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about the cover

The Middletown church and school grounds did not burn in the Valley Fire, but the flames reached the perimeter on all sides, visible here along the treeline behind the swingset.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE LEAL



recorder

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Rejoice always, pray continually, give

thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)

The Thanksqiving holiday time is almost here. The day after Thanksgiving is traditionally the kickoff of the Christmas sales season, where retailers hope to get their books back in the black. These holidays have become so commercialized that there is little resemblance to my early childhood memories.

Thanksgiving was a time to get together with aunts, uncles, cousins and other friends. We spent the day enjoying one another's company. Thanksgiving dinner had many special treats that were only served during this special time. As our family gathered around the table, we took time to reflect on special blessings we received during the year. As a Pathfinder, I would go door-to-door collecting food to make holiday baskets for those in need.

In reflecting on these memories, current events come to mind. I have much to be thankful for from a health perspective. I am reminded every day of where I have been and where I am now, and the Lord has been so wonderful. There have been days when trying to be thankful has been difficult, but I have come to realize that my situation has changed so much that the issues now seem only to be minor annoyances.

Paul had a physical challenge, and he pleaded for the thorn to be removed from his flesh. However, the Lord told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NIV).

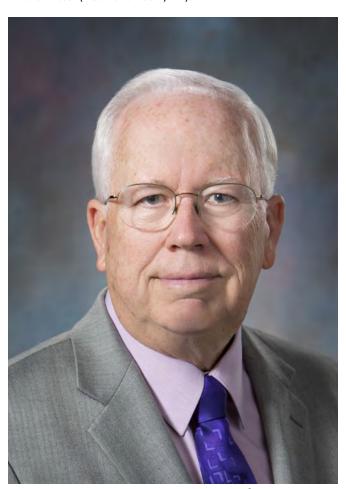
I am thankful for the many faithful pastors and Bible workers who are on the front lines every day making a difference in their communities and congregations; for community health initiatives that require many working together to make a difference in people's lives; for church members giving their time as volunteers in the communities where there have been disasters; for the church and school structures that have been spared as parts of our territory have been ravaged by fires.

Consider taking time to help in service projects that will be a benefit to others. You will be blessed as you give of your time to help someone else. If you can't share your time, share your resources. Adventist Community Services needs funds to provide supplies for communities in crisis. You can donate through your church or online at communityservices.org.

There are many great organizations that appeal for your funds, but when you donate through the church, your gifts are carefully put to work, and the entire amount of your gift is applied to the project rather than to administrative costs and overhead.

During this season of the year, as you reflect on what the Lord has done in your life, consider passing the blessing on to others.

"Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God" (2 Corinthians 9:11, NLT).



Theodore Benson

NCC Members Help Those Affected by Devastating Fires

uring much of September, the Butte and Valley fires wreaked havoc on large areas of Northern California, burning almost 147,000 acres, destroying more than 2,700 structures and claiming five lives, including that of Bruce Burns, a Middletown church member who died in the Valley fire. Dozens of NCC church members found themselves homeless.

Throughout the conference territory, people gave — and continue to give — their time, money and resources to help each other and their communities. A few of the stories are recorded here, and more can be found at nccsda.com/fires.

Middletown Church – Caring for Their Own

During the mandatory evacuation of Middletown due to the Valley fire, church members received conflicting reports about the fate of the church and school buildings. When Pastor Ted Calkins was allowed back into the area, he was amazed to see how close the burn lines were to the property. "After observing the perimeter of our campus ... I had a breakdown of emotions — tears of joy for deliverance, and tears of sorrow to see the devastation surrounding the campus," said Calkins.

Church member Todd Fenk, a South Lake Fire Department volunteer, was one of the first to report that the church and school buildings were safe. He recorded a brief video of his visit and his joyful reaction despite already knowing that he and his family had lost their own home. "The Lord protected this, didn't He?" he said as the camera panned the church and school. The video has been viewed over 200,000 times on Facebook.

Fenk appreciates the ways his faith community has ministered to his family during this unsettled time. "God didn't bring the fire, but He can

A group of 30 members from the Spanish churches in Suisun City, Napa, Oakland and Vallejo serve a meal to more than 200 people in the fire-devastated area of Middletown.

bring a lot of good out of it. He's definitely doing that," he said. "People have stepped up to offer money, places to stay, clothes and food."

Those who lost their houses were invited into the homes of their church family. "This church has taken everybody in," said Middletown Adventist School teacher Ruth Witzel, who also lost her home. "We were a close church community before, but we're definitely closer now."

The school re-started classes a week earlier than other schools in town in order to help the kids get back to "normal" as soon as possible. When the teachers asked students to write about their experience in the fire, the children described their fears as they were evacuated, but also their appreciation. "We have been blessed with so many people wanting to help us," wrote one child.

When it was safe, the Middletown church opened its doors to serve as a shelter for about 50 American Red Cross volunteers. (Calkins' other church in Clearlake also served as a Red Cross shelter.)

Sutter Hill – Remembering the Animals

The Butte fire also caused terrible devastation in Amador and Calaveras counties. Some residents were fortunate enough to have time to take their animals out to safety. During the evacuation, Sutter Hill church members Bob Smith and Dorothy Stiegler-Smith hosted church friends and their animals on their 25-acre property, including dogs, cats, goats and chickens.

Unfortunately, other residents had to leave their farms so guickly that they didn't have time to evacuate their large animals. They opened the gates of the animals' enclosures and fled, hoping for the best. "The owners were agonizing over their animals," said Stiegler-Smith. When it was safe, farm animals from all around the countryside were rounded up and taken to a shelter. Bob — who owns a farrier school — organized a group of more than 25 students, former students and instructors to visit the shelter and trim the feet of horses, donkeys and mules. "Having their feet cared for was one less stress for the animals," said Stiegler-Smith.



Pathfinders add folders to backpacks to be donated to Lake County kids affected by the Valley fire.

"Everybody was so grateful." The Smiths plan to take care of unclaimed animals on their property when the temporary shelter closes.

The Olivers – Disaster Hits Home

Jim and Carolyn Oliver, the NCC disaster response team, were evacuated from their home during the Butte fire. Carolyn caught a glimpse of the fire's power as she served in her role as senior chaplain for a fire protection district. Her battalion chief asked her to accompany him as he checked on firefighters, and she was shocked. "I had never seen devastation like that," she said. The Olivers have worked in a variety of disaster and emergency situations, but "when it's at your backdoor, it's a whole new thing," said Carolyn. "What you're not prepared for is when it's people you know who are losing their homes." About 10 families from the Sutter Hill, San Andreas and Angels Camp churches lost their homes.

Lakeport Church – Organized to Help

During the Valley fire crisis, the Lakeport church became a giant Adventist Community Services Center, helping about 250 people each day. Some came for food, clothes and supplies, while others needed a place to stay. The church also housed firefighters and forestry personnel.

Shifts of volunteers manned the kitchen from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. — typically feeding about 25 people per meal. Kitchen volunteer Rose Ann Wood personally knows about 100 people who lost their homes in the fire. "I'm really thankful for what they're doing here," she said. "Volunteering is the least I can do to make my heart feel better."

The church's large fellowship hall and classroom wing became a distribution center for food, clothing, shoes, personal supplies, sleeping bags, blankets, baby equipment, toys and more. Companies donated new items, and many individuals gave used items in good condition. Everything had to be organized before it could be distributed, so the church balcony and foyer filled with clothes. By the time the fire was nearing containment, the church had five large tents on its property, full of sorted clothes, food and other items — plus many piles of unsorted items still inside the church facility.

Volunteers came from all over. "There's no way we could do this by ourselves," said Lakeport church member Rick Sagehorn. "Almost every day, we have a whole bunch of people from all kinds of churches and towns."

Several high school groups also came to help. A group of about 60 Rio Lindo Adventist Academy students spent a day helping to sort and organize items. And the 16-member senior class from Central Valley





During the Valley fire, donations fill the Lakeport church's foyer.

Christian Academy in Modesto gave up their senior survival weekend to help in Lakeport. They also presented a Sabbath worship service at the Middletown church and hosted a meal afterward.

While other distribution centers closed their doors in the weeks following the fire, the Adventist center stayed open, but in a new location — a 7,000-foot, donated storefront space in downtown Lakeport, designed to continue helping people as they found housing. When officials from Lake County visited, "they were highly impressed by how far ahead we had thought," said Seth Cantu, Upper Lake church Bible worker who manages the Lakeport distribution center. As a result, the county donated a large area in another downtown building where the Adventists can establish their storage and sorting operations, leaving the storefront space free for distribution.

Adventists in Action – A Vast Community of Support

Although the Angwin community never had to evacuate, Pacific Union College employees and students who lived in other places (as well as Adventist Health employees from St. Helena Hospital Clearlake) were forced to evacuate. The college offered rooms in a residence hall for people to stay, while college employees and church members opened up their homes, including a faculty member who offered to shelter pets. PUC church members served meals to those staying on campus, organized activities for children and collected items for local shelters.

Various church and school groups from Angwin and throughout the Napa Valley helped at the Calistoga fairgrounds shelter, sorting donations, serving food and cleaning. When the shelter was about to close, three vans full of PUC students traveled to Calistoga to help pack up supplies to send to other shelters. "The Red Cross was impressed with our service," said Denise Grant, assistant dean of women. "Our kids worked hard."

Just minutes from PUC, the Elmshaven church — known as "The Haven" — became another American Red Cross center, at one time housing more than 100 volunteers and staff in the church's community hall. Later, when the Red Cross needed office space, the church opened its Sabbath school rooms. "The church campus is buzzing with activity daily, and we have received site visits from Red Cross executives," said Executive Pastor Tony Parrish. "We are glad to represent the Adventist Church and be of assistance."

Communities from all across the conference wanted to help. To show their support for the people of Middletown, a group of 30 members from the Spanish congregations in Suisun City, Napa, Oakland and Vallejo served a meal to more than 200 people. "We know that at least half of the population of Middletown is Hispanic, so we wanted to give the meal a Latino flavor," said Jose Marin, NCC Hispanic Ministries coordinator.



NCC President Jim Pedersen (far right) and Assistant to the President Ed Fargusson (far left) receive updates regarding the Adventist donation center from kitchen organizer Liz Hotchkiss, Upper Lake church Bible worker Seth Cantu (on phone) and Lakeport church Pastor Randy Brehms.



A group from the Napa Community church and Napa Christian Campus of Education volunteers at the Calistoga fairgrounds.



The group set up tables in the heart of town and invited everyone to come for a meal — those who'd lost their homes, government workers and volunteers. The response was enthusiastic. "The people from Oakland prepared 1,000 pupusas — and they were all gone," said José Díaz, Napa Spanish/St. Helena Spanish district pastor.

NCC youth also showed their support. During their October camporee, Pathfinders packed school supplies into 200 backpacks as gifts to Lake County kids affected by the Valley fire. Clubs throughout the conference donated crayons, notebooks, rulers and other items for the backpacks that were embossed with the NCC Pathfinder logo. "As Pathfinders, it's important for us to give back to our communities," said NCC Youth Director Eddie Heinrich. "We thought this was a good project that would connect the Pathfinder kids with other kids that need help after these devastating fires." The backpacks were donated to an organization that distributed them to churches, schools and charitable organizations.

A Call to Serve – Help Still Needed

For the thousands of people struggling to put their lives back together, church members throughout the NCC will continue to provide assistance and support where it's needed. "This was what the Church was designed to do," said Randy Brehms, Lakeport church pastor. "This is the apostolic commission we have to provide for those in need."

"These fires and their awful consequences are potent reminders that we live in a fallen world," said NCC President Jim Pedersen. "We're eager for the day when Jesus will come and make everything right. Until that time, we want to be His representatives as we help those around us."

To find out more information, visit www.nccsda.com/fires. To donate to NCC Adventist Community Services, visit www.youcaring.com/ NCCCommunityServicesFireResponse or email info@nccsda.com.

Remembering Bruce Burns

The Valley fire claimed the life of Bruce Burns, a member of the Middletown church. Many people may remember Bruce from Redwood camp meeting, where he served as a member of the security team, usually on the overnight shift.

He leaves an empty place in his church community and in the hearts of those who knew him. "We will really miss Bruce," said Ted Calkins, Middletown church pastor. "His guiet, unassuming personality blessed us all with such a radiant smile. He had a hope in his Redeemer. He is resting in the blessed hope of the soon return of Jesus."

Those who knew him take comfort in the knowledge that they



"I studied with him, and he had a deep, personal relationship with our Creator God," said head elder Bill Cude. "I am especially heartbroken for his family and trust in a most compassionate God that has known loss and empathizes with those He calls sons and daughters."

will see him again

— although they

mourn for him now.

Bruce Burns

Julie Lorenz

High School Study Group Offers Insight and Hope

t was just another day at Sanger High School when twins Keysa and Kendra Miranda saw a student named David reading his Bible in class. They began talking with David, which led to a friendship that would change their public high school campus forever.

David and the twins frequently spoke about their faith in Jesus and their desire to share His love with their friends. These conversations led to the idea of starting a lunchtime Bible study, with some uncertainty as to whether the idea would work on their campus. They began praying, asking God to lead them. With the help of supportive parents, friends and staff, the study became a reality.

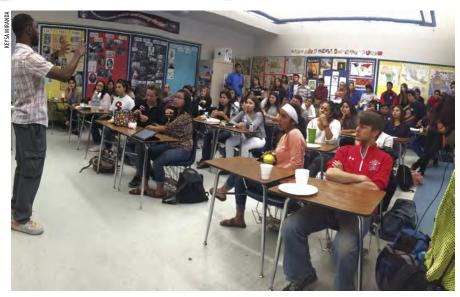
From there, the study group rapidly outgrew the initial room, forcing them to change locations. At times, more than 60 students attended. Parents sacrificed providing lunch for the growing group.

"In John 6:9, a young person brought the little he had, and Jesus used it to do something amazing," says Ezequiel Nichols, pastor of the Sanger church. "Instead of offering their food, the Miranda twins and their friends offered their lunchtime to Jesus, and He has been doing amazing things!"

After a few months, the group was recognized and named as an official club on campus, which will allow the student organizers to create fundraisers, put on events and plan outings. REACH Sanger High Bible Studies attracts students from various backgrounds and cultures who are finding practical answers to some of their most difficult questions. "It's giving me a stronger foundation and I'm able to dig deeper into the Word of God," shares Jessie, one of the students attending.

"It creates a brighter outlook on life," offers Kerris, another student who attends the study. "It has helped me stay on the path of righteousness."

"Our goal is to be a refuge for the students," say the Mirandas. "We know that the high school years are some of the most important times in our lives. We are making decisions that can really affect us. Our ultimate goal is to be



Pastor Maurice Graham delivers a message to Reach Sanger students.



REACH Sanger's leadership team, from left: treasurer Isaiah Cole, fundraiser Karina Armenta, vice president Keysa Miranda, president David Chavez, advertisement Eliza Hernandez, vice president Kendra Miranda, outreach coordinator Jenna Heinrichs.

messengers for God and to be a light to those around us." The twins and their crew have done just that. They recognize the need to lead by example so they have committed to read their Bibles every day.

Students continue to share testimonies of deliverance from various addictions and strength to face life's challenges. Youth leaders in the Central California Conference were thrilled to have Keysa and Kendra Miranda as a part of the Teen Bible Academy this summer. The twins

have returned to their campus more on fire than ever before.

The Mirandas frequently remind their friends that Jesus is "a Savior that can and will take all sin away, a best friend, comforter, and a merciful Father that loves every single student on campus no matter what they've done." And if the past is an indication of the future, they will have the chance to remind more and more students with each passing day.

Maurice Graham

Principal Becomes a Sundae to Remember at Oakhurst **Adventist Christian School**

t's not hard to imagine a giant ice cream sundae, but few people would think of "being" one.

On April 10, the students, faculty and parent-teacher organization at Oakhurst Adventist Christian School held their second annual walk-a-thon. Setting a goal of \$3,000, the two teachers (one of whom is also the principal) challenged the school's 14 K-8 students to do their best.

To provide something more enticing than a regular pizza party, the teachers, PTO leader and local pastor came up with different "prizes" to incentivize the students. If they collectively raised \$1,000, they'd be able to wrap the upper grade teacher in toilet paper like a mummy. At \$1,500, the PTO leader became a water balloon target and for \$2,500, the principal became a human ice cream sundae. The pastor agreed to do something silly if the students achieved their goal. The 14 students surpassed their goal, raising almost \$4,000.

The party that followed found Principal Sonya Reaves, sitting cross-legged in a kiddie pool covered in sundae toppings. "It was really sticky, [but] they were loving it," Reaves said.

"You pretend you're miserable and they love it even more." According to Reaves, the students still talk about the event. "They thought it was the funniest thing."

The proceeds from the event went toward the field trip fund for the following school year, 2015-2016, as well as new playground equipment and technological updates. The money also allowed the upper-grade students to participate in outdoor education at Camp Wawona that year.

Jessica Maynez



One CCC Employee Donates Kidney to Another

elflessness is one of the characteristics through which humanity can shine bright, even during the darkest times.

Diagnosed with the kidney disease glomeru-Ionephritis in 1984, Silvia Flores has been in need of a new kidney since she started taking daily dialysis treatments in 2012. This physical burden did not keep her from continuing her life. She stayed active in the church and at work. Over the past 15 years, Flores has worked at the Central California Conference office, most recently as director of the gift planning department.

Through that dedication, she met her answer to prayer. Bonnie Messimer was a co-worker

who befriended Flores over time. After hearing of Flores' health problems, she felt a burden to do something about it. For Messimer, that something was to offer Flores another chance at a normal life by donating one of her kidneys.

This generosity and love has created a union between the two that goes beyond the standard conception of human relationships and into the realm of divinely inspired. "I know in my heart God has chosen Bonnie specifically to be my donor," said Flores. "She is so excited for this whole process. I am so thankful."

In response to Messimer's selfless gift, Flores and her family have begun the long process of raising money to fund Messimer's pre- and

post-operation expenses. One of these fundraisers brought in more than \$2,500 by selling pupusas — a traditional Salvadorian dish and by having a garage sale.

Another effective way they are raising money is through the crowd funding website youcaring.com, which links viewers to pictures, videos and biographical information, as well as a place to donate to their cause. "I am blessed to be Silvia's donor," concludes Messimer. "I am more at peace with this decision than any other decision in my life."

James Montague



Silvia Flores (seated) and friends make pupusas to raise funds for Bonnie (right) Messimer's operation expenses.

Sunnyside Hosts Church in the Mountains

his August was no different that any other over the past two decades for the Sunnyside church. The congregation locked its doors and headed to the mountains on Sabbath, Aug. 15. The tradition started 21 years ago, when the then renting congregation was faced with a temporary but significant problem. Sunnyside's host church informed the Adventist congregation that it would be displaced for one week while a special event was held.

Local church leaders decided to spend their buildingless Sabbath in the mountains at Shaver Lake. The plan was to get the congregation together for a fun event. It would help to build friendships within the church, foster community and facilitate spiritual growth.

Ron Fitzgerald, church treasurer, remembers it being a cloudy but beautiful day. "Our small congregation had Sabbath school and worship service in a newly-constructed community chapel on Highway 168," recalls Fitzgerald with fondness. "We had a family-style potluck in the picnic area behind the chapel. Then we all drove over to the lake to spend the afternoon

together. We knew we had experienced something special that day in terms of our fellowship and worship. It gave us time to enjoy God's country, worship together, and sit in wonder of His creation, such as the magnificent sight of the ospreys making their nests."

Decades later, leaders continue to find value in the annual outing. "From the moment we arrive, the spirit of God's love can be felt and experienced," reflects Desrie van Putten,

head elder. "What a blessing. The delicious and abundant potluck spread, the inspiring

> baptisms, happy voices and laughter of our children and the restful boat rides makes for a time of real fellowship."

environment," explains tionship with God."

Shelly Clement has been a member of Sunnyside for over four years and this

in the lake. "It's like when you go on a little weekend getaway with your family; you refresh and regroup, resulting in inspiration and rejuvenation," shared Clemet. Gilpin was among nine people who were baptized or re-baptized this year in Shaver Lake.

When that initial small group made the first trip to Shaver, they never imagined the rich tradition that God would create through them. Now, more than 250 members, family and friends attend and anticipate each year's event.

"There are so many aspects of the annual Shaver Sabbath that make it special," concludes Dennis Ray, senior pastor. "My favorite aspect of Shaver is the baptisms in the lake. In my 15-plus years at Sunnyside, we've never failed to have at least one person dedicate their life to Christ in the cool waters of Shaver Lake. There is something truly transcendent about the body of Christ gathered on a lakeshore to cheer and applaud as a fellow believer comes out of the water. You can't beat that!"



This was the first vear for some to experience the event. "When you get to know someone in a casual and relaxed Tom Gearing, recently appointed youth pastor, "it makes it easier to share and talk about our rela-



Pastors Dennis Ray (left) and Tom Gearing with Clarissa Hurtado, one of nine baptized in Shaver Lake.

Angela Reijnders

The Pipelines of Loma Linda University Health: Motivating and Preparing Students for the Health Professions

f our ultimate goal at Loma Linda University Health is to produce quality, principled health professionals, with our values embedded deep in their souls, this process must begin early in young lives.

Over the past several decades, we have developed a variety of programs that help create a pipeline of potential health professionals and future Loma Linda students. Let me share about our six different programs, starting with the youngest students.

La Escuelita started some 15 years ago as our students, particularly in the first two years of medical school, sought to impact the local

community. They worked through our CKC (Community Kids Connection) program based at the SAC Health System clinic in San Bernardino. Local parents were contacted and offered tutoring for their grade-school children. After some initial hesitancy, the program took off, now with over 100 of our students spending time each week, mainly with first-through eighth-graders, helping them with homework, swapping stories and providing invaluable mentoring to kids from tough neighborhoods.

MITHS, Minority Introduction to the Health Sciences, was designed to acquaint young Adventist African-American students with

careers in the health professions. Fifteen to 25 motivated students each summer come from across this country to spend three weeks on our campus. They study under our professors, stay in our residence halls, spend time in our labs and clinics, sharpen their reading and science skills, and observe the life and excitement of the healing professions up close. This program has produced rich dividends, with graduates now having gone on to complete their full professional training in many of our schools. The young lives impacted will benefit us all for decades to come.



High school students who participated in the 2015 Gateway program at Loma Linda University Health attended a lecture at the School of Pharmacy. After learning about compounding (combining, mixing or altering ingredients of a drug to create a medication tailored to the needs of an individual patient), they completed a lab where they used several components to create individual tubes of lip balm.

Si Se Puede (Yes You Can) started soon after MITHS, with a focus on local Hispanic high school students with an interest in health professions. This program gradually expanded, initially to Native American and African-American youth, and more recently to all disadvantaged groups. Renamed Summer Gateway Program in 2012, it rotates these students through various activities over three weeks, exposing them to a wide variety of health careers. We graduated 61 students this year, bringing the total to over 642 who have gone through this training since 2005. Particularly exciting were the eight Native American students from reservations across this country who participated this year, staying in the homes of local church families. They are the hope and promise for their local communities.

The Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine is part of our School of Medicine. With major funding from the National Institutes of Health, it is one of the largest and most successful programs of this type in the nation. One aspect of the center is encouraging minority students to launch careers in science, and specifically research. The center offers summer "employment" to around 60 students each year, coming from high schools, colleges and gradu-

ate programs. They work alongside our researchers, tackling real questions under analysis in the labs. With this experience, they mature quickly with pride in their accomplishments. Their graduation, with proud parents and professors attending, is one of the true highlights of each summer.

San Manuel Gateway College, our newest program, is taking shape. This will occupy the third floor of our new Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino campus, scheduled for completion by mid-2016. The San Manuel Gateway College will offer a

variety of certificate programs to high school graduates, giving them job-entry skills that can bring income to their families and offer a path out of poverty. Our expectation is that some will choose to continue their studies into degree programs in the health professions, joining a desperately needed local cadre of professionals with cultural sensitivity and skills relating to minority groups.

Each of these programs has a particular focus, an audience we hope to reach and impact. We are blessed with these connections, and the thankfulness shared in the eyes and hugs of parents and students is payment enough. We have over 11,000 applicants each year seeking one of the 2,000 openings to our degree programs, and believe these pipeline programs strengthen that pool in significant ways.

EXSEED (Excellence in STEM Experiential Education) is a bit different from the other programs, as it focuses on elementary and secondary teachers, giving them the motivation and skills to fulfill one of the most important roles in our society — educating our children. We just completed our fifth summer of EXSEED, with about 100 teachers from across North America and Jamaica. Started initially for Adventist

secondary school teachers, it has expanded, and this year included 17 local high school science teachers. An intense week of rotating through research labs, discovering new educational strategies, learning to innovate with their new iPads, and developing relationships with colleagues makes up the EXSEED experience. A donor has generously funded the expansion of this program, so new ideas are being considered to extend its influence.

Are these programs an appropriate activity for an academic health sciences center? I think so, particularly as we seek to strengthen our local school systems and support the Adventist educational system around the world.

What better way to enhance our "pipelines" than to bring promising students to us, giving them greater knowledge of health for themselves and their families, brighter prospects for the future and a better sense of purpose in this world — perhaps to return to us again as fulltime students in the future.

> Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health



The summer program at the LLU Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine culminates in a symposium where students present the results of their research.

A group of eight members of the La Sierra University church camp in the Ansel Adams Wilderness.



Chang-Ho Ji, father of Ivan Ji (not pictured), hikes through the Ansel Adams Wilderness.



Pictured from left to right: Erin Woosley, Steven Vanderburg, Shekinah Inalvez, Rhea Cunanan, Vanesa Torres, Chang-Ho Ji, Austin Nystrom, and Ivan Ji enjoy a few days of backpacking in the Ansel Adams Wilderness.



Rhea Cunanan surfs at San Onofree.

La Sierra Youth Enjoy Outdoor Activities

he youth group at the La Sierra University church experienced God through nature this summer. Led by Austin Nystrom, the LSUC pastor for youth ministries, they embarked on three trips to enjoy the outdoors, away from the stresses of everyday life.

Eight participants went on an Ansel Adams backpacking trip from June 29 to July 2. Adams immortalized the beauty of the American West in black-and-white photographs during the 20th century, and his work still resonates with people today. He photographed many places still visited by people who enjoy his work.

On another trip, July 12 to 14, 30 participants, around 25 of them youth, went beach camping and surfing in San Onofre.

The final excursion to wrap up the summer was a trip to Yosemite National Park from August 4 to 7, which 52 people attended. This number included parents and other young adults from La Sierra University who went as drivers and chaperones.

Nystrom says there are benefits to worshipping outdoors instead of inside churches, as people are accustomed to doing. "Worshipping outdoors, with worship activities geared to emphasize the fact that God is in all and through all, in all creation and in all created beings . . . helps [the worshippers] sink into that reality a little more," he says. "You can see kids' spiritual eyes coming open day by day as the majesty of the creation around them continues to speak of God."The youth appear to agree: the trips were "unforgettably grand," says Vanesa Torres.

In addition to communing with God, the youth, who ranged from junior high to high school age, were able to experience multiple activities on these outings. Some of the highlights included surfing, water activities in Yosemite National Park, swimming under waterfalls and in mountain lakes, cliff jumping, and, of course, being away from dependence on electronics. Erin Woosley, sophomore at La Sierra Academy, observed that the trips had an impact on her, saying they "awakened my daring side and helped me see the connections between adventure and my spiritual relationship."

Perhaps the most rewarding part of these trips was the baptism of three teenagers, Rhea Cunanan, 18 and freshman at Pacific Union College, Ivan Ji, 18 and freshman at La Sierra University, and Chantelle Turpin, 18 and freshman at Pacific Union College, in the Merced River in Yosemite. "The summer trips that I went on are what made my summer one of the best summers ever. I was able to go out and do things I had never done before, like backpacking and surfing. I learned to appreciate the world around me in a completely different way," says Cunanan.

The youth planned another excursion in early October, during which they would camp and climb in Joshua Tree National Park, hoping this trip would be as inspiring and full of blessings as those during the summer. Nystrom explains the benefits of these outdoor adventures: "[The kids] start to slow down. [They] become more joyful over small, simple things."

Natalie Romero



Austin Nystrom, youth pastor at La Sierra University church, baptizes Rhea Cunanan in Yosemite National Park.



From August 4 to 7, a group of 52 people from the La Sierra University church camp in Yosemite National Park.

Maranatha Church Celebrates 30th Anniversary

in San Diego, and that was a cause for celebration. To prepare for the festive event, Adrian Pressley, pastor of Maranatha, organized a week of prayer and revival featuring Robert Edwards, conference evangelist, Edwards led a five-day revival series, "Sessions With God," which emphasized bringing hope, healing and wholeness to hurting people. The theme for Maranatha's 30th

eptember 19 marked the 30th anniversary of the Maranatha church

William Penick Sr., pastor of Beaumont church and former pastor of Maranatha, started the celebration with a powerful Friday night vespers service where he shared with attendees how Maranatha began as an evangelistic effort by a team of passionate ministers who erected a tent on a dusty field at the corner of 61st Street and Imperial Avenue in 1985. Penick reminded those in attendance to continue the work with the same zeal that was evident in the church's infancy.



anniversary was Moving Forward With Jesus.

Maranatha Pastor Adrian Presslev inspires the congregation.



T. Marshall Kelly, retired pastor and recording artist, sings during the Maranatha church 30th anniversary celebration.

The celebration continued on Sabbath morning with former pastor James Robins, who delivered a message, "Do You See What I See," based on (Matthew 13:10), which explains why Jesus sometimes spoke to his disciples in parables. By 11 a.m., Maranatha's renovated sanctuary, punctuated with fragrant fresh floral arrangements, was filled to capacity with friends, family, former members and well-wishers who came from near and far to fellowship and

Music featured a variety of styles, from traditional hymns to contemporary gospel. At the Friday night vespers service, a local gospel-jazz band, Absolute

celebrate.

Truth, welcomed the Sabbath and sang, "Jesus. You're the Center of Mv Jov." The Kansas Avenue church's praise team, under the direction of Linda Evans, minister of music, set the tone for praise and ushered in the spirit of worship Sabbath morning with a rendition of "Total Praise." Other



William Penick Sr., pastor of Beaumont church and former pastor of Marantha church, preaches Friday night.

musical talents included saxophonist Jason Brown and two soul-stirring baritones, T. Marshall Kelly, retired Adventist pastor from Huntsville, Ala., and Pressley.

Amid all the excitement and celebration, Maranatha did not lose sight of its mission to minister to the less fortunate. After the church service, Sondra Miller led a group of young people to visit with and deliver more than 75 care packages to people in the community.

Maranatha church closed its 30th anniversary with a formal dinner at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. Guests included Gerald Penick, former conference president, and George King, conference vice president of black ministries. Horatius Gittens, pastor of San Bernardino Community church, former Maranatha pastor and guest speaker for the banquet, shared words of encouragement to the attendees. Kathy Westfield, Christian comedian, brought sidesplitting laughs out of the crowd with her comedy routine. Brown provided more special music for the banquet.

For more information about Maranatha, visit www. sandiegomaranatha.org.

D'Borgh Green



Kansas Avenue praise team leads praise and thanksgiving during Sabbath worship.

SECC Commemorates 100 Years

of Ministry

n Feb. 23, 2015, the Southeastern California Conference turned 100 years old. And it hasn't been a quiet century the period boasts several historic events for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

SECC was split from the Southern California Conference in 1915 for "the sake of efficiency," as population was burgeoning and evangelism efforts became top priority. The new SECC territory was home to a population of 325,000, within which were 27 churches and 1,652 Adventists. (Nearly half of those members were either in Loma Linda or San Diego.) The conference also ran 17 schools, employed 21 teachers and educated 384 students.

After 100 years of ministry, these numbers have risen exponentially. SECC remains the largest conference in the North American Division, and membership has blossomed to 70,333 with 162 churches and companies. That's more than 4,000 percent growth. What's more, the growth rate of membership exceeds the growth rate of the area's entire population. which is now more than 10 million.



Churches and schools set up booths to raise funds and awareness for their ministries. Here, Calexico Mission School sells food.



A Loma Linda Academy saxophone quartet performs.

The conference now employs 221 pastors, 21 of whom are female. Additionally, SECC education department now oversees eight K-12 academies, 10 junior academies and elementary schools, and four preschools, which together educate more than 4,000 students.

"What a difference 100 years of ministry has made in the five counties of our conference territory. God has been faithful!" said Sandra Roberts, conference president. "We have grown in both depth and breadth, so we look back with praise and forward with hope."

And in looking forward, there is still work to do. There's a time to celebrate how God has blessed in the past, and now the emphasis is in making sure His guidance is followed in order to cultivate a brighter future.

"The conference's mission is the expansion of God's kingdom through the preaching, teaching, publishing and living of the everlasting gospel by women and men in the cross-cultural communities for our territory," said Jonathan Park, executive secretary for the conference. "We celebrate our diversity and collaborate in establishing the kingdom of God here on earth."

In doing so, the conference is focusing on four areas for ministry development:

- 1. Keeping youth and young adults engaged and connected with the Church,
- 2. Evangelism and outreach,
- 3. Supporting a thriving Adventist education system,
- 4. Equipping and training members for ministry, supporting the priesthood of all believers.

"We will continue to develop a strategic plan that reflects these priorities," explained Roberts.

To provide an opportunity for each congregation to join in the celebration and pledge for a hopeful future, each church was invited to participate in a responsive reading for their Oct. 3 Sabbath services. The reading was based on the first constituency meeting of the new conference, in which the very first official action was an expression of gratitude for



Participants run in the rain during the 5K Adventist Education Fundraising Run/Walk.



Ernest Furness, ministerial director, and Sandra Roberts, conference president, explain the history of Southeastern California Conference.

God's leading and of commitment to following His guidance in the future of the conference.

"Just as the originating action of our conference's first constituency meeting was not about budgets and business but an expression of gratitude to God, we want to make that recommitment today — a devotion to God before anything else," continued Roberts.

Noteworthy Events in SECC's 100-year Journey

1915: To increase organizational efficiency, the Southeastern California Conference was organized to oversee San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego and Imperial counties.

1915: W. F. Martin elected first SECC president 1915: Conference office established in Santa Ana with 23 employees, 13 ordained ministers, 3 licensed ministers, 5 Bible workers, 2 medical missionaries and an office worker.

1915: The new SECC included the Paradise Valley Sanitarium near San Diego, as well as the formerly named College of Medical Evangelists of Loma Linda

1915: The Liberty Bell is brought through Loma Linda on its countrywide tour during Annual Council

1922: La Sierra Academy is founded

1932: First JMV Pathfinder Camp is purchased in Idyllwild

1932: The Loma Linda Food Company opens a factory on property near the La Sierra College Campus

1938: Calexico Mission School is organized

1946: First conference-sponsored Pathfinder Club is formed in Riverside.

1956: Orangewood Academy begins as a junior academy

1961: The College of Medical Evangelists was reorganized as the School of Medicine of Loma Linda University, with campuses in Loma Linda and Los Angeles

1961: Pine Springs Ranch hosts its first summer camp

1973: Mesa Grande opens its doors as a junior academy

1984: At Loma Linda University Medical Center, Dr. Leonard L. Bailey performs the first xenotransplant procedure on "Baby Fae," who was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

2004: Gerald Penick Sr. was elected as first African-American conference president

2013: Sandra Roberts is the first woman to be elected as conference president

SECC's 100th Birthday Party at La Sierra University

The SECC centennial would not be complete without a family fun event hosted on the campus of La Sierra University complete with outdoor activities, fair food, face painting, free souvenirs, musical performances and prize drawings.

To kick off the celebration, the 5K Fundraiser Walk/Run for Adventist Education took pace on La Sierra University's track. Fifty participated, raising \$1,000. Each runner got to choose the school they wished to support through Worthy Student Funds.

A full afternoon of choral and instrumental performances by La Sierra and Orangewood Academies, Valley Christian Adventist School, Laguna Niguel Junior Academy, Needles Adventist School and La Sierra University's UNITED followed the 5K. While listening to inspirational music in the gym and on the lawn, families enjoyed classic treats such as corn dogs, pizza and root beer floats sold by Desert Adventist School, La Sierra Academy and Murrieta Springs Academy, respectively.

For ethnic food lovers, Calexico Mission School sold churros locos, La Sierra Spanish church had peanut soup and tamales, Valley Christian sold boba and Vietnamese noodles, and Oceanside school offered egg rolls and rice bowls.

Meanwhile, kids lined up at the face painting station to become a tiger, a princess, Superman or a ninja turtle. Out on the field, Doug Mace, pastor for middle school ministries at Loma Linda University church, coordinated bubble ball soccer, hula-hooping contests, and more fun for kids of all ages.

Attendees gathered under the big tent for the main program, where they sang praises and reflected on the conference's 100-year journey.

After a welcome by Roberts, conference president, Randal Wisbey, La Sierra University president, and Rusty Baily, the Riverside mayor, spoke about their gratitude for the churches in the area and the impact they have had on the Riverside community and within the conference territory.

Other officials, including Ted Benson, Pacific Union Conference treasurer: Daniel Weber, North American Division communication director; and Ernest Castillo, North American Division vice president for multilingual ministries, shared congratulatory remarks as Roberts received a commemorative crystal plaque.

Jonathan Park, conference executive secretary, led attendees in prayer. Following special music performances by La Sierra Academy's Delta Mu, Valley Adventist Christian School and Laguna Niguel Junior Academy, Roberts joined Ernest Furness, ministerial director, on the platform for a discussion that spanned the conference's eventful history and rallied for a future of positive growth.

Verlon Strauss, conference treasurer, offered

a consecrating benediction.

After singing "Happy Birthday to You" to the conference, quests devoured free cupcakes and ice cream at the event's closing, and several expressed how inspired they felt that the conference is truly moving in a missiondriven direction.

"As a conference, we hope to model the beauty of a thriving,



Randal Wisbey, president of La Sierra University, expresses his gratitude for the close relationship between the university and the conference.



Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey congratulates Southeastern California Conference on its birthday.

diverse ministry," said Roberts. "I look forward to seeing us move forward with an intentional focus on the mission of expanding God's kingdom."

Amy Prindle

See more photos online at www.pacificunionrecorder.com.

Gratitude

Whereas, the Lord has signally blessed our conference during the past year as manifested in preserving the health and lives of our workers, and giving them a large number of souls for their labor, and in putting it into the hearts of the people to give of their means to support the work at home and abroad, we hereby render to Him a tribute of thanksgiving and praise, and pledge ourselves to more consecrated service for the coming year.

> Published in Pacific Union Recorder, Vol. 16, No. 5 Loma Linda, California, Sept. 7, 1916

Conference Presidents Focus on Young Adult Ministries

Toung Adult Ministries was a main feature for the gathering of North American Division conference presidents who met in Tempe, Ariz., in February. Benjamin Lundquist, Arizona Conference voung adult ministries director, was invited to lead and facilitate four of the sessions offering hope-filled solutions as the church addresses reaching, saving, and mentoring young adults for future leadership roles.

Attending presidents and church leaders received the latest statistical research and data on young adults in the Seventh-day Adventist Church while considering the unique mindset of millennials.

"We look at this as a huge opportunity to inspire some of the most influential church leaders in the area of young adult ministries," Lundquist said. "Conference presidents set the tone, direction and mission for the local church."

During the council, the conversation between young adult ministry presenters and conference presidents was engaging, authentic and hopeful. There was a great passion in the room for reaching and loving young adults better. For many, this was a very personal conversation because their own children and grandchildren are now young adults.

"Different than many gatherings that sound the alarm of crisis, we actually talked about solutions," continued Lundquist. "We have been ringing the bell and sounding the alarm for years. Now it's time we do something about it."



Lundquist challenged conference presidents to include young adults as they set the tone, direction and mission of the local church.

"The presentations and content were excellent." said Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile. "I was so encouraged at the amount of conversation taking place after the programs were finished. I pray we will earnestly continue the dialogue."

As part of his presentations, Lundquist invited quests from

the community to share their vision and past experiences. Jerry Castro, an executive with Phoenix-based St. Vincent de Paul, spoke on the immense impact Arizona young adults have made on the Phoenix community. For the past three years, young adults have distributed thousands of shoes, toys and supplies to homeless and low-income families.

"Of all our volunteers at St. Vincent, the Adventist young adults are the most fearless, passionate and committed to making a difference," said Castro.

John-Mark Stubing, young adult ministry leader at the Glendale Arizona church, spoke about his own journey searching for a church community for more than 15 years. Feeling led by God to begin something for his generation, he and some young adult friends started a ministry called "Lifexperiment." Their focus is encouraging young adults to live an authentic life devoted to Christ. Stubing assured the presidents that any church, regardless of size, geographic location or ethnicity, can successfully start a young adult ministry from scratch. Each president received a DVD on how to start an effective young adult ministry locally.

"The SDA church cannot let even one young adult slip through the cracks," said Stubing. "Any young adult in our community is our young adult."

Lundquist and a panel of young adults engaged in lively conversation with conference



Leslie Lewis, president of the Carolina Conference, listens to Lundquist's presentation.

presidents, concluding with a question and answer session. They shared their hopes, dreams and heart for their generation and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Young adults today are educated, gifted, talented and ready to make a difference in their world," said Chad Clark, a young professional and small business owner. "If the church is willing to hand over the keys, together we can do incredible things for God."

"I left our panel discussion extremely encouraged by the response of the conference presidents who not only seemed to care, but were committed to making local changes when they return to their conferences to reach our generation," said Sarah Warren, a young adult life intern.

Lundquist was excited about the active dialogue. "Since the meeting, there has been a ripple effect," he said. "I've seen conferences put a new focus on young adults for their pastors' meetings. We have received huge orders for the DVD 'Starting Young Adult Ministries from Scratch.' Many local conferences are now discussing the option of hiring full-time young adult personnel."

For more information about starting a young adult ministry, or to receive the free DVD, contact youthpastorbenjamin@yahoo.com or call 480-991-6777.

Phil Draper



CONNECTING YOU WITH CREATIVE MINISTRY

RESOURCES, IDEAS AND PEOPLE

Conservative
by Tom Beecraft VS. Liberal

Liberal or conservative? Does it matter? Was Jesus liberal or conservative?

In politics and faith, does it really matter if you are a liberal or conservative?

One day, I was watching for the arrival of a patient's family members in our ER. The patient had coded, but his heart had been restarted and he was now stable. In fact, he was doing quite well. Standing in the corridor, I wore a badge clipped to my pocket. It identified me in large letters as "Chaplain." A lady approached and slowed in front of me and read my badge. Before I could utter a word, she gasped and fainted, collapsing on the floor as if she had seen the Grim Reaper. She was revived to hear good news, learning that her loved one was alive and recovering well. Words matter. They carry baggage, both positive and negative.

I was once called upon to provide emotional and spiritual support for the family of a nationally prominent politician.

Read full article:

www.whenpeoplearekind.org/care



Stories of Faith

he Pacific Union Conference has produced a library of short videos that can be shared for inspirational and ministry purposes. They can be viewed online or downloaded and shown in various settings.



My Moment of Truth – Ed Keyes, president, Nevada-Utah Conference, knew he had met his match when his daughter told him that if he didn't lose weight and change his ways, he might not be around to play with his grandkids.

Pacific Union Literature Ministries – Information can be life-changing, especially when it falls into one's hands at the precise moment it is needed. Literature ministries in the Pacific Union focuses on creating and distributing printed material that tells God's story in compelling ways.

Visit: vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith

Using Video to Connect With Your Community



Recently we asked Ralph Figueroa to tell us about his work with videography, and how he can assist local churches with their mission.

Editor – Ralph, you spend much of your time in the world of videography, which is where our culture lives today. We are a media-driven age. There are huge opportunities for churches to use video to tell God's story and their stories in compelling ways. How long have you been involved with video? How can you assist others who wish to use it in ministry?

Figueroa – I've been working in production and post production for over 20 years. Much of my career has been specifically as an editor. Editing has helped my storytelling, which is, in my estimation, the single most important element to consider in a production. After all, everyone wants to be inspired with a good story. It's true with movies, commercials, news and even fundraising. Once you connect with a character and sympathize with their aspirations, concerns or plight, you immediately have a buy-in. You have captured the viewer's attention and now you can go deeper.

Read full article:

www.churchsupportservices.org/communities

Going Nuclear With Compassion by Rich DuBose

he more we experience God's grace and recognize that his mercies are "new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23), the more compassionate and caring we will be toward others. Speaking of the woman who "recklessly" anointed his feet with expensive perfume, Jesus said, "She has loved much because she was forgiven much." How many of us understand that we have been forgiven much?

We are looking for a select number of Seventh-day Adventist churches who are willing to become laboratories of compassion for a period of 24 months — meaning that they are ready to go nuclear with compassion and put this statement to a test:

If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.

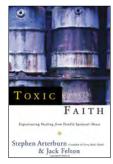
—Testimonies to the Church, vol. 9 p. 189.



Rich DuBose is director of Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services.



Resources You Can Use



Toxic Faith, by Stephen Arterburn & Jack Felton – When religion becomes a means to avoid or control life, it is toxic. Those who possess a toxic faith have stepped across the line from a balanced perspective of God to an unbalanced faith in a weak, powerless or uncaring God. They seek a God to fix every mess, prevent every hurt, and mend every conflict. *Toxic Faith* distinguishes between a healthy faith and a misguided religiosity that traps believers in an addictive practice of religion. It shows how unbalanced ministries,

misguided churches, and unscrupulous leaders can lead their followers away from God and into a desolate experience of religion that drives many to despair. *Toxic Faith* shows readers how to find hope for a return to genuine, healthy faith that can add meaning to life. In the words of the author, "I want to help you throw out that toxic faith and bring you back to the real thing."

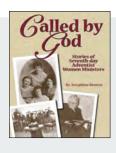
Published by Water Brook, 2001. Price: US\$ 12.00. Available from Amazon.

ELLEN WHITE
UNDERUNDE

Ellen White Under Fire, by Jud Lake – During her lifetime, Ellen White withstood wave upon wave of personal criticisms. Yet the historical records confirm her as a person of integrity, and her writings confirm her loyalty to the Bible. In *Ellen White Under Fire*, Dr. Jud Lake provides a comprehensive assessment of Ellen White critics, past and present, as well as her defenders — all the while building confidence in her prophetic gift.

Speaking of this book, Dr. George Knight said, "Good stuff! Perceptive! A book long overdue! Whether you love Ellen White or hate her, this is a book that you need to read." Published by Pacific Press. 2010. **Price:** US\$ 24.99. **Available at** www.Adventistbookcenter.com.

Called by God, by Josephine Benton – Women pastors,



Bible workers, and ministers have had a significant impact on the Seventh-day Adventist church since the early days of evangelistic tent meetings. *Called by God* outlines the biographies of pioneer women preachers who used their talents to assist in building the foundation of this now multimillion member denomination. Included in this volume are

numerous historical documents, letters, and interviews with family and friends of these pastors, as well as brief biographies of current and retired Adventist women ministers. Read about the sacrifices, victories, frustrations, and joys these women faced as they followed God's calling. Published by AdventSource.

Price: US\$ 9.95.

Available from AdventSource.org.



"You Are Missed" Greeting Card – This is a greeting card that can be personalized and mailed to individuals you haven't seen in church for a while. The message of the card basically reads, "You've been missed at church." You may request free sample.

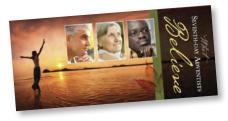
Online: www.churchsupportservices.org/cards

SpiritRenew App – SpiritRenew provides content for spiritual development and growth. Thousands have downloaded this FREE app and continue to enjoy its short stories and inspirational articles. **Download from** iTunes or Android marketplace.



What Adventists Believe Brochure

— This contemporary brochure presents Adventists in positive, winsome ways. Churches within the Pacific Union may request a sample at: css@puconline.org, or call (805) 413-7372.





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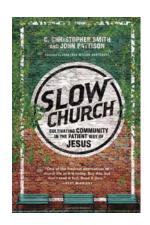
Think Big

www.thinkbig320.com

When People Are Kind

www.whenpeoplearekind.org

Slow Church: Cultivating Community In the Patient Way of Jesus, by C. Christopher Smith and John Pattison – "The church is often idealized (or demonized) as the last bastion of a bygone era, dragging its feet into new moralities and new spiritualities. We guard our doctrine and our piety with great vigilance. But we often fail to notice to how eagerly we're embracing, in the structures and practices of our churches, a culture of unreflective speed, dehumanizing efficiency and dis-integrating isolation." Published by InterVarsity Press, 2014. Price: \$14.00. Available from Amazon.



Do You Have a Passion for Sharing God's Love?

If your church is planning to experiment with a creative evangelism effort, and your church is located in the Pacific Union Conference, you can apply for special Evangelism Endowment funding to help jumpstart your project. For more information on how you can submit a project idea, visit: www.paucadmin. adventistfaith.org/evangelism-endowment.





Adventist WestPoint 2016

March 27-30, 2016, Ventura, California — A time to recharge your spiritual batteries through uplifting worship, challenging messages from Scripture, prayer, and networking with people who believe God is ready to do a "new thing" in our world.

Seminars and workshops on church growth, evangelism, communication, leadership, and biblical teaching will be presented by experts who are not just reading about it but also living it in their daily ministies.

For details visit:

www.adventistwestpoint.org



If you are an Adventist creative with a passion for sharing God's story in new and compelling ways, plan now to attend **inSpire 2016.**



April 15-17, 2016 Sacramento, California

Carmichael SDA Church 4600 Winding Way Sacramento, CA 95841

www.VisitinSpire.org

House Calls Team Brings Care Home

he heart of Adventist Health's philosophy is a mission to heal the whole person. They welcome patients to quality, personal care, even if it means driving all the way to their homes to make house calls. The house calls team at Adventist Health / Central Valley Network has found that these patients all have unique stories to tell.

Laverne "Susie" Banuelos, LVN, and Brenda Tidwell, FNP-C, have a glow about them when they talk about the opportunity they have to get to know patients on a more intimate level. Banuelos and Tidwell make daily Community Care "house calls" in Hanford, Lemoore and Laton, Calif., caring for as many as 10 people a day.

"We're not just bringing a service to them," says Banuelos. "They're inviting us into their homes."

Banuelos shares a story of an encounter she and Tidwell had at an elderly patient's home earlier this year. On their second visit, the patient's daughters showed Tidwell and Banuelos one of the highest forms of gratitude in their Filipino culture by preparing food for them. They enjoyed a delicious meal of lumpia and rice.

Another patient waited for Tidwell and Banuelos' visit before opening her birthday present because she said it felt more like a birthday party with friends when the ladies were there.

The setting isn't always a cheerful one, though. Patients who receive house calls often have complex conditions and require care in the comfort of their own home because they can't get to a clinic. The majority of house call patients are over the age of 70.

Jack Crabtree, 82, suffered a stroke and relies on a power wheelchair to get around. Tidwell makes regular visits to the assisted living facility where Crabtree stays. Not only does she monitor his health, but she also calls in his prescription medication.

House calls are different from home care services because providers are available to visit patients' homes and perform services that could be done at a clinic, such as diagnosing, drawing labs and prescribing medication.



Brenda Tidwell, FNP-C, checks patient Jack Crabtree's heartbeat.

Banuelos and Tidwell have made lasting relationships with their patients, whom they consider family members. One of the elderly women they cared for passed away earlier this year. Tidwell attended and spoke at the woman's funeral. Afterward, the woman's family wrote this thank you note and mailed it to Tidwell:

"We want to thank you for attending Mary's* funeral and



Banuelos and Tidwell have many stories like these — stories they will cherish for a lifetime. They say these moments are made possible thanks to director Gina Mann, quality nurse



Laverne "Susie" Banuelos, LVN, and Brenda Tidwell, FNP-C.

manager Ashley Pease, RN, and medical director Raul Ayala, M.D., who have shown a great deal of support and encouragement for the care they provide to the community.

*Patient names have been changed.

Amanda Jauriqui

Free Abundant Life Summer Camp Draws 100+ Participants

he Las Vegas Abundant Life church conducted a free summer camp program July 6 to 31, drawing more than 100 registered participants, ages 5 to 12.

The goal of the camp was to provide alternative structured activities that introduced others to Jesus Christ and to the presence of the church as a welcoming and trusted friend. What began three years ago as an evangelistic vision with an educational and academic focus, continued as the doors once again opened to children, parents and community participants for this year's camp.

"We continue to be blessed to accomplish the things we've been doing — to see children led to Christ with support from their parents who encouraged them to attend, and to provide them nutritious meals," said Elizabeth Boyd, one of last year's camp instructors. "Some of the children were not accustomed to praying, and the majority of them had no specific church affiliation, but through this camp experience, which involved daily worship, witnessing and song services, many of these children learned

to pray with true reverence in communication with God."

The camp was free because the church partnered with a local culinary school, which provided two nutritious meals and a snack each day for participants.

Each day began with worship and a song service, after which participants rotated through four different stations by age group: (1) the Make It & Take It Station, where they did art and craft projects that reinforced the lessons learned at the worship center; (2) the Learning Center, where they sharpened their skills in language arts and math; (3) the Exploration Station, where they participated in science experiments and discussions to learn how things, such as the human body, work, and; (4) the Let's Move Station, where they participated in outdoor physical activities.

A new feature added this year — Community Connection — allowed various groups from the community to visit and interact with the children onsite. Some of these groups included the Las Vegas Fire Department, Las

Vegas Valley Water District and the West Las Vegas Library. They also enjoyed presentations by some of in-house professionals — educators, pilots, nutritionists, nurses and authors. Each day ended with a Community Connection presentation, followed by a Bible-based Kidz Theater production.

The children also enjoyed weekly swimming activities as well as field trips to places such as the Bellagio Botanical Gardens, Silverton Aquarium, Shark Reef, The Chocolate Factory and Anderson Dairy.

Summer camp ended with the children being in charge of the Sabbath service on Aug. 1, themed God's Extreme Power. The service featured an overview of the skills and talents that the children had accomplished. For special music, the children sang "My God is Powerful." During the awards presentation, 56 kids accepted certificates of completion in recognition of their many accomplishments and their cooperation with the program and staff.

Barbara McDavid, assistant camp director, shared the story of a 4-year-old attendee —

> perhaps one of the youngest participants to ever attend the summer camp. According to the child's mother, her son loved coming to summer camp, and she finally understood just how much he was getting from the experience when he asked her, "Mommy, do you know that God loves me, and do you know that he has a plan for my life?"

Doretha E. Morris



Summer campers explore a fire truck.

Welcome Back Week Kicks Off 2015-2016 School Year

ummer break is officially over for PUC students. As classes began on Sept. 21, the campus celebrated the commencement of the new school year with the annual Week of Welcome celebration. WOW events aim to introduce students to the PUC campus and community and include an exciting mix of academic, social and spiritual activities.

"We are thrilled about the beginning of a new academic year at Pacific Union College with all of its wondrous possibilities," said Dr. Heather J. Knight, PUC's president. "The Week of Welcome is a very special time for students to experience the warmth and hospitality of the PUC community while having a lot of fun and bonding together."

Even before the first 8 a.m. class began Monday morning, new freshmen bonded over the weekend at the college's annual Fusion retreat. Activities included rock climbing, zip lining, swimming and a talent show. Students worshiped together, both on Sabbath as one group and separately in smaller "family" groups.

On Sunday night, crowds gathered in front of Irwin Hall for the annual campus prayer walk. PUC chaplains Jonathan Henderson and Shantel Smith, along with PUC church pastor Mark Witas, led students, faculty, staff, pastors, church members and administrators in joint prayers. The group broke into five teams and traveled all over campus, praying for each building, its occupants and PUC. Robell Nyirendah, Student Association religious vice president, closed the evening with another group prayer below the flagpoles.

By Monday morning, the campus came alive as students headed off to their classes. Some stopped to pose for quick selfies with friends they hadn't seen since June. Ambassadors helped direct new students to Irwin Hall, Davidian Hall and other buildings, making sure they felt comfortable navigating the campus. PUCT-shirts were seen everywhere as Pioneers showed off their school spirit.

"I came to PUC because the campus is beautiful and the people are wonderful," shared Allie Rosenthal, a freshmen business major. "My first

day was amazing! The teachers are super awesome!"

On Monday evening, students, faculty, staff and administrators filled the Campus Center courtyard for a picnic of veggie burgers, potato wedges, macaroni salad and homemade cookies. Campus clubs set up booths to promote activities and sign up new students for

membership. The event drew more than 1,100

"Events like this are what college should be all about," said Nephtali Marin, a freshman film major. "You get to meet new people, eat, socialize and see all the clubs. It reminds me that I am part of a family at PUC, not just a student."

Week of Welcome festivities continue throughout the first week of school, giving students many opportunities to take a break from studying and socialize with one another. On Tuesday night, students gathered in the Pacific Auditorium to cheer on the Pioneers women's volleyball team as they played Mills College. During the event, PUC raised funds for the Middletown High School athletic department to help replace athletic gear lost in the recent Valley Fire.

Pioneers men's soccer played La Sierra University on Wednesday afternoon. Following the game, the Student Association offered students the ultimate Napa Valley experience — a hot air balloon ride above the campus.

On Thursday, the entire campus assembled for Opening Convocation Colloguy, featuring Dr. Arnetha F. Ball, professor of education and the co-director of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Language at Stanford University.

The SA hosted Midnight Madness on Thursday night. This annual pep rally launches the fall sports season with team introductions and



Students fly over campus in hot air balloon rides offered by the PUC Student Association.

inducts new students into the Pioneers Posse. PUC's devoted fan base. After classes let out on Friday, 52 students packaged 10,152 meals to support Stop Hunger Now, a non-profit, international hunger-relief organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other aid to crisis areas across the globe.

The week concluded with a number of Sabbath activities. Many departments held pre-vespers events for their majors. Chaplain Smith spoke for Friday night vespers and Pastor Witas preached for the first church service of the new year.

Following the service, PUC church hosted "Food Around the Fountain," a huge potluck treating over 500 students to home cooking and fellowship. During the afternoon, students participated in Clearlake Homeless Ministries outreach or enjoyed a hike in PUC's "Back 40." The jam-packed week closed with "speed mingling" on Saturday night.

While the goal of WOW is to ease students' transition back to school, the events also have a deeper purpose. "This week of exciting activities provides the momentum for the rest of the school year as students experience a myriad of activities as they study, worship and serve together," adds Knight.

Jennifer Tyner

Three Pastors Ordained in August

hree Southern California Conference pastors were ordained in August. Originally from Cuba, Yonny Jimenez studied theology at the seminary and met his wife, Dileanny Guada, there. The couple married before emigrating to the United States, and have two children: Katelin, 12, and Kyle Alejandro, 6.



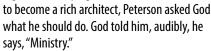
"I am grateful to God, my wife, colleagues and church members," said Jimenez, "for the unconditional support I receive every day in my ministry."

Jimenez dedicated his life to the gospel at a very young age. In 2006, he was called to SCC after obtaining his bachelor's degree in theology from Pacific Union College.

He has served as associate pastor of the Van Nuys Spanish church, planted the "Shalom" congregation, and served briefly as youth pastor

of the Central Spanish church. Since obtaining his Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University, Jimenez has been serving in the Carson and Mid City district.

Albert B. Peterson II was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. In high school, hoping



"Ministry was nowhere on the list of career options I thought God would give me," he added. "When I tried giving God alternatives I thought I could do better," said Peterson, "God again said, 'Ministry."' After asking God to confirm this mission through three people, he says God sent confirmation through two individuals.

Peterson was accepted at Columbia Union College, and moved to Baltimore, Md., but God told him to go to Oakwood College instead, Peterson says.

Before leaving for Oakwood, Peterson traveled back to Pittsburgh, where he was introduced to his friend's cousin, Ashley Johnson, from the Huntsville, Ala., area. "A double bonus awaited me in Huntsville: a beauty and a blessing," he says, counting Ashley as God's third

> confirmation of his call to ministry. They were married on Sept. 7, 2008.

While at Oakwood and following graduation, Peterson served at First Adventist church under the leadership of pastors Ben Jones and Debleaire Snell.

In January 2013, Peterson accepted a call to SCC. Since his



Carlos and Elizabeth Granados sing with their daughter, Arlie, and son, Gabriel Arath.

Los Angeles.

Pathfinder clubs.

At age 18, an encounter with a canvasser friend changed his life direction. His friend talked with him about the need for young workers who would dedicate their lives to the Lord's work, and encouraged him to become a minister. In 1997, Medina began theological training at Montemorelos University.

arrival, he has taught religion at Los Angeles

Adventist Academy and served as the youth as-

sociate pastor at Miramonte Blvd. He is currently

the associate pastor of the University church in

Chihuahua, Mexico. When he was 4 years old,

Carlos was eventually baptized and became

completely devoted to the Adventurer and

his mother became a Christian in Seattle, Wash.

Carlos Granados Medina was born in

The next year, he met Arlette Elizabeth Torres Regalado, who was studying nursing at Montemorelos. The couple married on July 29, 2001.

Granados has pastored in Parral, Chihuahua, where he was in charge of four churches and two groups; served as a Bible worker in Texas; planted a church in Wisconsin and worked as associate Hispanic evangelist in the Texas Conference. In 2005, he received a call to the El Terrero district in Mexico's North Mission.

Next, he served as youth pastor for the Spanish-American church in Los Angeles, where he ministered until July 2009. Today, he pastors three SCC Hispanic congregations: El Rio, Santa Barbara and Santa Paula.



Albert and Ashley Peterson are the parents of Abel, 3, and Aiden, 2.

Betty Cooney

Seminar Shares Principles for Re-Engaging with Former Members

eaders, pastors and members from the Whittier, Alhambra, Norwalk and other churches gathered at the Alhambra church on a very warm August afternoon for a seminar on Re:Connecting to learn more about how to reach out to missing members. Some statistics show that as many as three million Adventists disconnect from the church every five years (including deaths).

The presentations and discussion centered on what to do about such a dismal statistic. Suggestions flew from participants as well as presenters Gerard Kiemeney, Re:Connect director; and James G. Lee Jr., vice president: "We can pray, agonizing prayer. God gives insight about the people we are trying to reach."

"We can make a list of names of any person no longer fellowshipping with Christ.

"How about talking with them? God can open doors . . . when we pray for others in a personal way and start to have a burden for them."

"We can get names of missing members from the church clerk."

"We show the value of all by the way we value one another. When a lay person gets involved, it's because someone has a real burden for missing members."

> In addition to presentations and small-group interaction, role-playing illustrated good and inappropriate ways to minister to nonattending members.

Soonia Lee, Ph.D., a psychologist introduced as "a connector of people," led the afternoon program. Noting that people carry parental images, a "schema' or pattern internalized from childhood, Lee pointed out that those can be good and bad. "In the church, we all look through schema 'glasses' while relating to members," she said. "The Adventist kid often feels, 'I'm never good enough.'They become desperate for approval and may feel rejected.

"We talk about church members in front of our kids," Lee



Soonja Lee, Ph.D.'s presentation was entitled, "Connecting Hurting Hearts to Christ."

added. "They look at themselves, monitoring to avoid critical comments. Most of us relive the past every day.

"Some don't feel loved. They have hurting issues from childhood; there may have been parental manipulation. This can be the case, especially, with young adults. Young adults hear sermons differently. They leave the church because we hurt them, not because they don't have enough faith. Jesus said we only need faith the size of a mustard seed."

The seminar covered a lot of important ground, but Lee summed up her presentation with a "three-S" action approach to keep in mind:

- Summarize how the person has been hurt.
- · Say, "I'm sorry."
- Stay silent and listen compassionately to the person in order to understand.

The seminar brought new insights on how to share the love of Christ in healing ways with the many who no longer worship in Adventist churches. "We want to 'close the back door," affirmed Vincent Bennett, head elder of the Whittier church. "We want to learn what we are doing that turns people away from the church. We want to welcome missing sheep back into the fold."



Participants sampled empathizing with each other as part of the training.



Pastor Donald Smith (left) role-played visiting a missing member, demonstrating both inappropriate (shown here) and appropriate approaches. With him is Gerard Kiemeney, Re:Connect director.

Betty Cooney

Church Joins Hands with Community to Help Glendale Residents Out of Poverty

e're working with people who are in poverty, to help them avoid slipping into homelessness," explained Todd Leonard, senior pastor of the Glendale City church, "and get back to a place of stability."

Leonard was speaking of the Glendale Communitas Initiative, which the church began in March 2015 to help make a difference among underserved residents in Glendale. About a dozen Glendale Christian churches, seven nonprofit organizations and a couple of city agencies are partnering with the congregation in reaching out. "The building of friendships across faith traditions has opened up wonderful collaborative opportunities," said Leonard. "Churches serve together on community

projects and enhance each others' ministries so they can serve their neighborhoods more effectively.

"As a result of our investment in Communitas," he added, "our church has renewed its passion for building relationships with its community. We're overcoming our shyness with the Glendale community and are now entering boldly into acts of service that show love and compassion to our neighbors."

With the help of a grant, the church hired two business experts a year ago: Jason Schlatter, Communitas' executive director, and Priscila Vergara, case worker. The team is tasked with developing, as well as caring for, clients referred to them by other entities.

Partner churches refer people to the Communitas Initiative through non-profit and government agencies, according to Leonard. The Glendale City church describes Communitas as "an interchurch ministry and dialogue to fulfill the Matthew 25 mandate to minister 'unto the least of these my brethren."

In addition to serving individual clients and families, Communitas is actively providing a variety of educational resources for the community through seminars and other means.

The church initiative already has been helping a dozen or so participants in the past year to move up and out of poverty. In addition to fielding calls and web inquiries, Communitas has provided referrals, placements, programming and education services to nearly 400 people. "About 90 percent of those who call just need to know what to do in their present situation," Schlatter said.

Client Bob Schull* was a construction worker who had been out of work for two years. Additionally, his truck's transmission had failed, and he was occasionally push-starting it in order to get to an interview or a temporary job. He had collected a number of quotes to get his truck fixed, but wasn't sure how he'd be able to afford it.

"We talked with Bob about it and decided to pay to have it fixed at one of the local places that had given him a quote," said Schlatter. "The shop picked up a third of the cost and we paid the rest. Bob also was very behind on some school loans he'd taken out. Because of an earlier incarceration, the fees and interest on the loans nearly tripled his balances. We directed him to individuals who could help guide him, and they are now working on a good-faith payment plan that will allow him to renegotiate the entire amount owed within six months.

"In the process of helping him get his record expunged, we were able to support him in getting his first full-time, paid job in many years at a great salary with medical benefits, and in



Board members from a dozen Glendale Christian churches collaborate on the Glendale Communitas Initiative activities and client-helping. Back row center (blue shirt) Jason Schlatter, Communitas' executive director; front row (right) pastors Todd Leonard and Mike Kim, Glendale City and Vallejo Drive churches, respectively. (For complete listing of board members, visit www.glendalecommunitasinitiative.org.)



Case worker Priscila Verdara speaks with a client at the Glendale Communitas Initiative office.



Pastor Mike Kim, Vallejo Drive church, and Patricia Pontrelli, board representative from the Incarnation Catholic church, were among those participating in a Glendale Communitas Initiative board meeting.

his line of work. We are continuing to work with him to help him budget and plan his next steps to becoming even more independent."

The changes in Bob's life didn't take place overnight. "A lot of help was given by community partners wanting to have a part in Bob's return to a productive life," Schlatter acknowledged.

"We helped Ari, another gentleman, transition from homelessness to a job and, more recently, an apartment," Schlatter said.

"I would like to thank Glendale Communitas Initiative for all their help," said Ari Hanson.* "Without them, I don't think I'd be where I am today. After they helped me obtain re-employment, they provided me with financialadvisory assistance,

for which I am truly grateful."

Another client is Amelia French,* Vergara noted. "She has four children, one of whom is a special-needs child. We've been able to provide legal assistance, parenting help, tutoring for her special-needs daughter, access to ESL classes and soon, a scholarship so she can begin getting her Certified Nursing Assistant credentials.

We were also able to help her break a cycle of domestic violence and move out on her own."

"For 13 years, I did not have the courage to leave until now," French said. "My children are happier, and that's all that matters."

According to Schlatter, the next stage at the Glendale Communitas Initiative is to create a mental health group that is professionally led and peer-supported, specifically for those dealing with the issues of poverty and under-earning.

A "Hearts and Hands" corps of volunteers continues to grow and Communitas relies on them to help with participants. After learning of the services Communitas provides, some volunteers offer to give participants free haircuts, discounts on car repairs, free GED classes, etc. If someone has a gift to share, the organization finds a place for it.

For those who qualify to be in Communitas' economic-stability program, action plans and goals are created with the client, based on individual and family needs. "We do not do to or for; we only do with," affirmed Schlatter. "The only thing that we ask of our participants in return is that they agree to volunteer with one of the local nonprofits once they are out of the program. Some of them have already begun to do that while they're working to get back on

"It really is the individualized attention and support that these people receive that is the key to helping them help themselves move forward. 'I couldn't do this if you weren't here with me,' they tell us. Providing this boost and individual attention in league with our service partners is how we are able to help people get moving again. This collective approach is beginning to have visible results in the lives of some of our neighbors. Beyond that, it's also beginning to have visible results in how we as service providers can get out of our silos and begin working together to have a collective impact."

We are thankful that some participants have told us, 'we have sensed God's presence in the interaction with your staff and volunteers," said Leonard. "They tell us, 'We have seen the love of God in the way your team has been helping us. Finding out about your service was an answer to prayer.' These and other responses validate Communitas' work and blesses all of us involved."

Betty Cooney

Maui Women Sail On

s their 64-foot catamaran surged and rocked over the ocean's giant swells between Lana'i and Lahaina harbors. the Maui Christian Women's Retreat attendees must have felt a kinship with the disciples in Matthew 8:23-27.

On Oct. 3, the group of ladies ranging from ages 21 to 85 from all three Maui churches (Lahaina, Kahului and Kihei), as well as members from the church on Lana'i, boarded the Trilogy I from Lahaina to the island of Lana'i for a Sabbath outing.

On the way there, they enjoyed fresh pineapple juice, tropical fruit and Jeanette Coon's famous cinnamon rolls. On the island, featured speaker Michele Seibel, director of prayer ministry for the Hawaii Conference, encouraged the women of LEHUA (Ladies Embracing Heavenly Unity Always) to be in tune with their personal savior. The connection with God, she said, would allow each one to weather any storm.

When they returned to the harbor for the 90-minute sail back to Lahaina, the crew warned that the return could be rough due to the high winds and big waves. As the ship sailed further from Lana'i, the wind picked up and the swells grew.

"I was thinking I was so glad I took two Bonine motion sickness pills," said Seibel. "I was watching the crew minister to sick ladies, wet ladies and ladies who wanted to move from one place to another. I thought, 'That's how the church should be during challenging times, serving those who need help navigating rough waters."



Retreat attendees set sail to the island of Lana'i from Lahaina Harbor. Their return to Maui was filled with high wind and rough seas, which provided an object lesson of God's presence in the storms of life.

The crew stayed busy passing out ginger ale, ainaer candies and motion sickness supplies.

"We were like drowned rats who were dunked into the vast Pacific 20 times over." laughed attendee Evy Wyrostek. "The water was warm in spite of the cool winds, but our eyes sure burned from the salt water. One of the ladies said it was better than a fair roller coaster ride."

Back safe on dry land, Seibel's final message, "Perfectly Powerful — Our Compelling Life," based on Isaiah 12, compared the Christian spiritual life to the adventurous trip back from Lana'i. At the beginning of the voyage, the

women were laughing and cheering at the waves and having quite a joyous adventure. Then, when the larger swells came, the enthusiasm faded and everyone just wanted the ride to end.

Not every Christian experience will be smooth sailing. There will be rough patches, but God can calm the wind and waves, and if His people stay focused on Him, they can walk on water.

Alicia Adams, Ashley Grainger and Zsuzsi Woodward



Prayer and women's ministry leaders Masumi Nishikawa, Evy Wyrostek, Michele Seibel, Eleanor Bell, Mercedes Ped, coordinated the retreat.



Women end a session united in prayer for their families, churches and communities.

La Sierra's Business School **Posts Record Enrollment**

a Sierra University moved into the new school year with increases in several ■academic programs, led by a record enrollment at the Zapara School of Business.

The school posted an overall 12.41 percent increase compared to last fall, with a total enrollment this year of 481. More than 300 are undergraduate students, representing the first time the school has moved past the 300-enrollment mark. With double majors factored in, total enrollment by major shoots to 495.

Dean John Thomas attributed the increase to the quality of the school's programs, the addition of new faculty with doctoral degrees, a state-ofthe-art facility, and the overall value added to students' education through close faculty-student interaction, internships at leading companies and high-impact service opportunities through the World Cup-winning Enactus team.

"The market place is responding to the changes we've made at the business school and its growth into one of the leading business schools in Southern California," he said. "The word is getting out to the students that this is the place to go for business."

Several other programs also saw enrollments jump this fall, including social work, which grew by 16.39 percent compared to October 2014 for a total of 71 students this year. The communication program shot up 32.26 percent for a total 41 students, and criminal justice saw its programs increase by 14.23 percent for a total fall count of 273. Health and Exercise Science, English Language and Culture, and Liberal Studies also saw their enrollments increase over last year.

New students began the year with the annual IGNITE program, three days dedicated to introducing freshmen to La Sierra's campus and to university life. The orientation games, workshops and traditional activities ended on Fri., Sept. 18, with a parent blessing service designed for parents and their college-bound children.

Mary Carmen Robles, whose daughter Enid Robles enrolled as a freshman, attended the service and talked about what it means to send her daughter off to college. "It has always been what a parent has wanted for a child, only the best," she said. "The fact that La Sierra is an Adventist school is such a blessing. It is a gift God has been able to give to us."

University President Randal Wisbey, in his convocation address titled "Fully Alive," called students to a life of purpose. "To live life fully is to embrace the things that Jesus embraces — it is to act with justice and compassion on behalf of those who seldom experience either one. Here, this year, you will have the privilege of being the face of justice as you engage with your classmates and your professors in bringing healing and hope to people," he said.

Darla Martin Tucker



In September, approximately 375 freshmen participated in La Sierra University's annual IGNITE program, designed to introduce the students to university life.



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CALENDARS

Arizona Conference

PRISON MINISTRY EMPHASIS DAY

(Nov. 7) 10:50 a.m. Worship Service and 4 p.m. Michael Harris concert. Paradise Valley church, 2727 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. Info: Evelyn Saravia, 480-991-6777, ext.

HEALTHY FOOD PREPARATION (Nov.

8) 2:30 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Casa Grande church, 1867 N. Trekell Rd. Info: Sandy 541-729-6759 or Carolina, 520-876-5240.

RAW FOODS POT LUCK SUPPER (Nov.

14) 6:30 p.m. held the 2nd Sabbath of each month, Central church, 777 W Montecito. Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Info: 480-430-5492.

DANIEL 7, 8, 9: THE SANCTUARY

DOCTRINE (through Nov. 18) 6 p.m. Presented by Karl Wagner at the Gilbert church, 2130 E. University, Mesa. Info: karlwagner@cox.net.

ABC BOOKMOBILE (Oct. 2-Nov. 18) Watch your inbox for the full schedule, times and specials. More info: 480-991-8501 or azabc@azconference.org.

REGIONAL MINISTRIES CONVOCA-

TION (Nov. 13-14) 35th annual event; "Something Better," Nov. 13, 7 p.m. Beacon Light church, Phoenix; 8 a.m. and all day, Bulpitt Auditorium, Phoenix College, 1202 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix. Featured adult speaker, Pastor Debleaire Snell, and featured youth/young adult speaker, Pastor David Peay Sr. Info: Valbert Francis, 480-991-6777, ext. 113.

RETIREES CHRISTMAS DINNER (Dec.

6) 11:30 a.m. Arizona Conference office. 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. Info: Shirley Chipman, 480-991-6777.

Central California

559-906-6460.

GLOW LEADERSHIP TRAINING (Nov. 7) CCC office, Clovis, Calif. Info: text/call

CONSTITUENCY PRAYER SESSION

(Nov. 7) Monterey Bay Academy. Info: 559-347-3692.

CONSTITUENCY MEETING (Nov.

8) Monterey Bay Academy. Info: 559-347-3194.

YOUTH PRAYER CONFERENCE (Nov.

11-15) Location TBA. Info: 559-347-3174 or cccsdayouth.org.

EXCELLENCE IN CHILDREN'S MINIS-

TRY (Nov. 20-22) Track 3. Camp Wawona. Info: Rosa, 559-347-3181 or rgillham@ cccsda.org.

La Sierra University

MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS: CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL (Nov. 15)

6 p.m.: student recitals featuring Marc Robles (Nov. 8) 5:30 p.m., and Julia Park (Nov. 14) 6 p.m. All concerts, Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036

THE 25-HOUR PLAY FESTIVAL (Nov. 1) A La Sierra Drama presentation. Mathe-

son Hall. Info: 951-785-2241 or drama@ lasierra.edu.

THANKSGIVING BREAK (Nov. 21-29) Classes resume Nov. 30.

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

(Dec. 4) 7:30 p.m. LSU Department of Music. LSU church. Info: 951-785-2036.

FIRST SERVICE WORSHIP (Fridays) 8 p.m., LSU church. Info: 951-785-2090.

Northern California

TEEN PATHFINDER INVITATIONAL

CAVING WEEKEND (Nov. 6-8) Lava Beds National Monument, Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL KOINONIA

RETREAT (Nov. 6-8) Leoni Meadows. 31st annual event. Speaker: Pacific Union College Assistant Chaplain Shantel Smith. Learn to "break the silence" of abuse, early morning prayer sessions, prayer room, exercise, fellowship. Experience life-long transformation, spirit-filled worship and connection women need. Info: 707-552-2278.

REVELATION 101 (Nov. 13-21) 7 p.m. Pleasant Hill church, 800 Grayson Road. Find Jesus in the book of Revelation. Speaker: Steve Case from Involve Youth. Info: 925-834-5803.

ASIAN/PACIFIC CONVOCATION (Nov.

14) 3 p.m. Antioch church, 2200 Country Hills Drive. New date! Info: Asian/Pacific Ministries, 925-603-5094.

SPANISH-SPEAKING NEW BELIEV-ERS' RETREAT (Dec. 4-6) Leoni

Meadows. Speaker: Paradise church Senior Pastor Ben Maxson. Info: Hispanic Ministries, 925-603-5092.

Pacific Union College

FALL FESTIVAL (Nov. 1) 4 p.m., Pacific Auditorium. PUC's student clubs host a variety of booths and exhibitions at this annual autumn celebration for the whole family.





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DEMETRIOS & EAMES (through Dec. 7) Works by Llisa Demetrios and Lucia Eames, Rasmussen Art Gallery. An exhibit of three generations of Eames artwork exploring a legacy of design innovation that continues to influence the arts today. Info: 707-965-6303.

COLLEGE DAYS (Nov. 1-2) High school students experience classes and college events at PUC. Info: Enrollment Office. 800-862-7080 or puc.edu/admissions/

COLLOQUY: JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ (Nov. 5) 10 a.m., PUC church. José Hernández, former NASA astronaut with the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, was a crew member of the STS-128 Discovery, the 128th Shuttle mission and the 30th mission to the International Space Station. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6303.

TRANSFER STUDENT VISIT DAY

(Nov. 6) College students interested in transferring to PUC learn about academic programs, campus life, the admissions process, and financial aid opportunities. Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080 or puc.edu/admissions/visit.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT (Nov. 14) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall. PUC students perform their first concert of the academic year. Info: 707-965-6201.

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT (Nov. 15) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall. Artist in Residence Asher Raboy conducts

the Symphonic Wind Ensemblé in their fall concert. Info: 707-965-6201.

COLLOQUY: THANKSGIVING CONCERT (Nov. 19) 10 a.m., PUC church. Music celebrating gratitude and blessings. Info:

www.puc.edu or 707-965-6303.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 5) 4 p.m., PUC church. Annual Christmas celebration for the whole family. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6201.

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

Southeastern California

YOUTH MINISTRIES GEAR UP **LEADERSHIP TRAINING (Nov. 8) 9** a.m.-3:30 p.m., Conference office, 11330 Pierce Street, Riverside. Training will be available to leaders who volunteer in youth, family and children ministries, religious liberty and Sabbath school, and a track for teens. Info: www.seccyouth. com, 951-509-2265.

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE (Nov. 12-15), Rancho Jurupa Campgrounds. SECC Pathfinders are celebrating their 60th camporee. The camporee will feature many fun activities including a full Sanctuary replica. Info: youthevents@seccsda. org, 951-509-2265.

SABBATH SEMINAR (Dec. 5) 11 a.m., 2 p.m. Beaumont church, 1343 Palm Ct., Beaumont, Lewis R. Walton will present messages about world events and prophecy. Info: 951-845-2366.

Southern California

ACADEMY DAY (Nov. 5) 8:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Glendale Adventist Academy, 700 Kimlin Dr. Students are invited to spend the day on campus and enjoy special presentations and class visits. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Parents are welcome. Reservations: 818-244-8671.

LA ADVENTIST FORUM (Nov. 7) 3 p.m. Speaker, Zak Plantak, Ph.D., professor, Loma Linda University School of Religion. Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL (Nov. 7) 5-9 p.m. Glendale Adventist Academy, 700 Kimlin Drive. Includes sundown worship, and Festival from 6-9 p.m. Games,



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RETIREMENT SEMINAR (Nov. 15) "So You Want to Retire, But Need More Income." 9 a.m. Ways to create more retirement income without resuming work. Presenter, James Brown, MBA, CSPG, president, Western Adventist Foundation. Free brunch. Scholl Canvon Estates, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr.,



Glendale. For reserved seating (walk-ins welcome): 818-546-8421, gpark@sccsda.



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faculty member in Psychology Department. Qualified person should have earned doctorate in psychology (ABD will be considered) and undergraduate teaching experience. For more information and to apply, visit www.puc.edu/hr.

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University's Business Department seeks finance faculty to begin Spring or Fall term, 2016. Successful candidate will possess proficiency in previous teaching experience. Candidaté should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas, preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

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Psychology, Walla Walla University is seeking applications for a tenure-track faculty position in psychology to begin September 2016. We are seeking an enthusiastic person who will lead and direct WWU's master's program in counseling psychology. An earned doctorate in Clinical or Counseling Psychology or Counselor Education is required. Applicants should be license-eligible in the State of Washington. For more information and to apply, please visit: jobs.wallawalla.edu.

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Events

SUPPORTING MINISTRIES

Convention (Nov. 13-15) hosted by Outpost Centers International, Pine Springs Ranch. Join us for inspirational testimonies and multiple workshops including: how to develop a vibrant health ministry, how to start your own home lifestyle center, steps to sustainable Country Living, hands on natural remedies and more. Sponsored by the Mentone church. For more information, visit www.outpostcenters.org/psr2015.

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Missing Members

PLEASANT HILL. CONTACT: LISA

Moreno, clerk, Pleasant Hill Adventist church, 800 Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; 925-934-5803; office@pleasanthilladventist. org: Nicholas Abston, Jorge Adame, Savannah Akam, Margie Balch, Denise Broughton, Tag Xavier Brown, Mary Beauchamp, Joel Borland, Karen Burgess, Jesus Castro, Leticia Claudio, Cesareo Contreras, Carlos Martinez. Gaddi Salgado, Nely Salgado, Elsie Stahlman, Brian Tandy, Maria Torres, Scott Wells.

RIVERVIEW. CONTACT: FANGA FINAU,

derk, Riverview Adventist Church, 7125 W 4th St, Reno, NV 89523; 775-322-9642; riverviewadventistchurch@gmail.com: Jackie Adelman, Joseph Alexander, Silvia

Arizaga, Polini Asomua, Kristin Astrom, Dirk Babylon, Kevin Baker, Carolyn Batson, Maria Biel-Haines, Diane Blodgett, Paul Bond, Jo Ann Busam, Kamala Caleb, Evelyn Clanton, Vicki Coalson, Elvera Corty, Edna Crain, Poppy Crawford, Lainey Cronk, Randy Scott Cruz-Stocke, Rita Cunningham, Darby Cunningham, Arrah Curry, Tanya Danton, Holly Davis, Ronald Davison Jr., Catalina Depolito, Debbi Dezsi, Diana Dominguez, Beth Anspach Embree, Joey Ennis, Cary Fleck, Tanya Fleck, Buddy Fleck, Devon Fleck, Fav Foulks, Dorothy Froeschles, Tawna Galli, Kathy (Angela) Garrido, Richard Gepford, Carla Beasley Glaster, Bill Grifith, Shauna Gurley Zamarripa, Debbie Halterman, Rebecca Hamilton-Baumann, Craig Hansen, Andrea Hansen, Sharon Heater, Mike Helm, Christopher Helton, Brian Calvin Henderson, Catherine F. Herzig, Carol Holcomb, James Houston, Douglas Hughes, Craig Hutchins, Kimberly Hutchins, Jeff Hyett, Lana Hyett, Don Jenkins, La Rae Jenkins, Mavis Jensen, Erin Kaltenbrun, Eric Karridine, Amanda Kee, William Kee.

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BENSON, SHIRLEY KENNETH – b. June 12, 1929, West Paris, Maine; d. Aug. 14, 2015, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: wife, Elizabeth "Betty"; daughter, Lucille Benson Krull; grandson, Peter Krull. Taught English at Lynwood Academy and Pacific Union College.

BERRY, ALLEN – b. July 29, 1928, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Aug. 21, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Greta; sons, Allen Jr., Richard; daughters, Kathleen Wisdom, Tove Padilla; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

CRANE, MICHAEL ANDREW – b. March 1, 1940, Oakland, Calif.; d. Aug. 14, 2015, Fontana, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marilyn; daughters, Heather Crane Butler-Hall, Becca Crane Gray; three grandchildren.

GREEN, JUDITH - b. Feb. 23, 1941, Washington, D.C.; d. Aug. 13, 2015, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: husband, Ray; son, Thomas Carter; daughter, Natalie Carter Carrere; one grandchild.

HARRINGTON, JOELENE RENEE (WHEELER) - b. Oct. 27, 1972, St. Helena, Calif.; d. June 9, 2015, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: husband, Timothy; daughters, Miriam, Tabitha; parents,

Janice and John Wheeler; sisters, Kristina Hosmer, Anne Hansen.

HEDGES, BILL – b. March 5, 1923, Onawa, Iowa; d. Aug. 16, 2015, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Donna; sons, Greg Seslar, Stephen Seslar, Kevin Seslar; daughters, Linda Toy, Judy Acrey; 15 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

HILLMAN, BARBARA L. - b. Aug. 26, 1932, Eureka, Calif.; d. Aug. 16, 2015, Fortuna, Calif. Survivors: son, Scott; daughter, Suzanne Hillman; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Marcia Kelley.

JAMES, RAY – b. Aug. 11, 1926, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Aug. 12, 2015, Jackson, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ruth; son, Ross; daughters, Raylene Kono, Robyn Hardesty; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Served the youth departments of the SECC, SCC and Florida conferences, Mid-America Union, Far Eastern Division; president of Guam-Micronesia Mission; communication director and SM recruiter for the Far Eastern Division; interim pastor at several NCC churches.

LARA, ALICIA (LEON) - b. June 22, 1952, Watsonville, Calif.; d. Feb. 7, 2015, Watsonville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Narciso; sons, Narciso Jr. and Angel; daughter, Maribel; and three grandchildren.

LEEDY, GORDON CAROL - b. Jan. 20, 1927, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; d. March 30, 2015, Upland, Calif. Survivors: wife, Shirley; daughters, Karen Leedy Contreras, Kristine Leedy Jury; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

MAYER, DANIEL WOODROW - b. April 22, 1930, Lodi, Calif.; d. July 8, 2015, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: wife, Donna; son, Dennis: daughters, Dena Shropshire, Dawn Bickner; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

MILLER, JOHN "JACK" HAROLD - b. April 1, 1927, Hoquiam, Wash.; d. May 1, 2015, Novato, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marlene; son, Ronald; daughter, Marcie Doerr; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

MORRIS, NORMAN CHARLES – b. Sept. 21, 1928, Pasadena, Calif.; Aug. 5, 2015, Apison, Tenn. Survivors: second wife, Muriel; son, Steve; daughters, Sharan Murray, Carol Davis; stepdaughter, Sherrie Samorano; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Served as a teacher, principal and pastor in Garden Grove and Lodi area churches; Placerville, Mountain View, Santa Cruz, San Diego, Armona and other schools.

MUNROE, ERMA NADINE (SCOTT) - b. Feb. 16, 1919, Joseph, Ore.; d. Aug. 2, 2015, Chehalis, Wash. Survivors: sons, Dean, Tom, Gary, Cliff; daughters, Cindy Hansen, Christie Wallin; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brothers, Ron, Denny; sister, Norma Momb. Served as a volunteer in the St. Helena Hospital gift

NELSON, RAYMOND M. - b. Oct. 10, 1928, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. June 18, 2015, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joni; son, Michael; daughters, Cheryl Sjoboen, Cynthia Robson, Cathleen Nelson; stepson, Steven Fehlenberg; stepdaughter, Judy Johnson; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

RICH, HAROLD L. - b. Jan. 24, 1930, Glendale, Calif.; d. Sept. 8, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Survivors: wife, Mary Lou; sons, Lawson Allen, Stuart, Brian; daughter, Margery; eight grandchildren. Served as pastor in Southern and Central California and Hawaii; academy Bible teacher and principal in Southern and Central California.

RUDOMETKIN, JOHN - b. June 6, 1940, Santa Maria, Calif.; d. Aug. 4, 2015, Newcastle, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carolyn; sons, Ron, J.D., Nathan; three grandsons.

SHARP, NORMAN – b. Jan. 8, 1923, Beemer, Neb.; d. Aug. 21, 2015, Yuba City, Calif. Survivors: wife, Donna Lee; daughter, Sharon Sorrels; stepsons, Edward Allen, Eric Allen, Evan Allen; stepdaughter, Esther Allen; eight grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren. Served as a pastor for Redding, Yuba City and Upper

Lake churches in Northern California and in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska, Held Revelation seminars; co-presented "Hymn Fests" throughout California.

SHIMMIN, ROBERT MORRIS - b. June 5, 1928, Sierra Madre, Calif.; d. Aug. 25, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patricia; sons, Ronald, Dennis; daughters, Barbara Shimmin, Karen Wright; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters, Virginia Conner, Dorothy Balliet.

SIPPEL, ARLYN JOHN - b. May 29, 1927, Prophetstown, Ill.; d. Sept. 16, 2015, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: son, John; daughters, Cynthia, Linda; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

ZERAVICA, VLADIMIR — b. Jan. 27, 1966, Pancevo, Serbia; d. Oct. 17, 2014, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: parents, Boško and Natalija, long-time partner,

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Chico	4:58	4:52	4:47	4:44	
Eureka	5:06	4:59	4:54	4:50	
Fresno	4:56	4:50	4:46	4:43	
Hilo	5:44	5:42	5:40	5:41	
Honolulu	5:52	5:49	5:48	5:48	
Las Vegas	4:38	4:33	4:29	4:26	
Lodi	4:59	4:53	4:49	4:46	
Loma Linda	4:51	4:46	4:42	4:40	
Los Angeles	4:55	4:50	4:46	4:44	
Moab	5:10	5:04	4:59	4:56	
Oakland	5:04	4:58	4:53	4:50	
Phoenix	5:30	5:25	5:22	5:20	
Reno	4:51	4:45	4:40	4:36	
Riverside	4:51	4:46	4:43	4:41	
Sacramento	4:59	4:53	4:48	4:45	
Salt Lake City	5:16	5:10	5:05	5:01	
San Diego	4:52	4:47	4:44	4:42	
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