a great deal of time and creative energy making huge innovations to Camp Yavapines in Prescott. Under his direction, many new features were added to the camp, including: go karts, a 60-ft. swing, the longest zip line in the state, Frisbee golf, a newly developed lake and water feature, plus much more.

Remembering a time during his youth when his parents couldn’t afford to send him to camp, VanDenburgh developed a plan that would allow every young person who desired to attend camp to have that opportunity. He presented his revolutionary idea to conference administration, and the “\$100 Camp” was born. Any young person who wants to attend summer camp at Camp Yavapines can do so for an entire week, all-inclusive, for just \$100. Over the past five years, summer camp attendance has increased from 220 to more than 950 annually, and more than 350 have been baptized.

VanDenburgh helped to resurrect the flight school at Thunderbird, where students can now earn their pilot’s license during their high school



VanDenburgh baptizes a Pathfinder at the Forever Faithful International Camporee.



VanDenburgh teaches a course on aviation with Thunderbird Academy students.



Pastor Erik and Jana VanDenburgh with Jaben, Joel and Jacob join the Hawaii Conference Ohana.



The VanDenburgh family heads out for some fun.

experience. He has also been project manager for Adventist World Aviation – Thunderbird.

Erik and Jana VanDenburgh have been married for 10 years and have three boys: Jacob, 6; Joel, 3; and Jaben, 1.

Regarding his ministry goals, VanDenburgh says, “I appreciate getting in on the ground level and watching God expand and grow the ministry. I enjoy being creative and trying new ideas. I especially like working with young people and youth and desire to let them know how much God cares about them and has an amazing plan for each of their lives if they choose to follow Him.”

VanDenburgh will assume his post in January 2015.

Jesse Seibel

\$100 Camp Challenge Yields Nearly 100 Baptisms

Pastor Tim Feig was startled by the \$100 Camp challenge. "Look around," someone asked. "What's missing?"

"In many of our churches," Feig says, "many of those old enough to make the decision to either leave or stay with their church have left. We have case studies and loads of assembled and extrapolated data to help us determine why they left. But the fact is, they're gone. We must decide what we're going to do about it!"

A recent graduate from Southern Adventist University with a degree in theology and pastoring in his first district, Feig is on fire to reach the youth and keep them active in church.

"In the Arizona Conference, we have a very powerful tool for youth evangelism," he says. "It's called summer camp. When I first heard the term 'camp ministry,' it kind of threw me. But it is, in fact, a ministry. I've seen it in action, up close and personal."

This past summer, Feig asked his Lake Havasu City and Parker church congregations to step out in faith and make use of this tool. They responded by sending 21 young people to Camp Yavapines for a week.

"This is the best bang for our evangelism dollar," said one member. "We spend thousands on evangelistic series. Why not put our money into our local children?"

PHOTOS BY RYAN BECKER



Campers often form life-long friendships.

Of course, members started by sending their own children who might not have been able to afford to go to camp. But as more funds came in, they took their cause to the local Christian radio station, and through a children's radio show were able to sponsor children from as far away from Lake Havasu, Quartzite, Bullhead City, Kingman, and even Prescott Valley, Ariz. Radio station KNLB also provided on-air interviews to raise interest.

Feig is excited. "Only God knows the results, for sure, but out of the 952 children who attended Camp Yavapines this summer, 97 were baptized right there. Four camp staff, including my daughter, Cheyenne, were baptized. Out of the 21 children sponsored by the Lake Havasu City and Parker district, nine were baptized at camp, including my son, Diego. And groundwork has been laid for at least two more baptisms."

One of the young people from Lake Havasu City, Dylan Varner, was baptized at Teen Camp and is now attending Thunderbird Adventist Academy as a freshman. "It changed my life," he said.

"The last week of camp, at least three youth told me their decision to be baptized was influenced in a big way by the Jesus they saw represented in Varner," Feig said. "The \$100 Camp is a huge thing with a small price tag. My challenge to others: if a small district like Lake Havasu City and Parker can sponsor 21 children, how many lives can your church reach?"



Pastor Tim Feig baptizes his son, Diego, at Camp Yavapines.



Campers participate in worship and music.



Holbrook Indian School Pastor Phil Vecchiarelli spent a week as camp pastor and participated in the baptism.



Youth are given many opportunities to get to know Jesus amidst a flurry of activities at Camp Yavapines.

Phil Draper

Four NCC Pastors Ordained This Summer

This summer, four Northern California Conference pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry.

Tyler Kraft

Tyler Kraft was ordained on Sabbath, June 21, at the Lodi Fairmont church during his last worship service as an associate pastor there. In July, he took on his new role as pastor of the Tracy church.



Tyler and Crystal Kraft



Tyler Kraft was ordained on June 21 at the Lodi Fairmont church.

Kraft credits his parents, Ronald and Sharon, for modeling and instilling faithfulness to God throughout his childhood, as they were actively involved in the Whittier church in Southern California. While attending San Gabriel Academy, Kraft attended a Bible retreat at Pine Springs Ranch, where he felt an overwhelming impression that God was calling him to serve

Him with his whole life — especially in his choice of career. He decided to enroll at Pacific Union College with a double major: theology and communication. During his college years he served as a student missionary in Hawaii.

After graduating, Kraft went to work in the NCC communication department. His main responsibilities included writing and editing articles for the Pacific Union Recorder and managing web content. On weekends, he often served as a guest speaker at various churches.

After two years and a half years, the NCC sent Kraft to the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He loved the classes, but he was a bit lonely. That changed when a friend introduced him to Crystal Hechanova, a nursing student; they were married in December 2009.

After Kraft graduated with his Master of Divinity, he returned to PUC as the interim campus chaplain. He then served at the Lodi Fairmont church as associate/youth pastor for three years before accepting the invitation to Tracy. "It's a humbling thing to be called by God into pastoral ministry," said Kraft, "but I'm thrilled to be employed in His service."

Christopher Estay

Christopher Estay, Novato/Sonoma district pastor, was ordained on Sabbath afternoon, July 19, at the Sonoma church. During the service, he and his wife Erdal dedicated their baby son Gabriel to the Lord.

Estay's parents, Rick and Grace, sacrificed greatly — often working two or three jobs — to send their three children to San Fernando Valley Academy. The family was active in the Van Nuys church in Southern California.

Although he planned to become a mechanical engineer, Estay decided to spend the summer after academy graduation as a literature evangelist. During this time, he felt a calling from God to enter full-time ministry. He postponed college for a year to attend SOULS West in Arizona, which grounded him in his faith and calling. (He later canvassed and trained other colporteurs for four additional summers.)



Chris Estay, Novato/Sonoma district pastor, his wife Erdal and their son Gabriel.



Chris Estay's ordination service was held on July 19 at the Sonoma church.

The next year Estay enrolled at La Sierra University. During this period, he served as the extern youth pastor of the Victoria church. In 2005, he married Erdal, a nursing student whom he had met at a colporteur retreat.

After graduating with a major in business administration and a minor in biblical languages, Estay served as assistant/youth pastor at the Santa Rosa church for a year and at the Pleasant Hill church for three years.

He then attended the SDA Theological Seminary and earned his Master of Divinity. "During

my time at the seminary, I felt God really calling me to refocus my ministry emphasis to seek and save the lost," he said. "That is the reason Jesus came to the earth, and I feel that is the main role of the church."

The Estays returned to California in January to begin work in the Novato/Sonoma district.

Enoch Brownell

Enoch Brownell, pastor of the Scott Valley/Yreka district, was ordained in the Yreka church gymnasium the evening of Aug. 30.

KAY PRUNTY



Enoch and Melissa Brownell, with daughter Taliah, son Titus, and baby Tessah.

The youngest of four, Brownell grew up in Waterford, Calif. His parents, Steven and Frances, owned and operated a care home for the elderly. They helped their children to learn practical skills and form deep relationships with God and others.

In high school, Brownell wanted to be a computer programmer, but God led him into colporteur ministry, where his passion for ministry grew into a calling at the age of 17. He attended SOULS in Florida for two years and worked in literature evangelism for 10 summers. His journey led him to Reno, where he served as a Bible worker; to Fresno, as the chaplain and Bible teacher at Fresno Adventist Academy and as youth pastor at the Fresno Central church; and then to the Sacramento Central church, where he served as youth pastor.

Brownell met his future wife, Melissa, when she was serving as a Bible worker, and they



Enoch Brownell's ordination service took place on Aug. 30 in the Yreka church gymnasium.

were married in 2005. Shortly afterward, they moved to Maine, where Enoch served for four years as a pastor for a three-church district. During this time, his daughter Taliah and son Titus were born. The family then moved to Michigan so Brownell could earn his Master of Divinity degree at the SDA Theological Seminary. After graduating, he returned to serve as pastor in his home state. On July 30, the family welcomed a new member, daughter Tessah.

Brownell looks forward to his ministry in Scott Valley and Yreka. "I enjoy people and am passionate about sharing the love of God with those I meet," he said.

Timothy McMillen

Timothy McMillen, Grass Valley church associate pastor, was ordained at his church on Sabbath evening, Sept. 13.

Born in Shawnee Mission, Kansas — the oldest of three — McMillen learned about committed service from his parents, Dan and Donna, who were active members at Chapel Oaks church. He attended Midland Adventist Academy, graduated from Enterprise Academy, and studied music at Union College.

When he was eight, McMillen went to summer camp at Broken Arrow Ranch in Kansas, which he loved. He attended as a camper until he was old enough to work, and then he held a variety of jobs at camp for 11 summers.

Encouraged to go into youth ministry,

McMillen entered the theology program at Pacific Union College. Near the end of his time there, he was called to be pastor of the Enterprise church and chaplain of Enterprise Academy. On a school mission trip, he met Anna Hartfield, a Union College student. (They married a few years later in 2004.)

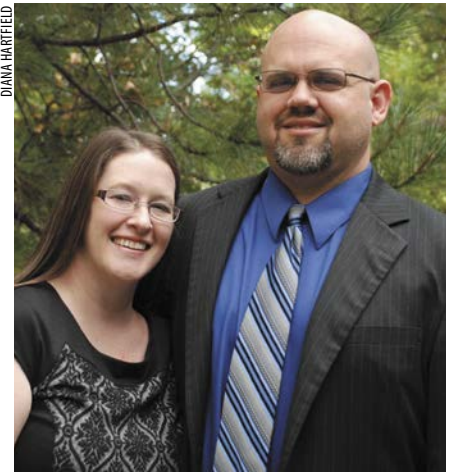
McMillen moved to Omaha, Neb., to serve as pastor of a church plant and as youth pastor of Omaha Memorial church. Unsure about full-time ministry, he enrolled at the University of North Dakota to become an air traffic controller.

After graduation, the couple returned to Shawnee Mission, but McMillen was not offered an ATC job, and they were unsure where God was leading. Then the Enterprise Academy principal called, asking McMillen to return to the school as assistant chaplain and assistant boys' dean. The couple spent three years at Enterprise.

In 2009, McMillen accepted a call to the Grass Valley church, where he has served ever since. "I feel truly blessed to see how God has led me to this wonderful place," he said.

Julie Lorenz

DIANA HARTFIELD



Tim and Anna McMillen

DIANE SIMMONS



Tim McMillen was ordained on Sept. 13 at the Grass Valley church.

Loma Linda University Ranked No. 1 in National Survey on Job Meaning

Loma Linda University Health is known as a place where faculty, students, and staff “Live It.” Can the commitment to living it — with its emphasis on wholeness — be measured, even after graduates have completed their degrees and are pursuing their careers?

Recently, major publications and media outlets featured newly released results of a nationwide survey. When 1.4 million college and university alumni were asked, “Does your job make the world a better place?” Loma Linda University ranked No. 1.

Every year, an organization called PayScale surveys alumni who have earned a bachelor’s degree from more than 1,000 U.S. colleges and universities. In addition to collecting data on income, they also ask about job meaning. This year, 91 percent of Loma Linda University bachelor’s graduates said working in their jobs helped to “make the world a better place.”

“I’m delighted by this ranking,” says Richard H. Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health. “As our alumni are living out our mission every day, bringing wholeness to all the ends of the earth, this recognition makes me proud of the heritage of our university, the spirit and dedication of our faculty and staff, and all of our medical professionals who train our students for lives of real service — locally, nationally and globally.”

The ranking places Loma Linda University far ahead of Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton, often ranked in the top three spots on some college surveys. In the PayScale alumni survey on meaningful jobs, only about 65 percent of the three Ivies’ alumni answered yes to the question.

The next three institutions following Loma Linda University are University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, and Medical College of Georgia in Augusta (both tied for 88 percent), and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Penn. (86 percent).

In the same survey, Loma Linda University is also ranked among the top for the highest starting salary.

The Atlantic and *The Washington Post* reported the news of LLU’s No. 1 ranking. The respective articles can be viewed at <http://theatlantic.com/story/2014/03/14/loma-linda-university-ranked-no-1-in-national-survey-on-job-meaning/> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2014/03/14/loma-linda-university-ranked-no-1-in-national-survey-on-job-meaning/>.

Hollie Caldwell, alumna, Loma Linda University School of Nursing, 1993

Hollie Caldwell knows the deeper meaning behind nursing because of her training at Loma Linda University.

“Loma Linda University deeply shaped my values about stewardship and the role that nurses play in ministering to the mind, body and spirit of patients,” she says.

As dean of the school of nursing at Platt College in Aurora, Colo., she works to emulate her Loma Linda professors and instill in her students the same understanding of compassionate, whole-person care.

“I have always tried to help my patients and my students see how one small action can have a ripple effect — positive or negative — far beyond themselves,” Caldwell says.

Her intentionality to produce positive ripples is strengthened when she recalls Loma Linda University’s motto “to make man whole.”



Hollie Caldwell, a 1993 graduate of the School of Nursing, serves as dean of the Platt school of nursing in Colorado.

“I believe one of my purposes as a human and as a nurse is to do my part ‘to make man whole,’” she says.

Caldwell received her foundation in clinical excellence and patient care while studying for her bachelor’s degree at Loma Linda University, graduating in 1993.

She went on to practice nursing with the U.S. Air Force and a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Croatia. She later taught nursing at the college and university level; practiced clinical and school nursing; and earned master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Phoenix and Medical University of South Carolina.

On the faculty at Platt College since 2005, Caldwell was instrumental in helping the



In 2014, Gillian Seton, M.D., a 2009 graduate of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, began working as a general surgeon at Cooper Adventist Hospital in Liberia.

Hospital in Liberia. As she was getting settled and beginning her work as a general surgeon, the Ebola outbreak that is spreading through West Africa began.

Convinced of the importance of her work and what it can mean for the community, Seton stayed in Liberia from February until September 22, when hospital administrators and staff made the decision to close Cooper Adventist Hospital due to staff illnesses.

“Helping people has been a driving force and motivation for me,” she says. “Medicine is the perfect outlet for this. I cannot

Bachelor of Science in nursing program achieve accreditation. She became dean of the Platt school of nursing in 2013.

“I have been blessed in my practice and in my career to have had an education from Loma Linda University as a foundational experience,” she continues. “I am a better nurse and better person for it. I carry it with me and value it daily. I have tried to always work to pay that forward with my patients and my students.”

Gillian Seton, alumna, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, 2008

Even at a young age, Gillian Seton knew she wanted to be a missionary doctor. Because of this lifelong ambition, she chose Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

“At Loma Linda University,” she says, “the most outstanding influence for me was the dedication of our instructors and physician mentors to provide whole person care, in nearly every step of treatment. It was incredible to watch one of my mentors work with patients, address hidden issues and provide spiritual guidance as well as doing incredible work with history and diagnosis.”

After graduating with her M.D. degree from Loma Linda University in 2008, she went on to complete a five-year residency at the University of Utah and continued to work there for six months post residency graduation.

In 2014, she began working through Adventist Health International at Cooper Adventist

think of a more fulfilling job or goal in life but to relieve someone’s suffering.”

Jiggs Gallagher, Heather Reifsnnyder, and Courtney Beckwith Haas



When 1.4 million college and university alumni were asked “Does your job make the world a better place?” Loma Linda University ranked No. 1.

La Sierra Freshmen IGNITE in Big Bear

With laughter, words of encouragement and shouts of frustration, three teams of La Sierra University freshmen raced along a forest floor under soaring pine trees. Each team stood in a single row on parallel wooden boards which they struggled to slide forward in tandem while holding ropes attached to the boards.

“Let’s go, team Jamaica, let’s go. Two more steps,” called out freshman Maya Hanna, trying to encourage another team and their leader after her crew was first to slide across a finish line.

After the race, Hanna and her fellow freshmen gathered around their camp activity leader, Daniel Chapman, and described what elements

of the race made the experience difficult, and what they learned about teamwork and leadership. “You have to agree on the goals and how to get there,” commented Hanna.

Hanna, a volleyball player, pre-nursing major and graduate of Woodcrest Christian High School in Riverside was among 394 La Sierra University freshmen who spent three days in the crisp air of the pine forest mountains above San Bernardino getting to know each other and learning the importance of cooperation, communication and making wise choices. Ninety-seven student leaders and 19 La Sierra staff members joined the freshmen.

Between Wed., Sept. 24, and Fri., Sept. 26, the fledgling college students followed a busy

schedule of activities at the Salvation Army’s 40-acre Pine Summit Christian Camp in Big Bear Lake. Called IGNITE, the orientation program consisted of teambuilding exercises on a ropes course, and traditional games with an interesting twist including earth volleyball with a massive, multi-colored ball, and human foosball where players hold onto

ropes stretched across a walled-off rectangle while trying to kick a ball into two end goals.

In between the games and ropes course exercises, they met for workshops on the realities of college life, and with their family groups consisting of about nine freshmen each led by current university students and Division of Student Life staff.

For the past several years, IGNITE orientation activities have been held at La Sierra’s Riverside campus. However the influx of new students has outgrown the campus, said La Sierra’s Vice President of Student Life Yami Bazan, and the program was moved to Pine Summit. “The main idea is to connect them with each other, and with the staff and student leaders,” she said.

Isaac Deese, a Long Beach resident and graduate of Mayfair High School, enrolled at La Sierra to play on the Golden Eagles men’s basketball team and to study accounting. He and his group were busy helping each other scale a wooden wall setup among pine trees as part of the ropes course. “Getting up there was the easy part. Getting down was hard,” he said after climbing down a tree to exit a platform at the top of the wall.

The trip to Big Bear was his first outdoor mountain experience. “Just getting acquainted with the freshman class has been a great experience,” Deese said. “I liked it when we were in chapel, and we had the family environment thing going.”

PHOTOS BY MATA VIGNA



New La Sierra freshmen learned the value of teamwork and supporting each other during the IGNITE weekend.



Learning to trust each other and bonding together as a class were the key outcomes from La Sierra University’s 2014 IGNITE.

Hanna enrolled at La Sierra to play on its volleyball team, among other things. "I've always liked the environment and they have a good nursing program," she said.

Griffen Winget, a biomedical science major and Idaho native, was uncertain what to expect from the small group experience during IGNITE. "But everybody in my family group is super close with me," he said.

Winget followed the path of several of his own family members when he enrolled at La Sierra. "My aunt used to teach here, and I had family go through here. It was highly recommended to me," he said. Winget plans to become a pediatrician and open his own practice.

For a short video interview with four freshmen, and to view hundreds of IGNITE photos, visit LSU's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LaSierraU.



Darla Martin Tucker

IGNITE combines social opportunities, practical information, and spiritual inspiration to benefit La Sierra's new freshman class. Sam Leonor, campus pastor, shared a number of worship talks during the time in the mountains.

La Sierra Moves Ahead in Best Colleges Rankings

U.S. News & World Report has included La Sierra University as one of America's Best Colleges in its 2015 rankings. The magazine's much-anticipated rankings were released to the public on Sept. 9. This is the 30th edition of U.S. News' annual college rankings, widely considered among the most influential in the field.

La Sierra rose 32 spots this year in the Regional Universities: West category. The category includes 121 universities, both public and private, from Texas to Alaska.

Rankings are based on extensive data submitted annually by each institution. Among the factors considered are class size, faculty qualification, admission selectivity, reputation among peers, financial resources, retention rate, alumni support, and graduation rate, both expected and actual.

La Sierra University saw significantly improved scores in graduation and retention rates, peer assessment by administrators at other schools, class size, student-to-faculty ratio and student selectivity.

"We are very pleased to be ranked among America's best colleges," says La Sierra's president, Randal Wisbey. "We are especially proud that of the finding that our students graduate at a higher rate than expected."

La Sierra's 2014-15 academic year began Sept. 29. Last year's enrollment was nearly 2,500 in undergraduate and graduate programs.



La Sierra Public Relations

PUC Week of Welcome Concludes with Service

As the classes began on Sept. 22, both new and returning students started the school year right with the annual Week of Welcome celebration. Through an array of social, spiritual and academic events, the PUC community was reunited following summer vacation. The first week of the school year concluded with a special weekend of service opportunities, giving students the chance to give back to the community surrounding PUC's Napa Valley home.

To start off the week, students filled the campus mall on Monday for "A Taste of San Francisco" welcome back dinner. Ana Delgado, a junior, was excited to see all the new faces on campus at the celebration. "I'm looking forward to seeing even more diversity on campus than before because of all the freshmen. There's a lot more people, so it feels like a bigger campus family," she said.

On Tuesday night, students filled the benches to cheer on the Pioneers volleyball team against Cyclones of Mills College. The Student Association provided snacks and refreshments during the game. The fun continued on Wednesday night as students headed down to the Campus Center for free pizza, popcorn, and a screening

PHOTOS BY ALLISON REGAN



Sunday morning's Stop Hunger Now activity built 10,000 meals for hungry people around the world.

of *The Lego Movie*. It gave the students a chance to take a break from studying and to socialize with one another.

On Thursday, Leonard Bailey, M.D., opened PUC's Colloquy Speaker Series with his wife, Nancy Bailey, R.N., M.S. Dr. Bailey is an internationally recognized heart surgeon who

performed the first infant heart transplantation in October 1984. Students were inspired by his lecture, "Be a Pioneer," and the campus community participated in the annual traditions celebrated during Opening Convocation.

Three special opportunities during the first weekend of the school year gave the campus family a chance to offer a helping hand and give back to the community. After students finished their courses on Friday, they headed up valley to help clean backyards and take care of other home repair as part of Rebuilding Calistoga. The service event was hindered by hail and rain, but experienced a successful turnout in the following weekends, and will continue helping Angwin's neighboring town throughout the year.

Friday evening, students enjoyed academic pre-vespers before filling the PUC church sanctuary to hear a message from Jonathan Henderson, campus chaplain. After a good night's rest and Sabbath church services, students headed to Clearlake to provide food and essential supplies to the homeless. Before the trip, students prepped and sorted nonperishable food items. After packing the vans and loading up, bags full of food were distributed to a homeless camp



The welcome back celebration filled the campus mall with the PUC community.



Service with a smile: students work together to package meals at the Stop Hunger Now service project.

and a nearby park where the homeless gather. A hot meal was also provided.

Jonathan Goorhuis, a student who has been involved in the ministry since 2012, said the most important thing about the weekly excursion is to build relationships with the people they see each week. He estimated that more than 1,100 bags of food are handed out each year, as well as any other items by request, such as shoes or socks.

Sunday morning, students started working early packing meals with Stop Hunger Now, an organization that focuses on ending world hunger. Student teams measured and poured food into packets while others sealed and weighed the bags for shipping. The meals go anywhere from the Philippines to Afghanistan. Overall, students packed more than 10,000 dried meals, each full of nutritious rice, soy and fortified vegetables.

With student association events, an open mic night, and the flurry of academic and residence hall activities added to the schedule, the first week of the year was certainly full. Sammy Martinez, a returning senior who spent the last year studying abroad in Spain, said, "The week's activities were done in such a way that made it easy to hang out with old friends, and also make new ones."

Amanda Navarette



Clad in their new "Captive" student association shirts, students build meals in the Campus Center on Sept. 28.



Students learn the fun of service during the weekend's activities.

Vegas Marriage Retreat Enriches Relationships

On the weekend of Sept. 26-28, the Nevada-Utah Conference held its third married couples retreat in the last seven years. The weekend featured Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, family ministries directors from the North American Division, who mentored couples at the Hilton Garden Inn in Henderson, Nev.

Several couples from outside of the conference saw the Facebook advertising for the event and traveled from California and Arizona to participate.

Claudio used humor, anecdotes and research to teach. Pamela's background as a teacher was evident — she even assigned homework. Couples learned how to communicate their needs to one another, and found that the details, right down to how each person prefers to hang the toilet paper roll, can make a difference.

During "date night" on Saturday, conference family ministries directors David and Connie Hall presented the couples with gift bags containing sparkling cider and a few other things, and recommended that they put into practice what they learned. Attendees from out of town reported that they enjoyed sightseeing and experiencing the family-friendly fun available in Las Vegas.

"This weekend was amazing," said Christina and Bryan Sanford, founders of Miraculous Marriages. "And the location was so elegant and just so perfect. This is just what was needed. Thank you for putting this on."

"What happens in Vegas, should not stay in Vegas," said Pamela Consuegra. She told attendees that they should share what they had learned in their local communities, churches and beyond.

As the retreat came to a close, the Consuegras had a prayer of dedication for each couple. Then attendees encircled them and had a prayer of dedication for their ministry.

"When you have the next one," said Stephanie Anker, "my husband and I will be there."

David Solomon Hall



David Solomon Hall, Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, and Connie Hall hosted the retreat.



Couples retreat attendees gather for a photo.



Pastor Chris (right) and Cesiah Morris from Phoenix, Ariz., attend a workshop.

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CALENDARS

Arizona

RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER (Nov. 8) held monthly, 2nd Sat., Central church, 777 W Montecito, Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Info: stanhowerton@yahoo.com or call 480-430-5492.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN REGIONAL CONVOCATION (Nov. 11-13) Tucson, Ariz. Guest speaker Pastor Debleaire Snell, First church of Huntsville, Ala.; youth speaker Pastor Jerrold Thompson, Hope Community church of Palm Springs, Calif. Info: Pastor Kingsley Palmer, 480-991-6777, ext. 112.

RETIRES CHRISTMAS DINNER (Dec. 7) Ariz. Conference office, 13405 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Ariz. Info: Shirley Chipman, 480-991-6777.

GYC YOUTH PROGRAM (Dec. 31-Jan. 4) Open to all young people in the Arizona Conference at the Phoenix Convention Center. Experience the journey of a lifetime in finding fulfilling love at the Cross. Info: gycweb.org.

Northern California Conference

MAD ABOUT MARRIAGE SEMINAR (Nov. 1) 2-6:30 p.m., Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive. Are you madly in love, or just plain mad? Mike & Gayle Tucker, from Faith for Today; featured guests: David & Tamela Mann, from

the TV show, "Meet The Browns." Info & tickets: www.madaboutmarriage.com.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL KOINONIA (Nov. 7-9) Leonie Meadows. 30th year! "Waiting, Anticipation & Preparation." Spirit-filled speakers, resource materials, wonderful weekend events, Saturday evening high tea (bring cup & saucer, hat & gloves). Info: www.womenskoinonia.com or 707-552-2278.

TEEN PATHFINDER CAVING Trip (Nov. 7-9) Lava Beds National Monument. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (Nov. 16) 2 p.m. Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates, 306 Vista Drive, Yountville. Join us for lunch. Speaker: NCC President Jim Pedersen. Celebrate NVARE past, present, and future — a place for retired individuals to live active and healthy lives in a spiritual setting. Info: 707-944-2994.

Pacific Union College

POGO & FRIENDS - The Art of Walt Kelly (Nov. 1) 7 p.m. Rasmussen Art Gallery. An exhibit of the art of Walt Kelly, one of the most respected cartoonists of the 20th century. Info: 707-965-6303.

COLLEGE DAYS (Nov. 2-3) High school students experience classes and college events at PUC. Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080 or www.puc.edu/visit.

FALL FESTIVAL (Nov. 2) 3 p.m. Pacific Auditorium. PUC's student clubs host a variety of booths and exhibitions at this annual autumn celebration for the whole family.

COLLOQUY: SARAH HILL (Nov. 6) 10 a.m. PUC church. Sarah Hill, mentor to

Soul Surfer Bethany Hamilton, speaks. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6303.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT (Nov. 8) 7 p.m. Paulin Hall. PUC students perform their first concert of the academic year. Info: 707-965-6201.

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE Concert (Nov. 15) 7 p.m. Paulin Hall. Artist in Residence Asher Raboy conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble in their fall concert. Info: 707-965-6201.

COLLOQUY: THANKSGIVING CONCERT (Nov. 20) 10 a.m. PUC church. Music celebrating gratitude and blessings. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6303.

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

Southeastern California

"VOTE FOR JESUS" SEMINAR (Nov. 2-8) Rancho Cucamonga Fellowship, 8768 Helms Ave., Rancho Cucamonga. Seminars 7-8:30 p.m. each night and on

Sabbath at 11 a.m. with music concert at 3 p.m.

HISPANIC FAMILY MINISTRIES Directors' Workshop (Nov. 7-8) SECC Office, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. Special guest: Claudio Consuegra, NAD Family Ministries director. Meetings will take place Friday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. and Sabbath, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Info: Liz Adams, 951-509-2260.

GEAR UP LEADERSHIP Training (Nov. 9) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Campus Hill church, 11057 Hill Dr., Loma Linda. Various workshops will be available throughout the day. Registration and info: www.secc-youth.com or Liz Adams, 951-509-2260.

Southern California Conference

SUNDAY BRUNCH SEMINAR (Nov. 2) "Learn How to Plan for Retirement's Biggest Expense." 9 a.m. Presenter, Jonathon Cherne, Esq., CPA, assists Pacific Union with cases concerning religious liberty. Scholl Canyon Estates, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info/Reserved Seating: 818-546-8400; gpark@sccsda.org.

GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY Day (Nov. 6) Students are invited to

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GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY
Annual Fall Festival (Nov. 8) 6:30-9:30 p.m. All GAA Alumni, family and friends, please join us for a night of food and fun on our campus, 700 Kimlin Dr. Info: 818-244-8671.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (Nov. 8) 4 p.m. Kemp Smeal, current organist/pianist in residence for the La Cañada Presbyterian and Glendale City Adventist churches. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. A reception will follow the concert. Freewill donations are received at the door. Info: www.glendalecity-church.org; or call 818-244-7241.

LSU ORCHESTRA CONCERT (Nov. 9) Dvorak's Symphony 9 "New World," benefiting the launch of the new Caesura Youth Orchestra. Also including orchestra's CD selections: The Cross, All Glory, Laud and Honor and It Is Well. Dean Anderson, director. 7 p.m. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info/Tickets: www.glendalearts.org/event/cyo-benefit/; 818-244-7241.

"CELEBRATING 50 YEARS of God's Blessing," Vallejo Drive church 50th

Anniversary (Nov. 15) Speaker, Pastor Smuts vanRooyen. Sabbath 10 a.m., interviews with former pastors. Catered luncheon. Afternoon concert, including former/present church musicians. Photos, memorabilia requested. Mail to the church, 300 Vallejo Dr. Former members, pastors, staff invited! Info/Luncheon-RSVP: 818-246-2476.

"MAD ABOUT MARRIAGE" (Nov. 14-15) live seminar. Presenters, Mike Tucker and Gayle Tucker, Faith for Today TV. Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Sabbath, 10:45 a.m., lunch; 2-5:30 p.m. Norwalk church. Free. Complimentary child care by reservation. Contact event coordinator with name/age. Registration: www.mad-aboutmarriage.com. Info: Corina Carpiet, ccarpiet@gmail.com; 562-618-1072.

FOURTH QUARTER BIBLE BOWL
Finals (Nov. 15) 3 p.m. Topic, the book of Ezra. James Black Sr., NAD Youth Ministries director. White Memorial church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 626-798-0544.

PROJECT FRIENDSHIP 2014 (Nov. 21-23) Where Christian singles build friendships. Events include: dynamic speakers, amazing race, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, workshops. 4 p.m. Fri.-2 p.m. Sun. Pasadena Convention Center, 300 East Green St., Pasadena 91101. Info: ProjectFriendship2014.com.

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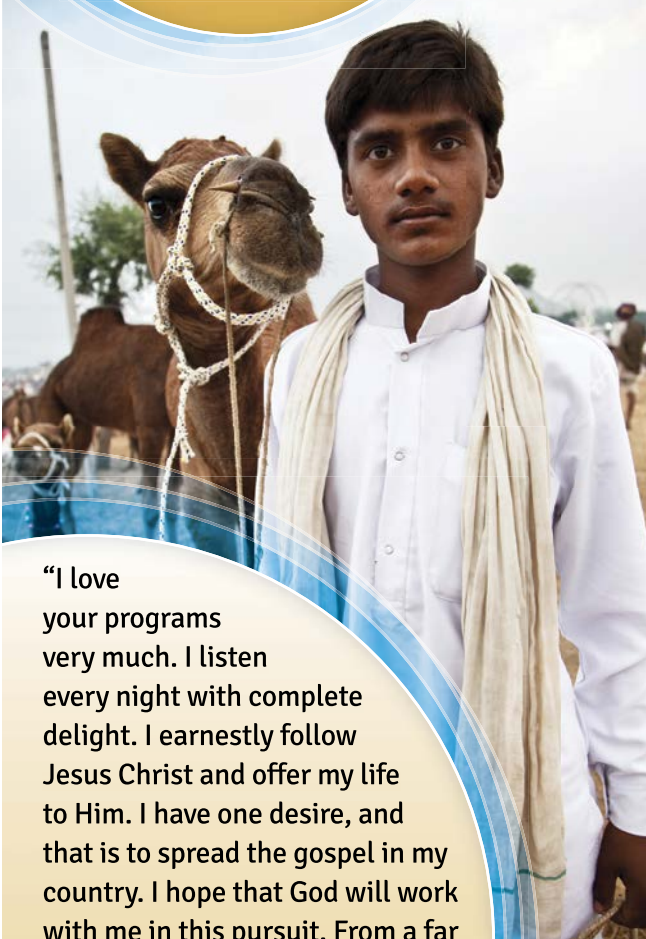


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Employment

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, M.D., is seeking a full-time Staff Auditor, CPA required. Responsibilities include preparation of reports, evaluate internal control systems, procedures, and best practices, applications of GAAP, GAAS, and donor compliance rules and

regulations. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Silver Spring, M.D., is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant II. Responsibilities include review reconciliations, wire transfer requests, grant loans/advances, prepare reports to government agencies. Record questioned cost, review GIK documentation, and compile budgets for cost centers. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, M.D., is seeking a full-time Senior Program Finance Manager. Responsibilities include providing day-to-day support to implementing field offices on financial management processes, compliance, policies and adherence to donor regulations. Field experience preferred. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT and Relief Agency (ADRA) Sudan in Sudan, is seeking a full-time Finance Director. Responsibilities include preparation of all financial reports, process disbursement of funds, review of financial statements, bank and journal vouchers, project budgets, and maintenance of accounting records. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, Southwestern Adventist University is seeking a qualified applicant (Ph.D. preferred). Primary

emphasis in paleontology and zoology; ability to teach introductory geology, microbiology and/or bioinformatics desirable. The successful candidate will be supportive of literal creationism. Send cover letter and CV to Schwarz.arthur@swau.edu. Position open until filled.

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UNION COLLEGE SEEKS committed SDA candidate for tenure track position in voice/choral music beginning June 2015. Responsibilities include overseeing the voice program, directing vocal groups, advising, teaching undergraduate courses and voice lessons. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Bruce Forbes, b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

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UNION COLLEGE SEEKS a professor specializing in an area of non-European history, to teach general and upper division courses effective Fall 2015. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, Humanities Division Chair, mimesnard@ucollege.edu.

Events

BUTLER CREEK HEALTH Education Center Lifestyle Management: Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression. (Nov. 9-21) & (Dec. 7-19) Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauties of God's creation. Cost: \$975. For more information call 931-213-1329. www.butlercreekhealth.org.

EVANGELISM - 3 DAYS of inspiration, training and relaxation for evangelists, pastors and lay evangelists and conference administrators. Southern Union Evangelism Council 2014. Presenters include Ron Clouzet, Ron Smith, and Roger Hernandez. December 1-4, Daytona Beach, Fla. Free registration: www.southernunion.com/evangelism. For more info: 407-257-6847, suevangelism@southernunion.com.

For Rent

FOR RENT to a woman interested in evangelizing local small communities.

Furnished room with private bath in my home. Share living room, kitchen, garden. Deck overlooking creek. Located in beautiful Seiad Valley, Calif. \$600 (includes all utilities) \$600 security deposit required. Gean Corbett, 530-496-3595 or geancorbett@yahoo.com.

FOR RENT to single or married couple interested in evangelizing local communities. Two bedroom apartment. Monitor heat, screened porch, shared garden and fruit trees. Located in Seiad Valley on Thompson Creek in beautiful Northern Calif. \$550 a month plus utilities. \$600 security deposit. Gean Corbett, 530-496-3595 or geancorbett@yahoo.com.

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Reunions

ALTADENA CHURCH'S 89TH anniversary celebration (Nov. 28 & 29) "A Past to Celebrate, A Future to Fulfill." Friday, 6:30 p.m., Past and present pastors; Sabbath keynote speaker, Dr. Richardson Honoré, senior pastor. Worship, fellowship and meals. 2609 N. Lincoln Ave. Altadena, CA 91001;

626-794-3953, visit www.altadenasda.org or visit us on Facebook.

Vacations

2015 GREAT CONTROVERSY Tour, July 17 to 30, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call 269-815-8624, or e-mail gctours@mac.com.

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Women's Ordination

Questions and Answers About Women's Ordination

Martin Hanna, PhD, and Cindy Tutsch, DMin

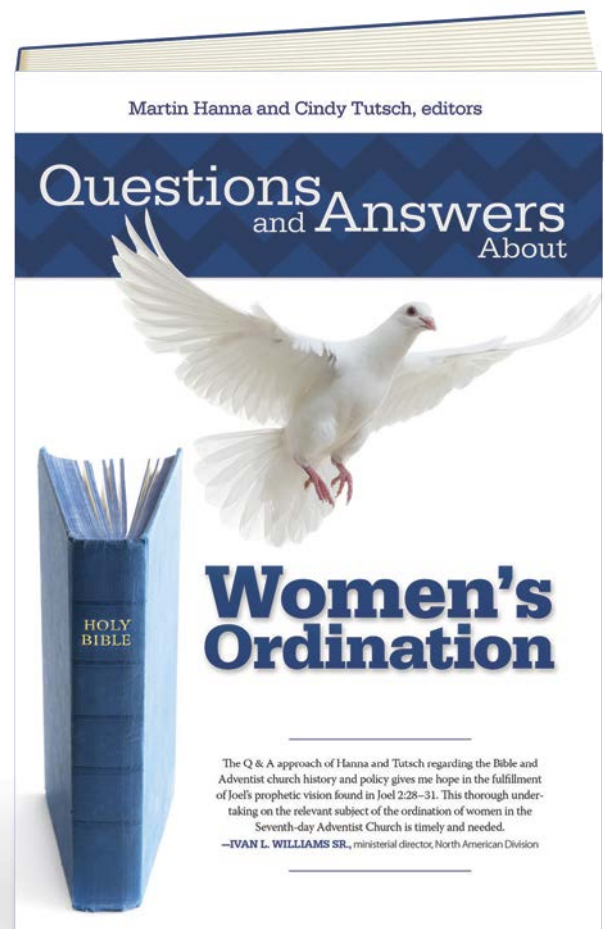
Questions and Answers About Women's Ordination, edited by Martin Hanna and Cindy Tutsch, is a clear and concise presentation on the subject of women's ordination that provides solid, biblically based answers to 151 key questions. These questions and answers will be an invaluable aid to all who seek God's will for our church and will help readers understand the challenge as they answer the call to study and pray over this matter. A thoughtful reading of **Questions and Answers About Women's Ordination** will contribute to the light that many are searching for on this issue.

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AT REST

BLACK, CHARLES EDWARD — b. Feb. 4, 1924, Jefferson, Mich.; d. June 14, 2014, Napa, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Helena Black-Soler, Cindy; two grandchildren. Worked at Pacific Union College Press; served as assistant fire chief of the Angwin Volunteer Fire Department.

FARLEY, DEBORAH "DEBI" LYNN — b. Aug. 24, 1960, Oneonta, N.Y.; d. Sept. 17, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Ronald E. Nance II; father, Norman; mother, Alice; brothers, Gregory, Norman II.

FRIETZE, STELLA G. (GIL) — b. Sept. 28, 1928, Las Cruces, N. M.; d. April 29, 2014, Gig Harbor, Wash. Survivors: daughters, Gayle Solimine, Yvette Sons; brother, Bobbie Gil; sisters, Yolanda Wright, Amanda Daly.

HSU, HENRY S. — b. Feb. 28, 1928, Hong Kong, China; d. Aug. 17, 2014; Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Majella; daughters, Ellen Torres, Elaine, Julie; two grandchildren.

JOYCE, MARILYN ANN — b. Feb. 14, 1933, Randolph, Mass.; d. Aug. 9, 2014, Corona, Calif. Survivors: sons, Robert Brian, Jeffrey Allan; daughter, Susan

Kramar; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

KENNEDY, LOELLA MAY (TONN) — b. May 21, 1927, Bowden, N.D.; d. Aug. 15, 2014, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: son, J. Rodney; daughters, Sandra Alain, Pamela; two grandchildren; sister, Elaine Owens. Served as a missionary in the Philippines.

LIBLIN, GARRELL "GERRY" — b. Oct. 23, 1931, Fairfield, Iowa; d. June 24, 2014, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jenny; daughter, Lori Scoville.

LOVELESS, WILLIAM A. — b. Jan. 17, 1928, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada; d. Sept. 15, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Edna May; daughters, Marti Olson, Marilyn Howard; one granddaughter; sister, Joan Harding. Served the church for over 51 years as senior pastor of the two largest North American Adventist churches, Sligo and Loma Linda University; served as president of the Pennsylvania Conference and Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University); started the Student Missionary program; was foundational in forming LLBN and started one of the first adult evening programs at a university in the country.

MACK, PEARL — b. Oct. 30, 1935, S.D.; d. Sept. 15, 2014, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: son, David; three grandchildren.

MAYNARD, ARLINE A. — b. Dec. 19, 1926, Concordia, Kan.; d. Aug. 23, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Jill Ellington, Gail Lortscher, Kathy Burt; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

MOUNTAIN, LORRAINE — b. June 15, 1923, St. Helena, Calif.; d. Aug. 18, 2014, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Loretta Alspaugh, Claudia Payne, Lois Stein; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

PROVINCE-WOMANCK, DOROTHY L. (CARR) — b. May 18, 1916, Berrien Springs, Mich.; d. July 17, 2014, Pahrump, Nev. Survivors: sons, Norman, Clarence; daughter, Anita Scofield; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Served as a missionary along with her husband in FED.

RHYS, DAVID HALL — b. Oct. 2, 1915, Gaiman, Argentina; d. Sept. 5, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Carlos; daughters, Nidia Vyhmeister, Myrtha Pizarro; four grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren.

SCOTT, PAUL BOOTH — b. Jan. 13, 1948, Oakdale, Calif.; d. Jan. 31, 2014, Angels Camp, Calif. Survivors: brother, Walter; sister, Winona Howe. Served as a nurse at Feather River Hospital and Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

SHERMAN, JACK LEAL — b. April 25, 1939, Cedar Lake, Mich.; d. Aug. 2, 2014, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: wife, Lois; sons, Sam, Lonnie, Vernon; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Worked at Union College and in the maintenance department at Pacific Union College; managed Angwin Adventist Community Services.

SMITH, ELSIE ESTHER — b. June 10, 1921, Monitor, Ore.; d. July 6, 2014, Williamsport, M.D. Survivors: son, John; daughter, Judith McGuire; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Eilene Cade. Served at Loma Linda University.

SWANSON, SHIRLEY ANN (WRIGHT) — b. Jan. 30, 1944, Oklahoma City, Okla.; d. Sept. 16, 2014, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: son, David; daughters, Stephanie Smith, Dyver, Jeanne; 18 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren.

WHORTON, MAE MANUEL — b. Aug. 14, 1925, St. Johns, Newfoundland; d. Aug. 24, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: six nieces and nephews.

WINKLE, HELEN JEAN (GRAY) — b. Oct. 30, 1932, Klamath Falls, Ore.; d. Aug. 11, 2014, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: husband, Arvin; son, Greg; daughter, Laura. Taught in various Adventist schools throughout Oregon and Northern California.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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1.26 Thunderbird Adventist Academy 6:30 p.m.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WORKSHOPS

1.6 Fresno Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.7 Armona Union Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.8 Bakersfield Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.12 Central Valley Christian Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.22 Mountain View Academy 7:00 p.m.

HAWAII WORKSHOP

2.10 Hawaiian Mission Academy 6:30 p.m.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKSHOPS

1.13 Lodi Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.14 Paradise Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.15 Redwood Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.20 Pine Hills Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.21 El Dorado Adventist School 7:00 p.m.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKSHOPS (cont.)

1.26 Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.27 Sacramento Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.28 Napa Christian Campus of Education 7:00 p.m.

1.29 PUC Preparatory School 7:00 p.m.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKSHOPS

1.8 Loma Linda Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.12 Mesa Grande Academy 6:30 p.m.

1.13 Los Angeles Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.13 Newbury Park Adventist Academy 6:30 p.m.

1.13 Redlands Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.15 Orangewood Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.15 San Diego Academy 6:30 p.m.

1.15 San Fernando Valley Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.20 Calexico Mission School 6:30 p.m.

1.21 Escondido Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.22 Glendale Adventist Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.26 San Gabriel Academy 7:00 p.m.

1.27 La Sierra Academy 6:30 p.m.

2.1 La Sierra University 6:00 p.m.

For times, directions, and more information, visit

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November 2014

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE ARIZONA CONFERENCE YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR...



Manny Cruz
Director Youth
Ministries

“Why Every Church Needs a BBQ”

In Luke 15, Jesus provides a very clear description of God’s willingness to search for His lost children. He uses the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin to illustrate how far God will go to reach the lost. Jesus emphasizes the fact that God will “search until the lost are found.”

In both of the stories, the individuals doing the searching do not stop searching until the “lost” item is found. One beautiful truth in the story is even though the sheep and the coin were lost, they did not lose their value. This reminds us no matter how lost people are, they never lose their value in God’s eyes. Every person is a child of the King. Everyone is a prince or a princess. Independently of what bad things they have done or how much they have sinned, everyone is valuable in God’s eyes. That is why He does not stop searching.

As Jesus continues to relate this three-part story, He introduces the parable of the prodigal son. Here Jesus points out that God, like the father in the story, is a loving, caring dad who desires His children to come home. And when they do, He accepts them just as they are and receives them with a big celebration.

This parable is a wonderful lesson for us today. As the son returns home, the father in the story says to his servants: “Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.” Notice he does not say, “Bring A fattened calf.” In other words, it’s not just any calf. The father says, “Bring THE fattened calf.” There was a specific calf, a special calf, a calf

that had been set-aside for the day when the son returned!

This teaches us as a church we need to be intentional about receiving the lost when they return. Our church has to be a place where young and old are loved, accepted, tolerated, forgiven, encouraged. If we truly desire to be the church of God, we have to be ready to receive the lost when they come home.

What is your congregation doing in this area? What does your church family do when a prodigal comes home? This is why every church needs a BBQ.

For the next several years, the Arizona Conference Youth Ministries Team will focus on the Luke 15 principle: creating an environment where Adventist youth and their friends are welcomed, accepted and loved. How this will look will vary from church to church, from youth group to youth group.

Using Arizona Conference’s Mission Statement: “Light the world with Jesus’ Love to grow the family of God,” we will build a youth ministry presence in every church. We will gather a team composed of Youth Pastors, Youth Leaders, Elders, Parents, Teachers, Pastors and, of course, Teens and Youth. This team will determine the overall vision of Youth Ministry in Arizona and will strengthen what is already in place as well as launch and grow new plans and initiatives.

So if you smell the smoke, it’s because we’re barbecuing!



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.



Robots Take Over At Paradise Valley

by Phil Draper

The LEGO Robotics Challenge was held at the Paradise Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in Phoenix on August 24. The program which is designed for children ages 7 - 13, encourages families to visit the church in a social, fun setting while their children learn about science and technology.

Pastor Jim Hakes comments, "The goal at Paradise Valley Church is to build strong relationships with the entire church family. We love our children!"

The six-week program meets once each week. Teams of six children and one coach work together to build and program a LEGO Robot that can independently navigate through different obstacles. Program leader Michael Nichols says the first program made available to church families was filled within just one hour. Future plans are to open the program to the community.

"The LEGO Robotics Challenge can then become a very progressive way to reach out to the community and introduce



ourselves," Nichols says. "It's a great way to bring community families to our church for a unique and fun children's program!"

Nine-year-old Grant agrees. He says, "Building the robots and completing the challenge is so much fun. I've never done anything like this before and want to do more. There are even LEGO snacks!"

Following an hour of building the robots, the teams come together for the challenge. Coach Luke Miller explained, "One of the most exciting challenges was when the robots used an optical sensor to locate and drive to different sensors around the room."

During the challenge everyone gathered around to watch the robots maneuver through the obstacles and cheers on each team. Nine-year-old Alyse exclaimed, "We have so much fun watching the all the robots. It's the best part of the night!"

Leaders plan to offer the program to the community with the addition of an advanced class. Nichols and his team are eager to improve and expand the LEGO Robotics Challenge at Paradise Valley. "Ministries and outreach can take many forms," Nichols said. "We just need to be open to using our talents for His great purpose."





Living Waters *International*

By Shirley Chipman

Mission work for Daryl and Mary Jo Oft of Payson, Arizona began with a two and a half year water and agricultural project in Kenya, Africa – and has extended to a number of endeavors to care for those in crisis. Living



Waters International, a non-profit 501 C 3 organization, was eventually formed as a humanitarian aid organization.

Multiple opportunities to serve have followed. In 2006 a 3500 sq. ft. free-standing Center was built in the village of Kaswanga, Kenya, on donated land to feed 200 children, either partial or total orphans. The children often walked four miles to receive some 'guaranteed food' each day. Once known as "the forgotten children of Kaswanga," they are now known as "the happiest and healthiest children of Kaswanga," according to local authorities.

No longer fending for themselves, these orphaned children have assimilated into a normal living environment within the community due to the care and assistance provided by Living Waters, which sponsors seven full-time local national workers to provide their care.

111 One-Day Church structures were built in 2010-11 across



Kenya, in partnership with Maranatha International. This included churches, medical clinics, schools and community gathering centers and also the first Seventh-day Adventist Church building inside a Kenyan Maximum Security Prison.

The 1500 sq. ft. Living Waters Academy was also built in 2011, in partnership with the local church. This school provides Christian education to approximately 65 children in grades one through six.

In 2014 a 750 sq. ft. medical clinic and on-site guest house was completed. The guest house was built to provide adequate and comfortable accommodations for short term mission workers. Another milestone this year was development of a sewing school for the older girls at Living Waters. All who are interested and committed can learn a sewing skill which will provide a sustainable way to make a living.

Darryl Oft enjoys providing nourishing food and water to the orphans of Kenya.

When Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in 2013, millions were without shelter, food or water. Living Waters was at ground-zero within two weeks installing water purification systems, providing limited shelters and medical supplies. In all, seven water purification systems

were installed serving 20,000 people and countless people received medical care and supplies. Plans are to work with the North Philippines Union Conference and the Loma Linda Filipino SDA Church to return and install several more water purification systems.

Approached by Search for One Ministries, they hope to provide a water purification system for a 250 student Seventh-day Adventist boarding school on the Island of Abamama in the South Seas.

"God has spared my life on many occasions," says Oft. "During Kenya's political chaos, 37 mission trips to Africa, erecting churches in Muslim Eastern Kenya and surviving a life threatening case of malaria, God has blessed us. My four adult children have also joined me on multiple missions both in Kenya and the Philippines. More than 700 people have been baptized through the ministry of Living Waters International."

To support this cause or to have the Ofts present a program at your church, please visit their web site www.LivingWatersIntl.org or call Daryl directly at 928-978-3899.

1660 Religious Liberty Martyr **Reborn in 2014**

By Phil Draper

Arizona author Christy K. Robinson has worked as a publications editor for Loma Linda and La Sierra Universities, Quiet Hour, and authors including Dr. Hyveth Williams. She has now launched a new career in the literary world with the publication of three books dealing with our colonial heritage. This trilogy is based on the lives of William and Mary Dyer, Roger Williams, and Anne Hutchinson. Robinson's research finds these men and women key "founders" of America's religious and political systems.

The first two books are biographical novels told through the eyes of the Dyers. The third is a nonfiction companion book that challenges false stories about Mary Dyer with new evidence.

The books depict intensely religious people who were the spiritual ancestors of New England Adventism. They believed in an imminent Second Coming, and kept holy the Sabbath (on Sunday). To tell the stories, Robinson invented conversations and scenes based on facts, records, journals, and real people.

Mary Dyer, 1611-1660, was Robinson's ancestress 12 generations ago. She explains, "I had mostly forgotten about her until I reported for the Association of Adventist Women which met in New England. Mary Dyer was a talking point. Later, I studied what made Anne Hutchinson's and Mary Dyer's antinomian message—that Christians are released by grace from the obligation of observing the moral law—so heretical. Allowing for a 375-year linguistic shift, it wasn't much different from modern covenant theology."

Research articles say the Boston Puritan government hanged Mary in 1660 "for being a Quaker."

"No such thing," says Robinson. "Mary Dyer was a Quaker convert whose civil disobedience deliberately provoked a showdown with the Massachusetts theocracy."

After months of research, Robinson found Dyer's hand-written letter in an archive. It was unrecognizable from the bitter, angry letter known to history. The letter shows how Dyer willingly laid down her life to call attention to the torture and executions of Baptists and Quakers, and stop them.

Robinson continues, "I also found a diagnosis for her 'monster' stillbirth that was called proof of her heresy, and New England's mightiest earthquake, which Hutchinson and Dyer believed was the latter rain—Pentecost. The documents I discovered in British and American archives have lain hidden for centuries, and I've had to restrain my nerdy joy."

Why should Mary Dyer matter today? Robinson says Mary saw herself as a Queen Esther, and her voluntary death was intended to cause uproar. King Charles II ordered a stop to religious executions. Mary's husband William, cofounder of America's first secular democracy and first attorney general in America, was instrumental in writing the 1663 Rhode Island constitution, used as a template to guarantee separation of church and state and freedom of conscience in our Bill of Rights.

"Today," says Robinson, "that liberty is under daily attack by religio-political groups that tout the 1770s founders and patriots without understanding those



men's own grandparents had experienced a deadly theocracy. With real people telling their stories in my books, it's like getting your history veggies in a delicious brownie. We will value the freedom to worship and live as God asks, and defend our First Amendment rights when we see government leaders or lobbyists trying to legislate their beliefs upon us."

Robinson's trilogy, *Mary Dyer Illuminated*; *Mary Dyer: For Such a Time as This*; and *The Dyers of London, Boston & Newport* are available at Amazon.com or by contacting her directly at <http://ChristyKRobinson.com>.





centralACTS

Newsletter for Central California Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

Grateful for Growth Opportunities

central california officers' perspective

ELIJAH'S MANTLE SWISHED ITS WAY down from the swiftly-moving fiery chariot, finding its way to the outstretched hands of Elijah. As Elisha reverently grasped the last reminder of his mentor and master, he sensed a new and empowered calling as leader of the schools of the prophets.

For years, he had been referred to as the one 'which poured water on the hands of Elijah.' For years, he had faithfully waited on the daily needs of the great prophet. I'm sure he wondered if the life of the '2nd fiddle' was ever going to end.

What would happen to him now that Elijah was gone? He had asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. What did that look like? How was it supposed to be? Then, it happened. Walking back toward the Jordan River, he tested the new gift by grasping the well-worn mantle in his hands, mentally preparing for the great task before him.

Whack! The mantle smote the surface with a resounding smack. The river began to part, and he was able to officially enter his leadership ministry, much to the amazement, I believe, of the students who were watching.

This reminds me that each one of us needs to first be a servant. Before desiring leadership positions, we must be willing to 'wash others hands' and wait on them with a servant's attitude. We must allow the seasoned mentors in our lives to help guide our lives through Spirit-filled mentorship.

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, join me in expressing gratitude to God for the mentors in our lives as well as for the privilege of helping mentor others for the Kingdom.

David Gillham
Vice President for Education, Central California Conference



Calendar

November 1-2
GLOW Leadership Training

November 1-3
Koinonia Women's Retreat

November 1-8
Elijah's Mission Campaigns

November 15
Leadership Training

November 27
Thanksgiving Holiday

December 7
Clerks & Treasurers Training

December 13
Leadership Training

December 25
Christmas Holiday

January 1
New Year's Holiday

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

A Worthwhile Reminder



Have you noticed how many ways we've come up with to simply remind ourselves of something important? From sticky notes placed in critical spots to the proverbial string around the finger, to mobile apps that specialize in reminding us of important matters day or night—we will come up with just about anything to ensure that we don't forget what's important to us.

This is one of the reasons why I look forward to Thanksgiving. As the season rolls around, the very name of the holiday reminds me of perhaps one of the most important things of all: being grateful and being aware of our 'gratitude quotient.' Of course, we might be tempted to think that something so fundamental to life doesn't need a national holiday to serve as its reminder. And then again, consider the fact that many of life's challenges have their source in a lack of gratitude: gratitude for what God has done and continues to do for us, gratitude for another's contribution into our lives, gratitude for what we have and even gratitude for what we don't have. The result, many times, is that we become dissatisfied, critical, anxious, and overwhelmed, among other reactions.

And so I'm grateful for Thanksgiving, because it serves to remind me to check and re-align my heart-gratitude quotient. It gives me perspective to pause to fully appreciate the myriad of blessings that are mine, even though I may not recognize some of them as blessings. It drives home the point made by Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians: *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*¹

This season, as I reflect on life and ministry, I'd like to share with you one of the things I am most grateful for: you. It may sound cliché, but it touches me deeply to think about the fact that the driving force, the passion

behind ministry in our conference is the Central California church family, working, serving, inspiring and sacrificing together for a united purpose: to bring hope and wholeness to as many people as possible.

Throughout the year and in many unique ways, you continue to give of your time, energy, financial resources, creative talents and insights. You serve your local church and school, you share your faith, you volunteer in your community, you contribute to the many ministries and initiatives in our conference and you care for the needs of the underserved. Meanwhile more and more stories pour into our office in Clovis of lives being changed and communities being blessed because of who you are and what you do.

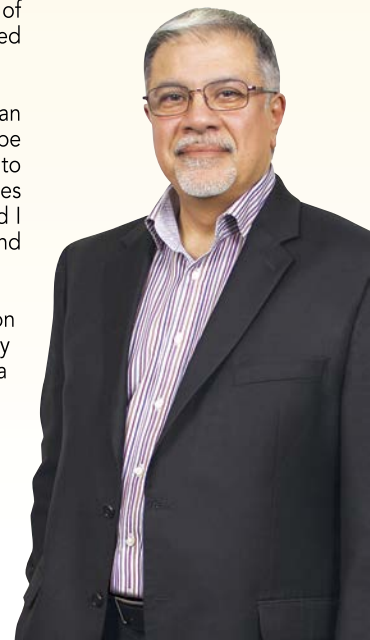
There is only one appropriate response to such an overwhelming reality: gratitude. I am grateful to be part of such an amazing church family. I am grateful to witness so many tremendous results from your ministries throughout our conference. I am grateful for you and I am grateful to God, who has brought us together and who will never leave us nor forsake us!

This season, may the Lord's richest blessings rest on you and your family as together we recount the many ways in which we can be grateful. May this turn into a daily habit in our daily walk.

Happy Thanksgiving!

¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Ramiro Cano
President, Central California Conference



Forever Faithful

Oshkosh Camporee

Every five years the International Pathfinder Camporee is held at the Experimental Aircraft Associations (EAA) AirVenture Campgrounds in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where Pathfinders from over 100 countries come to experience the largest Pathfinder Camporee event in the world.

On August 11, 2014, the Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee opened its gates to welcome 47,000 Pathfinders from around the world including a delegation of 535 Pathfinders from Central California Conference. This five-day ministry event was filled with community outreach projects, honors, arts and crafts, parades, and

pin trading, among many other activities. Pathfinders were able to play, share, learn, and worship together.

The Central California Conference Junior Youth Department helped facilitate the extremely popular Hot Air Balloon honor and the Letter Boxing honor with



the leadership of area coordinators Dr. Glenn Garbutt, Peggy Herman, and Sonora Stars Club Director Mickey Clough.

The San Francisco Samoan Pathfinder club had an outstanding performance in the Fancy Drill Team exhibition where its members represented our conference with honor and respect. The team was led by Steven Vaili making us all very proud.

August 13 was designated as the date on which the Pacific Union Conference would celebrate the baptismal decisions from its territory. The Central California Conference was overwhelmed with joy when eight of its Pathfinders descended into the baptismal waters making their love for Jesus and their decision to follow Christ public. The Pathfinders sealing their lives with Jesus Christ on that day were: Jennifer Ramon from San Mateo Club, Nicole Villafan from Orosi Prospectors, Nicole Paypa, Andrei Paypa and Erika Tineo from Porterville Trailblazers, Moses Onounga, Caleb Onounga and Savannah Padilla from Campbell Conquerors. Pastors Edgar Lloren, Elden Ramirez, and Tony Avila led out in the baptisms.

Another memorable highlight of the International Camporee took place on Sabbath morning during which countless Pathfinders and Pathfinder leaders were invested as Master Guides. Some received their Pathfinder Instructor Award (PIA), while others completed their requirements to receive the Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA). Among those invested from Central California were Catherine Ellacer from Milpitas, Allen Lipps and John Bindernagel from Orosi Prospectors, Tony Lloyd from Sonora Stars, Marvin Bitzer from Waterford Warriors, Brian Tym from Turlock Titans, Justin Villegas from Kings Crusaders, and Steven Dulcich from Bakersfield Hillcrest.

The 535 Pathfinders from Central California felt the support of their conference administration when president Ramiro Cano not only attended the event, but also spent meaningful time getting to know its club leaders and Pathfinder coordinators. His support was greatly appreciated and encouraging. "It was a tremendous honor to experience such an inspiring event firsthand," recalls Cano. "I was thrilled to see our clubs in action and am very proud of all our Pathfinder leaders." The Pathfinder Council was also grateful to see the



support that some pastors gave to their local church Pathfinder club. The pastors attending with their clubs were Stephen Eastwood from Merced, Antonio Cano from Turlock, Ricardo Vilorio from San Jose Hispanic, Kevin Hart from Bakersfield Central and retired pastor Ken Lockwood from Porterville.

In order for hundreds of Central Pathfinders to attend this monumental event, the support and involvement of conference Area Coordinators is vital. Without the countless hours the coordinators volunteer prior to, during and post-Camporee, the journey to Oshkosh would be much more challenging. A debt of gratitude goes out to Helen and Albert Hill, Alexis Catala, Dan Tupper, LuAnne and Don Larson, Charlene and Kevin Sargent, Dr. Glenn Garbutt, Norm and Peggy Herman and TLT coordinator Sarge Sanchez for their unselfish support.

"Our young people came back from Forever Faithful Camporee with a multitude of stories, a life-changing experience, a renewed dedication to this ministry and a desire for personal as well as corporate spiritual revival," said Vaili, San Francisco Samoan Pathfinder club director. "None of this would have been possible without strong support of this ministry at the conference and local church level. Praise God!"

In spite of many eventful incidents, including breakdowns on the way to and from Oshkosh, mail or supplies which never reached the campground, and a storm on the first and last day of the camporee, everyone agrees that Central's experience at the International Forever Faithful Camporee was transformative and unforgettable. All who attended witnessed and experienced God's love and mercy in one way or another, and will always treasure the meaningful memories, as they remain Forever Faithful.

Norma Villarreal

Junior Youth Director, Central California Conference

“ It was a tremendous honor to experience such an inspiring event firsthand. ”



Camp Wawona

Celebrates 85 Years Successfully

After much anticipation and planning, Camp Wawona celebrated its 85th anniversary, attracting approximately 215 attendees from around the nation. Alumni, friends and family members gathered on September 19-21 for a weekend filled with worship, fellowship and memories that, arguably, will last for years to come.

Several engaging speakers dotted the weekend programs including Josh Thompson, an alum who on Friday evening connected the development of events in his life to his involvement at Camp Wawona. Sabbath morning featured several speakers starting with Myron Wareham, who shared a number of stories illustrating how Camp Wawona has encouraged campers and staff to experience life outside of their comfort zone, leading to personal and spiritual growth. The morning program also featured Ramiro Cano, Central California president who provided a fascinating historical sketch spanning eight decades and Troy Fitzgerald, youth and young adult pastor at Walla Walla University Church, who challenged those in the audience to think of themselves as smaller parts of a whole and to move from “me to we.” The weekend also featured a number of alumni staffers who shared memorable stories from their time at Wawona.

An array of options were offered for fun and fellowship, including camp activities, nostalgic song services, and an outdoor banquet which encouraged “retro” outfits. Even though the banquet met with an unexpected rainfall, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal while sharing umbrellas, ponchos and other means of keeping dry. Saturday night capped off with a variety show featuring music and humorous skits from various eras—a two-hour program demonstrated just how times



Ramiro Cano addresses attendees. ▲

and norms have a way of changing.

When asked why they chose to attend, many, including Central California member Esther White, said it was to reconnect with friends and fellow alums and to see updates to the property. White, who attended with her husband Loren, credited her time at Wawona to a church member who sponsored her. Her involvement with the Wawona disabilities camp had long-lasting effects. She and her husband later started a disabilities program of their own, using principles learned during White's years at the camp.

“It was exciting to meet and to host so many people from around the United States who, over the last 85 years have made Camp Wawona a very special place and who have taken the spirit of Camp Wawona with them wherever they've gone,” remarks Camp Wawona director Derek Wright. Camp Wawona continues to inspire, educate and empower new generations of leaders through the many programs and events it hosts throughout the year. And while the 85th anniversary has come and gone, undoubtedly, many of the attendees are already looking forward to the next milestone year, giving alumni, both past and future, a chance to celebrate the remarkable place known as Camp Wawona.

Costin Jordache

Vice President for Communication, Central California Conference



Alums lead praise and worship. ▲

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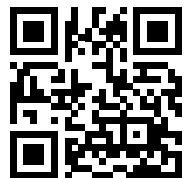
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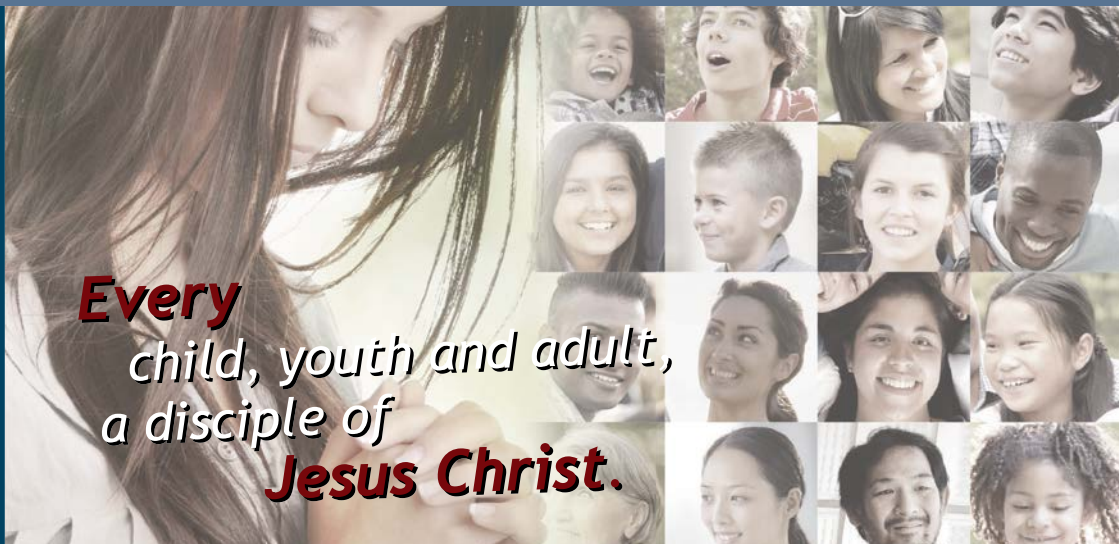
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IN DISCIPLESHIP

KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

“IN THAT DAY THE WOLF
AND THE LAMB
WILL LIVE TOGETHER...”
(ISAIAH 11:6).



A Place with NO FEAR

In this issue . . .

Events Promote
Awareness of Abuse and
Ways to Help



Georgetown Church Holds
Prophecy Seminar



Holidays Inspire Creative
and Meaningful Events



Recently, we got to go with our grandson, Stephen, on his first trip to the zoo – the San Francisco Zoo. It was a really fun experience, watching him get excited about all the various animals that he'd only seen in books, videos or puzzles. His eyes got so big when he saw the giraffes, polar bears, flamingos, monkeys and all sorts of other creatures. He wanted to touch them all! Of course that wasn't possible.

There's a line of separation between the wild animal kingdom and humans. At places such as zoos, the boundaries are there for a double protection – to protect humans from the animals, and (honestly) to protect animals from humans. Once in a while the line can get blurred a bit, such as when an animal keeper has a “friend” on a leash, and it has been deemed safe for people to come close and even touch. But those times are rare. There is a great deal of fear between the two worlds.

We have a hummingbird feeder attached to the outside of the window behind our kitchen sink. A few days ago, I walked over to the sink and noticed a bird sipping away at the feeder. I figured it would fly away the minute I turned on the faucet or did other things nearby – but it didn't. It paused, and then stared at me. I stared

back! We couldn't have been more than 12 inches apart. It sipped, stared and sipped some more. Finally, when it was full enough, it flew off. But we had a good long session of “eye contact”!

It all got me thinking about the fact that we live in a world where many animals live in fear of humans, and vice versa. What would it be like to live in a place where that fear doesn't exist? Occasionally we get a brief glimpse of it, such as staring eye to eye with a bird through the window. How about being able to walk through an animal preserve without barriers? What would it be like to have that kind of experience on a regular basis?

Scripture boldly promises us that one of these days – in the not-very-distant-future – that kind of life will be the norm. “In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all” (Isaiah 11:6, *New Living Translation*). Peace, trust and acceptance among the wildest of animals. Peace, trust and acceptance with humans, too.

I look for more and more glimpses of that peaceful interaction with the animal kingdom now. And I pray that as Christians we can exhibit that kind of loving experience with one another now.

Peace.



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

VOLUME 12
ISSUE 6
NOVEMBER 2014



Events Promote Awareness of Abuse and Ways **TO HELP**

Church members and pastors are sometimes unaware of the signs of child and domestic abuse – and when they identify an abused person, they may not be sure what to do. The NCC Women’s Ministries EndItNow Task Force was created to help people be alert for abuse victims and be aware of resources to help them.



(Top) Run for Courage: The Race to End Human Trafficking provides information for attendees at Shine a Light Nevada County. (Photo: Dee Simmons)
(Above left) Leah Albright-Byrd speaks about escaping her former life on the streets of Sacramento during Shine a Light Nevada County. (Photo: Dee Simmons)
(Above right) NCC Risk Management Director Jeff Klam speaks about the Shield the Vulnerable training program at the EndItNow conference. (Photo: Carla Baker)

(Below top) Representatives from a number of agencies speak about human trafficking during Shine a Light Nevada County. (Photo: Dee Simmons)
(Bottom left) Olivehurst church members Linda Hodges and Jeannie Mims speak about the role of local agencies in helping victims of abuse. (Photo: Carla Baker)
(Bottom right) California State University, Sacramento graduate student Allison Musvosvi provides information about human trafficking during the EndItNow conference. (Photo: Carla Baker)

Abused children, women and men can be found in every part of society – even the church. “Statistics show that the rate of abuse in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is as high as the national average,” said Mary Jo Lauderdale, NCC women’s ministries coordinator. “One of our task force’s goals is to present abuse prevention conferences in all our churches.”

Lauderdale stresses that church members need to be aware of resources in order to assist those in trouble. “Law enforcement and other agencies are specially trained to aid victims,” she said. “As church members we want to be aware of the abused in our

“As church members we want to be aware of the abused in our midst and to assist people to get professional help.”

midst and to assist people to get professional help.”

On Sabbath, Aug. 30, the task force presented a daylong conference at the Chico church. Marriage and family therapist Paul Vance presented the morning sermon, looking at the great controversy from a relational perspective. “Satan seeks to destroy selfhood; God empowers it,” he said.

The afternoon included a presentation by North American Division Women’s Ministries Director Carla Baker, who spoke about the EndItNow efforts throughout the division. Other speakers discussed topics such as human trafficking, the role of local prevention and crisis agencies, the Shield the Vulnerable training program, practical tips for gaining people’s trust and more.

Another awareness event – for church

and community members – took place on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 7, at the Grass Valley church. Its women’s ministries team hosted Shine a Light Nevada County, a forum to discuss the issue of human trafficking. The team invited several Christian organizations from the Sacramento area to speak at the event and to set up information booths.

The event’s keynote speaker was Leah Albright-Byrd, founder of Bridget’s Dream. Albright-Byrd is a survivor-activist who was exploited on the streets of Sacramento

between the ages of 14-18. As a teen, she was invited to attend church – and she gives credit

for her escape from her former life to that invitation. “I stand here before you as a free woman because of the power of God and the church,” she said. “I was led to the Lord by a girl I met at the age of 18. She spoke light and truth into a dark place in my heart.”

Grass Valley church members hope that this forum will lend itself to future events and volunteer opportunities for their members to join the fight against human trafficking. “We believe that awareness is the first step to activism,” said Lavonne Anderson, women’s ministries team member. “And we wanted our members and community to know there are things they can do to fight modern slavery.”

By Julie Lorenz, assistant communication director for the Northern California Conference and Anna McMillen, who serves as co-chair of the Grass Valley church’s women’s ministries team.



Georgetown Church

HOLDS PROPHECY SEMINAR

When the tiny Georgetown church – located in the Sierra foothills – wanted to reach out to its community with the good news of Jesus, its members developed a plan of action. Rather than hold a one-time evangelistic event, the church implemented a variety of outreach methods to support their prophecy seminar, which was held this past spring.

One key component was hiring a full-time Bible worker to assist church members in evangelizing Georgetown and the surrounding areas before and after the series. “The board was not sure what to do about selecting a Bible worker to help us with the upcoming prophecy seminar, so we placed the matter in God’s hands,” said church board member

Greg Dales. “He

knows our needs better than we do. As a result, Carla Clare was brought to our attention. The timing was great, and she has just the experience we need.”

The same evening she arrived in Georgetown (after a five-day journey from Ohio), Clare began working with head elder Andrew Taylor and other church members to get the congregation involved in giving Bible studies and contacting area residents. Within two weeks several Bible studies were scheduled, and homes were opened for small group ministries. “I was so excited to hit the ground running,” said Clare. “By God’s grace we saw several small group Bible studies start up.”

About three weeks before the prophecy series, the church presented a “Lifestyle Matters” healthy living seminar at the Georgetown Public Library, facilitated by church member Diana Michaelson.

The seminar, Bible studies and small group activities all led up to the main event: a month-long series presented by Carlos Muñoz. “I feel honored to preach the gospel to others,” said Muñoz.

“And it is my greatest desire to help people have a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ through a clear understanding of His Word.”

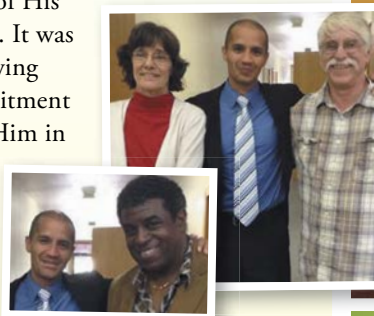
Members from neighboring Adventist churches faithfully supported Georgetown members, and the nightly attendance of 25-30 people included a solid core of 10 community members. Halfway through the series, the meeting location transitioned from a community hall to the church, and Sabbath morning meetings were added to the schedule. Everyone who had attended in town continued to attend meetings at the church.

Augmenting the nightly lectures, attendees completed Amazing Facts prophecy lessons. Church member and Amazing Facts volunteer Frances Cole graded each lesson through the entire four-week series.

At the end of the series, Muñoz, Clare and Cole presented graduation certificates to everyone who completed the lessons.

The final presentation was made on a Sabbath morning, followed by the graduation ceremony and a baptismal service. Three people – Liz and Walter Davies and Thomas Appling – were baptized, and several seminar participants have been attending Sabbath School, church services and midweek Bible studies. “It was truly a wonderful experience,” said Appling. “I had never left the Lord, but I felt as if I had been walking with blinders on for all those years. Now I walk with a clearer understanding of His plan for my life. It was my way of showing Jesus my commitment to worshiping Him in His way!”

By Diana Michaelson, a Georgetown church member.



(Top) The Georgetown Public Library is a non-threatening place for community members to attend a healthy living seminar.

(Above) A small group Bible study meets in a home prior to the prophecy seminar. (Photos: Diana Michaelson)

(Below left) Seminar presenter Carlos Muñoz stands with Thomas Appling and with Liz and Walter Davies – all of whom were baptized at the end of the series. (Below right) Prophecy seminar attendees who completed the Bible lessons receive graduation certificates: (left to right) seminar presenter Carlos Muñoz, head elder Andrew Taylor, Liz Davies, Walter Davies, Debi Ramos, Vicki Bannister, Bible worker Carla Clare, lesson coordinator Frances Cole, and Pastor Jovan Ilijev.

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Holidays Inspire Creative AND MEANINGFUL EVENTS

NCC Adventists found a way to make the summer holidays meaningful and memorable!

Yreka Church

During a Father's Day celebration at the Yreka church, 16 men signed a resolution committing themselves to God and their families.

A week earlier, Pastor Enoch Brownell shared a Sabbath message from the book of Joshua, challenging his congregation to become courageous Christians with unhindered faith in Jesus. The following Friday, church members watched the Christian film "Courageous" (during which several characters sign a resolution of commitment to God, their wives and children).

The next evening at an outdoor service, Brownell spoke about love for family and reliance on God. Afterward, fathers, married men and single men came forward to take the "Courageous" stand by signing the resolution. The participants then joined their families for prayer and pictures. "It was another blessed opportunity to submit to the Lord and to my family and to watch the Lord's miracle in answer to prayer," said head elder Wayne Zufelt.

Church elder Robert Prunty agreed. "It was as important to me at that time as

my wedding vows," he said. "I feel like I made a lifetime commitment."

Pleasant Hill Church and Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy

In a new tradition, the Pleasant Hill church and school participated in their community's Independence Day festivities.

About 30 church members marched in the city's July 4 parade, waving flags and distributing candy. A classic truck pulled a trailer displaying large banners advertising the church's Adventist Community Services. "It was good for our members to get excited about their church's involvement in the community," said Jim Lorenz, senior pastor.

Also in the parade, five academy saxophonists played for the hundreds who lined the route. Afterward PHAA parents and staff members manned two booths at a festival in a nearby park. Several hundred kids and adults stopped by to play games, pick up small gifts and learn more about PHAA. "Some of them knew about the school and some didn't – but that's what we were there for," said Lisa Moreno, home and school co-president.



(Top) Yreka church men display the resolution they signed. (Photo: Kay Prunty)
(Bottom Left) A classic truck pulls a trailer advertising Pleasant Hill church's Adventist Community Services. (Photo: Jim Lorenz)
(Bottom Right) Student musicians from Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy play in the July 4 parade. (Photo: Jim Lorenz)

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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By Tami Zufelt, a Yreka church member, and Julie Lorenz, assistant communication director for the Northern California Conference.

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CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Moving Forward Prayerfully on Our Knees

“The glory that rested upon Christ is a pledge of the love of God for us. It tells us of the power of prayer,—how the human voice may reach the ear of God, and our petitions find acceptance in the courts of heaven” (DA, 113).

This quote, found in the book *The Desire of Ages* in the chapter “The Baptism,” reminds us of the power, necessity and reality of prayer. As we study the life of Christ, we see woven throughout every event, every day and every interaction a life of communion with the Father. Prayer must be central to all we do.

As I have previously shared with you, administration continues to prayerfully plan more strategically for the future of our conference. It is my desire that SECC be known as a conference that prays. A conference in which our members, pastors, teachers and employees pray. We pray alone, we pray as families and we pray together.

In order to help facilitate a culture of prayer, many conferences have prayer coordinators. Karen Martell is our prayer ministry coordinator, on a volunteer basis. Martell works with the local church prayer ministry coordinators, planning prayer ministries, retreats and training events.

Working in prayer ministry for about 15 years, Martell has provided SECC with numerous contributions, including developing materials for prayer meetings and prayer coordinators, collaborating with the North American



Karen Martell serves as the prayer ministry coordinator for the Southeastern California Conference.

Division and Pacific Union Conference, holding all-night prayers once a month and working on cultivating a culture of prayer within our conference.

Diligently, intentionally and prayerfully Martell creates prayer ministries that reach the entire conference. In the past Martell suggested a prayer teleconference, which now happens every Sunday at 8 p.m. The teleconference focuses on pastoral staff, church leaders, members, families and events. You can join this teleconference by calling

641-715-3840 and entering access code 574343.

Martell has also helped coordinated prayer conferences and retreats at various churches this year, the most recent one for Loma Linda University church. About 50 people attended to spend a weekend in prayer. The conference helped train church leaders about how our brains are wired for prayer, and how to be understanding of others when praying for them. Teaching our little ones to pray is also a part of Martell's mission. Several churches have adopted her idea of adding a prayer rotation to Vacation Bible School curriculum.

Martell is a woman of prayer and also regularly comes by our office to pray with conference leadership. If you wish to contact Martell, you may call the president's office, 951-509-2287, and leave her a message.

SECC is participating in the NAD 2014 Year of Prayer initiatives. I invite you to visit www.NADprayerministries.org in order to access further information and resources. I especially recommend looking into the “Prayer Prompts,” that are posted regularly.

May you be inspired to “devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful,” Colossians 4:2 (NIV).

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President



(Left) Some of the Laguna Niguel church family pose for a photo with the Aliso Creek ranger before the hike. (Right) Robin McMunn, cradle roll teacher, tells the children story during young family beach church.



Laguna Niguel Members Focus on Families

This summer Laguna Niguel church members conducted three major events aimed at families: “We are Family,” “Family Summer Bash” and a parenting seminar. These events were driven by the church’s motto, “To know Jesus and to make Him known.” Each event focused on two things, nurturing the church family and reaching the community.

Earlier church members launched a family council made up of five to seven families. The council members created a master plan of evangelism for teaching families to make discipleship a priority. They decided that a church-wide event would be the best way to start.

So they launched “We are Family,” a sermon series that lasted through the month of June. The council advertised the event with postcards and fliers for church members to share with

neighbors and friends. The goal of the series was that people would realize the importance of church family and know that everyone has a place where they belong--the church. Besides the sermon series, the council also planned afternoon activities that people could attend, such as beach vespers, a picnic potluck and a family hike.

As a result of the “We are Family” series, the church now has five new families attending on Sabbaths, new ministry volunteers and a new member who was baptized in September.

“God has put on our hearts that families and the hearts of children are where He really begins His work,” said Monica Cline, a family council member.

Family council members focused first on the church family as a whole, then on small-group families and finally on immediate family units.

“Focusing on family units is important; by nurturing the family unit, starting with parents, you ensure that they themselves will nurture their children, who in essence will nurture the future generations,” said Filip Milosavljevic,

associate pastor. “In our church we have quite a number of young families coming back to church with their little ones,” he added.

Youth of the church were also invited to attend events. Felipe Gutierrez, music coordinator, designed and ran the “Family Summer Bash” in August. The youth, community residents and friends of church members were invited to participate in all kinds of activities, including a dunk tank, mechanical bull, face painting, a waterslide and a watermelon eating contest. The event raised more than \$3,000 and best of all brought new people to the church.

The final event tied everything together. In August the church hosted a seminar for parents called “Heart Based Parenting.” During the seminar, children were engaged in activities and classes on the same topic as the adults, but in a child-friendly fashion. The seminar drew about 100 adults and more than 75 children, about half of whom do not attend Laguna Niguel church. These guests filled out a “connect card” with contact information so they could be invited to future events.

One attendee contacted a family council member, saying, “We loved the kids’ program!” This non-Adventist family now regularly attends church at Laguna Niguel.

The Laguna Niguel church’s family council members plan to keep focusing on different aspects of family life as they continue “to know Jesus and to make Him known.”

By Filip Milosavljevic
with Chloe Vander Zwan



(Top Left) Some young adults praying together during beach vespers. (Top Right) Laura and Julian Manrique, chairs of the family council, welcoming everyone to beach vespers. (Bottom) Church members welcoming Donna Gilio following her baptism by Filip Milosavljevic, associate pastor. Gilio first came to the church during June family month.

Calimesa Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

For the past several years, the month of August has been a special time for members of the Calimesa church. This year, in addition to their traditional "August in Calimesa" camp meeting, they celebrated 50 years of their history. The celebration culminated on Sabbath, August 30, with a special event attended by former pastors, former and current members and conference officials, including Sandra Roberts, president, Jonathan Park, secretary, and Ernest Furness, ministerial director.

In 1962 a company of about 80 people started meeting at the Trails End shopping center in Calimesa. A committee was quickly formed; members chose the corner of 4th and Myrtlewood streets for a new church building.

In two years they built the chapel, a community service room and two Sabbath school rooms. By 1969 the church was dedicated. It had grown to 260 members and managed to be debt free in just a few years.



(Above) During the 50th anniversary celebration service stories of founding members were shared and recounted.

(Right) Sandra Roberts, SECC president, thanks the church for their faithful service of reaching out to the Calimesa community.



Through the years, pastors have come and gone, but the church has continued growing. During August its more than 1,200 members all had the opportunity to reflect on the church's history.

"For the older generation, they were reminded of how good God has been over the years," said Jon Ciccarelli, senior pastor. "Some of the younger members were reminded that God was up to a lot of stuff before they were even on the scene."

Robert Soderblom, member for more than 30

Continued on the next page

Church members participate during the 50th anniversary celebration service.



Upcoming Events

Vote for Jesus (November 2-8)

Fellowship of Rancho Cucamonga church, 8768 Helms Ave., Rancho Cucamonga. The seminar will take place each night from 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and Sabbath at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Info: 909-944-7744.

Hispanic Family Ministries Directors' Workshop (November

7-8) SECC Office, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. Claudio Consuegra, NAD Family Ministries director, is the special guest. Meetings will take place Friday, November 7, at 7 p.m. and Sabbath, November 8, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The event is free to attend. Info: Liz Adams, 951-509-2260.

Gear Up Leadership Training

(November 9) 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Campus Hill church, 11057 Hill Dr., Loma Linda. Various workshops will be available throughout the day. Registration and info: www.seccyouth.com or Liz Adams, 951-509-2260.

Ten Commandments Musical

(November 22) 4:30 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. A screening of the film *The Ten Commandments Musical* will be shown and some of the participants from the film will be present. Visit www.lluc.org.

FACES OF SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

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

BILL LOVELESS

Loveless leaves behind a large legacy.

He pastored, for many years, the Loma Linda University church and taught at both La Sierra and Loma



Loma Linda universities. Some of the modern ministry practices find their origins in his advocacy and work, for example: the student missionary program, EXCELL program, Loma Linda Broadcast Network and advocacy for women in ministry.

Loveless passed away on September 15. In reflection, one of his former colleagues, Marvin Ponder,

associate pastor at LLU church, said this about him, "Bill believed in affirming people. He elevated people around him and took time and was available."

Loveless was known as a leader and an innovator ahead of his time. His impact and leadership was lasting because he was a devout and dedicated follower of Jesus and Adventist.

Continued from the previous page years, was in charge of programming throughout the month of August. "We sent out over 100 invitations to city and conference officials, as well as previous pastors and associate pastors," said Soderblom. "We had a number of the pastors come back and fellowship with their former members. It was wonderful to see everyone interacting together."

The program on August 30 consisted of several presentations showcasing various aspects of the church. One presentation showed pictures and video of the

church construction project. Another video showed church members giving testimonies and telling stories about their experience at Calimesa.

"All of this reminds us that God has always been active here in Calimesa," said Ciccarelli. "Even from its beginnings, we have witnessed how He has worked over 50 years. God is always up to something!"

The church staff and members are now looking

forward to see where God is moving them. However, they hope that they won't have to celebrate another 50 years down the road-- as their hope is in the soon return of Jesus.

By Mario A. Munoz



(Top Left) Ken Curtis, associate pastor, shares his experience working with several pastoral teams during the 50th anniversary celebration service.

Viva con Esperanza: Evangelistic Caravan Goes to Five Counties

Viva con Esperanza (Live with Hope) was the name of the one-week conference-wide evangelistic event in early September. All the Hispanic churches from Southeastern California Conference's five counties—Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego—participated.

The campaign was a joint effort of the Pacific Union Conference and SECC. Leadership was provided by Alberto Ingleton, SECC vice president for Hispanic ministries, and Jorge Soria, PUC director of Hispanic ministries.

The guest speaker was Alejandro Bullon, evangelist. Ingleton reports that as many as 3,800 people were in attendance in all five counties.

The meetings began on September 7 at

the Loma Linda Filipino church, where the Hispanic pastors and members from Riverside and San Bernardino counties met for the first two nights of meetings. To reach a larger audience the event was broadcast live over the Internet.

During a follow-up meeting at the Loma Linda Spanish church, Ana Victoria Ortiz, at age 92 decided to join the church and be baptized. It was not an easy decision for Ortiz, who had known about the church for the past 20 years. Every night she came and listened from her wheelchair before the day of her baptism.

After two nights the meetings moved to the Orangewood Academy gym in Orange County. During these meetings Sandra Roberts, conference president, was in attendance. She reported having been touched by the following story:

Bullon was making an altar call at the closing of his sermon. Many people came to the front, among them

Ciro Lozada, slowly

walking on his crutches to the front to give his life to Jesus. Roberts noticed that the man kept looking back to the congregation in a persistent manner. Finally he walked back to where his family was sitting and invited them to come with him to the front and surrender their lives to Christ, and they did. The family of five was baptized during the meeting that night.

"God was transforming people and changing lives every night," said Yohalmo Saravia, SECC evangelist.

The caravan then headed south and visited San Diego, Escondido, Calexico, and finally Coachella Valley. "In each of these southern cities, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of church members, as well as the many visitors who decided to accept the call of salvation," said Saravia. "Thanks to the hard work of the local pastors and their church members, now that the series has ended, many new members have joined the church through baptism."

By Yohalmo Saravia with Chloe Jacqueline Vander Zwan



(Top left) Gilbert Vega, senior pastor of the Loma Linda Spanish church, baptizes and welcomes new members into the church. (Left) Alejandro Bullon, evangelist, invites those in attendance to give their lives to Christ. (Right) The Lozada family happily pose for a picture after they are baptized.

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
 11330 PIERCE STREET • RIVERSIDE, CA 92505-3303 • 951.509.2200 • WWW.SECCADVENTIST.ORG
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NOVEMBER 2014

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

*Air Conditioning
Class
Graduates 22*



*Storage Unit
for Disaster
Relief Materials
Delivered to SCC*



Evangelism



James G. Lee, Jr.
*Religious Liberty
director*

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY *Initiative to Involve Students*

Something new is in the planning stages for religious liberty in the Southern California Conference! We are initiating the process of getting young people interested in religious liberty, because we know it's going to be even more important for all of us to be aware of and involved in religious liberty issues as time goes by. With various religious liberty-related issues cropping up in the news almost daily, it is clear that we will need "frontline young people" and others who can take issues and concerns to our government leaders.

Our plan at this time is to begin involving interested young people in a religious liberty initiative in Feb or Mar. of 2015. Prior to that, we will be speaking with the principals of our five senior academies and training young people who want to participate in a religious liberty initiative.

Dennis Seaton, who represents the Pacific Union Conference on legislative and interfaith community relations, already has partnered with schools in the Central California Conference. In the spring of 2014, his office hosted

students of grades seven and eight of the Linda Vista School in Southern California Conference when they traveled to Sacramento.

The previous year, teacher Lauren Chirne had prepared her students for their trip with the class' study of American History and Government. Then Chirne contacted the Pacific Union's Religious Liberty office in Sacramento. "Can we meet with you and your staff," she asked, "and also have a tour of the capitol as well as an opportunity for them to meet with government officials?"

Seaton was happy to oblige. In addition, Alan Reinach, Pacific Union Religious Liberty director, accepted Chirne's invitation to speak to the class about religious liberty and state government when they returned.

Arriving at the capitol, the class met with Seaton at the Adventist Religious Liberty office nearby. "Mr. Seaton



Linda Vista students talk with State Assemblyman Jeff Gorell.

provided us with a very nice picnic lunch on the capitol lawn," Chirne reported. "We then had a fabulous tour of the capitol. At the end of our tour, not being sure we would even get to meet our State Assemblyman Jeff Gorell, we stopped by his office in hopes that he might take time for a picture with us, and for the students to be able to hand deliver letters they had written to him in support of particular issues. Not only did Gorell come out for a picture, but he talked to the students for 30 minutes, answering all their questions. Then he listened as they talked to him about the bills they desired to be passed, repeatedly saying how impressed he was by their letters and their questions."

Cont. on page 3

Graduation Held for 22 Graduates of Air Conditioning Class

by Betty Cooney

Men and women who participated in a free six-month class to learn how to install air conditioning and heating units gathered for a graduation ceremony at the University church on Sabbath, August 30, 2014. A number of community residents were part of the class. One graduate, Dwight Sankey, celebrated with two sons and a nephew who had taken the class with him.

Bobbie Ruff, who recently retired as a

journeyman in the air conditioning/heating installation field, was the volunteer instructor. A dedicated layman, Ruff is currently conducting the second six-month training class at the church, for 31 students, six of whom took the first-year class. Five graduates have been employed since the training and a process is underway with a work source to help graduates prepare resumes

prior to being placed for apprenticeships. Some of the students had been unemployed for a lengthy period.

"It has been very rewarding to work with the class," said Charles

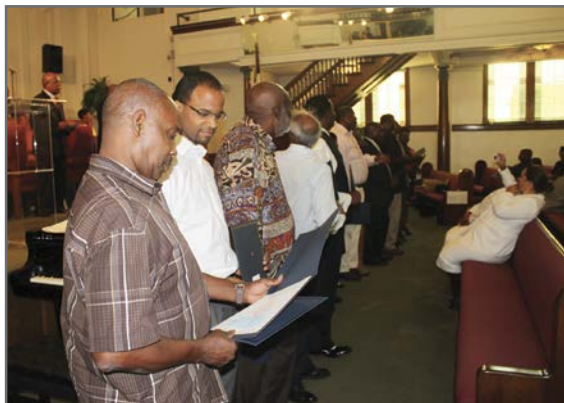
Graduates lined the front of the church after receiving their certificates of completion.

Photos by Betty Cooney



Pastor David Taylor with class coordinators Charles Dolcey and Yolande Dean, call graduates to the front of the church.

Dolcey, an active layman who has helped coordinate the classes. "In addition to the trade training, students are encouraged (but not required) to study the Scriptures for themselves, in particular, 1 Kings 11 and the story of prophets who disobeyed God. As a result, they were not able to excel. When we recommend a graduate for a job, we encourage them to go with dignity and respect for their employer; to glorify God in whatever they do."



(Voted Aug. 14; Sept. 3, 25, 2014)

In Transition

(Voted Aug. 14, 2014)

New Conference Employees

Deborah Dahl

Teaching Principal, East Valley Elementary, as of 7/1/14.

(Voted Sept. 3, 2014)

Taryn Marche Goulard

Teacher Grades 5-6, West Covina Hills school, as of 8/19/14.

Maria Ovando-Gibson

Associate Pastor, Vallejo Drive church, as of 9/1/14.

Donald Shelton

Teacher Grades 5-6, White Memorial school, as of 8/11/14.

Changes within the Conference

(Voted Aug. 14, 2014)

Carlos Acosta

From Pastor, Baldwin Park Bilingual church; to Pastor, Spanish American church, as of 9/1/14.

Jin Seong Choe

From Pastor, Rosemead Korean church; to Pastor, Glendale Korean church, as of 8/30/14.

Sun Hwa Hwang

From Pastor, Glendale Korean church; to Pastor, Olympic Korean church, as of 8/30/14.

Choon Soo Hwang

From Pastor, Olympic Korean church; to Pastor, Rosemead Korean church, as of 8/30/14.

Rogelio Paquini

From Pastor, Spanish American church, to Pastor, Maranata Norwalk Spanish church, as of 9/16/14.

Roselaine Recto

From Kindergarten Teacher, White Memorial school; to Kindergarten Teacher, Glendale Adventist Academy Elementary school, as of 7/1/14.

(Voted Sept. 3, 2014)

Ivanelle Sunico

From Teacher Grades K-1, Adventist Union School; to Teacher, Grades 5-8 East Valley school.

(Voted Sept. 25, 2014)

John Aitken II

From Pastor, Temple City church; to Pastor, Community Adventist Fellowship, as of Oct. 1, 2014.

Samuel Del Pozo

From Associate in Pastoral Care, Hollywood Spanish church; to Pastor, Culver City Spanish church/Hawthorne Spanish church, as of 9/16/14.

Salvador Garcia

From Pastor, Culver City Spanish church/Hawthorne Spanish church; to Pastor, Baldwin Park Bilingual church, as of 9/16/14.

Leaving Conference

(Voted Aug. 14, 2014)

Tony Parrish

Associate Pastor, Vallejo Drive church, as of 8/15/14.

Raul Rojas

Pastor, El Camino a Cristo Spanish Company, as of 7/30/14.

Eric Walsh

Assistant Pastor, Antelope Valley church, as of 8/16/14.

(Voted Sept. 3, 2014)

Mark Lastimoso

Associate Pastor, Glendale Filipino church, as of 9/15/14.

Gorell promised to read every one of the students' letters. "I have never received letters from middle schoolers campaigning for government issues before," he told them. "I wish all students would be that involved!"

When Atty. Reinach met with the students, he discussed with them a few bills currently before the legislature. Afterward, Chirne had each student write a second letter thanking Gorell for his work and discussing any one of the bills Reinach had mentioned to the class.

The students were in awe that they had finally met the man they had

written their letters to; the man whose signs for re-election were all over Ventura County. Gorell told the students, "I won't ever forget your school. You students have made a deep impression on me, with your involvement in government affairs and religious liberty." The students had an unforgettable taste of how U.S. government works and how, at a young age they, too, can have a say and help shape our government.

We want to do all we can to help make young people in our middle grades and senior academies become

interested in, aware of—and involved in—religious liberty issues and the community. Though we are told that persecution regarding our liberties will be a global reality in the last days of earth's history, we are counseled by Ellen White, "We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience."¹ Preparing our young people to speak with elected officials is a key step in fostering religious liberty principles in these last days.

¹T., Ellen G. White, p. 714

STORAGE UNIT FOR DISASTER RELIEF *Materials Delivered to SCC*

by Betty Cooney

A container for storing equipment needed for the approximately 75 SCC Disaster Relief teams was delivered on Oct. 1, 2014 to the parking lot of the Southern California Conference. The unit is equipped with buckets for relief workers, a generator and other items needed to help people in the event of natural or other disasters.

Disaster relief leaders from SCC

churches received the five-gallon buckets with re-sealable lids to be filled with items needed for their relief work. The buckets include supplies such as bleach, scouring pads, sponges, disinfectant dishwashing soap, trash bags, insect repellent spray, dust masks,

disposable gloves and more. Once the buckets have been filled with the needed items, most of which are available at discount stores, they will be transferred for storage until needed in an 18-wheel semi that is parked on the campus of Glendale Adventist Academy.

"The purpose of the unit and the storage items," said James G. Lee, Jr., SCC Disaster Relief director, "is to be prepared in the event of an earthquake or other emergency or disaster within our conference territory."



Each conference in the Pacific Union received a storage unit for Disaster Relief work in the area. This unit is parked in the parking lot of Southern California Conference. Photos by Betty Cooney



Barbara Hart, administrative secretary to Vice President James G. Lee, Jr., displays the buckets to be used for disaster events.

SCC EVANGELISM



Samuel Lee,
Asian Pacific
Region director

Asian Pacific Region

The region sponsored a conference-wide series focused on small-group ministry that featured Russell Burrill, DMin, a retired Seminary professor and author of many books, including *The Revolutionized Church in the 21st Century*. Pastors and members gathered to learn about a dynamic method of church growth that had been followed in the early days of the Adventist church and then gradually lost sight of by many churches.

Today, more churches in North America are looking at this method because it enhances the creation of community and builds church growth. I believe that small-group ministry is THE ministry! As Dr. Burrill pointed out, churches in North America that are growing all have small-group ministry, because it is about creating and nurturing community; small groups welcome and feed on newcomers from the family and from the community; they are a resource in which people are accountable to each other, thus assisting them in their walk with Jesus.

While it is true that some groups become stale and do not foster church growth, that is because they are not inviting new people and building friendships, but becoming more like clubs.

In North America, individualism can be a major challenge for small-group ministry and building community. However, for some cultures, small-group ministry is very familiar and comfortable. Asian Pacific Region churches are among that group. Of the 21 churches, eight companies and 10 groups in the region, from 60-80% have small group ministries. The Pasadena and Indonesian American churches have had as many as eight groups.

Some SCC young adult pastors have used texting to foster community in their meetings with young people by inviting texts about their message, questions relating to the sermon, or sending prayer requests. One pastor surveyed his congregation by texting, to get instant feedback and to involve his listeners.

Pastor Edgar Lloren has been at the Pasadena church for the past four years. The church has seven active small groups and anticipated another group to join them soon.

“Some exciting things are happening in the small groups,” Lloren said. “A church neighbor who had been very antagonistic toward the church has been coming to a group and is studying for baptism—he has melted! The Holy Spirit is at work with him and others who have been attending the church for some time without making decisions for the Lord. Now they are studying. I believe this is where the Holy Spirit will be poured out, in small groups in which participants are involved in intentional prayer, student of the Bible, discovery of one’s mission.”

L. A. Metro Region

Pastor Terry Benson of the North Hills church reports that from Oct. 11 through Nov. 22 the church is dealing with “the most fundamental question everyone faces in life: *What on Earth Am I Here For?*” The understanding of our unique purpose depends on how we answer this question. The *What on Earth Am I Here For?* campaign is continuing its seven-week, church-wide journey. The goal is to help us discover and live out God’s plan for our lives. Inspired by the original “Forty Days of Purpose,” this series involves attending Sabbath services, weekly participation in one of the nine North Hills small groups (members are encouraged to invite relatives, neighbors and friends from the community), and a daily devotional reading. The series is open to anyone wanting understand God’s calling in their life and provides an environment of spiritual growth and support.



Gerard Kiemenev
L.A. Metro Region
director, Young Adult
Ministries coordinator

Hispanic Region

During the month of November, Hispanic Region churches are conducting our second Metropolitan campaign. Around 30 churches are participating. Please remember these churches in your prayers!



Luis Peña, director



Richard Roethler
director

West Region

At the Oxnard All Nations church Art Bushnell, a retired pastor conducted a Prophecy Seminar, which 40 new visitors from the community attended. Five persons joined the church. Several others are studying. Pastor Manuel Avitia is conducting a baptismal class for about 12 people.

The Ventura church started evangelistic meetings on October 18, with the meetings presented by local church elders. The meetings continued Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays through November 1.

The Canoga Park Community church has done a direct mailing for a series titled, “Thunder in the Holy Land.” More than 23 people have requested the Bible study video series, and the church will host a ShareHim program in February, 2015.

The Northridge church has hosted the “Buried Blueprints” series, developed by Elder John Aitken, Sr., pastor of the Van Nuys church. Aitken also recently presented the series at the Valley Crossroads church.

HŌ'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

PAGE 2 | Galactic Quest and Weird Animals 2014 Hawaii Vacation Bible School photo recap. Did your child attend? Did you volunteer?

PAGE 3 | Have you thought about the meaning of your name? Does it represent you well? How about the name of your church or school? A couple of Hawaii schools have given it thought.

PAGE 4 | Do members feel a sense of friendship within your church family? And, more importantly, do visitors find open arms and warm smiles? Need a friend? Be a friend!

Just A Minute

My heart was stirred with a recent prayer initiative written by Elder Don Jacobson, who is part of the North American Division prayer ministry team. Here it is:

“Question: What might happen if every Seventh-day Adventist in North America would spend just a few minutes each day, or maybe just one minute each day, praying for one specific person — a neighbor, a colleague, someone special that God lays on your heart? What if even half of our 1.2 million members would catch that vision?

If just half of us made that commitment between now and the end of December, and if we spent only ONE minute each a day between now and the end of the year, we could lay before the Lord a million hours of focused intercession.

Is that a doable? Half of us, one minute each day, pleading with God to show us someone He wants us to bless, to encourage, to put our arms around... Is that doable? It is.

Lest you think we're suggesting that we will be heard for our much speaking (Matthew 6:7), remember that Jesus spent whole nights in prayer when His salvation mission was heavy on His heart. We're on solid ground to call each other to that kind of commitment. The very Spirit-led brashness of a million hours is enough to energize even Laodiceans.

Many of us have prayer lists we pray over regularly. But I sometimes find myself a bit nebulous in what I am asking God for. Bless my neighbors; bless the postman; bless our pastor. But to spend a full minute seeking to enter into the very intercession that Jesus is expressing to the Father about a person He and I agree on, now that would be, as the kids like to say, awesome.

You may be one of those for whom your intercession is much more intense than simply one minute. Great! Perhaps you can encourage others to that same consistent discipline.

That much prayer over the next four months could change us. It could change our churches. It could change our communities. It could change our own journeys. Why wouldn't we do this?

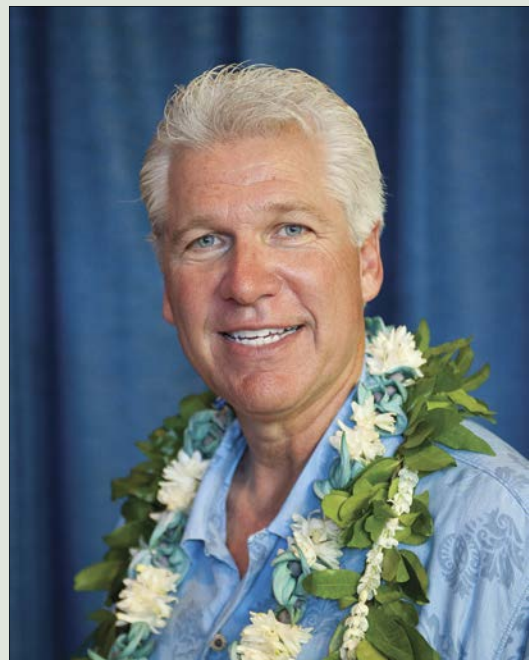
Will you make this a matter of prayer; will you pray about praying? It's a doable. Why would we not do this?"

Did this challenge stir your heart, too? Think of the potential impact right here in the Hawaii Conference if each of us were to take seriously this One Minute Prayer Challenge? Not just through the holiday season, which

stretches out before us, but how about we pray right into the glorious beginnings of a brand New Year? Let's pray ... one minute at a time!

Because of Him,

Ralph S. Watts III



Galactic Quest and Weird Animals

2014 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RECAP



Lahaina

Approximately 425 children participated in 16 Vacation Bible School events around the Islands this summer.

In addition, Friends Club in Hilo has continued to meet once a month, with 50-70 children under the direction of Linda Hovanski. Friends Club is an on-going evangelistic program for children with a format similar to that of a VBS.

Some VBS directors have plans for mini-sessions as follow-up to encourage children to return to the church on a more regular basis. A picture is worth a thousand words; enjoy the images from some of the island churches.



Kaneohe



Waipahu



Lanai



Waimanalo



Waimanalo



Waimanalo



Japanese



Lanai



Lahaina

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

At a recent Hawaii Council of Private Schools meeting, schools heads were asked to share a little about the history of their school name or the symbolism used in their school logo. While each name or logo was so different from the others, there was one commonality between all the schools: their school name or logo defines who they are and what they are about.

Throughout the Bible, it is clear that names are important. A name revealed the truth about someone. God was called Elohim, the mighty, all-powerful Creator; Yahweh when He created man and was intimately involved with His people; Adonai, which means my master; Jehovah-Raah, the Lord my Shepherd; El Qanna, the jealous God; and Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord is my provider. Each name identified God's character to His people at a particular time in their walk with Him.

Others' names in the Bible were important, too. God changed Abram, "Noble Father" to Abraham, "Father of Nations;" Sarai, "Princess," to Sarah, "Mother of Nations;" Simon, "God Hears" converted to Peter, "The rock, which God can trust;" and Saul the persecutor became Paul the apostle for God. Each

new name gave identity and purpose.

In June 2013, the constituency of Kohala Mission School voted to change its name to Kohala Adventist School, or KOA for short. After prayerful discussion, the constituency decided that a name change was needed to better identify itself within the community and the change from Mission to Adventist has been well received. In Hawaii, koa (acacia) is a valued wood used in manufacturing treasured canoes, furniture and ukulele. Kohala Adventist School teaches its students that they are treasured children of God and that each of them has a purpose in His great plan.

In February 2014, the constituency of Hawaiian Mission Academy K-8 voted to change its name to Hawaiian Mission

Academy Ka Lama Iki. Over the years, the school had undergone several name changes to identify the grade level of students present on campus. After prayerful consideration, the school board made a recommendation to the school constituency to switch to a name that identified the mission of the school. "Ka Lama Iki," the name of the school's yearbook since 1964, literally means, "Little torch" or "We are the little lights sharing God's Word with the world." Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki helps students to discover their God-given gifts and to explore ways to use those gifts in serving others.

While other schools reflect on their name, it is reassuring to know that we all we have a name that we can claim as our own, "Child of God." And that is the best name of all.

IF YOU WANT A FRIEND...

BY GERALD D. CHRISTMAN

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

I enjoy visiting Sunday-keeping churches when I have occasion; it helps me experience worship from a different perspective.

I was visiting a neighborhood church some time ago. Sunday school was concluding when I arrived, so I sat alone in the sanctuary for a few minutes.

Three ladies came and sat immediately behind me. There was friendly chatter between them. One of them tapped me on the shoulder, and the three introduced themselves and welcomed me to their church.

The ladies soon resumed their conversation — but not for long. One of them soon tapped me on the shoulder again. “You’re sitting all alone,” she said. “Come back and join us.”

Three women, without much effort, made me feel very welcomed in their church.

It’s not hard to feel alone in a church; to experience loneliness with people all around. The presence of happy families, couples or friends can accentuate the sensation that one is not part of the group.

It is well known that social interactions even affect animals. Disrupted social networks increase cholesterol and blood pressure levels among monkeys. The blood pressures of rabbits rise or fall depending on whether or not they are petted.

When it comes to humans, isolation is a major risk factor for heart disease. It seems clear



from many studies that social support both promotes healing as well as protects us from diseases.

It’s important for individuals to sense community in our churches. I have watched throughout my ministry how some new guests quickly feel “at home” in church. Those feeling the warmth of friendship seem to accept new biblical teachings with comparative ease. On the other hand, accepting new-to-them doctrinal truths seems to be more difficult for those who feel isolated; those who may not feel they are an integral part of the church ohana.

Seventh-day Adventists have long recognized the importance of Bible truth. Having a correct understanding of the Sabbath, Bible prophecies and other truths is of utmost importance. Our understanding of doctrinal truths, however, is incomplete if it does not include us being conduits of Christ’s love.

While it’s important to have friends in church, it’s even more important to reach out and to

pull others into our circle of friendship. Those who have the least amount of friends are often the ones who most need our friendship.

Caring for a toddler during worship, for example, can be challenging; it can be downright frazzling if the child is unaccustomed to church attendance. We can offer love and acceptance to guests or parents with small children just by sitting next to them and offering assistance.

A homeless 12-year-old boy expressed his loneliness with the following words: “It’s strange, but I really like it when the lights go off in the movies, because then I’m no longer a homeless child. I’m just a person watching the movie like everyone else in the theater. It feels good to be on the same level with everyone else.”

The individual in the pew in front of you may be feeling uncomfortable this coming Sabbath morning. She may be longing to be on the same level with everyone else. Will you and I allow her?

President Harry Truman said, “If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.”

May it be said in our communities: “If you want a friend, go to a Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Gerry Christman

Executive Secretary



Nevada-Utah Views

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*Focused on Jesus,
we witness to the world!*

November 2014

In this issue...

- Getting to Know You – a Whirlwind Month!

Getting to Know You – a Whirlwind Month!



Ed Keyes

*by Ed Keyes
President, Nevada-Utah Conference*

What a wonderful privilege it is to serve the Lord, and the Nevada-Utah Conference surely gives you the opportunity to do that in many different locations. Over the last two months, I have had the joy of spending most of my time in the far east and west corners of the great NUC.

I was excited to attend the worship service of the Carson City church on August 15th. The Carson City church has been involved in a pastoral search for several months now and were visiting with a potential pastor that day. I was truly happy to meet with the leadership of this church and realize that they have been able to carry forth God's work in a great way even without a pastor on board right now. Their sister church, Heavenly Valley, has also been blessed with tremendous lay leadership as they continue to press forward for the Lord.

The following week I preached at the Price, Utah church which, along with their sister churches Moab and Castle Valley, is also looking for a new pastor. We had a wonderful service together and then a combination town hall and pastoral search session in the afternoon. It was great meeting the members of this district.

On the last weekend of August, I was a part of the African-American Convocation in Las Vegas. What a high weekend of worship and praise. Pastor Oneil Madden was the main organizer for this event and did a marvelous

job. Friday night was a true blessing to worship at the Abundant Life Church with Pastor Harold Goodloe as the featured speaker. Early Sabbath morning we met together in a larger facility (Evergreen Baptist Church) for a full day of activity. I had the joy of being a panelist in a discussion on how to get our youth and young adults to be more involved in the church. For the main church service we had another inspiring message by Pastor Goodloe. That was followed by a great time of fellowship and an afternoon full of praise and worship. A truly wonderful weekend indeed.

The first Sabbath of September I spoke for the Lone Pine, California church and was warmly received by the members there. It was a blessing to see this group working hard to keep the church as a light in a very small community burning brightly. I was thankful that Elder Gary Newton invited me to preach there that day and to meet with the church in the afternoon as well. Bible worker Brian Burnette has really taken the task of reaching that community very seriously. He has done everything from preaching, to teaching, to giving Bible studies,

“That was followed by a great time of fellowship and an afternoon full of praise and worship. A truly wonderful weekend indeed.”

*Continued
on the next page*



For His Glory, a Samoan group from Tacoma, Washington, sing praises and bless the congregation at the Utah Area Convocation.

*Continued from
the previous page*

*“I am truly
thankful to be
a part of the
Seventh-day
Adventist Church
that has as a core
value the training
of our youth in
our educational
system.”*

and even seminars on healthy living. Keep up the good work. God is truly blessing.

On July 9th I flew to Las Vegas to visit the St. George and Cedar City district to continue the process of finding them a pastor. Unfortunately, that was the week Interstate 15 got washed out. I was frustrated that I couldn't get to my appointment and being the kind of person who hates to waste any time at all I decided to make a few visits in the Las Vegas area. My colleague and good friend Elder Carlos Camacho and I decided that we should visit the local Adventist schools, so I picked him up and off we went.

We first visited the Abundant Life Christian Academy and had a great reception as we entered the facility, and enjoyed meeting all the teachers and students there as well. It was easy to see that they were diligently working to teach these young people the importance of preparing for the future both here on earth and in the kingdom to come. We interrupted Pastor Madden's class in order to say hello from the Conference and to encourage the students to put Jesus as the first priority in their lives.

Then we jumped in the car and drove across town to Las Vegas Junior Academy. Once again we were warmly received by the Godly Christian staff of that school. After spending some time listening to the great plans that God inspired Arlyn Sundsted with, we went to each classroom to meet and pray with the

teachers and staff. Again, I could see how God was working to do great things through these dedicated staff members to help our youth prepare for eternity, and for life on this planet until Jesus comes again.

I am truly thankful to be a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church that has as a core value the training of our youth in our educational system. God has blessed this church with the vision of training our youth and developing schools to do just that. I want to take this opportunity to say thanks to all the teachers, pastors, and members of the Nevada-Utah Conference who promote and contribute to Christian education. In the 33 years I've been an Adventist, I have never ceased to be amazed at how God has used SDA schools to make leaders for his work.

On September 11, the pastors of the Las Vegas area met at our new Las Vegas area office for a time of planning and fellowship. While the local pastors had a meeting already planned they invited me to lead the worship time and contribute to the discussion on the growth of the local churches. I am truly thankful for the vision of each of these pastors. In the short time I've known Pastor BJ Boles I can sense his intense passion for soul winning and am thankful he is a part of this conference. It was great to spend more time with Pastor Madden and I admire his tireless effort to move forward the work of God in Las Vegas. It was also a

privilege to spend time with Pastor Peter Neri who, by the way, was the first pastor in the conference to call me and tell me he was praying for me each day. It was great to see my buddy Pastor Wayne O'Bannon again and to be able to hear his heart's desire for a greater work in God's church. Time and space does not permit me to mention every pastor in this article, but suffice it to say they have all contributed greatly to God's work in Las Vegas.

The next day I was back at our office in Reno after a whirlwind of trips around the Conference. I preached in the Truckee church that Sabbath and after the fellowship lunch, I had the opportunity of hearing the leaders share their vision for growth in this very small community. It was obvious that creativity would be needed in order to reach their neighbors here, and many of them shared a concept that has been successful in other parts of the world called "messy church." I was amazed to see that the crafts and models they developed were from the same story I preached that day, and we had not talked at all about it before hand. It's amazing how the Holy Spirit puts those things together. That afternoon the Truckee church leadership had planned an evangelistic outreach in the local park. I shared the testimony of how God saved me from a life that was on its way to disaster when I was a young man. There was music and singing and anyone that happened to be in the park that day got to hear the gospel for sure.

Within 12 hours of leaving Truckee I was in Maryland at the North American Division for a new officers' orientation. Every year NAD President Dan Jackson, NAD Executive Secretary Alex Bryant, and NAD Treasurer Tom Evans meet with all the conference officers who were newly elected within the year. Donna Jackson also has a special orientation program for all of the presidents' wives as well. Since the Nevada-Utah Conference has elected all three officers within the last year we were all together for this training. The information given was outstanding and NUC Treasurer Doug Reeves, Executive Secretary Carlos Camacho, and

myself were greatly enriched and blessed by the presentations and workshops given mainly by NAD VP's Alvin Kibble, and Ken Denslow. This was one of the biggest groups they've had, with eight newly elected presidents, and several other officers as well.

As soon as I returned from Maryland I headed to Salt Lake City for the Utah Area Convocation/Camp Meeting. I was planning on being at this event anyway but it was an honor to be asked to be the featured weekend speaker. I gave a two-part presentation for Sabbath School and then Worship on Jesus' method of reaching the world found in the Sermon on the Mount. In the afternoon I was interviewed by the youth about a multitude of things from how the youth of the church can be more involved, to what is my vision for soul-winning in the NUC. It was a truly great day with music given by Pastor Sheldon Bryan's church group, a special concert from "For His Glory, the Samoan group from the Tacoma, Washington area, and great testimonies throughout the day, which concluded with my personal testimony of God's amazing grace in my life. In the middle of the day Pastor Elias Juarez had a baptism for some of the young people he had been working with and the Lord truly blessed

"Time and space does not permit me to mention every pastor in this article, but suffice it to say they have all contributed greatly to God's work in Las Vegas."

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Utah area pastors Bill Davis, Provo/Vernal District; Tom Tupito, Utah Samoan; and Adam Case, Wasatch Hills share the platform as part of the Utah area convocation.

*Continued from
the previous page*

***“Don’t burn out:
keep yourselves
fueled and aflame.
Be alert servants
of the Master,
cheerfully expectant.
Don’t quit in hard
times; pray all the
harder...”***

Romans 12:11-13.

that service. I especially want to thank Pastor Bill Davis for his amazing ability to translate a guy like me who talks fast with a little Jersey accent. Great job Bill! Great job to Pastor Adam Case and his team for an outstanding weekend program. What a blessing to all who participated. If you live in the area (or even if you don't), plan on attending next year when Utah Camp Meeting will be near Zion National Park, at Clear Creek Family Ranch, in Orderville, Utah, on August 7-9, 2015.

The following Sunday I had the privilege of spending time with the Utah area pastors in a little more personal way, as we were able to relax together for breakfast. It was nice to meet the pastors, their wives, and even some of their family. Since I started working in the NUC, over two months ago now, my wife has really wanted to meet the pastors' wives and this was her first real opportunity to do that. We met with Adam and Laurella Case; Bill and Irma Davis; Angel and Marigold Cuenca; Martin and Dianne Emslie; Ryan and Rene Hablitzel; Elias and Rosanna Juarez; Tom and Gingerlei Tupito; Calixto Ruiz; and Sheldon and Terry Bryan. Several of them also brought their children, which was an added blessing.

Wrapping up the month of September I was back in Utah at the Provo church speaking on the Sabbath after camp meeting. Once again it was an honor to be with Pastor Davis and his church in Provo. He has a very unique service blending two language groups with

great harmony into one worship service. I want to thank you, Pastor Davis, and the church leaders, especially Brad and Linda Walton who really made me feel at home in the Provo church and community. After the fellowship lunch I was invited to be a part of a leadership discussion with the elders, deacons and deaconesses. There were scores of great ideas shared and the focus of outreach was very clear in this group as well.

That evening Pastor Davis drove me up to

the Vernal church where they were waiting to have sundown worship and a town hall meeting with the new president. I shared how God could save a sinner such as me and how He is still working on hearts all over the world today. Then I shared plans for the future work of the Conference. I met Pastor Ray Carter there. He has been serving as a lay Bible worker and doing a marvelous job. It was truly a pleasure to get to know this group, and I thank them all for coming out on such a wild and stormy night. Another big “thank you” to Pastor Bill Davis for doing all the driving through that torrential downpour.

Finally, my last preaching appointment and meeting before this article was due, was at the Bishop church. What a wonderful group of people the Lord has placed there to keep this church and school moving forward. I had a great time in Sabbath School and Worship, a wonderful meal and then an afternoon meeting, where I realized that this church has a rare and unique opportunity to reach their community. The church school and preschool have a great reputation in the community and, with its dedicated leaders, has done an amazing job of establishing a strong foundation of good will in Bishop. It was obvious that the mission of this church is tied together with its school. I was truly impressed with the gracious reception that I received, even though they have been without a pastor since last December. Thank you Bishop church for keeping the flame burning until the new shepherd arrives. God has blessed you and will continue to bless as you serve him.

A friend of mine called me recently and asked me about my schedule. When I told him, he was concerned that I hadn't taken a day off in over two months but then he shared a Bible verse with me that truly lifted me. He used the Message Bible and read to me Romans 12:11-13 that says “Don't burn out: keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder...” I know it sounds crazy but instead of being drained by these intense 16-hour days, for two and one-half months straight without a day off in the schedule, I've actually been energized. I think the reason is because meeting with fellow Christians who have similar goals and values charges the soul. With this new position I have had to pray even harder than ever, and if anything gives a charge to the soul it is truly prayer.

God Bless the NUC, Pastor Ed Keyes

Upcoming EVENT

Youth Mentorship Conference

November 15, 2014

Las Vegas, NV

Speakers include – Steve Case (Piece of the Pie Ministries), Scott Ward (NAD High School Ministries Coordinator), Eric Penick (Southeastern California Conference, Associate Youth Director) Eddie Heinrich (Pacific Union, Youth Ministries Coordinator, Northern California Conference, Youth Director), Andrew Uyeyama (Central California Conference, Youth Director), Benjamin Lundquist (Arizona Conference, Young Adult Ministries Director), and Ron Pickell (Volunteer Coordinator, Adventist Christian Fellowship)

The NEVADA-UTAH VIEWS is a newsletter stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Nevada-Utah Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the Recorder every other month.