

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

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SECC Pathfinders Celebrate
DIAMOND JUBILEE

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about the cover

After the church service, drum corps member London Robinson, 12, a member of the Mt. Rubidoux club, entertains Pathfinders. PHOTO: ENNO MÜLLER



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PACIFIC UNION recorder

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About Those Resolutions ...

So, every year some of us make New Year's resolutions, usually on or about the first of the year. Common among them are saving more money, getting out of debt, losing weight, exercising more and others — maybe even to study the Sabbath school lesson daily or to read the Bible through this year.

But what is a resolution, really?

The Miriam Webster online dictionary has one definition of a resolution: "the act of determining." That one, while simplistic, seems to have an air of finality about it.

Wikipedia has the following entry under New Year's resolution: "A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person makes a promise to do an act of self-improvement or something slightly nice, such as opening doors for people beginning from New Year's Day."

In a way, a resolution is a promise to reform; to break old, negative or bad habits and form new, positive ones — the ones many of us have made to ourselves over and over again.

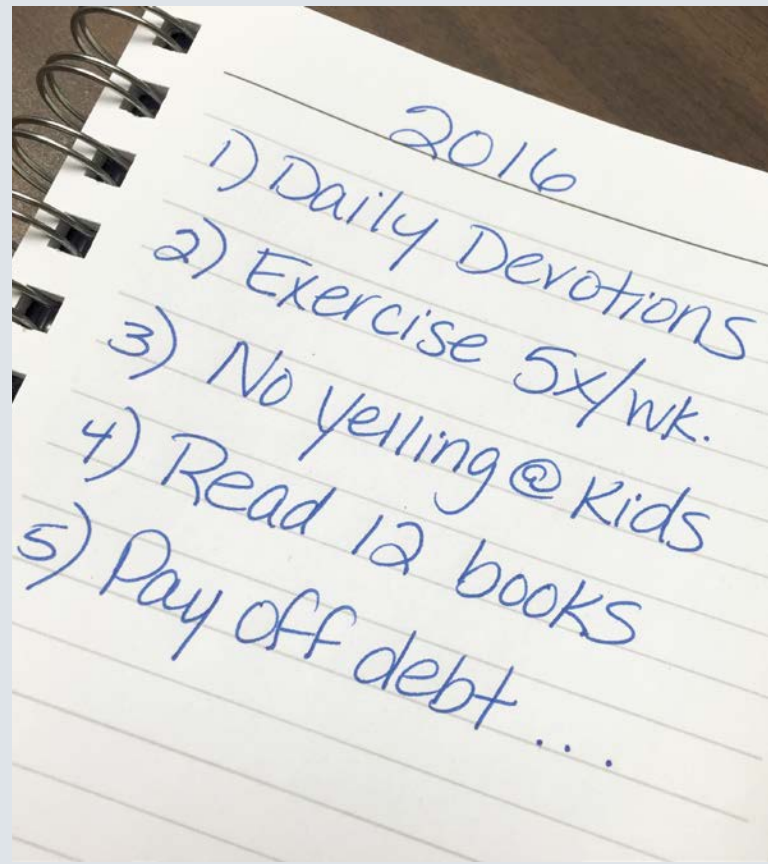
Once, in my teen years, I resolved not to make any more New Year's resolutions! I remember making what I called "roller coaster" promises to God. When I was on a roller coaster at an amusement park, at the height of the ride, when fear struck, I promised God that if He

allowed me to survive, I would not ever, ever get on another roller coaster. You guessed it. That promise was only good until I exited that particular ride on that particular day.

I don't believe that God has ever asked us to promise Him anything — at least I have not found those passages in my reading of the Bible in the proper context. He has, however, accepted our unsolicited commitments, promises and vows.

Consider this: "Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him" (Ellen White, *Steps to Christ*, pg. 47).

The earlier statement regarding ropes of sand is a powerful image. Those ropes cannot hold a thing. Yet I believe the esteemed writer was correct: there is hope in choosing Christ.



"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27, NIV).

We have access to the power of God by claiming promises He has made to us. Could that be the proper sequence — to accept what God has promised to do for us and in us? Those promises began in the Garden of Eden, when the prophetic promise of a Redeemer was made to Adam and Eve: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15, ASV).

Remember what the prophet Zechariah said? "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6, KJV). Our hope is in Christ and His meritorious work for us. He gives us the reality of victory.

Let us resolve to claim God's promises for us in 2016.



Ricardo Graham

Ricardo Graham

Glendale Academy Students Host “Science Chef: Fine Dining Edition”

The cafeteria at Glendale Academy, sometimes referred to as the “Cougar’s Den,” is not always just a cafeteria. On Nov. 12, it was transformed into a student-run restaurant. The restaurant opened at 5 p.m., and by 6 p.m., the cafeteria was packed. Outside the door, a line of parents and fellow students buzzed with anticipation, waiting to try one of the eight different vegetarian menus created by energetic junior high students.

The event was called “Science Chef: Fine Dining Edition,” and students who had recently studied nutrition were entrusted with setting up their own restaurant in order to serve tasty and healthy food to the community. These eighth-graders operated in groups, each with their own business name. In one corner, “Pasta La Vista” endeavored to make nutritious Italian dishes. Across the cafeteria, “Los Latinos” assembled their healthy versions of pupusas and potato tacos.

Students enjoyed their restaurateur roles. “I thought it was fun to experience what it was like to work in a restaurant,” said Brendon Arimura, an eighth-grader. “The experience had an exciting and frantic feel to it. I spent my time in the back of the kitchen, and I saw every person react differently to each situation. There were those who were freaking out, those who



Madison South, Eliana Escobar and William Wang deciding what to order for their meal.

kept to themselves and that one dude who yells at everyone. Overall, it was a night that will not soon be forgotten.”

The evening was a success, not only because it helped reinforce lessons in nutrition, but also because it presented career options for the future and provided real-life experience in learning how to work together. It also brought together the school and the community. “Too often,” said Stephen Nelson, who teaches science and religion, “the success of our children is only known in the classroom or at home. Few members of our community have the opportunity to see how much our students are learning and what they are capable of accomplishing.

“This cooking lab project, which began several years ago as a food competition, has evolved into a practical application of nutritional information and career options,” Nelson added. “Prior to the event, students were tasked with filling different positions. Each group appointed a marketer who had to create fliers, posters and 30-second television and radio ads promoting the event, and their group in particular. Along with the marketers, there were menu designers, a cost analyst and a resource manager. Students were immersed in real-world details that go into providing fine dining, setting up a business and preparing healthy food that is visually appealing.”

“I enjoyed participating in the Science Chef event at GAA,” said Chef Shomari Boulin. “We were able to show the children that food is not only a necessity for life, but can also be a way to minister to your fellow man in the same way Jesus did.

“I pray that they learned to appreciate how much work and love goes into food preparation and that they continue to learn the art of food preparation, because food not only nourishes the body, but the soul, as well.”

“This event would not have been possible without all the diligent work of the parents of the eighth-grade class, Glendale Adventist Academy’s own Chef Boulin, and his mother, Cheryl Boulin, who helped beyond what anyone could have expected,” said Nelson. “Above all, the school is thankful to God who has blessed us with these children and the time we have with them.”

Stephen Nelson and Betty Cooney

A Jan. 2016 article about the homeless ministry of the Hollywood church inaccurately stated that the Yucaipa church donated a washer-dryer to the church. Another church, which prefers to remain anonymous, made the generous donation. We regret the error.



David Flores serves Cheyenne Westmoreland.

Malibu Congregation Salutes Public Servants

The Malibu church held a Salute to Public Servants Day on Dec. 5, 2015. Led by church leaders Jobe and Judith Miranda, the service featured a number of guests from the public sector as well as from the Adventist church at large.

In place of a mission story DVD, Duane and Kathleen McKey, who had just traveled around the world, shared mission stories from faraway fields they had just visited. Duane McKey currently serves in the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference.

Continuing the mission theme, Judith Miranda announced that Malibu members would be taking a 10-day mission trip in 2016 to Greece. "In

Malibu, we have our own 'live' mission story!" she said. This will be the second church mission trip taken by a group of Malibu members.

Lela Lewis, M.D., presented a brief promotion of the 2016 Pathway to Health Los Angeles volunteer mega clinic currently being readied for April 27-29, 2016. More than 3,000 volunteer health professionals and nonmedical volunteers are needed to help facilitate free health services to more than 10,000 uninsured or underserved persons. (To volunteer, visit pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org.)

Lonnie Melashenko, former Voice of Prophecy speaker-director, was the featured speaker for the worship hour. His message, "But We See Jesus," focused on revealing Christ through our daily actions and words.

Three area public servants from the Los Angeles area were honored with plaques and certificates:

"The 'Salute to Public Servants Day' was truly amazing," said honoree Sergio Enfanzon, an Adventist church member and urban planning deputy in the office of councilmember Gilbert Cedillo. "It was filled with testimonies and opportunities to show that our churches can work with public officials to create bridges and help the community. My main goal as a public servant is to improve the quality of life of the people living in my community — and that is not different from the goal that we have as members of the Adventist church. I invite every single church to work closely with elected officials who are willing to open doors for us and help in sharing the gospel."

In accepting her plaque, a representative of the UN Association's West Coast office, a division of the UN Foundation/Better World Fund, expressed her appreciation for what she termed, "a wonderful honor." After learning about Pathway to Health and about Adventist aid given in mission fields, the guest expressed her admiration for what the church is doing. "The Adventist church's work has mirrored the work done by the U.N./U.S. Foundation," she said, "which is the humanitarian side of the U.N./U.S."

When receiving his plaque, Los Angeles City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson mentioned that he had been brought up in an Adventist home. Following the death of long-time SCC administrator Lorenzo Paytee, Harris-Dawson closed the Nov. 18 Council session with a vote extending the council's "deepest sympathy [to Mrs. Paytee] on the passing of your loved one, in whose memory all members stood in tribute and reverence as the Council adjourned." The gesture reflected the wide awareness in the city of Paytee's work over the years on behalf of young people and other area residents.

"The Salute to Public Servants was surely worth all the work and dedication to prepare for sharing God's truth with influential guests," said Miranda. "Our members sacrificed school, vacations, work, time and money for the Lord. We are already working on our second annual Salute to Public Servants."

C. ELWYN PLATNER



Velino A. Salazar, SCC president, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to L.A. City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. Judith Miranda looks on.

C. ELWYN PLATNER



(L. to r.) Lonnie Melashenko, Urban Planning Deputy Sergio Enfanzon; Velino A. Salazar. Second row, Adam Dawoodjee.

Betty Cooney

Holiday Gala Raises \$400,000 for Tuition Assistance



CATHIE JONES

Christian recording artist Steve Green, accompanied by FAA's select choir, entertains guests at the holiday gala.



CATHIE JONES

Guests enjoy the festive evening.



TOM KRAZAN

Gala committee members Michiko Phillips, Amanda Nettles, Donna Krazan and Amy Merriam, chair, complete the event setup.

Excited about Adventist education and the work being done at Fresno Adventist Academy, an anonymous donor approached Principal Eric Johnson and offered to match \$200,000 if the same funds were raised at the school's annual holiday gala. It was a challenge he couldn't refuse.

Dec. 6, 2015, marked the 16th annual holiday gala at FAA. The school's gala has historically raised funds for tuition aid, allowing more students to attend. The amount raised has steadily increased over the years. However, a few years ago, the amount of funds brought in by the gala began to plateau, inspiring Johnson and the gala committee to search for ways to alter the trend.

Originally, donations came via ticket sales and silent auctions, most recently averaging \$70,000. According to Amy Merriam, gala committee chair, Johnson changed the format two years ago. "It had become more of a boutique," explains Merriam. "He wanted to make it into more of a fundraiser. Now, if you want to attend, you sponsor a table or come as a guest of a table sponsor." The format change led to immediate results, and in 2014, the FAA gala raised \$120,000.

While organizers considered that to be a remarkable amount by single-event fundraising standards, the growth in enrollment made financial aid needs rise, which inspired the anonymous donor's matching pledge. "It's inspiring to know that there are people amongst us who feel so passionately about Adventist education and who are willing to give sacrificially to see it grow," says David Gillham, Central's vice president of education.

To add to the evening's excitement, Johnson had arranged for acclaimed Christian recording artist Steve Green to provide a full concert, with background vocals supplied by FAA's select choir. Green sent songs to choir instructor Jeffrey Lauritzen. "He sent his own arrangements," said Lauritzen. "We printed the music and practiced with the performance track. [He was] great to work with; very low key and supportive."

The concert drew more attendees than usual — a total of 360, with 40 tables sponsored. The table sponsorships, ranging from \$1,500-\$5,000, plus individual donations and \$9,000 from a dessert auction, brought in a total of \$188,000. Another guest pledged the remaining \$12,000 to reach the \$200,000 mark in order to meet the donor's challenge. The result was \$400,000 raised in one evening for student aid. According to Johnson, the funds will be split between the remainder of this school year and next, with the majority going toward the 2016-2017 school year, helping more than 200 students attend FAA.

"Too often, we underestimate what God is willing to do to help us out if we just let Him," concludes Johnson, who is ecstatic about the record-breaking amount raised. Fortunately for the students of FAA, many people that night were willing to put their trust in God in order to further the cause of Adventist education.

Jessica Maynez

Colombian Dignitaries Visit Monterey Bay Academy

In recent months, Monterey Bay Academy was given the opportunity to share its mission with traveling dignitaries from the country of Colombia. The visit was organized as a result of a trip to Colombia by Kevin Bowen, director of marketing and recruitment, and Efrain Murillo, vice principal for finance.

While there, various circumstances, encounters and emerging relationships — which Bowen and Murillo say were divinely inspired — allowed them to meet with governors and government advisors of Colombia. Spanish language materials enabled Bowen and Murillo to share with the Colombian dignitaries MBA's overall program that included the mission, academics, spiritual environment and even ocean location. The governors were very impressed by what they heard and requested to visit the campus.

On Dec. 7, MBA hosted Colombian Governor Edgar Diaz Contreras along with five other government dignitaries. The purpose of their visit was to evaluate the Seventh-day Adventist educational system with the hope of sponsoring 20 top academic students from 20 counties within the country of Colombia. The six-day visit gave officials full exposure to life on a boarding academy campus. Among other things, they

toured the campus, visited classrooms, and met with teachers and administrative staff. They were accompanied by two Colombian Adventists, Joel Jaimes, president of the Northeast Colombia Conference, and his wife, Monica Jaimes, director of children's ministries for the same conference.

Before their visit, the dignitaries were made aware of other Adventist institutions and asked if it was possible to visit La Sierra and Loma Linda Universities. MBA Principal Jeff Deming and Murillo accompanied the group to Southern California, where they were given extensive tours of both universities. Contreras and his advisors were again impressed with the Adventist education system and what the schools offered. They expressed interest in developing a program that would sponsor

Colombian teachers to attend La Sierra University in order to learn English. "We're proud of our MBA leadership and staff for the great work they did in hosting our Colombian guests," said David Gillham, vice president for education for the Central California Conference. "We look forward to the possibility of hosting Colombian students in the future."

"I believe Monterey Bay Academy would be such a great opportunity for our students," said Paola Andrea Villamizar Soler, secretary of education for the Colombian government, as she was preparing to leave.

"I believe God selected the site by the sea for a boarding academy," wrote Leal V. Grunke, one of the school's founding fathers. "Take a boy or girl from ordinary pursuits, teach them faith and confidence in God, and they can go from MBA and do extraordinary things in God's name."

"We were honored to share the values and practices of Adventist education with the group of Colombian leaders," concludes Ramiro Cano, CCC president and MBA school board chair. "Their interest affirms our commitment to providing transformational education to as many students as possible."



Colombian dignitaries tour the Monterey Bay Academy campus with Efrain Murrillo, left, vice principal for finance.



Biology teacher Bob Nobuhara shows a starfish collected by the marine biology class from Monterey Bay.

Kinzie Speyer

SECC Pathfinders Celebrate Their Camporees' Diamond Jubilee

Pathfinders and staff from clubs throughout the Southeastern California Conference celebrated the 60th anniversary of SECC Pathfinder camporees Nov. 12-15 at Rancho Jurupa Regional Park in Riverside. The gathering is the oldest annual Pathfinder camporee in the world, according to Rudy Carrillo, SECC youth ministries director. To commemorate the milestone anniversary, each Pathfinder received a special diamond jubilee pin and patch to wear on his or her uniform.

"The NAD youth ministries team congratulates the Pacific Union for providing 60 awesome years of ministry through Pathfinder camporees," said James Black, North American Division youth director. "Heaven rejoices over the thousands of young lives touched and brought to Jesus. One day soon, you will hear Jesus say, 'Well done.'"

Camporee 2015

Carrillo planned several special activities to make the jubilee event memorable.

He invited Messiah's Mansion to set up a full-scale model of the Mosaic sanctuary at the campground. The weekend's speaker was Clayton Leineweber, Messiah's Mansion director, who wore a replica of the biblical high priest's garments and explained their significance. On Sabbath, about 1,900 Pathfinders and leaders

took guided tours of the sanctuary in small groups.

"Pathfinders were very attentive during the sanctuary tour, and they have really learned a lot regarding this unique Adventist doctrine," said Aldie Garcia, codirector of the Chula Vista club.

Most of the Pathfinders earned their Sanctuary Honor before or during the camporee, and many planned to work on the Advanced Sanctuary Honor in the weeks following the event. Carrillo has long felt a burden for helping youth learn more about the sanctuary's importance. "The sanctuary is fundamental to the Adventist church and all our beliefs," he said. "My favorite part of the weekend was walking around and talking to the kids — watching them go through the sanctuary and taking notes for the honor."

The Pathfinders enjoyed it, too. "My favorite part of the SECC camporee was the Messiah's Mansion tour," said Nyah Banks, a member of the Mt. Rubidoux club. "I appreciated the spiritual focus. It also was a great opportunity to experience the sanctuary in a life-size replica instead of on paper or felts."

In addition to a variety of camporee activities, Carrillo arranged for 18 inflatable play structures to be set up at the campground as a treat for the kids. On Sunday the Pathfinders enjoyed climbing, sliding and jumping for a while before heading home.

The camporee's blend of Bible instruction and outdoor recreation has been a staple throughout its history. "Even when we are learning, we can still have fun," said Griffin Koh, a Pathfinder who serves as Orange Central Korean club captain.

Teen counselor Sophia Rosemann, from the Chula Vista club, agreed. "I liked the balance of spiritual and recreational exhibits. I had a great time meeting new teenagers the same age as I am."

The first SECC Pathfinder camporee patch for Idyllwild debuted in 1954.



Camporee 1954

The first camporee was actually held 61 years ago, in May of 1954, as reported in the *Pacific Union Recorder*. The article's author, Harry Garlick, was aware that a tradition had begun. "History was in the making May 7-9 as trucks and automobiles, arriving at the JMV



A Pathfinder from the El Cajon club reads his Bible during the morning devotional.



Rudy Carrillo, SECC youth director, makes announcements.

PHOTOS BY ENNO MÜLLER



Clayton Leineweber, from Messiah's Mansion, preaches to Pathfinders about the sanctuary.

Pathfinder camp at Idyllwild, poured forth their human cargo of spirited Pathfinders to the first conference-wide Pathfinder camporee in Southeastern California Conference," he wrote.

In the article, Garlick quoted Charles Martin, SECC Missionary Volunteers secretary: "This has been such a success that in the future, camporees will be an annual event in this conference."

During that first camporee, hikes seemed to be a popular activity. Garlick mentions a variety of options: cookout hikes, mountain rescue hikes, campcraft hikes and nature hikes. The kids also enjoyed contests such as flapjack flipping, string burning, fire building, speed knot tying and drill downs.

No numbers were mentioned for that first event, but the next year Garlick reported in the *Recorder* that 350 attended the second annual camporee, held at Mt. Laguna Recreation Area.

The Tradition Continues

The very first Pathfinder club in the world began in the Southeastern California Conference in 1946. Since then, untold numbers of kids have grown closer to Jesus because of the relationships they established with their leaders and peers at Pathfinder meetings and events, such as the camporee. "I think Pathfinders continues to be popular because it fills a unique niche," said Kristel Zuppan, director of the

Calimesa club. "It's a neat way for kids to be able to interact with adults in a non-school or sport setting and establish mentor relationships."

These relationships are key to the success of the Pathfinder organization, according to Carrillo. "As important as everything Pathfinders does — camping, honors, skills, classwork — the most important thing is to spend time with the children," he said. "Leading our children to Christ, that's number one. I truly believe that was our pioneers' objective when they started the program."

Julie Lorenz



Andrew Blomberg, from Messiah's Mansion, explains to Pathfinders the purpose and meaning of the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary.



Pathfinders from the Mt. Rubidoux club learn about nature.

Galt Students Learn Friendship Evangelism

Students from Galt Adventist Christian School are discovering that practical actions can be a positive witness. On the last Friday of each month, the students (kindergartners through eighth-graders) visit homes and businesses in the community to give away homemade cookies. The goal for the outreach is to let people know about the school — a place “where kids care about other people,” said Principal Janice Deibel.

Galt church members bake the cookies (usually about 90 dozen per month), which are distributed in packages of six. Many recipients seem surprised that the treats are free. “My favorite part is the shocked look on their faces when we say we don’t want anything,” said seventh-grader Annie Nevis.

Eighth-grader Mikayla Zimmermann enjoys meeting the neighborhood children. “My favorite part is the little kids that are there and how excited they get because other kids are bringing stuff to their house,” she said.

The students sometimes ask if they can pray with those they meet and ask if there is anything they need. Deibel hopes that the outreach will help the kids remember a basic lesson of Christianity: “We are here for two reasons: to honor God and to serve others,” she said.

The students had another opportunity to make friends with the community at the Galt church’s annual community Veterans Day dinner — the largest one yet. About 350 people attended the event, including about 100 veterans who came for free. Church Pathfinders served the meal, and Galt students provided entertainment. “Most of the people in the crowd had not realized that we have a school,” said organizer Toni Del Grande. “They left the event feeling happy — not just from the meal but from connecting with our school children.”



CYNTHIA ACKERMAN

Galt Adventist Christian School student Zachary Hansen makes a cookie delivery.



CYNTHIA ACKERMAN

Students Zachary Hansen, Giovanna Guerrero, Alora Lopez and Dylan Carpio give cookies to a community member.



PAIGE LAMPSON

Students from Galt Adventist Christian School sing for guests at the Veterans Day dinner.



PAIGE LAMPSON

About 100 veterans and 250 other community members attended the Galt church’s annual Veterans Day dinner.



Julie Lorenz


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Vallejo Central Church Opens HomeBase for the Homeless

On Nov. 30, the Vallejo Central church officially opened HomeBase, a place for homeless people to help themselves in practical ways. Located in the church's community services building, HomeBase includes two washing machines, two clothes dryers, a computer with internet service, a printer, a telephone, a refrigerator, a microwave and food.

Individuals and families can reserve the space for two hours at a time. "The idea is that they get a taste of what their home can be like again," said Pastor Lem Garcia. "They can take ownership of their lives again, and have privacy, while they get back on their feet."

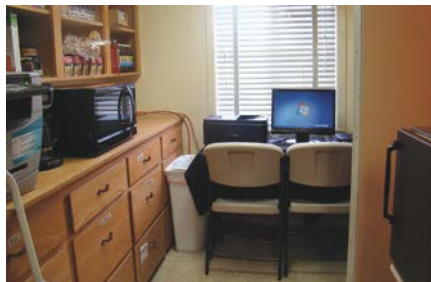
Some guests have used the HomeBase computer to search for employment. Recently, one woman checked her email messages and discovered that she had been offered a job. If she hadn't had access to her email, she wouldn't have known that she had work.

The HomeBase project was a combined effort of the church and Vallejo Together, a community organization that identifies itself as "a collaborative movement of individuals and organizations to build community, one area — one person at a time." Vallejo Together's director, Maria Guevara, arranged for the donation and installation of the HomeBase equipment. Her organization coordinates reservations of the room and oversees the space during its use. The next plan is to install shower facilities at the center in the near future.

PHOTOS BY LEM GARCIA



Community leaders and some of the families that will benefit from the HomeBase project gather at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



HomeBase offers a home-like refuge for people to enjoy a snack and use a computer.



People can reserve the HomeBase center to wash and dry their clothes.



Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis cuts the ribbon during the official HomeBase opening, surrounded by Vallejo Central church pastor Lem Garcia (left), church business manager Lenson Wong and Vallejo Together director Maria Guevara.

Those involved with HomeBase hope that it will be the first of other such spaces. "Community change led by churches and nonprofits is a great idea because they mobilize people much more quickly [than government programs]," said Garcia. Social media has been an important part of this project, as people look on the Vallejo Together Facebook page to learn how they can help.

HomeBase complements the Vallejo Central church's long-running Adventist Community Services center. In addition to giving away clothes and shoes, the ACS distributes items needed by the homeless: sleeping bags,

tents, blankets, tarps, rain gear, toiletries and more. Those who come for groceries receive food staples, and they also get to "shop" for specific items, which are displayed in sections like a grocery store, including dairy, produce, pet food and more. "We have evolved to meet people's needs, and we'll continue to meet the needs as we can," said Larry Leach, the church's ACS director for more than 20 years.

Leach knows of five people who have been baptized as a result of relationships formed through the church's ACS. Vallejo Central church members hope that the new relationships they are forming through HomeBase will also make a long-term impact. "We hope this will open the door for people to not just find a home base where they can tend to their daily needs, but they can have their spiritual needs met as well," said Garcia.

Julie Lorenz

Students Learn Legal System Through CourtWorks

On Nov. 6, 2015, eighth grade students from Glenview Adventist Academy and Thunderbird Christian Elementary played the roles of lawyers, witnesses and judges as they participated in a unique legal program called CourtWorks, hosted by the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona in collaboration with the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

For 10 years, CourtWorks has been introducing eighth grade students from around the Phoenix area to the inner workings of the justice system and the constitution. More than 50 individuals who work for the court or in private practice volunteer their time to guide the students in their roles.

CourtWorks also gives the kids ideas about career opportunities within the legal system. "As much as I don't like the court atmosphere, it gave me an interesting perspective on a career path I never considered before," said Nick Howard, an eighth-grader from Glenview Adventist Academy.

"It was a unique experience," said Glenview student Daniel Saravia, who was a witty courtroom deputy. "I think everyone learned a lot and, because of this, many are now interested in law."

This year's mock trial was based on an actual Supreme Court case, *New Jersey vs. T.L.O.* in which a school principal searched a student's



Eighth grade students from Glenview and Thundebird Elementary schools learned much from their day with CourtWorks.

handbag and, in the process, found marijuana. Arguments in the case focused on the Fourth Amendment and whether or not the principal violated the student's rights with an unreasonable search.

In court, student attorneys first made oral arguments on whether it was reasonable for a school official to search a student's purse on a hunch. "Good morning, your honor. My name is Savannah Courtad, and I represent the defendant in this case," said Courtad, an eighth-grader from Thunderbird Christian Elementary School in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Then prosecution and defense teams presented evidence in the matter of marijuana

possession. Finally, members of the jury decided if the prosecution presented enough evidence to convict the student beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Other students acted as witnesses, like Howard, who played the part of the principal. The "witnesses" memorized their characters' information so they would be able to answer questions on the witness stand.

"Doing a real life case is a great way to learn how the world operates," said Glenview eighth-grader Jonelle Gregorio, who was part of the team of prosecutors.

Jade Escobar, eighth-grader from Thunderbird Christian Elementary, portrayed the judge.



Glenview eighth-grader Jonelle Gregorio makes a case before the court.



Eighth grade students meet with the actual court attorneys and judges to get advice for defense and prosecution for the case.



TCE student Jade Escobar acts as judge during the CourtWorks mock trial.

She liked “when people would say objection to me and I would say ‘sustained’ or ‘overruled.’”

For many of the students, the uncertainty of the courtroom posed an unnerving part of the process. “It was stressful being on the witness stand, but I learned a lot,” said Kaitlyn Barragan, from Glenview Adventist Academy.

After the closing arguments, the jury moved into the jury room to deliberate. “I got to see what it actually looked like inside of the jury room,” said Carter Wertz, a juror from Thunderbird Christian Elementary. After careful deliberation, the jurors returned to render their decision. In all nine courtrooms, no jury found its defendant guilty.

At the conclusion of the mock trials, students from all the participating schools gathered in the jury assembly room where Judge Mary H. Murguia, CourtWorks founder, introduced various members of the court system, including U.S. marshals and probation officers.

Dr. Marilyn LaCount facilitated the invitation to the program. LaCount, an Adventist, is the former executive director of Office of Youth Preparation at Arizona State University who, in 2004, partnered with Murguia and with the ASU Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law to develop CourtWorks. LaCount is now working to bring these opportunities to other Adventist schools in the Arizona Conference.

Jeff Rogers

Navajo Heartland Ministry Serves Native Americans in Kayenta

Kayenta, Ariz., a town of about 5,000 located on the Navajo Indian Reservation, is the largest town in any direction for about an hour and a half. It is on the path between Monument Valley Park, the Grand Canyon and other national parks, so many people travel through, including tourists from around the world.

Rick and Judi Keener and family moved to Kayenta in 2009 when they were called to be part of the ministry to the Native American people. Work had been done in Kayenta in the 1990s by a lay couple, and in 1994-95 the Monument Valley church helped to build a community service building, which is also used as a church. They planned to start a day care center and elementary school, promote health education, provide substance abuse help, and possibly



Judi Keener and students make homemade applesauce.



Joella Meyer of Monument Valley Health Center teaches natural health treatments.



Vacation Bible School leader Carol Swinyer of Prescott, Ariz., delights the children with stories, crafts and songs.

open a health food store/cafe. These goals are still alive today.

For the past four years, Judi Keener has conducted cooking classes, emphasizing nutrition’s role in managing diabetes, heart disease and other lifestyle-related health problems. Keener also works with the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project, assisting at their events.

The Keeners want to reach the native people by learning more of their culture. Recently, at the Kayenta Flea Market, they gave out free samples of food, and many people became acquainted with the outreach ministry.

The couple has several Bible studies in progress, and they host evangelistic meetings, seminars for depression, and other programs throughout the year.

Vacation Bible School, facilitated by a Prescott-based group, is a big event every summer, drawing 20-40 area children. Groups willing to do mission outreach projects are always welcome. This spring, volunteers from Upper Columbia Academy brightened the church with a new coat of paint.

“No matter what plans we may make or how hard we work, it won’t be effective without the power of the Holy Spirit,” says Judi Keener. “We ask for your prayers as we reach out to Navajos with the message that Jesus loves them.”

Shirley Chipman

Teen Leaders Take Training to the Next Level

Nevada-Utah held a Teen Leadership Training event in Cedar City, Utah, Oct. 30 to Nov. 1. Fifteen teen trainees from five Pathfinder clubs, along with their club directors and mentors, from around the conference gathered to learn more about leadership in Pathfinders and in local churches.

The weekend began with a short devotion by Pastor David Solomon Hall Sr., conference youth director. The teens then attended workshops in record keeping, teaching and outreach. They also planned their own Sabbath worship service, including a sermon, special music, Scripture readings and prayer.

"My TLT experience was amazing," said Sadie Lujan. "Making new friends that will be remembered forever and never forgotten; learning about how God will work with you to make you a better leader, a leader that will work in His name; workshops that explained every track with a great amount of detail; worship that was

like no other, everyone coming together to make a great worship service. It was pretty awesome."

"It's very important to get the proper training so that you can do a wide variety of things and affect people's lives," said Sarah Grindstaff.

"The TLTs of the Nevada-Utah Conference overall have had a great time," said Trisha Godoy. "They discovered new things and people that will impact their lives in the long run. It must be a weekend that they will never forget!"

The teens and their mentors finished off the weekend with planning sessions. They reviewed



INOUERBONSON

Teen leaders from around the conference gathered last fall to sharpen their leadership skills.

skills they learned and practiced how to incorporate those ideas into their club activities. TLTs will come together again in April.

Desiree Tomlinson

Susanville Adventist School Spreads Christmas Spirit

Susanville Adventist Christian School in Susanville, Calif., held a musical program with nativity props for parents and friends the evening of Thursday, Dec. 17. The program

depicted Jesus' birth and surrounding events with children singing and reciting Bible and Ellen White quotes arranged by teacher Dona Dunbar. For the grand finale, children and adults sang the Hallelujah Chorus.

On Friday, the students went to Eagle Lake Village Assisted Living to sing carols for the residents, both in the memory care unit and in the assisted living section. Before their arrival, students "formed an assembly line," according to student Joelle Gidding's grandma, Marilyn Pitts, to make and bake cookies and package them to share with residents.

"We've had the high school choir and elementary students here to sing, but this group sounds so much better," claimed Jan Ramelli, Eagle Lake administrator. "Could you come every month to sing for our residents?"

Dunbar agreed to bring the children for a visit the third Friday of each month.



JOYCE BARLOW

Susanville Adventist Christian School students bring the Christmas spirit to the residents of Eagle Lake Assisted Living.



Students present a Christmas pageant for their community.

Joyce Barlow



PUC Announces New Degree Program in Music Composition

Building on a well-established undergraduate music program, the new major expands PUC's music portfolio and complements the college's existing degree in music education and performance. Students can expect to gain a solid foundation in techniques and current trends associated with the creation of new music. Additionally, PUC students will have the unique opportunity to collaborate with and compose for PUC student filmmakers in the college's film and television program.

"USA Today described music composition as one of the top 10 fastest growing jobs in the United States this decade," shares Asher Raboy, resident artist of music and assistant department chair. "We created the new major in response to a growing interest in composing among current students and recent graduates." According to Raboy, current students have shown a strong desire to compose, to use composition in their capstone courses, and to make composition the focus of their college careers.

PUC's Bachelor of Music with an emphasis composition was designed for students looking to forge careers in creating and producing music for worship, film, television, orchestration and arranging, theatre, animation, video games and more. It reflects the current and evolving nature of professional music-making in the

digital age, where the job description of today's contemporary musician often includes live and studio performance, audio engineering/editing and mastering, as well as music synthesis and programming.

"Today's composers have a vast new spectrum of employment possibilities," said Dr. Edwin Moore, associate academic dean and interim chair for the department of music. The major is a perfect choice for students seeking careers as recording artists, music producers, sound designers, arrangers, orchestrators, music editors, musical directors and performing artists. "This program will prepare students for these occupations, and also facilitates entry into graduate programs that are gateways into good positions for composers," Moore further explained.

Courses in music theory, music technology, counterpoint form, arranging, orchestration, composition for visual media,

and conducting give the student a thorough preparation in comprehensive musicianship. And, with access to guest artists, internships, and the thriving Bay Area music and media arts scene, PUC students will be connected to the industry before they graduate.

For more information about the program, contact Asher Raboy at 707-965-7137 or araboy@puc.edu. Students interesting in applying should visit www.puc.edu/apply.

Morgan Samuel



PUC music students can now focus on music education and performance. They will also be able to collaborate with film and TV majors to compose original scores.

Online Show 'LIVE IT' Debuts Jan. 1 on YouTube

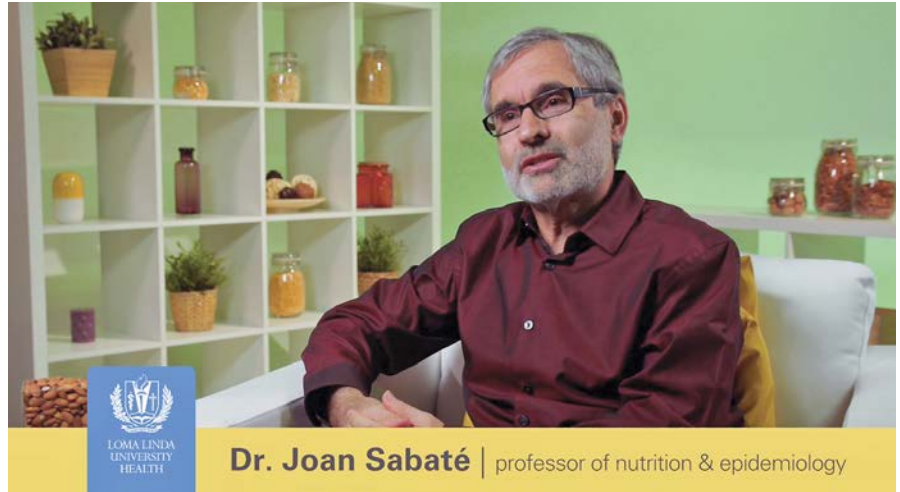
Loma Linda University Health's online health show, "LIVE IT," made its debut on YouTube Jan. 1. Based on Loma Linda University Health research and encouraging others to LIVE IT, each episode features simple tips to live healthier, longer. The health show originates from Loma Linda, the place where people live the longest in the nation.

"No other online health show focuses on longevity," said Cosmin Cosma, director of advancement films. "Simply put, Loma Linda University Health is a leading organization on wellness and prevention that holds the treasured research findings on this popular subject. Through an easy-to-understand format with animations, the show inspires viewers to LIVE IT."

The inaugural season of the show contains 14 episodes, each ranging from two to three minutes in length. The show will provide quick, fun-to-watch videos on hot health topics and research from Loma Linda University Health.

Each episode is presented by a physician and journalist, and includes sound bites from the main researcher on each topic as well as animation to illustrate the subject matter in an entertaining way. The show educates viewers on simple ways to incorporate the health tips into their own lives.

The first episode highlights research on nuts that ultimately reversed health advice that had been provided by the American Heart Association.



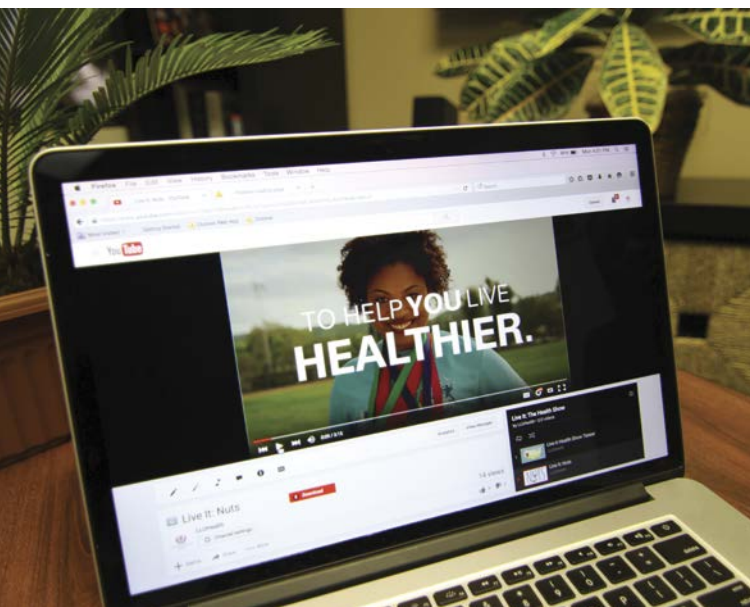
The show features health experts who provide information and tips on living better, longer.

Loma Linda University Health researchers discovered that eating a handful of nuts a day lowers cholesterol by 10 percent and cuts the risk of a heart attack in half. The second episode premiered Jan. 8, and subsequent episodes will be released every Friday through April 1.

For more information on "LIVE IT," visit the show's website, liveitlomalinda.org.

LIVE IT: The Health Show Topics

- Nuts: How to reduce your cholesterol
- Reusable grocery bags: Reduce bacteria levels
- Pomegranates: Prevent Alzheimer's Disease
- Standing: Reduce the risk of chronic disease
- Laughter: Improve short-term memory
- Avocados and almonds: Lose weight
- Water — drink up!: Reduce the risk of heart disease
- Mediterranean diet: Reduce the risk of heart disease
- Spiritual health: Have better physical and mental quality
- Vegetarian diet: Decrease the risk of chronic disease
- Greens, brown rice, legumes, dried fruit: Reduce the risk of colon cancer
- Aerobic exercise: Reduce the risk of Type 2 Diabetes and chronic disease
- Legumes: Reduce hip fractures
- Nutrition in pregnancy: Have healthier children



Visit www.liveitlomalinda.org for more information.

Briana Pastorino

Adventist Health Study-2 Anticipates Significant Findings in 2016

Michael J. Orlich, M.D., Ph.D., co-investigator of the Adventist Health Study-2 at Loma Linda University School of Public Health, says a number of articles are anticipated in research and scientific journals in 2016 exploring links between diet and improved health. The building behind him is one of the original campus cottages dating to the time of Ellen G. White.

New discoveries about the links between diet and health will be announced this year through the Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2), a project of Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

According to Michael J. Orlich, M.D., Ph.D., co-investigator, queries on the following topics are anticipated for publication in research and scientific publications in 2016:

- calcium and dairy consumption and colorectal cancer
- calcium and dairy consumption and prostate cancer
- soy consumption and breast cancer
- eating specific meats and colorectal cancer
- meal timing and weight gain
- tomato consumption and prostate cancer

Orlich says the findings will also be reported to the general public. That's what happened

last year when the May 2015 edition of *JAMA Internal Medicine* published an article he wrote reporting that vegetarians have 22 percent fewer instances of colorectal cancer than non-vegetarians. Nearly 200 media outlets, including several international news agencies, carried the story.

Funded by the National Cancer Institute, Adventist Health Study-2 is based on data gathered from 96,000 members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, beginning in 2002. It follows earlier studies of health among Adventists dating back to the 1950s. The collected data is extensive enough that researchers are able to ask specific questions about many aspects of dietary practice and arrive at quantified answers in terms of specific foods and nutrients and their relationship to various cancers.

Orlich says 2015 was a breakthrough year in that the first AHS-2 analyses addressing the risk

of specific cancers were published. In addition to Orlich's article, Yessenia Tantomongo-Bartley, Ph.D., published an article on prostate health in the November 2015 edition of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. Her analysis showed a 35 percent reduced risk association of prostate cancer in vegans compared to non-vegetarians.

"We appreciate the extremely valuable participation of all of our AHS-2 study members," says Orlich. "After years of collecting data on cancer risk, in 2015 we published our first scientific articles from AHS-2 linking diet patterns to the risk of cancer. We expect 2016 to be an important year with multiple publications relating specific foods and the risk of common cancers, particularly colorectal, breast and prostate cancers."

James Ponder

Security Director Saves Baby's Life



Mike Spicer

A retired California Highway Patrol officer says he felt the Holy Spirit when he revived an 8-month-old baby just days before Thanksgiving. "The Holy Spirit is here," says Mike Spicer, security director at Adventist Health / Central Valley Network. "If you call upon Him, He will help."

Spicer had worked at Adventist Health for six months and was enjoying the devotions and

prayers that started every meeting. He also had been reading about the Holy Spirit on his own.

As he was driving home to Hanford, Calif., on Nov. 21, 2015, Spicer noticed a man with a baby walking up to the shoulder of Highway 198, a four-lane highway. He then noticed an overturned vehicle off to the side in the bushes.

Spicer pulled over and began assessing the situation and asking questions, using life-saving techniques he learned when he was in the Coast Guard. The man handed him the lifeless baby.

Spicer placed the baby boy in his truck and started light compressions on his chest, all the while praying silently and listening to a sermon on the radio about men who are filled with the Holy Spirit.

"I thought to myself that this baby is dead, but I kept on with the compressions and prayers," he says.

He could hear the baby's mother in the background saying, "Don't tell me my baby's dead, please don't." Then Spicer saw the baby open his eyes, moan and start to cry.

"I was like wow! That was a miracle!"

he says. He picked up his phone with the baby still in his arms and dialed 911 for help.

Spicer recalls helping resuscitate a man when he was in the Marine Corps, but says this experience was an emotional one because God had placed him in the right place at the right time to save the baby's life.

The baby had no further complications from the accident, and his mother and two siblings suffered only scratches and bruises.

"That was unbelievable and a miracle," Spicer says. "I'm so grateful for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives and for the opportunity to work at an organization that makes time for the Bible and prayer."

Amanda Taurigui



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." — Romans 15:13

Watch a hands-only CPR instructional video by scanning this QR code on your smartphone.



CPR: Are you ready?

Mike Spicer was equipped with CPR knowledge and was ready to use it at a moment's notice. However, according to the American Heart Association, nearly 70 percent of Americans may not be prepared to provide aid during a cardiac emergency.* Will you be ready?

Sign up for a CPR class at your local Adventist Health hospital or training center. The American Heart Association also has video demos of hands-only CPR which you can view at cpr.heart.org. Visit cpr.heart.org to find a training location near you.

*http://cpr.heart.org/AHA/ECC/CPRECC/AboutCPRFirstAid/CPRECC/FactsAndStats/UCM_475748_CPR-Facts-and-Stats.jsp

Jonathan Mamora, a La Sierra University University junior piano performance major plays for La Sierra University's 56th annual Concerto Concert in 2014 as the concerto competition's first place winner that year. He will perform with the Coachella Valley Symphony on Feb. 2.



La Sierra Piano Student Lands Symphony Performance

Just before the happiness set in, Jonathan Mamora experienced another sensation — profound relief. The email he received informed him he had won the concerto competition of the Steinway Society of Riverside County.

The 20-year-old La Sierra University piano performance major had spent months practicing one of classical music's best-known and longest concertos in preparation for the competition Nov. 8 in Palm Desert. The hard work paid off. His performance of the first movement of Pyotr Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor, Op. 23" won him first place. As part of his prize, performed the movement on Feb. 2 with the Coachella Valley Symphony. Two fellow La Sierra music students, Marie Ananian and Julian Jenson, also competed in the Steinway event.

"For me, and probably for almost every musician, it is absolutely nerve-racking waiting for the results of a competition, no matter how big or small the competition is. The three of us from La Sierra University kept constantly checking our emails and asking each other if the results were posted yet," Mamora said.

Mamora began studying piano at age 4 and has performed in competitions throughout his

life. He began entering higher-profile events while in junior high school after joining the studio of La Sierra's music department chair, Elvin Rodriguez, music professor and piano teacher.

Mamora's latest award caps a slate of top wins over the past couple of years including first prize for the Music Teacher's Association of California Concerto Competition in July 2015, and the \$3,000 Marcia Specht Guy Memorial Prize for La Sierra University's annual concerto competition in April 2014. For those events, he performed another notoriously difficult work, the "Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30" by Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Other wins include second prize at the IYIM International Piano Competition, Platinum Prize in the Glendale Piano Competition, and first prize in the Redlands Bowl Young Artists Piano Competition. He has also been a prizewinner in the International Russian Music Piano Competition, the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, and the Bronislaw Kaper Awards Competition.

Like most classical musicians, Mamora counts among his musical influences the great musicians and composers of the past. However, he cites Rodriguez as the chief influence in his present career. "Working with him has been

an extreme honor. He has continued to push me in exploring different ways to interpret and effectively express music, and I couldn't have asked for a better teacher," Mamora said.

For Mamora, competition is not just an opportunity to receive public commendation for his effort and skill. "Competitions offer me the chance to give justice to the music and the composer," Mamora said. "When one spends hours upon hours studying and analyzing the music and even the life of the composer, they begin to develop a greater appreciation for the work of art that was composed, and to be able to play it at the highest level, such as competitions, is a great honor."

Additionally, as a Seventh-day Adventist, competing provides Mamora a medium through which to share his faith and serve God. "When we recognize the significance of music and the ability to communicate with it, we realize the power and potential to use it for the glory of the Lord," he said. "So when I enter these competitions, it is also an avenue for me to share the talents that God has given me and to bring people closer to Christ through music."

Darla Martin Tucker

CALENDARS

Central California

PRISON MINISTRY RALLY (Feb. 6) Conference office. To register or info: Betty Kelly, 559-348-3223.

PATHFINDER COUNCIL MEETING (Feb. 7) Conference office. Info: pathfinders@cccsda.org, 559-347-3174.

HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH KID U at your local church? Then you're ready to be trained as a trainer. Find out more about the In Discipleship "Train the Trainer—Module 1 & 2" event (Feb. 7) and Module 3 (March 6). CCC office, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: Leah Jordache, 559-437-3182, ljordache@cccsda.org.

HISPANIC CONVOCATION (Feb. 13) Bakersfield. Featuring Omar Grieve. Info: Miriam Sanchez, 661-912-5899.

CCC SINGLES events for 2016 kick off with the "No Valentine" Party (Feb. 14) followed by a Union-wide event in April. Visit: cccsingles.adventistfaith.org. Info: singles@cccsda.org or text Debra Sulen, 903-594-8868.

MARRIAGE RETREAT (Feb. 19-21) Cliffs Resort, Shell Beach, along

California's Central Coast. You'll enjoy wonderful fellowship and great seminars with Dr. Erylene Piper-Mandy. Info: ministries@cccsda.org, 559-347-3142.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES TRAINING (Feb. 26-27) Soquel Conference Center. Are you a collegiate or young adult leader? Do you attend a public college or university? Do you have a burden for reaching these groups for Christ? If so, this is the training for you. Join Eddie Heinrich of the Pacific Union. Info: spasillas@cccsda.org, 559-347-3177.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RALLY (Feb. 26-27) Fresno Central church. Info: Florina, 559-347-3144, fmorales@cccsda.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Training and Children's Ministry Certification: Track 2 (Feb. 27) Chowchilla church, 2:30-7:30 p.m. Info: 559-347-3181, cccchildren.adventistfaith.org.

PRAYER CONFERENCE (March 4-5) Bakersfield Hillcrest church. Join Joseph Kidder and learn how to "Utilize the Gift of Prayer," plus programs for all ages.

Northern California

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE RETREAT (Feb. 5-7) Leoni Meadows. Speaker: Jeff

Deming, Monterey Bay Academy principal. Family groups, games, great food, Bible study and much more. Info and registration: nccsda.com/frsoretreat.

JAIME JORGE CONCERT (Feb. 6) 4 p.m. Granite Bay church, 3785 Placer Corporate Drive, Rocklin. Violin virtuoso presents his 12th annual Abundant Life Broadcasting benefit concert for Channel 27. Info: 916-434-3880, ext. 7209.

LEADING CHILDREN & FAMILIES to Heaven (Feb. 6) 3-6 p.m. Santa Rosa church, 840 Sonoma Ave. Training for children's ministry, families, Sabbath school and Vacation Bible School leaders. Info: nccsda.com/LeadingChildren-toHeaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

RETIRO DE MATRIMONIOS (Feb. 12-14) Leoni Meadows. "Para Siempre." Speakers: Pastor Jorge and Nibia Mayer, Pastor Alfredo and Sonia Trevedan. Music: Saul and Cory Grijalba, Enoc and Celiane Piedra. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries, 925-603-5092.

LEADING CHILDREN & FAMILIES to Heaven (Feb. 13) 3-6 p.m. Roseville church, 914 Cirby Way. Training for children's ministry, families, Sabbath school and Vacation Bible School leaders. Info: nccsda.com/LeadingChildrentoHeaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

FREE BIBLE CONFERENCE (Feb. 19, 20) Steve Wohlberg's "Startling Prophecies for America." Oroville State Theatre, 1489 Myers Street. Connecting prophecies and current events. Fri., 7 p.m. - Antichrist; Saturday 2-3:30 p.m. - America's Role in Prophecy and 4-5:30 p.m. - America and The Mark of The Beast. Q&A session follows. Info: 855-317-2081.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mike Tucker

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FAIRFIELD SUISUN SPANISH church 30th Anniversary Celebration (Feb. 19-20) 40 Buena Vista Avenue, Suisun City. Fri., 7 p.m. Sabbath, 9:30 a.m. Speaker: Ricardo Norton, director of the SDA Theological Seminary's Institute of Hispanic Ministry. Special music, fellowship meal. Info: 707-425-7932.

URBAN MINISTRY FORUM (Feb. 26-28) Oakland Immanuel Temple church, 2411 55th Avenue. "Building Bridges to Our Cities." Speaker: Dr. Sung Kwon, executive director of North American Division Adventist Community Services. Info: nccsda.com/urbanministryforum.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (March 11-13) Call or email to reserve your space or ask questions. Info: Rob & Debbie Purvis, 916-599-5560 or purvis4@comcast.net.

NCC PRAYER RETREAT (March 11-13) Leoni Meadows. Speaker: Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director for the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute. Info: www.nccsda.com/prayerretreat, naomi.parson@nccsda.com or 916-955-4583.

LEADING CHILDREN & FAMILIES to Heaven (March 12) 3-6 p.m. Antioch church, 2300 Country Hills Drive. Training for children's ministry, families, Sabbath School and Vacation Bible

School leaders. Info: nccsda.com/LeadingChildrenToHeaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

Pacific Union College

COLLEGE DAYS (Jan. 31-Feb. 2) Prospective students are invited to experience life at PUC. Includes meeting professors, sitting in on classes, and touring the campus. Info: 707-965-6336.

COLLOQUY SPEAKER SERIES: Dr. Carlton P. Byrd (Feb. 4) 10 a.m., PUC church. Dr. Byrd, director of the iconic Breath of Life Television Broadcast, speaks for Black History Month. Info: colloquy@puc.edu.

HANS HIELSCHER ORGAN Recital (Feb. 13) 4 p.m., PUC church. German musician performs on the Rieger organ. Info: 707-965-6201.

LONGO LECTURE SERIES (Feb. 18) 7:30 p.m., Scales Chapel, PUC church. Author and scholar Marilyn McEntyre, Ph.D., speaks for this biennial lectureship dedicated to topics of faith, knowledge, and human values. Info: 707-965-6303.

ALTER EGOS — PUC VISUAL ARTS Faculty Show (Feb. 20) Opening Reception 7 p.m., Rasmussen Art Gallery.



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Members of PUC's visual arts faculty break new ground exploring art in different genres than their usually exhibited work. Runs through March 13. Info: 707-954-6303.

ACADEMY BAND FESTIVAL Concert (Feb. 27) 8 p.m., PUC church. Over 100 Northern California high school students participate in a special community. Festival clinician is Robert W. Smith. Info: music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

MATH/SCIENCE WORKSHOP (Feb. 28-29) Annual college math and science experience for academy students. Info: email_biology@puc.edu.

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOPS PUC and La Sierra are teaming up to show how you can access the wealth of resources available to help finance a quality, Christ-centered education. Info: www.lasierrapucworkshops.com or enroll@puc.edu to learn about online workshops.

Southern California Conference

PLANT-BASED COOKING Health Ministry training (Feb. 7) in English, Susan Jenson, RD. 2-5 p.m., Temple City church, 9664 Broadway. In Spanish, Gloria Huerta, certified Foods for Life trainer. 2-5 p.m. Canoga Park Spanish

church, 17601 Lassen St, Northridge 91325. Register by Feb. 2: rdimas@scc-sda.org, with name/email/cell/church. Info: 818-546-8461.

FIRST BIBLE BOWL (Feb 13) Topic: The Book of Daniel (NKJV) 3 p.m. Temple City church, 9664 Broadway. Info: donglads@yahoo.com.

BENEFIT CONCERT (Feb. 20) 7 p.m. Featuring artists Walter Arties, Myrna Haynes, Makeda Tene' and Men of Note sponsored by Operation Reachback, Los Angeles Adventist Academy Multipurpose Building, 846 E. El Segundo. Details: 323-743-8818.

GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY K-12 Open House, 700 Kimlin Dr. (Feb. 23) 6 p.m. Visit our classrooms and speak to our teachers. We are looking forward to seeing you there. Info: 626-960-4751.

HAWTHORNE CHURCH GRAND Homecoming Reunion (Feb. 26-28) for the 1960s MV group. "Countdown to Eternity," Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Sabbath speaker, Don Lane. Location: 3939 Marine Ave. Info: 530-737-3210, dav-eandsandybostrom@gmail.com.

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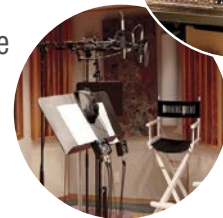
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Events

6-DAY NATURAL REMEDIES & Hydrotherapy Workshop: July 31-August 5 at Andrews University. Details: Andrews.edu/go/nrhw, janinec@andrews.edu or 269-471-3541.

Missing Members

PLEASANT HILL. Contact: Church Clerk, Pleasant Hill Adventist Church, 800 Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; 925-934-5803; office@pleasanthilladventist.org; Nicholas Abston, Kamolini Baroi, Eva Becerra, Stephanie Bryan, Donald Clark, Jeff Cotta, Maria Flores, Andrea Garcia, Cindy Gilman, Sharlene Gutierrez, Carlos Lopez, Carlos Martinez, Dixie Mitchell, Virginia Niblack, Jazmin Oliveras Pedro

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Reunions

MOUNTAIN VIEW ACADEMY Alumni Homecoming (April 8-9) Vespers music program by Sam O'Campo on Friday, 7:30 p.m. Sabbath services begin at 9 a.m., Honoring classes of '36, '46, '56, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '06.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER Campion Academy Alumni meeting (March 12) 6 p.m. Meet the new Principal Don Reeder, Double Tree Hotel, 285 East Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, Calif. Complimentary dinner will be served.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER Campion Academy meeting (March 13) 4:30 p.m. Shake hands with the new Principal Don Reeder, The Old Spaghetti Factory, 731 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, Calif. Enjoy making new friends and catching up on news with long-time friends. Dinner is available.

Vacation Opportunities

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"NEW TESTAMENT ALIVE" Tour of Rome/Greece/Patmos/Turkey (June 1-12) Sites include Roman Coliseum and Forum, Catacombs, Mamertine Prison, Vatican, Revelation's Seven Churches, ferry to Patmos, Athens, Mars Hill, and Sabbath worship in Corinth. Co-led by Dr. Andy Nash and Dr. Greg King. \$2,150 plus flight. For info, email andynash5@gmail.com. Israel tour June 12-22 also available.

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	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26
Alturas	5:24	5:32	5:41	5:49
Angwin	5:37	5:45	5:52	6:00
Calexico	5:19	5:25	5:31	5:37
Chico	5:32	5:40	5:48	5:56
Eureka	5:39	5:48	5:56	6:05
Fresno	5:29	5:36	5:44	5:51
Hilo	6:16	6:19	6:22	6:25
Honolulu	6:24	6:28	6:31	6:34
Las Vegas	5:12	5:19	5:26	5:33
Lodi	5:33	5:41	5:48	5:56
Loma Linda	5:24	5:31	5:37	5:43
Los Angeles	5:28	5:35	5:41	5:47
Moab	5:44	5:52	5:59	6:07
Oakland	5:37	5:45	5:52	5:59
Phoenix	6:03	6:10	6:16	6:22
Reno	5:24	5:33	5:41	5:48
Riverside	5:24	5:31	5:37	5:44
Sacramento	5:33	5:41	5:48	5:56
Salt Lake City	5:50	5:59	6:07	6:15
San Diego	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:43
San Francisco	5:38	5:46	5:53	6:00
San Jose	5:36	5:44	5:51	5:58
Tucson	6:01	6:07	6:13	6:19

AT REST

BAKER, THOMAS — b. April 10, 1938, Lima, Ohio; d. Dec. 6, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Gwen; sons, Gary, Rod.

BOWNS, MARION JEANNE (GOLL) — b. May 29, 1916, Calhoun, Neb.; d. Nov. 14, 2015, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren.

CLEASBY, EVERETT — b. Aug. 18, 1926, Eureka, Calif.; d. Sept. 1, 2015, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: nephews, Gary Crnich, Jerry Crnich.

Correction: **SCHUMACHER, BONNIE JOAN (SKINNER)** — b. March 19, 1933, Stuart, Neb.; d. Nov. 20, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: husband, Weldon; daughter, Cindy; two grandchildren; sister, Connie Salas.

GRIMSTAD, ELEANOR (KING) — b. Jan. 28, 1923, Cumberland, B.C., Canada; d. Aug. 3, 2015, Calistoga, Calif. Survivors: husband, Duane; sons, Lynn, Lee; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Served as a nurse educator at Pacific Union College.

MCCLAIN, PHIL H. — b. Jan. 30, 1942, Bellflower, Calif.; d. Nov. 27, 2015, Calimesa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sherice; sons, Robert Harrison, Thomas Paul; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren.

MILLS, WILMA SUSAN — b. Feb. 28, 1930, Clinton, Ohio; d. Dec. 29, 2015, Mt. Shasta, Calif. Survivors: husband, Raymond; daughter, Denise Lange; son, Gary Mills; one grandson.

PANCOAST, ROSALEA (JULER) — b. June 29, 1927, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; d. Dec. 9, 2015, Orangevale, Calif. Survivors: sons, Tom, Joel; daughters, Liz Pancoast, Maggie Draeger, Nancy Pancoast-Patterson; three granddaughters.

ROBERTS, MARGARET JEAN — b. June 28, 1939; d. Dec. 3, 2015, Lindsay, Calif.

TRUNKEY, MILDRED MAE — b. July 10, 1923, Litchfield, Neb.; d. Nov. 20, 2015, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: sons, Michael, David, Donald, Leonard; daughter, Rhonda Schneider; two grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

WADE, MORISE — b. March 27, 1930, Jackson, Miss.; d. Sept. 16, 2015, Redwood City, Calif. Survivors: wife, Linda; sons, Lonell, Benjamin; two grandsons; brother, Frank Donald Wade.

WAHLEN, ELEANOR JEMILE (ATTARIAN) — b. Oct. 7, 1926, Fresno, Calif.; d. Dec. 14, 2015, Pasadena, Calif. Survivors: three nephews, four nieces. Served as

piano, organ and music appreciation teacher at Union College.

WEST, SAMUEL ADAMS — b. July 17, 1925, Cincinnati, Ohio; d. Dec. 29, 2015, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ruth; sons, Samuel, David; daughters, Lorna Erisman, Dorothy Turner; one grandchild; one great-grandchild. Served as biology teacher at San Diego, Newbury, and Hawaii Mission academies.

WOOD, RODNEY GREGG — b. June 23, 1943, Coalinga, Calif.; d. Nov. 11, 2015, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patricia; daughters, Wendy Marie, Karen, Kim; 10 grandchildren.

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VISIONS OF PARADISE



FEBRUARY 2016 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

PAGE 2 | Wow, already time to start planning for summer break. Here are some options for youth and children. Also, ever wonder if all is lost if an event doesn't go as planned? Find out!

PAGE 3 | Our job is to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work, in us, and in others. Before we start fault-finding in others, we should check for planks in our own eyes.

PAGE 4 | We're more than halfway through the school year, and 2016-2017 registration is upon us. The Adventist education train has enough room for everyone. Join the family!

OUR MISSION, THE GREAT COMMISSION

RALPH S. WATTS, III

As I type this column, it is only Jan. 4, and we are in the early blush of 2016. As we begin a new year, I believe it is crucial for us as a people to be reminded what it is God has called us to do.

“The very life of the church depends upon her faithfulness in fulfilling the Lord’s commission. To neglect this work is surely to invite spiritual feebleness and decay. Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 825).

God has given the church its mission. Matthew recorded it in Matthew 28:16-20: It’s the Great Commission mission. It involves moving people from wherever they are in their relationship with God to where God wants them to be. The early church’s mission is our mission. The mission that Christ gave to the church in the first century is the same that He gives to us for the 21st century.

A mission is what the church is supposed to accomplish. It’s the primary goal or task. It’s the “business” we’re in. It’s what God wants us to do.

The mission of the church asks: “What are we supposed to be doing?”

The answer is contained within the Great Commission: “To make disciples” or “to make

fully devoted disciples” (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8).

This is a disciple-driven mission. Therefore, the mission of the church is to turn unchurched people into fully functioning disciples of Christ.

A key to revitalizing the church is to once again catch a vision for mission. Mission is what drives the church. It gives direction. It spells out our “marching orders.”

“All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 822).

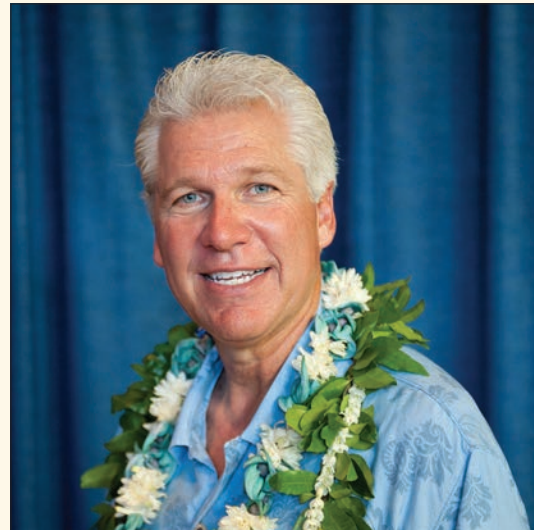
The expression “for this work the church was established” is significant. I see in it God’s purpose, His mission for the church. Jesus is the head of the Hawaii Conference. He is the One who founded it, and there’s no better way

to make Him happy than for us to fulfill the purpose and objective that He has set for our church!

Each One, Reach One

With Warm Aloha,

Ralph S. Watts III



TIME TO PLAN FOR SUMMER

ERIK VANDENBURGH

What are your plans with your summer break? One of the best things you can do is become part of the ministry at Camp Waianae and Ke Ola. This summer we have some amazing opportunities for our youth and young adults!

Camp Waianae

Youth between the ages of 6-18 they can experience Jesus at Camp Waianae where they will make new friends, have fun and see God in nature. If they are 18 years and older, have a good work ethic, and a love for Jesus we encourage them to apply to work at camp and share their passion with the campers.

Ke Ola

Ke Ola is an exciting 9.5-week, youth-driven, Spirit-led summer program in Hawaii that is 100 percent a job while at the same time is 100 percent door-to-door ministry opportunity for those 16 and older. You will be able to experience and seek God in ways you've never imagined as you share the gospel through literature with thousands of people who are seeking for a new life themselves!

Come join us this summer and you'll make life-long friends who are growing in their walk with God, make money for school, learn life skills you'll need in your career, and find what matters most: a life centered on Jesus.

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



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 7 — Pathfinder Presidential Fitness
- 17-20 — JCI NAD Prayer Conference
- 17-20 — NAD Young Adult Life Summit

MARCH

- 11-13 — Youth Bible Camp
- 18 — Young Adult Vespers- Ka Lama Iki

APRIL

- 1-3 — Hand 'n Hand Training
- 17 — Pathfinder Fair
- 18 — Young Adult Retreat

JULY

- 3-8 — Adventure Camp
- 10-15 — Junior Camp
- 17-22 — Teen Camp

Please contact Hawaii Conference Youth Department for further details.

When We Do Our Best, God Does the Rest

MADONNA TAUEU

When everything goes right, children's ministry gives everyone a chance to grow. Even when our plans hit bumps in the road, ministry can still be effective, especially if we ourselves learn from our mistakes.

Once, as a rookie leading an Adventurer group, nothing seemed to be going as planned. The markers were too big for the children's small hands. Many of the children finished the activity so quickly they had nothing left to do. The older children were idle, the younger ones were taking too long. Then it started to rain! What would happen next?

Parents and leaders worked together in ministry. Children took those big markers and did their best, beaming with accomplishment. Parents ushered the children under a tree that provided just enough protection from the rain

to continue the lesson. Two mothers took the initiative to lead with another activity for the younger children. Another parent came up with an adventure exploring the rest of the campground.

That day, the plans had failed, but the ministry did not. When parents and leaders work together, they can minister to their children no matter the circumstances. There are a lot of lessons we try to teach our children, but ones they will remember will be those they see their leaders learn.



Don't Miss the Plank in Your Own Eye

GERALD D. CHRISTMAN

Scandals are ever-present. They make daily headlines.

Scandals are clearly linked to evil and to big-time sinners. Some scandals make headlines; others don't — at least, not yet. I refer to my thoughts — and to, maybe, yours.

I would be thoroughly embarrassed if my thoughts became tomorrow's news. Some thoughts are fleeting — while others linger. The word *devil* comes from the Greek “diaballo.” “Dia” means *into* and “ballos” *to throw*. One of Satan's specialties is throwing ugly and revolting thoughts into our minds. Even, sometimes, while we are praying!

I suspect I am not the only recipient of the devil's darts. Satan is an expert in placing evil thoughts into our minds.

You and I may not be able to stop the evil one from throwing his wares into our minds, but we can choose to not be hospitable to them; to focus on Jesus instead of the devil's poison.

I frequently pray silently. God, after all, can read my thoughts. So here's something I have been pondering: Since God is omniscient and knows our thoughts (see Proverbs 15:26; Romans 8:26), what does He hear more — my prayers, or my evil thoughts?

You may want to ask yourself this same question the next time you are impressed with your own religiosity or faithfulness to God.

We may pride ourselves that we know the “truth” — that we keep the Sabbath, tithe, give offerings, hold a church office and do missionary work. We may even feel good for not doing what other sinners do.

Any superior feelings, however, quickly vanish when we realize that God reads our thoughts: perhaps angry and unloving feelings toward a fellow church member, or maybe a critical or bitter attitude toward a family member. Holding grudges or thinking unloving or lustful thoughts affects our relationship with God.

The apostle Paul expressed his sinful inclinations: “And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it” (Romans 7:18-20, NLT).

So what is the solution? Blotting. King David recognized he had a huge sin problem so he, in confession, asked God to blot out his sins (Psalm 51:9). The good news is that God is willing to blot out covetous, jealous, and all manner of evil thoughts. We only need to ask. God's people will not need to fear the headlines of an open scandal on the judgment day,



because sins will have been forgiven.

The good news gets even better. In Revelation 3:5 (NIV), Jesus gives us His promise: “The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.”

God will be blotting every individual — both righteous and wicked. For the righteous, it will be their sins; for the wicked, their names. The sins of the wicked will, as a result, be an open scandal.

The next time you and I are tempted to be critical of the faults of others, let's take the opportunity to ask God to blot out our own.

When we are ready to uncover our sins, God is ready to cover them.



ENROLL TODAY FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

MIKI AKEO-NELSON

Schools across the Hawaii Conference are holding open enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year. Plan now to be a part of the journey!

Adventist education nurtures students academically, socially and spiritually. Dedicated teachers work with students to be the best they can be, challenging students to recognize their God-given talents and explore ways to develop those talents to glory of God.

Contact the school nearest you to see how your child, or someone you know, can be a part of Adventist education next year!

HIGH SCHOOL

- Hawaiian Mission Academy (O'ahu) 536-2207

ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS

- Adventist Mālama Elementary School (O'ahu) 696-3988
- Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki (O'ahu) 949-2033
- Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus (O'ahu) 261-0565
- Kāhili Adventist School (Kaua'i) 742-9294
- Kohala Adventist School (Hawai'i) 889-5654
- Kona Adventist Christian School (Hawai'i) 323-2788
- Maui Adventist School (Maui) 877-7813
- Mauna Loa School (Hawai'i) 935-1545

PRESCHOOLS

- Kāhili Adventist Preschool (Kaua'i) 742-9294
- Mālama Na Keiki O Wai'anae Preschool (O'ahu) 696-3988
- Maui Adventist Pre-elementary School (Maui) 269-6902
- Mauna Loa Preschool (Hawai'i) 935-1545

Financial aid is available for families demonstrating economic need and enrolling in grades K-12. Applications for aid are available at your local church or school. Details and deadlines are available online at www.hawaiisda.com/Education.



JANUARY 2016

- 1 No School-Winter Break
- 4 Classes Resume
- 15 End 2nd Quarter (44 days)
- 18 No School-MLK Jr.
- 19 Begin 3rd Quarter

JANUARY 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY 2016

- 2-3 PUC Ed Days/Leadership
- 15 No School-Presidents' Day
- 28 LSU Ed Day
- 29-Mar 1 K-12 Curriculum Meetings

FEBRUARY 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

MARCH 2016

- 18 End 3rd Quarter (43 days)
- 20 HC Board of Education
- 21-25 No School-Spring Break
- 28 Begin 4th Quarter

MARCH 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2016

- 6-7 P-T-S Conferences
Noon dismissal
- 12-13 Spring Ed Council
- 23 Education Sabbath

APRIL 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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MAY 2016

- 30 No School-Memorial Day

MAY 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE 2016

- 2 Last Day of School
- End 4th Quarter (48 days)
- 3-5 HMA Grad Weekend
- 12 PUC/LSU Graduations
- 16 10-month contract ends
- 30 12-month contract ends

JUNE 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

February 2016

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

"Let's Go Arizona!"



Ed Keyes
President

I begin my second journey with the Arizona Conference the same way I did the first time I came over 12 years ago — with prayer to the Almighty God. Over the course of 31 years of ministry, I have seen amazing answers to prayer. I know when we connect with our God and Savior, good things happen.

My prayer started the moment I received the call to go back to Arizona. It got stronger a few days later when I accepted the call. That prayer became fever pitch once I started driving from Reno to Scottsdale to begin work.

My greatest desire is that we be known as a Conference of prayer. Jesus made it clear His house was to be a house of prayer. I'm sure He would want us to be a Conference of prayer.

As I made the 11-hour drive from Reno to Phoenix, I prayed earnestly for wisdom, for strength, and for an in filling of God's Holy Spirit to be on God's agenda for Arizona. As I crossed from Nevada into Arizona, I saw a huge banner blowing in the wind saying, "Let's Go Arizona!" It seemed to me God was saying, "I'm coming soon! So get up and get people ready for that great day."

I arrived at the Arizona Conference office that afternoon and was greeted with smiling faces and warm hugs to welcome me back to what had been my home for almost 11 years.

After meeting some of the newly hired workers and spending some time with the folks I hadn't seen in almost two years, I went to my new office. I dropped to my knees and prayed God would make Arizona a place where people could easily connect with Jesus throughout eternity.

After three long and really busy days in the office, I attended my first official meeting as the new Conference president at a couples' retreat in Prescott, Ariz. led by Mike and Lynn Ortel. Most of our pastors and some of our teachers were there. It was outstanding. Gary and Marilyn Venden, along with Jay Warren and Chris Morris, led the beautiful music. It gave me great memories of camp meeting and pastors' meetings.

The real joy was to see all of these beautiful couples interacting together away from the pressing duties a pastoral couple has to deal with on a daily basis. There was such a great spirit at the retreat I wish I could bottle it and share it with everyone. I pray the joy and enthusiasm experienced at this retreat will spread throughout the entire Conference.

The Bible says in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." It also says in Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Please keep asking and believing God will do mighty things for the Arizona Conference as He has in the past; and lead us to greater and higher attainments for His glory. "Let's Go Arizona!"



Ed Keyes
President

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



Tucson Sharon Connects with Dunbar Springs Through a Community Health Fair

By Teri Mathews Epps

The Tucson Sharon Health and Temperance Department, in conjunction with the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy sponsored a health fair promoting healthy living and healthy cooking. Dr. Victoria Miles led a team of church members which included nurses Jennette Hubbard and Virginia Bailey, Sharon church medical missionaries, and the church's Health and Temperance team worked to provide free services for the Dunbar Springs Community.

These services were enhanced by the 25 plus students and professionals from the University of Arizona Department of Pharmacology who used their skills to provide free screenings in diabetes and A1C, hypertension, osteoporosis, and asthma and breathing assessments.



Manny "Fresh" Vidal gives one of his creative cuts. Manny donated his services for the entire day.

Community members were encouraged to bring their medications for review and partake of information booths from heart health to immunization. Church member Tammy Malloy provided a carnival atmosphere for children with healthy food, games and activities from ping pong toss and target ball.

One of the many highlights of the Community Health Fair was the booth of award-winning barber Manny "Fresh" Valdez who gave free haircuts to those attending the fair. Manny was among



University of Arizona student and church member Nicole Harper gets participants moving in an outdoor exercise class

several fair presenters who, upon hearing of Sharon Church's services to the community, stepped up to donate their personal time and services as extended members of the Sharon Church Family.

Sharon Church has a history of service to the Dunbar Springs Community, and has extended its family to include many friends around the area.

Photos by James Hubbard



Teri Epps prepares a cashew cheese pizza for a bread making demonstration.



Guests and service providers mingle as they visit many displays and activities available during the Health Fair.



PUC Youth Leaders Launch PUC Mentor

By Phil Draper

Youth and young adult directors of the Pacific Union Conference sat around a table brainstorming ideas on how to make a lasting, positive impact on their youthful members. As they shared their hearts, stories of mentorship rose to the top of the conversation.

Every leader at the table recalled riding on the shoulders of giants who had gone before them – and with them. These giants were men and women who had graciously and generously invested time and energy in them.

Light bulbs begin to go off. They asked – what if we could start a mentoring movement in the PUC? Pens went to paper, markers went to white boards, and a plan was launched called PUC Mentor. Youth and young adult directors planned seven traveling one-day mentoring conferences throughout the PUC.

Arizona Conference Youth Director Manny Cruz shared how God allowed him to mentor and invest in a young man, Milton Coronado, through his street art ministry which shares the Gospel of Jesus through street art graffiti in local communities.

“I met Milton in 2005 at the General Conference in St. Louis,” Cruz recalls. “We were doing street art ministry and Milton signed up. We had an instant connection for he had an incredible gift for art with a spray can. We worked together for ten days then stayed in touch. We have developed a wonderful friendship.”



As Manny Cruz and Milton Coronado shared their street art, a lasting friendship formed.

Milton’s mother died suddenly when he was ten of a brain aneurism. Later his father was brutally murdered while driving to work – the victim of a ruthless gang initiation. With no parents, Milton turned his broken heart and loneliness to graffiti art. He went to the GC session to volunteer for street art ministry.

Coronado recalls his mentorship connection with Cruz. “When asked who influenced my life, specifically my spiritual one, Manny Cruz is definitely one of the them. His mentorship, friendship, and counsel were not just about street art ministry or general ministry, but also about marriage, fatherhood, and money management which has helped me become a better person.”

Cruz adds, “I didn’t realize I had started down a journey of mentoring. I just saw a great kid. Prayed with him. And realized he was talented and gifted. Now when I need a speaker, I recommend Milton Coronado. He’s now traveling all over the world sharing his testimony.”

Arizona Conference Young Adult

Director Benjamin Lundquist and his team planned seven events throughout the Pacific Union. In September 2015 the Mentorship team came to Camelback SDA Church in Phoenix, Ariz. Church leaders, parents, grandparents, young adults came together to be inspired, equipped, empowered and released to mentor the next generation of leaders better.

The day was a combination of worship led by local young adults, presentations given by our PUC youth and young adult directors, discussion panels, and a powerful dedication service.

Camelback young adult leader Mason Aitken commented, “This conference was a game changer for me. The content was exactly what I needed hear. I am now more engaged in mentorship than I was before.”

Kingman Community Outreach

By Jan Morikone

Community service is active and ongoing through the Kingman Seventh-day Adventist Church whose members generously show their concern for people.

This Thanksgiving instead of delivering donated food items to those in need, Pastor Jack Robinson and Adventist Community Services director Diane Anbardan bought meal tickets to the Golden Corral and 129 people enjoyed all they could eat on Thanksgiving day. Names of those who were requesting food were shared from the Western Arizona Council of Government (WACOG)

with Diane and Eleanor Hill, who contacted individuals.

Diane and her assistant, Margie Lewis, pick up baked goods from Safeway once a week and take them to the Soapy's Too Laundromat where people are waiting to receive them.

Also, a food pantry at the church is kept stocked ready to make up food boxes for those truly in need. Most often calls come from Child Welfare Service social workers. Food boxes include information sheets of services offered in the area.



Community Services director Diane Anbardan and her crew keep a well-stocked food pantry for those in need.

Clearview's "All About Jesus"

By Ann Vitorovich

Lee and Marji Venden, Revivalist Team for the Arizona Conference, presented the "All About Jesus Seminar" at the Clearview Church on December 4-12 to those who came desiring a deeper relationship with Christ. Through Power Point pictures, personal stories, Biblical examples, animated presentation sparked with humor, participants were led to see Christ as Someone desiring their friendship and learned how to develop a closer, more personal walk with Jesus. Most know about Jesus, but the aim of the seminar is to assist participants to know Jesus on a personal and deeper level. For many, this was a life transforming experience.

All eyes of children and adults focused on Marji as she presented show-and-tell stories that preceded and introduced the theme of each of Lee Venden's sermons.



Lee Venden, son of Morris Venden, spoke to the Sabbath afternoon group. The 13 meetings spread over nine days with sessions each evening except Sabbath and three sessions on each of the two Sabbaths (two in the morning and the third after the fellowship meal).

CENTRAL Acts



REFLECTING CHRIST TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

CENTRAL PROVIDES PRAYER MINISTRIES TRAINING

“I HAVE FELT THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Organizers consider it an enormous success. The 2015 prayer ministries training, the Prayer Place, was once again held at Camp Wawona on Oct. 23-25, 2015 with a record-breaking 300 people in attendance. There was “no more room in the inn” for people who wanted to attend and the waiting list was long. Extra rooms across the river from Camp Wawona were secured, allowing the overflow of people to attend. Participants enjoyed a variety of testimonies and teachings including lessons in discipleship and healthy marriage relationships as the weekend revolved around prayer. Guest speaker and pastor Anil Kanda spoke multiple times, igniting the hearts of many.

Testimonies at the end of the weekend summed it up

best. Rolando from San Francisco Central Seventh-day Adventist Church testified that he had taken 20 pages of notes, witnessed miracles over the weekend and was ready to go home and implement the things he had learned. “I have been blessed and been given encouragement,” stated Ruth Brooks from Lemoore. “I learned how important it is to pray for the Holy Spirit and how powerful it is to pray for others,” recalls Lola Richardson from Bakersfield Central Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Heather Palmer, one of several young adults in attendance, shared how other young adults in her church had asked her in the past about her habit of fasting. Following the prayer ministries weekend, Palmer reported that she now has biblical

Continued on page 3 ►



Sign up for our eNews at :
ccc.adventist.org/signmeup

CENTRAL Suite

Feb 5-6

Hispanic Convocation Modesto

Feb 13

Hispanic Convocation Bakersfield

Feb 19-21

Marriage Retreat

Mar 4-5

CCC Prayer Conference

Mar 4-6

Hispanic Women's Retreat

From the
President



THREE BLOCKS FROM CHURCH

My article in the December Recorder was entitled, “Connecting to Build.” That was the theme for our recent 33rd CCC Constituency Session held in November. However, I want to share with you that this new four-year term, which ends in November of 2019, will also be themed with the same title as a call to action: *Connecting to Build*.

I recently read of an 18-year-old girl from Washington State who attended a worship service. For the first time in her life she heard the Gospel message. The following Tuesday the members of the church received a letter from her. It read:

**“YOU SEE,
WE ONLY
LIVE THREE
BLOCKS
FROM YOUR
CHURCH,
AND NO
ONE EVER
TOLD US.”**

“DEAR CHURCH MEMBERS:

Last Sunday I attended your church, and I heard the preacher. In the sermon the preacher said that all men have sinned and rebelled against God. Because of their rebellion and disobedience they all face eternal damnation and separation from God.

But then he also said God loved men and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to redeem men from their sins and that all those who believe in him would go to heaven and live with God eternally.

My parents recently died in rapid succession. I know they did not believe in Jesus Christ, whom you call the Savior of the world. If what you believe is true, they are damned. You compel me to believe that either the message is true, that you yourself don't believe this message, or that you don't care. You see, we live only three blocks from your church, and no one ever told us.”

I was deeply moved by this letter which now motivates me to ask: Do you and your church know who lives within a three-block radius of your church? How about beyond that? If *Connecting to Build* is our call to action, how are we, our churches, our schools, and our ministries connecting with those nearest to us?

I was so happy to hear that three churches came together recently in the Fresno area to help and assist with the needs of those living in an apartment complex near to one of our churches. Here is the report:

The residents of Summerset Village apartments on N. Angus St. (behind the Fresno Central Seventh-day Adventist Church) had been without heat, hot water, and gas stoves for over a month due to faulty gas lines. While the gas lines were being replaced, pastor Gary Jensen, associate pastor of Fresno Central, offered the assistance of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to Zachary Darrah, the director of FIRM (Fresno International Refugee Ministries), who was coordinating relief efforts. Pastor Jensen offered at least three ways in which the Adventist church could assist: provide rice for lunch and dinner, find some Hmong-speaking people who could translate for the Hmong residents, and get volunteers to help with food preparation, serving and cleanup. Mr. Darrah indicated that they would probably need 80 fifty-pound bags of rice to provide meals for three weeks. The Central California Conference voted to fund that need and pastor Jensen ensured that the rice was ordered and delivered in a timely manner. In addition, pastor Justin Kim of the Fresno Adventist All Nation Korean Church, and Paula Lee of the Fresno Hmong Adventist Church provided Hmong workers and translators, and Vanessa Greer a member from Fresno Central arranged for volunteers to help prepare and serve food.

What a tremendous example of how we can *Connect to Build* the kingdom of God by reflecting Christ in serving and loving those in the communities immediately around us! As we begin this new year, let us be an active agency of sharing Christ's salvific message of hope, while being a means of relieving the needs of the hurting all around us. Please share your *Connecting to Build* testimonies at ccc.adventist.org/mystory.


RAMIRO CANO
President

Officers' Perspective



COSTIN JORDACHE
Vice President
for Communication



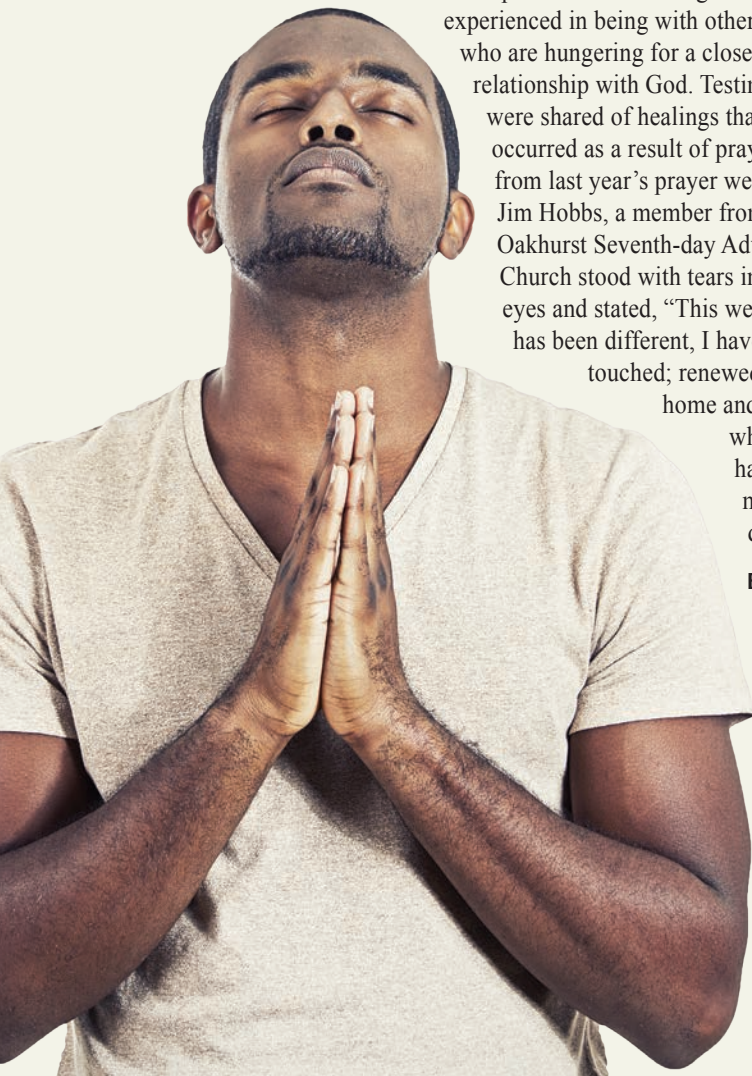
Continued from page 1 ►

information on how to fast and that she is confident in taking the information learned this weekend back to her youth group.

“I have been so blessed,” echoed David Montalvo from Templeton Hills. “I have felt the power of the Holy Spirit. Now is the time we have to be able to win souls for Christ. When we get to heaven we will have the privilege of having friends in heaven that we were directly involved in leading to Christ and we get to take them to heaven with us.”

Some spoke of the encouragement experienced in being with others who are hungering for a closer relationship with God. Testimonies were shared of healings that had occurred as a result of prayers from last year’s prayer weekend. Jim Hobbs, a member from Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church stood with tears in his eyes and stated, “This weekend has been different, I have been touched; renewed to go home and do what God has told me to do.”

BY YOLANDA URBINA



Great chefs around the world are known for using a wide variety of approaches and techniques to create their memorable culinary masterpieces. Among these culinary secrets involves knowing how to make a “reduction”—a process that involves ingredients simmering until they create a sauce. Now then, that’s just your average sauce. A reduction is where you let the sauce simmer more and more until most of the water evaporates leaving only the ingredients themselves, forming a thick, rich and very tasty sauce. It’s where we get the phrase, “It boils down to this.”

The concept reminds me of 1 Corinthians 13:13: “*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*” The author is saying that if we boil all aspects of life down to only three, it would be these three, and if we would keep simmering, it would literally boil all the way down to love. That’s quite a statement for us to consider, and lines up with the principles of Jesus, who taught that everything hangs on the hook called love.

February is the month when love is on everyone’s lips, thanks to our celebration of Valentine’s Day. Only this time around I encourage us to consider how this most important and most tasty aspect of life can tangibly make its way from our lips to our hearts and our daily actions. It has the potential to change...well, everything.

Happy Valentine’s Day!



DENTIST REACHES OUT TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

home church, Fresno Sunnyside. Teens would build houses while Dr. Lutz saw patients.

When Mexico started experiencing unrest, the Lutz's began to focus on helping people closer to home. They have been working with groups like Team Smiles, California Dental Association's CDA Cares, and Christian Medical and Dental Association. These groups focus on helping people who do not have the funds to pay for services that many take for granted, including dental work.

During these events, Dr. Lutz and members of his staff volunteer. They are able to help 12-16 patients a day performing teeth extractions, fillings and cleanings on adults and children. "I think that it's a good cause," says Dr. Lutz. "This is something that needs to be done and the people we help are so thankful for what we do." The couple along with other staff members participate six-to-eight times a year at different community events around the Central Valley.

BY GABRIEL WIEST

"DOING THIS WORK DOES SO MUCH FOR ME"

For many years now Dr. Charles Lutz and his wife Patricia have been involved in dental mission work. "I have always wanted to do mission work," Patricia Lutz explains. "Even though our work is to help the underserved, doing this work does so much for me." Twenty years ago, the Lutz's began to attend mission trips to Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico where they were involved in helping to build houses and performing dental work for the underserved locals. In 2000 they were part of eight Fresno-area families that helped to build a medical/dental clinic in Ensenada that has helped to serve the people there over the years with assistance of youth from their

CAMPOREE DRAWS RECORD ATTENDANCE

Nestled in the rolling foothills near La Grange, Calif. is the 50-acre Kiwanis Youth Camp. The Central California Conference Pathfinder Camporee was held at the scenic youth camp on Oct 23-25, 2015 near the historic gold dredge camp, which was active from 1906 to 1951. Some of the old building remnants, blacksmith shop, repair barn, water tower and old gas pump still remain and are protected as historic resources.

With over 700 participants representing 29 clubs, campers arrived early in the afternoon to set up tents and kitchens, making preparations for an exciting weekend.

Friday evening the Youth Evangelism Team (YET) led song service followed by a worship thought from Templeton Hills associate pastor Leah Page. Sabbath morning began with breakfast and personal and campsite inspections. Clubs broke into their respective areas for Sabbath school, then gathered again for the church service. Attendees were blessed by the leadership of the YET team and the sermon presented by Page.

After lunch, wild animal trainer Jeff Lee, from Steve Martin's "Working Wildlife" introduced the group to some interesting and rare animals with facts about the animals as he brought each one out for our observation. Pastor Zach Page of Templeton Hills closed the Sabbath with a vespers message.

Sunday morning the clubs participated in various events, rotating through each station. There were two nature identification events, dogs and ferns, a knot relay, orienteering relay, a New Testament event, plus a surprise event from the Parkwood Pathfinders – a teamwork challenge requiring a 10' x 4" x 4" pole in an upright position with the goal of getting a motorcycle tire up and over the top of it.

"[I enjoyed] everything, but I really like the sermons and [Leah Page's] video presentation," one Area 8 Pathfinder stated when asked about her favorite part of camporee. "I want to learn more about God and have him in my life."

BY MARGARET HERMAN

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KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter



“I HAVE COME IN ORDER
THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE
– LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS”
(JOHN 10:10).

God's Message SIMPLIFIED

In this issue . . .

Dobbins Church
Launches
Radio Ministry



AFCOE and Churches
Work Together to Host
“Prophecy Speaks Hope”



Upcoming
Hispanic Ministries
Events



I think that it's a good thing to save money! That's why I will comparison-shop when I'm in the market for a particular item – from grocery store products to a new car. Sometimes I have to use a coupon to get the savings I want. Recently, I had coupons for one particular store that would save me some significant money. However, when I tried to redeem one, I was told that it was only valid after a certain date several weeks in the future. And when I tried to use a different coupon, I was told that my purchases didn't qualify for the discount because the items were already on sale! Sure enough, there in the fine print on the coupons, I found the details.

In today's world, disclaimers appear on a lot of things, and understandably so. After all, we live in a very litigious society. So, some advertisements on TV and radio have a whole array of “fine print” details squeezed into the last few seconds of the commercial. Listening to it all is almost impossible. Seeing it in print doesn't usually help much either. By the time I try to digest all the information, I'm often terribly confused about what I just heard or read – and not certain that I'll be able to take advantage of the “deal” at any time!

When we
turn to the pages

of God's Word, we find a great deal of information there. Some of it is history, some is poetry, some is prophecy, and some is doctrine. The deeper we study, the more details we discover. However, with all that information, we sometimes make learning about God much more complicated than it needs to be. When Jesus came to this world, to help us see and know God up-close-and-personal, He typically spoke in ways that were simple, rather than complicated.

Jesus came to provide the opportunity and reality of eternal life to anyone who will choose it. And He kept the details easy to understand. For instance, He said: “I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness” (John 10:10, *Good News Translation*). That's a straightforward statement. The only “fine print” is whether or not we'll make the choice to act on it and receive it. And yet, we sometimes want to surround His offer to us with other conditions or requirements – we actually try to add the “fine print” ourselves!

The more I spend time with the Word of God, the less “fine print” I uncover. The message continues to be the same: God loves us and wants us to spend eternity with Him. Will I choose to accept His gift – yes or no? It really isn't complicated.

Peace.



By Jim Pedersen, president of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

VOLUME 14
ISSUE 1
FEBRUARY 2016

Dobbins Church Launches RADIO MINISTRY



(Top) An assembly crew erects the antenna tower on May 18. (Above) Conrad Gauntlett, Gabriel Howard, Jim Pappas, Dennis Howard, Terry Paxton and John Fleming stand in the hole prepared for the tower's foundation. (All Photos: John Fleming)



(Top) Gabriel Howard runs the backhoe, guided by Jim Pappas. (Above) Yuba County Supervisor Randy Fletcher, NCC President Jim Pedersen and Dobbins church Pastor Robert Fisher cut the ribbon on the antenna tower.

Nestled in the Sierra foothills of gold rush country, the Dobbins church has launched a new ministry to reach its community for Christ – radio. The low-power station, KIIW (Gold Country Radio) can be heard on 93.3 FM, reaching a 100-square mile area, including the towns of Dobbins, Oregon House and Brownsville, Calif.

Dobbins church members designed the new station's format to reach rural homes and businesses with music, local news, and a message of hope and encouragement. They want to create a true community-driven and supported mission effort with residents developing on-air programming and participating in family friendly interviews.

The congregation also hopes to make an impact on those visiting the area. "The Dobbins community is widely regarded as a destination for recreational activities and includes Lake Francis Resort, Lake of the Springs RV Resort, Bullards Bar Reservoir and Collins Lake," said Pastor Robert Fisher. "We have thousands who vacation in our area throughout the year who need to hear a family friendly message that God has a plan for their lives and that He is coming back soon."

On Sabbath, Dec. 12, the church dedicated the new 100-foot, free standing steel antenna tower in the church parking lot and the new indoor broadcast studio. Northern California Conference President Jim

Pedersen spoke for the worship service, which was followed by a community luncheon and a ribbon cutting ceremony. Local entrepreneur Jenny Cavaliere, who runs Oregon House Farm, attended the

event. "I've been listening to your radio station all day in my barn, and I love the music!" she said.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony concluded phase one of the project: the tower construction and studio installation. The local congregation – with only a few members – has helped raise over \$30,000 of the \$40,000 project cost in 2015. "While our church may be small, we have members who are motivated to pursue large outreach opportunities," said Fisher. They are looking for mission-oriented help and Adventist volunteers to tackle phase two, which will place the studio in a more inviting and accessible building on the church property.

The Dobbins church is following a long tradition of Adventist evangelism. "For more than 80 years,

Adventists have been spreading the gospel throughout the world via radio," said Pedersen. "I pray that God will bless the work of KIIW and enable His message to be heard – and accepted – wherever its signal is heard."

Visit the radio station's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/93.3lpfm to watch videos about

the radio station construction project and the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"I've been listening to your radio station all day in my barn, and I love the music!"



The small Dobbins congregation plans to make a big impact on their local community with their new radio station.

By John Fleming, head elder of the Dobbins church.



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

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



AFCOE and Churches Work Together TO HOST "PROPHECY SPEAKS HOPE"

Try though she might, sleep eluded her. "Is this really true?" Tuesday Nolden questioned as she wrestled with God in prayer. By morning, her mind had been made up. Confidently, Nolden approached her employer with the news: she would no longer be working on Saturdays. She had learned the truth about God's holy Sabbath-day and would not turn back, regardless of the cost.

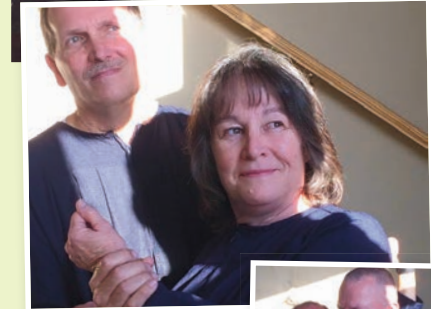
Oct. 23 marked the opening night of Prophecy Speaks Hope, a joint evangelistic venture between the Lincoln Amazing Grace and Granite Bay churches. Chuck Holtry, the seminar speaker and director of the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCOE), led a class of 35 AFCOE students as part of this evangelistic effort.

More than 300 people walked through the doors that first night – 82 of whom were guests from the community. The seminar took place five evenings a week, through Nov. 14. As a result, 16 people were baptized, and several others were preparing for baptism.

The AFCOE students and church members worked together to make connections with the guests and build positive relationships. "[My church] has always had a great experience with AFCOE," said Rob Kearbey, then pastor of the Lincoln Amazing Grace church. "But this particular time has been the best in that the church has been more involved than it has been in the past. There was more vibrancy, more of an interest to be personally involved as a result of AFCOE being there."

Many of the attendees, such as Nolden, had been studying the Bible with AFCOE students well prior to the start of the seminar. Nolden and her husband, along with many other guests, didn't miss a night. "Anyone spiritually inclined would have to see that this is truth!" she said. "It is so clear from the Bible."

By Carissa McSherry, the assistant director of AFCOE.



(Top) Sheree Utterback celebrates her baptism with Rob Kearbey, then pastor of the Lincoln Amazing Grace church, now pastor of the Magalia Upper Ridge church.

(Above and Right) Granite Bay church Associate Pastor John Quedzuweit baptizes husband and wife, John and Diane Kukaruda.

(Inset) Jéan Ross, Granite Bay church associate pastor and Amazing Facts director of evangelism, prays for those who were baptized as a result of the series.

(All Photos: Granite Bay church)

Retiro de Matrimonios

Febrero 12-14, 2016 • Leoni Meadows



Dr. Jorge y Nibia Mayer



Pastor Alfredo y Sonia Trevedan



Saul y Cory Grijalba

Oradores: Pastor Jorge y Nibia Mayer
Pastor Alfredo y Sonia Trevedan
Música: Saúl y Cory Grijalba • Enoc y Celiane Piedra

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Leoni Meadows

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Ana Clemencia Calvo
Maria Jose Hummel

De jóvenes 12-18 años

Melanie Cruz

Ministrando con la Música

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

February 2016

Great news keeps flowing from the Nevada-Utah Conference!



Ed Keyes

by Ed Keyes
President, Nevada-Utah Conference

The Nevada-Utah Conference continues to be an instrument in God's hands to advance His work forward. From the looks of the events taking place

all around us it would appear that the Lord's return to this world is imminent, so we have no time to just take it easy, and that's why we see so much happening right here in this conference.

North American Division Year End Meetings

The first week of November our Treasurer, Doug Reeves, and myself had the responsibility of representing the NUC at the annual Year End meetings of the North American Division of SDA's. These meetings are always quite informative and keep us up to speed on what's happening in other parts of North America in our denomination, but this one had a greater emphasis on mission than I've seen in the past. It was exciting to see some of the strategies that are being developed by the Division, including a special emphasis on church planting and church growth. Obviously, this is what we as Adventists should be all about. As Jesus said when he was just a child: "I must be about my Father's business." I'm glad we are taking His example seriously to be about our Father's business.

Riverview Church

After returning from the NAD meetings I had the privilege of introducing Dr. Michael Stevenson, and his wife Chris, to the Riverview church in Reno as the new senior pastor. His message that day was timely and challenging for each of us to be involved in reaching our community for Christ. I believe that with the lay leaders this church has, combined with the pastoral team of Pastor Stevenson and Pastor Kharns, we will see great things happen in the future.

Pacific Union Conference meetings

The following week several of the NUC staff were involved in the Pacific Union meetings that took place at the Union office in Westlake Village, California. Doug Reeves and Mark Gutman participated in the treasury meetings while Pastors Oneil Madden and Bill Davis were involved in other departmental meetings. Our lay representatives Mistee Galicia and Rith Dok joined me on the Union Executive Committee.

They were busy meetings as always, but the big news was about the new Pacific Union leaders coming to fill positions vacated by retirement, and, in one case, the loss of a dear saint, Gerry Chudleigh, who died on July 4, 2015.

Tony Anobile, former Arizona Conference president, is the

**Continued
on the next page**

"The Nevada-Utah Conference continues to be an instrument in God's hands to advance His work forward."



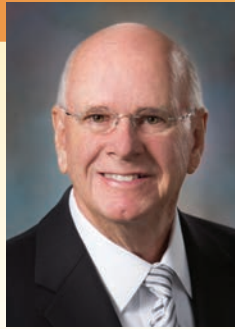
Tony Anobile



Arnold Trujillo



Ray Tetz



Gerry Chudleigh



Virgil Childs



Bobby Mitchell

Continued from the previous page

“We welcome the new people to their new responsibilities in the Pacific Union and want to thank those who are retiring for their many years of service.”

new union vice president, replacing Arnold Trujillo who retired at the end of 2015. Ray Tetz became union communication director, following Gerry Chudleigh. Virgil Childs, former Oakland Market Street church senior pastor in the Northern California Conference, begins this month as the new union regional ministries coordinator, replacing Bobby Mitchell who retired. Also, two long-term administrative assistants are leaving; Peggy Liebelt, who served as the administrative assistant for the treasurer, and Sharon Edwards, who provided support for the communication and church support services departments.

We welcome the new people to their new responsibilities in the Pacific Union and want to thank those who are retiring for their many years of service.



Pacific Union Conference President Ricardo Graham (left) and his wife Audrey (third from left) with retiree Arnold Trujillo and his wife Deloris

Arnold Trujillo Retirement Party

During the week I attended a special retirement party for a dear friend, Elder Arnold Trujillo. Arnold has always been a good friend and I will hate to see him go. He is a man of character, and integrity, and like me, truly believes in evangelism. May the Lord richly bless him and his wife Deloris in this new phase of life.

NUC Men’s Retreat

The weekend of November 13-15, I had the privilege of participating in the NUC Men’s Retreat in Reno, held right at the conference office. Elder David Hall organized this event with guest speaker Minervino Labrador from the Southwestern Union. I also had the responsibility of preaching on Sabbath morning and was truly impressed with the group of men who attended from all over the Conference. Special thanks to Connie Hall, wife of David Solomon Hall Sr., for providing the food and preparation for the meals. Special mention to Pastor Angel Cuenca for bringing the largest delegation all the way from Ogden, Utah.

Arlyn Sundsted

On October 17, I sat in the Reno airport for hours, as my flight to Ontario, California, was delayed and then eventually cancelled. I was very sad to miss this flight as I was asked to present a special award to Arlyn Sundsted at the Pacific Union Education Summit for his lifetime achievement as an administrator, leader, and most importantly, educator in the Adventist church for over 40 years. I know I’ve commented on Arlyn’s work before, but it bears repeating that we are proud to have had him serve in the NUC.



Arlyn and Judi Sundsted at the awards ceremony where Arlyn received the Medallion of Distinction award.



Cedar City and Red Cliffs Church Baptisms

On November 14, Gary and Frances Dodd of Hurricane, Utah, graciously invited members of the Cedar City and Red Cliffs churches to use their home to attend the baptism of six precious souls. Three candidates from the Cedar City church, two from the Red Cliffs church, and one member from Cedar City chose to be re-baptized. The baptism took place in the indoor, heated

swimming pool of the Dodds. Gary and Frances were among the baptismal candidates and are now members of the Red Cliffs church.

(Top Left) From left to right: Cathy and Tom Reynolds, Maxwell and Alexandria Arter, and Gary and Frances Dodd. (Top Right) Pastor Dan Walter baptizes Gary and Frances Dodd.

Silver Springs Church

Silver Springs church had a super high Sabbath on November 21, and what a joy it was to be a part of it. Elder Wes Brown had asked me to speak for the rededication of the church several months ago, but as

Continued on the next page



(Top Left) Ed Keyes with Gary and Cindy King. (Top Right) Ed Keyes baptizes Gary King. (Above) From left to right, Silver Springs church elders Wes Brown and Andy Barbour, Gary and Cindy King, and Ed Keyes. (Bottom) Ed Keyes introduces new Pastor Al Demsky.

Continued from the previous page

time progressed other significant events were added to the program. It turns out that day that a special couple, Gary and Cindy King, were baptized as a result of Bible studies and sermons given by Wes Brown and Andy Barbour. That same day just happened to be the first official Sabbath for our new pastor in the district. Pastor Al Demsky and his wife Patty are joining us from California. It was a joy to introduce them and have a special prayer of dedication for them as they take the pastoral lead of the Fallon and Silver Springs churches.



Ricardo Vargas, Reno-Sparks Hispanic Church Pastor

Reno-Sparks Hispanic Church

We finished the month of November off with a Thanksgiving Sabbath at the Reno-Sparks Hispanic church. The outstanding service, led by Pastor Ricardo Vargas and his team, included beautiful music, an excellent lesson study and even translation from my friend Hector Vasquez.

Diane Emslie Memorial Service

As of the writing of this article the last memorial service I was involved in

was that of our dear sister Diane Emslie, wife of Pastor Martin Emslie of West Jordan, Utah. While these services are always hard, this truly was a celebration of a life well lived. I praise the Lord for the testimonies that were shared, for they brought me a little closer to Jesus hearing about this dedicated women of God. May our Lord Jesus and the Comforter Holy Spirit be close to the Emslie family both now and through the months to come, reminding them of the wonderful memories of a dear wife, mom, grandmother, sister, and special friend. The one thing that was said the most about Diane at this service was that she “collected friends.” Well, my wife and I feel honored to have been part of her collection.

Looking Back at 2015

The Nevada-Utah Conference truly is an amazing entity for advancing God’s Kingdom. 2015 was a banner, and record setting year in growth for this great conference. I can’t wait to see what 2016 will bring.

“The Nevada-Utah Conference truly is an amazing entity for advancing God’s Kingdom.”

May God continue to pour out His blessing upon the NUC.

In the Master’s Service, Ed Keyes

Upcoming EVENTS

NAD Black History Week
February 7-13

Union Level Pathfinder Bible Experience
March 26

NUC Conference Level Pathfinder Bible Experience
February 27

Adventist West Point
March 27-31

NUC Pathfinder Advisory
February 28

Stewardship Sabbath
April 9

Women’s Day of Prayer
March 5

Division Level Pathfinder Bible Experience
April 16

NAD Adventist Youth Week of Prayer
March 6-12

Literature Evangelism Sabbath
April 16

International Women’s Day
March 8

NUC Education Sabbath
April 23

Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 13

Pathfinders All Clubs Leadership Convention
April 29-March 1

Spring Break
March 21-25

Please contact the Conference office for further information on any events you may be interested in.

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

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Living Generously

A new year brings opportunity to reflect on the past with gratitude and embrace a new beginning with hope and new commitments. I paused and spent time at the beginning of the year prayerfully assessing the commitments I longed to make for 2016. It became clear to me that I want to live more generously. I long for that to be the essence of my life and ministry — to love generously, give generously and lead generously. I want that generosity to be grounded in our gracious God who invites us to live and to give from bold and gracious hearts that have been shaped and formed by the abundant Spirit of God.

I invite you to join me in living more generously this coming year. As you think about the opportunities for generosity in your own life, perhaps you will find some inspiration in the following story shared by our conference property and trust director, Charles McKinstry.



As Ed and Jeanne headed into retirement, they began to think

about creating an estate plan. Ed worked for the phone company as a manager and applied the same attention to detail to his estate plan as he had to his work. After checking around and talking to others, Ed and Jeanne decided to form a trust with the Southeastern California Conference.

After the trust was set up Ed and Jeanne continued to manage all their own affairs. They made all investment decisions, paid their own bills and cared for the house. They both were comforted with the knowledge that they had made a decision on how their assets would be used after death. In the case that they became incapacitated they had determined that the conference would function as trustee,



managing their investments and paying their bills. There would be no need for probate, the legal process of ensuring the execution of a will after someone dies, because they carefully placed all their assets in the trust.

Thus began a relationship with the conference property and trust department that extended for several decades. Once or twice a year Ed and Jeanne came in for a visit. He usually brought a sack of oranges or grapefruit from his trees. In time Jeanne passed away and Ed followed four years later. A caretaker for Ed tried to redirect his estate assets but was unsuccessful. Their estate was distributed as they had planned and directed in their trust. No probate was needed which saved over \$100,000 in their case.

Their experience was like hundreds of others who work with the conference property and trust

“Thus began a relationship with the conference property and trust department that extended for several decades.”



**Continued
on page 2**

Continued
from page 1

department to make their estate plans. But Ed and Jeanne's trust was unique. They gave all their remaining assets to the church, which is quite unusual. However Ed and Jeanne had no children or other close relatives. What makes their case even more unique is that they were not even Seventh-day Adventists. Their example has touched many and what

led them to the Adventist church to make their trust has unfortunately been lost through the decades but knowing Ed's personality, he undoubtedly considered his decision carefully.

Most of you who read this story are very faithful supporters of the church, giving generously of your time, efforts and funds. You can support your local church, school, Pine Springs Ranch or

the conference by working with our staff. You can be confident that you are continuing the work of the ministry and mission of the Adventist church with your legacy.

If you would like more information about leaving your own legacy or creating your own trust, visit us at www.secctrust.org, or call (800) 491-4441.

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President

Love Is All Health Clinic Comes to Loma Linda Academy Days after San Bernardino Shooting

Two days after and two miles away from the deadly San Bernardino shootings, over 500 students, medical professionals and community volunteers served the greater San Bernardino community by providing free dental, vision and medical care at Loma Linda Academy. Over 800 community friends caught in a gap of need were treated, prayed

with and loved on without an agenda.

In addition, community members could choose from other free services including lifestyle counseling, emotional health

counseling and a robust feet

ministry (United Feet Ministries) that includes new socks and prayer, massages and a goody bag. Campus Hill church, ReLive and UREACH ministries, and Advent Hope provided meals for all the volunteers. Mt.

Rubidoux church had

professionals involved and delivered snacks for people from the community that came to the clinic. Volunteers came from near and far (including Ohio, Utah, Arizona and Texas) and represented many of the Southeastern California Conference churches. Entire Loma Linda University medical and dental

school classes participated wholeheartedly and the pharmacy department donated a basic dental pharmacy for patients supported in part by pharmacy residents. A



As patients arrive to the Love is All health clinic, they are asked what needs they have.

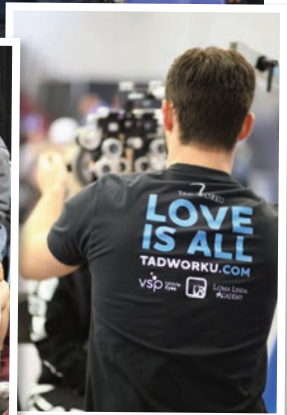


(Top Left) A volunteer writes down the health vitals of a patient. (Far Left) Vision test are performed by volunteer optometrist during the Love is All health clinic. (Middle) Before treatment happens on any patients, health vitals are taken. (Right) The health clinic involves all types of medical services pictured here is a dentist performing a procedure on a patient.

(Top) Volunteers rally together to spend time in prayer during the health clinic. (Below Left) Forms are filled out by people wanting to receive treatment at the health clinic. (Middle) Two volunteers of the Love is All health clinic take time to pray with a patient. (Right) The free health clinic Love is All is held in the Loma Linda Academy gym over the weekend of December 5 and 6.



any needed follow up care and additional community resources were present to them



group of La Sierra students spent their weekend serving along with a devoted crew from Loma Linda Academy. The youth department of the Southeastern California Conference supported over and helped run the volunteer children's program. Pacific Health Dental and the local Dental Assistant Program sent volunteers. More local organizations are asking to be plugged in for next year's event. The SACH clinic provided

to facilitate in the gap of need. Besides initiating and deepening community relationships, more than a handful of community participants requested personal Bible studies and asked to be directed to a local church.

Without question the clinic-mission model is one whose impact is just beginning in San Bernardino and is in complete synergy

with our church's mission, our educational mission through Loma Linda University and La Sierra University and the local academies, and is enhancing the personal spiritual growth as well as a time from renewal, refreshment and revival.

By Diana Santos

(Right) In order to treat the patients well, the right tools are needed. Fortunately there were plenty resources available. (Far Right) Over the two days of the health clinic over 800 people were served, here the medical tools are cleaned and prepared for the next patients.



SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
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W I N T E R C A M P M E E T I N G

Living ALL THE DAYS OF OUR Lives

FEBRUARY 5-6, 2016

FEATURED SPEAKER

Sandra Roberts

Southeastern California Conference President



Friday, February 5

7 p.m. Vespers • Presentation "Living Forgiven"
by Sandra Roberts

Sabbath, February 6

9:30 a.m. Sabbath School • Dan Matthews, associate pastor at Loma Linda University church and local ambassador for Gospel Outreach.

10:45 a.m. Church • Sermon "Living Generously" by Sandra Roberts

2:00 p.m. Concert • La Sierra University Choral group, with concluding presentation "Living Boldly" by Sandra Roberts.

Palm Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church

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FEBRUARY 2016

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

*Praying Hands
make Houses
of Prayer
Everywhere*



*NAD Recognizes
San Gabriel
Academy for
Transfer Learning
Focus*



Evangelism



Luis Peña, director
Hispanic Region

“...so that it may go well with you...”

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below, there is no other. Keep His decrees and commands, which I'm giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.” (Deut. 4:39,40)

The people of Israel finally had reached the promised land. There it was before them—full of challenges and great opportunities. It's the same with us: 2016 is before us, full of promise, challenges, dreams and opportunities. The question is, how do we face the new year “so that it may go well with you”?

Here are seven secrets “so that it may go well with you” in 2016:

1. Dare to do a self examination. (Deut. 4:39)

The text invites you to reflect upon, to take heart; to perform a self examination. Stop examining others and examine yourself. Ask yourself, in what areas of my life do I need to improve? Am I repeating

the same mistakes? What is the purpose of my existence? Be sure that you do not ignore the small things. Solomon reminds us, “Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards...” (Song of Songs 2:15)

2. Pursue a close relationship with Jesus.

Get to know Him. Remember, it is not what you know that is important, it is Whom you know. Jesus himself reminds us, “...if a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”. (John 15:5). Paul understood very well this concept when he wrote: “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ...” (1 Cor. 2:2).

3. Study the Word of God.

Many books inform us, but only the Bible transforms us. The Bible has the power to change lives. There is also a blessing in store for those who spend time absorbing its content. “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophesy...” (Revelation 1:3)

Joy will be one of the blessings that you will receive. When you read the Bible, you will be rewarded with happiness. Jeremiah testified of his own experience when he said, “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight...” (Jeremiah 15:16) So, take time to read the Bible; you won't regret it.

4. Experience the power of prayer.

When you read the Bible, God speaks to you; when you pray to God, you speak to Him. Prayer is a must for the Christian soldier. Ellen G. White wrote: “Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power.” (Gospel Workers, p. 254).

Breath is what keeps us alive. If a person isn't breathing, it means he or she is dead. Less prayer, less power; much prayer, much power. So, face the challenges of this new year with prayer.

5. Take time to go to church.

“Let us not give up meeting

Cont. on page 2

together...” (Heb. 10:25)

“Support your local congregation by attending their regular meetings. It will bless you and your family. One of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you. Religious attendance — at least, religiosity — boosts the immune system and decreases blood pressure. It may add as much as two to three years to your life. The reason for this is not entirely clear.”* (These health benefits are supported by research from Duke University, Indiana University, The University of Michigan, The Center for Disease Control, Barna Research Group,

Gallup, Pew, the National Institute for Healthcare Research and several national surveys.)

6. Share your faith.

Just like prayer, sharing your faith is a must. Paul understood this very well, “Yet when I preach the Gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16) This is not a suggestion; this is an imperative, a must. If you don’t share your faith, you will not grow. You will become like the Dead Sea. It is dead because it only receives, never gives. If you don’t share your faith, you will become spiritually obese.

7. Be faithful with your tithes and offerings.

It is not easy to return tithe when we are struggling with our own finances. How can we do it when we don’t earn enough? The prophet Elijah gives the secret: “...but FIRST make a small cake for me...” (1 Num. 17:13) My friends, God has to come first and he will take care of the rest.

This year is filled with excitement, with new opportunities. I invite you to embrace it with positivity, with enthusiasm. With Christ, tomorrow is ours.

Luis Peña, *director*
Hispanic Region

**New York Times Sunday Review, April 20, 2013*

Praying Hands Make Houses OF PRAYER EVERYWHERE



By Michael Roland

The Northridge Church, like so many churches across North America, participated in the 2015 NAD Pray One Million Initiative (www.PrayOneMillion.org). The church leadership not only encouraged each member to spend one minute every day in intercessory prayer for someone special that God laid on their hearts, but corporately led them in one minute of silent prayer during the worship hour each Sabbath.

The testimonies members share after participating are of healed relationships and increased faith. Several tell of having the person they were praying for ask if they may come to church and worship with them. One person who was prayed for was healed



Ministry to help launch the NAD’s 2016 Prayer Initiative: Houses of Prayer Everywhere (www.hope-heals.org). They made cards that read, “Let the little children come to Me. . . And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.” (Mark 10:14, 16) They placed their hands in tempera paint and placed them on each card. Then they prayed

of cancer. All of these are stories of miracles and attest to the power of prayer and God’s love.

Inspired by these shared experiences, the church’s Adventurer Club, directed by Lettie Mendoza, joined with the Northridge church Prayer

the priestly prayer of blessing from Numbers 6:24-26 for everyone who would get a card. After laminating the cards the Adventurers gave out over 90 “Praying Hands” and blessings to the congregation.

At Northridge church, the Adventurers have taken the first step to making Jesus’ house a House of Prayer and they are on the path to making each of their homes houses of prayer, too. The Prayer Ministry team has agreed to help each child earn the “Prayer Warrior” award. (<http://www.adventurer-club.org/adventurer-awards/grade-4/59-prayer-warrior>).

We invite SCC churches to encourage all Adventurers to become “Prayer Warriors” and continue to pray at least one minute each day for someone whom the Holy Spirit puts on our hearts? We would have then have “Houses of Prayer Everywhere”!

NAD Recognizes San Gabriel Academy FOR TRANSFER LEARNING FOCUS

By Rachel Logan

On November 2, 2015, a WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) evaluation team conducted a midterm evaluation at San Gabriel Academy (SGA). Doug Herrmann, EdD, WASC team leader and Loma Linda Academy Headmaster, was impressed.

For several years, San Gabriel Academy Principal Paul Negrete had contemplated the way standard learning and grading were executed in his classrooms. He was interested in the concept of “Transfer Learning” and began to consider how to instill this skill in his students.

Transfer learning, Negrete explained, is “understanding how knowledge, skills and/or behaviors learned in one setting can also work and be applied in a different situation.” As a result, several different factors of the learning and teaching process had to be examined.

One factor was the 100-point grading method. Created in 1890, this method was a way to sort individuals into job positions. The system was designed so that some people would pass and the rest would fail, since not everyone could become a CEO.

That same 100-point scale is a standard today in many classrooms across the U.S. As designed, it sorts students into categories: some students shine; others fall short.

“In our schools, we are not trying to figure out who are the best students, nor are we trying to sort out the top of the class from the rest,” said Negrete. “We want to see all students succeed.”

Negrete began planning for a new strategic grading system based on a method devised by Benjamin Bloom



Principal Negrete talks to students between classes.

Photo courtesy of Blanca Barnes

and his team in the mid-20th century. Bloom’s Taxonomy lists the stages of learning, placing rote memorization and recall at the bottom of the list; evaluating, analyzing and creating at the top. It helps explain at what level a student is actually learning and is more descriptive of the type of learning mastery the student has achieved.

“In the classroom, if homework is worth 90% of a student’s grade,” Negrete pointed out, “his or her grade really shows how well he or she completes homework, not what the student learned.”

Negrete wanted to shift the focus to comprehension layers higher up on Bloom’s scale. “In standard-based grading, it’s competency and mastery that gives you the grade, not homework or memorization,” Negrete clarified. “Homework is only supposed to support your actual learning of class material.

Some students are able to meet the standard, but only with a great deal of direction from the instructor, or they are able to access the answers assisted with textbooks and other materials. This is still a level of ability that shows that the student can understand with help, and may be a level 1, or D grade. When a student can complete an assignment or a test without assistance, with very few to no errors, this would be about

a level 2.5-3, or a B grade. If you can show you have mastered the standard, can apply the information in different situations that require transfer learning, teach the information and apply it to the real world, that’s a four, or an ‘A.’”

Believing he and his team needed professional development training to accomplish this style of teaching, Negrete contacted Marie Alcock, president of Learning Systems Associates. Alcock agreed to sign a three-year contract to help with the academy’s transition.

For the program to work, the way concepts were taught also had to change. “Instead of giving lists of things students are required to know, we ask ourselves, ‘What is fundamental?’ and then we work from there,” said Negrete. “We learn fewer concepts, but in greater depth.

“The deeper we go, the more we recognize how one thing in a subject played an even bigger role in another subject.” This new grading method requires SGA teachers to re-evaluate what is being taught and why. Furthermore, teachers need to understand at what level of Bloom’s Taxonomy the student is being required to perform. The ideal is to continuously lead students in every lesson to a level 4 (creating – evaluating – analyzing) degree of understanding, which would be mastery. Even students challenged by certain subject matter can show great improvement by being required to perform in ways that require greater transfer learning. This teaching approach is being implemented by seven academy teachers.

“Many students seem to be more motivated to do better,” said Negrete. “They know they aren’t competing against anybody but themselves.”



James G. Lee, Jr.
Evangelism director

SCC EVANGELISM



Pathway to Health-L. A.



As this goes to press, 1161 have volunteered to serve at the Pathway to Health mega clinic being planned for Los Angeles Apr. 27-29, 2016. Many of these are health professionals who will do hands-on ministry to the more than 10,000 uninsured or underserved persons expected to attend the free clinic. About 2,000 more volunteers are needed—including many who can assist in nonmedical areas.

The following are a few of the ways in which individuals who are not trained as health professionals can assist during Pathway to Health: registration for patients or volunteer, hospitality (greeting patients and taking them from one appointment to the next), I.T., A/V, data entry, food service (three sack breakfasts for volunteers and three lunches volunteers and patients); 1500-1800 volunteers will be needed to help with the April 26 setup/preparation of the venue; 4/29 afternoon, help with takedown; trash, delivery, gofers; security (untrained); Inside or outside — road and police; electricians for systems, licensed beauticians & barbers for haircuts

If you don't see anything in the preceding list that you feel you can help with, share what you feel you CAN do as a volunteer. Above all, please be a prayer volunteer for Pathway to Health and those who will come to be treated there! (pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org)

Hispanic Region Planning Meeting for Laity

Hispanic region lay persons will gather at the White Memorial church at 3:30 p.m. on Mar. 19, for a "Pillars of Our Faith" seminar. The presentation will emphasize the fundamental beliefs of the church, with the first section dedicated to the Spirit of Prophecy. For information, call 818-546-8448



Luis Peña
director

Greater L. A. Region



Royal Harrison
director

A number of GLAR churches have planned evangelistic series for 2016: Michael Jenkins, senior pastor, **Breath of Life church**, has scheduled meetings during the summer of 2016. **Delaware Avenue church** plans two-week in-house evangelistic series this summer as well. At the **Valley Crossroads church**, Elder John Trusty will conduct evangelism July 17-Aug. 6.

Elder James G. Lee, Jr., SCC vice president, will conduct a three-week evangelistic campaign at the **54th St. church** May 13-28 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. nightly except Tuesdays and Thursdays. The meetings primarily will focus on the book of Daniel.



Charles Dolcey
Men's Ministry
coordinator

L. A. Metro Region

The **Downey church** Outreach Group meets monthly to plan and train for monthly outreaches to the community. "One month, we went door to door," said Pastor Cary Fisher. "Another month, members of the group stood in front of the church with a large sign that said, 'God Loves You—Free Bibles.'" About 15 members are active with the group, which also serves as a discipling ministry, helping members stay connected with each other. Cary also said that t-shirts have been ordered for the group. The shirts have "Downey Outreach Group" on the back, and "Serving God, Serving Others" on the front.

Another ministry that has become a favorite with church members, according to Fisher, is an annual Parking Lot Party, held in early September each year. The event starts with worship, followed by food and games. A number of area residents attend, friends or neighbors invited by church members. For further information on Downey church activities, visit <http://www.downeychurch.com/>.



Gerard Kiemeney
director

SCC Prayer Team

What happens when the church prays together? In response to the NAD 2016 vision of "Houses of Prayer Everywhere" and an effort to strengthen the prayer network of the Southern California Conference, a prayer gathering has been scheduled for **Sunday March 6, 2016, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Eagle Rock Church** 2344 Merton Ave., Los Angeles. A time to care, share, and for prayer! Please come with your prayer teams. All are invited. Free resources will be available. For more information, please contact Michael Roland, 818-389-7893; email, michaelroland@verizon.net; or Janet Lui, 310.963.2578; janetlui7@gmail.com.



Janet Lui
Prayer Ministries
coordinator

Literature Evangelism

Leaders prepared training videos for GLOW outreach recently, in preparation for the GLOW Impact Weekend in mid-January. Fifty people trained to carry a million GLOW tracts to the residents of Whittier. This outreach was part of the pre-work for evangelistic meetings being held in February at the Whittier church. Tonya Holland is a CrossTrainer working with three interns from SOULS West (<http://soulswest.org/>) to develop interests for the meetings and for Bible study interests. Anthony Baca, a teacher and lay evangelist at SOULS West, is speaking for the Whittier meetings. Info: 562-696-9417; <http://whittier.adventistfaith.org/>.



Heidi Carpenter
director

Men's Ministry is continuing to sponsor its free classes to train heating and air conditioning technicians, now – Mar. 20 at the University church. For interested men and women wanting to be certified in air-conditioning and heating repairs, classes are held from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Students will be required to take the EPA Certification Test for certification. A number of graduates from previous classes have been able to find work in the HVAC field. Info: 323-734-1276, 323-766-9889, voice message; or email charlesdolcey23@yahoo.com