

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

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30

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FUSION/JUMPSTART WEEKEND

CONTENTS:

- 32-33 *Adventist Health*
- 34-40 *Advertising*
- 18 *Arizona*
- 24-27 *Central California*
- 4 *Hawaii*
- 16-17 *La Sierra University*
- 5 *Loma Linda*
- 23 *Nevada-Utah*
- 28-31 *Northern California*
- 6-7 *Pacific Union College*
- 19-22 *Renew Newsletter*
- 8-11 *Southeastern California*
- 12-15 *Southern California*



about the cover

Ruben O'Conner, from the Sacramento Fijian church, clears logs at Golden Gate Academy.

PHOTO:
LEONEL MACIAS

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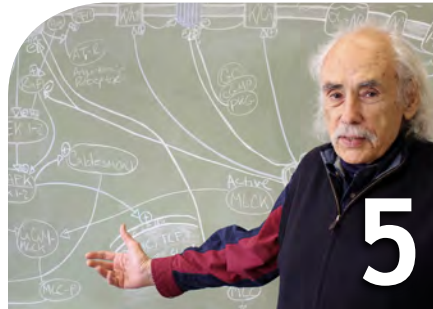
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Are You an *Easter* Christian?

Many years ago I had the privilege of serving as the young adult director of the Southern California Conference. My focus was on the "Generation X" segment of the church, and I enjoyed ministering with and to the "Gen Xers" or Busters — born between 1964 and 1981, the children of the Baby Boomer generation. As I immersed myself in reading books about this important age demographic, one book in particular, *A Generation Alone*, by William Mahedy and Janet Bernardi, made a huge impact on my life.

This book included a true story about Tracy, who had a sad story to tell. She had been abandoned by her birth mother and abused by her adopted parents. She tried to commit suicide several times, her husband divorced her, and she became an out-of-control alcoholic. When she began to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous program, her life began to change. It was at AA that Tracy came to see God as a loving Heavenly Father, and

she realized that she had been living her life as a "Good Friday Christian." By this, she meant that she had always stopped her Christian journey at the cross and had never gone beyond it. She explained that she always felt condemned and worthless and not good enough to ever be a child of God.

Up to that point, her Christian life had

been "one continual Good Friday," but she rejoiced, "Now I understand the Resurrection." She described her comprehension of the risen Jesus as "the death and resurrection in my own life. It is the death in me of wanting death, it is the death of feeling worthless and unwanted. Things still hurt, but they hurt differently. I now know that even though any one of my friends may fail me, God never will." Tracy recognized the sequence of the Christian life. "At first," she said, "I clung to the cross because I thought that's all there was, but now I understand the joy of Easter, and that through Christ I am deserving of that joy." She quoted: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4, NIV).

Then the authors of the book made an interesting comment: "Western Christianity of the last five centuries has emphasized what we are saved *from*, rather than what we are saved *for*. It stresses the past rather than the future. God is at work in us now, and God is calling us into the future" (emphasis mine).

I wonder how many of us live one continual Good Friday. We can't seem to get beyond the "condemnation" part to begin rejoicing in the "saved" part of the journey. When Jesus was born, the angels announced that God was once again with humanity and there was peace on earth. When Jesus died and rose again, humanity was assured of a wonderful inheritance, kept in heaven for us. Jesus did that for you and me! He wants us to be happy and begin living our lives now, as children of the King, heirs to the kingdom. Is that your experience today? If not, then I encourage you to begin living your life as an Easter Christian, saved by grace at the cross AND adopted into the family of God because of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Tony Anobile, vice president



Hawaii Conference Mourns the Loss of Treasurer Gary Johnson

After a six-month battle with leukemia, Hawaii Conference Treasurer Gary Johnson passed to his rest at 8:40 a.m. Jan. 11 at Providence Hospital in Portland, Ore.

“The Hawaii Conference is blessed to have worked and lived with Gary for the last seven years,” said President Ralph Watts. “We each have a myriad of memories and personal experiences shared. Gary served faithfully and with distinction. His was a life lived in service to his Lord; a life full of untiring service, dedication and devotion. His loyalty, love and friendship will be long remembered.”

Gary Glen Johnson was born Aug. 25, 1961, in Erie, Pa., the son of Glenn and Carlene Heid Johnson. As a boy, he attended Lake Erie Junior Academy, collected baseball cards and exhibited a remarkable ability to recall statistics and players, especially of his favorite teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates.



Gary traveled the world serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church with his wife, Candice, and children, Trevor and Julia. Here they are at home on Oahu in their backyard.

In 1980, he graduated from Blue Mountain Academy in Hamburg, Pa. He put in many long hours at Harris Pine Mill making furniture. Johnson furthered his education at Andrews University, graduating in 1985 with a bachelor's in accounting. Between his sophomore and junior years, he served as a student missionary in Malawi, Africa, doing accounting work at a leprosy treatment center.

Upon graduation from AU in 1985, Johnson started his first job in the treasury department of the Northern California Conference. Beginning as an intern accounting clerk, he worked his way up to undertreasurer and served NCC a total of 12 years.

While in NCC, Johnson met the love of his life, Candice Jaqua, then principal at Santa Barbara Adventist Elementary School. Their first date was at Hearst Castle, a mid-way point between their two locales. Gary and Candice were married on June 25, 1989, in the Santa Barbara church. They loved to worship together and go on bike rides and hikes; they enjoyed boating, water and snow skiing, snorkeling, sports and eventually traveling to some 50 countries together. Of their 26 years together, 15 were spent in mission service with their children, Trevor and Julia.

On Christmas Eve 1996, Johnson got a call from the General Conference missions office asking him to serve as assistant treasurer of the newly forming Southern Asia Pacific Division in Singapore. After eight months, the Far Eastern Division office split into two new locations and the Johnsons relocated to the Philippines. Johnson served for eight years, finishing as the undertreasurer of the Southern Asia Pacific Division. He covered 18 countries in his church work, and the family traveled together to many Asian countries both for and beyond official work.

Candice home schooled Trevor and Julia from kindergarten through third grade, but, feeling the need to have them in a regular school setting, the family moved to Guam in 2005, where Gary took the post as treasurer of the Guam-Micronesia Mission. After 3.5 years in Guam, he



Gary Johnson served in the treasury departments of Hawaii, Guam, Singapore, the Philippines, and Northern California.

accepted an invitation to serve as treasurer of the Hawaii Conference on the island of Oahu.

In Hawaii, the family enjoyed Friday night campfires; they would make veggie packets, hot dogs and s'mores, followed by a guitar song service and story time. Gary loved biking with Julia and watching football with Trevor. He and Candice enjoyed getting their kayaks or body boards and taking to the water. Most Sabbath afternoons found them on a hike somewhere, enjoying God's nature as a family.

“Gary, early on in his career, wrote an article that was published in the *Adventist Review* where he quoted JFK with a twist: ‘I regret that I have but one life to give for my Church.’ Gary gave his all for his church, as anyone who observed his work habits would attest,” says Candice.

While the family, friends and Hawaii Conference ohana mourn the passing of their friend, they do so with this hope of the Lord's soon return.

Jesse Seibel

In Memoriam: Lawrence D. Longo

A man who dedicated his career to making life better for mothers and babies has left his post at Loma Linda University School of Medicine for the last time.

Lawrence D. Longo, M.D., founder and director emeritus of the Center for Perinatal Biology, Bernard D. Briggs Distinguished Professor of Physiology and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, passed away Jan. 5, after a brief hospitalization. He was 89.

Widely known as an influential leader in the fields of developmental biology and physiology, maternal-fetal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology, Longo was internationally famous for the breadth of his research, for authoring or co-authoring 20 books and more than 350 articles in scientific publications and for mentoring thousands of students, many of whom became leading practitioners.

Born Oct. 11, 1926, in Los Angeles, Calif., the budding researcher attended Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif. While there, he met and fell in love with fellow student Betty Jeanne Mundall. The couple married Sept. 9, 1948, in Glendale, Calif.

After graduating from PUC in 1949, Longo enrolled in the College of Medical Evangelists, as LLUSM was then known. When he graduated with the M.D. degree in 1954, he took an internship and residency at Los Angeles County Hospital, followed by a fellowship at University of California Los Angeles.

From 1959 to 1962, Longo served a stint of mission service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ile Ife,

Nigeria. Upon returning to the United States, he was convinced he could make his best contribution in the context of academic medicine rather than patient care.

With that in mind, he accepted a position as assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA in 1962. In 1964, he transferred to University of Pennsylvania to serve as assistant professor.

In 1968, Longo joined the LLUSM faculty. Five years later, the National Institutes of Health approved his request to establish the Center for Perinatal Biology at LLUSM. The center rose to international prominence as Longo and his colleagues conducted groundbreaking research and published their findings.

Longo maintained a deep faith in God. In a 2012 interview, he reminisced about the sense of wonder he felt while exploring the intricate systems that sustain human life.

"All of life is so complex with multiple, multiple layers of complexity," he reflected.

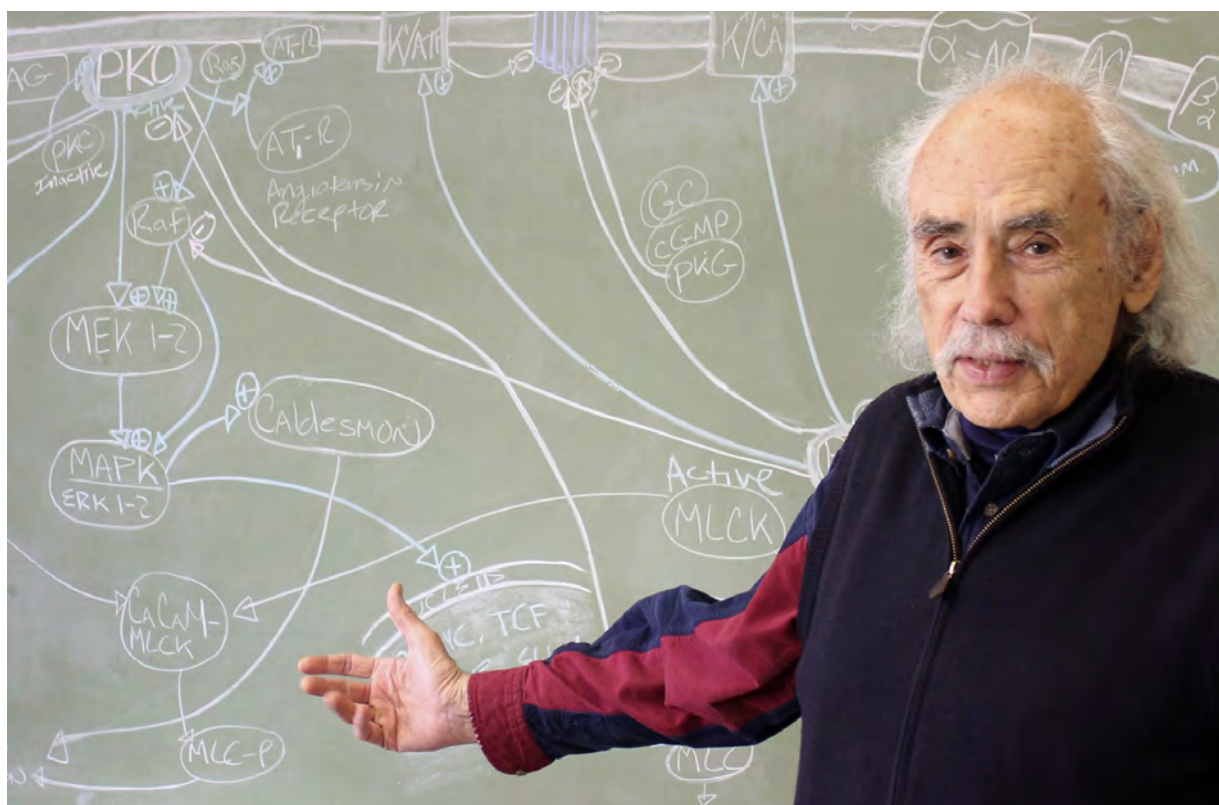
"There has to be some kind of celestial design committee."

Longo's humility came sharply into focus in February 2013, during the 40th anniversary celebration and symposium of the Center for Perinatal Biology. After dozens of international luminaries expressed their profound gratitude for his influence in their lives, he deflected the spotlight away from himself.

"That's what I see it as," Longo said about the center's remarkable accomplishments, "just four decades of work — nothing to do with me, really."

He is survived by his wife, Betty Jeanne, children: Celeste de Tesson, Anthony Longo, Elisabeth Longo and Camilla Mohn; and grandchildren: Giovanni, Nicolai and Alexandria Longo and Marisa Mohn.

James Ponder



Lawrence D. Longo, M.D., founder and director emeritus of the Center for Perinatal Biology, Bernard D. Briggs Distinguished Professor of Physiology and professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016, at the age of 89. Longo was widely recognized as one of the world's foremost authorities on developmental biology and physiology, maternal-fetal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology.

PUC Students Serve on Holiday Missions

Some college students spend Christmas break catching up on sleep and visiting with family and friends, but there are others who choose to do something entirely different, like going on an international mission trip to give a little back to the world.

This past December, PUC students trekked to Brazil to serve Amazonian families. The students, joined by 25 peers from Southwestern Adventist University and Southern Adventist University, traveled to the remote village of Rosa de Sáron to complete a number of service projects. This was the first mission trip coordinated between the three institutions.

"It is a blessing to see college students finish final exams, jump on a plane, and give their break time to go to another country to serve God and others," said Fabio Maia, PUC's service and missions coordinator. "Without a doubt, these students gained a lot through this experience, but they also made a big impact on the communities they assisted."

The group built a home and an outdoor latrine, painted a church, and led a Vacation Bible School program for local children. They assembled and delivered an additional 30 water filters to local residents. PUC has been supplying these filters to Rosa de Sáron for more than a year. Students taught residents how the filters are assembled and used. Using just gravity and a clean bucket, the filters are able to process 1,800 gallons of water in a day, turning the cloudy river into potable drinking water.

"PUC is committed to bringing clean water to the communities in partnership with ADRA, Amazon," Maia shared. PUC has delivered more than 100 filters to this community, but Maia said there is still work to do for other villages along the river. "Short term trips like this have a profound effect on students and often increase their desire to serve overseas," explains Maia.

PUC student Kelly N. Siegal, a nursing major, is one such student who was inspired to spend a year in the mission field. She is currently living



Kelly N. Siegal, PUC nursing student, is spending a year teaching in Rosa de Sáron, Brazil.

in Rosa de Sáron as a student missionary with fellow student Christina Chung. Siegal teaches English and ukulele to children in the village. She reports about her experience thus far:

"People have been asking me how I do it. How do you live in the middle of the jungle? How do you go without having cellphone signal? How do you go with only eating beans



Local teens help the student missionaries with their service projects.



"Being a student missionary is an experience I would not trade for anything on earth," shares Siegal.

and rice for days on end? How do you live so far away from family and friends? How do you cope with the language barrier? This list goes on and on. The best way to describe what I mean by this is by looking at Philippians 4:10-13, 'For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.'

"Living as a student missionary, hundreds of miles from all the comforts of home in the Amazon jungle of Brazil, I have found the Lord. I have experienced a peace that surpasses all understanding. I have touched the hem of His garment and felt healing. I have learned to be content with little, and my eyes are opened to all the opportunities and blessings that I have at home.

"I have said it before and I will say it again: being a student missionary is an experience I would not trade for anything on earth. It is something I wish every single person could experience for themselves."

In addition to their yearlong mission service commitment, Siegal and Chung have raised

\$5,000 each to invest in the medical clinic in Rosa de Saron.

"I am always amazed and encouraged to see God work through the college students to touch the lives of others. I am honored to help facilitate this opportunity for them," shares Maia. "It's great to see the students want to take the renewed sense of passion back to their schools in order to win souls for Christ."

This March, PUC's mission department has planned four mission trips in four countries, including the United States. A group of students will return to Rosa de Saron to work closely with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) on additional projects in Manacapuru communities. They plan to bring additional water filters and dig a well in a neighboring village. Other PUC students will travel to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Arizona. For more information about collegiate missions opportunities, visit www.puc.edu/missions.

Jennifer Tyner



Siegal enjoys teaching English and ukulele to local children.



South America's Amazon region is home to a number of people groups that have never heard about Jesus.



Village residents now have access to clean water thanks to water filtration systems delivered by PUC missions teams.



Volunteers build and paint facilities used by Adventist missionaries in Rosa de Saron.

Shirley Ponder Receives Ordination at Loma Linda University Church

After 33 years in ministry, Shirley Ponder — Loma Linda University church associate pastor of pastoral care and women's ministries — was ordained on Sabbath afternoon, Dec. 19. For many years, Ponder served as associate pastor of children's ministry at the church.



Jonathan Park, SECC executive secretary, encourages Shirley Ponder for her call to ministry.

Ponder invited her husband, Marvin (also on the LLUC pastoral team), to sing the song "Ordinary People" during the service. It's a song "symbolic of my ministry and the ministry that I've had to other ordinary people," she said. "Because they did what God asked them to do, they were able to do great things."

Born in Jackson, Mich., Ponder moved with her family to Kansas City, Mo., when she was 7. As a young teen, she helped in her church's cradle roll Sabbath school — her first experience with children's ministry. After graduating from Sunnyside Academy, she attended Union College, where she met her future husband, a ministerial student. After their marriage, the couple moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., where Shirley graduated from Andrews University with a Bachelor of Science degree. Marvin then accepted a pastoral call to the Texas Conference. While there, Shirley served as principal of the Wichita Falls church school and taught at Dallas Junior Academy. The couple welcomed son Christopher before the family moved to Nebraska, where Marvin served as Union College campus chaplain. During this time, their second son, Jonathan, was born.



Until recently, Shirley Ponder served the Loma Linda University church as an associate pastor.

In 1977, the family moved to California after Marvin joined the LLUC pastoral team. "This church is a very gracious church," said Shirley. "They really love their pastors — that's been a real blessing. We have such a wide variety of friends who are all different age groups." After the move to Loma Linda, daughter Jennifer was born.



Pastors and colleagues surround Shirley Ponder during the prayer of ordination.



Shirley Ponder responds at the end of the ordination service and shares how God has journey with her.

In the early 1980s, the great need for a well-planned children's ministry caught the Ponders' attention. The Sabbath schools in many Adventist churches were often understaffed and disorganized, without much oversight. Marvin asked to be given the responsibility of children's ministry at their church, and Shirley helped him because she'd worked in children's Sabbath schools for years. "I went around getting to know people and setting up teams," she said. "I recruited and helped with curriculum development and got to know people." In 1983, grateful church members arranged for her to receive a part-time stipend for three years. In 1986, the church board and the Southeastern California Conference recognized her efforts and talents, hiring her as a full-time pastor.

Shirley Ponder initially felt reluctant to take on that title. But one of her mentors, chaplain Jerry Davis (her supervisor during her clinical pastoral education), encouraged her to embrace it. "Jerry kept challenging me to accept the title of pastor," she said. "He told me, 'Pastors come in all different stripes. Just because you're not

preaching doesn't mean you're not a pastor.'"

Ponder enjoyed children's ministry because the results of hard work can be observed. "You walk around Sabbath morning and see it functioning. It's rewarding, because you see things happening," she said. She also enjoyed matching the right people with the right jobs. "I've helped

a lot of people be able to use their gifts for God and the Church — and that's rewarding."

Both Shirley and Marvin Ponder retired at the end of 2015. Her ordination acknowledged the Holy Spirit's work throughout her ministry. "Ordination is not about the person being ordained; it's about God and about God

functioning in the church," said Ernie Furness, SECC ministerial director. "The idea is the church recognizing God's action in people. God is present in the Loma Linda University church, and we recognize God's presence in Shirley Ponder."

Julie Lorenz



Bernard Taylor, former colleague of Shirley Ponder at Loma Linda University church, introduces her and shares experiences of their past work.



Randy Roberts, senior pastor of Loma Linda University church, has the homily during the ordination service of Shirley Ponder.

Palm Springs Church Hosts Health and Fitness Expo

On Nov. 15, 2015, the Palm Springs church held a Health and Fitness Expo, which attracted nearly 200 people from the local community. In conjunction with Hallmark Assisted Living, the church hosted several activities and booths, providing free information and health services.

While the Palm Springs church already serves the area in many ways, members wanted to host an event that was more than just inviting the neighborhood to an existing program. "We wanted a way to do something with and for our community," said Michael Leno, senior pastor of the church. "[At the expo] we saw many people

from the community who have never been to our church before."

Based on the NEWSTART 8-Step Program from Weimar (which focuses on Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust), the expo featured two bike rides, a raffle, and numerous booths organized by the Desert Bicycle Club, Desert Guild, Desert AIDS Project, Native Foods, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation and several others. In

addition, 75 church members manned eight different booths with the NEWSTART theme. Each booth provided free information, assessments, samples and health services to the attendees.

One of the most eye-catching booths was the van from the Loma Linda School of Dentistry. Penny Burch, D.D.S., and several dental

PHOTOS BY ROY RANTUNG



Loma Linda University School of Dentistry offers free dental exams and information about the dental clinic in Palm Desert.



A visitor receives a free health screenings, including a blood pressure check.



Volunteers provide free massages during the health and fitness expo in Palm Springs.



The Palm Springs church property is transformed for the health and fitness expo.

hygienists and student volunteers provided free dental exams in addition to information about the dental clinic in Palm Desert.

In addition to the 28 vendors and donors, other businesses participated by donating prizes for the raffle. The local Sam's Club provided a cash donation to help provide bottled water to both volunteers and attendees, while Marty, the owner of Aspen Mills, donated 185 muffins.

"Everyone seemed to have a good time," said church communication director Gloria Davidson. "Vendors told us they will support another EXPO next year, and others who could not participate this year asked to be included next year." Some of the vendors who have already asked to be involved in 2016 include William and Aron DeLaCampa of Nature's Health Food & Café; Josh Clark of Clark's Nutrition; and David Bradley of Inter-Valley Health Plan.

"There were a lot of giveaways, a good mix of people, and the food tastings were good. It was well organized, and the church [members] helped out tremendously," said Josh Clark, who provided free protein drinks. "I had a great time."

William DeLaCampa echoed those sentiments, saying, "We were so welcomed and happy to be there."

Several of the attendees also spoke up about their experiences at the expo. Some of them, such as Daniel and Barb Purgett, even sent handwritten notes to Davidson, saying, "My friends and I truly had fun at your event. It was super nice to experience the loving kindness your members and church friends expressed to us."

Natalie Romero



The Loma Linda University Children's Hospital mascot wows the kids.



The health and fitness expo is not just for adults.



Vendors and participants fill the parking lot during their health and fitness expo.

Glendale City Church Celebrates Three Anniversaries in One



Panelists Robert Pereyra, M.D.; Sandy Schultz, R.N.; Nancy Vogt, Ph.D.; and Ronald Wu, M.D.



Current Senior Pastor Todd Leonard looks through the memorabilia with member Michael Acosta in the newly-opened Church Heritage Room.

Since the early 1900s, a creekside horse trail in Chevy Chase Canyon, an old hotel on what is now Broadway Ave., and a small school in a frame building on Isabel St. in Glendale have emerged into what are now Glendale Adventist Academy, Glendale Adventist Medical Center and Glendale City church. Bridging the anniversaries of those three institutions on Jan. 22-23, 2016, Glendale City church celebrated its 110th anniversary.

Friday evening celebrated the dedication and grand opening of the Church Heritage Room, and pastor emeritus Rudy Torres presented a message entitled, "City Church History: His Story through Us."

The Sabbath school program focused on vision and mission: the vision of doctors and business persons who had invested in the church, hospital, school and community, at a time when "there was more vision than money."

A panel of Glendale City members shared their participation as department leaders contributing to the mission of Glendale Adventist Medical Center. Sandy Schultz, RN, the hospital's first neonatal director in 1980, and past president and member of the GAMC Founders' Guild; Nancy Vogt, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist; and Ronald Wu, M.D., an ob/gyn specialist. Each shared insights about their roles in GAMC's growth and progress. Panelist Robert Pereyra, M.D., a surgeon, sounded a pressing-forward note for today's health professionals: "We need to move with the mission and our new technology," he said.

Panelists underscored the reality of service as a two-way street. "Service blesses the people serving," affirmed Vogt.

"You've loaned us these people, and we've made good use of them!" Bruce Nelson, GAMC director of chaplaincy and the program emcee, commented with a smile, following the panel.

The mission emphasis continued with a report on the hospital's mission trip to Armenia, including health professionals from White Memorial Medical Center and Simi Valley Hospital.

"Glendale City has made significant contributions to community," said Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian. "Inclusive, rich in culture — the church

offers many programs and services that improve the quality of life. I commend your commitment to work with the community."

Jason Schlatter, director of Glendale City church's Humanitas Initiative, reported that the initiative now involves 15 Glendale churches representing a dozen denominations for the purpose of advancing health and well being in Glendale. Humanitas collaborates with dozens of community and church organizations in shared mission, including GAMC, with which it schedules the hospital's Diabesity Van in area neighborhoods. Another shared-mission partner is the hospital's CINCO organization, which sponsors CHLA Kids for kids 5 and under. The program offers free monthly morning classes in healthy nutrition for lower costs.

Other participants throughout the weekend programs reflected Glendale City's history: Connie Bietz Granucci, daughter of late Pastor Arthur L. Bietz, was introduced to the congregation. Tony Anobile, newly-elected vice president of the Pacific Union, greeted the church, reminiscing about his years as a member of Glendale City church, as did worship speaker John Brunt.

Glendale Adventist Academy presented an afternoon concert featuring chorale and bell choir members and instrumentalists who are current and former students and church members.

Betty Cooney



Pastor John Brunt was the Sabbath morning speaker.

Alhambra Church Establishes Bilingual Ministry for Neighborhood Children

The Alhambra church is in a community that has become known as the 'Gateway to America,'" said Donald Smith, the church's senior pastor, "since many Asian immigrants, especially those from China and Taiwan, have moved into the area in recent years. Street signs, business marquees and political material are bilingual, in Chinese and English. The majority demographic of our community now is Asian and Chinese," added Smith, "a reality also among the membership of the congregation."

A major concern for many of these new immigrants is for their children to not lose their Chinese heritage and language as they become immersed in the American-English culture and school system. To respond to this concern, the church launched the "Chinese Heritage Club for Kids" in the fall of 2015. This new ministry, under the direction of Diana Chao, provides elementary afterschool care, which includes instruction in Chinese and exposure to Chinese music, history and culture, along with helping each child complete his or her homework. Each afternoon, students are given a Bible verse to memorize and translate into Chinese.

"The Alhambra church allows kids to grow and learn in a safe environment," said Chao, "while improving in their field of study under

the care and protection of family, teachers and friends. The kids are able to learn here with the protection of Jesus' love."

Meeting weekday afternoons from 2 to 6 p.m., the ministry has plans to operate a full-day summer camp. Fifty-three elementary-age children are currently participating in the school. The church anticipates even more children attending during the summer. According to Smith, the program is self-sustaining and growing through student fees. The church leases a bus on which teachers ride to area public schools to pick up students each afternoon. Parents pick them up at the end of the day after their work.

"This program gives us the opportunity to encourage and help the local children with their homework," noted staff member Tiffany Truong. "I personally enjoy how interactive the staff is toward the students. We try to motivate the kids in the best possible way."

"This program helps children improve in academics as well as in their behavior," Rina Tim pointed out. "The children learn to appreciate and respect one another. They also learn to manage their time and work hard. Our program teaches children to learn about different cultures and follow traditional values."

"The Chinese Heritage Club is quite an amazing place," said student Maylene Vong. "It gives us enough time to finish our homework, helps us learn about our Chinese culture and have a fun time."

Kelly Woo agreed: "The program is an excellent place to master the Chinese language, where you get new friends, get help with your homework; and it has great teachers."

"Chinese Heritage Club is where my inspiration comes from," affirmed Valerie Ng. "You can have a great time while learning."

On Friday afternoons, Smith conducts a chapel service for the children and staff. Ralph Siordia, Alhambra's children's ministry director, is planning a new puppet ministry as part of the church's ministry to the school children. By utilizing the church facilities for Chinese cultural events through the ministry, church leaders hope to reach an expanding network in Alhambra's Chinese community. The staff and children already have participated in the church's annual Christmas special, and the ministry has become a vital avenue for other church-sponsored initiatives.

Betty Cooney

PHOTOS BY DIANA CHAO



On Friday afternoons Pastor Donald Smith conducts a weekly chapel service for the Chinese Heritage Club students.



The Chinese Heritage Club provides an interactive program in which Chinese students can have an enjoyable time while learning.

Chris Chong Ordained to Ministry in His Home Church

Pastor Chris Chong was ordained to the gospel ministry on Jan. 16 at the L.A. Central Korean church in Los Angeles. The occasion was especially meaningful to Chong because of his background with the church.

“I was really moved, because L.A. Central Korean church is the church where I grew up,” he said, “and remembering that where I was at the moment and how I got to the point of ordination were not just because of what I had done, but the results of all the people who had supported me through the years. I saw older members at the service who had taught me in Sabbath school when I was small; some had taught me in Korean-language class. So my ordination was a really special day for me.”

Chong was born in Arcadia, Calif., to Chul Jae (Steve) and Hea Young (Monica) Chong. He and his older brother, Peter, were raised in Southern California.

Chris primarily attended public school until his first year of college. He dedicated his life and gave his heart to Jesus when he was 17. After graduating from high school, he went to Mexico for two months as a short-term missionary with the group KAYAMM. Following this trip, he believed he wanted to serve God, no matter what he did. He believed, however, that he should serve God as a physician. He entered the University of California San Diego as a biology major, hoping to attend medical school there, as well.



Chris and Hee Yeon Chong receive the ordination charge from Samuel Y. Lee, SCC Asian Pacific Region director.

During his freshmen year, Chong began to question his chosen path. After much prayer and conversation, he felt called to pastoral ministry and transferred to Pacific Union College to study theology. In 2005, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in theology.

Following graduation, Chong served as the youth pastor at Glendale Korean church under the leadership of pastors Peter Ahn and Soonhwa Hwang.

On April 5, 2009, Chong married Hee Yeon Kim in Seoul, South Korea.

In 2010, Chong pursued his Master of Divinity degree at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. During this time, he served as part-time youth pastor for a new church plant, Living Word Fellowship. In 2012, he received a call from the Los Angeles Central Korean SDA Church to serve as pastor of the church's English-language ministry, Living Water Fellowship.

“I feel my calling is to help people in the church, as well as outside, have a deep and real relationship with Jesus, no matter who they are. As a pastor, I believe that church should be a relevant and powerful force for good in communities, just as Jesus' ministry was. I am open to God's leading. I feel like He has developed me in a certain way and I am open to His leading, though I continue to want to serve in this location.”



Chris and Hee Yeon Chong with some of the many floral gifts given them at the ordination.

Betty Cooney

John Cress Accepts Call to Serve as SCC Executive Secretary



John Cress

John Cress has accepted a call to serve as the executive secretary and ministerial director of Southern California. His most recent position was vice president of pastoral ministries for the Potomac Conference.

Cress has served the church for more than 30 years as a pastor. During that time, he was an associate or lead pastor of four different churches, the most recent being the LifeSource Adventist Fellowship in Denver. During those years, though he doesn't speak Spanish, Cress helped start two Hispanic congregations and an urban church plant in Denver, Colo.

"My desire," said Cress, "is to use my passion and gifts in leadership to prayerfully encourage the mission that Jesus gave for His church, 'to go, make disciples' and, while we're at it, to 'love one another.'"

The two SCC positions that Cress fills were vacated at the 64th SCC constituency session May 17, 2015, when former executive secretary Velino A. Salazar was elected conference president. Cress began his work in Southern California on March 1.

"One of my personal values is *team*," said Cress. "I look forward to working with the SCC administrative team and pastors for the fulfillment

of the mission Jesus gave to the church to make disciples. I believe that the local church is the only organization that Jesus actually created, and that the conference and other institutions are to support that front-line ministry.

"I have great admiration for pastors, and I know that the competencies they need to be successful are amazingly diverse. They have many voices speaking to, and about, them; ministry can be difficult and lonely at times. In my new roles in Southern California Conference, I hope that I can add value to them, their ministry and the churches they serve.

"I firmly believe that the church was created for mission, not the mission for the church. If the church does not do the mission of Jesus, then it is really not a church; no matter what we might call it. The mission we are called to in making disciples is one in which we go into our communities, not just invite them into our churches — in the same way that Jesus left heaven and came into our world to bring us to see, understand and be changed by His grace and love.

"As part of the SCC administration, I pray that we can leverage all the assets of the conference and its churches and schools toward making disciples of Jesus. The three angels' messages demand our best thoughts, energy and efforts.

"We are called to 'bring the kingdom of God to this earth, as it is in heaven.' There are so many who have not experienced grace in this world. The church as the salt and light of the world is called to live gracefully among its community so that our society can experience the grace of Jesus and be drawn to Him. Jesus tells us that if He is lifted up, He will draw all men to Himself."

James and Karen Cress have two adult children, Timothy and Jennifer, and two grandchildren. Tim Cress is the family life pastor for LifeSource Adventist Fellowship in Denver. His wife, Danielle, teaches at Mile High Academy. Jennifer Cress is an accomplished singer and works for a workman's compensation insurance company in Denver.

Born and raised in the Northwest, the Cress's spent nearly 16 years in Northern California. "We are thankful to be back on the West Coast. It has felt a lot like home, even before our arrival," Cress added.

Betty Cooney

Freshman Basketball Player Chooses Sabbath

For most ambitious basketball-playing high school seniors, scholarship offers from top-tier universities would be a dream come true.

But for Alexis Davis, the golden opportunities with Princeton and Rider universities in New Jersey, the University of North Carolina, Howard University in Washington, D.C., and others had one major drawback — their basketball teams played games on the Sabbath, which she and her family had faithfully observed all of her life. Davis declined the offers.

Davis is now a freshman business management major and legal studies minor at La Sierra University, as well as a member of the Golden Eagles women's basketball team. A high-achieving high school graduate with a 3.8 grade point average, Davis has received sports and leadership scholarships and is the recipient of La Sierra's \$15,000 Presidential Scholar award.

At 6'3", the 18-year-old serves as a valuable center forward for the Golden Eagles. La Sierra University is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, and its teams participate in the California Pacific Conference. On the court, Davis loves to drive to the basket, her skill at dribbling evident as she controls the ball like it is a part of her. Her talents helped the

team gain the advantage in a Jan. 17 conference opener against long-time rival Pacific Union College, during which Davis scored 11 points.

"It's nice to be at a place where basketball is a ministry," she said. "Sometimes you're the only Bible they [non-Christian competing teams] will ever see. When you're kind and respectful, it shows a lot."

Brianne Carroll, new head coach of the women's basketball team, said student athletes have a unique opportunity to extend La Sierra's strong spiritual emphasis to others. "It's important that others see Christ through our team, whether it be in the way we react to a bad call on the court, or winning or losing with grace," she said. "I want spectators to come up to us after a game and say, 'Your school seems different in a positive way; what's La Sierra University all about?' That opens the door to discussing our beliefs, and I believe it's a great way to witness."

Davis' values, work ethic and faith are rooted in her upbringing. "My dad played a huge role in my development as a player by encouraging me to glorify God through playing, and spent almost all the free time he had helping me improve my game," she said.

Regular church attendance was important to Davis' parents, William and Paula Davis, as they raised Davis and her brother, Justin. The family drove an hour to the Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., every Saturday morning from their home in Stafford, Va. "My family always wanted me to be involved in Sabbath school, church choir and plays," said Davis.

Davis played basketball in the Amateur Athletic Union in her area from the age of 13. Her coach was familiar with Adventist beliefs through an Adventist friend, and tried to accommodate Davis. "My teammates were also very understanding of my beliefs and always asked me questions about Adventism," she said.

The AAU is comprised of top players from schools in the region. University basketball recruiters and coaches fill courtside seats during games to identify and evaluate potential recruits. A couple of the universities that were interested in recruiting Davis agreed to accommodate her Sabbath beliefs. But such an arrangement might have caused tension among her teammates. "I had no doubt that there would be plenty of peer pressure from my potential teammates, classmates and coaching staff to play on the Sabbath if they needed me," she said. "If I chose to go to those schools, I wouldn't want to let my team down by not playing, and I wouldn't want to slip into any habits of playing on the Sabbath after spending my entire life observing it."

For Davis, remaining faithful to her beliefs brings rewards that exceed immediate opportunities and desires. "When you have that type of relationship with God, you realize He's not taking things away from you, but allowing you to receive blessings when you listen to him," said Davis.

"I'm extremely happy with my decision to play for La Sierra, and if I had to go back and do it all over again, I would make the same decision every time," she said. "I've already found a family through this basketball team and made memories here that will last a lifetime."



La Sierra University freshman business management major and basketball player Alexis Davis turned down scholarship offers from prestigious universities in order to avoid playing ball on Sabbath.

Darla Martin Tucker



Ed Keyes Elected Arizona Conference President

Ed Keyes is the newly-elected president of the Arizona Conference. He is transitioning from the Nevada-Utah Conference, where he was president for nearly two years.

Keyes was hugely successful in his ministry in Arizona as executive secretary and ministerial director for 11 years prior to his move to Reno. When the presidency became available, his name topped the list of candidates, and the executive committee extended the call Jan. 5, 2016. After prayerful consideration, he accepted the call and began work Jan. 17.

"I loved the challenges we faced in the Nevada-Utah Conference," he said, "and I think some major achievements were accomplished. I know the team there will work hard to carry on. Lillian and I look forward to returning to Arizona to continue our ministry with a team we already know as family."

Keyes was born in Jersey City, N.J., where the street life of the inner city was his daily fare. Attending 5,000-student William L. Dickinson High School, he had experiences that would later translate into some pretty amazing sermon illustrations. God spared his life many times as he lived on the wrong side of the law and had numerous brushes with death.

His mother, a Free Will Methodist, and his father, a Southern Baptist, taught him to believe in God. But he was more consumed with living a fast-paced life on the streets with his brother and two sisters.

On April 24, 1981, Keyes gave his life to Christ. He began attending the Church of Bible Understanding, then made his way back to the Baptist church. A year later he attended a prophecy seminar held in a local firehouse near Atlantic City and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

As a paramedic in Atlantic City working to save lives, he felt called to save souls. He began his college studies at Washington Adventist University and married his best friend, Lillian. They have served the church in team ministry for more than 30 years.

The Keyes have two children. Andrew, a medical student at Loma Linda University,



is married to Rhina. Becky, studying to be a speech therapist in Birmingham, Ala., is married to dental student Harrison Filler.

Keyes has served as pastor, evangelist, church planter, academy teacher, administrator, ministerial secretary, executive secretary and president while working in the Potomac, New Jersey, Oregon, Arizona, and Nevada-Utah conferences. He has conducted evangelistic meetings, weeks of prayer, and training seminars in more than half the conferences in the North American Division. His foreign mission

trips include the Middle East, Cuba, Mexico, Russia and the Philippines.

Keyes recently experienced a dramatic change in his health through exercise and following the principals of health as taught by the Adventist church. After losing nearly 120 pounds, he realized anything is possible through God's grace. Now it is his passion to help others experience abundant life in Jesus as well as eternal life.

Phil Draper

A Revolution of Compassion



We recently interviewed Jose Cortez, Jr. (Associate Director of the NAD Ministerial Department) about his involvement with the Movement of Compassion. In case you haven't heard, the Adventist Church in North America wants to go nuclear with compassion and kindness.

Editor – Jose, you have spoken of the need for Adventist members to start a revolution! In sociological terms a revolution is defined as “a radical and pervasive change in society and the social structure, especially one made suddenly and often accompanied by violence.” You certainly aren’t calling for violence of any kind, but you are suggesting the need for Adventists to initiate a movement of positive change. Tell us more about this.

Cortez – Yes, I believe it is paramount that we as Seventh-day Adventists, individually and corporately, reflect Jesus as much as possible. We have a great message, perhaps the most complete set of beliefs anywhere in Christianity, yet having been an Adventist for over 43 years, I have noticed that we can use more love and compassion, not only in our daily lives and personal relationships but in our church life, in how we treat our own members, and even more how we treat those who are not like us.

Read full article:
www.whenpeoplearekind.org/compassion



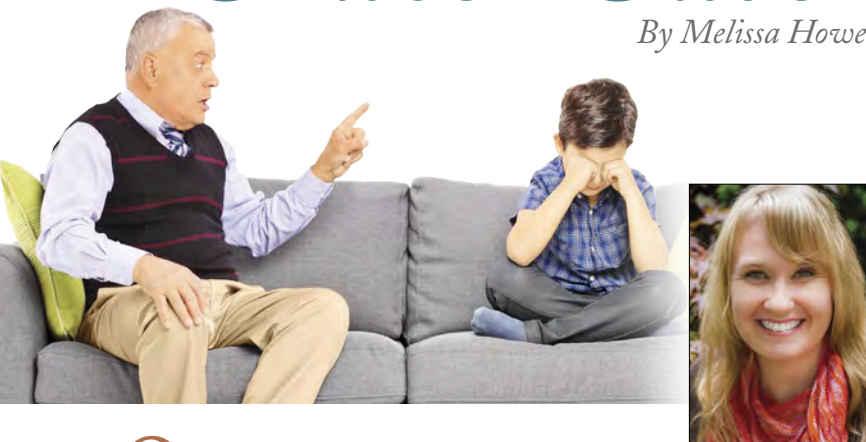
Stories of Faith

We’re looking for new stories we can capture on video about individual members or churches involved in unique forms of ministry (nurture and outreach). In the past we have produced stories about a CHRISTIAN MOTORCYCLE CLUB; a REFUGEE MINISTRY; a man who helps kids BUILD GUITARS; a chaplain for SPEED BOAT RACES; a pastor who overcame PORN; a pastor who lost over FIFTY POUNDS; a DRUG PUSHER who was shot and paralyzed and found Jesus; a group of YOUNG ADULTS engaged in door-to-door Bible study; a pastor who had church at a local McDonald’s; a woman BLACKSMITH ARTIST and more! Send your video story suggestions to css@puconline.org.

Video Archives: www.vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith

Guardians of the *Grace-Gate*

By *Melissa Howell*



“Once you walk out these doors, you can’t come back!” the tall, burly deacon growled down at my terrified 3-year-old. “So you better be good and sure that whatever you’re leaving the house of God for is important.” My son blinked. He twisted his hands and looked down at his feet before whispering, “I need-go potty, ‘else I make big mess.” The self-appointed guardian of the sanctuary sighed an exasperated sigh as he heaved open the church doors. My little son scurried out a few seconds before I heard him mutter under his breath, “No respect, no respect for God’s house at all.”

Read full article:

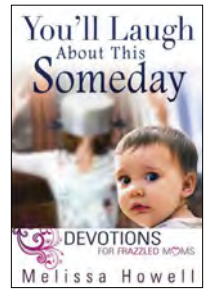
www.whenpeoplearekind.org/gate

You’ll Laugh About This Someday, by Melissa Howell – Mother of four, Melissa Howell speaks to the mess of madness and mayhem that is life with littles, and says, “God calls me into His

presence to be still. ‘Be still and know that I am God,’ He invites (Psalm 46:10, NIV)... This is good news for those of us in mommy-land, who find stillness and quiet hard commodities to come by. Because it means that even if our surroundings are in chaos, our souls can be anchored deep in the stillness that comes from certainty in God’s power.”

This book is filled with humor, life lessons, and deeply spiritual insights into the world of motherhood that will encourage and bless moms everywhere. It’s not your typical devotional book. But then again, there’s nothing typical about the adventure we call motherhood!

Available at your Adventist Book Center and online. **Price:** US\$16.99



How to Grow *Your Own Ministry*

by *Rich DuBose*

Life is about more than turning a profit, striking deals, and being productive. Periodically it is about “wasting” time with people, nurturing friendships, watching sunsets and making music. It is about hearing God speak through children, dogs and cats. It is about talking with little old ladies, and sharing ice cream with a homeless drifter. Of course, honest work pays lasting dividends, but only to those who realize what they’re here for. In the end, it is not about how much money we have made, or have saved — but how much of our time and treasure we have invested in others.

Read full article: www.churchsupportservices.org/grow



2016 Songwriting Event

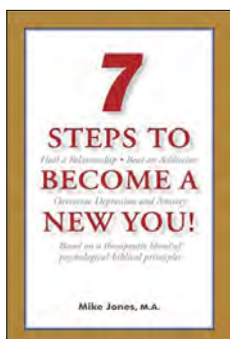
If you are an Adventist songwriter, there is still time to submit a new worship song to our songwriting contest.

Submission ends on
March 24, 2016.

For details visit:
www.visitinspire.org/songwriting2016

Resources

You Can Use



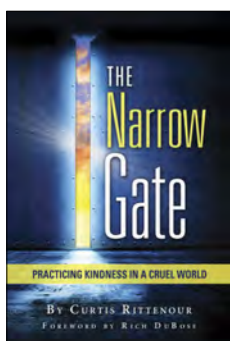
7 Steps to Become a New You, by Mike Jones – This is a small 82-page book that tells Jones’ personal conversion story, his editorship of *Insight* magazine, his becoming a pastor, then watching his entire ministry slip away when he and his wife divorced. The book also shares the story of his return to Adventist membership and to a new relationship with Jesus that has transformed his life these past 15 years. If there is anything distinctive about Mike’s journey, it

might be his use of a checklist to help him stay connected.

Available from Amazon. Kindle Edition. **Price:** US\$2.99.

Comfort for the Day: Living Through the

Seasons of Grief, by Karen Nicola – If you or someone you love has lost a family member or friend to death, you know how grueling the path of recovery can be. *Comfort for the Day* offers a personalized grief recovery experience, drawn from the source of an all-comfort God. His Word will become a guide and friend as the reader lives through the confusing and painful seasons of grief. *Comfort for the Day* is what each grieving heart longs for. Used either as a gift for the bereaved or for your own personal needs, this resource can bring real help for really hurting people. **Available from** Amazon. (Kindle and Paperback)



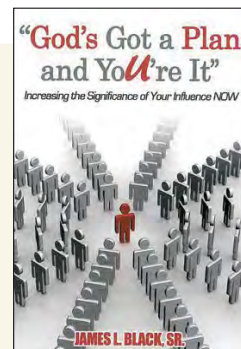
The Narrow Gate, by Curtis Rittenhour – We have arrived at a time when many view compassion and kindness as a manifestation of weakness; where politicians are praised for hot rhetoric and ethnic slurs; where radio talk show hosts purposely inflame angry listeners with predictions of national decline and economic disaster. How are we as Christians supposed to live?

This book unpacks what it’s like to be a follower of Jesus in a broken age. The 12 chapters can easily be used in a 12-week study course for mid-week services, small-group or Sabbath School settings, etc., or in shorter, more concentrated venues. **Published by** the Pacific Union Conference. **For more details visit:** www.whenpeoplearekind.org/kindness

God’s Got a Plan and You’re It, by James Black – During my 30 years as a community minister, I have met thousands of awesome people who have no clue that they are awesome. Several reasons for this is that many of them have never been affirmed or complimented by family, church, or society. They are often judged based on their outward appearance, social economic status, failures, or some other weak perception. This resource provides counsel that will help you grow God’s plan for your life so that you can make a significant difference in the lives of those who need you most.

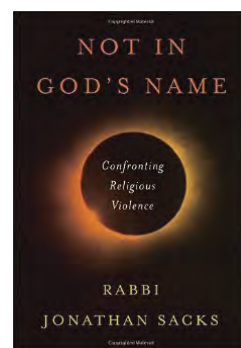
About the author: Pastor James Black (Pastor JB) is an ordained minister and a native of Savannah, Georgia. He currently serves as the director of Youth/ Young Adult Ministries for the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As a highly-sought-after speaker for youth/young adults events, he has preached the gospel to tens of thousands worldwide.

Paperback. Copyright 2015. 128 pages. **Available from** AdventSource.org.



Not In God’s Name: Confronting Religious

Violence, by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. The world is becoming an increasingly hateful place, which is precisely what Paul predicted would happen (2 Timothy 3). Although you may not agree with everything Sacks has to say, he has a profound grasp on the crisis at hand and is a voice that deserves to be heard. **Available from** Amazon. **Price:** US\$23.09 (Hardcover).



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When People are Kind
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4 www.churchsupportservices.org

Answers for Me



This is a website to share with friends and neighbors who may or may not have a biblical worldview. It is rich with content that covers topics of everyday interests like health, family life, spiritual growth, and more. There are three blogs that include weekly posts by authors Jael Amador, Karen Spruill, and Michael Temple that are fun reads. In 2016 watch for the site to get a major makeover. AFM is produced by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services. To get a supply of free business-size sharing cards that invite people to the visit the site, contact css@puonline.org. Ask for AFM sharing cards. **Website:** www.answersforme.org

Arlyn Sundsted Receives the Award of Excellence

During the fall education council, held in Ontario, Calif., Arlyn Sundsted was honored as he received the Award of Excellence, the second highest award conferred by the General Conference Department of Education. This award consists of a medallion and a certificate awarded to an outstanding Seventh-day Adventist educator worthy of division-wide recognition.



Pacific Union education director Berit Von Pohle presents the Award of Excellence to Arlyn Sundsted while his wife, Judi, looks on.

According to the GC Department of Education, a recipient must have given at least 20 years of denominational service, with at least 15 of those years in service to Adventist education as a teacher, administrator or educational leader. They must have made a positive impact that has been clearly felt in at least two unions or educational institutions or a combination thereof within a division. The candidate must have earned the admiration of his or her students and colleagues and be broadly recognized as a model of an educator who has integrated professional excellence with a dynamic Christian faith. Lastly, there must be specific evidence that this candidate has made an enduring contribution to Adventist education by accomplishments such as establishing new institutions, implementing new programs or developing new educational tools.

Sundsted meets and exceeds those eligibility standards. He began his service to the North American Division in the summer of 1981 as a teacher in Newfoundland. In 1984, he transferred to the General Conference as a mission appointee. His mission service took him to the West African Union Mission as division youth

director, where he served until 1989 when he accepted a call to be the president of the Southern Union Mission in the Euro-Asia Division. Three years later, he was elected to be the president of the Sahel Union Mission in West Africa for one year before returning to the General Conference and service as director of ADRA in the Southern Asia Division.

In 2006, Sundsted joined the Nevada-Utah Conference as principal/teacher at Las Vegas Junior Academy, taking on the additional responsibilities of conference education superintendent in 2011, retiring in 2015. Of Sundsted's service in the Nevada-Utah Conference, Carlos Camacho, executive secretary, called him "a very dedicated individual, always willing to put his service to God first. His humble spirit was evident from sweeping the floor of the gym to installing new playground equipment to serving as a union president. He definitely understands the call of duty and will not hesitate to do what is right. He knows what to do in nearly any situation, no matter how difficult it may seem. He was a real asset to the Nevada-Utah Conference."

Leah Scott, teacher at Las Vegas Junior Academy remembers that he knew how to treat teachers professionally, continually demonstrating his trust, respecting each teacher's education, experience and abilities. "His rapport with the students could be likened to a father that adored his children," she said, "playing with them before and after school, playing four-square, pumping up their balls and just loving them."

George Calvet, a recent student of LVJA, reported that Sundsted "was a really good principal and would do anything in his power for any of the students and would go out of his way to help."

"I enjoyed working with people no matter what I was doing," said Sundsted. "It was interesting working around the world and having the opportunity to get to know so many people in so many different places."

Sundsted has retired, but he hasn't quit. "If I get the chance, I want to continue to serve people."

Michelle Ward



Sundsted shares chapel time with a Las Vegas Junior Academy student.



Arlyn Sundsted enjoys "Let's Move Day" at Las Vegas Junior Academy.

First-Ever Advanced Training Conference for Children's Ministry Leaders Held at Camp Wawona

When it comes to developing resources and training for children's ministries in local churches, the Central California Conference maintains a high standard of excellence. In a typical year, an ambitious schedule of four to five conference-wide training events are held in different locations, along with another six smaller area training sessions for lower division Sabbath school teachers. Workshops are also held throughout the year to meet individual church needs.

In November 2015, a new advanced training program was added to the schedule: Excellence in Children's Ministry Leadership. The event drew 120 participants from 31 churches to Camp Wawona for a weekend of high-level, comprehensive training.

Rosa Gillham, CCC director of children's ministries for six years, explained the importance of these programs. "Since approximately one third of the U.S. population is made up of children under the age of 15, our children's ministry leaders in local churches — in Sabbath school, Pathfinders, Vacation Bible School — are serving vital roles in evangelism. By developing relationships and providing service opportunities, children can be mentored to become our best evangelists," Gillham said.

During the conference, Brenda Walsh from 3ABN inspired participants with the story of her personal journey and passion for ministering to

children through her work in Sabbath schools and the Kids Time Network. Other presentations included "Sensitivity and Diversity" by César and Carolann DeLeón; "Successful Styles of Leadership" by Antonio Huerta; "Team Building and Discipleship" by Leah Jordache; and "Communication" by Costin Jordache. The North American Division's children's ministry director, Sherri Uhrig, and Melanie Cruz, associate director, also presented and provided resources.

"Participants really seemed to value the conference," noted Gillham. "They expressed gratitude and were amazed at the variety of resources available to assist each church in ministry."

Attendee Miriam Rosas Terron, from the San Jose Spanish church, was very enthusiastic. "I liked the way Melanie Cruz taught us how to connect with children, which was particularly helpful for me," she said. Terron is sharing what she learned with Pathfinder counselors and parents.

"I was inspired by the way intercessory and united prayer was incorporated as an integral part of the entire conference. It was evident the Holy Spirit was present and the leaders and speakers were led by God," shared Roxanne Perez, who represented the Santa Maria church. "The creative ways in which the speakers presented the information helped me analyze



Team building exercises were directed by North American Division children's ministry associate director Melanie Cruz.

and understand the leader's role in a successful children's ministry program."

Perez plans to organize a leadership team in her church. "In my opinion, it all starts with prayer," she commented. "I have adopted the motto of Brenda Walsh, one of the conference speakers: 'Prayed up, and ready to go!'"

"The conference was a huge step toward creating a team of trainers and presenters who will be prepared to help with training events throughout our conference and in local churches," concludes Gillham. "I pray for every church member to see how ready and willing our children are to be used by the Holy Spirit."

Nancy L. Reynolds



Certified children's ministry leaders complete their advanced training.



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Contact: Leah Jordache at ljordache@cccda.org or (559) 347-3182



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or email us at singles@cccda.org.

Public High School Christian Club Outgrows Meeting Space

Over the last two years, McLane High School, a public school in Fresno, Calif., has become home to a bustling and ever-growing Christian club. L.I.F.E. (Living in Full Engagement), which has outgrown its dedicated meeting room, has been seeking larger accommodations to serve the increasing demands of students and the community. Originally L.I.F.E. meetings were held in the classroom of Jennifer Pennington, who teaches the subjects of medical careers and health and wellness and is also the club's faculty sponsor. They would convene every Thursday at noon in her classroom to hear and discuss the gospel of Jesus Christ. But after three weeks of standing room only, the school was forced to move the club because it was regularly violating the city's maximum occupancy code.

Getting Started

L.I.F.E. originated in 2013. "I was talking with Edmund [Matevosian, of Fresno Central Seventh-day Adventist Church] and happened to mention how impressed I was with this dentist from Pennsylvania, and what he was doing with AMEN," recalled Dr. Ron Brix, a member of the Oakhurst church. "Edmund said, 'Let's do it!'"

That's when Brix, Matevosian, Mike Carter of the Central Valley church, Pam Madala of Fresno Central, and many others came together. The group of close to 50, representing seven area churches, invited Rico Hill, director of The Beehive Ministry and The New Life Challenge, to hold a six-week training school in Fresno. Members were certified as medical missionary workers, and formed a bond among the groups as they immediately put into practice the training they received. The New Life of Central California (TNL-CC) was formed with specific community outreaches in mind.

Through connections with the Sunnyside church and its community service center, McLane Principal Scott Lamm had been praying for its neighbor, the Central Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church, to improve the spiritual atmosphere at the school. It was during the summer school program when the TNL-CC really saw a deep hunger for something spiritual from the students, even those who identified themselves as agnostic or atheist. With this realization, the new spiritual movement gave birth to the club called L.I.F.E., which is now one of the largest extracurricular groups at McLane.

Meeting the Needs

While rapidly growing, L.I.F.E. has been participating in improving the life of its members and the members of their community as a whole. One concern addressed by TNL-CC and L.I.F.E. was the need for medical and sports physicals for low-income families. Brix is managing this project. He assembled a team of volunteers and provided free physicals for any student right on campus.

Another area in which L.I.F.E. contributes to the future of the students is by providing hands-on instructional classes in organic gardening. Henry Pombo, TNL-CC board member, and his wife, Thelma, of the Fresno Central church, both have experience starting community gardens. They plan to break ground on the 75'x 75' plot provided by the school this spring.

Over the holidays L.I.F.E. and TNL-CC planned to give their students' families a turkey, but the price was beyond their budget. However, a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving, a local Mormon church and Central Valley joined together to raise the funds for 50 turkeys. After the funds were raised, representatives contacted Pittman Farms of Sanger to fill the order. Hearing the story of how the funds were raised for those in need, Pittman refused the money and donated 52 turkeys to the project. With



Pam Madala organizes gift distribution during the Christmas breakfast event.

his generosity, the original funds were instead put toward food baskets full of Thanksgiving fixings for each family.

Christmas morning, L.I.F.E. hosted a breakfast for their members' families at Central Valley for the 60 people in attendance. They feasted on pancakes, eggs, tamales, and vegan dishes while listening to inspirational songs and personal testimonies. Everyone received a personal copy of *The Ministry of Healing*. "The McLane Christmas ministry was not only a blessing for the students and their families, but also for the church family," said Alvin Maragh, pastor of Central Valley. "Being able to give gifts and to cook for the families really made me realize how blessed I am."

L.I.F.E.'s Future

When Steve Horton, CCC's church ministries director, heard of the McLane project, he suggested a proposal submission for conference sponsorship. "When churches come together for training, assess their community's needs, put a plan in place and execute that plan, there is no telling what God can do through us," reflects Horton. "[Rico] Hill's New Life Challenge can transform members to transform communities."

Future plans for L.I.F.E. include continuing to share the good news of the gospel with the wider community and planning a trip to Yosemite. As far as securing a larger location to hold their weekly meetings, "LIFE Club has moved to [a larger conference room], providing a wonderful opportunity for continued growth," Pennington reports. "When they first started meeting in my room, they had maybe 10 students. As attendance grew to 50-60, with standing room only, it was time to move. It is truly amazing to watch!"

James Montague and Mike Carter



McLane High School students are eager to respond to Ranela Kaiigithi's appeal.



Guests try vegan food for the first time at Christmas breakfast.



Local Mormon bishop Gary Brunswick, Pittman Farms president David Pittman, and McLane High School project manager Mike Carter made Thanksgiving baskets for each family.

NCC Youth Refurbish Lincoln Spanish Church

Last November, the Lincoln Spanish church building received an extreme makeover. Youth from the Granite Bay and Sacramento Slavic churches spent Thanksgiving week working on an extensive renovation project. "It was amazing to see the missionary spirit of all the workers joining together in one common goal — to serve and to be used by God to aid a sister church in great need," said Lincoln Spanish church head elder Alex Romo.

Many years of use and acts of vandalism had taken their toll on the building. The congregation didn't have the money to repair the broken windows, dry rot, old carpet, aging bathrooms and water damage. Two of the church's basement Sabbath school rooms were unusable due to flood damage.

About 60 volunteers worked on the project, including the youth, plus some older people from the organizing churches and members from the Lincoln Spanish church, which was without a pastor at the time.

Volunteers replaced windows, tiled the basement floor, sealed the basement walls, installed a new ceiling in an upstairs classroom, remodeled the bathrooms, re-varnished the front doors, patched walls, replaced exterior siding, painted inside and out — and more! (Professionals installed new carpet throughout the church.) "With a new ceiling, new carpet and new paint job, we now have brand new Sabbath school classes for our children throughout the church," said Romo.

Organizers were amazed by how much the volunteers were able to accomplish in a short period of time. "We saw how the Lord blessed our efforts and increased our strength to get the work done," said Ostap Dzyndra, then mission trip coordinator for the Sacramento Slavic church.

The workers enjoyed a warm camaraderie. "My favorite part was when we had lunch, and all the groups came together," said Dan Garza, then associate pastor of the Granite Bay church. "It was a beautiful picture of what heaven will be like — three cultures coming together."

Many people gave generously of their time and skills — and their money. After a presentation at his church, "people were handing us envelopes of money," said Garza. The project originally began with a \$5,000 budget, but \$3,000 more came in on the second day of work. People stopped by to see the renovations, asked how they could help, and then went to purchase needed supplies. "God multiplied our efforts and performed a miracle," said Dzyndra.

The Lincoln Spanish church members who hadn't worked on the project received a wonderful surprise on Sabbath morning. "They were just blown away," said Romo. "Everybody was expressing how grateful they were."

The congregation is now well equipped — and excited — to reach its community for Christ. Members plan to expand their kids' ministry and health ministry, and they are currently using their renovated areas for food distribution. "I believe now more than ever that God has some amazing plans to reach the Hispanic community in Lincoln," said Romo.



PHOTOS BY OSTAP DZYNDRA

Before its makeover, the Lincoln Spanish church showed its age. Boarded-up, broken windows were the result of vandalism.



After the renovation project, the church has curb appeal.



The newly-restored sanctuary is a welcoming place for people to worship.

Julie Lorenz

Oakland Churches Begin the New Year with 10 Days of Prayer

Northern California Conference church members throughout Oakland started 2016 with 10 Days of Prayer. The event — themed “Oakland: United in Prayer and Mission” — was part of the ongoing Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus evangelism initiative. “We wanted to bring Bay Area Adventists together to pray for each other and for the work being done in the City of Oakland during this coming year,” said NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson.

LONG THATCHER



NCC church members pray together during a 10 Days of Prayer service.

Beginning New Year’s Eve, five churches took turns hosting the prayer event for the first eight evenings. For the last two events, the speaker was Jose Cortes Jr., North American Division ministerial associate director for evangelism. He spoke for the Friday night service at Golden Gate Academy and on Sabbath’s concluding service at

DEE DOMINANT



North American Division Ministerial Associate Director for Evangelism Jose Cortes Jr. (left) and NCC Hispanic Ministries Coordinator Jose Marin speak during the Sabbath service.

the Grand Advent church. Each service featured a different prayer focus, including community healing, healthy churches, God’s armor and revival for mission.

Jack and Marilyn Willis, members of the Grand Advent church, attended all 10 prayer services. “Each pastor delivered a message that was different from the other pastors, but every single night was equally powerful as the one before,” said Jack Willis. “It was one of the most spiritually uplifting experiences I’ve ever encountered.” “We left after the 10 days feeling so much closer to those that we didn’t even know before,” said Marilyn Willis. “We could be transparent and ask for special prayer for each other. It gave us a sense of closeness. Just being able to come together each night was so powerful.”

Julie Lorenz



2016 PRAYER RETREAT

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Guest Speaker

Pastor Elizabeth Talbot is the speaker/director for the Jesus101 Biblical Institute, a teaching/training media ministry of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. She is a Ph.D. in biblical studies, and travels throughout the United States and internationally as a lecturer and revival/motivational speaker. Talbot is regularly featured on Hope Channel and Esperanza TV, ROKU (Jesus 101 channel), as well as on several internet channels and other social media venues. Among other articles and booklets, Talbot authored *Matthew: Prophecy Fulfilled*, *John: God Became Flesh*, *Luke: Salvation for All*, *Mark: Good News*, *Revelation: the Fifth Gospel*, *Amazing Grace* Bible study course, and *Surprised by Love* published by Pacific Press. Talbot’s main identity is her passion about the good news of Jesus Christ: “It’s like fire in my bones” she says, and she means it!

Visit www.nccsda.com/prayerretreat or contact NCC Prayer Coordinator Naomi Parson at naomi.parson@nccsda.com or (916) 955-4583 for more information.

Worthy is the King who
Conquered the grave
Worthy is the lamb who was
slain

Worthy is the King who

Youth Learn the Joys of Service at Fusion/JumpStart Weekend

KYLE FRIES



A team of youth from the Sacramento Fijian church clear the woods surrounding Golden Gate Academy.

KYLE FRIES



Youth from the Oakland Spanish church spend their Sabbath afternoon conducting a community survey in the neighborhood surrounding their church.

Teens from throughout the Northern California Conference experienced a unique weekend of worship and service, Jan. 23 and 24. The NCC youth department and Maranatha Volunteers International teamed up to present two events: Fusion, a youth rally, and JumpStart, a mini-mission trip. The weekend was part of NCC's Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus evangelism initiative. "We were really excited to partner with Maranatha to give our kids a taste of mission service," said Eddie Heinrich, NCC youth director.

On Sabbath, about 350 teens and adult leaders gathered at Skyline High School in Oakland for Fusion. Highlights of the morning worship service included Christian singer Tad Worku, as well as personal stories from young mission trip participants. "I definitely want to go on a mission trip after hearing the testimonies because they were really motivational," said Ruby Urena from the Oakland Spanish church.

After lunch, David Lopez, Maranatha's director of volunteer projects, trained the youth to conduct a community interest survey in Oakland. The kids and their youth leaders knocked on doors in neighborhoods near Adventist churches. This kind of outreach was a new experience for most of the youth. "At first I was a little nervous, going up to strangers and asking them questions," said Alex Martin from the Gracepoint church in Rocklin. "But you kind of get into it, and it's a really cool experience, talking — witnessing really — to people you don't know."

Afterward, the participants gathered at Golden Gate Academy for a de-briefing session. One group from the Pleasant Hill church described meeting a woman who initially refused to take the survey. Then one of the youth leaders offered to give the woman's daughter a hand-knit cap. (Meadow Vista church member Elsie Williams — a centenarian — had knitted numerous hats to be given away.) After receiving the cap, the woman not only took the survey, but she accepted a book and prayed

with the group. "The knitted hat showed her that we actually cared," said James Lorenz, from the Pleasant Hill church.

The next day, Sunday, a number of teens and their leaders divided up to serve at various places throughout Oakland. Lopez hoped that the youth could get a taste of how rewarding mission work can be. "JumpStart was designed to inspire and help introduce — or reignite — a passion for mission," he said.

Some teens assisted six volunteer dentists at Covenant House, a shelter for homeless youth. They provided care to the residents and other community members — 45 in all — including deep cleanings, extractions and fillings. Several people told the volunteers that they hadn't been to the dentist in 20 years. "You're going on my gratitude calendar for the day," said community resident Ester Parker.

Other kids worked on the campus of Golden Gate Academy — landscaping, hauling wood and refurbishing the boys' locker room. Another group helped the Oakland Spanish church with its ongoing community cleanup project, including yard work, curb painting and trash pick up. Teens also weeded and painted at the Oakland Elmhurst church. "My favorite part was definitely the painting at Elmhurst," said Lena Ditgen, from the Roseville church. "I got connected with a lot of people I didn't know and had fun helping out."

During the weekend, Ditgen told her mother, Mari, that she wanted to go on a mission trip this summer — much to her mother's surprise. "We need to make sure to support our kids and help them to get to these [types of] events," said Mari Ditgen. "You never know what part is going to reach them."

A group of teens served a meal at St. Mary's Center — a place that assists at-risk senior citizens — and then cleaned up and chatted with the residents. Antelope Hills church member Cindy Downard volunteered at the center with her son, Tim Horrocks. She was surprised to find him in the kitchen washing the dishes. During the weekend, Horrocks also decided that he wants to go on a mission trip this summer. "It was a life-changing experience," said Downard. "Not just for him, but for me, too."

As part of his responsibilities at Maranatha, Lopez leads Ultimate Workout, the organization's mission trip designed for high school-aged kids. He hopes that teens who participated in JumpStart will consider going on an Ultimate Workout mission trip this summer — to Oakland or the Dominican Republic. Even if they don't, he hopes they remember that they can do mission work in their own communities. "I tell so many teenagers that the act of service is not just something you do in Africa or India," he said. "It's something that you can do at home."

Julie Lorenz



Jonathan Camargo, from the Grand Advent church, paints the interior of the Oakland Elmhurst church. He said he decided to volunteer for JumpStart because "it feels good after you help somebody."



Dentist Eun Jang (left), who has a practice in the Santa Rosa area, and dentist Isaac Chin, with a practice in San Ramon, work on a patient during the dental outreach at Covenant House.



Members of the Pleasant Hill church Trailblazers Pathfinder club assemble lunches for the Fusion participants.



Kietrich Germany, Oakland Elmhurst church pastor, prays for the volunteers as they prepare to survey the neighborhood.

Howard Memorial Hospital Moves to New Facility



Rick Bockmann, president and CEO, talks with a patient being transported to the new hospital.

Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits, Calif., opened the doors to its new facility in late 2015. Rick Bockmann, president and CEO, led the staff in bidding farewell to the old hospital, built in 1928, before patients were transported via ambulance to their rooms in the new building.

“This is truly a new beginning,” said Bockmann. “A bigger and better facility to match our excellent patient care. We hope it serves our community for generations to come.”

The 74,000-square-foot hospital features 25 private inpatient rooms in an aesthetically pleasing, easy-to-navigate environment. Built from the ground up to incorporate the latest technology in health care design, the hospital offers an experience that is less intimidating and more comforting. The new facility includes private rooms with bathrooms, state-of-the-art operating rooms, a spacious emergency department with trauma bays and a helipad.

Adventist Health – Roseville Receives Gold-level Well Workplace Award

Adventist Health’s Roseville office is one of only 28 companies nationwide — and the only one in California — to receive gold-level recognition in 2015 for its commitment to worksite wellness. The Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) uses a rigorous set of criteria when evaluating organizations that compete to be recognized as among America’s healthiest companies.

Systemwide, Adventist Health’s worksite wellness initiative is known as LivingWell, a whole-person health and wellness program that encourages employees to take an active role in their wellbeing. LivingWell

offers classes, activities and fitness challenges to help employees set and achieve health goals.

System leadership has challenged Adventist Health employees to maintain their BMI (body mass index) by 2017, defying the annual weight-gain trend in America. Reaching this goal means that Adventist Health employees will collectively keep off 300,000 pounds by 2020, the equivalent of four fully-loaded 18-wheel trucks. The ultimate goal is to lower health risks, increase employee energy to serve patients and enjoy time with family and friends.



Adventist Health System Executives Meet Lawmakers in Washington, D.C.

Meredith Jobe, vice president, General Counsel, and Tom Russell, former vice president, Population Health, represented Adventist Health at the Annual Advocacy Day sponsored by the Adventist Health Policy Association last fall in Washington, D.C. The group of 20 AHPA leaders from five systems met with 40 congressional offices to share AHPA's "Five Steps to Health in America: A Health Policy Agenda for the Next President and Congress of the United States."

The book, built on the Seventh-day Adventist health legacy, makes 75 recommendations to improve the physical, emotional and spiritual health of communities. The group also discussed issues related to health care payment reform and regulatory modernization. Visit AdventistHealth-Policy.org to view a PDF version of the book.

News Notes by Shelby Seibold



Adventist health system leaders meet in Washington, D.C. to discuss health policy.

CALENDARS

Arizona Conference

4TH ANNUAL PHOENIX CENTRAL CHURCH Car Show (March 5) 777 W. Montecito Ave., Phoenix. A day of fellowship and witnessing. Sabbath School, 9:15 a.m.; Church, 11 a.m.; Street Fair starts at 11 a.m. Held in conjunction with the 7th Ave Street Fair. Bring your car finished or not. (Our cars are in different stages of restoration like our walk with Christ.)

ASIAN PACIFIC MINISTERIAL Evangelistic Series (March 6-12) Info: Pastor Kingsley Palmer, 480-991-6777, ext. 112.

RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER (March 12) 6:30 p.m. held the 2nd Sabbath of each month, Central SDA church, 777 W. Montecito, Phoenix. Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Info: 480-430-5492.

HEALTHY FOOD PREPARATION (March 13) 2:30 p.m. and every second Sunday of the month. Casa Grande SDA church, 1867 N. Trezell Rd. Info: Sandy, 541-729-6759 or Carolina, 520-876-5240.

WOMEN'S MINI-RETREAT (March 13) Paradise Valley church, 2727 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. Speaker: Lynn Wong-Harris,

inspiring women with a message of Hope regarding Grief Recovery and Healing. Info: Tammi Morby, 602-561-1634.

THUNDERBIRD ADVENTIST ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (April 1-3). Info: 480-948-3300.

TAA 1950s-60s ALUMNI Open House (April 2) 6:30 p.m. Open House at the home of Al and Jan Ghelfi, for classmates who attended during the '50s and '60s. Address: 5525 N. Camelback Canyon Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85018. Phone: 602-840-3077.

PRISON MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL Convention (July 27-31) Learn the latest professional best practices. Email shirleychipman@azconference.org for fact sheet on convention.

Central California

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

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT "Toward the Holy City" (March 4-6) Tenaya Lodge. Call 559-347-3144 for available space.

EXCELLENCE IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Leadership – Presenters Certification

(March 11-12) Friday at 6 p.m. and all day Sabbath, Central California Conference office. Info: 559-347-3181 or cccchildren.adventistfaith.org.

TEEN RETREAT (March 11-13) Camp Wawona. Dr. Rupert Bushner will keynote this fire-igniting, commitment-inspiring, and spirit-filled retreat. Register as soon as possible, info@route31.org or 818-725-2560.

HISPANIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Training (March 18-19) Los Banos Seventh-day Adventist church Friday at 6 p.m. and all day Sabbath. Info: 559-347-3181 or cccchildren.adventistfaith.org.

ARE YOU READY if a disaster strikes? Be a part of disaster relief. (March 20) 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Donations Operation Training at the Central California Conference office. Preregistration required. Info: 559-347-3142 or ministries@cccsda.org.

CLERK AND TREASURER TRAINING (March 27) 10 a.m., Conference office. RSVP or info: Clerks, 559-347-3194 or anichols@cccsda.org; Treasurers, 559-347-3196 or auditassist@cccsda.org.

Northern California

NCC JUNIOR HIGH CHORAL FESTIVAL Concert (March 4) 6 p.m. Orangevale SDA

School, 5810 Pecan Avenue. Clinician: William Chonestudy. Info: NCC Education Department, 925-603-5064.

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/LeadingChildren-to-Heaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT (March 25-27) Leoni Meadows. "Renovadas por su Espiritu." Speakers: Dr. Yami Bazan, Ana Clemencia Calvo, Jose Maria Hummel. Speaker for girls ages 12-18: Melanie Cruz. Music: Ministerio Ama. Info: cynthia.marin@nccsda.com or 925-603-5092.

PATHFINDER BIKE-ATHON (April 3) Metro Air Park, Sacramento. Info: 925-603-5080.



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SINGLES SABBATH (April 16) 11 a.m. Galt church, 619 Myrtle Avenue. Speaker: Pastor Daniel Yim. First area singles Sabbath! All singles potluck, afternoon activities. Info: 209-471-9395.

28TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN MEN'S Retreat (April 29 -May 1) Leoni Meadows Christian Retreat Center. Speaker: Pastor Sam Leonor, La Sierra University. Registration through Northern California Conference churches. Info: Leoni Meadows, 530-626-3610, Ext. 1211.

Pacific Union College

CAREER DAY (March 3) 11 a.m., Dining Commons. This event begins with Colloquy featuring PUC graduate Brigadier General Loree K. Sutton, M.D., at 10 a.m. in the PUC church and continues with networking with professionals. Info: Career & Counseling Center, career@puc.edu, 707-965-7080.

CHORAL CONCERT (March 5) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. Bruce Rasmussen will conduct the PUC Choral and I Cantori in their annual winter quarter concert. Info: Music Department, music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT (March 5) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall. Rachelle Berthelsen Davis conducts the PUC Orchestra's annual concert. Info: Music Department, music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE Concert (March 6) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. The PUC Symphonic Wind Ensemble,

conducted by artist in residence Asher Raboy presents their annual winter concert. The Ensemble will feature advanced instrumentalists as they perform a wide range of music. Info: Music Department, music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

MISSION TRIPS (March 18-27) Students will serve in Brazil, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and on the Navajo reservation in Arizona over Spring Break. Info: www.puc.edu/missions.

SPRING QUARTER BEGINS (March 28) Students begin new academic term. Info: www.puc.edu/admissions.

COLLEGE DAYS (April 10-12). Prospective students are invited to experience life at PUC. Info: 707-965-6336 or www.puc.edu/admissions.

NAPA VALLEY DIRT CLASSIC (April 10) 10:30 a.m. PUC hosts the annual 22-mile mountain bike race. Draws athletes from around the country. Info: www.puc.edu/nvdc.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND (April 15-17) PUC alumni are invited to a special weekend. Honored classes: '56, '66, '76, and '86. Info: 707-965-7500, www.puc.edu/alumni.

Southeastern California

ORANGE COUNTY DEACON and Deaconess In-Service Meeting (March 19) 4-6 p.m., Anaheim church, 900 S. Sunkist St., Anaheim. Info, 951-509-2236.

A JOURNEY WITH JESUS (March 24-27) La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. A biblical journey with Jesus during his final four days on earth. March 24, 7 p.m., EAT a final meal; March 25, 8 p.m., GRIEVE the crucifixion; March 26, 9:30 a.m. and noon, STAY by the silent grave; March 27, 7 a.m., SING

He is risen! Info, 951-354-7095, Ischurch.org.

Southern California Conference

LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST ACADEMY First Annual Jog-A-Thon (March 6) 8 a.m. 846 E. El Segundo, Los Angeles 90059. Sponsor a student by the lap or with a flat rate. Call now to become a sponsor: 323-743-8818.

"FUNDAMENTOS DE NUESTRA Fe 'El permanente Don Profetico' (Marzo 19) 3:30-6:30 p.m. Congreso Hispano. Presentadores: Guillermo, pastor de la Iglesia Hispana de Riverside; Guillermo Garcia, pastor de la Iglesia Hispana de San Fernando; Luis Pena, dir., SCC Obra hispana. Iglesia White Memorial, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 818-546-8448.

ESTATE PLANNING MISTAKES to Avoid (March 20) 9 a.m. Scholl Canyon Estates, 1551 E Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Presenter, Karen La Madrid, Esq. Brunch Seminar. Free of charge. Walk-ins welcome! Info/Reserved seating: 818-546-8421; gpark@sccsda.org.

END TIMES LIKE THESE Mini Camp Meeting (March 25, 26) School of Evangelism & Resource Center, 1501 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. (Fri.) Presenter, Duane Darrett; (Sat.) Youth Meet & Greet. 7 p.m. All are welcome. Free admission. End Times Like These Ministries, Inc., Info: 818 549-4147, web: canuhearnewconference.org.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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Bulletin Board

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GUIDE MAGAZINE wants to reach readers ages 10–14 with your true, character-building story. Visit guidemagazine.org/writersguidelines to read about our guidelines. Visit guidemagazine.org/storysubmission to submit your story. Call 800-447-7377 to subscribe.

NAPA VALLEY ADVENTIST RETIREMENT Estates Open House Memorial Day Weekend (May 25-27). Come visit and see our newly modernized rooms and take a walk on our newly landscaped paths, and then enjoy one of our yummy vegetarian meals. Meet the friendliest staff and residents you will find. All at 306 Vista Drive in Yountville, Calif., a small town that is walker's safe paradise with three churches close by. For more information, 707-944-2994 and for special gift for letting us know you're coming.

THE ADVENT GOD SQUAD Needs You. Jesus told us "I was in prison and you visited me." Through Paper Sunshine you may write an inmate risk free. You write through our address. We read their letters and forward to you. From the comfort and safety of your home you can share the Love of Christ. With V.O.P over the years over a million inmates have completed Bible studies. Become a Pen Friend ask friends and church members to join you. Email, Don & Yvonne McClure, sdapm@someonecares.org or 260-387-7423.

WANTED: HEALTH PROFESSIONALS to volunteer for a one-day, FREE health clinic at the Watsonville SDA church on (April 3) Orientation April 2. Needed: Dentists, Hygienists, Assistants, RN's, Optometrists, & Physicians. Bilingual

Spanish, helpful. Contact Tricia at 831-325-7993.

Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Doctor of Nursing Practice Director. This full-time faculty position will serve as Director of the DNP program. This individual will provide the administrative/management and direction for the DNP program with a focus in FNP and DNP preparation. In addition to administration/management oversight, would also teach in the DNP program and in the undergraduate program if needed. Qualifications include: DNP degree, FNP certification and experience, formal academic teaching experience preferred, experience with accreditation a plus, evidence of scholarship, and experience with online teaching a plus; and Seventh-day Adventist affiliation preferred. For more information and to apply visit: www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/661.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Faculty in School Psychology. Responsibilities: Oversee all aspects of the EdS School Psychology program as Program Coordinator, as well as performing various duties described in the full position description. Qualifications: Doctorate in School Psychology, Educ Psychology, or a related field; state or national (NCSP) certification as a school psychologist; minimum

3-years working in the field as a school psychologist; as well as sufficient teaching experience at the graduate levels and be actively engaged in research, student advising and supervising student projects. For more information and to apply visit: www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4.

GRIGGS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY Seeks Director of Student Services. This position provides a variety of student services that will include supporting student's needs, communications, academic support, and student retention. The candidate should have a related degree and experience in an educational environment. Education: Master's degree is preferred. www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/949

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a Controller in the Accounting Department to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master's degree in Business Administration. CPA license preferred. Progressive management and supervisory responsibilities desired, as well as experience in managing financial operations for colleges/universities. For more information or to apply, call 707-965-6231, or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Development Officer/Grant Writer. Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, event coordination and data entry. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree with strong consideration given to those with experiences in grant writing and donor relations. Submit cover letter and CV/résumé to: sgrady@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified and visionary professional to serve the Department of Music as Director of Keyboard & Theory Studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Ideal candidate will possess a doctoral degree, be an accomplished performer, and have professional experience

as a church musician. Send CV and cover letter to Mr. Jonathan Wall at jwall@swau.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks Vice President for Student Services beginning in July 2016. The VPSS leads out in the vision, strategy, and execution of the college's student services goals. Qualified SDA candidate will be student-centered and an experienced leader in higher education. See www.ucollege.edu/staff-openings. Send résumé to Dr. Vinita Sauder, visauder@ucollege.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is looking to fill several full-time tenure-track faculty positions in the areas of Educational Psychology, English Education/Children's Literature, Industrial Design, Nineteenth Century British Literature, Research Services Librarian, Music, Psychology, and Social Work. For a detailed description of each position and to apply, please visit: jobs.wallawalla.edu.

Events

NATIONAL FAMILY RETREAT 2016. (March 30 - April 3) Practical messages, breakouts, family recreation, exhibits. Topics: Parenting, family, marriage, youth, young adult and media. Speakers: Waters, Rayne, and Nebblett families and Scott Ritsema. Wewoka Adventist Center near

Oklahoma City. restoration-international.org/nfr; 918-827-7012.

Missing Members

CHINO SPANISH. Contact: Church Clerk, Chino Spanish SDA Church, 12986 Central Ave., Chino, CA 91710, 909-627-4115: Roman Aguilar, Saul Diaz Albarran, Alberto Amescua, Agripina Armenta, Everado Ascencio, David Fernando Avila, Brenda Canales, Pablo Cesar Canales, Ricardo Castro, Rubi Cruz, Pura Cuello de Sanchez, Norma Escalera, Felipe Godinez, Genoveva Godinez, Maria Ester Godinez, Bryan Jaramillo, Gerardo Jaramillo, Rosa Jaramillo, Elizabeth Lopez, Maria DelCarmen Magallan, Miguel Angel Martinez, Zoila Norma Martinez, Diego Miguel Mendoza, Elida Miranda, Ignacia Moran, Bertha Moreno, Rosana Oliva, Fabian Osvaldo Ramirez, Guillermina Rivas, Miriam Robledo, Zulma Yasmin Robledo, Paola Monica Rocha, Armando H. Rodriguez, Maria Salvador, Samuel O. Sanchez, Larissa Urias, Sara Vargas, Irma Velasquez, Juan Manuel Villalpando, Santos Rivera.

YUBA CITY. Contact: Phyla Caldwell, clerk, Yuba City Adventist Church, 1460 Richland Road, Yuba City, CA 95993; 530-673-3754; yubacitysda@gmail.com: Diane Beyelia, Gregory Beyelia, Randy Briggs, Cherice Culbreth, Richard Culbreth, Susannah Elliott, Carl Funner, Conrad Gaunlett, Gylvia Gaunlett, Jeanne Gerbozy, Mark Gerbozy Jr., Bette Hammond, June Marquette, Randy McGuire, Bala Reeta, David Rosier, Penny Rosier, Weleeta Signet, Swaranlate Sondhi, Pradeep Sondhi, Lyle Stout, Terri Thompson, Janet Wade, Carol Witherow.

Real Estate

COLLEGE DALE, TENN. Mini-estate: 3 minutes to SAU. 6,600+ sq. ft., 1-level with finished basement. 3-bdrm, 5.5-Bath, \$479,000. Quality construction and materials, many amenities, well-maintained. Efficient Mitsubishi Ductless HVAC for multi-zone climate control. Private, rural-like setting. Teen/in-law walkout apartment. Pre-qualified buyers prior to showing, text "7491350" to 79564. Contact: Ted, 423-400-6369.

FOR SALE IN COSTA RICA. "Charleston Ranch" with Pacific Ocean view on 6 acres. Six bedroom-two story house. Electricity, telephone, Internet, and artesian water available. Several gardening sites; mild temperatures at 2,800 feet elevation. Contact: Charles Clever 928-577-7076. Viewable Online at: revelado.org/charleston.ranch.pdf.

OREGON: 2,466 SQ. FT. HOME on 5 acres, west of the cascades, awesome views, very pure water. Separate shop and storage. Metal roofed. Between Roseburg and Eugene, 3.5 miles off I-5

freeway. Has a variety of fruit trees, and a large garden space. It is a very quiet place to raise children or retire. We are asking 325k. Owner financing is available. Call Tom at 541-817-6893 www.zillow.com/homedetails/4900-Scotts-Valley-Rd-Yoncalla-OR-97499/61061717_zpid/

VACATION MOUNTAIN CABIN. 50 miles from San Diego ocean, large living-dining room, fireplace, pellet stove, tiled kitchen with all appliances, knotty pine walls, laminate floors, master bedroom, two bath, laundry closet, storage shed, well, septic, seasonal stream, leased on national forest land requiring yearly fee. \$130 k. Call Owner, 928-636-6222 or 928-273-2666.

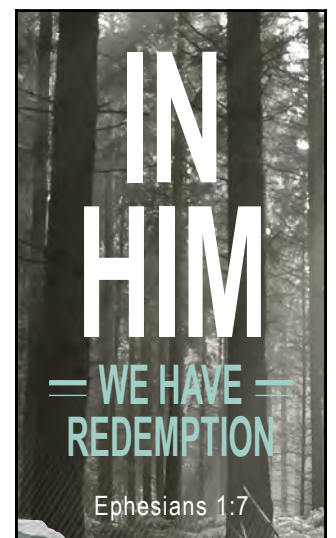
Reunions

BROADVIEW ACADEMY Alumni Week-End (April 26-27) Honor classes: '43, '53, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93 and '03. N. Aurora SDA church, N. Aurora, Ill. Friday Vespers, Sabbath School and church. All ideas welcome. We need email addresses. Send to: drollins0233@gmail.com or call 630-232-9034.

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

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AT REST

ADAMS, F. JOHN – b. July 21, 1926, San Diego, Calif.; d. Jan. 2, 2016, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: son, John F.; daughters, Nancy Connolly, Patsy Bunn; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sister, Isabel Sperry.

ANGLIN, STEVEN H. – b. May 5, 1950, Scotia, Calif.; d. Dec. 13, 2015, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: wife, Regina; daughter, Annette McClaren; stepson, Will Woodruff; four grandchildren.

BERGOLD, LINDOLPH H. – b. March 18, 1932, São Paulo, Brazil; d. Nov. 29, 2015, Vacaville, Calif. Survivors: brother, Orlando; nephew, Ron; nieces, Karen, Linda Anselmo. Served at Sandia View Academy, Glendale Adventist Medical Center and the St. Helena Hospital.

BITHER, STUART – b. Oct. 13, 1954, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Nov. 30, 2015, Hollywood, Calif. Survivors: son, Daniel.

BOWEN, DONALD – b. Feb. 25, 1934, Takoma Park, Md.; d. Jan. 23, 2016, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Vangie; daughters, Jill Hoenes, Heidi, Julie; one grandson. Served as lay representative to Central California Conference Executive Committee.

BREITIGAM, RICHARD RAYMOND – b. May 23, 1925, National City, Calif.; d. Jan. 3, 2016, Oroville, Calif. Survivors: sons, Jan, Joel. Served as Northern California Conference under treasurer and NCC church and school auditor.

DJORDJEVIC, SVETOLIK PAUL – b. Oct. 1, 1933, Kumane, Yugoslavia (Serbia); d. Dec. 8, 2015, Banning, Calif. Survivors: wife, Barbara Howe; five brothers; one sister.

FRIESEN, VERA DELORES – b. Oct. 14, 1929, Cluny, Alberta Canada; d. Jan. 27, 2016, Calimesa, Calif. Survivors: husband, Henry; son, Dale; daughters, Brenda, Charlene; three grandchildren. Served as Bible instructor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; director of Volunteers, Hanford Community Hospital; Bible worker, Paradise Valley Hospital; chaplain and director of Health Education, Hong Kong Adventist Hospital.

HADLEY, ALICE RUTH (ALPHIE) – b. Jan. 24, 1922, White Pine, Mont.; d. Dec. 28, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Walter; daughters, Patricia Hitchison, Bonnie Fandrich; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

HARRIS, SALLY – b. Oct. 18, 1932, Claremont, Calif.; d. Dec. 6, 2015, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: son, Tim; daughter, Jill Cone; six grandchildren.

HERRMANN, OLLIE MARIE – b. Jan. 16, 1919, Alberta, Canada; d. Jan. 10, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Cliff; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

JOHNSON, DONALD D. – Feb. 22, 1943, Paynesville, Minn.; d. Dec. 22, 2015, Cleveland, Tenn. Survivors: wife, Carol; son, Scott; daughters, Maelyn, Shari, Traci; eight grandchildren. Served as messenger to CFO for Adventist Health Systems; CFO for ASI; Administrator for a doctor's group affiliated with AHS.

JOHNSON, GARY GLENN – b. Aug. 25, 1961, Erie, Pa.; Jan. 11, 2016, Portland, Ore. Survivors: wife, Candice (Jaqua); son, Trevor Gary; daughter, Julia Cherie; parents, Glenn and Carlene (Heid) Johnson; sister, Janice (David) Kijak.

LIN, DENNY PING-HERNG – b. Nov. 22, 1966, Taipei, Taiwan; d. Jan. 2, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Eunice; son, Gared; daughter, Fiona; parents, Beh Han and Shwu Ching Lin; sister, Debbie.

LONGO, LAWRENCE DANIEL – b. Oct. 11, 1926, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Jan. 5, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty Jean; son, Anthony; daughters, Celeste, Elizabeth, Camilla; four grandchildren.

LUNA ARTEAGA, OLGA (ABARCA) – b. Feb. 26, 1922, Cuernavaca Morelos, Mexico; d. Jan. 29, 2015, Granada Hills, Calif. Survivors: sons, Ben, Art, Carlos; daughter, Alma Wesley. Served as secretary to president of Mexican Union.

MACDONALD, BEVERLY RHODES – b. April 20, 1935, Ferndale, Mich.; d. May 10, 2015, El Cajon, Calif. Survivors: husband, Bruce; daughters Deborah Richards, Kathy Marie, Jolene Mandell.

MACOMBER, JUANITA – b. July 5, 1927, Evant, Texas; d. Jan. 9, 2016, San Andreas, Calif. Survivors: son, John; daughters, Chris Anderson, Dee Dee Slayter; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

MEIER, WILLARD H. – b. Aug. 31, 1918, Garfield, Wash.; d. Jan. 8, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: grandchildren, Jonathan Stewart; Angela Michelle. Served as principal, Boise Junior Academy, Seattle Junior Academy and Pacific Union College.

MOSES, ANITA – b. July 27, 1936, La Feria, Texas; d. Dec. 23, 2015, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Deborah Price, Maria; two grandchildren.

NAKATA, YOSHIO – b. Feb. 15, 1920, Kamuela, Hawaii; d. Oct. 2, 1915, La Crescenta, Calif. Survivors: sons, Roland, David, Shelton; daughter, Georgette, Akamine; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

NEUHARTH, RUBEN – b. June 7, 1918, Lodi, Calif.; d. Dec. 31, 2015, Banning, Calif. Survivors: sons, Gary, Dennis; daughter, Nancy Troyer; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Served for 30 years as ABC prayer crusade volunteer.

PARKS, DAVID MERRILL – b. Dec. 1, 1938, Lewiston, Idaho; d. Jan. 1, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Reitha Hutson; son, Tim; daughters, Heidi Edberg, Dhay Htoo Sein.

SEYBOLD, THEODORE – b. Sept. 11, 1924, Glendale, Calif.; d. July 1, 2015, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: wife, Dorothy; son, Thomas; daughter, Lois Martinez; one grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.

SIEMENS JR., JOHN – b. June 8, 1927, Bakersfield, Calif.; d. Dec. 28, 2015, Redding, Calif. Survivors: sons, Larry, Victor; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served at Orangewood Academy.

SILER, LILY – b. Nov. 11, 1930, Floydada, Texas; d. Dec. 17, 2015, Oroville, Calif. Survivors: sons, John, James; daughters, Daleann Keener, Paula Osborn; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

SIPES, GLADYS – b. Nov. 27, 1923, Mount Airy, N.C.; d. Jan. 11, 2016, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: sons, Michael, Kenneth; brother, Clifford Inman; sister, Mabel Hill, one grandchild; two great-grandchildren.

SMITH, DONNA KAY (BOOTS) – b. Dec. 5, 1930, Fairfield, Calif.; d. Nov. 5, 2015, Rocklin, Calif. Survivors: sons, Burt, Michael, Richard, Don; daughter, Deleen.

SPAIN, WILMA D. – b. Sept. 6, 1926, Cassville, Mo.; d. Nov. 25, 2015, Redding, Calif. Survivors: sons, Wayne, Charles; daughter, Nancy Nally; 16 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren.

STEPHENS, FANNIE – b. May 7, 1923, Holdenville, Okla.; d. Dec. 25, 2015, Rancho Cordova, Calif. Survivors: sons, Grady and Samuel; daughters, Linda Webb, Judy Banks, Janis Newborn; 17 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren.

VAN ORDER, BERYL – b. Aug. 18, 1920, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; d. Jan. 17, 2016, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: husband, Henry; stepson, David; stepdaughter, Natasha Chardas; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

ZAPARA, WILBUR L. – b. March 25, 1919, Williston, N.D.; d. Oct. 26, 2015, Sutter Creek, Calif. Survivors: sons, Dale, Randy, Terry; daughter, Charlene Borris; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

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

SUNSETS

	3/4	3/11	3/18	3/25
Alturas	5:58	6:06	7:13	7:21
Angwin	6:07	6:14	7:21	7:28
Calexico	5:43	5:48	6:53	6:58
Chico	6:04	6:11	7:19	7:26
Eureka	6:13	6:20	7:28	7:35
Fresno	5:57	6:04	7:10	7:16
Hilo	6:28	6:30	6:32	6:34
Honolulu	6:37	6:40	6:42	6:44
Las Vegas	5:39	5:46	6:52	6:58
Lodi	6:03	6:10	7:16	7:23
Loma Linda	5:49	5:54	7:00	7:05
Los Angeles	5:53	5:59	7:04	7:10
Moab	6:14	6:21	7:28	7:35
Oakland	6:06	6:13	7:20	7:26
Phoenix	6:28	6:33	6:39	6:44
Reno	5:56	6:03	7:10	7:17
Riverside	5:49	5:55	7:00	7:06
Sacramento	6:03	6:10	7:17	7:24
Salt Lake City	6:23	6:31	7:39	7:46
San Diego	5:49	5:54	6:59	7:04
San Francisco	6:07	6:14	7:21	7:27
San Jose	6:05	6:12	7:18	7:25
Tucson	6:24	6:29	6:34	6:39

The fire alarm sounds.
Do you know where the
nearest exit is located?



FIRE



MISSING CHILD

It's worship time!
Where is your child?



Gunfire erupts during
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Do you know what to do?

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MARCH 2016

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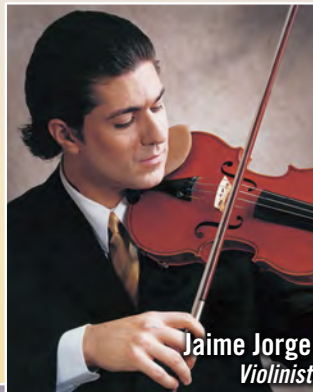
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