

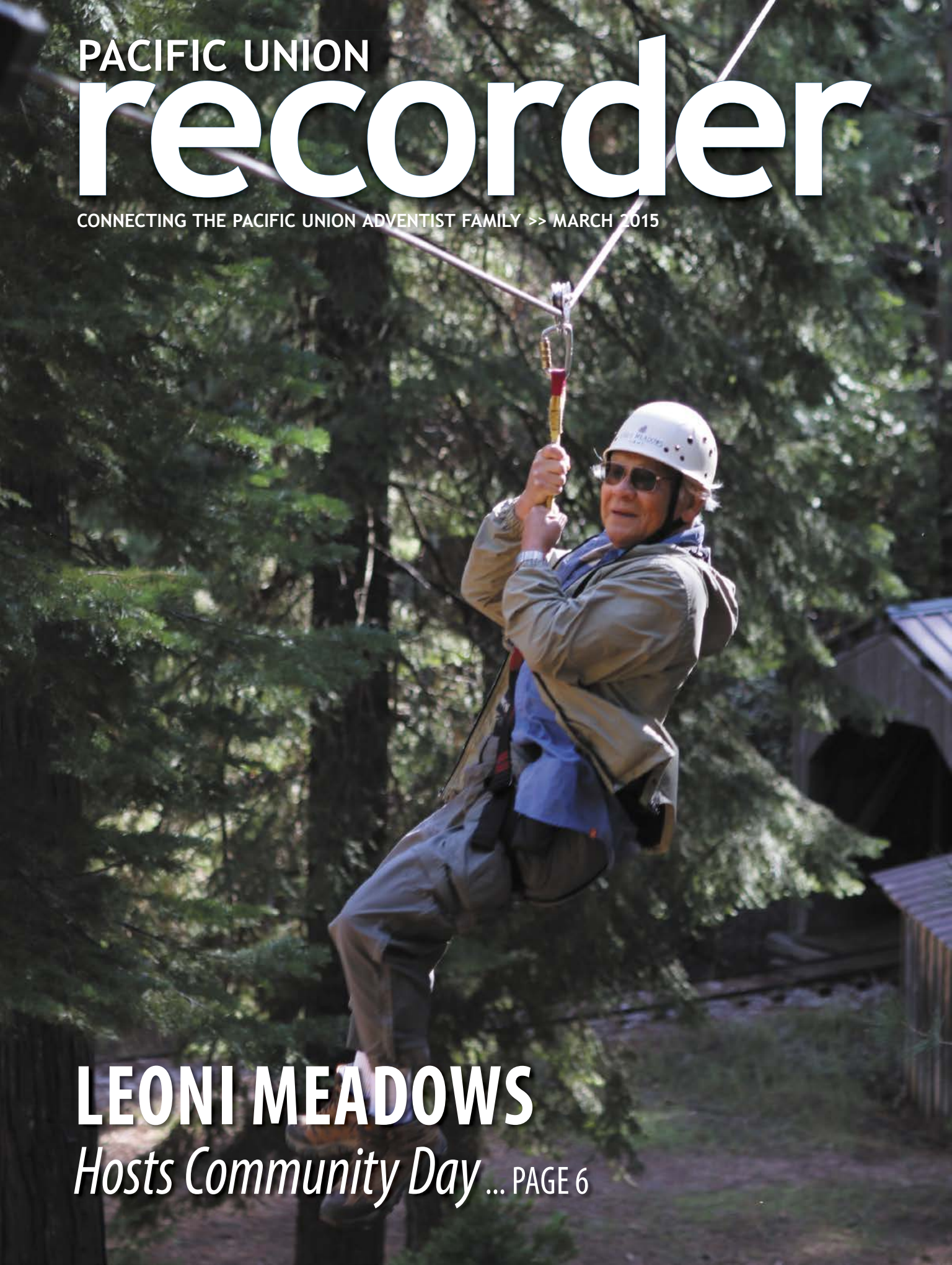
PACIFIC UNION

recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> MARCH 2015

LEONI MEADOWS

Hosts Community Day ... PAGE 6



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

SUNSETS

	3/6	3/13	3/20	3/27
Alturas	5:59	7:07	7:15	7:22
Angwin	6:08	7:15	7:22	7:29
Calexico	5:43	6:49	6:54	6:59
Chico	6:05	7:13	7:20	7:27
Eureka	6:14	7:22	7:29	7:37
Fresno	5:58	7:05	7:11	7:17
Hilo	6:28	6:30	6:32	6:34
Honolulu	6:38	6:40	6:42	6:44
Las Vegas	5:40	5:47	6:53	6:59
Lodi	6:04	7:11	7:17	7:24
Loma Linda	5:50	6:55	7:01	7:06
Los Angeles	5:54	7:00	7:05	7:11
Moab	6:15	7:22	7:29	7:36
Oakland	6:08	7:14	7:21	7:27
Phoenix	6:29	6:34	6:40	6:45
Reno	5:57	7:05	7:12	7:19
Riverside	5:50	6:56	7:01	7:07
Sacramento	6:04	7:11	7:18	7:25
Salt Lake City	6:25	7:32	7:40	7:47
San Diego	5:50	6:55	7:00	7:05
San Francisco	6:09	7:15	7:22	7:28
San Jose	6:07	7:13	7:20	7:26
Tucson	6:25	6:30	6:35	6:40



about the cover

Community guest Maxine Tyler rides the zip line at Leoni Meadows on Thanksgiving Day.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG HEINRICH

PACIFIC UNION recorder

Recorder Staff

Editor / Layout & Design

Alicia Adams — alicia@puconline.org

Publisher

Gerry Chudleigh — gerry@puconline.org

Administrative Assistants

Sali Butler — commdept@puconline.org
Sharon Edwards — sharon@puconline.org

Printing

Pacific Press Publishing Association
www.pacificpress.com

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Editorial Correspondents

Adventist Health 916-781-4756

Jennifer Glass — Jennifer.Glass@ah.org

Arizona 480-991-6777

Phil Draper — phildraper@azconference.org

Central California 559-347-3000

Costin Jordache — cjordache@cccsda.org

Hawaii 808-595-7591

Jesse Seibel — jesseseibel@gmail.com

La Sierra University 951-785-2000

Larry Becker — lbecker@lasierra.edu

Loma Linda 909-558-4526

Nancy Yuen — nyuen@llu.edu

Nevada-Utah 775-322-6929

Northern California 925-685-4300

Stephanie Leal — sleal@nccsda.com

Pacific Union College 707-965-6303

Cambria Wheeler — cammie@puc.edu

Southeastern California 951-509-2200

Enno Müller — communications@seccsda.org

Southern California 818-546-8400

Betty Cooney — bcooney@scsda.org

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6



10



19



23



5

Clean Out the Clutter



I am thankful for desk drawers. There are times when, overwhelmed by the “hard copy,” that sometimes covers my desktop completely, I sort through the many items, keep what needs responding to immediately and place the rest out of sight in the drawer.

My efficient administrative assistant, Carol, always prioritizes my snail mail for me. Much of it can be discarded, some assigned to others. Some gets assigned to the files in one of my desk drawers.

Sometimes, at home, to hide a surprise gift for Audrey, I put things under the bed. (After she reads this, I will have to find another hiding place!)

Yes, desk drawers, underneath beds and inside cabinets are good hiding places. We may try to hide our clutter from other people by putting it in drawers. (Kudos to all of you who have a place for everything and everything is in its place, as it should be).

Like cleaning physical clutter, we all eventually need to deal with the spiritual messes we try to hide from God, others and ourselves. We really aren't hiding them. We may temporarily deny their presence, but they are still there. We can clean up the top of the desk, but the neglected items — in drawers, cabinets and yes, under the bed, are still there. They need to be dealt with.

One thing is certain; we cannot hide anything from God. The messiness and junk in our lives is very real and apparent to Him.

“The wicked think, ‘God isn't watching us! He has closed his eyes and won't even see what we do!’” (Psalm 10:11, NLT).

And we cannot really hide our faults from other people, either. They eventually see our faults and shortcomings, too. It is just a matter of time and circumstances.

Instead of hiding our stuff from God, He invites us to come as we are to Him through Jesus, the great and eternal High Priest. He provides our justification, sanctification and, eventually, our glorification. He is living today and ministering before the throne of the Father. In fact, God

Himself invites us over and over to come to Him so that we can have a transforming experience.

“Come now, let us settle the matter,’ says the LORD. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool’” (Isaiah 1:18, NIV).

“If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts” (1 John 1:8-10, NLT).

“Look not to self, but to Christ . . . ‘Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.’ John 6:37. Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, ‘Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief.’ You can never perish while you do this — never” (*Desire of Ages*, 429).

What words of assurance; what a mighty promise! God has already dealt definitively, powerfully with our sin and spiritual messiness. He sent Jesus who became sin for us, and took our sins to the cross as the Innocent Bystander prophesied to come in Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

His arrival was announced to Joseph by angels: “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21, NIV).

The shepherds heard the good news that Jesus had come, as the angelic host illuminated the night sky (see Luke 2:8-15).

The incarnated God, lived a holy life, died an innocent death and rose from the grave to deal with our sinful lives. He takes and remakes us in character daily as we look to Him and trusts him, fully and completely.

Jesus died and rose again to take care of our deepest, hidden sin, the mess in the drawers of our lives.

Let Him take a look. He can handle it, and we will rejoice because He will clean out our hidden stuff.

Now, I must go clean out my desk drawers.

Ricardo Graham



Lay Pastor Filling a Need in Two Korean Churches

The Olympic Korean church, like a number of Korean and other SCC churches preaching in languages other than English, has essentially two main areas of ministry, along with the usual church departments: Korean ministry (KM) and English ministry (EM). KM primarily consists of first-generation Korean-Americans who speak Korean as their first language. The EM is primarily second-generation Korean-Americans with children ranging from babies to teens (third generation) who speak English as their first language.

In August 2014, the Olympic church EM pastor voluntarily left the church. Without a pastor, young adult membership started to drop. Church leadership immediately started a search process for a replacement for a young adult pastor, without much success.

Toward the end of 2014, the EM group invited Tony Yang, assistant vice president of public affairs at Loma Linda University Health, to be a guest speaker. The author of *Are You Sure You Want To Love God? (You Might Start Using the "O" Word)*, Yang is a speaker at meetings and conferences in the U.S., and an elder for the English ministry at the Glendale Korean church.

Olympic members enjoyed his sermon and invited him back, as his busy schedule allowed. "The more I spent time with the EM members," said Yang, "the more my heart went out to them. God started to place a burden on my heart to help them." Soon, the EM church began exploring the possibility of engaging Yang as a permanent part of Olympic's EM group.

After much prayer, the KM and EM jointly called him to serve as the EM pastor, which Yang suggested should be titled "lay pastor," since he has no formal pastoral training. He feels strongly that the church needs

to focus on lay ministry. "I was humbled that church leadership would even consider me, let alone call me as their EM pastor," Yang acknowledged. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve.

"It comes down to supply and demand," Yang noted. "A

number of Korean-American churches are looking for English-speaking pastors, yet there are not enough pastors to fill the open positions. Unless there's a significant shift in the near future, lay pastors are not just a possible solution; they may be the only solution.

"Even if we end up with a surplus of pastors some day, strengthening our lay ministries can't hurt. What pastor wouldn't want to join a church with strong lay leaders?"

Yang's first Sabbath as the EM lay pastor was Jan. 3, 2015. "The Olympic EM church wants to be known as a God-led, Bible-centered, lay-driven church," Yang said. "It's my prayer that God will find those who have a heart for ministry and lead them to be active lay leaders of Olympic EM or in their own churches."

"Pastors greatly appreciate and welcome lay volunteers' assistance in their ministry," said Samuel Lee, director, SCC Asian Pacific Region. "The Olympic church EM pastor is an impressive example that we would like to see as many duplications of as possible in our churches. Just as the Great Commission is for all believers, so is the call for all believers to minister, as the Bible and Ellen White counseled."



PHOTO COURTESY OLYMPIC KOREAN EM
KM associate pastor Sung Min Lee, left, and interpreter Richard Park, EM lay leader, introduce Tony Yang, right, as the new EM lay pastor on his first Sabbath, Jan. 3.

Notice of Constituency Session

Please take notice that the 64th regular Constituency Session of the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene as follows:

- Place: White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, 401 North State Street, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Date: Sunday, May 17, 2015
- Time: 7:55 a.m. – 1 p.m., or until business is completed.

The purpose of this session is to receive reports, to elect conference officers, the Superintendent of Schools, the Executive Committee, and the Bylaws Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Delegates are invited to join with the SCC Prayer Team for prayer from 7:00 – 7:50 a.m.

Larry L. Caviness, President

Velino A. Salazar, Executive Secretary

Betty Cooney

PHOTO COURTESY OLYMPIC KOREAN EM



A few Olympic EM members eat together on a Sabbath afternoon. Yang alternates between the Olympic and Glendale Korean groups: typically, the first and third at Olympic and second and fourth at Glendale.

“Night of Inspiration” Highlights Walking by Faith, Not Sight

PHOTOS BY CHRISTIANA LYMAN



Nick Vujicic, born without arms or legs, affirmed that every person is made with a goal and intention from God.

Saturday, Jan. 10, an Adventist-owned non-profit organization Extreme Mobility Camps, Inc. (XMO) hosted a “Night of Inspiration,” drawing 2,000 people of all ages to Calvary Community Church in Southern California. World-renowned speaker and XMO’s new partner, Nick Vujicic, touched many lives with his testimony of hope and faith, leading many to give their hearts to God.

Bradon Schwarz, a Pacific Union College sophomore and son of XMO founders Bryan and Mindy Schwarz, members of The Place Adventist Fellowship in Newbury Park, directed the “Night of Inspiration.” The organization offers visually impaired teenagers and young adults two annual week-long camps, one on the Newbury Park Academy campus and a winter one in Winter Park, Colo., where they can learn and perform extreme sports and strengthen their self-confidence.

Bradon developed a passion for the family-led ministry and has followed what he believes is God’s calling to be the organization’s vice president for business development.

He organized the event with support from his parents and sister, Marleigh Schwarz, as well as help from many community volunteers and PUC students. In addition to sharing Vujicic’s testimony, the inspirational event shared the testimonies of visually impaired XMO athletes Allie Pennington and Mike Mooney.

Vujicic’s enthusiasm and passion showed as he shared how God created each individual with purpose and delight. Inspired by his message, 100 people renewed their relationships with Christ or gave their hearts to Him for the first time.

“His message wasn’t like other testimonies,” stated Evelyn Marquez, a junior at Pacific Union College, who drove to Southern California to help volunteer for the event. “He spoke little about his personal struggles and more about the hope that can be found when one recognizes the value that God sees in each one of us. I believe God shone a special light through Nick that night.”

Mooney and Pennington testified on the positive impact of the XMO camp experience. Mooney was not a believer at first. He never considered God’s role in his life until he got involved with XMO. “I learned that it’s a lot easier to teach a blind person how to ski than teaching a person with sight, because the blind trust purely in the voice of their guide,” he explained. “The person with sight relies on what they see. Blind faith is being able to trust God and not rely on your own sight to lead you.”

Pennington explained how XMO has helped her build a relationship with God; how XMO became the support team she needed. “I always believed in God, but it wasn’t enough for me to keep exercising my belief, especially with my condition and hardships in life,” she said. “XMO helped foster and grow the faith that I always had. They are my family, always there for me, and I know they will always love me. They also showed me what God’s heart was truly like.”

XMO’s goal is to expand to a camp for anyone with a disability. With that vision, XMO hopes to open a ranch to expand their growing ministry, establishing a safe Christian environment for

individuals of every disability to experience a life-changing camp. In the near future XMO is planning three camps and a first-time mission trip.

Bradon Schwarz



Totally blind XMO athlete Alyssa Rossi sings during the event. Her performance received a standing ovation.



Bradon Schwarz, PUC student and VP of business development for Extreme Mobility, shares the vision of XMO to 2,000 attendees.

Leoni Meadows Hosts Community Day

Like a good neighbor, Leoni Meadows Camp and Retreat Center opened its doors on Thanksgiving Day to residents of the nearby town of Grizzly Flats and the surrounding area. More than 400 local households had received an invitation in the mail to come to a community day at the camp, and about 120 people accepted.

Executive Director Craig Heinrich welcomed the guests at the gate. Then Leoni Meadows

staff members helped them take part in a number of activities — riding the train, speeding on zip lines, driving go karts and taking carriage rides. Visitors also toured the Leoni House Museum, the restored 1887 house of the Leoni family, who were the original homesteaders on the property. The camp's kitchen provided homemade apple fritters and hot chocolate for the guests. "They had a fantastic time!" said Heinrich.

A number of community residents brought their family members to the camp to enjoy the activities before going home to eat Thanksgiving dinner. One family came with four generations — including a great-grandmother who rode the zip line. "It was cool to see families spend time together," said Chris Pappas, forestry supervisor.

Leoni Meadows has hosted its neighbors for events like this on and off over the past 20 years. Since the last one, "a dozen people have called and begged for another community day," said Heinrich.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG HEINRICH



Community guests try out the camp's go karts.



Skid the horse takes visitors for a carriage ride with Lauren Heinrich at the reigns.

For the past decade, Heinrich has endeavored to make the camp a well-respected and well-liked part of the greater Grizzly Flats community. Leoni Meadows participates in a number of community-wide events, such as sponsoring a pancake breakfast at a local elementary school and hosting law enforcement/fire training at the camp. Last year, Leoni Meadows sponsored a trash clean-up day, which removed 800 tires from the local community and got rid of 150 yards of trash (filling 6 dumpsters). In addition, Heinrich and Pappas serve on the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council.

All these activities have helped community members see the camp in a positive light. "We want our community to know that we're good neighbors," said Alexander. "The more we interact with our surrounding community, the better."

Pappas agrees. "Craig tries to reach out wherever he can," he said. "It's really been beneficial. We have relationships with our neighbors that we didn't have before."



All aboard the G & R Railroad! Leoni Meadows maintenance manager Scott Cochran serves as an engineer for the 1/3 scale model train.

Office manager Debbi Alexander served as an information resource for the recent visitors. "It was really awesome to get acquainted with people in our community," she said. "We were meeting people that live nearby that we'd never met before."

Julie Lorenz

BIG Rally Prepares Bible Workers for Front Lines of Evangelism

The Pacific Union has a dedicated team of volunteer Bible instructors on the front lines of evangelism in their local communities. Every January, they meet for inspiration, training and fellowship. This year, they met at the Fairfield Community church for the 39th annual rally of the Bible Instructors Guild.

Oakland Elmhurst church member Betty Glenn currently serves as BIG president. She wanted the rally to equip participants for service, as well as encourage them. "If people are properly trained and mentored, they feel more comfortable going out and doing God's work," she said.

Participants found the gathering to be both inspiring and useful. "I was happy that the church is emphasizing the concept of building relationships to enhance evangelism," said Oakland Market Street church member Amarylles (Nell) Groce, who serves as Northern California Conference chapter president.

Desiree O'Donoghue, from the Normandie Avenue church in Los Angeles, also appreciated the practical help. "This rally was very informative, with different kinds of seminars that give us tools to work with to take back to our churches," she said.

At each annual BIG rally, the participants go out into the local community on Sabbath to distribute literature. "We took to the streets in the afternoon to make friends for Jesus, sharing a prayer card and offering prayer for several who responded," said Virce Miller, Oakland Market Street church member.

Through the years, BIG members have seen many examples of the Holy Spirit's leading

PHOTOS BY BERNADETTE JOHNSON



Bible Instructors Guild members worship together with Fairfield Community church members in the sanctuary. Members of the NCC chapter are dressed in red.

during the Sabbath afternoon literature distribution. Last year in Las Vegas, several Bible instructors interrupted a man who was about to harm his pregnant girlfriend. They were able to give the family immediate help and arrange for long-term support. Another year, in San Bernardino, when BIG team members knocked on a door, they heard a woman screaming because she had just heard bad news about her brother on television. They were able to bring her comfort.

Stories such as these indicate that Bible workers need more than just book knowledge. "We can't just go in and sit down and give a Bible study," said Glenn. "We need to be equipped for ministry and know about resources to get help for people."

Glenn knows first-hand how one visit can change a life. She became a Seventh-day Adventist because a Bible instructor in San Francisco — known locally as "The Bible Lady" — came to her house and invited her children to a branch Sabbath school. "If she hadn't



Bible instructors from BIG's Southern California chapter pray together early on Sabbath morning.

knocked on my door, where would I be today?" asked Glenn. "We may be the only sermon that people will ever hear."

BIG was formerly titled The Pacific Union Bible Instructors Association. The group was founded in 1978 by Vivian Boyce, whose dream was to unite the union's Bible instructors. BIG is under the umbrella of the PUC Regional Ministries Department, directed by Bobby Mitchell Sr. Next year's rally will be held at the University church in Los Angeles.

The current Bible workers are eager to recruit a new generation of front-line evangelists. "Our goal is to place a Bible worker in every single church," said Glenn. "I want us to win friends for Jesus."

Bernadette Johnson and Julie Lorenz



Educator, author and lead Bible instructor Gloria Bell gives a presentation at the BIG rally.

SECC Ordains Four Pastors in December and January

The Southeastern California Conference celebrated the ordination of four pastors this winter. On Dec. 13, SECC welcomed two pastors as Roy Rantung and Mark Tatum were ordained together at Palm Springs church. On Jan. 10, the Indio Spanish church celebrated the ordination of Frank Ruiz. And two weeks later, on Jan. 24, Todd Rosspercer was ordained at Redlands church.

Roy Rantung

Born in Indonesia but having spent most of his early years in Loma Linda, Roy Rantung felt a pull to ministry early in life. He was a three-time student missionary while studying at La Sierra University, where he met his wife, Erica. It was during these mission experiences that he felt the call to ministry grow stronger as he shared the Bible and had his first experience preaching.

"It just felt like this was what I was supposed to do," said Rantung. "Being able to have a part in somebody's faith journey and leading them to Christ was unbelievably fulfilling."

Encouraged by his own youth pastor at the time, Rantung changed his major from music/pre-med and completed his bachelor's in

religious studies. Between his undergraduate and graduate studies, he worked in youth ministry at the Victoria church in Loma Linda, as assistant summer camp director at Pine Springs Ranch and finally as youth pastor at Loma Linda Indonesian church.

After earning his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in 2011, Rantung accepted his current post as associate pastor for youth and family at Palm Springs church.

"I want to inspire kids the way my youth pastor inspired me," said Rantung. "I believe God has called me to communicate to our young people that being a Christian is a joyful experience."

Mark Tatum

A native of Riverside, Mark Tatum felt the call to ministry as a

student at La Sierra Academy, where he desired to have the same positive influence over young people's lives as his own Bible teacher and youth pastor had over his. He graduated from La Sierra University in 2004 with a degree in religious education and began his work in ministry as a Bible teacher at Mesa Grande Academy.

"I loved the idea that I got the chance to be influential on young people as they were developing," said Tatum. "As a Bible teacher, I have

ENNO MÜLLER



Sandra Roberts, conference president, congratulates Roy Rantung, Mark Tatum and their families at their joint ordination service.

ENNO MÜLLER



During his ordination, Roy Rantung, associate pastor for youth and family at Palm Springs church, reflects on his ministry.

ENNO MÜLLER



Mark Tatum, pastor of El Centro church and Bible teacher at Calexico Mission School, describes his journey in ministry at his ordination service.

HEATHER GARCIA



Frank Ruiz, pastor of Indo Spanish church, takes time to reflect on and share about God's work in his life at his ordination service.

weeklong contact with youth and talk with them about God and about their lives daily."

Tatum spent a year in Costa Rica as a student missionary during college and later studied Spanish in Argentina, where he met his wife, Jimena. They were married in 2006 and welcomed their son, Josiah, into the world in 2013.

After completing his Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University in 2011, Tatum became pastor of El Centro church and Bible teacher at the bilingual Calexico Mission School. He is excited to be moving forward on evangelism projects with his church members.

"I love my church and the diversity of talents that God gives each person," said Tatum. "I love being on the journey of faith together."

Frank Ruiz

Originally from Oaxaca, Mexico, Frank Ruiz did not always feel led to ministry and left the church as a young man. He studied physical therapy at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. After his graduation in 2006, he moved to California, where he reencountered Jesus at the very church he now pastors.

With his newfound focus on God, Ruiz changed careers and began studying religion at La Sierra University, where in 2007 he completed

a master's degree in New Testament. Throughout his education, he worked in churches in San Bernardino and Santa Ana. Most recently, he became pastor of the Indio Spanish church, where he has defined his ministry by bridging the gap between church and community. Among other projects, Ruiz serves as chaplain of the local police department, provides an open forum at the church for community members on topics such as mental health and works with numerous support groups.

"We're in the business of saving souls," said Ruiz. "If a church wants to grow, it needs to open its door to the community in every possible way. We are the salt of the earth, but the salt needs to come out of the bottle in order to give flavor."

Todd Ross Spencer

Raised first in the Midwest and later in Redlands, Todd Ross Spencer says his journey toward the ministry was roundabout and very much via "the back door." With an undergraduate degree in communications and graduate studies in photography, Ross Spencer dreamed of becoming a photography teacher. However, as all doors to a career in photography seemed to be closing, he was offered a job teaching computer technology at Loma Linda Academy's junior high, where the seed for ministry was planted.

"I got so carried away talking about God [in daily worships in class] that my students began calling me their 'Bible teacher who teaches computers,'" recalled Ross Spencer.

While working on his teaching credentials, he also worked at Loma Linda University church with the junior high program. In 2002, Ross Spencer began his official vocational ministry as children's, youth and young adult coordinator at Riverside Community church. Since then, he has earned his master's degree in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary and become the youth pastor at Redlands church. He said his heart beats to help kids find and follow Jesus.

"I realized it starts with helping people first to experience Jesus, then to comprehend and understand Jesus and finally to dive into the freedom that Jesus brings," said Ross Spencer.

Heather Thielen

ENNO MÜLLER



Todd Ross Spencer, youth pastor at Redlands church, listens as Jonathan Park, Southeastern California Conference executive secretary, reads the charges at his ordination service.

Friendship Games Bring Teams Together

Six Central California Conference schools gathered to compete in the Friendship Games varsity basketball tournament at Fresno Adventist Academy Jan. 9-11.

Friendship Games are athletic tournaments that are typically scheduled around the conference in conjunction with other activities, such as spiritual retreats or youth rallies. Games include flag football, volleyball and basketball, to name a few.

Participating CCC senior academy schools included Armona Union Academy, Central Valley Christian Academy, Fresno Adventist Academy, Monterey Bay Academy, Mountain View Academy and Sierra View Junior Academy, and El Dorado Adventist School from Northern California Conference.

Tournament road trips provide lots of bonding time, while the weekend's activities provide athletes with a chance to meet other young people and create lasting memories.

The event's theme was "Lord, You Can Use Me." Pastor Costin Jordache, CCC vice president for communication, and Pastor Leah Jordache, CCC discipleship director, shared messages that challenged and encouraged students to stay connected to Jesus in order to be most effectively used by Him to make an impact in their world. The host school organized the event, complete with student-led worships, meals and Sabbath afternoon outreach activities. "These weekends give our students another chance to

use their leadership skills, not only on the court, but also in creating meaningful worship experiences for others and in serving our community," explains Eric Johnson, FAA principal and girls varsity basketball coach.

Students and sponsors visited two nursing homes on Saturday afternoon as part of an annual outreach emphasis. One spectator recalls overhearing a conversation between two student athletes reminiscing over outreach events of previous tournaments. "Tomorrow we get to go to that nursing home to sing again," said one student. "I love going to that place!" As the groups were leaving the nursing home, another student said, "I'll see you next year at this same time."

The Sabbath hours also including a great deal of fellowship time, during which students were given the chance to meet students from other schools. The kids mingled in the gymnasium, fostering friendships that could last a lifetime. "When I talk to my former students, it's awesome to hear them share about how they now connect with students they had seen or met at Friendship Games when they were in academy," recalls Rico Balugo, FAA athletic director. "Through these experiences, many end up as lifelong friends after meeting up again on Adventist college campuses."

That same spirit of fellowship was evident on the basketball court throughout the weekend. As a core part of the tournament's culture and

values, athletes are encouraged to put God and relationships first. As a result, students treat others with respect and compassion, maintain self-control, and show appreciation for skill, regardless of team affiliation. It is not unusual to see a player lend a hand



Lady Vikings go in for the lay up as the Jaguars defend.



Coach Bullington reviews strategy with the team.

to an opposing team member who has fallen during a game.

According to event organizers, the weekend is not just about winning, but about looking out for others while having a good time. "I love the opportunity to play basketball with other schools who don't just want to play ball — they represent God!" says Melissa Fernandez, a senior at Armona Union Academy.

Coaches play a critical role in fostering this mindset. As teams will win and lose games, their coaches encourage them regardless of the outcome. "At the end of the day, these games are ultimately played to foster friendships among and between schools and for the glory of Jesus Christ," explains Ken Bullington, CCC associate director of education and FAA boys varsity basketball coach.

"When I got to college, I didn't think I would miss tournaments as much as I do," says Taylor Stanic, FAA alumnus. "I realize what a huge impact they had on my academy experience. They taught me a lot about handling defeats and victories gracefully, while giving me the opportunity to make quality friendships."



Players visited an area nursing home to spread friendship and cheer.

Richelle Rickard

Teen Bible Academy Continues to Train and Inspire



TBA counselors and students close the summer program.



Teens spend as much as three hours each day studying the Bible during Solitude Week.

Over the past few decades, a number of short-term evangelism training centers — including Souls West, Arise and AFCOE — have equipped people to share their faith with others and to take an active part in the work of the church. While these multi-month programs tremendously benefit those who can attend, Central California Conference leaders grappled with the possibility of providing similar training to teenagers still in high school.

Thus, Teen Bible Academy was born. The experience — now known as TBA — launched in 2003, combining the best parts of summer camp and the best parts of short-term evangelism schools. The idea was to provide high-caliber training in the area of spiritual growth, evangelism and outreach to teens who could not or were not planning to attend a longer training program.

Twelve years in the making, TBA has become “one of the most life-changing experiences offered in Central,” explains Ramiro Cano, conference president. TBA is a three-week program focused on solitude, study and service. Each week helps students cultivate a deeper relationship with God. Solitude Week involves facilitated solitude, as students travel through Yosemite National Park. While enjoying God’s remarkable creation, students are taught how to truly spend time with God in prayer and Bible study.

During Study Week, students return to civilization and begin to study various biblical topics ranging from Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs to how the principles taught in the Bible can become a reality in the life of every believer. Service Week is, by some accounts, the most exciting week of TBA. Students are given an opportunity to share what they learned during the previous weeks with people in their communities.

Students who attend TBA come away with life-long spiritual friends. Many alumni often go on to be effective spiritual influences in their schools. It is also not uncommon for teens to make decisions for baptism during the short-term program.

Andrew Uyeyama



PHOTOS BY ANDREW UYEVAMA

Even leisure time is spent deep in the Word.

TBA 2015

When? June 21-July 12 for students and June 14-July 12 for counselors.

How? Interested students and counselors, fill out the application at cccsdayouth.org.

More information? Contact Obed Zamor at 347-536-6893 or visit cccsdayouth.org.

Shiloh Pathfinder Club Awarded First Place at NAD PBE Finals

For the first time in Nevada-Utah Conference history, a local pathfinder club progressed to the North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) finals. The Shiloh Pathfinder Club from the Paradise church in Las Vegas, Nev., was honored with one of the first-place awards given in the PBE event in Washington, D.C., last April.

Under the direction of Shiloh coach and assistant club director Shawna Grindstaff, and team captain Andrew Kim, Team Shiloh studied the book of 2 Samuel, as well as the SDA Bible Commentary introduction to each study book, to make it through the first round, which took place in Las Vegas in February at the Las Vegas Junior Academy gym.

At that time, there were three teams from the Shiloh club entered in the event. They spent many weeks of Bible study on top of their homework from school and all the other activities with their families, churches and schools. One team moved on to the second round, a conference-wide event, in Provo, Utah. There, they met and made friends in other teams from all over the Nevada-Utah Conference.

“While preparing for the PBE, one of the Bible texts that really impressed and encouraged me is found in Proverbs 16:20,” says Keyona Paddock. “It says, ‘He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.’”

In the PBE event in Provo, Team Shiloh moved on to the union level, which took place at the Pacific Union office in Westlake Village, Calif. From there, the team members found themselves bound for Washington, D.C.

With the financial assistance of the Paradise church members and Pastor Peter Neri, the team set off for an exciting experience. Assistant Pathfinder director James Grindstaff was familiar with Washington, D.C., and proved an excellent guide. Team Shiloh stayed at Washington Adventist University during the event.

During their trip, the group toured the Air and Space Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol, the War Memorial and many other attractions. “Seeing most of the sights on the

RON MACKEY



Team Shiloh tours the National Air and Space Museum.

RON MACKEY



Team Shiloh discusses the answer to a question.



Shiloh team captain Andrew Kim receives the first-place award at the North American Division Pathfinder Bible Experience.

tour of Washington, D.C., was very interesting," said Paddock, "and even though there was a lot of walking, it was good exercise and it was worth it!"

"I found the Korean War Memorial tour really interesting because of the faces on the walls," said Kayle Dunham, a Shiloh team member.

On Sabbath, they joined 89 teams of Pathfinders from all over the world. "I thought that the questions were a lot more difficult than the previous PBE events, but it made me appreciate the experience even more," declared Dunham. At the conclusion of the event, 69 teams had earned a first place designation, meaning they answered correctly 90 percent or more, of the

top team's score. Sixteen teams earned a second place designation by answering correctly 80 percent of the top score team's score, and two teams earned a third place designation by answering correctly less than 80 percent of the top team's score.

"The trip to D.C. was a new experience for a few of our team members," said Andrew Kim, team captain. "I thought it was especially unique, because I saw how the team handled itself. The inherent anxiety definitely challenged each member. This was not a competition against other teams; rather, it was an opportunity to diligently study for the betterment of the team and, ultimately, the individual."

"Now I truly understand why this event is called Bible Experience," said Ron Mackey, club director. "At the end of the day, God is glorified, because each of the Pathfinders and family members are able to experience the blessing of learning God's Word in a fun and exciting way, and the Bible knowledge that they receive in their minds and hearts will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

The Nevada-Utah Conference recently delivered a plaque to hang in the church to commemorate the club's achievement.

Ron Mackey

Hawaii Pastors Equipped for Preaching

Each year, the Hawaii Conference pastors gather for inspiration, training, and equipping for ministry and leadership. This January, pastors from six islands came together for two days of training. Monday morning began with a devotional thought from President Ralph Watts, urging the pastors to recommit their lives to God and be faithful to their calling.

After a special time devoted to prayer, department heads from the conference had an opportunity to share resources, goals and events for the upcoming year. Feryl Harris, children's ministry director, shared with pastors the need to support their children's ministry leaders by sending them to Hand 'n Hand, an annual training weekend.

Miki Nelson, education superintendent, thanked pastors for their support for Adventist education, highlighting a young boy whose life was transformed even in the midst of discipline. Jesse Seibel, communication director and assistant ministerial director, worked with pastors on new ways to communicate with each other online and how to access the new conference website to submit their monthly pastor's report, as well as report on their continuing education.

The rest of the two days were spent in workshops presented by Pastor John Brunt of Azure Hills church, located near Loma Linda, Calif. Brunt prepared four presentations focused on preaching: Biblical Preaching, Preaching from the Gospels, Preaching from Paul, and Preaching from Revelation.



Ralph Watts (right) takes a moment to thank Brunt for his ministry to Hawaii pastors.

Brunt championed preaching as a form of oral tradition that still has purpose and power in a visually over-stimulated world. He challenged pastors to make sure they are preaching good news: the gospel. He cautioned them not to forget that their authority is derived not from themselves, but from Scripture. "Try to memorize your Scripture," Brunt said. "Even actors can do it!" The next day, Brunt took pastors through a brief survey of the Gospels, Pauline writings and Revelation. The goal was to give pastors instruction on how to effectively communicate the message of these portions of Scripture.

Pastor Douglass Na'a recently moved to the island of Kauai and pastors Lawai Valley and Kapaa churches. "My expectation for the ministers meeting was for it to be only informative. However," Na'a shared, "it was not only informative, but it was transformative! I left the ministers meeting revived." Na'a's experience was positive thanks not only to the content of the meetings, but also to the encouraging connections with other pastors.

At the end of the meetings, pastors surrounded Brunt in prayer, asking God's continued blessing on his ministry. Before the pastors left, Watts was able to present them with a special



Pastor John Brunt encourages pastors to preach the gospel with life and clarity.

gift. Thanks to a generous donor, each pastor was encouraged to take their spouse along to the NAD ministerial meetings in Austin, Texas, in June.

"These pastors have been called to preach the gospel to the people of Hawaii," said Watts. "My prayer is that each one of them renew their passion to faithfully study the Word and preach with a sense of boldness and urgency for the times in which we live."

Jesse Seibel

Notice of Constituency Meeting of the Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Regular Quinquennial Constituency Meeting of the Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 26, 2015, at Honolulu Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2313 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports, to elect conference officers and the Executive Committee, and to transact other business as may properly come before the constituency meeting.

Each organized church shall be represented by one (1) delegate and one (1) additional delegate for each forty (40) members, or major fraction thereof.

Ralph S. Watts III, President
Gerald D. Christman, Secretary

Baby Shower Benefits Crisis Pregnancy Center

In October, the Peoria-Sun Cities and Clearview churches hosted the fourth annual gigantic baby shower for clients of the Choices Pregnancy Center in Glendale. The event was complete with colorful decorations, tasty treats and baby items every new mom needs.

As plans come together each fall, church members purchase baby items and bring them to the church. "This year we lined up seven long tables in the fellowship hall loaded on top and underneath with unwrapped homemade blankets, clothing, diapers, diaper bags and strollers, all given by our church family," said Helen Zachrison, one of the co-founders of the event. "The room was decorated, and we served refreshments at the shower, then loaded the gifts in two vans to be taken to the Choices Pregnancy Center."

For the past eight years, the CPC, a Christian operation, has been helping people with crisis pregnancies make decisions about keeping their babies or adopting them. New candidates looking for assistance and encouragement are counseled, then offered classes on caring for a baby and what to expect all the way through delivery. Fathers are encouraged to attend to add support for the new family.

Expectant mothers come to the Center as often as needed for private, caring assistance. For each class they attend, the moms receive credits which are then used for purchasing baby items in its boutique, which includes the new items from donors like Peoria-Sun Cities and Clearview. Doctors volunteer their time, and ultrasounds are available.

"I'm overwhelmed," commented CPC director Lorraine Robbins as she looked at the tables of baby gifts at the shower. "This will make such a big difference in so many lives. You've outdone yourselves once again."

Noreen Nelson and Helen Zachrison have visited the Center a number of times and were very impressed with the care given to each person who visits. Whenever they visit, they try to take along an armful of their crocheted blankets for the boutique.

Shirley Chipman and Shirlyene Cook



Marge Zachrison holds a handmade blanket with a bonnet to match.



L. to R.: Clair Eva; Lorraine Robbins, Choices Pregnancy Center director; Marge Zachrison, Noreen Nelson and Nancy Jacobson pause for a photo.

New Dean Leads LLU School of Nursing to the Future

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY



Dean Becky Bossert, Ph.D.

The new dean of Loma Linda University School of Nursing, Elizabeth (Becky) Bossert, Ph.D., stands poised to build upon the school's 110-year history of preparing nurses committed to the evolving profession with a mindset of whole-person care. She became dean Jan. 1.

"There will be major changes in the field of nursing over the next few decades," Bossert says. "We are preparing our students for the future of the profession."

The new dean rose to the top of a field of candidates for the deanship from both within and outside of Loma Linda University Health, noted President Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., when he announced her appointment in December.

"I believe God is leading and guiding in this school," Bossert says, noting that she is trusting in Him for wisdom as she takes on this new challenge.

Bossert's résumé reveals her deep experience in research and administration at the LLU School of Nursing, where she has taught since 1978. She was promoted to dean from her previous

position as associate dean for academic affairs and graduate programs at the school.

She is an alumna of Pacific Union College (A.S.), Walla Walla College (B.S.), and LLU School of Nursing, where she received a master's of science in 1977 with a focus on maternal-child nursing and nursing education, before going on to receive her doctorate in nursing science with a focus on clinical research from the University of California at San

Francisco in 1990. (UCSF recently converted this research-focused degree to the Ph.D. designation.)

Bossert replaced longtime dean Marilyn Herrmann, Ph.D., who led the school in that position since 2006. Herrmann has been named dean emeritus.

"Dr. Herrmann has provided extremely valuable leadership to this school and nurtured it," Hart said, noting that without question the school holds a premier place not only in the Seventh-day Adventist educational network but also nationwide.

Bossert believes that what sets the school apart from other nursing programs is the inclusion of the Christian way of caring into the nursing ethos of care.

"People come here and they see something different," she notes. "People who transfer here are amazed at the support our faculty give students and the way our students carry themselves as professionals. It comes back to our Christian perspective. Christianity makes a difference in the way we lead our lives."

Heather Reifsnnyder

JIGGS GALLAGHER



Kathie Ingram, D.N.P., chair of the School of Nursing faculty affairs committee, presented flowers of welcome to Becky Bossert, Ph.D., the school's new dean, during a Dec. 15 luncheon celebrating Bossert's appointment.

Spiritual Life and Wholeness Conference Provides Inspiration to Caregivers

What does it mean for doctors, nurses and health care providers to be truly present? How can stories told by both patients and practitioners lead to deeper understanding, healing and wholeness?

Faculty, staff, students and members of the community attended the seventh annual Spiritual Life and Wholeness Conference at Loma Linda University Health. The conference, held Jan. 16-17, encouraged participants to explore developments in the teaching and practice of whole person care.

Loma Linda University Health has embraced wholeness from its beginning in 1905. As they spoke about topics including “mind, body, medicine and the human spirit” and “reflection, resilience and humanism: bringing our whole person to whole person care,” the invited speakers mentioned various aspects of wholeness that have been researched and advocated by Loma Linda University Health.

Presenters included keynote speaker Thomas Hutchinson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., director, McGill University programs in whole person care and editor of the book “Whole Person Care;” Gregory Fricchione, M.D., director of the psychiatry and medicine divisions and of the international psychiatry division, Massachusetts General Hospital; and Hedy S. Wald, Ph.D., clinical associate professor of family medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University.

During the two-day event, 20 additional speakers from numerous entities throughout Loma Linda University Health also shared developments on campus in the area of whole person care. The conference was sponsored by the Center for Spiritual Life and Wholeness, with internationally known speakers to explore practical ways of integrating spirituality in the health care setting.

“This year’s conference,” says Carla Gober-Park, Ph.D., M.S., M.P.H., director, Center for Spiritual Life and Wholeness, “examined whole person care from a holistic, 360-degree

perspective, highlighting and actively strategizing whole person care across the Loma Linda University Health campus.”

Gober-Park highlighted research she is leading at the center in relation to the newly developed CLEAR (connect, listen, explore, acknowledge and respond) whole person care model and the data from the SOUL underlying life spiritual history that is currently integrated into the Loma Linda University Health electronic medical record. “SOUL” is the acronym for sources of strength, outlook on religion and beliefs, underlying life events and links to care.

According to Kris Lozano, center manager, the Spiritual Life and Wholeness Conference began in 2008 and was originally called the Spiritual Care Workshop.

“From the beginning,” she says, “the goal of the conference was to mentor primarily Loma Linda University Health employees, faculty and students for the purposes of carrying out whole person care on the campus, but it is extended to others. Through the years, many community members have joined us because of their interest in topics such as spirituality, forgiveness, witness in health care and whole person care.

“Through this conference, people come together to celebrate the work they have been doing all year,” she says. “They are also equipped for further work and encouraged to move what they have done into publication. Finally, it is a time to be inspired.”

Nancy Yuen



Following their presentations, speakers — pictured from left to right: Thomas Hutchinson, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., director, McGill University programs in whole person care; Hedy S. Wald, Ph.D., clinical associate professor of family medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University; and Gregory Fricchione, M.D., director of the psychiatry and medicine divisions and of the international psychiatry division, Massachusetts General Hospital — answer questions from seminar attendees.

Faith on the Big Screen: Rajeev Sigamoney Leads PUC Film Program

On Valentine's weekend, the film "Old Fashioned" opened in theaters nationwide. The independent film is an inspiring look at dating and relationships, focusing on developing grace-filled, lifetime love. Viewers could choose to see "Old Fashioned" instead of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" adaptation opening the same weekend, thanks in part to the creative collaboration of PUC film professor Rajeev Sigamoney.

Sigamoney has been a member of the PUC faculty since 2012, but his friendship with "Old Fashioned" director, writer and lead actor Rik Swartzwelder goes back much longer. "The first film set I ever visited back in Maryland was a short film Rick was shooting," explains Sigamoney. The two grew closer after Sigamoney, who started his career as an engineer, moved to Los Angeles in 2002. They began meeting each week to discuss films, faith and the challenges of working in the film industry as artists and as Christians.

Sigamoney is listed as a co-producer on "Old Fashioned" because of the core role he played in the creative development of the script and edit of the film. "I first read a draft of 'Old Fashioned'

ALLISON REGAN



Rajeev Sigamoney brings a passion for art and faith to PUC's film program.

in 2003," Sigamoney describes. Over the next decade, Sigamoney gave notes on multiple revisions and connected Swartzwelder with studio

contacts he had made as a producer and writer of the film "Jesus People" (which can be viewed via iTunes and Amazon). "I was probably going to be a larger part of the shoot of the movie, but unfortunately it was the summer I got married. The suit that Rick wore as my groomsman is actually the suit he wears at the end of the movie," laughs Sigamoney (wife Brittne works in PUC's department of communication). He and his fellow co-producers also gave input on the cut, or edit, of the movie.

"A filmmaker wants to surround himself with a certain core group of people who have either been around from the beginning or are his most trusted people," says Sigamoney of his co-producer credit. The same collaborative relationship Sigamoney developed with Swartzwelder is one he encourages within the film program at PUC, which has seen continual growth since the program — which now offers associate, bachelor's, and bachelor's of fine arts degrees — was introduced as part of the department of visual arts. Even as the program has grown and offered more classes, it has remained small



At the end of each school year, students showcase their work at PUC's Diogenes Film Festival in nearby St. Helena, Calif.

enough that students are able to find their niche and blossom as filmmakers. Students work together on film projects in multiple classes, developing a variety of skills while learning how to work together, an important lesson in field that requires high levels of teamwork.

Sigamoney also encourages his students to put passion above profits or acclaim. "You can't just do a project and then cut yourself off from it," he comments. "Whether 'The Record Keeper' or 'Jesus People' or any of the other projects I've been involved with,

you have to love it and stand behind it. . . . I try to get them to look at 'What's so meaningful to you that you're willing to work on it even if no one were ever to see it but you and a core group of people?'"

At the end of January, a group of four students travelled with Sigamoney to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, as part of the Windrider Forum, organized in part by Fuller Theological Seminary, that included Q&A sessions with directors of festival films about themes of spirituality. They were also able to attend a Faith in Film panel that included DeVon Franklin, a Seventh-day Adventist film producer. "Sundance really pushes people to be thoughtful in a lot of ways," Sigamoney says. "Being around a group of smart, spiritual people helps students experience a larger community of art and faith that I want them to be a part of after they leave PUC."

PUC students are around peers who understand their artistic side and their spiritual side in the offices, labs and classrooms of the film program, and also experience greater Christian community at events like Sundance, the SONscreen Film Festival (where Sigamoney won the \$10,000 Pitchfest prize in 2013), and the Biola Media Conference. They also attend events closer to home, including the Napa Valley Film



Sigamoney and his students wait to attend a screening at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival.

Festival and San Francisco International Film Festival. "This is a very challenging industry . . . and at these festivals, students are able to network and talk to people that could offer them internships for their films," Sigamoney explains.

While working on his own projects as a writer and filmmaker and seeing "Old Fashioned" make it to the big screen brings satisfaction, "teaching comes first," Sigamoney confirms. "I do genuinely receive the greatest joy from teaching."

Cambria Wheeler

LOVE IS PATIENT ... LOVE IS KIND ... LOVE IS ...



elizabeth ann roberts rik swartzwelder

old fashioned

CHIVALRY MAKES A COMEBACK

Notice of Constituency Session

An official session of the constituent membership of Pacific Union College will be held in PUC's Fireside Room at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The members will elect trustees to replace those whose terms will expire at that session; review the audited financial statement of the previous period; and transact other such business as may properly come before the constituency. The meeting will adjourn at or before 5:30 p.m.

Bradford C. Newton, Chair
Heather J. Knight, Secretary

Service-Learning Class Fulfills After School Program Pledge

With 'oohs' and 'aahs' like it was Christmas morning, dozens of students at Stokoe Elementary School in Riverside stretched to view the colorful stacks of games, art supplies, school supplies and sporting goods filling their school's stage.

The bounty, intended for the after school programs at Stokoe and at Wells Middle School, included paint sets, marker sets, painting canvases, packs of paper and pencils, educational games, soccer and volley balls, tennis balls, volleyball, badminton, and soccer goal nets and a 32-inch Toshiba LED television.

"The time, energy and dedication that has been shown by the La Sierra students each time this course is offered continues to amaze me," Phillips said. "La Sierra University students do a fantastic job of showing the AUSD After School program students that they care, want to make a difference and that giving to others in the community is a worthwhile endeavor."

The university students raised money over the quarter with three bake sales, a yard sale, t-shirt sales, and a donation website designed by one of the students. Some family members and friends also contributed money when they

learned about the students' project and fundraising goals.

La Sierra senior healthcare management and pre-med major Megan Gampong made between 50 and 60 Fruit Loops cereal treats for three bake sales held on campus the second week of November. The bake sales brought in about \$400. Her mother, Venus Calla, who lives

in New York, donated \$2,000 to the after school program drive once she heard about the students' efforts. "It's really rewarding, especially when you hear them screaming before the curtain is fully open. They were just so thankful," said Gampong following the presentation to the Stokoe Elementary students.

"For me, that's why I do charities like this. Seeing the kids' reaction, it's the best payment you can get," said senior business management major Justin Peck. "This one is the best [charities] I've done because we did this from the ground up. We put our heads together and came up with a business plan." A veteran and former U.S. Army medic during the Iraq war, Peck is vice president of a veteran's club established at La Sierra this fall.

As part of an academic service-learning program, the business students in Fox's class visited Stokoe and Wells early in the quarter to determine the needs of the After School programs and then created a fundraising business plan to help meet those needs. The university requires undergraduate students to perform 14 hours per student per quarter of community service. This quarter, the students in Fox's class contributed a total of 291 service-learning hours outside of the classroom, with more than 95 of those hours voluntarily contributed above the required minimum hours. The business students in Fox's six Senior Project classes over the past two-and-a-half years voluntarily contributed to the after school program project an additional 884 hours above the minimum required hours, for a combined total of 3,474 hours of service-learning outside of the classroom.

"The business students have worked hard over the years despite their full-time course loads," said Fox. "And the fact that they always volunteer more service-learning hours than required is a testament to their emotional connection and community service commitment to help the kids and teachers of Alvord After School programs."

Darla Martin Tucker

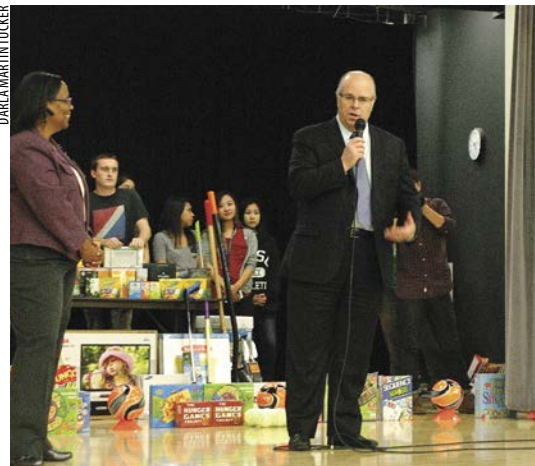
DARLA MARTIN TUCKER



LSU Senior Project students raised thousands of dollars to purchase supplies and games for an elementary and middle school.

The goods were unveiled during a special assembly last December, and were purchased with \$3,909.49 raised during the fall academic quarter by 14 La Sierra University Senior Project business students led by Jere Fox, an associate law and management professor at the Zapara School of Business. The effort capped a pledge Fox made two-and-a-half years ago to Carmen Phillips, After School programs coordinator for the Alvord Unified School District, that his Senior Project classes would raise funds to benefit all 16 Alvord After School programs. The donations to Stokoe and Wells schools fulfilled the promise. All told, Fox's six classes since spring 2012 have delivered to Alvord's 16 after school programs a total of \$22,556.53 in products paid for with student fundraising efforts.

DARLA MARTIN TUCKER



Zapara School of Business associate law and management professor Jere Fox addresses students at Stokoe Elementary in Riverside. His class raised nearly \$4,000 for after school program supplies.

St. Helena TakeTEN Program Creates Dramatic Changes in Patients' Lives

Not everybody gets carded at 68. But that's what happened to Glen Davison when he asked for a senior discount while eating out. "The waitress insisted I wasn't old enough," recalls the Angwin, Calif., resident, chuckling. "I had to pull out my driver's license."

Don't blame the waitress for the blunder. Davison looks — and more importantly, feels — younger than he has in a long time. "I'm a changed man," he says. He's not exaggerating. One year ago, Davison was 44 pounds heavier. He was dependent on multiple prescription medicines to control high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes. And he couldn't walk to the mailbox without being winded.

Today, Davison walks up to 17,000 steps a day and heads to the gym every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. And those prescription drugs? He no longer needs them. He's keeping his cholesterol, blood sugar and diabetes in check strictly with healthy habits. The only pills he takes are vitamins.



Cheryl Thomas Peters, D.C.N., R.D.



James Peters, M.D., Dr.P.H., R.D., RRT, F.A.C.P.M.

A Transforming 10 Days

So how did he accomplish all this? Davison credits TakeTEN, a 10-day physician-directed lifestyle medicine program at St. Helena Hospital's Center for Health in St. Helena, Calif.

It's designed for people who want to improve their health — people struggling to lose weight, stop using tobacco or manage a chronic illness or condition such as diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, sleep disorders and more. And it helps them succeed by teaching — and motivating — them to eat better, work on their fitness, focus on spirituality and make other lifestyle changes proven to boost health and well-being. "We educate and empower people to take control of their health," emphasizes James Peters, M.D., Dr.P.H., R.D., RRT, F.A.C.P.M., the preventive medicine expert who leads TakeTEN and co-founded the program with his wife, Cheryl Thomas Peters, D.C.N., R.D.

Says Davison of TakeTEN: "After marrying my wife of 47 years and starting a family, it's the best thing that's happened to me." It was his wife, in fact, who signed him up for TakeTEN last December. "She was so concerned about my health," says Davison. She signed up too — an option chosen by many couples.

A Personal Health Plan

TakeTEN starts with a comprehensive physical that includes both health screening tests and nutrition, fitness and stress assessments. Those results are then used to design a personal long-term health plan for every participant that combines the best of traditional medicine and evidence-based natural remedies.

"For the rest of their stay, participants put that plan into action," says TakeTEN co-founder, Cheryl Thomas Peters. "They learn to replace unhealthy habits with healthy ones to avoid relapses at home." Guided by a multidisciplinary team of trained health care professionals, participants discover how to ease stress without overeating or reaching for a cigarette, lose weight without



Glen Davison

feeling starved, and fight disease by following ten healing habits proven to help one find balance between mind, body, and spirit.

Significant, Fast Results

By TakeTEN's final day, many participants feel great, have more energy and have already markedly lowered their cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugar, reducing or eliminating their need for medication. On average, they head home, having:

- Reduced total cholesterol by 20 percent.
- Decreased LDL (the bad cholesterol) by 29 to 34 percent.
- Lowered fasting blood sugar by 25 percent.
- Lost 3 to 6 pounds overall, including up to 3.5 pounds of body fat.

Smokers have a 60 percent success rate of stopping for a full year after their participation. But there's also something that can't be measured: a change in spiritual attitude. Says TakeTEN exercise physiologist Lyse Hellie, MA: "People leave here with new energy and a confidence in their ability to make healthy choices and stick to them."

Ready to take steps to better health? Learn more about the TakeTEN program by calling 877-905-3510 or visiting www.sthelenacenterforhealth.org.

Jill Kinney

CALENDARS

Arizona

RAW FOODS POTLUCK Supper (March 14) held the 2nd Sat. of each month, 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.

BULLHEAD CITY ANNUAL Church, Lunch and Ride (April 25) Laughlin River Run. Come and worship, have lunch and go on a nice motorcycle ride enjoying God's creation. Info: Tim Journey, text 503-348-9985; email: timcar4@gmail.com.

Central California

CCC PRAYER CONFERENCE (March 6-7) Visalia, Calif. Info: Joyce, 559-696-3692.

CONFERENCE LEVEL PATHFINDER Bible Experience (March 7) Dinuba Junior Academy. Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174 or pathfinders@cccsda.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CERTIFICATION Track 2 and VBS Training (March 14) Mountain View Central church. Info: Rosa, 559-347-3181 or rgillham@cccsda.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CERTIFICATION Track 2 and VBS Training (March 15) Central California Conference office. Info: Rosa, 559-347-3181 or rgillham@cccsda.org.

AREA 3 HAM RADIO TRAINING (March 15) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Wendell, 559-310-7546.

AREA 2 HAM RADIO TRAINING (March 22) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Wendell, 559-310-7546.

UNION LEVEL PATHFINDER Bible Experience (March 28) Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174 or pathfinders@cccsda.org.

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING (March 29) Soquel Conference Center. Info: Steve, 559-347-3142.

La Sierra University

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY MUSIC Department presents the Promising Young Artist Scholarship Competition (March 1) La Sierra Opera presents

"Little Nemo in Slumberland" and "Gianni Schicchi" (March 5 & 7) 7 p.m., and (March 8) 3 p.m., all in Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036.

SPRING BREAK (March 20-29) To enroll for spring quarter classes, contact 1-800-874-5587.

FIRST SERVICE WORSHIP takes place Friday nights at 8 p.m. at the La Sierra University church. Info: 951-785-2090.

Northern California Conference

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (March 6-8) Call now to reserve your space or for questions. Info: Rob & Debbie Purvis, 916-673-9975 or purvis4@comcast.net.

NCC BAND FESTIVAL Concert (March 7) 6:30 p.m. Hofmann Theater, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Junior high and high school students. Guest clinician Asher Raboy, Pacific Union College resident artist in music. Info: NCC Education Department, 925-603-5065.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING (March 7) 2-5:30 p.m. Lodi English Oaks church, 1260 West Century Blvd. Choose two of four seminar options: Making the Most of Vacation Bible School, Children's Church, Recruiting & Mentoring Volunteers, and Using GraceLink. Light supper provided. Info: www.nccsda.com/leadingchildrentoheaven.

NCC PRAYER RETREAT (March 13-15) Leoni Meadows. Guest presenter: David Levy, neurovascular surgeon. Music: Lindsey Painter. Children's programs: Sarita Parham, Tami Holland. Info: NCC Prayer Ministries, 916-955-4583 or naomi.parson@nccsda.com.

ALUMNI WEEKEND (March 13-15) Paradise Adventist Academy/Paradise Church, Academy Drive. Former students and staff of Paradise Adventist Academy, Paradise Adventist School, Paradise Junior Academy and earlier SDA schools in Paradise are invited back! Honor class years are those ending in "5" and "0." Info: www.mypaa.net or Linda Corbit, 530-877-9610.

ALL FOR ONE SPORTS Tournament (March 14, 15) Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy, 796 Grayson Road. Volleyball, basketball, soccer. Hosted by PHAA. Proceeds for Napa Christian Campus of Education earthquake relief. Donations accepted; please mark as "PHAA All for One." Application and info: www.phaacougars.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING (March 21) 2-5:30 p.m. Orangevale church, 5810 Pecan Avenue. Attendees can choose two of four seminar options: Making the Most of Vacation Bible School, Children's Church, Recruiting & Mentoring Volunteers, and Using GraceLink. Light supper provided. Info: www.nccsda.com/leadingchildrentoheaven.

QUIZ-A-RAMA (March 28) 4 p.m. Sacramento Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Avenue. Join the audience and support the young people! Stay by for a fun-filled social and free food. Info: NCC African-American Ministries, 925-603-5097.

CHURCH TREASURERS TRAINING (March 29) 9 a.m.-2 p.m. NCC Headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Lunch included. Register by March 25. Info and registration: NCC Treasurer's Office, 925-603-5009 or ingrid.wray@nccsda.com.

Southeastern California

"JOURNEY TO THE LAND Down Under" (March 14) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. The event will take place in the sanctuary.

Southern California Conference

"CAN U HEAR ME NOW?" Youth Mini Camp Meeting (March 6-7) Speaker, Peter Gregory. Fri., 7 p.m.; Sabbath, 4:30 p.m. Free! School of Evangelism & Resource Center, 1501 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-549-4147, www.endtimeslikethese.org.

CHRISTIAN BOOKS & Veggie Foods Health Fair (March 8) 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free screenings, and more. Christian Books and Veggie Foods (Glendale ABC) parking lot, 1501 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-546-8552.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (March 14) featuring Peter Mathews, DMA, featuring Mathews' original works performed by choir, organ and cello. Reception after with the artist. Freewill donations at the door. 4 p.m. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: www.glendalecitychurch.org, 818-244-7241.

LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST ACADEMY 7th Annual Alumni Homecoming (March 12-15) Speaker, Randy Maxwell, '77. LAAA campus, 846 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles 90059. Schedule and other info: www.laaa-alumni.org.



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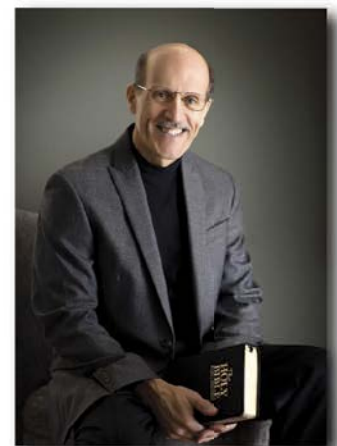
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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full time nurse educator to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred, focus areas include mental health, community health or pediatrics. Must have previous teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter

and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time nurse educator to serve as Nursing Department Chair beginning Fall 2015. Doctoral degree and three years of university/college teaching experience required. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Business Department seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in Finance, Marketing and Accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

THE KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred, must have some teaching experience. Submit curriculum vitae and cover letter to Human Resources. Contact Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at 817-202-6684 or vnaukkar@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY Education and Psychology

Department seeks full-time qualified psychology professor beginning July 1, 2015. Doctorate degree is required. Please submit CV and cover letter to Dr. Marcel Sargeant at sargeant@swau.edu. Position is open until filled.

THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time professor in Advertising/Public Relations or Radio/TV to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

Events

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AT REST

ADAMS, VIOLET — b. Oct. 16, 1916, Jud, N.D.; d. Jan. 6, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: brother, William “Bill” Heidinger; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

COUCH, JOYCE K. (SCHUELER) — b. Nov. 4, 1952, Scotia, Calif.; d. Nov. 28, 2014, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: husband, Charles; sons, Ryan and Travis Osborn; stepson, Charles; stepdaughter, Marjorie; two grandchildren; parents, Andrew and Lorraine Schueler; sisters, Mary Gutierrez, Doris Miller, Penny Klinger.

DOLEMAN, ESTHER MARION (JENSON) — b. Jan. 12, 1918, Tiboli, Minn.; d. Jan. 3, 2015, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Jan (Art) Kroetz; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson.

DUNN, BETH ANITA — b. Aug. 27, 1932, Havana, Cuba; d. Jan. 9, 2015, Poway, Calif. Survivors: husband, Elwin; son, Rob; daughter, Karen Eckhart; four grandchildren.

DUNN, KENNETH E. — b. Aug. 11, 1929, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti; d. Jan. 13, 2015, Chico, Calif. Survivors: wife, Eunice; sons, Douglas, Kirk; stepsons, John Sackett, Walter Sackett;

stepdaughter, Ronda Unterseher; 18 grandchildren. Forty two years in Adventist education in Bradenton, Fla., Shafter, Escondido, La Crescenta, and Glendale, Calif. Retired in Chico, Calif.

ENGLISH, JEAN MAY (O’HARA) — b. Nov. 11, 1921, Trenton, Nova Scotia, Canada; d. Dec. 14, 2014, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Joyce Frye, Carol Putman; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served as a bindery worker at Pacific Press.

FOLLETT, LORRAINE JUNE (PETITE) — b. April 13, 1919, Milwaukee, Wis.; d. Jan. 20, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Yvonne (Arthur) Kapiniak, Linda, Cherie (Louis) Dale; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

HERNANDEZ, MIRTA (LOPEZ) — b. June 2, 1923, Havana, Cuba; d. Dec. 31, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, David L., Armando Max; daughters, Sonia P. Neidigh, Dania H. Lattimer; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

HERSHEY, RONALD ARTHUR — b. Nov. 11, 1920, Fairboldt, Minn.; d. Jan. 20, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Elma; sons, Ronald II, Robin; stepson, Raymond Alway; stepdaughters, Sharon Lee, Lisa Harris; three grandchildren; one great-grandson.

JACOBSON, GEORGE E. — b. Dec. 24, 1929, Devil’s Lake, N.D.; d. Jan. 10, 2015, Murrieta, Calif. Survivors: wife, Eleanor; daughter, Cindi (Carl) Evans; grandchildren; great-grandchildren.

JENKINS, RUTH D. — b. May 24, 1917, Brooklyn, N.Y.; d. Jan 17, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Patricia Rose, Carolyn Krusholm; two grandsons.

LANE, ARLINE — b. Sept. 11, 1920, Bayard, Neb.; d. Jan. 6, 2015, Sparks, Nev. Survivors: son, John.

LUTZ, JAMES — b. Nov. 19, 1933, Canyon City, Colo.; d. Dec. 23, 2014, Denair, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joan; sons, Timothy, Bradley, Derral, Richard, Kevin; stepsons, James and Michael McDaniel; stepdaughters, Vicky Long, Chris Wallace, Kelly McDaniel; seven grandchildren, seven step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren; two sisters and two brothers.

MATHE, GLEN E. — b. Sept. 3, 1947, St. Helena, Calif.; d. Dec. 9, 2014, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: son, Ashley; daughter, Alisa; brothers, Wayne, Myron.

MILLER, GLENN — b. April 25, 1921, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Dec. 30, 2014, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: wife, Aldene; sons, Steve, Fred; daughter, Marilyn Etchell. Practiced medicine in Ukiah; worked as director of health education at Ukiah Valley Medical Center.

MORGAN, ARLYN JEFFERSON — b. Dec. 29, 1942, Bakersfield, Calif.; d. Oct. 9, 2014, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: wife, Doris; stepson, Kevin Brown; stepdaughters, Joy Pleasant, Deedra Williams; brother, Eugene; sister, Sandra Knopf; seven grandchildren.

OSBORNE, ELISWORTH — b. Aug. 7, 1924, Gridley, Calif.; d. Dec. 31, 2014, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: sons, Chuck, John, Ed.

SLADE, ROBERT — b. Nov. 28, 1926, Porter, Okla.; d. May 15, 2014, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nolia; daughter, Shirley Meyers; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

WILSON, DWIGHT EUGENE — b. Sept. 11, 1932, Miller, S.D.; d. Sept. 7, 2014, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Titiiek; sons, Merlyn, Donald, Dwight II; three granddaughters; sister, Bonnie Kunkle; two nephews.

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2015 Deadlines — Please note that these are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

April issue: February 24
 May issue: March 31
 June issue: April 28
 July issue: May 26

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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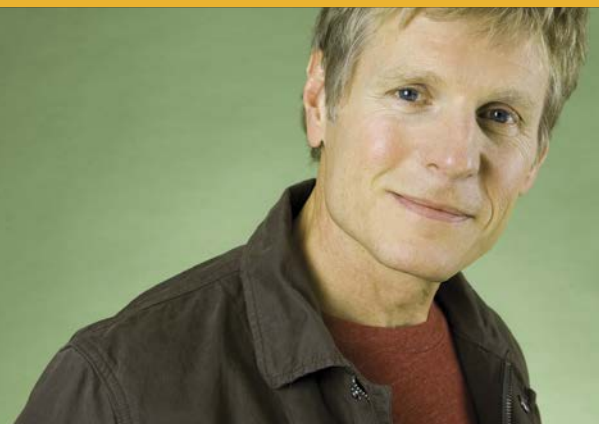
FRIDAY SERVICE/CONCERT	MARCH 20, 7 P.M.	VALLEJO DRIVE CHURCH	300 VALLEJO DR, GLENDALE, CA
SABBATH SERVICE	MARCH 21, 11 A.M.	WHITE MEMORIAL CHURCH	1720 CESAR CHAVEZ, LOS ANGELES, CA
SABBATH SERVICE/CONCERT	MARCH 21, 4 P.M.	AZURE HILLS CHURCH	22633 BARTON ROAD, GRAND TERRACE, CA

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VISIONS OF PARADISE

MARCH 2015 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

PAGE 2 | Summer camp and LE plans are in the works, and you won't want to miss out. Don't let your kids be couch potatoes all summer — send them to camp/LE for fun and faith-building!

PAGE 3 | Are we doing all we can to bring people to Jesus AND to keep them in our churches? Are we loving them well, training them to be disciples, and giving them a purpose?

PAGE 4 | Big Islands schools came together for a fun-day last fall. We love ohana! And speaking of family, here are the Hawaii budget numbers for 2014.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

BY RALPH S. WATTS, III

As a worldwide movement, all Seventh-day Adventists were invited and encouraged to pray from January 7-17: Ten Days of Prayer. We were reminded how God poured out His Spirit in Pentecost power after His church spent 10 days together, pleading for the promise of the Spirit. He is doing it again in His churches in Hawaii.

I had the privilege of participating with one of our churches during this prayer initiative. It was a beautiful and moving experience. As a people, we believe that time is short and we sense a desire to claim the promise of Jesus found in Luke 11:11-13 that when we seek, ask and knock that our Heavenly Father will grant to us the Holy Spirit.

In a letter dated January 28, 1903, Ellen White penned these words: "We are encouraged to pray for success with the divine assurance that our prayers will be heard and answered... this promise is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be an expectant power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another."

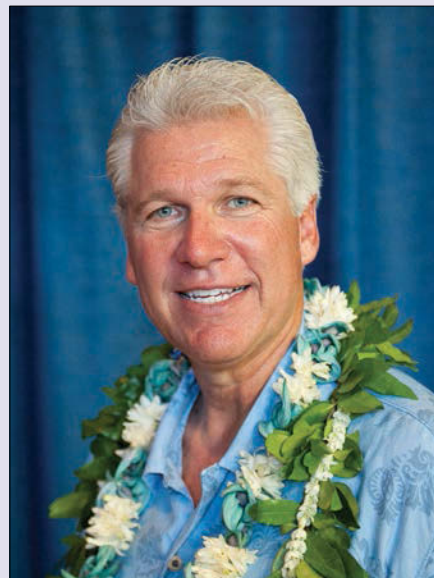
My appeal is for us as a people to keep praying! The 10 days are over. But prayer need not be just a one-time event, but rather an emphasis and commitment to pray on a regular basis. Pray! Could I share with you some possible "prayer priorities?"

- Daily quiet time alone with God
- All members discover and utilize their gifts in ministry
- Adventist education available for every Adventist child
- My pastor
- My teacher
- My conference leaders
- My church filled with God's love
- Dynamic growth of youth and young adult ministries
- Healthier Adventist families
- Salvation of my neighbors
- Those who are hurting in the church and community
- Pray that we can be healers and helpers like Jesus
- Pray for personal and corporate revival and renewal

Let's claim this promise together. "Call to me and I will answer and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3)

Forward on our knees.

Ralph S. Watts III



SUMMER CAMP AND LE 2015

BY ERIK VANDENBURGH

Have you ever heard the term couch potato? The Urban Dictionary's definition "is a lazy person who does nothing but sit on the couch and watch television (see also sofa spud)." A few months into my first year working in full-time ministry, a parent came to me begging me to take her son for the summer and put him to work. She said she didn't want him sitting at home all summer in front of the TV, turning into a "couch potato." At the end of the summer, this young man had turned into one of our hardest workers, earned money for school and encountered a life changing experience with Jesus.



JJ Reynolds records a water balloon and flour fight for a camp movie.

This summer, we have some amazing opportunities for our young spuds!

If they are between the ages of 8 and 18, they can experience Jesus at Camp Waianae, where they will make new friends, have fun and see God in nature. If they are 18 or older, have a good work ethic and love Jesus, we encourage them to apply to work at camp and share their passion with the campers.

We are excited to announce that the islands of Hawaii will once again have a literature evangelism program this summer. Students 16 and up can earn money for school while spreading the gospel. Students will be taught basic Christian salesmanship, encounter a deep relationship with Jesus and be in a safe group environment while connecting the community to their Creator through literature.

Applicants can sign up for all of these exciting ministry opportunities by going to our website, Hawaiiisdayouth.org. Don't delay; space will fill up fast!



During last year's summer camp, Pastor Beverly Maravilla shares with campers how God transforms the lives of His people.

Executive Secretary Report

BY GERALD D. CHRISTMAN

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

As we approach the Hawaii Conference's up-coming constituency session on April 26, it seems appropriate to briefly look in our rear-view mirror at the last five years. The Hawaii Conference membership has experienced a 2% net growth rate over the 2010-2014 period; from 5,857 to 5,973 members. These numbers could, of course, be worse; but they could, obviously, be better — much better!

Some additional numbers will give us a better perspective.

- Baptisms and Professions of Faith: 870
- Net Loss in Membership Transfers: 85
- Deceased: 278
- Members Removed: 189
- Members Missing: 202



We thank God for every baptism and profession of faith; for individuals who have committed their lives to God. May each one continue faithfully following Him.

We cannot do much about our net loss in membership from transfers and deaths.

Some move for employment opportunities; others to the inevitable — death.

Some 870 individuals joined a Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Hawaii during these past five years through baptism or profession of faith, but 391 are categorized as either removed or missing. What may have led this large number of individuals to leave?

This may be a good time to, momentarily, adjust the rear-view mirror on ourselves. What might we, individually or corporately, do differently to prevent these tragic losses? Anne Frank, who died at the age of 15 in a Nazi concentration camp, wrote in her diary: "What is done cannot be undone, but one can prevent it happening again."

We may or may not be able to prevent individuals from making choices of separating themselves from us; but it behooves us to, at least, reflect.

Our Hawaii Conference mission statement is: "Reach Hawaii. Each One Reach One!" How? Through four core priorities: reaching up through worship; reaching out through evangelism; reaching around through fellowship; and reaching in through nurture.

Do you share my conviction that God desires more than a 2% net growth? Armchair math tells me that at this continued net growth rate, it will take more than a century for the Hawaii Conference to break the 10,000-member mark. I am not persuaded God is going to continue waiting — and waiting.

God has not called you and me to be fixated on numbers. He has called us to partner with Him in growing His Kingdom. Numbers, though, represent people preparing to meet their God.

Jesus, at His coming, will either have words



of commendation or of immense disappointment. I want to hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things.... Enter into the joy of your Lord." I'm sure you want to hear these words, too.

We don't earn salvation by sharing Jesus and by discipling others. God's gift of salvation is free. But we can lose salvation by being disobedient to Him; by not reaching up, out, in, and around.

The old adage is true: If we are not missionaries, we are mission fields.



BIG ISLAND SCHOOLS CELEBRATE AS OHANA

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

Ohana means family, and family never misses an opportunity to get together.

In the fall, our three Adventist schools on Hawaii island gathered at Waimea Park for some fun in the sun. The more than 90-mile

distance that separates the two farthest schools could not keep Kohala Adventist School, Kona Adventist Christian School, and Mauna Loa School from joining together to laugh, “talk story,” and share their love of Jesus.

dren from their sister schools, and plans for another get-together before the end of the school year are under way.



Principals Chris Larson, Melissa Clifford and Joey Freitas planned activities for the more than 85 students, which included worship, flag football, soccer, lunch and prayer. The students enjoyed the fellowship with chil-

KACS faculty and students go every Friday to the Old Kona Airport Beach State Park for Faith Focused Fridays, which provides hands-on learning and community service. But the gathering with the three schools was just a taste of heaven, according to Clifford, Kona principal. “We can’t wait to do this again,” she said.

Kohala Adventist School, Kona Adventist Christian School, and Mauna Loa School came together last fall for an ohana fun day.



Tithe Report for 2014

BY GARY G. JOHNSON

The Hawaii Conference received \$5,211,223.82 in tithe during 2014, a decrease of \$163,691.99 (3%) from the \$5,374,915.81 received in 2013.

All islands except Maui showed a tithe loss in 2014 vs. 2013, and all of the bigger churches in the conference, except Kahului, Maui, recorded a loss in 2014 vs. 2013, as well.

Although we were hoping for a better report of tithe-giving in 2014, we praise God for his blessings and the faithfulness of our members and visitors in supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hawaii. Pray for the conference as we seek to wisely use these funds for ministry. View the chart to the right for a report of tithe by individual church.



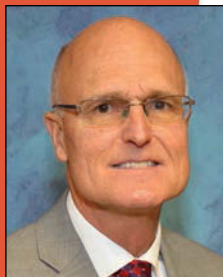
CHURCH	MEMBERS	Tithe 2014	Tithe 2013	Tithe Gain/Loss	Tithe % Change	Tithe Per CAPITA
HAWAII						
HILO	491	374,379.37	421,651.69	-47,272.32	(11.21%)	762.48
HONOKAA	87	108,560.00	116,298.51	-7,738.51	(6.65%)	1,247.82
KOHALA	80	31,951.04	26,775.71	5,175.33	19.33%	399.39
KONA	226	174,439.94	173,832.07	607.87	0.35%	771.86
KONA HISPANIC COMPANY	54	29,416.45	41,908.21	-12,491.76	(29.81%)	544.75
KURTISTOWN COMPANY	64	39,864.00	28,577.10	11,286.90	39.50%	622.88
PUNA	161	117,862.75	131,195.25	-13,332.50	(10.16%)	732.07
SUB-TOTAL	1,163	876,473.55	940,238.54	-63,764.99	(6.78%)	753.63
KAUAI						
KAPAA	180	139,362.16	149,450.37	-10,088.21	(6.75%)	774.23
LAWAI VALLEY	185	114,014.32	111,964.50	2,049.82	1.83%	616.29
SUB-TOTAL	365	253,376.48	261,414.87	-8,038.39	(3.07%)	694.18
MAUI						
KAHULUI	326	359,549.79	314,573.48	44,976.31	14.30%	1,102.91
LAHAINA	78	78,626.25	79,826.82	-1,200.57	(1.50%)	1,008.03
KIHEI	31	51,395.14	49,171.55	2,223.59	4.52%	1,657.91
SUB-TOTAL	435	489,571.18	443,571.85	45,999.33	10.37%	1,125.45
MOLOKAI/LANAI						
MOLOKAI	47	27,302.95	40,200.04	-12,897.09	(32.08%)	580.91
LANAI	36	8,041.00	5,967.60	2,073.40	34.74%	223.36
SUB-TOTAL	83	35,343.95	46,167.64	-10,823.69	(23.44%)	425.83
OAHU						
AIEA	419	517,785.41	523,828.08	-6,042.67	(1.15%)	1,235.76
CENTRAL	755	562,456.65	578,446.56	-15,989.91	(2.76%)	744.98
CHINESE VIETNAMESE	48	74,848.62	62,406.95	12,441.67	19.94%	1,559.35
DIAMOND HEAD	81	135,009.52	136,848.09	-1,838.57	(1.34%)	1,666.78
HAAULA	115	37,842.98	35,874.10	1,968.88	5.49%	329.07
HONOLULU FIL-AM	203	162,421.08	171,716.24	-9,295.16	(5.41%)	800.10
JAPANESE	451	471,550.11	487,536.98	-15,986.87	(3.28%)	1,045.57
KAILUA	230	350,816.24	352,647.44	-1,831.20	(0.52%)	1,525.29
KANEIHE	188	209,798.74	179,390.71	30,408.03	16.95%	1,115.95
KOREAN	99	97,579.60	98,806.02	-1,226.42	(1.24%)	985.65
OAHU HISPANIC	62	68,063.94	54,840.62	13,223.32	24.11%	1,097.81
SAMOA-TOKELAU	369	168,658.22	142,708.11	25,950.11	18.18%	457.07
WAIHAWA	216	151,256.61	175,044.39	-23,787.78	(13.59%)	700.26
WAIANAE	199	151,707.26	189,146.13	-37,438.87	(19.79%)	762.35
WAIMANALO	147	136,061.10	152,619.34	-16,558.24	(10.85%)	925.59
WAIOLA WORSHIP CTR	30	3,908.00	11,235.44	-7,327.44	(65.22%)	130.27
WAIPAHU	166	120,058.70	146,082.03	-26,023.33	(17.81%)	723.25
WAIPAHU SAMOAN	120	95,468.26	117,111.97	-21,643.71	(18.48%)	795.57
SUB-TOTAL	3,898	3,515,291.04	3,616,289.20	-100,998.16	(2.79%)	901.82
CONFERENCE CHURCH	29	41,167.62	67,233.71	-26,066.09	(38.77%)	1,419.57
TOTAL	5,973	5,211,223.82	5,374,915.81	-163,691.99	(3.05%)	872.46

March 2015

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY...

Scowling to Smiling



Pastor
Mike Ortel

I remember going through the cafeteria line in high school and hearing the lady serving the food say, “Get that scowl off your face.” For the longest time I never knew what a scowl was. As I now look back at my childhood photos, I understand what she saw: a sullen, sulky and often sad little frowning face.

I was a very poor student with low grades. I thought I was dumb because I could hardly read or spell. I did not feel good about myself because I was not academically accomplished. This perception of not feeling good enough influenced my spiritual life. I never felt good enough to go to heaven. I wanted to be saved, but it seemed out of my reach. I was like any typical boy. I was human. I made mistakes. I missed the mark, tripped up and sinned.

By a miracle of God, I got accepted by an Adventist Christian school, Atlantic Union College, on a probationary basis. I noticed an upper class student who smiled, was academically successful, never seemed to worry and was full of joy and peace. I so wanted the contentment he experienced. I asked him what made him so successful and happy.

This much-admired student gave me some wonderful, life-changing advice. He suggested I take a few minutes every day and spend time with his best Friend, reading the book *Desire of Ages*. It was a thick book with fine print on the life of Jesus Christ. I accepted his offer and started to read it.

I got discouraged. I could not read well, especially the many paragraphs on so many pages. His suggestion seemed once again out of my reach, like his joy and success. I told him my challenge and frustration. He then wisely suggested a very small

book, much less intimidating, called *Steps to Christ*. I immediately took a quarter and bought a paper copy.

Slowly, very slowly my reading skills began to improve. The few minutes each day reading about and praying to my new Friend Jesus stretched to 15 then 30 minutes. My frustration level decreased. My joy level increased. My confidence increased.

This experience so completely changed my life that I changed my major to theology to become a full-time professional pastor. I could even feel myself smiling, becoming more confident and enjoying life like I had never done before.

My focus went from my problems and handicap to Jesus and His promises and help. Although I did not realize it then, I had a disability known as dyslexia.

- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. *Philippians 4:13*
- For with God all things are possible. *Luke 1:37*
- Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us. *Ephesians 3:20*

When my focus changed, my life changed from the sour, scowling attitude, visible to all, to a smiling, satisfied and saved advertisement for His Kingdom.

Do you have hindrances and handicaps? Focus on Jesus and cast all your cares, perplexities and sorrows on Him. Watch His heavenly grace miraculously change you from the inside out!


Pastor Mike Ortel

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.



Thunderbird Musicians Benefit “Operation Nepal”

by Phil Draper

March 19-30, 2015 the Thunderbird Adventist Academy Chorale and Abbellimenti Handbell Ensemble will be traveling to Europe giving concerts to benefit the Women’s Economic Empowerment Project in Nepal. Partnering with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Europe, the talented young musicians will visit Austria and Italy.

Nepal is one of the least developed countries in the world. The project will train women to market their goods, learn better agriculture practice, and teach them about the environment – while giving them means of making a living by growing fruits and vegetables. Nutrition and health will also be emphasized.

ADRA Nepal plans to build village libraries with easy-to-read books and literature giving the women a chance to benefit economically, socially and spiritually.

Thunderbird faculty endeavors to train students to be actively involved in both local and worldwide mission service.

This project will provide students with the enrichment of European travel and helping to fill a desperate need in Nepal.

“The Chorale is a group of auditioned singers selected from the Thunderbird general choir,” explains Director Ben Purvis. “The mission of the Chorale is to share the message of grace and redemption found in Jesus Christ through music.”

The group has performed extensively throughout Arizona, Nevada and Southern California.

In order for students to participate, they were asked to personally raise \$3,000 each to cover their expenses. Parents and students went to work to develop fund-raising projects:

- Daniel Kennedy sold tamales
- Michelle Marsollier sold bread and pies
- Anna Hakes sold cookies and bread
- Catherine Smolinski sold pirogues and Polish treats
- Miranda Borland did house and yard work
- Braxton Turner sold handmade quilts



Photo Credit Tom Reynolds

Thunderbird musicians gave a benefit concert to help raise funds for their European tour.

- Students hosted car washes, restaurant fund raisers, bake sales and pancake breakfasts
- Personal handwritten letters to friends and families asking for support

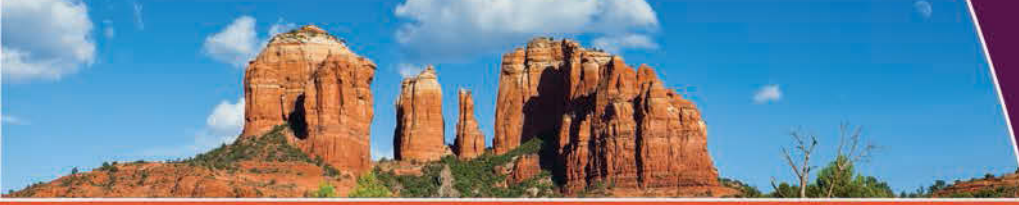
Sunday, January 25, the young musicians presented a formal Benefit Concert to an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

Arizona President Tony Anobile said, “It is thrilling to see and hear the amazing talents of our Thunderbird students. The hard work, hours of practice, and determination of our music teachers Susan Byers and Ben Purvis to instill excellence in their students have paid huge dividends. Our students will be a huge blessing on their European tour and will return changed, knowing they made a difference in the lives of the women in Nepal.”

If you would like to help or donate, contact Ben Purvis at 208-899-5109 or email bpurvis@thunderbirdacademy.org.



Photo Credit Tom Reynolds



Christmas Party for Refugees

By Phil Draper

The Refuge and Revelation Center in Phoenix, Arizona serves as a resource for learning and assistance to men, women and children who are starting a new life in America.

Director Glenn Sta. Ana explains, "We exist to support a group of people confronting the urban jungles of America. We can't protect refugees from their pain and suffering, but we can do something to make their presence valued, their stories heard, their journeys more supported, and help them experience the love of Christ through people who have decided to become good neighbors."

Christmas at the Refuge and Revelation Center was a fun-filled day as volunteers sang Christmas songs, played games with the children, then distributed gift bags to each family, which contained goodies and toys.



Christmas at the Refuge and Revelation Center was a festive time of songs and gifts.

Approximately 28 of the 31 enrolled students and their families attended.

The Chandler Fil-Am Youth Choir sang Christmas carols. In return, the refugees sang Silent Night in both English and the Karenni languages.

Volunteers prepared food for the festivities but were surprised when the refugee families also brought food. One observer said, "If these people bring food for you, you have made a strong connection!"

Currently two English Second Language (ESL) classes with 25 students are being

conducted. Another Citizenship class has six participants who are preparing to take a test for their United States citizenship.

Most of the students are Karenni, two are Karen and one Burmese. In January a new group of refugees from the Chin tribe was added.

"We are happy that the ground work we have started provided us a deeper connection with this wonderful group of refugees," says Lauran Merginio, ESL Director.

The Refuge and Revelation Center is located at 3001 West Indian School Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85017, has a clothing center, and serves as a channel to receive support and donations from those who are moved to support this ministry.

For more information or to make a donation to the Center, call Lauran Merginio at 760-421-7427 or email Imerginio@yahoo.com.



Silent Night was sung in both English and the Karenni language.

Glendale Sanctuary Choir Aids Yarnell, Ariz. Fire Victims

By Phil Draper

Arizona residents will forever remember the firestorm that rained down terror and destruction on the small town of Yarnell and Peoples Valley destroying 127 homes, scorching 8,400 acres, then claiming the lives of 19 elite firefighters. The Yarnell Hill Fire, June 28, 2013, is the deadliest wildfire in Arizona history. The grief over losing 19 valiant firefighters will linger forever.

In October 2014, Glendale Sanctuary Choir members were reminded of the disaster by Mary Skaloyannis, a choir member working closely with the Yarnell Hill Recovery Group, which was formed by local volunteers to identify the unmet needs of residents and businesses in the area.

"Many residents are still homeless," she explained, "with some living in makeshift trailers; and the attempt to rebuild has been stalled by an inability to reach settlements with insurance companies."

Skaloyannis shared the desperate need for food to feed the ravaged community, which is comprised of mostly seniors. Grocery stores were burned and not rebuilt. To purchase food, residents have to travel long distances. Therefore a Food Bank was established to meet their needs.



Glendale Sanctuary Choir sings songs of hope in Jesus to Yarnell fire victims.

Enthusiastically, the choir members began making plans to help. They began a campaign to encourage church members to bring non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. Knowing the power of music to bring hope and cheer, a Glendale Sanctuary Choir Benefit Concert was planned for the Yarnell Community, which would also provide an opportunity for the food to be delivered and the choir to personally meet and encourage Yarnell residents.

Due to the intense schedule for Thanksgiving and Christmas concerts, a date of January 10 was established. Provision was made for those attending the popular year-end concerts to bring non-perishable food items with them to each concert.

Announcements were made over Good News Television. Choir members used social media such as Facebook and Twitter to encourage participation. Michelle Ritzer who traveled from Prescott to sing in the choir, involved the Prescott Church in supporting the program.

Some wanted to give money instead of non-perishable food items. An initial amount of \$400 was raised, but promoters decided to make a final push to solicit more cash to be given to the Food Bank to purchase fresh food items. Emails, phone calls and personal solicitation worked successfully. A \$1,000 check was ready to be delivered with the huge stash of food.

On January 10 a large 15-passenger van and a large trailer were loaded with the food items. The weight of the



Glendale members gathered 3,300 pounds of non-perishable food items for the Yarnell Food Bank.

non-perishable food items totaled 3,300 pounds!

The concert was held at the Yarnell Community Presbyterian Church with Pastor Paul Jones. In addition to the concert, Ritzer and members of the Prescott Church decided they wanted to provide a spaghetti dinner for those attending the concert. With the help of a generous donation by the Prescott Olive Garden Restaurant and Prescott church members, a very nice spaghetti dinner was prepared and served.

More than 100 attended the concert, including officials from the Yarnell Hill Recovery Group, and representatives from Yavapai County and the State of Arizona.

Choir director Dennis Marsollier observed, "The gratitude of the people served was overwhelming. We learned many of the residents who didn't know each other before the fire are now friends. Through this disaster, a new bonding has formed among community residents. It really was an honor to deliver a message of hope in Jesus through music."

The Glendale Sanctuary Choir was formed 38 years ago as a ministry of the Glendale Seventh-day Adventist Church and is the longest continuously running Adventist choir in the State of Arizona.



*central*ACTS

Newsletter for Central California Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

Making a difference

central california officers' perspective

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE CELEBRATE notable holidays that are known by millions. And yet, any given month contains holidays that are less known, though not less important. As such, March 6 is National Dentist's Day and March 30 is National Doctor's Day. What a tremendous opportunity to celebrate the physicians and dentists that have cared for us in the womb, as toddlers and grown-ups, diligently studying test results, carefully applying braces, performing delicate surgeries, all the while committed to continuing education. And though we normally refer to this line of work as a profession, it is more of a calling. Perhaps a former president of the American Medical Association, says it best. "There is no greater reward in our profession than the knowledge that God has entrusted us with the physical care of His people. The Almighty has reserved for Himself the power to create life, but He has assigned to a few of us the responsibility of keeping in good repair the bodies in which this life is sustained." This month, express gratitude to a dentist or a doctor in a meaningful way. They have answered a calling, and our lives are immeasurably better for it.



Costin Jordache
Vice President for Communication, Central California Conference

Calendar

- March 5**
Spelling Bee
- March 6-8**
AA Teen Retreat
- March 6-7**
Prayer Conference
- March 29**
Clerks/Treasurers Training
- April 10-12**
Inside Out Retreat
- April 11-12**
NAD Urban Ministry Training
- April 17-19**
Teen Girls Retreat
Teen Guys Retreat
- April 24-26**
Hispanic Men's Retreat
Bike-a-thon

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

ATTENTION PLEASE!!



We find ourselves in the third month of the new year, and like me, I'm sure you are already experiencing the year's pace increasing, crowding every minute. Before we know it, the days, months and this new year will also pass and be relegated to history.

At the same time, a few questions have been going through my mind: Are we so busy, so distracted, so preoccupied that our senses are becoming dull and insensitive to God's tender voice calling for our undivided attention? Are our spiritual antennas alert for God? Are we headed so fast in a given direction that if God spoke, we couldn't hear Him because we simply are not tuned-in to Him? Are the demands of our daily lives squeezing out and muting God's voice?

I ran across a great story the other day that spoke to me. It powerfully addresses the questions above:

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, 'What was that all about? Just what are you doing? That's a new car and the repair is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?'

The young boy was apologetic. 'Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do,' he pleaded. 'I threw the brick because no one else would stop...' With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. 'It's my brother,' he said. 'He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up.' Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, 'Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me.'

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. 'Thank you and may God bless you,' the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message. 'Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick to get your attention!'

Scripture is filled with attention-getting bricks from God. Saul of Tarsus was literally knocked off his horse and blinded by God; Pharaoh's attention was arrested through various plagues; the small city of Ai was allowed to defeat Israel; and Nebuchadnezzar was stricken with seven years madness, among others examples.



Have you ever thought that perhaps the pleasant and unpleasant events of your life, the pain, the flat tire, the trip to the doctor, the new job or good news of a salary increase are God's bricks calling for your attention?

We don't always seem to be spiritually alert. The clamor of our daily lives often muffles out God's voice. As the prophet Jeremiah reminds us, God wants so badly to give us a hope and a future, but we are usually too busy. God knows exactly what we need, and He wants to give it to us, but first He must get our attention. If unexplainable things are happening to you, it might be God's way of getting your attention in order to give you a hope and a future. So the next time a "brick" comes flying your way, stop and ask, "Lord, what are you trying to tell me?"

Ramiro

Ramiro Cano
President, Central California Conference



Mountain View Japanese Hosts Successful Evangelistic Series

by Naofumi Nozawa & Filipe Ferreira

AS PART OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA Conference's (CCC) Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus initiative, the Mountain View Japanese Seventh-day Adventist church (MVJAC) hosted an evangelistic outreach series with evangelist Taj Pacleb. The Revelation of Hope event, held on October 2-25, 2014 was part of a larger plan to impact the church's Silicon Valley community with the good news of the gospel.

As early as the summer of 2013, MVJAC teamed up with other Bay Area churches, at which point plans were made to intentionally impact San Francisco and the rest of the Bay Area through health-related, social and other events. The effort included continual growth of small groups in preparation and leading up to the Operation Blueprint series, the Bay Area-wide evangelistic series presented by pastor Ivor Myers.

However, when MVJAC hosted a smaller scale Operation Blueprint series, presented by pastor Naofumi Nozawa and pastor Filipe Ferreira, the overall attendance was scarce, even among existing church members. This left many discouraged and doubting the plans for the coming October series with Pacleb, even though there were fond memories of his series six years earlier. Shortly thereafter, Cliff Merchant, a relatively new member, preached on



the important need of evangelism and pastoral support. Merchant emphasized the second chance that the October evangelistic meetings would give the church—a message that served as a great encouragement to and reenergized the church.

Throughout the process, some expressed the need to focus on medical evangelism instead of the public evangelism after being inspired by the Bridges to Health event in the Bay Area. Nozawa and Ferreira had recently attended training on holistic large-city ministry, provided by Central, and realized that a collaboration of the different ministries working together would be most effective.

Challenges continued to mount, bringing organizers to their knees. "We knew that we were not trying to do this with our strength, but with the prayers and power of God," recalls Nozawa. The turning point came near the end of August when Pacleb conducted an orientation meeting for the upcoming meetings. The pastoral team had been praying for, and promoting the orientation. To their delight, many attended the orientation. Excitement began to grow among the members. Members began to volunteer for various aspects of the upcoming program, including a children's program.

This growing momentum inspired a group of dentists to conduct

Continued on page 4>>

one-day free dental clinic to serve the community. The Smiles 4 Mountain View outreach event rallied 40 volunteers and served over 30 community members with dental needs. Several of those served attended the Revelation of Hope seminar, others requested Bible studies for their spiritual care. Smiles sparked an ongoing outreach ministry for MVJAC.

Momentum continued to build. Opening night came and the fellowship hall was packed with over 150 people, which included over 50 community visitors. "God had answered our prayers," concludes Ferreira. The high attendance was sustained throughout the meetings with additional visitors attending throughout the series.

The meetings were held in the fellowship hall to accommodate a round table-style series allowing attendees to eat together and develop friendships. After the meal, table leaders would lead those sitting at their table in a 10-minute discovery time designed to facilitate interaction amongst attendees, and introduce that evening's presentation. The segment created an atmosphere of investigation, discovery, and learning. Meanwhile, younger members taught the children's program. Children sang songs of praise, developed friendships and learned nightly lessons.

"I saw God's mercy and power through this meeting," shared table leader Nobuko Shiraishi. "I was reminded about my mission as a Seventh-day Adventist and it's been a blessing to be used by God." Four of Shiraishi's table guests accepted the invitation to be baptized.

Pacleb's presentations drew returning visitors each night. As the series drew to a close, 14 attendees

were baptized and 5 rebaptized. Attendees included long-time church members, who came back each night to be revived. "It was powerful to see some church members who were not so active in Bible study and outreach showing commitment even after the evangelistic meeting," observed Nozawa. "I could see the transformed picture of before and after, not only in those who got baptized this time, but even among our own church members."

Leaders say that God's hand was evident even behind the scenes. Glenn Ramel, head of the kitchen crew shared how he saw God working in the kitchen everyday. "This was a very challenging project for us due to the limited budget and manpower," Ramel explained. "However, God always provided the right number of people to help each night."

As the series concluded, Nozawa, Ferreira and cross trainer Daniel Fukuda introduced follow-up programs including cooking classes, social events, Friday evening vespers and Wednesday evening prayer meetings allowing attendees further study opportunities.

Pacleb returned on December 6, 2014 witnessing 12 baptisms during the follow-up revival weekend, highlighting the efforts of the past months. More than 15 individuals continue to study toward baptism. The ripples from Pacleb's series will continue in the months to come, not only in the lives of those who have come face-to-face with the Gospel for the first time, but in the lives of MVJAC members, who have and continue to experience personal and transformational revival. "It is satisfying and very exciting to watch God continue to guide this church along His paths!" concludes Nozawa.



CREDITS

Publisher
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Editor-in-Chief
COSTIN JORDACHE

Copy Editor
SUE SCHRAMM

Design & Layout
SERGIO CANO

CONTACT US
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
P.O. Box 770
Clovis, CA 93613
559.347.3000

VISIT US ONLINE AT
ccc.adventist.org



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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

2014

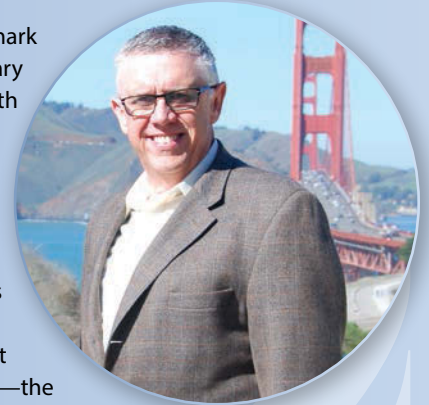
ANNUAL REPORT



*Doing What Matters for the Kingdom
Sharing the blessings & statistics of the year 2014
in ministry in Northern California*

Doing What Matters FOR THE KINGDOM

This July, 2015, will mark the 100th anniversary of Ellen White's death at Elmshaven, her home in our conference territory. For the majority of her life, Mrs. White focused on spreading the good news of Christ's soon return. At age 86, less than a year before her death, she still showed great interest in an innovative outreach idea—the "Harvest Ingathering" program. She believed that God was inspiring the invention of "new plans and new methods



Vision Statement

Our vision is to be among the most productive, effective and spiritually dynamic conferences in the North American Division by:

- Developing skilled, spiritual leaders
- Fostering healthy, growing churches and ministries
- Operating schools of excellence
- Caring for our communities

of awakening the interest of church members in a united effort to reach the world" (*The Church Officers' Gazette*, Sept. 1, 1914).

A hundred years later, Adventists throughout the Northern California Conference are still seeking new ways of doing outreach that will inspire believers and attract nonbelievers: medical care in the Bay Area, marriage support in Oakland, fresh vegetables from numerous community gardens, practical help after natural disasters and much more.

We're also focusing on "in-reach"—ministry to our own church members who need spiritual encouragement and education. And we can't forget the mission field that is closest to many hearts—our own children. For them it's especially vital to present timeless truths in creative ways.

We prepared this year-end report to bring you up to date with the conference's work in 2014. Through the Lord's power, we are making a united effort to live up to our NCC motto: "Doing What Matters for the Kingdom." These pages are also meant to encourage you to become an Adventist in action yourself! In 2015, what can you do to communicate the gospel to those around you?

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24).

James E. Pedersen, President

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

401 Taylor Blvd. | P.O. Box 23165 | Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

(925) 685-4300 | info@nccsda.com | www.nccsda.com

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ADVENTISTS
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 Head Auditor
Auditing



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 Director
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 Evangelism*



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 Director
Ministerial



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Eddie Heinrich
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Education



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Education



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 Assistant Manager
Adventist Book Center



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 Associate Treasurer
*Trust Services
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Stephanie Leal
 Director
Communication



James Lim
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Asian/Pacific Ministries



Ed Lindsay
 Manager
Adventist Book Center



Julie Lorenz
 Assistant Director
Communication



Richard Magnuson
 Director
*Planned Giving & Trust Services/
 Property Management*



Jose Marin
 Coordinator
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Alice Merrill
 Associate Director
*Children's/Family/
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Albert Miller
 Associate Superintendent
Education



Naomi Parson
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Prayer Ministries



Doug Withrow
 Administrator
*Napa Valley Adventist
 Retirement Estates*



Judy Withrow
 Associate Administrator
*Napa Valley Adventist
 Retirement Estates*



Mark Worley
 Undertreasurer
Treasury



662

BAPTISMS/PROFESSIONS OF FAITH IN 2014

2014 Beginning Membership 39,758

ADDED		DROPPED	
Baptisms	560	Transfers out	410
Professions of Faith	102	Deceased	323
Transfers in	423	Removed	61
Adjustments	15	Missing	77

2014 ENDING MEMBERSHIP

39,987

Churches by Ethnicity

African American Churches

11 Churches

Beginning Membership
3,753

Ending Membership
3,852

Percentage of Growth
2.64%

Asian/Pacific Churches

13 Churches

Beginning Membership
1,572

Ending Membership
1,571

Percentage of Growth
-0.06%

Caucasian Churches

111 Churches

Beginning Membership
31,392

Ending Membership
31,435

Percentage of Growth
0.14%

Hispanic Churches

18 Churches

Beginning Membership
2,685

Ending Membership
2,756

Percentage of Growth
2.64%

Slavic/Yugoslavian Churches

2 Churches

Beginning Membership
356

Ending Membership
373

Percentage of Growth
4.78%



"We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other," Romans 12:4.

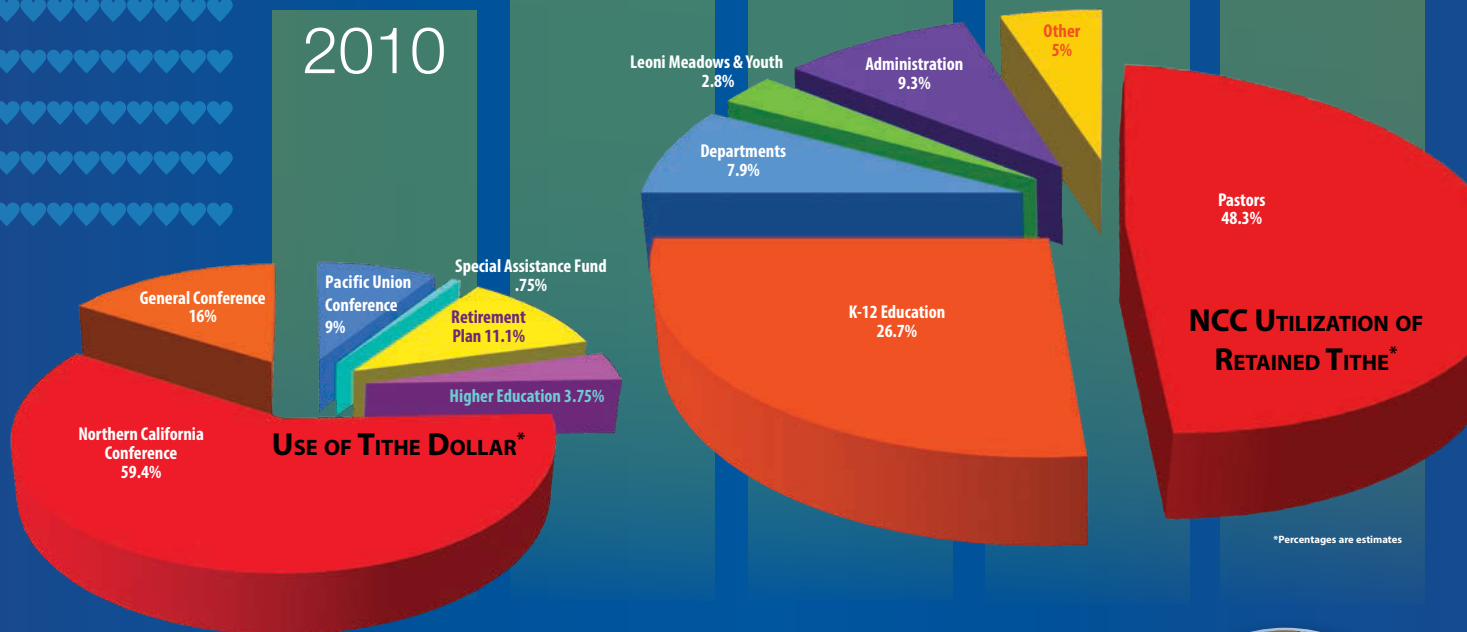
Total Tithe
in 2014

\$38,105,335.14

2014

Percentage of Growth - 1.14%

Tithe Totals for the Past Five Years



*Percentages are estimates

The first "10" represents the 10 percent tithe that God asks us to give as faithful stewards. The "+10" is the foundation for the future of Adventist education in the Northern California Conference. We invite every church member to give an extra \$10 per month to help us build an endowment to fund Adventist K-12 schools in our conference. Visit www.adventistendowment.com for more information.



**10+10
Education
Endowment**

Total 2014 Increase (Donations + Investment Earnings).....\$74,473.08
Total Through 2014.....\$243,340.15



2014 Planned Giving Totals

NCC Unrestricted \$314,853.43
Planned gifts for which the Northern California Conference has complete discretion on how they are applied.

NCC Restricted \$254,319.68
Planned gifts for which donors specified a specific use to be made with the funds. Examples include small school library resources, school scholarship funds, mission trips, evangelism, Redwood Camp Meeting and more.

NCC Entities \$137,600.35
Planned gifts to NCC churches and schools (see list on right).

Total Retained in Conference \$706,773.46

Non-NCC Church Entities \$110,501.72
Planned gifts to support the work of the SDA Church throughout the world. Examples include AWR, ADRA, VOP, Amazing Facts, Breath of Life and SDA colleges and universities both in the United States and abroad.

Total to Lord's Work \$817,275.18

Individuals \$761,596.94
Most of our donors also left planned gifts to their family and friends.

Total Distributions
\$1,578,872.12

Northern California Conference Churches and Schools Benefitted by Planned Giving in 2014

- Arcata McKinleyville SDA Church, Camino Spanish SDA Company, Carmichael SDA Church, Chico Oaks Adventist School, Chico SDA Church, Elmshaven SDA Church, Fortuna SDA Church, Grass Valley SDA Church, Hayward SDA Church, Humboldt Bay Christian School, Lockeford SDA Church, Lodi Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, Manteca Adventist School, Manteca SDA Church, Napa Christian Campus of Education, Redwood Adventist Academy, St. Helena SDA Church, Yountville Signs Memorial SDA Church

Planned Giving

Northern California Conference

In 2014 planned gifts by NCC members provided more than \$1.5 million in gifts to their families, friends and favorite charities, supporting ministries around the world and in their own communities. Approximately half of those gifts supported ministries around the Northern California Conference, funding K-12 education, mission trips, Pathfinders, building projects and much more. The Planned Giving staff strives to assist all NCC members, helping customize plans that meet their needs and circumstances.



In 2014 the NCC Planned Giving Department rolled out a new, convenient, easy-to-use and informative website. They added an Online Wills Planner to securely guide members in planning their estates; short videos that explain the

basics of estate planning; and weekly special articles on how to meet financial planning goals and make savvy decisions about retirement accounts, Social Security and other life issues.

Log on to the new Planned Giving website to learn how to create your plan. It's easy!

www.SDAlegacy.org

Leoni Meadows

(530) 626-3610 • information@leonimeadows.org • www.leonimeadows.org



Leoni Meadows continues to support the ministries of the Northern California Conference and shine in the local Grizzly Flats community.

"The 2014 season was amazing!" said Executive Director Craig Heinrich. Leoni Meadows' programs were full: nearly 600 guests came to Family Camp, and a total of 2,000 kids attended summer camp. The year-round total was 10,341 guests—a new record! The camp's usage has increased 18 percent since 2011. "The number that we're most excited about is that nearly 60 people have been baptized during the past four years," said Heinrich. "This is a wonderful place for kids and adults to reconnect with Jesus."

Last spring staff members were very excited to add the Colossal Zip Line to the camp's challenge course! This zip line is just over 200 feet off the ground and 1,200 feet long. From the middle of the line, a rider can see for miles in every direction and get a great view of the entire camp. "The campers LOVE this zip line, and we are very enthusiastic about the future of our challenge course," said Heinrich.

In October Leoni Meadows hosted

the California Forestry Challenge, a cross-educational initiative aimed at inspiring students to consider a vocation in forestry management. "The special guest was area Congressman Tom McClintock, who enjoyed his first visit to our camp," said Heinrich. McClintock is active in promoting forest management to prevent fires.

On Thanksgiving Day, Leoni Meadows hosted a "community day" at the camp, with about 120 people from Grizzly Flats in attendance. Heinrich was the official greeter, while other staff operated the train, go karts, carriage rides and zip line, and gave tours of the Leoni House. The camp also provided freshly made apple fritters and hot drinks. The local community expressed great appreciation for the free event.

Congratulations to the leadership and staff at Leoni Meadows! The camp was the recipient of the 2014 Norm Middag Award of Excellence – an award that "represents the highest ideals for camp evangelism." It was presented at the Association of Adventist Camping Professionals convention held at Camp Kulaqua in Florida.



Adventist Book Center

(800) 400-1844 • abc@nccsda.com • www.nccsda.com/abc

NCC Adventists are purchasing large amounts of printed witnessing materials to share with their friends and neighbors, despite the modern reliance on electronic media. Between mid-March and December, 2014, the conference's two Adventist Book Center stores sold 54,960 pieces of sharing literature.

The total number includes 10,162 copies of *Steps to Christ* (all editions); 7,114 copies of *Desire of Ages* (sharing edition); 5,667 copies of *The Great Controversy*; 6,500 copies of *The Great Hope* (sharing version of abridged *Great Controversy*); and 8,483 copies of special sharing issues of *Signs of the Times* magazine. Churches and individuals have also purchased numerous tracts for distribution. (Each hundred-count

package of tracts was counted as one piece of literature when calculating the total number sold.)

The conference has operated the two ABCs in its territory—located in Pleasant Hill and Sacramento—since March 16, when it took ownership from Pacific Press Publishing Association. "I am delighted to report that we have sold a great deal of witnessing literature since last spring," said store manager Ed Lindsay. "NCC church members are enthusiastic about the sharing materials we offer."

The ABCs also feature a variety of books, music and vegetarian food items. For more information about the stores, sale items and the ABC bookmobile that travels throughout the conference, visit www.nccsda.com/abc.



Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates

(707) 944-2994 • nvare@nccsda.com • www.nccsda.com/nvare

The Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates celebrated its 35th anniversary in November (PHOTO RIGHT)—but there were plenty of reasons for NVARE residents to celebrate throughout 2014!

- Two residents turned 100, doubling the number of centenarians at NVARE (PHOTO FAR RIGHT). (The oldest resident in the facility celebrated her 104th birthday; the youngest resident is in his mid-50s.)

- The property received a number of upgrades, including new carpet in the dining room, several new fountains (PHOTO RIGHT) and the renovation of 10 apartments—including new flooring, extra storage and major improvements in the bathrooms and kitchens. The facility plans to continue renovations in 2015.

- NVARE purchased a golf cart to transport residents across the street to church (especially useful at night and in

rainy weather) and to other activities like Christmas caroling in the neighborhood.

- Residents enjoyed many special events: parties for holidays and birthdays; spiritual programs; and field trips to places such as the Exploratorium in San Francisco and the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.

- At the end of 2014, about 70 people resided at the facility—Adventists and other Christians—including 27 who moved in during 2014.



156 2014 CHURCHES/ COMPANIES 42 2014 SCHOOLS

Mission Statement

The Northern California Conference is a network of churches, schools and ministries dedicated to transforming people through the good news of Jesus Christ and preparing them for His soon return.

Churches

Alameda East Bay Chinese SDA Church
Alameda SDA Church
All Nations SDA Church of Elk Grove
Alturas SDA Church
American Canyon Fil-Am SDA Church*
Anderson SDA Church
Angels Camp SDA Church
Angwin Village SDA Church
Antelope Hills SDA Church
Antioch SDA Church
Arcata McKinleyville SDA Church
Auburn SDA Church
Berkeley SDA Church
Bieber SDA Company
Brownsville SDA Church
Calistoga SDA Church
Camino SDA Church
Camino Spanish SDA Company
Carmichael SDA Church
Central Valley Korean SDA Church
Chico SDA Church
Chico Spanish SDA Company
Citrus Heights SDA Church
Clearlake SDA Church
Cloverdale SDA Church
Colfax SDA Church
Concord International SDA Church
Conference SDA Church
Corning SDA Church
Covelo SDA Church
Crescent City SDA Church
Dobbins SDA Church
East Bay Fil-Am SDA Church
Elmhaven SDA Church
El Sobrante Appian Way SDA Church
Escalon SDA Church
Eureka SDA Church
Fairfield Community SDA Church
Fairfield Suisun Spanish SDA Church
Fall River Mills SDA Church
Foresthill SDA Company
Fort Bragg SDA Church
Fortuna SDA Church
Fremont Chinese SDA Company
Fremont SDA Church
Galt SDA Church
Georgetown SDA Church
Golden Feather SDA Church
Gracepoint Adventist Church
Grand Advent SDA Church

Granite Bay SDA Church
Grass Valley SDA Church
Gridley SDA Church
Hayfork SDA Church
Hayward SDA Church
Hayward Spanish SDA Church
Healdsburg SDA Church
Lakeport SDA Church
Lincoln Amazing Grace SDA Company
Lincoln Spanish SDA Church
Live Oak Spanish SDA Company
Livermore SDA Church
Lockeford SDA Church
Lodi English Oaks SDA Church
Lodi Fairmont SDA Church
Lodi Spanish SDA Church
Magalia Upper Ridge SDA Church
Manteca SDA Church
Meadow Vista SDA Church
Middletown SDA Church
Miranda SDA Church
Mount Shasta SDA Church
Napa Community SDA Church
Napa Spanish SDA Church
Napa Valley Korean SDA Church
Novato Horeb Haitian SDA Company
Novato SDA Church
Oakland Elmhurst SDA Church
Oakland Immanuel Temple SDA Church
Oakland Market Street SDA Church
Oakland Spanish SDA Church
Olivehurst SDA Church
Orangevale SDA Church
Orland SDA Church
Orleans SDA Church
Oroville SDA Church
Pacific Union College SDA Church
Palo Cedro SDA Church
Paradise SDA Church
Penn Valley SDA Church
Pittsburg SDA Church
Placerville SDA Church
Pleasant Hill Hispanic American Adventist Company
Pleasant Hill SDA Church
Pleasanton Korean SDA Church
Rancho Cordova SDA Church
Red Bluff SDA Church
Redding SDA Church
Redwood Valley SDA Company
Richmond Beacon Light SDA Church
Rio Linda SDA Church

Rio Lindo Adventist Academy SDA Church
Rohnert Park Korean SDA Church
Rohnert Park SDA Church
Roseville SDA Church
Round Mountain SDA Church
Sacramento Capitol City SDA Church
Sacramento Central SDA Church
Sacramento Indonesian SDA Company
Sacramento Korean SDA Church
Sacramento Samoan SDA Church
Sacramento Slavic SDA Church
Sacramento Southgate SDA Church
Sacramento Spanish SDA Church
Sacramento Tongan SDA Company
Sacramento Woodside SDA Church
Sacramento Yugoslavian SDA Church
San Andreas SDA Church
San Anselmo Spanish SDA Church
San Ramon Valley SDA Church
Santa Rosa SDA Church
Santa Rosa Spanish SDA Church
Scott Valley SDA Church
Sebastopol SDA Church
Seventh-day Adventist Abundant Life Church
Shasta Lake SDA Bible Fellowship Company
Shingle Springs SDA Church
Sonoma SDA Church
St. Helena SDA Church
St. Helena Spanish SDA Church
Stockton Central SDA Church
Stockton Fil-Am SDA Church
Stockton Mayfair SDA Church
Stockton Spanish SDA Church
Surprise Valley SDA Church
Sutter Hill SDA Church
Tracy SDA Church
Tracy Spanish SDA Church
Ukiah SDA Church
Union City SDA Company
Upper Lake SDA Church
Vacaville SDA Church
Vallejo Berea SDA Church
Vallejo Central SDA Church
Vallejo Spanish Company
Valley Community SDA Church
Weaverville Trinity Lakes SDA Church
West Sacramento SDA Church
Whitmore SDA Church
Willits SDA Church
Willows SDA Church
Woodland SDA Church

Woodland Spanish SDA Church
Yountville Signs Memorial SDA Church
Yreka SDA Church
Yuba City SDA Church

Schools

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

*Went from Company to Church status in 2014.

To see a complete, up-to-date list of churches and schools, please visit www.nccsda.com, and click the "Find a Church or School" photo link on the home page. The church lists are updated by the local clerks through the eAdventist database.

To serve these many ministries, the **1100 PEOPLE**,
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE employs approximately
including teachers; pastors; church and school personnel; staff at the conference's headquarters; Leoni Meadows; Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates and two Adventist Book Centers.

Blessings of 2014

In 2014 God's hand was evident in so many ways that we had difficulty choosing what to include in a year-end report! This is just a summary of some of His many blessings on the work He has called each of us to do.

Creative Evangelism for a Challenging Mission Field

"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." Mark 16:15

We partnered with the Central California Conference (CCC) on our joint evangelism initiative, Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus.

- Our first event, Bridges to Health, brought free medical and dental services to almost 3,000 people in San Francisco and Oakland over a three-day period in April. About 600 volunteers provided over \$5.2 million in medical services. The Pacific Union chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) organized the event and sponsored it with the NCC, CCC and others.

(PHOTO RIGHT)

- Nearly 300 attended the fall seminar "Mad about Marriage," presented by *Lifestyle Magazine's* Mike and Gayle Tucker in Oakland. Afterward local churches hosted "Flipping the Switch," a follow-up marriage seminar lasting six weeks.

(PHOTO ABOVE RIGHT)



- The NCC and the Pacific Union provided \$500,000 for Oakland church outreach, and the North American Division gave the project a \$100,000 grant. Outreach projects under development include a vegetarian restaurant/food service, health clinic, thrift store and a computer lab for tutoring students.

Spreading the Good News Throughout Northern California—and Beyond!

"Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22

Pastors and members worked together on a wide variety of evangelistic and outreach efforts.

- The conference evangelism fund granted over \$400,000 to local churches.
- Evangelistic meetings reached a variety of ethnic groups—including Haitian, Hmong, Korean, Samoan, Slavic, Spanish, Tongan and Vietnamese.



- Churches and schools helped their communities in useful ways during the Napa earthquake (PHOTO ABOVE) and California fires.
- Community gardens served as a practical outreach for over 40 churches.
- The Women's Ministries Congo Project is building a 1,000-member church in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Spiritual Nourishment for Members

"Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." Colossians 2:7

We sponsored events designed to strengthen our members in their faith and help them participate in the work of our conference.

- The March prayer retreat at Leoni Meadows was a much-appreciated annual event.
- Redwood Camp Meeting continued to be a spiritual highlight for thousands of people, including many who attended the weekend Hispanic camp meeting in Sequoia Grove. (PHOTO ABOVE MIDDLE)
- About 1,800 attended the African American Convocation in Stockton (PHOTO ABOVE RIGHT), and about 500 came to the Asian/Pacific Convocation in Antioch.
- The NCC's quadrennial constituency session took place at the Pacific Union College church in May, providing a chance for members to come together and voice their opinions to the leadership of our Church.

The Young Church

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young." 1 Timothy 4:12
 Keeping our kids in the Church remained as important as



- evangelizing new members.
- About 1,000 Pathfinders from 37 NCC clubs attended the "Forever Faithful" International Camporee in August. (PHOTO LEFT)
- Pathfinder and Adventurer events kept kids involved: NCC Camporee, teen trips, Family Fun weekends and more!
- Youth retreats at Leoni Meadows and a youth rally at the Carmichael church focused on the theme "Encounter, Mentor, Serve."
- A total of 2,000 kids went to summer camp at Leoni Meadows, one of the largest camp seasons in years! There were 30 kids at Virgil's Camp—a week designed for inner city youth. The summer camp season resulted in many youth baptisms.

Educating for Eternity

"You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15

Educators at our 42 schools and preschools helped our children grow in knowledge and in the love of Jesus.

- The 2014-15 school year began in August with more than 2,500 students enrolled in NCC schools.
- Last school year ending in June, 2014, 71 students committed their lives to Jesus through baptism.
- Seven schools received a combined total of \$99,000 from the Shepard Memorial Science Grant.
- About 300 NCC educators and pastors attended the 2014 T.E.A.M. (Together Educators and Ministers) meeting, which provided a great time for educators and pastors to meet together in ministry. (PHOTO ABOVE MIDDLE)

- Larry Unterseher became the new small school pastor in July and began visiting the 20 NCC schools with one to three teachers.
- Carol Tilstra-Nash joined the education team in October to serve as a marketing specialist, starting with four pilot schools.
- The 10+10 Education Endowment continued to grow at a steady pace. In 2014, the fund received over \$66,000 in donations, bringing the value of the endowment up to \$243,340.15. The NCC Development Committee recently implemented a plan to grow the endowment and reach out to donors.

Evidence of Growth and Plans For More

"As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:16

We grew in membership, churches and leaders—and plan for more growth in 2015!

- Our NCC membership stands at 39,987*, including 662* baptisms and professions of faith from the year (*end of 2014 statistics).
- The American Canyon Fil-Am church became our NCC's 141st church! (PHOTO ON PREVIOUS PAGE)
- Three new ethnic ministries coordinators joined our leadership team.
- Eight pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry.
- The planned giving department processed over \$1.5 million in matured gifts, with \$817,275.18 going to support the Lord's work.

AS WE PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GIFTS TO US THROUGHOUT 2014, WE ALSO THANK HIM FOR YOU! YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS MADE THIS LIST OF BLESSINGS POSSIBLE. PLEASE PRAY FOR HIS CONTINUED BLESSINGS ON HIS WORK IN 2015.

Northern California Adventists

in Action

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

STRATEGIC PLAN 2012 - 2016

Several years ago the Northern California Conference revealed its new strategic plan, which includes eight goals designed to reflect the conference's motto: "Doing What Matters for the Kingdom." NCC team members created a number of action items for each of the goals. Many of these tasks are well on their way to achieving their aim, thanks to the prayers and work of people throughout the conference territory.

"We believe these action items are creating opportunities for people to do something significant and bold for the Kingdom of God," said Executive Secretary Marc Woodson. "Although many of them are still under development, we want to give church members an update about some of the work that has been going on in response to the strategic plan."

Following are a few highlights:

Marketing Specialist for Schools

In October Carol Tilstra-Nash joined the NCC education team as a marketing specialist. She is working closely with four test schools (that went through an application process) to develop marketing strategies to

meet their specific needs: Chico Oaks Adventist School, Foothills Adventist Elementary School, Manteca Adventist School and Sacramento Adventist Academy. "It's a great cross section of NCC schools, including large and small elementary schools, a one-teacher school and a large academy," said Tilstra-Nash.

Her objective at each school is not only to develop a prescriptive plan but "to create a marketing mindset in each one that will attract families and do an excellent job of making them happy with the education their children are receiving," she said. In addition, Tilstra-Nash will communicate with all NCC schools, sharing marketing ideas and tips that they can implement on their own.

With a marketing background in healthcare and education, Tilstra-Nash brings years of experience to her new role—as well as a strong commitment to Adventist education. "I think our schools are amazing ministries," she said. "I have seen them work as wonderful tools not just for nurturing and reaching our own kids, but for

reaching their local communities for Christ."

Small School Pastor

Small School Pastor Larry Unterseher is committed to his "congregation"—the students enrolled at the 20 NCC small schools (those with one to three teachers). The role of small school pastor had been vacant for several years until Unterseher took it on during the 2014 summer.

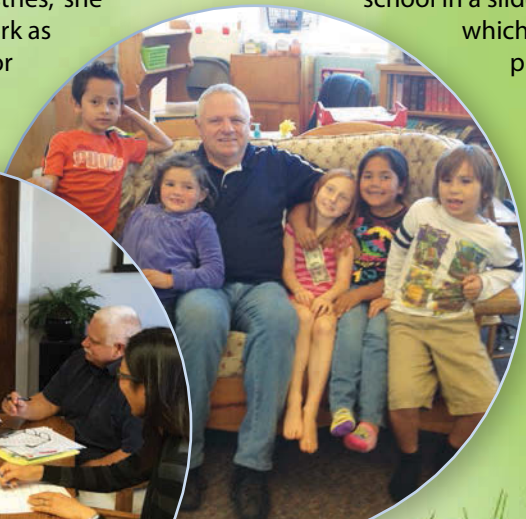
During his first semester on the job, Unterseher visited each of his schools—twice. This was no small feat considering that he works with schools all the way from Yreka to Hayward. During December, he and his wife drove hundreds of miles to attend Christmas programs at 10 different schools!

One of Unterseher's goals is making sure the kids feel involved in the greater Adventist community. He includes photographs from every school in a slide show, which he plays for the kids at each

PHOTO RIGHT: CAROL TILSTRA-NASH MEETS WITH SOME OF THE MARKETING WORK GROUP MEMBERS AT SACRAMENTO ADVENTIST ACADEMY (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: BOBBY PENA, CAROL TILSTRA-NASH, SAA PRINCIPAL JOHN SOULE AND MICHELLE PINER).

PHOTO FAR RIGHT: LARRY UNTERSEHER ENJOYS MEETING WITH STUDENTS AT ONE OF THE 20 NCC SMALL SCHOOLS.

NEXT PAGE: THE CONFERENCE OFFERS TOOLS TO ASSESS CHURCH HEALTH.



Northern California Conference OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

8 Goals

Core Message

1 Understand and communicate the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

Strategies

- Develop an understanding that we are saved by God's grace alone
- Provide training for members to share the good news
- Identify effective models for spiritual growth

Leadership Development

Produce effective, spiritual leaders.

Strategies

- Strengthen pastoral leadership
- Increase effective lay leadership
- Develop Conference-wide leadership succession plans
- Enhance Conference administrative and staff leadership
- Improve educational leadership

Church Growth

Cultivate a healthy ministry environment that grows Adventist Christian disciples.

Strategies

- Improve local church health
- Increase membership/discipleship growth rates
- Expand reach into large population centers
- Develop more effective evangelism and outreach methods
- Provide better oversight of churches

Educational Excellence

Demonstrate academic excellence in teaching and learning that prepares students for Christian service in this world and for heaven.

Strategies

- Produce more *Journey to Excellence* schools
- Make Adventist Christian education more affordable
- Develop an overall marketing strategy for schools
- Identify ways to serve students not within the Adventist educational system
- Foster student commitment to Christ and His mission
- Enhance the student learning experience

Community Outreach

Enlarge Adventist ministry involvement in local communities.

Strategies

- Build relationships with religious, civic and other local community leaders
- Increase positive Seventh-day Adventist name recognition in the territory
- Collaborate with local community organizations, where appropriate
- Develop relevant ministries and projects that meet community needs

United Mission

Create a spirit of unity in diversity to accomplish the purposes of God's kingdom.

Strategies

- Facilitate collaboration among area Conference pastors in ministry outreach
- Discover better ways to communicate effectively with pastors, educators, ministry leaders and church membership
- Develop effective bridges between churches and schools, pastors and educators
- Foster a healthy environment to openly discuss philosophical and/or theological viewpoints that might be divisive
- Promote cultural/ethnic sensitivity and understanding

Youth Involvement

Foster an atmosphere that helps young people understand and play a significant role in the Church's mission.

Strategies

- Increase youth involvement in local church ministries and leadership
- Facilitate plans for inclusion of young people not connected to an Adventist school
- Establish mechanisms for youth to express their viewpoints
- Expand the Conference youth ministry program to effectively meet the needs of a diverse group of youth and young adults

Financial Development

Provide sufficient resources to support all aspects of the Conference's priorities.

Strategies

- Establish and implement an integrated development plan
- Assess current financial resources and discover ways to appropriate them to maximize the Conference's objectives
- Increase overall membership giving levels
- Enhance processes that make giving as simple as possible

of his 20 destinations. "These are your classmates in another building," he informs them.

Each month Unterseher sends cards to all the students who are celebrating their birthdays, enclosing a \$2 bill in each one. The cards tell the children that the unusual bill (which many have never seen before) is to remind them that they are special to Jesus.

Unterseher feels privileged to be forming relationships with the students. "Every one of these kids comes with a story to tell," he said. "I am humbled and honored to be able to interact with them."

Church Treasurer Training

In addition to annual training for local church clerks, the conference now offers training for local church treasurers. Presented by NCC Head Auditor Michael Bylard, the training session was offered on three dates in 2014 at three different locations, with 85 treasurers participating.

The training session familiarizes treasurers with their duties, methods of accounting and important policies. The NCC Human Resources Department also makes a presentation. "My favorite part is getting to know the people who serve as treasurers, answering their questions and helping them with their specific church situations," said Bylard.

Health Assessment for Congregations

The church growth/evangelism department has created a bold objective: 90% of NCC churches will go through a church growth assessment before the end of 2016. So far, eight churches have made excellent progress, and several more are in the beginning stages. "We want our conference to be one of the healthiest in the North American Division," said Del Dunavant, director of church growth/evangelism. "We don't want our churches to surrender to the status quo, but to actively seek to grow disciples."

Dunavant encourages church members to talk to their pastors about performing a church health evaluation. The conference has four different self-assessment tools to choose from, and it will assign a coach to each congregation to mentor them and hold them accountable.

"Through the years I've seen many churches go through this process, and not one has ever regretted it," said Dunavant. "They've all been very pleased with the way they've grown."



Join the Conversation

ON FACEBOOK

We are a conference of almost 40,000 members. Many events and updates are happening all the time! Share what your church and school are doing with other members around Northern California. We are all Adventists in action!

Sampling of 2014's comments: Thanks. God bless you guys too • Pastor Johnson we miss u n mrs j... We luv u • Redding Rangers are the club behind the LIT Color guard. What a blessing we had at Oshkosh. • Great to finally meet you in real life! Thanks for stopping by our booth! • Orangevale - you have one of our BEST pastors!!! • BRAVO, very well done!! • Nice to see our TEAM stand as one • Thank you for all you've done and for your faithfulness. • Way to go Redding Church!!! • Congratulations Hayfork Church! • Love pastor ward. He and God have such an awesome relationship. And then he shares God with all of us. You go pastor. We love you • Praise The Lord. Gracias hermanos de Pleasant Hill por responder al llamado de Jesús. • That was a wonderful greeting Kathy! • Thank you! Merry Christmas to you all too (especially the vast number of departments listed). • Thats my famous AUNT!!! • Thanks for sharing the Christmas Blessing with us. Merry Christmas to you and the staff. • May God continue to bless you all as well merry Christmas and the happiest of new years.



www.facebook.com/NorCalAdventistsinAction

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521
Phone: 775-322-6929 • Fax: 775-322-9371



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

March 2015

In this issue...

- New Year, New Vision!
- Upcoming Events

New Year, New Vision!



Ed Keyes

by Ed Keyes
President, Nevada-Utah Conference

As I think of the New Year we have entered, I realize that 2015 will be the first full year that the new administrative team will work through together.

I'm excited about the possibilities that this year has in store

for us. A wise person once told me it's not a bad idea to reflect on the previous year before you launch into the new one - so here we go.

2014 was perhaps the most amazing year of my life. I started the year in Arizona as the executive secretary, ministerial director and evangelism coordinator. I was working with a lot of good friends that I had made over the previous 10 years. Things were running so smoothly, productively and seamlessly with my fellow officers Tony Anobile and Robert Hastings, I thought I would stay there forever. And I must say with all the earnestness I possess - "I really miss my Arizona family." During my time there, we witnessed more than 20 pastors ordained to gospel ministry. We saw 12 new churches start and over 7000 souls join the family of God through baptism. Wow!

2014 was also exciting on a personal level as I was challenged by my daughter to try to lose 50 pounds. I weighed in at 300 pounds to start the year and was 210 by end the year. With 90 pounds gone, I was able to say I finally kept a New Year's resolution. God is good! The real good news is there was a simple formula for weight loss. Eat healthy and exercise. No

fad diet or medicine, just a simple return to the things we were shown to do by Ellen White. Again, I say God is good.

2014 was also the year both of my children got married. My 22-year-old daughter Becky was married on June 29 in Phoenix, Arizona. My 24-year-old son Andrew got married on December 21 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. So as you can imagine, I'm broke, but once again I say God is good, because they both married godly, thoughtful and faithful Adventist Christians.

When I got the call to be Nevada-Utah Conference president, I felt I needed to dedicate significant time to prayer. A few days later, I accepted the call. This was the first time I sensed that God was truly calling me to that roll. I had been officially voted to a conference president position six times before and said "no" every time.

Looking back now, I review the amazing things that have happened: a few months of frightening tithe loss, then a tremendous last few months of tithe gain to save the year financially. Praise the Lord for the faithful giving of the NUC people. Also the second half of the year was one of the best ever in terms of baptisms and professions of faith. God has done marvelous things in the NUC. We have now filled 12 of the 13 positions that were open

"I'm excited about the possibilities that this year has in store for us. A wise person once told me it's not a bad idea to reflect on the previous year before you launch into the new one, so here we go."

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the previous page*

*“To hear the
enthusiasm of
the students
and teachers
as they shared
goals and
plans for
the future of
their school
was just
refreshing.”*

when I got here and that is a huge blessing. It is hard to fill two positions a month in a conference of limited staff, so once again I am thankful.

In November of 2014 we had a pastor’s meeting that I was truly blessed to be a part of. One of the main concerns was that we had a lot of stipend pastors, so I shared with them some of my goals for 2015. Many of which we have already implemented. While not the entire package I had hoped for, we were still able to make some gains in rewarding these men for their dedication. Praise God. We believe these pastors will continue to be positive in helping their members support the work of God’s church to the point that eventually these will become full time positions.

Now let me share with you what’s been happening since my last article. In the middle of December I had the privilege of preaching and fellowshiping with the Sparks church. It was a pleasure to be in this church and the first time I’ve spoken for a worship service in the immediate Reno area since I’ve been here. After that, the holidays came and I got to spend some time with my family. It was my first time off in six months. I’m sure thankful my son chose Christmas time to get married or I would have probably worked six months straight without a single day off. That’s crazy, but there just seemed to be a lot of work to do. This year, my goal is to try to take at least two Sundays off every month. We’ll see how that goes.

On January 3, I had the joy of preaching and worshiping with the Wasatch Hills Church in Salt Lake City. I had a wonderful time as I attended Pastor Adam Case’s brand new pastor’s Sabbath School class. They are reviewing the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day

Adventist church. I also had the privilege of visiting Summit Christian Academy that week and it was a real blessing. To hear the enthusiasm of the students and teachers as they shared goals and plans for the future of their school was just refreshing. I want to thank the staff for leading our young people into a deeper, richer relationship with God.

That same week I got to attend our Utah area pastors meeting and our Las Vegas area pastors meeting. Great plans were shared on how these churches would work together to fulfill God’s plans for growth in these communities. It was a blessing to witness the positive spirit of willingness to go where God leads. With leaders and pastors like this our churches are in safe hands.

On January 10, I spoke at the Fallon church and it just happened to be the Sabbath before the church was starting a lay-driven evangelistic meeting. I was truly impressed with the enthusiasm to which these members are working towards reaching their community for Christ. I had a wonderful fellowship meal and then spent some time with the members afterwards answering questions and trying to plan out a course that would lead to a more thriving church in that community.

Then on January 22, the moving van finally arrived to unload my furniture and other items at my home in Reno. I had been sleeping on an air mattress for three months before that and that was starting to get a little old. So while I’ve lived in Reno since August, I’ve been doing it out of a suitcase most of the time. Praise the Lord it’s all finally starting to come together.

January 24 was a high day for the leaders of the Las Vegas area churches as we participated in a Church Leader’s training workshop planned by



Elder David Solomon Hall, Sr., and his staff. A variety of workshops were offered to help local treasurers, elders, clerks, Sabbath school teachers, division leaders and many others do a more effective job in their churches.

That morning I spoke at the Paradise church where Pastors Peter Neri and Julio Juarez lead the ministry of the local church. I was very thankful to see the members of this church so positive and engaged in all forms of ministry. One of the highlights of the morning service was when the local Pathfinder club received a plaque for its achievements at the National Bible Bowl for the NAD. I pray God will continue to bless the Paradise Church and its mission in Las Vegas.

From January 29 through February 1 the NUC executive committee met in Layton, Utah, to conduct our normally scheduled committee meetings and to also have time to get to know each other a little better. We worshiped together, prayed together, sang together, and most importantly, came together to work for the future of the NUC. We were privileged to have Elder Arnold Trujillo lead us in a three-part series that he called “Waves of Grace.” The entire group was moved by these inspired messages.

We were also privileged to have Jonn and Carol Jordana and their son Chandler lead in the music and worship time, along with our very own Carlos Camacho. The beautiful music led us closer to the throne of God.

On Sabbath afternoon January 31, I and most of the committee had the joy of worshipping with The Community Vineyard company outreach in Ogden, which is just a short drive away from where we were having our Executive Committee meetings. It was wonderful to see this group sing, praise God and share testimonies of His rich blessings. It was also great to hear a message on the Sabbath from Pastor Matt Hallam. He



ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

“He reminded us of how over-committed we tend to be to our electronic devices, such as phones, iPads, computers, etc. I was thankful for that message because my phone rings incessantly and he made me realize that if I’m going to connect with God on a deep level, I need to shut it off from time to time.”

reminded us of how over-committed we tend to be to our electronic devices, such as phones, iPads, computers, etc. I was thankful for that message because my phone rings incessantly and he made me realize that if I’m going to connect with God on a deep level, I need to shut it off from time to time. Thank you Pastor Hallam.

Finally, I’d like to conclude this article by sharing with you my vision for the NUC during this quadrennium. Some years ago, a dear friend of mine used his last name as an acronym for making the Conference he was leading a better, more successful organization. So today I’d like to share with you a vision that I

have for the NUC.

1. **K**eping: I believe one of the most important things that we sometimes neglect to do as a church is care for our own members. The first part of my vision for the NUC is to keep our members growing spiritually. Also to keep them actively engaged in the work of the ministry and mission of the church. There is a lot of emphasis these days (and rightfully so)

“This is the first component of discipleship. Let’s work to keep our NUC members active in ministry, and growing spiritually.”

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on discipleship. This is the first component of discipleship. Let's work to keep our NUC members active in ministry and growing spiritually.

2. **E**ducating: The second part of the vision I have for this conference is in the area of education. We need to strengthen our schools and make them a major emphasis in order to help our children prepare for their future careers, and more importantly, for their future in God's Kingdom. Our schools must help our young people academically, emotionally and socially, but their highest calling is to help students experience a deep relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

3. **Y**outh/Young Adult: Finally, after many debates and discussions, the church realizes that in order to reach a group that has been disappearing from our church for many years, we need to put an emphasis on the youth/young adult group. As a



CHRISTIAN THINISTOCK

“... we have not really done very much for the older 20-30-year-old age group. Now is the time for us to reach out to this group ...”

church we have always worked hard to keep our youth with activities - academies, camps, etc. - but we have not really done very much for the older 20-30-year-old age group. Now is the time for us to reach out to this group as well as not neglect our youth in the process.

4. **E**vanglizing: Soul-winning is the “life-blood” of the church, without which the church would eventually die. I am truly a believer in evangelism in every possible way: from VBS to Sabbath school, from small groups to passing out literature, from social events to full-scale evangelistic meetings. We need to try anything and everything we can to bring people into the family of God. Every church

needs to be a lifesaving station. My vision for the NUC is to see all of our churches more fully involved in the work of saving souls for Jesus.

5. **S**tewardship: Finally, the last part of this vision for the NUC is to see our churches get back to what made them great, and that's

giving. Of course that includes tithing, and local and mission giving, but it also includes giving of time to the Lord's work, and giving of talent to the church as well. The reason we give time, talent and treasure is because God gave it all for us. He gave us everything. We just return a small portion back to Him. As we learn to be good stewards, God will bless us beyond belief. I have a saying I've used since I joined the church and it goes like this, “You can never out-give God.” I've proven that in my own life. While putting two kids completely through SDA schools - from second grade through a college degree - my wife and I double tithed and God blessed us in so many ways. I could write 10 books on all the blessings we've received.

May this vision become a reality to the portion of God's work known as the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

*In His Service,
Ed Keyes*

Upcoming EVENTS

March Madness Youth Outreach,
March 1-28
Abundant Life Church, Las Vegas

**Reno Area Church Ministries
Lay Leadership Training**
March 21 • Sparks SDA Church

Hispanic Lay Leadership Training
March 21
Reno/Sparks Hispanic SDA Church

**Asian-Pacific Evangelism &
Discipleship Seminar**
March 25 • Las Vegas

**Pacific Union
Pathfinder Bible Experience**
March 28

**Adventist West Point
of Evangelism**
April 5-8

ACS/Youth Leadership Symposium
April 17-19 • Las Vegas

Hispanic Convocation
May 15-16 • Reno

**Pacific Union Youth Mentor
Leadership Training**
May 23 • Phoenix, AZ

Pathfinder Camporee
September 10-13
Clear Creek Family Ranch,
Orderville, UT

Youth Rally 2015
October 9-10 • Las Vegas, NV

Teen Leadership Retreat
October 23-25

Men's Retreat
November 12-15 • Reno, NV

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.

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

God is here. God is at work.

A question I frequently ask my coworkers is, "Where do you see God at work in your own life and in our conference?"

This question leads to countless stories told of God's constant activity and faithfulness.

We know God is at work. Even in moments when we are unable to see it, we cling through faith to the reality that God is present and working on our behalf.

A biblical story I love to read over and over again of God's activity, beyond what we can see or imagine, is found in 2 Kings 6:8-23. This is the story of Elisha, his servant and the Syrian (Aramean) army.

It begins like this:

"⁸Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, 'I will set up my camp in such and such a place.'

⁹The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: 'Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.'¹⁰So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God.

Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he

was on his guard in such places.

¹¹This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, 'Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?'

¹²'None of us, my lord the king,' said one of his officers, 'but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in

your bedroom.'

¹³'Go, find out where he is,' the king ordered, 'so I can send men and capture him.' The report came back: 'He is in

Dothan.'¹⁴Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city."

The story continues with Elisha's servant rising in the morning, and I can imagine him stepping outside a small house to greet the morning, stretching his arms and giving praise to God for a new day, when in reality what he sees is warriors, horses and chariots, and he probably believes it is going to be a very bad day.

He races back in the house, wakes Elisha and tells him they are surrounded

and asks what they are going to do.

Elisha's response is a priceless glimpse into what it means to live, by faith, in the reality of God's constant activity. He says to his servant, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (v. 16).

I am sure Elisha's servant looked back and forth between the Syrian army and Elisha and thought fearfully to himself that Elisha was not dealing with reality. Archeologists tell us that most of Israel did not have chariots at that time. They were outnumbered, outmaneuvered and certainly had no weapons to match the Syrian army.

Elisha then prays the first of three prayers in this story. He prays that his servant's eyes will be opened to see that they are not alone.

God opened the servant's eyes to reveal a vast army

"Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

"As we begin a new year, may we have eyes to see what God is up to as we participate in His work."

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(Above) The conference administrators, (left to right) Verlon Strauss,

treasurer; Jonathan Park, executive secretary; and Sandra Roberts, president; congratulate the members of Azure Hills church on their faithful and steadfast contributions to ministry for the past 50 years. (Right) John Brunt, senior pastor of Azure Hills church, welcomes current and previous members as well as visitors to the church's 50th anniversary celebration.



PHOTOS CREDIT: ENNO MULLER

Azure Hills Church Celebrates 50 Years as a Church

It was standing room only at the Azure Hills church's 50th anniversary celebration. Current and previous staff joined with the members and visitors in remembering the past and anticipating God's leading in the future.

Conference officials attended also, including Sandra Roberts, president; Jonathan Park, executive secretary; and Verlon Strauss, treasurer.

"There is so much to celebrate today," said Roberts. "God has been so faithful in your midst for 50 years. It is a joy to celebrate with you."

The anniversary celebration took place on January 3. It included two similar worship services, a Sabbath school program between the services, a luncheon, an afternoon concert and a social that evening.

As the first service began, the seats quickly started filling up. A group of young people formed a string orchestra to join in the praise and worship. Following the announcements, Roy Ice, young adult pastor at the Loma Linda University church, told the children's story. Carmen Ibanez, director of Pine Springs Ranch, told it at the second service.

The conference officials followed by congratulating the members and affirming the church's place in the community.

"This church became a relevant church. Instead of being exclusive, it became inclusive," said Park, in reference

to the church's previously having been a country club.

Darcy McNaboe, the recently elected mayor of Grand Terrace, presented the church with a proclamation on behalf of the city council, commending the church for its work in the community.

"You were here before the founding of our city," she said. "And I believe it is absolutely no coincidence that the specialness of our city comes from this community. . . . I am witness to what this community does for the city of Grand Terrace by being here."

Following her address, a video was shown recounting the history of the Azure Hills church. Before Adventists bought the property, it was known as the Azure Hills Country Club, with 22 acres of land that included a nine-hole golf course, a swimming pool, tennis facilities and a banquet hall.

In mid-1964 the country club filed for bankruptcy. Don Gray, evangelist, had previously been to the establishment inquiring about the possibility of renting the space, but when the opportunity to buy presented itself, he took the plan to John Osborne, who at that time was the president of Southeastern California Conference, and Harry Schneider, who was treasurer. Through faith and the tireless efforts of these men, along with Adventist laypeople working together, the property was soon bought and the church was formed. By January 1, 1965, charter members began meeting in their new church.

The service culminated with a reflection on Psalm 115 by John Brunt, senior pastor of Azure Hills church. His sermon was titled "Celebrate. Anticipate." He mentioned that Azure Hills has always been an inclusive church. The church has much to celebrate in terms of its multigenerational demographic.

But inasmuch as there is a lot to celebrate, there is much more to anticipate.

"We do not only celebrate, but we anticipate," said Brunt. "Yes, ultimately the coming of Jesus, but also the children and youth who grow up in the congregation. They will be a light to future generations."

With the church as packed as it was, it was a small miracle that more than 750 people were able to participate in the luncheon after church. It was a joyous and festive occasion as previous pastors, staff and charter members mingled with new members and visitors alike.

"I liked how this church has stayed kid-centric," said Lili Mata, a former member who attended from 1976 to 1993. "The memories for me are centered on kids, and the church is still like that."

Norma Huckaby, a member for 50 years, confirms this.

"I love the fellowship of this church," she said. "I also love how a lot of young people are always active in the church. It helps keeps us young."

By Mario A. Munoz

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“We know God is at work. Even in moments when we are unable see it...”

of horses and chariots of fire much larger than the Syrian army. It was God’s army! God was already there. The servant hadn’t seen it, but God’s army had their backs and had already surrounded the enemy.

Elisha then prays a second prayer. He prays that God will close the eyes of the Syrian army, and they are immediately blinded. Elisha invites them to follow him, and he leads this blind army to Samaria into the presence of the king of Israel.

Elisha prays a third prayer. He prays for God to open the warriors’ eyes, and they see they have been led right into a trap. The king asks Elisha if he should kill them, and Elisha instructs him to provide hospitality and then send them on their way. The story ends by telling us, “So the bands from Aram stopped

raiding Israel’s territory” (v. 23).

What an amazing story of God’s activity. Elisha’s servant got a rare glimpse of the unseen work that God was doing.

God is always here. God is always at work.

As we begin a new year, may we have eyes to see what God is up to as we participate in His work. And when we cannot see, when we cannot discern where God is, may we, by faith, claim and cling to the promise that He is here! And remember, “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (v. 16).

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President

**All scripture used in this article is from the New International Version of the Bible.*

Upcoming Events

Volverte a Enamorar (March 13-15) Hampton Inn and Suites, 4250 Riverwalk Prkwy., Riverside. Hispanic family ministries is hosting this retreat. Info: 951-509-2333.



34th Annual Advanced Handbell Festival

Concert (March 13) 7 p.m., La Sierra University Alumni Pavilion, 4500 Riverwalk Prkwy. All are invited to come enjoy the concert. Info: Mandi Staples, 951-509-2321.

“Journey to the Land Down Under” (March 14) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St, Loma Linda. A part of the semi-annual animal vespers programs the church will present “Going Down Under: A Journey Through Australia.”

VBS Training Workshop (March 8, 15) This is a training for Vacation Bible School leaders. Palm Springs church, 620 S Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, will host the workshop on March 8 at 9 a.m. Arlington church, 8778 Magnolia Ave, Riverside, will host the workshop on March 15 at 9 a.m. To register visit, www.seccyouth.com, or contact Liz Adams, 951-509-2260.

Mini-Day-Long-Retreat for Retirees (March 19) 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Paradise Village, 2700 East 4th St., National City. The free retreat includes bus transportation to Palm Springs, Loma Linda and La Sierra. Registration is required before March 6. To RSVP: call, 619-399-5425, or email, hbennett@liveatparadise.com.

Pathfinder Teen ‘Reward’ River Trip (March 26-29) The SECC teen river trip is a reward trip for teen leaders. Info: visit www.seccyouth.com, or contact Judi Jeffreys, 951-509-2265.

Mr. and Mrs. Ministry (3M) (Month of March) Mt. Rubidoux church, 5320 Victoria Ave., Riverside 3M is a group designed to help married couples mature spiritually and explore different dimensions of marital security and friendship. Info: 951-276-8374.

FACES OF SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

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

RICARDO HUERTA

Ricardo Huerta and Misael De La Cruz, former SECC pastors, made big impacts on the Hispanic community in SECC. Huerta began work in this conference as a literature evangelist. He eventually pastored several churches here. He ministered for over 33 years to countless people. De La Cruz pastored several SECC churches, his last



being the San Bernardino Spanish church. He worked for the Church for 30 years. Both pastors demonstrated incredible amounts of passion for souls and were always looking for ways to involve their members in new and effective ways to proclaim the gospel in their churches. These pastors are deeply missed since they passed in 2014, both battling cancer.



MISAEL DE LA CRUZ

Decorated in Christmas lights, 100s of Pathfinders march with the Palm Springs church float in the 2014 Palm Springs Festival of Lights.



Guardian Angel Awarded to Palm Springs Church

The Palm Springs church won the 23rd annual Guardian Angel award for their entry to the 2014 Palm Springs Festival of Lights. Over 80 entries participated in the festival, and an estimated 100,000 spectators were on hand to view the parade.

Since 1992, the city of Palm Springs has been holding the festival as a way to bring the community together to celebrate the season. Although it was started by a small community group, it has grown to be a large attraction to people of the region, as well as individuals far away.

In 2013, the church won the coveted Guardian Angel award which is awarded to the best overall presentation. However, they set their sights to

December 6, 2014 to see if they could retain the prize. Volunteers at the church got to work.

"The float was constructed over a three week period by Palm Springs church members out of wood and drywall," said Roy Rantung, youth pastor of the Palm Springs church. "Dimas Lara was our float director, and is also our Pathfinder director. The flatbed trailer that the float structure was built on was loaned to us by the conference youth department."

Desert Adventist Academy contributed financially to the cost of building the float, and some of the students helped with the puppets on the float. In addition, there were over 100 Pathfinders marching alongside

it, decorated with Christmas lights covering their uniforms.

Participating clubs included those from Palm Springs, Palm Springs Filipino-American, Indio Spanish and Los Angeles Spanish-American churches.

Being a secular parade, the church took a risk by setting a nativity scene as the centerpiece of the float, as well as playing Christian music which was quite a contrast to the secular music played by other participants.

Without an Adventist high school in the region, many of the Adventist youth who participated in the march were seen by their peers in public schools.

"As a youth pastor, I am glad for this discomfort because by taking them out of their comfort zone is how their faith will grow," said Rantung.

The church's participation in the event is meant to change the paradigm of trying to get people from the community to come to a church. By reversing the mindset, the church

is going out to participate and engage with the community.

By Mario A. Munoz

(Far left) Students from Desert Adventist Academy serve as puppeteers during the parade. (Left) The nativity scene is front and center of the float.



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

MARCH 2015

KEEPING *intouch*



President Larry L. Caviness and
Linda Caviness, PhD

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Evangelism



Farewell to SCC

Serving you, the members of the Southern California Conference (SCC), for the past 17-plus years has been a true pleasure. It has been a wonderful time of happy experiences and evidences of God’s presence and power in our churches and schools and in the personal lives of many members. Your letters, emails and calls telling of your prayers of support have boosted our strength during especially difficult times.

Though there have been some big challenges—knotty problems—and some things are still not completely solved or resolved, we have worked together with God’s grace and support. Along the way, many new friends have become imprinted upon our hearts and we will treasure your love forever.

Our approaching retirement reminds us of the folly in a prayer we prayed when we first committed our lives to God’s ministry: “Father, we will go wherever you want us to go, but please don’t send us to Southern California. And, by the way, we would really appreciate a call to the Pacific Northwest.” An all-knowing Heavenly Father decided to answer that prayer in His own way. A call never came from the North Pacific, and God knew that SCC

and its membership would graciously work with us in His holy commission. We have grown with you; we have been stretched with you. With much gratitude, we look back with deep respect and much appreciation for the time spent with you. Our stint here has been longer than in any other assignment, and we are glad that is so.

Soon it will be time for us to retire. On May 17, 2015, delegates from each church will elect the new administrative team for SCC. As we approach that day, I wish to leave three suggestions with you:

- 1) Pray for God to lead the nominating committee as they select the nominees. There are no *perfect* leaders but there are *right* leaders for this time. God knows who should be selected. Pray for the committee members to seek His will, not their own.
- 2) Resist getting caught up in political maneuvering to get your choice into office. Pray and allow God to lead in the selection and election of leadership. Each delegate has a voice in the selection, and each voice has a right to be heard. May each delegate

be tuned to *God’s* will for leadership for the next four years.

- 3) Give your support to the new administration as you have given it to me. That support has been a profound strength in this conference. This is not to say you may not disagree with leadership, but do so respectfully—in true Christian spirit. Be up front with your thoughts and ideas—not undermining and working behind the leaders’ backs.

As we transition to another place and other responsibilities, we leave you with Moses’ words as he left the leadership of Israel:

There is no one like the God of Jeshurun (Israel), Who rides the heavens to help you... in His excellency on the clouds. The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deut. 33:26,27

*The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine upon you
And be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
And give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26.*

Larry and Linda Caviness

“Evangelistic Sunday School” OFFERS WHOLE-PERSON FOOD

by Abel Rosario

“I’m low on funds for groceries,” said one visitor. “This food pantry means a lot to me—without it I would go hungry.”

“I’m on a limited income and have four children, with no help from the kids’ father,” said a woman. “This is a wonderful program. Thanks!”

These are some of the testimonies about the food pantry ministry, “A.D. Venir Pan de Vida” (Bread of Life Cometh), at the Canoga Park Spanish church. The church has been sponsoring the pantry on Sundays since the congregation moved to its new church building. Carlos Del Toro

is the president of the ministry. “This ministry is helping to lay a foundation for the church’s evangelistic plans,” said Carlos Del Toro, president of food pantry. “We are rejoicing in the name of the Lord by winning souls for Christ.”

“On Sundays at 8:00 a.m., more than 100 persons arrive at Venir Pan de Vida,” said Javier Caceres, the church’s pastor, “and they stay until 11. This

ministry is an evangelistic outreach. We announce the program as Evangelistic Sunday School. During the visitors’ stay, they listen to the preaching service, have a meal and then leave with a box of fresh produce and other items. Five people are ready for baptism (as of Jan. 29) and we are making home visits and studying with others. We are grateful for the Lord’s blessings!”



A woman makes her selection at the Food Pantry tables.



Some of the community visitors who attend Evangelistic Sunday School each week.

Photos by Abel Rosario

In Transition

(Voted 4th Quarter, 2014; Jan. 2015)

New Employees

(Voted 11/19/14)

Isamu Udagawa

Principal, Iruka Yochien Pre-School as of Nov. 1, 2014

Changes within the Conference

(Voted 10/23/14)

Vasco Brown

From Pastor, L. A. Central City church, to Assoc. Pastor, Norwalk church, as of Oct. 16, 2014

Choong Hwan Lee

(Voted 11/19/14)

From Pastor, Hacienda Korean church, to Director, Korean Adventist Press KAYAMN, as of Nov. 1, 2014

Royal Harrison

(Voted 12/10/14)

From, Pastor, Valley Crossroads church, to Region Director, Greater Los Angeles Region/Pastor, Valley Crossroads church, as of Dec. 9, 2014

Leaving Conference

(Voted 11/19/14)

Teruo Tomita

From Principal, Iruka Yochien Pre-school

(Voted 12/10/14)

Michael Brownfield

From Associate Pastor, Thousand Oaks church, as of Dec. 31, 2014

(Voted 1/14/15)

Louis Petit-Frere

From Pastor, Tamarind Avenue church, as of Jan. 15, 2015

Deceased

Anthony Kelly

From Director, Greater Los Angeles Region. Nov. 1, 2014

BREATH OF LIFE CHURCH

Conducts Mission-Trip Ministry

by Fedly Bonneau

The Breath of Life (BOL) Community Services department was at it once again, this time from the shores of Kingston, Jamaica. “I was scared to tell the people we were going to Jamaica,” said Antoinette Simpson, “because they might think we were going on a vacation instead of a mission trip.”

This was no vacation for the BOL team, which included Heaven McCoy, Glenda LeFlore, Louise Bennett, Candy Rivera, a member of the Eagle Rock church; and Fedly Bonneau, BOL associate pastor; as well as Simpson. The mission actually started here in Los Angeles where the team was busy collecting clothes, food, furniture and other items, then packing and sending them by container to Kingston. The team learned about the Good Samaritan Inn in Jamaica, a place where indigenous street people in Kingston can have a shower, eat a meal and spend a night.

The team was able to offer a free clinic at the Good Samaritan Inn, thanks to LeFlore and Rivera, a nurse practitioner and a nurse, respectively,

in Los Angeles. “I was almost in tears when I arrived at the Kingston airport and customs seized all the medications that I had brought,” said Leflore. “But by God’s grace, we were able to retrieve 95% of them and gave it to the people where it was most needed.”

The team spent 10 days working with the East Jamaica conference in Kingston. “We arrived at the Inn one morning to learn that a fire the night before had displaced nine families,” said Louise Bennett. “The BOL team sprang into action, buying food, basics and “goodie” bags for each of the family members, a total of 25 people.

“I thought the fire losses were the saddest thing that could happen,” said Heaven McCoy, “until we met a 13-year-

old girl who had just had a baby. That opened up my eyes to the depth of need there.” Once again, the team was able to supply: diapers, food, clothes and medicine were given to the young lady and her baby.

The BOL team was also called upon to bring



Team members provided clinic services at the Inn during the mission trip.

Photo by Fedly Bonneau

spiritual food to the people. Fedly Bonneau preached both Sabbaths at two different churches. “They picked me up Friday evening,” said Bonneau, “When I was informed that I would be preaching the next day at a church, I started praying.” The team was also able to supply material to finish a section of the Good Samaritan Inn, where lessons on hair grooming would be given.

“We were moving metal scraps, sanding and painting the walls—it was fun!” said Rivera. Throughout their stay, the BOL mission team reminded the people of Kingston that they are loved and thought about in Southern California Conference. The team will be heading to Olongapo, the Philippines April 12–26, 2015 and is looking forward to the stories they will bring back. They invite readers who would like to learn more about the church’s mission trips by contacting them at breathcommunication@gmail.com.



The BOL Mission Team help finish a section of the Good Samaritan Inn that will be used for lessons on hair grooming. Photo by Fedly Bonneau

SCC EVANGELISM



Samuel Lee,
Director

Asian Pacific Region

The **Glendale Filipino church** has prepared for its 2015 evangelism by organizing four new small groups, under the leadership of Mrs. Elda Boyd. The groups meet once each week. Members invite their non-Adventist friends for fellowship, friendship and Bible study. The Small Group meetings are preparing interests to attend the church's **Seven Weekends of Friendship Evangelism**, from Mar. 6 to Apr. 18, meeting only on Fridays and Saturdays. Apr. 4 and 11 are planned as baptism Sabbaths.

In preparation for the weekend evangelism, the church has been conducting a **CREATION Health Seminar** from Jan 15 to March 4, (on Wednesdays only) Led by Cody Coleman, J.R. Cahatol, Alix Lopez and Shekinah Diel.

The **Chino Hills Chinese church** is conducting a weekend youth evangelistic series (in English). Leo Silitonga is the speaker. The series is meeting Mar. 6-8 and 13-15 at 7:00 p.m. on Fri. and Sun.; and on Sabbaths, at 3:30, 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.



Gerard Kiemeny
Director

L. A. Metro Region

Some 30 pastors in the region attended a two-day training event for the **CREATION Health Seminar**, produced by **Florida Adventist Hospital**. At the conclusion of the training the pastors were certified to conduct the series in their churches. The **CREATION Seminar** has been effective in reaching a wide number of community groups and service organizations including police and fire departments. The certification will enable pastors to develop their churches as **"Centers for Health and Healing."**

Hispanic Region

Metropolitan evangelism will start Mar. 28 and finish Apr. 11. Simultaneously, around 40 churches will be involved in this effort. The metropolitan campaign will end Apr. 11 in the morning; from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., an intensive training for pastors and laity will be held at the **White Memorial church**. Evangelist Alejandro Bullon will be the primary instructor. The intensive training will continue every evening from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and end on Wed., Apr. 15.



Luis Peña
Director



Richard Roethbler
Director

West Region

A 10-night seminar series at the **Burbank church** started Feb. 21. It will be followed in the Burbank and Culver City churches by the **Eight Weeks to Wellness series**, in the spring.

On Mar. 7, Hans Diehl, DrHSc, Lifestyle Medicine Institute director, will present a lecture series entitled, "Life at Its Best," at the **Camarillo church**.

A Reconnect activity at the **Ridgecrest church** includes social and game activities on Saturday nights.

Because of a large donation, the **Thousand Oaks church** will present a number of health lectures in the local Civic Arts Plaza. "This is seen as a great way to brand the Adventist church in the Conejo Valley," said Pastor Larry Meager. "Friends and interested persons from the events will be invited to smaller lectures at the church."

Tehachapi Pastor Erwin Joham has authored a book on creationism vs. evolution. After a local newspaper wrote about the book, some readers attended his lectures on the subject.

Pastor John Aitken will conclude his **"Buried Blueprints: Excavating the Prophecies of Daniel"** (series) at the **Van Nuys church** on Mar. 7. The series has run from Jan. 31, on Friday and Saturday evenings. Emphasis was placed on each member praying for one specific person and inviting them to the presentations.



Heidi Carpenter
director

Literature Evangelism Dept.

"CROSS Trainers" have been at work in four churches since September. Already, over 35 members have specifically set out to be trained in giving Bible studies, finding Bible study interests, and genuine friend-making! The goal of each **CROSS Trainer** is to develop a core of members who feel confident connecting with people spiritually and who can share the Bible in a Christ-centered, understandable way. Our prayer and goal is to ultimately help others make decisions for Jesus through loving friendships and a clear study of God's word. Our motto: **Every member a soul-winner!**