

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

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INDIA COW BANK

Puts New Spin on Ministry for LSU

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about the cover

A woman in Denkanikottai, India, milks a cow acquired through the La Sierra University Enactus Cow Bank program.

PACIFIC UNION recorder

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Lost and Found

Jesus was a pathfinder. He found a path to the heart of sinful human beings by becoming one of us. His ministry was all about showing people a pathway to God.

In Luke 19:10, Jesus presents His mission statement: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." It may be an over simplification, but this is a mission statement. It is clear, precise and memorable. It tells us exactly what Jesus' intentions are.

While fulfilling His mission, Jesus ran into trouble with the church folk, especially the leaders. Luke 15:1, 2 tells us, "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.'"



Ricardo Graham

Jesus was accused of being one who welcomes sinners. The charge was true then and it is true today. Jesus receives sinners and transforms them by His grace.

Ancient Jewish society was well ordered and divided. Everyone had a place and stayed in it. Jesus challenged this reality.

Sinners belonged to a well-defined social class. They were those who had violated the law or who held sinful or unclean occupations, such as prostitutes, robbers, shepherds and gamblers.

The illiterate, the uneducated, and the Gentiles also fell into this category because they were ignorant of the law as taught by the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees.

Education in those days meant knowing the Scriptures, especially the law and all its ramifications, as well as the traditional interpretations of it. Thus, a person who could not read could not avoid sinning and was viewed as lawless and immoral.

However, Jesus was a change agent who came to teach and to live in such a way as to call into question everything others taught. "Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers" (Luke 2:47).

In response to the accusation that He received sinners, Jesus told three stories about finding the lost, thus accomplishing at least three things: He re-declared His mission statement, defined the value of sinners and revealed the true nature of God the Father.

In Luke 15, we find the presentation of three different classes of lost souls. The lost sheep represents those who are lost due to their own carelessness. The lost coin represents

those who are lost because of someone else's carelessness. The lost son represents those who are lost by their own choice.

With the first two classes, the sheep and the coin, the owner searched for them, and heaven rejoiced when they were found.

But with the lost son, the father waited for him to come home. He knew that any attempts on his end could result in resistance and further alienation. So the father waited for the son to come to his senses. He waited for him to come to the realization that he was loved.

We call this parable the story of the prodigal son, and rightfully so, because the word "prodigal" is defined as "recklessly extravagant."

It could also be called the story of the prodigal father, because when the son came home, the father threw him an extravagant party, after showering him with kisses, dressing him in a fine robe, covering his bare feet and giving him a ring.

This robe represents the righteousness of Christ's character: "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10).

And we must not forget the party. Heaven will be a party — there will be a rejoicing like never seen before in the history of the universe.

Why? Because one day, our wayward, lost world will be fully redeemed by the mercy and grace of Christ's sacrifice. What a day that will be.

Ricardo Graham

NCC Adventists Work Together to Host Successful Clinic

“Do you have any more fliers that I could hand out?” asked Tom* at the end of his visit to a free weekend health clinic in Clearlake. His experience had been so positive that he wanted to tell his neighbors about it. But volunteers had already distributed 1,000 printed fliers, and there weren’t any left. So Tom took a pen and wrote his own advertising flier, which he asked the volunteers to duplicate on their copier. With his handwritten fliers in hand, he headed out to the neighborhood to spread the good news.

Georgia* arrived at the clinic late in the day. Very stressed, she asked to see a counselor. Unfortunately, it was too late, and volunteers felt concerned about her response. However, when they checked on her a little later, they discovered her sitting in a massage chair,

getting a shoulder massage — happy with the stress-reduction method she was receiving.

Tom and Georgia were just two of the 235 people who visited the two-day clinic, held at a senior center in Clearlake at the end of January. The clinic was a joint project of four Adventist churches — Clearlake, Lakeport, Middletown and Upper Lake. “We were able to involve all the Lake County churches in this project,” said Clearlake/Middletown district pastor Ted Calkins. “This just shows how much more we can accomplish as we’re working together.”

The churches worked with the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network, which provided equipment and know-how. Additional help and manpower came from the Napa Valley Korean church and Pacific Union College. St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake also provided support.

About 150 volunteers worked together to make the clinic possible. Most guests received free — and much needed — dental, vision and medical care from volunteer professionals. In addition, the guests appreciated the little touches that set this clinic apart from other free medical events. They could see a counselor, get a shoulder massage, taste samples of healthy food, visit a prayer room, and pick up free literature. They also could enjoy live Christian music, provided by various instrumentalists. Some volunteers washed and massaged guests’ feet and gave them new socks. PUC students transported people from a nearby homeless encampment to receive help.

Guests expressed their gratitude, not just for the free care but also for the manner in which it was given. “People told us they appreciated the way they were treated — kindly and compassionately,” said Carol Lewis, who



Robert Davis administers a back massage, as Joe Williams shares an original composition on his guitar.



A successful dental procedure merits several thumbs up!



Lucy Beck and Sharon Calkins assist guests with registration.

organized the clinic with Susan Jen — both Clearlake church members.

As follow-up to the clinic, the churches continue to work together to provide a variety of activities, including a diabetes seminar, cooking classes, a finance class, a painting group, a knitting group, Bible studies, a mother and baby Bible class and a men’s group.

Jen and Lewis attribute the clinic’s success to God’s blessings and the effectiveness of teamwork. “The clinic project provided a two-fold benefit. One was the benefit to the community, which was really a great blessing to be a part of,” said Jen. “The other side of it was the blessing of the combined effort of our churches coming together — pressing together — to make this come to fruition.”

Lewis agreed. “The greatest blessing in all of this was pulling the churches together,” she said. “We affirmed old friendships and made new friendships and worked together on a project everyone felt was worthwhile.”

*Not their real names.

Julie Lorenz

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING

JULY 21 - 30, 2016



CHRIST'S METHOD ALONE *Showing Compassion*

"He showed His sympathy for them. ..."

This summer's Redwood Camp Meeting theme is the second of a five-year series focusing on Christ's method of evangelism, as described in Ellen White's book, *The Ministry of Healing*. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (143).

Let the meetings and fellowship inspire you to follow Christ's method in your own family, workplace, and neighborhood. You'll also have the opportunity to show His love to the Humboldt County community during the second annual Redwood Community Service Day. Last year's event helped us begin **building relationships** (last year's theme) with community members—and we hope to continue this important work this summer.

***Come and be part of
Northern California's
camp meeting tradition!***

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Two Successful Health Outreach Programs Demonstrate Christ's Method of Reaching People

Health outreach is spreading throughout the Central California Conference as more and more churches are conducting health ministry programs and seeing profound results. In the wake of comprehensive urban ministry training provided by Central and the Bridges to Health mega clinic organized in the Bay Area in 2014, CCC Adventists are discovering that meeting people's physical needs shows Christ's love in their communities and opens unparalleled opportunities for spiritual healing.

"God's method alone will provide true success in reaching people," wrote Ellen White. "Christ mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy toward them, met their needs, won their confidence, and then, asked them to follow Him."

"The health ministries of Santa Cruz and Bakersfield Hillcrest exemplify God's ministry method," explained Steve Horton, Central's vice president of ministries. "In Central, a massive and growing number of members are committed to following Christ's example as part of the Life Hope Center philosophy. We'll continue to invite our people into joyful service, and encourage each church to become a health center in its community."

Life Hope in Santa Cruz

Members of the Santa Cruz church diligently prepared, publicized and prayed — and the people came. The church on Cayuga Street was transformed into a health center, opening its doors to nearly 300 people from the community. The clinic was run like a well-oiled machine by a staff of more than 130 volunteers, including physicians, dentists, optometrists, medical assistants, church members and 14 Monterey Bay Academy students. Three other Adventist churches in the area — both Watsonville English and Spanish, and Soquel Bilingual — collaborated with Santa Cruz on the successful endeavor.

According to Maria Jose Hummel, nutritionist, health educator and Santa Cruz member who led in organizing the event, 69 people received dental care, and 129 other residents received vision services, including 80 pairs of new glasses. Approximately 87 people were screened for cholesterol and glucose. Since attendance was over capacity, many were given vouchers for either vision or dental care in the future.

Although some had to wait up to two hours to see a medical professional, they didn't complain. They were occupied in the sanctuary

with health lectures on nutrition, diabetes, stress management and addiction recovery, and were offered lifestyle counseling and coaching on health issues and weight loss.

"It was amazing to see the enthusiastic response from attendees as well as volunteers," recalled Hummel. "It was also wonderful to experience the unity between the four area churches during our collaboration."

Prior to the event, Larry Payton, Santa Cruz member and lifestyle coach, spread fliers and contacted various social service agencies in the community. "Many staff members expressed sincere gratitude that a local church would provide help for those who desperately need health and medical assistance," Payton said.

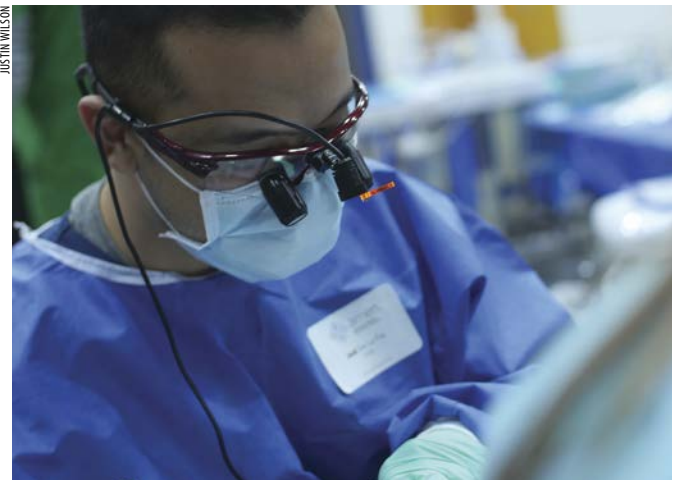
"This was one of the best experiences of my life," he declared. "Some folks held tightly to my hands when we prayed, desperately seeking divine intervention for their needs. We could feel the Holy Spirit in our midst."

As part of a vibrant Life Hope network committed to health outreach, the clinic was only the beginning. Members are delivering eyeglasses, providing ongoing lifestyle counseling, and following up on requests for free Bibles, Bible studies and prayer requests. They



VICTOR CARRERO

One hundred twenty-nine Monterey County residents received vision services.



JUSTIN WILSON

Organized in six weeks, Bakersfield gathers 150 volunteers to serve more than 1000 visitors.

VICTOR CARREIRO



Four churches collaborate to serve 300 Santa Cruz residents.

The Hillcrest church is currently planning a second medical clinic for this fall; members are conducting a series of mini clinics leading up to that next major event. Meanwhile, they are busy following up with hundreds of people who expressed interest in learning more about future events and the Seventh-day Adventist

are also leveraging interest leads for publicizing upcoming health events.

“We’re energized,” added Hummel. “We’re already working on the next clinic in Watsonville. Our goal is to assist with clinics in any church willing to host them, and to become a center for evangelism in our community.”

Miracles in Bakersfield

It took a leap of faith for members of the Bakersfield Hillcrest church to commit to organizing its first-ever free health clinic in less than six weeks when the process can often take from six to eight months. Miracle after miracle occurred while preparations moved at a record pace, leaving no doubt members were being used by God to provide healing for their community. The greatest miracle for all involved was to see more than 1,000 enthusiastic visitors attend the free medical and dental clinic.

Approximately 58 medical professionals, including some from the local community who are not members of the Adventist church, served 280 dental patients, provided 138 eye exams and optometry services and 168 medical and lifestyle exams. There were also pharmacists, medical and dental students, chiropractors and massage therapists among the approximately 150 volunteers.

“God’s plans for this ministry proved far greater than ours,” related Jesse Leal, Hillcrest first elder, who served as event coordinator. “By God’s grace and His Holy Spirit, we did better than we ever could have imagined.

“In planning, we talked to many people with experience in organizing medical events, and in early January we attended the Santa Cruz clinic, which helped tremendously. Since the clinic was held in the Santa Cruz church, we had a strong model to implement in our own church facility.”

The clinic quickly became a combined effort of all Adventist churches within the Bakersfield area, with support from San Joaquin Community Hospital, the Pacific Health and Education Center and Bakersfield Adventist Academy, where the dental and optometry services were offered. Partnership with the organization AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) was also “divinely appointed,” according to Leal. AMEN supplied up to 30 dental chairs and eight optometry lanes for the event.

Besides medical care, visitors enjoyed nutrition lectures, lifestyle coaching, chiropractic care, health screening and medical consultation. Souls West Leadership School from the Pacific Union Conference provided chaplain services, music and children’s ministries.

church and taking care of patients who needed additional care but could not wait until the next clinic.

“It’s a full schedule, but we’re committed to continue the momentum,” enthused Leal. “For when we’re about our Father’s business, we grow spiritually. Through this event we’ve learned when we trust in the Lord and follow His counsel in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, we truly show the love of Christ and touch people’s lives in remarkable ways.”

Nancy Reynolds

JUSTIN WILSON



Volunteers pause to pray with health clinic visitors.

2016 Pathfinder Convocation Challenges and Inspires

Music is a part of my life," White Memorial Pathfinder Mirielle Enriques stated. "Music has inspired me to follow, love and serve the Lord wholeheartedly. The more I love music, the more I love God."

Enriques was one of four SCC Pathfinders who shared messages about their personal experiences with Jesus at the 2016 Convocation on Feb. 6. The singer shared that, even though she is young, she has experienced miracles in her life and has seen miracles in the lives of others she has been privileged to touch. To conclude, Enriques sang, "Were It Not for Grace."

"What does it mean to follow Jesus?" was the question Wendall Villanueva, a Central Filipino Club member and third-generation Adventist, asked himself as he was reading his Bible. "I was already playing my violin in church," he said, "going on medical mission trips, living a Christian lifestyle. Not until my pastor explained it in a clear manner when I was preparing for baptism did I finally understand the great controversy going on in the world. I was thrilled to be baptized!" Villanueva affirmed his baptism decision with a violin solo entitled, "To God Be The Glory."

A pastor's daughter who had tried hard to live up to others' expectations and help others because she wanted to portray herself as a good person realized that her volunteering was more for herself than for others. "To prepare for Investiture, I was reading Mark 10:45, 'For even as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but

to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many,'" recalled Elinah Diel, a Trinity Club member. "I realized that my perspective of service had been messed up; that I must put others before myself. When Jesus is top priority, everything else will follow." Diel's new attitude — Jesus first, others second; herself last — has allowed her to have a closer walk with Him. She followed her remarks in a wind instrument quartet of fellow Pathfinders, playing "In Christ Alone — My Cornerstone."

Sam Gao, the son and grandson of Adventist pastors and a member of the Los Angeles Chinese Club, was the final speaker. "I believed in God and had faith in Him," he said, "but I had misconceptions about the Bible. I wanted to be baptized when we were still in China, but in China I could not be baptized until I was 18. When my family moved to L.A., I attended the International Pathfinder Convocation in 2011 and made my decision to be baptized. I was so thrilled when my father baptized me four months later and I officially could become a Christian!

"But I realized this was only the beginning of a long journey," Gao added. "I also needed to be baptized by the Holy Spirit. Our words, actions, everything we do, will have an effect on our journey to heaven. My prayer is that we will also have faith to continue our journey with Him." Gao closed with a piano solo, "I Surrender All."

The annual Pathfinder Convocation is a highlight event among Southern California

Conference Pathfinder clubs, and 2016 was no exception. Some 2,000 excited Pathfinders, directors and staff filled the White Memorial church for the event.

Steve Clement, Teens Leading Teens coordinator and Pathfinder area coordinator, challenged Pathfinders and leaders to design unique pins for youth to swap at the 2019 Oshkosh International Camporee.

When Pastor Kevin Morris made an altar call, 42 Pathfinders made their decision to follow Jesus. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered for them as they prepare in their individual churches for baptism.

Brenda Richards



Wendall Villanueva



Elinah Diel



Mierella Enriques



Sam Gao

PHOTOS BY STEVE CLEMENT

Manuel Arteaga Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

"If someone like me can be a minister of the gospel, then the power of the cross must be real," said Manuel (Manny) Arteaga at his ordination service on Jan. 30.

Arteaga is the founding pastor of the Kalēo church, a vibrant new congregation that has resulted from the unification of the former Resurrection group and Lighthouse church congregations. The church celebrated its one-year anniversary on Feb. 7.

The pastor was born in Montemorelos, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. He lived there until the age of 13, when he and his family moved to southern California. Raised in a strong Christian home, Arteaga did not always intend to be a pastor. It was not until he took a year off to be a student missionary to the Marshall Islands that he realized the Lord was calling him to serve in full-time ministry.

Arteaga earned a degree in business administration from La Sierra University in 2007 and recently completed a master's in theological studies from the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School. He began full-time ministry as an associate pastor for youth at the Central Spanish church prior to founding the Kalēo Adventist church.

"Kalēo is a vibrant young-adult driven church, but it's not a young-adult church," explained Arteaga. "The church is multicultural, English-speaking and, actually, the one church in the Hispanic Region that is solely English-speaking. We want to reach the 'de-churched,' the 'unchurched' and the 'nones.' Our vision is three-fold: to be a home for all, to share a Savior for all and a purpose in all. We want the people from the community to experience a home when they come into our church.

Because Kalēo is a commuter church with members living throughout the southern California area, small groups are a major outreach ministry, according to the pastor. Each week, seven small groups or cells meet in homes spanning the area, involving 70-80 persons or about half the church's membership. "And that number is slowly climbing," said Arteaga.

The name Kalēo means "utter in a loud voice" and "to invite" in New Testament Greek. Located

BARRY DALY OF THE PRO COLLECTIVE



Guillermo Garcia prays the ordination prayer for Manuel and Keren Arteaga.



Giddell Garcia, pastor of the East L.A. Bilingual and Glassell Park Spanish churches and former pastor of the Lighthouse church, gives the Call to Ministry.

at 1307 S. Myrtle Ave., Monrovia, leaders and members are living up to the church's name as they are actively engaged in inviting people to get acquainted with Jesus.

At the ordination service, Arteaga promised, "I pledge to be a jar of clay, and carry the treasure of the gospel well for the rest of my days; to lead fiercely, as I follow Jesus faithfully.

"As passionate as I am about ministry," added Arteaga, "I consider my greatest accomplishment to be marrying Keren, my personal pastor, with whom I share the raising of our two girls, Sophia Xareni and Karissa Belle."

Betty Cooney

Florence Darby — a Living Legend

Daily the white Chevy Impala would proceed to a shady space near the loading dock, and Annie Florence Darby, a petite, impeccably dressed 91-year-old, would gingerly make her way to her desk at the Arizona Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For nearly 36 years, she worked at various times as administrative assistant in the education, communication, community services, prison ministries and regional departments.

Through the years, Florence has attended prison ministry conventions, Pathfinder gatherings, community services events, and has been a regular visitor at church services throughout the Phoenix area. Her acts of kindness and generosity have made her a living legend.

One day last year, the Chevy Impala didn't drive into the parking lot. A lingering illness prevented Florence from returning to her work at the Arizona Conference. For months it seemed she couldn't possibly overcome the health issues dealt her. Her daughters, Vanessa and Jacqueline, remained close by her side.

After spending months in the hospital and a rehabilitation center, Florence began gradually regaining her strength. She came back to face life with all the vim, vigor and wit she'd always possessed.

Long-time work associate and close friend Shirley Chipman recalls, "You didn't try to reach Florence Darby on a Sunday morning. She was either delivering food to the homeless, attending a Sunday service or helping someone. As the

religion reporter for a newspaper since 1979, she is well known throughout the city by clergy and others she met over the years. She not only wrote about their church events but also attended and was a part of these events. She is 'Mom' to multitudes."

Florence was born Nov. 9, 1923, in Columbus, Miss. Her parents passed away when she was very young, and her maternal grandmother raised her in East St. Louis, Mo.

Education was the focus of her life. She graduated from Lincoln High School and enrolled in Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala. In time, she received a bachelor's in communication from Ottawa University and eventually her writing career began.

Married to an Adventist pastor, Walter Darby, the couple spent 50 years together preaching the gospel and helping people in need. They pastored in Georgia, New York and North Carolina before they moved to Arizona, where her husband became pastor of the Beacon Light Seventh-day Adventist Church for eight years. In addition to being a pastor's wife, Florence worked as a clerk, board member and elder. In the community she served the Black Women's Task Force and Angel Tree Organization.

In 1979, Florence became the religion editor of the *Arizona Informant* newspaper. She dedicated herself to personally and tirelessly visiting the many area Black churches, both large and small, gathering and publishing stories and events in her newspaper column. During this

time, she developed deep and lasting relationships within the religious community. She is the recipient of many awards, including a "Black Achievement Award — Ladies of Distinction Award," for outstanding community service in the field of communications.

The community celebrated her return to health with a formal awards banquet Jan. 30 at the Phoenix Sheraton Hotel, hosted by the *Arizona Informant* and sponsored by dozens of Black churches of all denominations in the Phoenix area. Bishop Henry Barnwell, Pastor Emeritus of the First New Life Church gave the invocation. Special remarks and presentations were given by Cloves Campbell Jr., editor of the *Arizona Informant*. Many gave speeches in her honor.

After many tributes and awards, attention turned to "Mother Darby." For 20 minutes, she graciously and lovingly affirmed each pastor and congregation for their work for the kingdom of God. With her amazingly clear memory, Florence recalled events she's reported through the years. In closing, she mentioned the latest article she was working on — a story about PKs (preacher's kids) who have gone on to become successful ministers of the gospel. "Send me your stories and pictures," she requested, "for I'm eager to get the story published!"

As a closing tribute, Florence was given an all expenses paid one-week vacation anywhere in the United States.

Phil Draper



Florence Darby loved working at the Arizona Conference for 36 years.



A special front page was created for the awards banquet for Florence Darby.



"Mother Darby" at a banquet in her honor hosted by the Arizona Informant Newspaper.



"Always ready for an adventure, Florence attended numerous APMOA Prison Ministry conventions across the United States and Canada with her friend Shirley Chipman. They would fly in, rent a car and stop at bookstores and yard sales along the way. Every day was a joy!"

Yorba Linda Church Empowers Younger Generations in Church Leadership

Since branching from the Cerritos Korean church in the Southern California Conference in 2010, the Yorba Linda church has grown from a 40-member plant to a lively 250-member church. What's more, 80 percent of these 250 members are under the age of 45. And this church of young professionals and young families are eager to make a difference in the community.

It began with a group of several second- and third-generation Asian-Americans who worshipped together under the leadership of Robin Park when he pastored the English Ministry church at Cerritos Korean church. Many were newly married or just starting their families, and others were young professionals looking for ways to blossom in ministry and leadership.

Park knew that creating an active, service-oriented ministry environment would be imperative for their lasting engagement in church. So along with a few supportive first generation Korean families, some who were parents of the young adults in the group, plans emerged to plant a new church. They found a

location in Yorba Linda, and they soon became a part of the SECC.

"Working with this plant, I was able to devote priority to giving the younger crowd opportunity to take ownership of their church," said Park. "We knew we had to create a friendly environment to appeal to young minds, where they can realize this is a place open to their needs and their culture."

And starting a church from scratch proved a terrific way to engage these younger members into taking the reigns in growing their church, according to pioneer members Danny Saesim and his wife, Elena.

"As we began in Yorba Linda, we were immediately expected to be active members — you don't just sit there!" said Saesim. "So many new roles needed to be filled, some that we didn't quite know how to organize yet, but we wanted to learn what it took to lead. We learned as

we went, and we asked for guidance from our mentors."

Taking ownership and rising to the occasion has been the key to Yorba Linda's strong growth. Andy Park, head elder, and his wife, Michelle, recalled filling vacant positions immediately after joining.

"We started filling needs as they became available," he said. "It makes you take ownership. We just want to spread the gospel! And it's amazing how willing people are when they see a role that needs filled."

Yorba Linda also places priority on outreach ministries that help those in need. Both pastors Robin Park and Daniel Park participate

PHOTOS BY ERINO MÜLLER



Daniel Park, associate pastor of the Yorba Linda church, has the invocation.



Members of the Yorba Linda church kneel during the consecration prayer.





Verlon Strauss, conference treasurer, hands Robin Park, senior pastor, a gift from the conference to the church during the service.



Sandra Roberts, conference president, appeals to the audience to continue their strong support for ministry.



Elizer Sacay, vice president for Asian/Pacific ministries, expresses his gratitude to the church for their faithful work.



Robin Park, senior pastor of the Yorba Linda church, recognizes the founding members of the Yorba Linda church while Jonathan Park, conference executive secretary, looks on.

in planning meetings at the Corona Rescue Mission, and church members collaborate with homeless feeding. The church members also help with the Orange County Foster Children Care Service and Laundry Love.

“Younger generations see a need and want to address it on the front lines,” Pastor Robin explained. “Their spirituality has to be relevant and practical to their daily life, and they find their Christian identity in helping others.”

Another immediate need for both the church and the community was for children’s programming that would cater to the children of existing members and to those in the area looking for a place to take their children to learn about God.

“We’ve seen many young adults stop going to their churches because they outgrew being treated like their parents’ children. They were often not invested in their church and had no leadership role,” explained Dean Liao, another pioneer member of Yorba Linda. “But as this generation is having children of their own,

they’re finding that they want to raise them to know God, as their parents did.”

Saesim agreed. “Since many consider coming back after starting a family, we want to be there for them when they do.”

Now in addition to children’s programming, Yorba Linda offers children’s church three weeks out of the month, along with VBS, Pathfinders and Adventurers. Youth and campus ministry programs were also established. “We want to help that age group continue their walk with God as they grow, and we want to foster increased involvement so they can become our next leaders,” added Liao.

And to make these many ambitious endeavors run smoothly, Yorba Linda embraces technology designed make certain tasks easier and more efficient.

“Since we’re all busy and we’re commuters, it can be hard to find time for all of us to meet. Sometimes we plan a virtual board meeting using GoToMeeting,” explained Pastor Andy. “We

schedule it for 9 p.m., after our kids are in bed, and we log in from our computers or phones. We share documents through Google Drive so we can group edit and make sure we all know which information is current.”

But what truly unites all these efforts in success is that all these things are done with sincerity, for the glory of God.

“When new members come in, they are refreshed to see so many young people involved, doing things only their parents used to do,” said Liao. “Yorba Linda fulfills a great need for this generation to reconnect with God and make sure their children learn about Him.

“The growth and success of our church shows that God is leading our church. Members are stepping up because they want to pass on the blessing to others. Only the power of God could have made us what we are today and what we hope to become in the future.”

Enno Müller

SECC Ordains Sunny Wilamart

Sunny Wilamart was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath afternoon, Nov. 21, at the Thai Seventh-day Adventist church in Redlands. He serves as pastor of that congregation, as well as for the Cambodian group in Loma Linda.

Wilamart sensed God's calling early in his life. "I've felt the leading of the Lord since I was in school as a young child," he said. "When I gave my life to the Lord, I already wanted to be a pastor."

"He went through an extraordinary conversion process that started God's calling for him to be a pastor," said Elizer Sacay, Southeastern California Conference vice president for Asian/Pacific ministries. "While the ordination was going on, I was thinking, 'Here is a man who never gives up!'"

Born in Ubonrachathani, Thailand, Wilamart was the only child of Buddhist parents. After finishing elementary school, he attended Bangkok Sanitarium Hospital for his high school education. "My dad was thinking I would learn English and have a better future — not knowing that I would become a Christian," said Wilamart, who was baptized at the age of 15.

Several years after his conversion, his father asked him to become a Buddhist monk. But Wilamart refused to give up his new faith, despite his father's threat to kill him. "I believed that just as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace, I would be

the same — delivered from the fire," he said.

In 1968, Wilamart immigrated to the United States, where he repeated his senior year of high school at Auburn Adventist Academy in Washington. He attended Loma Linda University and then Pacific Union College, where he graduated with a bachelor's in medical technology. He then trained as a medical technologist at White Memorial Medical Center. (He holds a clinical laboratory scientist license from the State of California.) He worked for 12 years for Doctors Hospital in Montclair, and for five of those years he also helped a group of physicians build and manage a private laboratory. For more than a decade, Wilamart worked at Millico Insurance Company, where he rose to the position of vice president.

He believes his previous career experiences have helped him to be a better pastor. "They have given me the ability to adapt to different situations and to be able to talk to different people," he said.

Wilamart earned a master's in religious studies from La Sierra University in 1999. In 2011, he received of Doctor of Ministry degree from the Centre for the Study of Biblical Research, Division of Graduate Studies, in Redlands.

He and his wife of 39 years, Victoria, have three children: Jonathan, a pharmacy technician; David, a doctor of pharmacy; and Steffanie, a doctor of optometry.

Wilamart's passion is meeting people and introducing them to Christ, which he has done



Friends and colleagues of Sunny Wilamart surround him during the ordination prayer.



Jonathan Park, executive secretary, congratulates Sunny Wilamart after the ordination, while Sandra Roberts, president, and George King, vice president Black ministries, look on.

in a variety of ways. He founded the Asian American Community Center in Redlands, a nonprofit organization designed to help immigrants get established in the United States and to tutor struggling students. "It was a way of meeting people and meeting their needs and helping them out," he said. "We became the hands of Jesus."

Before serving in his current pastoral position, he worked for a year as a church planter in Hollywood, under the leadership of Somchai Piromgraiakd. During the past decade Wilamart has traveled to Thailand a number of times to conduct evangelism, and he hopes to go again this year.

"The Lord is still working in my heart, saying, 'You can't retire yet, Sunny,'" he said.

Julie Lorenz

PHOTOS BY ANGEL ARANTES III



Sunny Wilamart is the pastor of the Thai church.

India Cow Bank Puts New Spin on Ministry for La Sierra Students

In the village of Denkanikottai, Tamil Nadu, India, women awaken before dawn, desperate to find small jobs earning less than \$2 per day.

Among them, however, a group of 62 particularly vulnerable women have been using a more lucrative and consistent way to make money since 2013. In fact, they are achieving an income that is 200-300 percent greater than their previous earnings through a 10-year micro-lending program set up by La Sierra University's Enactus team as part of its India Field Station project.

Called a Cow Bank, the program for divorced and widowed women combines agriculture, finance, marketing, and business management. Through a fundraising link on their Enactus website and other activities, the La Sierra team raises money to purchase milk cows in India at \$500 per cow. The team then loans the cows to the village women, who in turn take care of the animals, milk them, and sell the milk twice a day to local milk societies with whom the team establishes partnerships and guarantees of fair payment.

The women make payments on the cow loan from a portion of the milk sales and pay off the loan over a year and a half. The team pays for initial veterinarian services for the cows and the women pay insurance to protect their investments and the team's loan. The team reinvests the loan payments toward the purchase of additional milk cows.

Thus far the team has purchased and loaned 50 cows to the village women.

"With the Cow Bank, we are focusing on empowering women who are left at a severe disadvantage because they are often left without any way to provide for themselves or their families," said James Landenberger, Enactus team member and a business major. "This is the livelihood gap that we are addressing. We currently have a 100 percent repayment rate on our loans. That proof of concept is why this year we are going to be doubling our herd from 50 cows to 100 cows."

Enactus, previously known as Students in Free Enterprise, is an international nonprofit based in Springfield, Mo. The organization brings together corporate leaders and higher education

institutions in 36 countries toward facilitating entrepreneurial empowerment projects and sustainable development aimed at changing communities. More than 70,000 students around the world participate in creating such projects and compete once a year in national and international events.

The La Sierra Enactus team is recognized as one of the highest achieving teams in the organization's history, with six national trophies and two world cups. Last year's team placed second in the United States during national competitions in St. Louis, Mo.

This year, the success of the Cow Bank is leading the La Sierra team to explore other ways of empowering the villagers in Denkanikottai. Upon discovering a high demand in the region for sewing skills, the team established a sewing school. "This project is what we are going to be focusing on as we move into the next phase of the India Field Station. We are currently working on raising funds for this project so that we can grow far beyond this initial class of sewing students," said Landenberger.

Andrew Parker, a business major at La Sierra University and Enactus India Field Station director, said the work with the people of Denkanikottai has turned around his worldview as well as his notion of outreach.

"This project has changed my perspective on what ministry is. This project has brought me closer to



A spring 2015 photo of a woman in Denkanikottai, India, with a milk cow acquired through the La Sierra University Enactus Cow Bank program.

what it is to be a Christian," Parker said. "It has made me work harder and be more thankful for every blessing that I have."

Added Landenberger, "The students who have put the work into the India Field Station are the ones who are helping to make this change happen. Ideas like the Cow Bank, the sewing project and much more have come from them. Their creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship are creating lasting results in places like Denkanikottai."

Additional information about the La Sierra University Enactus Cow Bank project can be accessed here: practiceenactus.com/ifs/cow-bank-project.

Darla Martin Tucker

Notice of La Sierra University Constituency Meeting

The biennial Constituent Membership of La Sierra University will convene at the Zapara School of Business Troesh Conference Center, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is (1) to receive reports from the University and its auditor; (2) to amend the Bylaws; (3) to appoint Trustees as specified by the Bylaws; and (4) to transact such other business as may be submitted by the Board of Trustees.

*Ricardo Graham, Chair
Randal Wisbey, Secretary*

Halfway Around the Globe, PUC Students Make a Difference in India



PUC students and faculty visiting Murshidabad, the location of Freeset's next center.

EVELYN MARQUEZ



Vibrant colors found in the streets of India.

YAISELYN ESTRELLA

As part of PUC's burgeoning Service Learning program, Alisa Jacobo, an instructor in the department of psychology and social work, created a different sort of social work course, one that combines her passion for combating human trafficking with a four-week service trip to Kolkata, India.

"It's a three-part course," explained Jacobo. "First the students are prepared, they then go into the field for firsthand experience, then they come back and spend a quarter debriefing and identify a social action project."

This past summer, Jacobo traveled abroad with several PUC students to see the issue of human trafficking firsthand to gain a better understanding of the crisis. They visited Kolkata's Sonagacchi district, the largest red light district in India, where it's estimated 11,000 women and girls are prostituted every night.



PUC students have a bit of fun after giving Freeset's daycare center a fresh coat of paint.

While there, students worked with Freeset, a fair trade business offering employment to women trapped in Kolkata's sex trade. "They provide alternative employment for women in the sex trade, many of whom are trafficked," said Jacobo. "Lack of alternatives is what keeps most women trapped in the sex trade." A holistic model, Freeset also provides for retirement, healthcare and daycare, and even offers group therapy sessions.

PUC students helped prepare a new building for Freeset, setting up much needed infrastructure for expansion of services. They visited Murshidabad, a region in West Bengal, where they visited the prevention units. They learned about communities at risk and levels of intervention implemented to stop human trafficking, from prevention to prosecution and rehabilitation.

"I created this class because I wanted to offer students an opportunity to live their faith," explained Jacobo. "Whether they're strong in their faith, or they're questioning, if they're wondering what to do next with their lives, or how to serve their God, I just want them to try. As much as this course is about modern-day slavery, global intervention, and all the academic aspects, it's also about learning to be present in the moment when you can experience God."

Reflecting on the experience, student Carlo Pean said, "India put me in touch with a vision of Christians who showed me what Jesus is really asking of us. They had given up their comforts, wealth and lifestyle in order to live among the people that Jesus calls blessed."

"Going to India gave me an opportunity to learn about the field of international development, my career interest," shared Evelyn Marquez.



A Freeset woman making a scarf. Profits from the sale of her crafts provide her with a fair salary, health insurance and retirement savings.



Professor Alisa Jacobo (far left) with PUC students Pascale Pean and Carlos Pean in Agra, India.



Evelyn Marquez, senior communication major and REVO president.

"It also taught me what empowerment really means for those who suffer from inequality and poverty."

Marquez is also president of REVO, PUC's student-led international philanthropy movement. Each year, REVO selects an international project to support with fundraising and awareness events. This year students have chosen to support Freeset. Hundreds of students on campus are involved — through planning, coordinating, event participation or donations — in efforts to raise \$10,000 to employ 27 women. "This would be the largest group yet to go through the prevention program," Marquez emphasized. "It could potentially prevent a whole generation in that area from being trafficked."

"Having REVO support Freeset this year has been a revolutionary investment," said Marquez. "Our month-long trip to India is becoming a life-long journey, not only for us who went, but for the numerous students at PUC who are now saying, 'I want to get involved. How can I help?' Our one choice to act is where the revolution for change starts."

Jacobo plans to take her class to India again this summer to continue educating students on relevant issues of cultural diversity and globalization. Her work is on the cutting edge of practice and is clearly consistent with the mission of the Adventist Church and the social work profession in addressing social injustice, both locally and in the world.

Alan Schneider and Alisa Jacobo

Esperanza: Usando las telenovelas para promover un estilo de vida saludable

La Red del Valle Central de Adventist Health está encontrando maneras innovadoras para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad a evitar y manejar la diabetes. En 2015, la red creó una serie de 10 episodios de telenovelas, concluyendo con un final de Navidad que sale al aire por la cadena de Univision.

La serie cuenta con episodios de un minuto cada uno y presenta a la abuela de Selma, California, que se llama Esperanza, mientras que trata de cambiar su estilo de vida para manejar la diabetes a tiempo de disfrutar las vacaciones de Navidad en México con su familia.

“Este proyecto empezó por la oportunidad de comunicarse con la comunidad hispano-hablante,” dice Christine Pickering, director de comunicaciones de la Red del Valle Central. “La diabetes es un problema de salud muy significativo en la población Latina y los cambios de estilo de vida son difíciles. Queríamos mostrar como los pequeños cambios pueden tener un impacto muy fuerte. Además, hay muchos hispanohablantes en nuestras comunidades que no conocen Adventist Health.”

“Esperanza” presenta a actores profesionales, médicos, empleados de Adventist Health y también famosos locales, incluyendo jugadores del Fresno Fuego equipo de fútbol. Raul Ayala, M.D., o director asociado de Adventist Health / Community Care, que interpreta al doctor de Esperanza en tres episodios.

“Tenemos que conectarnos con nuestros pacientes a nivel cultural,” dice Ayala. “La telenovela da un vistazo dentro de la cultura hispana, la dinámica de la familia y del paciente.”

Las escenas de Ayala también muestran la misión basada en la fe de Adventist Health cuando ora con Esperanza y su familia antes del fin de su visita a la clínica.

“Estamos emocionados por tener una escena donde un médico ora con un paciente, porque la oración es tan importante en nuestras clínicas,”



Dr. Ayala was interviewed for the Univision morning talk show. Photo by/por Amanda Jaurigui. Ayala fue entrevistado en Univision por su parte en Esperanza.

dice Pickering. “Compartimos esta conexión espiritual con la comunidad latina.”

Pickering añade que la telenovela usa el humor para conectar con la audiencia, siendo mostrada en las escenas dramáticas y los sueños exagerados de las personajes. “Cuando ríes, es más probable que aceptes el mensaje,” dice ella.

La serie usa retratos realistas de familias latinas que viven en los Estados Unidos para conectar con las familias del Valle Central. De acuerdo a Pickering, Alberto Zeni, el director Mexicano-Americano que trabajó en “Esperanza,” tuvo mucho cuidado al escribir el guion de cada personaje para representar las diferencias generacionales en el español. Otra parte importante era añadir subtítulos en inglés de modo que los que no hablan español puedan entender.

“Hemos recibido una buena reacción desde nuestras clínicas y comunidades. Había telespectadores de todas partes de los Estados Unidos y también internacionales,” dice Pickering. “Sería imposible sin la ayuda de los médicos y empleados de las clínicas, tanto como el departamento de comunicación y la corporación



Amanda Jaurigui, PR and multimedia specialist for the Central Valley Network, interviews Fresno Fuego players for their tips on keeping kids active. Photo by/por Atalie Rosales. Amanda Jaurigui, especialista de relaciones públicas y multimedia, habla con los jugadores del Fresno Fuego sobre sus consejos de una vida activa.

Adventist Health. Todo el mundo ha estado entusiasmado con ‘Esperanza.’”

¡Únase a la familia!

Mira la serie y lee acerca de la vida saludable en www.AHSaludPorVida.com

Por Shelby Seibold

Esperanza: Using a Telenovela to Promote Healthy Lifestyles in Central California



Dr. Ayala with the actors that play Esperanza and her family. Photo by/por Amanda Jaurigui. Ayala con los actores que representan a Esperanza y su familia.



Adventist Health's Central Valley Network is finding innovative ways to help its community members prevent and manage diabetes. In late 2015, the network created a series of 10 telenovela episodes, concluding with a Christmas finale that aired on the local Spanish-language television station.

The series of 60-second Spanish soap operas follows a Selma, Calif., grandmother named Esperanza, translated "hope" in Spanish, as she struggles to change her lifestyle to better manage her diabetes in time for her family's trip to Mexico for Navidad.

"The project started because we recognized that we had a tremendous opportunity to communicate with our Spanish-speaking community members about this topic," says Christine Pickering, director of marketing and communications for the Central Valley Network. "Diabetes is a significant health challenge to the Latino population, and lifestyle changes are difficult. We wanted to show how small changes could have a big impact. We also have a lot of Spanish speakers in our communities, and our research showed that Latinos in our region are less aware of Adventist Health than other groups."

In addition to producing the series, the Central Valley Network built a website and prepared free health kits that viewers could order. Each "Family Kit" contains a "MyPlate" portion-control plate, a

journal with daily Bible verses and inspirational thoughts in both Spanish and English, and a nutrition coloring book for families with children.

"Esperanza" features professional actors, physicians and staff from Adventist Health, as well as cameos from local celebrities — including members of the Fresno Fuego soccer team and a popular local radio DJ. Raul Ayala, M.D., associate director for Adventist Health/Community Care, plays Esperanza's doctor in several episodes.

"As physicians, we need to connect with our patients on a cultural level," says Ayala. "This telenovela has the ability to reach the Spanish-speaking community and raise awareness about the effects of diabetes and ways to prevent it before it takes a toll."

Ayala's scenes also display the faith-based mission of Adventist Health when he prays with Esperanza and her family before the conclusion of her clinic visit.

"We were excited to have a scene where a physician prays with a patient, because prayer is so important to us," says Pickering. "We share that spiritual connection with many of our Latino community members."

Pickering adds that the telenovela uses humor to reach the audience, which shows in the dramatic cuts and characters' exaggerated daydream scenes. "Humor is disarming," she says.

"When you laugh, you're more likely to accept the message."

The series also uses real-to-life portrayals of Latino families living in the United States that relate to the family dynamics of many families in the Central Valley. According to Pickering, Alberto Zeni, the Mexican-American director who worked on "Esperanza," very carefully scripted each actor's Spanish to portray generational differences in language. Another important step was adding English subtitles to each episode so non-Spanish-speaking employees, leaders and community members could follow the story as well.

"We've received great feedback from our clinic teams and our communities. We've had viewers from all over the country and even some international views," says Pickering. "It wouldn't have been possible without the physicians and clinical support as well as the whole marketing team and corporate help. Everyone has been so enthusiastic about 'Esperanza.'"

Join the family!

Watch the series, read about healthy living and order a Family Kit at AHealthforLife.com. You can also select the left menu item on the website to view pages in English.

Shelby Seibold

Doctors Perform Unprecedented Facial Re-implantation Surgery on 2-year-old Dog Bite Victim

Mariah Salomon is like any other 2-year-old — she loves to play and is outspoken, although she may be a little shy at first. Her mom, Veronica Peña, refers to her as “a little princess” who has everyone wrapped around her finger. And thanks to doctors at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital, everyone is still wrapped around her finger.

In 2015, a team of specialized surgeons successfully re-implanted a portion of a Mariah’s face after she was attacked by a dog. The dog bite had removed a large portion of Mariah’s face — from the top of her nose to the top of her lip, including part of her left cheek.

Mariah was airlifted from a Coachella Valley hospital to LLUCH where a team of specialists, including otolaryngologists Drs. Nathaniel Peterson and Paul Walker, immediately acted, developing a plan to re-implant her face. While not knowing if the procedure would be successful, the doctors knew that attempting to re-implant her face was their only chance at giving her a bright future.

“This was something that had to be completed in a matter of hours,” said Dr. Alfred Simental, chair, otolaryngology/head neck surgery. The procedure, which took five hours of intensive work under a surgical microscope, is unprecedented for a patient so young.

Walker said the size of her facial injury was unique. “Given her age,” he noted, “and the size of the evulsion of the patient, it was one of the largest evulsion injuries successfully re-implanted on a patient this young.”

Peterson and Walker worked together to put the arteries back together on each side. They assisted each other, which was key due to the size of the injury and the intricacy of the procedure. Post surgery, the team relied on medical leeches for a week to assist with blood flow until Mariah’s veins grew back.

The pediatric intensive care teams were critical in keeping Mariah alive. They kept her on



Veronica Peña held her daughter, Mariah Salomon, at the Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital Foundation Gala, alongside Dr. Paul Walker. During the gala, the family shared their story about the care Mariah received at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital following a devastating facial injury caused by a dog bite.

a ventilator to assist her breathing and replaced her blood volume many times over.

Three weeks after the injury, Mariah was able to go home. Aside from some minimal scarring, she is expected to have a full recovery and be able to have the life she was born to live.

“The nurses, doctors, everybody who helped her out — I’m very thankful for everything they did for her,” said her mom. “I think Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital is the best hospital any parent could ask for.”

While it is too early to tell if Mariah will get full sensation back, movement has begun to

return. Her sense of smell is intact and she can eat and drink whatever she wants.

“Re-implanting Mariah’s facial tissue was probably the most intrinsically rewarding case we have ever done,” said Peterson. The team hopes it will inspire other teams across the country to consider similar interventions.

Simental added, “This reminds us of the joy of why we went into medicine.”

Briana Pastorino

THRIVE Serves 100 at the Mall

The Nevada-Utah THRIVE (Teach Heal Revive Integrated Volunteer Evangelism) team has been working in the Ogden, Utah, area with Ogden church. This team of vibrant, energetic young adults has been involved in various outreach opportunities with the purpose of meeting the needs of the community just like Jesus did. "Christ's method is our mission," said Westney White, director of THRIVE.

A recent outreach event was a health expo at the Newgate Mall. Services offered included health screenings, massages, and opportunities for in-home cooking demonstrations, along with lifestyle counseling and spiritual guidance.

Many church members came out to volunteer for the event. As a result, six Bible study interests and 14 lifestyle counseling interests were gathered. In one day, about 100 community members were served.

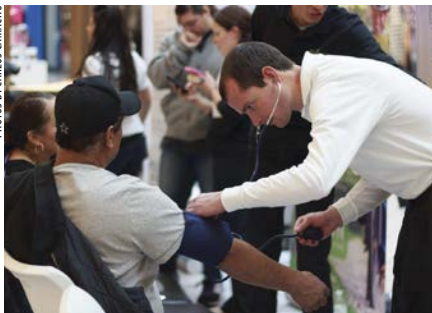
During the expo, some of the team members distributed flyers for two future events: Forever Healthy Medical and Dental Clinic and Forever Healthy Evangelistic Series. Many visitors were also interested in how they could become a part of what THRIVE is doing. "What you are doing is amazing!" said a nurse who happened to be shopping. "I want to be a part of it. How can I volunteer for your next event?"

After the health expo, one of the THRIVE members connected with Sherie, a lifestyle interest, and she told him, "I was so happy to have met your team at the mall. I'm looking forward to learning how to cook healthier, as well as the Bible studies."

THRIVE's mission is to meet the community's needs, whether it be teaching someone how to cook wholesome food or teaching them how to study the Bible and discover truth for themselves. Their most important goal is to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

Caren White

PHOTOS BY CARLOS CAMACHO



Thomas Clark checked the blood pressure of those who came by the booth.



Shoppers visit the booth during the health expo at the Newgate Mall where Ogden church members provided health services and lifestyle counseling.



Team members gave relaxing massages to many of the health expo attendees, and also prayed for all who were open to prayer.



Andrew Cota taught the importance of nutrition and measured the body mass index of health fair participants.



The THRIVE team held a health expo at the Newgate Mall.



Ogden Church member LeAnna Anderson passed out invitations to THRIVE's upcoming medical and dental clinic, along with evangelistic series fliers.



Pam Shurtliff, a nurse and Ogden SDA Church member, helped with the health expo by taking people's blood pressure.

CALENDARS

Arizona

THUNDERBIRD ADVENTIST ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (April 1-3) Fundraiser Dinner (RSVP 480-948-3300) Fri., 5 p.m., followed by vespers and afterglow; Sabbath includes potluck and 3:30-5 p.m. Alumni Singpiration. Info: 480-948-3300.

ASIAN-PACIFIC MINISTRIES Evangelistic Series (April 3-9) Tucson. Info: Pastor Kingsley Palmer, 480-991-6777, ext. 112.

RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER (April 9) 2nd Sat. of each month, Central church, 777 W Montecito, Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Info: 480-430-5492.

HEALTHY FOOD PREPARATION (April 10) Casa Grande church, 1867 N. Trell Rd., 2:30 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Info: Sandy, 541-729-6759, or Carolina, 520-876-5240.

PRISON MINISTRY International Convention (July 27-31) sponsored by APMOA (Alliance of Prison Ministry Organizations and Affiliates), Charlotte, N.C. Pastors and laypersons invited. Best Practice and Christ-centered methods in

prison evangelism, family support ministry and ministry to returning citizens. Earlybird registration thru May 3. Info: shirleychipman@azconference.org.

Central California

PATHFINDER BIKE-A-THON (April 8-10) Castle Air Force Base. Info: 559-347-3174.

GROW: GOD'S GIRLS' GETAWAY (April 8-10) Sonora, Calif. Girls ages 9-13, come and grow together in spirit, truth and fun as Janet Page comes to share with the girls. Register at www.godsgirlsgetaway2016.eventbrite.com.

K.I.D. UNIVERSITY (April 15-17) Fresno/Clovis to equip church volunteer teams and their pastor to direct a dynamic discipleship ministry for their church. Register at cccdiscipleship.adventistfaith.org or contact ljordache@cccsda.org.

HISPANIC SINGLES MINISTRY (April 15-17) Single adults over 25 are invited to join Pastor Enrique Perez Diaz at Mount Hermon in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains. Info: 559-347-3144.

TEEN GIRLS' RETREAT (April 22-24) Soquel Conference Center. Girls ages 13-17. Info: cccsdayouth.org.

TEEN GUYS' RETREAT (April 22-24) Valley View Junior Academy in Arroyo Grande, Calif. A retreat to remember for boys ages 13-17. Info: cccsdayouth.org.

HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT (April 22-24) Guest speaker Edwin Mendoza, Pacific Union's volunteer director of Family Life at Camp Wawona, inside Yosemite National Park. Info: 559-347-3144.

ASAM SINGLES SPRING GATHERING (April 29-May 1) Fresno Adventist Academy in Fresno, Calif. All Pacific Union singles are invited to join in the fellowship. Contact singles@cccsda.org or visit cccsingles.adventistfaith.org.

CAMP WAWONA WORK BEE (May 20-22) Camp Wawona inside Yosemite National Park. Plan to volunteer for painting, cleaning, repairs and much more. Info: Alan Pratt, 209-375-6231, campdirector@campwawona.org or office@campwawona.org.

LAKE TAHOE CAMP MEETING (Aug. 1-6) Tahoe Valley Resort, South Lake Tahoe. Speakers are Dr. Terry Johnson, Jon Terry, Marit Case, Ivor Myers, Larry Siemans and a concert by the Kings Heralds. Reservations: 530-541-2222. Info: Virginia Rose, tahoecampmeeting@gmail.com or 916-967-5932.

Northern California

PATHFINDER BIKE-A-THON (April 3) Metro Air Park, Sacramento. Info: NCC Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

LOCAL CHURCH TREASURER TRAINING (April 10) 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. NCC headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Lunch provided. RSVP required. Info: NCC Treasury Department, 925-603-5009.


TEEN PATHFINDERS ROCK CLIMBING (April 15-17, 22-24) Yosemite. Info: NCC Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

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


MEN'S RETREAT (April 22-24) Fairfield Community church, 1101 East Tabor Avenue. Info: NCC Men's Ministries Department, 925-603-5097.

YOUTH RALLY (April 30) Sponsored by NCC African-American Ministries and NCC Youth Ministries. Info: 925-603-5097.


CHRISTIAN MEN'S RETREAT (April 29 - May 1) Leoni Meadows Christian Retreat Center. Speaker, Pastor Sam Leonor, La Sierra. Info: Leoni Meadows, 530-626-3610 ext. 1211.




Pr. Omar Grieve & Nesy Pittau Grieve
Speakers




Pr. Elden Ramirez
Hosts




Adriana Villareal




Pr. Ernest Castillo
Vice President
North American Division




Pr. Abimael Escalante
Vice President
Hispanic Ministries
Arizona Conference



Pr. Tony Anobile
Vice President
Pacific Union





INTERNATIONAL 2016 EVANGELISM NET



VIVE FELIZ


April 1st to April 9th
Every night at 7:00 PM

Coming to you live via:





Find more details at:
lavoz.org or vivefeliz.org
805-955-7641


Music by:




Junior K. Marchena




Felipe Garibo




Los Heraldos
de Esperanza



Maribel Soto




Taide y Francisco
Fernandez



Alessandra Sorace

From: Celebrity Theatre
440 N. 32nd St. Phoenix, AZ 85008



HISPANIC YOUNG ADULT Youth Retreat (May 6-8) Albion Retreat and Learning Center, 34000 Albion Street. FEJA event. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (May 13-15) Call or email to ask questions or reserve your space. Info: Rob & Debbie Purvis, 916-599-5560, purvis4@comcast.net.

HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT (May 13-15) Leoni Meadows. "Hombria al MÁXIMO." Speaker: Dr. Cesar De Leon. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

Pacific Union College

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION (April 4) New students can register for Fall 2016 beginning April 4. Students should contact their enrollment counselors. Registration for continuing students opens April 18. General Info: 707-965-6336, enroll@puc.edu, or 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, which race draws

athletes from around the country. Info: www.puc.edu/nvdc.

RAG: STUDENT ART EXHIBITION (April 14) Opening Reception, 7 p.m., Rasmussen Art Gallery. Features new work from students in PUC's visual arts program, and will run through May 4. Info: 707-965-7362.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND (April 15-17) PUC alumni are invited to a special weekend. Wintley Phipps will perform a special concert on Sabbath at 5:30 p.m. Honored classes: '56, '66, '76, and '86. Info: 707-965-7500, www.puc.edu/alumni.

VINIFERA TRIO (April 24) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. These young award-winning musicians specialize in both classical and contemporary performance, and have performed in many venues along the West Coast. Info: music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

ROY BOGAS, PIANO RECITAL (May 1) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. Internationally renowned pianist Roy Bogas performs for PUC's Fine Arts Series. Bogas performances include the San Francisco Symphony, Moscow Philharmonic, Mexico City Philharmonic and the Belgrade Philharmonic. Info: music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

Southern California Conference

OJAI CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY (April 2) Former pastors, members and friends of the church are invited to join us for worship, lunch and time to share memories and renew acquaintances. 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Location: 291 E. El Roblar Dr., Ojai 93023. Info/registration: Carol, CNWIN7@yahoo.com; http://ojai.adventistfaith.org.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (April 8-10) A variety of events for the whole family, including a massive yard sale, Sun., April 10. Location: 17601 Lassen St., Northridge 91325. Info: 818-349-1373.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (April 9) LA Children's Choir Festival; Karol Kinard Kimmell, director. Donations accepted. Reception following. 5 p.m. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

PATHFINDER FAIR (April 17) "Mini-Olympics." 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Prado Regional Park, 16700 S. Euclid Dr., Chino 91708. Entrance fee, \$10/car, cash only. Info: 818-546-8439.

GLAR CONVOCATION (April 20-24) 4/20-22, 7 p.m. Breath of Life, 425 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood. 4/23, 11 a.m. NAD President Dan Jackson; 5:30 p.m. Larnelle Harris Concert, Stevie Mackey, GLAR Mass Choir, White Memorial

church, 401 N. State St., L.A. 4/24, Picnic, 10 a.m. Kenneth Hahn Park, 4100 S. La Cienega Blvd., L.A. Info: https://scc-greaterla.adventistfaith.org/glar-events; 818-546-8465.

HOPE 5K RUN FOR EDUCATION (April 24) San Gabriel Academy's 3rd Annual "Helping Others Pursue Education" event. Options: run/walk event, sponsor a student or make a tax-deductible donation. Contributions assist students in the next step of their path science, music, fine arts, athletics, and student scholarships. Location: 8827 E. Broadway. Info: 626-292-1156; run4sga.org.

PATHWAY TO HEALTH MEGA CLINIC (April 26-29) 3,000 medical/nonmedical volunteers needed! 10,000-plus L.A.-area residents will receive free medical, dental, vision, surgical or other health treatments. L.A. Convention Center, 1201 South Figueroa St., L.A. 90015. Sign up now at pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org.

STEVE GREEN CONCERT (April 30) Benefits White Memorial School. Suggested donation, \$10/ticket. 7 p.m. White Memorial church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 323-268-7159.

WHITE MEMORIAL ADVENTIST SCHOOL Alumni Sabbath (April 30) Celebrate and reconnect with friends, classmates and teachers! Starts at 10:30 a.m. White Memorial church, 401 N. State St., Los Angeles 90033. Info: 323-268-7159.



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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, California- A small town that is walker's safe paradise with three churches close by. For more information, 707-944-2994 and get a special gift for letting us know you're coming.

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Bulletin Board

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SEEKING ESTATE CARETAKER POSITION (prior experience; references). He: retired corporate counsel - tax & real estate specialist. She: retired pediatric registered nurse. Caretaker estate, homebound person(s), pets, plants, etc. Professionally trained plant-based chef; cooks vegan, vegetarian, ethnic. Room/board/salary (depending on responsibilities to be assigned). Email: williamtsahara@aol.com with indication of interest.

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. E-mail, Don & Yvonne McClure, sdamp@someonecares.org or 260-387-7423.

Employment

BETTER LIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK is accepting applications for Director of Operations. This full-time position will assist with day-to-day management responsibilities. For a full description visit betterlifetv.tv. Send questions and resumes to: resume2216@betterlifetv.tv.

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 puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking two Co-Generation Plant positions: Supervisor/Operator and Technician, to begin immediately. Preference is for candidate with electrical/mechanical systems experience. Civil Engineering License or higher preferred. Supervisor will oversee the operation and maintenance of Co-Gen plant, boilers, and steam distribution. Technician will oversee and train student employees and contract workers. Both participate in campus utility master planning. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

PHYSICIANS, NURSE PRACTITIONERS, Physician Assistants: Wildwood Lifestyle Center has openings for missionary minded medical practitioners with a passion for lifestyle medicine. Valid USA license required. Stipend provided. If you sense the Lord calling you to come and help, full-time or part-time, please contact the administrator at 423-315-3737 or administrator@wildwoodhealth.org.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking qualified applicants for several

positions (see the next four entries). Southern's 1,300-acre campus is located in the Smoky Mountain foothills of Tennessee. Its unique setting and beautiful campus offers students and faculty the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors while having close proximity to historic, natural sites and many services in and around town (approximately 25 minutes to Downtown Chattanooga and within 2 hours driving distance to Atlanta, GA). For more information about our campus and the following employment opportunities, please refer to www.southern.edu/hr.

SAU PROFESSOR IN COUNSELING EDUCATION for graduate/undergraduate and provide clinical supervision. Doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision from CACREP accredited program or doctorate in clinical/counseling psychology from APA-accredited program and experience in counselor education prior to July 1, 2013. Licensed/eligible for licensure in Tennessee and two years' clinical mental health or PK-12 school counseling. Cover letter and CV (include teaching philosophy, research interest, unofficial university transcripts, and three reference letters) to Dr. Ileana Freeman: ileanaf@southern.edu; 423-236-2960.

SAU DIRECTOR PHYSICAL THERAPY Assistant Program. Will teach courses, set up new program, and seek program accreditation under Commissions on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Graduate in physical therapy with TN license/eligibility as a PT or PTA. 5-years clinical and teaching experience in CAPTE program. Send cover

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letter including teaching philosophy, research interest along with curriculum vita, and unofficial transcripts to Dr. Volker Henning, Associate VP Academic Administration, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; henning@southern.edu; 423-236-2912.

SAU PROFESSOR FOR SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK to teach undergraduate/graduate courses focused on generalist and social work practice. Will participate in service to university and community. Must have classroom experience, doctorate degree in social work/related field, experience with e-learning, and commitment to integration of faith and social work practice. Cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to: Kristie Wilder, Dean for SOSW, P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315 or kwilder@southern.edu; 423-236-2206.

SAU VEGETARIAN CULINARY ARTS PROFESSOR to teach vegetarian culinary arts classes, advise students and participate in service to the university/community. Master's degree in culinary arts/nutrition or related field required, experience in culinary arts (restaurant, education, culinary business owner), and chef training/certification(s) desired. Cover letter, curriculum vitae, and statement of teaching philosophy and three references to: Dr. Robert Benge, Dean for School of Physical Education, Health and Wellness P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315; rbenge@southern.edu; 423-236-2855.

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/resume 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 Jonathan Wall at jwall@swau.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a Seventh-day Adventist Librarian for a Faculty position. The ideal candidate will have experience with college library/archives instruction and technology. ALA approved MLS or equivalent required, additional subject master's degree preferred. Position begins July 1, 2016. Send CV and cover letter to thomsenc@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 ucollege.edu/staff-openings. Send resume to Dr. Vinita Sauder, vsauder@ucollege.edu.

UNION COLLEGE seeks committed Adventist Social Work Program Director effective January 2017. Essential qualifications include an MSW (relevant doctorate preferred), and two years' professional social work experience. Successful teaching also valued. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@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: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

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HOUSE FOR SALE, TRINITY COUNTY, Calif. 1.6 Ac, 4B/3B, 2-car attached garage, 20x30 outbuilding. City water & sewer. Built 2000. 15 miles to SDA Church. Nice area to retire. Near river and lakes. For more info or pictures, 509-365-3607 or mpetersen@centurylink.net.

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Events

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DESIRE MORE IMPACT from your short-term mission efforts? Southern Adventist University's Global Community Development Program is hosting a Transforming & Educating Ambassadors for Mission and Service Forum (July 14-16). Congregations across North America will discuss improvements on short-term mission impacts for sustainable difference-making. For registration and information, contact: mgcd@southern.edu or 423-236-2070.

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Reunions

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND (April 26-27) Honor classes: '43, '53, '63, '73, '83, '88, '93 and '03. North Aurora church, N. Aurora, Ill. Friday Vespers, Sabbath school and church. All ideas welcome. We need e-mail addresses. Send to: drollins0233@gmail.com or call 630-232-9034.

FRESNO ADVENTIST ACADEMY Alumni Reunion (April 22-23) FAA/FUA Alumni Golf Tournament at Sunnyside Country Club at 9 a.m. 4/22. Sabbath, 4/23, registration in the Ricchiuti Auditorium begins at 9 a.m. Service at 10:45 a.m. followed by potluck. Please bring your favorite dish. Honor classes

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Reunion (June 3-5) for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: '36, '46, '56, and '66. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Info: GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit www.glaa.net.

Vacation Opportunities

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"NEW TESTAMENT ALIVE" TOUR of Rome/Greece/Patmos/Turkey (June 1-12)

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SUNSETS

	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23	4/30
Alturas	7:29	7:36	7:44	7:51	7:59
Angwin	7:34	7:41	7:48	7:54	8:01
Calexico	7:03	7:08	7:13	7:18	7:23
Chico	7:33	7:40	7:47	7:54	8:01
Eureka	7:43	7:50	7:57	8:05	8:12
Fresno	7:22	7:28	7:34	7:41	7:47
Hilo	6:35	6:37	6:39	6:41	6:44
Honolulu	6:46	6:49	6:51	6:53	6:56
Las Vegas	7:04	7:09	7:15	7:21	7:27
Lodi	7:29	7:36	7:42	7:49	7:55
Loma Linda	7:11	7:16	7:21	7:27	7:32
Los Angeles	7:15	7:20	7:26	7:31	7:36
Moab	7:42	7:48	7:55	8:02	8:08
Oakland	7:33	7:39	7:45	7:52	7:58
Phoenix	6:49	6:54	6:59	7:05	7:10
Reno	7:24	7:31	7:38	7:45	7:52
Riverside	7:11	7:16	7:22	7:27	7:32
Sacramento	7:30	7:37	7:43	7:50	7:57
Salt Lake City	7:53	8:01	8:08	8:15	8:23
San Diego	7:09	7:14	7:19	7:24	7:29
San Francisco	7:34	7:40	7:46	7:53	7:59
San Jose	7:31	7:37	7:44	7:50	7:56
Tucson	6:44	6:49	6:54	6:59	7:04

AT REST

BAUM, ROMAN – b. Sept. 19, 1921, Neudorf, Germany; d. Dec. 8, 2015, Granite Bay, Calif. Survivors: wife, Irene; son, Rolf; daughters, Ingrid Heil, Ericka Fong.

DOWARD, JAN STANFORD – b. Oct. 19, 1925, Seattle, Wash.; d. Feb. 7, 2016, Ferndale, Calif. Survivors: wife, Loneva; daughter, Melody; six grandchildren. Served as a teacher, principal, assistant youth director for the GC, film producer, pastor. Authored 14 books, including *Even the Angels Must Laugh Sometimes*.

FUA, MARY ELIZABETH (CLARK) – b. Sept. 30, 1930, Richardson Park, Del.; d. Feb. 7, 2016, Antioch, Calif. Survivors: husband, Tafaavalu; son, Peter; daughters, Nancy Lavea, Carey LeVos, Joyce Chapman, Lydia Paredes; 14 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

HOFFER, JANE A. – b. Aug. 5, 1932, Santa Monica, Calif.; d. Jan. 10, 2016, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: son, James; daughter, Karen Swanson; one grandchild; three great-grandchildren.

MEYER, MICHAEL (MICKEY) – b. Oct. 22, 1938, Seattle, Wash.; d. Feb. 13, 2016, Loon Lake, Wash. Survivors: wife, Sonia; son, Michael II; daughter, Michelle; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Herb, Chuck. Served as ranger, Camp MiVoden, maintenance engineer, UCC; started Oceanside Pathfinder club; actively involved in SECC and Upper Columbia Pathfinder organizations.

MOORE, MARY LILLIAN (COOLEY) – b. Jan. 9, 1934, Bell Vernon, Penn.; d. Feb. 3, 2016, Simi Valley, Calif. Survivors: son, Kenneth; daughters, Kathy Moore-Roth, Konnie Moore-Besant; six grandchildren. Served as professor of nursing Andrews University in Hinsdale and PUC (White Memorial).

OWEN, NORMA JEAN (CLARK) – b. Sept. 16, 1922, Centerville, Can.; d. Jan. 15, 2016, Orangevale, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Janice McMillan, Elita Johnston, La Donna; seven grandchildren; eight grandchildren.

POYNTER, ANNABELLE ELIZABETH (TABER) – b. Jan. 9, 1921, Berkeley, Calif. d. Feb. 4, 2016, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: son, Woody; stepsons, Frank, Murl; daughter, Rosie; stepdaughters, Jeannie, Madeline; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

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April 2016

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Ed Keyes
President

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

It's great to be back home in Arizona! My first month here can only be described as a whirlwind of activity. It was great to have my son, Andrew and his wife Rhina here from Loma Linda when I spoke at the Apache Junction Church. Pastor Van and Carolina Bledsoe's leadership has provided steady growth in both membership and giving.

Paradise Valley Church, where my family has been members for 13 years, was my next Sabbath appointment. Pastors Jim and Ginnie Hakes and Matt and Sara Theoret are a powerful team. How wonderful to sit in Jim Grant's Sabbath School class with so many friends, including Dick and Karen Lewis.

Both Pastor Jay Warren and Superintendent of Schools Gus Martin invited me to the Scottsdale-Thunderbird Church. My son and daughter spent four years each at Thunderbird Adventist Academy. The music program, under the direction of Susan Byers and Ben Purvis, is top notch. I believe God is doing great things for TAA under the leadership of Principal Terry Pottle and his staff.

I encourage anyone reading this article if you have a young person in high school or about to reach that age, contact TAA. You will surely be glad you did. What a great school! To God be the Glory!

The week of February 8 -12 I visited La Sierra University and Pacific Union College interviewing some incredibly well-trained and highly motivated graduating theology majors.

Sabbath, February 13, I spoke at the Tucson Sharon Church with Pastor Abraham Francois and his wife, Esther. My dear friend and church elder Delroy Clark shared the progress he has made since his

near-fatal car accident and how he is beginning to move his legs again after much physical therapy. Let's pray for his continued healing.

The week of February 14 – 19, I was very busy at the office visiting with our leaders and church members well into the evenings. It was a long week, but very important for me to see the many needs of this great Conference.

I attended the *Just Claim It* youth program in Ontario, California where great speakers motivated small groups and the workshops and fellowship were a foretaste of heaven. It was a blessing to see our staff, including Benjamin Lundquist, Manny Cruz and Evelyn Saravia, participating. May God Bless our youth in a mighty way.

The final week of February, I was in meetings, committees, and appointments at the office – 17 total. We have dedicated individuals participating on each of our committees. We dealt with a number of difficult items — all with the spirit of Christ presiding.

I leave you with this thought. ***“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”***
1 John 3:16

We are living in unusual and perilous times. Let's give everything we have to advance God's Kingdom in Arizona.



Ed Keyes
President



A new spin on an old ritual:

Finding Jesus in Samaritan's Feet

By Sarah Ruf



Young Adult Director Benjamin Lundquist, director of the Samaritan's Feet project, had many helpers including Sarah Theoret and Chris Kolson.

The intimate ritual of washing a stranger's feet was on full display for a pair of events in the Phoenix area in December and January.

It's dubbed Samaritan's Feet—part of a yearly young adult ministry project providing kids in downtown Phoenix with hope and encouragement through brand new shoes. This time around, volunteers washed the feet of nearly 500 kids, shared the Gospel message, and prayed for each child while encouraging them to dream big.

In just three years, the ministry has grown to become one of the most impactful events of the year for the Phoenix Society of St. Vincent de Paul, one of the largest faith-based charities in Arizona and a partner in the annual event organized alongside young adult leaders in the Arizona Conference and national nonprofits Samaritan's Feet and Toys for Tots.

Along with the fresh footwear, families also got a chance to eat a warm meal, receive Christmas packages and take home beautiful self-portraits snapped by professional photographers.

Volunteer Ellie Winters joined the effort this past December. The 19-year-old began her day intent on helping others, but discovered a surprise as the event went on.

"I was a 'guardian angel' showing people to their tables, but I think the families ended up blessing

me even more," Winters said. She met a young man just one year younger than her and led him through the process.

"He asked if I could get a gift for his three-year-old son rather than for himself," she recalled. "I asked if it was difficult raising a son, but instead of talking about the struggles, he talked about how amazing God is and how He has been providing for them. When he talked about his son being the greatest blessing he's ever received, it blew me away to hear someone be so positive in that situation. It reminded me that we need to praise God through any storm, and He will pour out more blessings than we could ever imagine."

A father of four kids himself, volunteer Leon Sandoval also decided to serve as a guardian angel, leading families through the different stations and setting them at ease the best way Sandoval knew how—with



New shoes were given to hundreds of children in need.





An army of youth and young adults served the children with foot washing and new shoes.

tons of energy.

“I had more fun than the kids,” he admitted. “I got super attached to two boys, Larry and Gavián. They are four years old and come to find out, they are twins just like me. The whole time we were together, we never stopped laughing.”

The best part for Sandoval? “As we laugh, I feel as if Jesus is laughing along with us. I know I am doing a good thing by spending time with them and giving them shoes, but what these twins don’t know is they help me to see Jesus through them,” he said. “At the end of the night, the parents asked me how I have so much energy; she said, ‘Oh, I know—Jesus is your energy.’ Jesus has helped us gain friends for life and eternity.”

In January 2016, volunteers also expanded the foot-washing and shoe giveaway to students at Glendale Adventist Academy, located in a Phoenix suburb.

Many Glendale kids recently arrived in Phoenix as refugees from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. But when your new sneakers light up with bright red and blue colors, cultural differences don’t matter.

The entire project partners with other faith groups to serve God’s children in a powerful way.

“Once down, a person needs an outstretched hand or two to be able to transform their life—you and your young adults are those outstretched hands and the heart-born hope and compassion as the face of Christ to all we serve,” said Jerry Castro, food services and dining room manager at St. Vincent de Paul, in a letter to volunteers after the event.

A small launch with 60 volunteers three years ago tripled in size to 180 individuals for the latest dual efforts of the two-month ministry. That translates into 1,300 pairs of shoes, 1,300 gospel presentations and 1,300 prayers with kids.

New shoes, new socks and new toys are the short-term benefits of the Samaritan’s Feet outreach for each child who walks through the door. But the image of a stranger kneeling down and sharing the love of God will likely stick in their minds for the rest of their lives—and will live on inside the volunteers’ hearts, too.



This young brother and sister were thrilled to receive a new pair of shoes.



A pair of new shoes is an incredible gift to a child.

Work in the Navajo Heartland

By Phil Draper

Work in the Navajo Heartland has long been challenging. Spiritual beliefs are such a part of social and cultural life that introducing Christianity is often faced with resistance.

But with a team of dedicated pastors, Bible workers and laymen, Native men, women and children are being won to Jesus and accepting the truths of the Bible.

Dale and Nancy Wolcott are serving in the Chinle, Kinlichee and Window Rock district. Their bi-monthly newsletter Navajo Heartland is filled with positive reports of progress.

Approximately 25 students attend the Holbrook SDA Indian School (HIS) from the Chinle/Pinon/Kinlichee area. Recently, members from the church drove to the school to serve a Navajo Taco lunch to all Holbrook students with the goal of getting to know the students from their local area and provide spiritual support when they are at home.

Wolcott spoke at the HIS chapel Friday morning. Pastor Ludy Mahinay from Pinon preached the Sabbath sermon then drove the students to a nursing home in the afternoon. Several students stated they want to participate in church activities when they are home.

Wolcott says, "Amazing Facts evangelist

Wyatt Allen will present evangelistic meetings in Chinle July 29-Aug 27. A mission group from Red Bluff, CA, will hold health classes for a week before the meetings begin. This will be a tremendous blessing to our soul-winning outreach."

Rebecca Heinrich, the new teacher at the Chinle Adventist School, and her 12 students presented three Sabbath morning programs at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Parents and family members filled the church on those Sabbaths and one family has started attending midweek church services. Wolcott is conducting a Bible doctrines class for the upper grades.

Don Krimmer, a substance abuse counselor from Texas, spent two months living on the Chinle campus providing substance abuse counseling to local residents.

Filipino Pastor Ludy Mahinay now lives in Pinon serving as a volunteer Bible worker/evangelist for an area 50 miles west of Chinle where there is no Seventh-day Adventist presence. He is conducting a weekly health seminar at the Whippoorwill Chapter House and giving home Bible studies in the area with some good interests. Sabbath services

are planned at a rural church between Whippoorwill and Pinon.

Bible Worker Emilio Gomez and his

wife, Rose, are working in the Kinlichee area. Six individuals have asked for baptism.

Rose is leading a Health Club cooking school at the church, which meets bi-weekly with up to 14 people attending. The team hosts a Wednesday evening Bible study at the church going through the Native New Day lessons, with up to ten people attending.

Pacific Union Conference Native American Director Charlie Whitehorse is scheduled to hold evangelistic meetings at Kinlichee this summer.

Dr. Fernando Cardona and Tony Vargas are returned SDA foreign missionaries who now live and work in the Window Rock area. They and their wives plan to hold Sabbath services in a rented facility and are working with short-term mission groups that come to Gallup. They are eager to be able to erect a sign on our Window Rock property that says "Future Home of SDA Church."

Prayers are solicited for our Native American work in Arizona. If you want to get involved in Native American missions, contact Pastor Charlie Whitehorse at Whitehorse@frontier.com or Pastor Dale Wolcott at navajowolcott@gmail.com.



Rebecca Heinrich, new teacher at the Chinle Adventist School, and students.



Native children are eager to learn about Jesus.



Native children learning to cook healthfully and enjoying their creations.



Bible workers Emilio and Rose Gomez.

CENTRAL Acts

Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Empowering **EVERY PERSON** to be a **DISCIPLE OF CHRIST** and a **CENTER OF INFLUENCE** for the **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

HELPING OTHERS IN SALINAS

“FOOD IS A DAILY STRUGGLE”

It has been two years since *Helping Others*, a ministry of the Salinas Hispanic church started to help its community by relieving hunger. Twelve members of the church initiated the project. During its first week, *Helping Others* assisted 25 community families through its food pantry, in just two hours. As the need increased, so did the support of the church and community members. Multiple volunteers now serve over 200 families each week.

“Food is a daily struggle for thousands of families in Monterey County,” explained Cathie Montero, Monterey County Food Bank director. “Being undernourished is devastating and particularly hard on children and seniors.” This food bank is just one food source for the *Helping Others* ministry. Since its

beginning, the ministry has provided food for 47,000 people.

“These volunteers show up rain or shine to provide food to those less fortunate—offering hope with a smile,” says Gilbert Garcia, Salinas/Gilroy district pastor. “The commitment from the church and all the volunteers shows great love for our community.”

Not only is *Helping Others* providing food for the body, but also for the soul. Because of interactions with the ministry’s volunteers, some community residents have surrendered their lives to God, and some have been baptized. The growth of the project has also welcomed new volunteers from the community that are not church members, who get to

Continued on page 3 ►

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CENTRAL Suite

Apr 8-10

God's Girls Getaway

Apr 15-17

Hispanic Singles Ministry Event at Mount Hermon

Apr 22-24

Hispanic Men's Retreat at Wawona

Apr 22-24

Teen Girls Retreat

Apr 22-24

Teen Guys Retreat



INFLUENCE

**WE MUST
HAVE OUR
SENSES
TUNED TO
THE NEEDS
OF THOSE
IN OUR
COMMUNITY**

We have been called to reach the nearly 8 million people who live within the Central California Conference community with the saving power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How are we to accomplish this?

Jesus said in His sermon on the mount that we are to be the “salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13). Ellen White explains it this way:

“Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate, infuse it, that it may be preserved. So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the Gospel. They are not saved as masses, but as individuals. Personal influence is a power. It is to work with the influence of Christ, to lift where Christ lifts, to impart correct principles, and to stay the progress of the world’s corruption.” PK 232

Our CCC Strategic Plan Mission Statement reads this way: *“Empowering every person to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and a center of influence for the kingdom of heaven.”*

Once again, Ellen White writes, *“He who expects to enlighten a deceived people must come near them and labor for them in love. He must become a center of holy influence.”* EV 305.

In other words, as the salt of the earth, we must mingle, we must be in association with those in our communities and exert, through the power of the Holy Spirit, a saving influence upon them. For that to happen, we must have our senses tuned to the needs of those in our community.

An American Indian was once visiting New York City and as he walked the busy Manhattan streets with a friend from the city, he suddenly stopped, tilted his head to one side, and said, “I hear a cricket.”

“You’re crazy,” his friend said. The Cherokee answered, “No, I hear a cricket, I do! I’m sure of it.”

The friend replied, “It’s the noon hour. People are jammed on the sidewalks, cars are honking, taxis are whizzing by, the city is full of noise. And you think you can hear a cricket?”

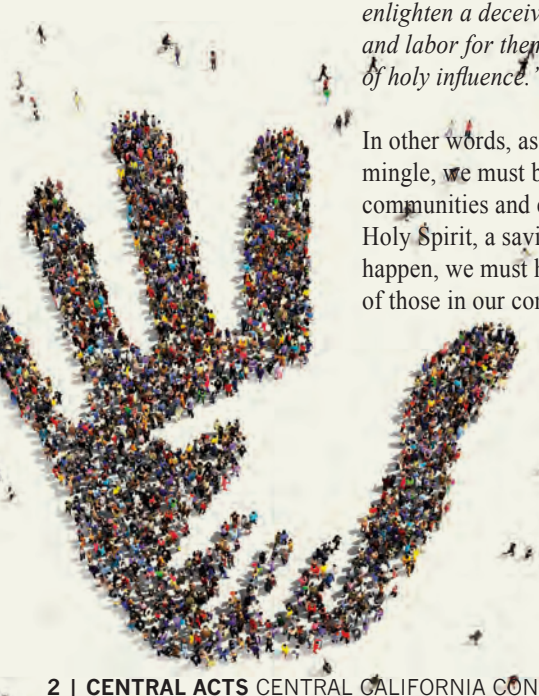
“I’m sure I do,” said the visitor. He listened even more closely and then walked to the corner, spotted a shrub in a large cement planter, dug into the leaves underneath it and pulled out a cricket. His friend was astounded.

The Indian said, “The fact is, my friend, that my ears are different than yours. It all depends on what your ears have been tuned to hear. Let me show you,” he reached into his pocket, pulled out a handful of loose change and dropped the coins on the pavement. Every head within a half block turned. “See what I mean?” he said, picking up the coins. “It all depends on what you are listening for.”

So the question for you is, what are you listening for? What are your ears tuned to? Are you walking through life oblivious to those around us, those whom we need to influence?

It is my hope and prayer that each of us will become tuned to the needs of those in our community by getting out of the salt shaker and becoming a living, active, and tuned center of influence for the kingdom of heaven.

RAMIRO CANO
President





Continued from page 1 ►

experience the love of Christ through the church members that volunteer.

“Salinas has created a wonderful model for community engagement,” concludes Steve Horton, CCC vice president for ministries. “We pray their light will shine brighter and brighter in their community!”

BY ORLANDO RIVAS

Officers’ Perspective



STEVE HORTON
Vice President
for Ministries

Joan was working at her desk when her boss said, “You look great, what have you been doing?”

“I discovered a 12-week Longevity Lifestyle Program,” responded Joan. “First, we learned how sodas cause weight gain. By eliminating sodas I lost 17 pounds and had more energy”.

“You’re drinking a lot of water, how much water is the right amount?” asked her boss. “I drink enough water to have two pale urines a day,” Joan replied.

She continued, “A Longevity Lifestyle is not a diet. My brain and I simply chose to do several things:

- *Eat Mediterranean-style, plant-based foods.*
- *Control portions*
- *Use healthier substitutions (avocado versus dairy cheeses, etc).”*
- *Get sufficient sleep*

“These are four of a dozen components of the Longevity Lifestyle,” Joan added.

“Interesting,” said her boss. “Sounds fairly simple.”

“How long do you plan to follow this Longevity Lifestyle?” asked her boss. “For the rest of my life,” Joan replied.

The Adventist Health Studies have confirmed what is already outlined in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy. Meanwhile, churches and ministries are getting on board with the concept of brain-function and science-based, health-related information such as 8 Weeks to Wellness by Don Hall DPH, Cardiac Health Improvement Program (CHIP) by Hans Diehl DPH; Depression Recovery by Neil Nedley MD, the NewStart program, and Longevity Lifestyle Matters by Arlene Taylor PhD, Steve Horton MPH, and SharletBriggs PhD.

God’s desire is for us to prosper and be in good health. Sharing this information with the community is partnering with God.

“Where do I get this information?” asked Joan’s boss. “Health and Longevity information is available at www.LongevityLifestyleMatters.com,” replied Joan.



CENTRAL ORDINATIONS

SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST



ZACHARY PAGE

Currently serving in the Templeton Hills Church, Zachary Page was ordained into the gospel ministry on January 16, 2016. He never dreamed that he would become a pastor. In 2005, Page began working with Leah Hawley on Central California Conference's Youth Evangelism Team. It was during this time he realized that there was nothing more thrilling in life than to work full-time for Jesus.

Excited about his new direction, he attended Pacific Union College for ministry training, as did Hawley. Following PUC and their wedding, the Pages moved to Andrews University where Zac obtained his Master of Divinity degree while Leah completed her Bachelor of Arts in Theology. It was at Andrews where Zac experienced a deepened revival in his personal walk with God.

"Zac is a prayer warrior who has turned his whole church into a praying church," reflects César De León, CCC's ministerial director. "The result of this praying community is evident by the new faces from the community coming to church."



MAURO GUTIERREZ

Serving as the district pastor for the Redwood City Hispanic and San Jose Maranatha churches, Mauro Gutierrez was ordained into the gospel ministry on January 9, 2016. Growing up in Peru, he learned about the gospel through the Adventist school he attended. Gutierrez was the first member of his family to be baptized and introduced the gospel to his family. He started preaching at 13-years-old and participated in literature evangelism. It was then that he felt the desire to serve the Lord in a more complete way.

He went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Theology with a minor in Public Health. Throughout his study, Gutierrez served in evangelistic crusades, missionary projects, as a chaplain, a Bible teacher and has organized health crusades wherever he is been. "This young pastor had the vision for, planned and executed the Bay Area SALBA project — a series of training seminars with the purpose of developing laity in evangelistic and leadership skills," explained De León. "Last year 300 graduated in the art of organizing and directing small groups."



DAVID PIKOP

Baptized at 9-years-old, David Pikop was 18 when he strengthened his relationship with Lord and began to prepare for ministry while serving as a literature evangelist. He was rebaptized in 1997 and worked alongside pastor Frank Valdez as a local church elder and Bible worker while completing his ministerial practicum. He soon realized that God had called him into full-time ministry.

Pikop continued his ministry at Centro Misionero de Salud in Mexico as chaplain and Bible teacher. It was there he met his future wife, Luz Maria Espinal. Returning to Central and serving in various assignments has led Pikop back to the Dinuba Hispanic/Reedley church district. Additionally, he assisted the Pacific Union Literature Ministries department in recruiting Hispanic youth for summer programs throughout the Union. "David is a true shepherd who has demonstrated a great dedication to pastoral ministries," revealed De León of Pikop during his ordination on February 20, 2016. "His presence is constant and faithful, and his leadership has been Spirit-led."

CONGRATULATIONS
to the winners of the
Camp Meeting 2016
theme contest!

Camp Meeting
July 14-23, 2016

Winning Theme:
**TRANSFORMED:
LEARNING TODAY.
LEADING TOMORROW.**

Winners:
LANA KIDWELL
Fresno Adventist
Academy

AHMIYAH HUDSON
Bakersfield Adventist
Academy

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HŌ'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

PAGE 2 | What happens in Hawaii on Presidential Fitness Day? It's not sitting around and eating fattening fare, for sure. Turn the page and see for yourself!

PAGE 3 | At the January Hawaii Conference Executive Committee meeting, delegates cover a lot of business, from Camp Waianae to 20-year reports.

PAGE 4 | With smarts and a bit of creative thinking, a Hawaii Conference teacher saved his school more than \$2,000. How can his hack work for your church or school? Find out more on 4.

THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

RALPH S. WATTS, III

Harry Pritchett Jr. writes a marvelous story about a boy named Philip, who had Down syndrome, and his school teacher. Despite the teacher's best efforts, Philip, with his differences, wasn't accepted by the other nine 8-year-olds.

The teacher came up with an idea for her class the Sunday after Easter.

She collected 10 big plastic eggs, gave one to each child, and instructed them to go outside, find a symbol for new life, put it into the egg, and bring it back to the classroom. They would then open and share their discoveries one by one.

The children, with much excitement, did as they were told. As the teacher opened each egg, the children cried out in delight — a flower, a butterfly, a rock ...

Then she opened another egg — it was empty.

"That's stupid," "How dumb!" a couple of children shouted.

"It's mine," Philip announced. "It's mine."

"You don't ever do things right, Philip. There's nothing there!"

"I did so do it," replied Philip. "I did do it. It's empty. *The tomb is empty!*"

There was silence — a long, full silence.

On that lush, beautiful, spring day, a miracle happened. From that time on, everything was different. Philip suddenly became a part of that group of 8-year-old children. They took him in. He was set free from the tomb of his differences.

off, Philip died.

And at the funeral, nine 8-year-old boys marched up to the casket, not with flowers to cover over the stark reality of death. Nine 8-year-old boys, with their school teacher, marched right up and laid on it an empty egg. An empty plastic egg."

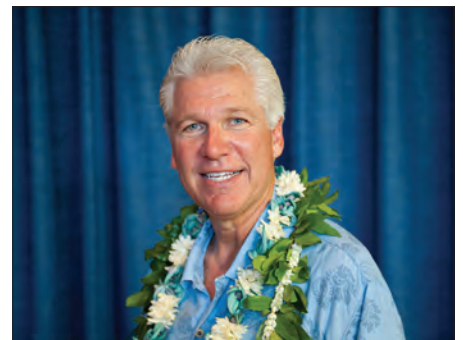
In life, in death, what does matter is knowing that the tomb is empty.

The tomb is empty. God emptied Heaven to save you. Now it is our turn, it is our mission to share that glorious news. Will you join me?

With Sincere Aloha,

Ralph S. Watts III

Pritchett pens these words: "Philip died last summer. His family had known him since the time little Philip was born that he wouldn't live out a full life span. Many other things had been wrong with his tiny body. And so, late last July, with an infection that most normal children could have quickly shrugged



Presidential Fitness Day Challenges Bring Out the Best in Hawaii Kids

MADONNA TAUEU

On Sunday, Feb. 7, Pathfinders and Adventurers arrived bright and early to participate in Presidential Fitness Day events. PFD is structured so that each child races against a national standard and not their fellow participants.

The cold wind was not enough to stop their little legs as they ran against the wind during the long run. Each person was challenged to do their best in the v-sit and reach test, curl ups, push-ups and shuttle run. Between events, they cheered for each other, ate snacks, and found shelter in their parent's arms.

The day was filled with smiles, laughter, and cheers. "I saw my daughter doing her best and cheering for everyone else," said one parent. "What a great way to teach a standard of excellence and encouragement at the same time!"



Hawaii Conference Potpourri

GERRY CHRISTMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

The Hawaii Conference Executive Committee met on Sunday, Jan. 31, with a full agenda. A devotional thought and time in prayer always comes first. Pastor Erik Vandenburgh, conference youth director, then presented a master plan for Camp Waianae. Details of this plan will be unveiled in the future after a few issues are resolved.

Bathroom renovation invariably surfaces as Camp Waianae's most urgent need. Approving an over-all master plan was, of course, an important prerequisite to addressing the camp's inadequate facility. The executive committee voted to fund the demolition of the bathhouse and to construct a new one in the very near future.

The committee also received two 20-year comparison reports: one on membership and the other on tithe. These two documents show the trajectory of each church in the conference over the last 20 years. Many churches show flat or negative tithe and membership growth — especially when inflation and island population growth are taken into consideration.



Pastors have been urged to share these comparative reports, and ministries and boards should analyze and pray over their church's data.

The Hawaii Conference family continues to mourn the death on Jan. 11 of Gary Johnson, treasurer. Gary passed away after a lengthy battle with leukemia in Portland, Ore. Executive committee members honored this efficient, kind and hard-working man. Here are some of their comments: Gary sought to be fair. After having wrestled and come to a conclusion on an issue, one of Gary's typical expressions was "I think this is fair." Gary was an attentive and unruffled treasurer; he listened to the concerns of others. Gary was also a good husband and father to son, Trevor, and daughter, Julia. There were tears along with the tributes—mine included.

Our English word "cemetery" is rooted in the Greek language, which means sleeping room or chamber. Gary now sleeps, awaiting the resurrection day. Matthew 28:2 describes the resurrection of Jesus nearly 2,000 years ago: "And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it."

That large stone, sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers, symbolized the awful finality of death. So what transpired at Christ's resurrection? First, there was an earthquake; then, an angel came, rolled back the stone — and



sat on it! Death had been conquered!

I look forward to when Jesus will sit on His throne; when the enemy (Satan and death, his trademark) are subjected to being under His feet as a footstool (Acts 2:22-35). May that day be soon!

YOUTH DEPT. CALENDAR

MARCH

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

APRIL

- 1-3 — Hand 'n Hand Training (Conf. Office)
- 17 — Pathfinder Fair (Kapolei Reginal Park)

JULY

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

SEPTEMBER

- 16-18 — Pathfinder Leadership Training (Conference Office)

Please contact Hawaii Conference Youth Department for further details.



TEACHER SAVES SCHOOL BIG BUCKS WITH DIY PROJECT

MIKI AKEO-NELSON

I am a firm believer that God equips people with knowledge and skills to do His work. Some tasks are huge and public, while other are small and private. Nonetheless, God equips all to do whatever it is He asks.

Andrew Geigle, science teacher at Hawaiian Mission Academy, enjoys the use of his classroom whiteboards for daily instruction. However, the boards in his classroom were showing signs of aging — they had scratches and were no longer erasing cleanly. Andrew knew that it was time for replacement boards.

In his quest to find the best board for the best price, Andrew got discouraged. A new 4'x8' whiteboard would cost more than \$1,000, and he needed three boards to replace what was already installed in his classroom. Andrew knew that he did not have a \$3,000 budget, so he began to seek an alternative.

After doing further research, Andrew discovered that some mainland companies were using tempered glass as a dry erase surface. This option peaked Andrew's interest, as he knew that tempered glass is a "safety glass," which means it is less likely to chip or scratch. In the unlikely event that the tempered glass would shatter, Andrew knew that it would break into chunks rather than shards of glass,

thus keeping his students safe from cuts. He also discovered that since tempered glass is denser than the traditional whiteboard material, the ink from the markers would not absorb as easily between the atoms, thus making clean up nice and easy.

With a 50-year guarantee, this was an offer he could not resist. Andrew was ecstatic until he got the news that we here in the islands know all too well — none of the companies ship to Hawaii. Andrew began to seek yet another alternative.

As Andrew explored local options, he found himself wondering if he could construct this board himself. He located a company that sold large pieces of tempered glass, and with some basic materials from the local hardware store, Andrew was able to purchase and install three 4' x 6' tempered glass pieces in his classroom for approximately \$700. What a savings!

Andrew says that writing on this "do it yourself" board is smooth, and the erasing is even smoother. The durability of these new boards

is supposed to be far better than the ordinary whiteboard. Yes, time will tell.

Until then, we thank Andrew for saving the school at least \$2,300 and for using his God-given knowledge and talents to develop and create things to the glory of God. That lesson alone is priceless, for his students and for each of us.



KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter



“THESE WILL BE AMONG
THE SURVIVORS WHOM THE
LORD HAS CALLED,”
JOEL 2:32.

Be a SURVIVOR!

On April 18, 1906, one of the biggest natural disasters in history took place—the San Francisco earthquake.

With an estimated magnitude of 7.8, the quake was felt from Eureka in the north to the Salinas Valley in the south. While the upheaval was bad enough, it was the ensuing fires that finished off the devastation, destroying about 80 percent of the city. About 3,000 people died in that horrible tragedy.

Lotta's Fountain in downtown San Francisco became a meeting point for survivors. Ever since, survivors and others have gathered every April 18, at 5:12 a.m., to mark the exact time of the quake. The number of survivors has dramatically dwindled off in the past few years. The oldest survivor, and last female survivor, Ruth Newman, died in 2015 at the age of 113. The last known survivor, Bill Del Monte, died in January 2016 at the age of 109. For the first time since 1906, no survivors remain to give a personal face to the disaster that took place 110 years ago.

Earthquakes and other natural disasters—along with wars, crime and numerous other tragedies—speak to the reality that we live in a world that isn't perfect. Our present-day planet certainly isn't what the Creator designed. And if our world were the only reality we had to live with, we truly wouldn't have much to look forward to

as the years march along. But, as we read through Scripture, we find numerous prophecies and promises that give us hope for the future.

One of the dramatic prophecies that applied to God's people of old, as well as to those who are facing the future today, says this: “The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives. But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, for some on Mount Zion in Jerusalem will escape, just as the Lord has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called” (Joel 2:31-32, *New Living Translation*).

It's easy to focus on some of the specifics of this prophecy. However, I want to draw attention specifically to the fact that God promises there will be survivors! All is not hopeless! Even in the darkest times, as we view tragedies—either from a distance or up-close-and-personal—we can hold on to the reality that there is a better day ahead. We have the choice whether or not to be part of it.

I want to be one of those survivors who will be part of God's eternal Kingdom. It takes a daily commitment on my part to keep that connection strong. I also want YOU to be one of those survivors as well. We won't be meeting around Lotta's Fountain, but rather around the throne of God, as we give Him praise for all He has done.

Peace.

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

In this issue . . .

First Person:
Wrapped
with Love



NCC Adventists
Help Fire
Victims



“Ignite: Each One Reach
One” - African American
Camp Meeting



VOLUME 14
ISSUE 2
APRIL 2016





First Person: **Wrapped** WITH LOVE

The Bridges evangelism initiative is reaching the Bay Area for Christ through conference programs, local church outreach and person-to-person friendship evangelism. Here's one first-person account of Adventists in action as they reach out to their community for Christ.

Last October, the Grand Advent church participated in the Stop Hunger Now program. We packaged over 10,000 meals to be shipped to other countries. It was wonderful to do something for people in other countries, but what about in the city of Oakland?



"We thanked God for our blessings and for those we came in contact with. With heavy hearts we prayed for our brothers and sisters on the cold, wet streets of Oakland."

Our church decided to reach out to the homeless with a project called Wrapped with Love.

We purchased 100 sleeping bags—plus socks, gloves, hats, hardback study Bibles and hygiene kits. In December, church members put all the items together in large bags tied with tags saying, "God cares and we do, too."

Nine of us met at 5:30 on a Sunday morning. It was cold, dark and rainy. We loaded the cars and had prayer, asking God to bless us. In the stillness of the morning, as the city slept, we went out there. As the shelter was putting the homeless out on

the street, we gave out bags. Our pastor, Ruben Rios, prayed with some, and we prayed with others. Where we saw people sleeping on the street, we gave them sleeping bags. We gave a bag to one woman who was very sick, and she kept repeating, "God Bless You."

Reaching Old Man's Park, we found people on the wet ground sleeping with cardboard boxes over their heads; others were covered in paper that was soaked. One man told us that he didn't believe in God. As he wrapped himself in a sleeping bag, one of our church elders, Lee Smith, told him, "It is God who is providing this sleeping bag."

After all the bags were given out, we formed a circle and joined hands. Pastor Rios looked at me with sadness in his eyes and said, "No human being should have to live like this." We thanked God for our blessings and for those we came in contact with. With heavy hearts we prayed for our brothers and sisters on the cold, wet streets of Oakland.

We had been telling people "May God bless you," and they were telling us "God bless you," and He did. We started this as a team-building project, but we should have called it a character-building and compassion project. Wherever you are attending church, start crossing your bridges. Reach out and touch someone's life. Trust me, the blessing will be yours.

Do you attend a Bay Area church that is reaching out to its community? Send your story to: info@ncsda.com.

(Top) Martha Rios (right) helps Julian Gonzalez, Ruben Rios and Junny Gonzalez pack socks for the homeless. (Photo: Mark Robinson)

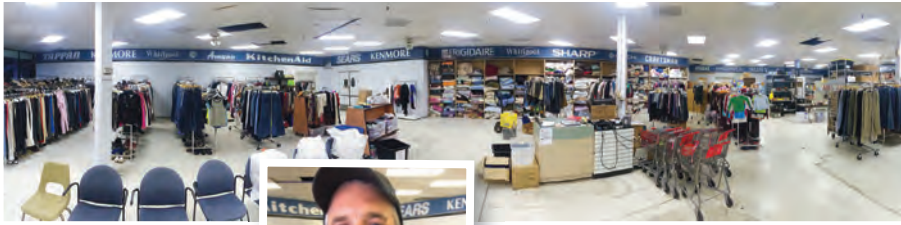
(Above) Church members distribute the sleeping bags and other supplies on a rainy morning in Oakland. (Photo: Marilyn Willis)

(Below) Noah Aligawesa, Lucy Dudley and Julia Aligawesa add socks and Bibles to the bags. (Inset) A young friend (left) helps Jonathan Franco, Lara Franco and David Rodezno pack up supplies. (Photos: Mark Robinson)



NCC Adventists

HELP FIRE VICTIMS



Lakeport Distribution Center Continues to Help

The Lakeport Distribution Center continues to help those affected by the terrible Valley Fire. Last fall, the Lakeport church opened the center in a 7,000-foot storefront space. Manned by volunteers, the center is still open two days each week to distribute items—such as clothing and store gift cards—to people affected by the fire. “Another warehouse recently shut down, so the number of people we’ve been able to help has increased,” said Seth Cantu, Upper Lake church Bible worker, who manages the center.

Many people who come for clothes get a pleasant surprise. “Almost everything we have now is new,” said Cantu. The center has received a number of donations of new clothes from well-known labels, such as 7,000 pounds of Eddie Bauer clothes donated by a nonprofit group that collects store samples for donation.

Most of the donated garments are for women, but the center is beginning to get more for men. When the Northern California Conference gave the center \$15,000, some of the money was used to purchase men’s jackets at wholesale prices. The center also bought clothing display racks. “While other people have stuff folded on tables, ours are on racks—hung up and looking nice,” said Cantu.

In the near future, the church hopes to find a place to open a multipurpose center, which would combine the church’s community services, the distribution center and room for seminars. Also in the



future, the center may be opened to the public, so that people can purchase items, and the money will go to a fire recovery fund. “We are looking to have a more expanded ministry than we’ve had before,” said Lakeport/Upper Lake district Pastor Randy Brehms.

Paradise Church Women Host Outreach Dinner

When the Paradise church women’s ministries team planned their annual fall dinner, they remembered those who were suffering as a result of the 2015 Northern California fires. “They were fresh in our minds,” said Connie Huitt, church women’s ministries leader. “We were praying for them.” An offering collected at the dinner raised more than \$800 for the fire victims.

This event has long served as an attractive outreach to the women in the Paradise community. “It is the desire of our church family to provide an atmosphere of ‘A Place to Belong!’ and ‘A Place to Grow!’ in each event we provide,” said Associate Pastor Mary Maxson.

The theme for the most recent event was “Weddings,” and 15 women loaned their wedding dresses—dating from 1934 to 2001—for display. Each table had its own theme chosen by a volunteer hostess, who supplied beautiful place settings and lavish table decorations. Other memorable features of the dinner included waiters (men from the church), fun door prizes and an inspiring talk—this year presented by Pacific Union College church Associate Pastor Jennifer Woody. “We are grateful for this opportunity to share God’s love in a practical and enjoyable way!” said Huitt.



(Top Left) The Lakeport Distribution Center operates in a 7,000-foot storefront in downtown Lakeport. (Inset Left) A man wears his new jacket. (Top Above) The center is open two days a week for people who need help after the Valley Fire. (Above) Local residents display the gift cards they received at the center to purchase food, clothing and other needed items. (Photos: Seth Cantu)

(Below Left) Janelle Miller, creator of the table “Wedding Day,” waits for the dinner to begin. (Below Right) Peggy Williams stands with her granddaughter, Cami Schulte, by “Laura’s Table”—decorated to honor the memory of her daughter and Cami’s mother. (Bottom) Van Chinn and Ann McAlister sit at the ocean-themed table they decorated, titled “SEAson’s Greetings.” (Photos: Ruth Sopha)



THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER IS PERMANENT!



If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift from your IRA account to help support the work of the Conference and benefit yourself at the same time. Gifts made from your IRA (up to \$100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income. They

also qualify for your required minimum distribution (RMD), which can lower your income and taxes.

To learn more about the benefits of making an IRA charitable rollover gift, please contact us.



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Ignite

EACH ONE REACH ONE

JUNE 29~JULY 3, 2016



*Join us for this special five-day camp meeting, which will replace the annual two-day African American convocation in October. This event, sponsored by the African American ministries department, will be held on the beautiful grounds of Pacific Union College, and will provide attendees with inspiration, fellowship and much more! **All are welcome!***



GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Carlton Byrd - Breath of Life Speaker/
Director and Oakwood University Seventh-day
Adventist Church Senior Pastor
(in Huntsville, Alabama)

Dr. Andrea Trusty King - Sixteenth Street
Seventh-day Adventist Church Senior
Pastor (in San Bernardino, California)



For Women's Koinonia

Dr. Hyveth Williams - Andrews
University Professor of Homiletics,
Theological Seminary
(in Berrien Springs, Michigan)

WWW.NCCSDA.COM/AFRICANAMERICANCAMPMEETING

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521
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*Focused on Jesus,
we witness to the world!*

April 2016

Saying Farewell to the Nevada-Utah Conference!

by Ed Keyes, former president of the Nevada-Utah Conference and now president of the Arizona Conference

To my Nevada-Utah Conference family, It has been a joy to serve you throughout these last 22 months. It is amazing - in less than two years - how great our love has grown for the people of this wonderful conference. It is also amazing to watch and see what amazing things God has done in this conference. We have watched the baptismal numbers grow in magnificent ways. We have seen pastors and teachers help their churches and schools grow in number as well as in the spirit of God.

For the first time in the history of our conference, we now have over 10,000 members and at the present rate of growth, we should easily have 11,000 by our next constituency session. We also have witnessed tithe and giving reach all-time highs. With an approximate eight percent tithe growth in 2015, God's people in this conference have shown their faithfulness in record ways - our highest tithe ever, pushing the seven million mark. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

So with all of these blessings of God happening, why would anyone in their right mind want to leave?

The simple truth is that I don't really want to leave. However, I also don't want to be a Jonah. When God calls, as crazy as it may seem, the only way to be safe is to go where He leads.



"For the first time in the history of our conference, we now have over 10,000 members and at the present rate of growth, we should easily have 11,000 by our next constituency session."

My wife and I have always wanted to be in the center of God's will and as much as we love the Nevada-Utah Conference and its many members, we feel that we need to follow God's call back to Arizona. We also believe that if God is calling us back to Arizona, he most certainly has the right person in mind to come to the Nevada-Utah Conference and move it further than it has ever gone before. Our conference has been blessed with great pastors, teachers, departmental leaders, and officers. They will keep this conference strong until the next president steps in to that roll.

It is my prayer that each of you will support the officers of this conference with all the earnestness you possess. Pray for each other, and don't forget my wife and me as well. We solicit your prayers as this new journey will be challenging. Most of all, stay faithful to Jesus and when He comes again, we will reunite in His kingdom made new.

May God guide and bless the Nevada-Utah Conference.

In the Master's Service, Ed Keyes

"This conference has been blessed with great pastors, teachers, departmental leaders, and officers. They will keep this conference strong until the next president steps in to that roll."

Nevada Utah Adventist Education ... "Something Better"

Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program



*Eileen White
NUC Education
Superintendent*

“Adventist elementary education specializes in creating experiences that foster a lifelong love of learning.”

If you have been waiting for an opportunity to provide Adventist Christian Education for children in your family or community – **NOW IS THE TIME.**

Five of Nevada-Utah Conference’s ten schools are eligible to benefit from the new Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program. On April 13, 2015 Assembly Bill 165 supporting parental educational choice was signed by Nevada’s Governor Brian Sandoval.

Under existing law, financial institutions and other employers are required to pay a modified business tax on wages paid by them. This bill provides a means for taxpayers to contribute funds to scholarship organizations in lieu of paying all or part of the excise tax currently mandated by the Nevada Department of Taxation. They receive a tax credit equal to an amount approved by the Department of Taxation, which must not exceed the amount of any donation of money made by the taxpayer to a scholarship organization.

The beneficiaries of this bill are Nevada families wanting to provide “something better” for their children’s education. AB 165 provides grants on behalf of students who are members of households with a household income which is not more than 300 percent of the federally designated level signifying poverty to attend school in this State including private school, chosen by the parents or legal guardians of those students. The total amount of any scholarship for

2015-16 could not exceed \$ 7, 755 which is above the amount needed to attend any of the Seventh-day Adventist schools in Nevada. Scholarships are paid directly to the school chosen by the parent /legal guardian of the student. Participating schools are required to maintain records of the student’s academic progress in a manner that the information may be aggregated for all such students enrolled in the school.

Approximately 10 percent of the 305 students currently enrolled in our schools have been approved and granted Educational Choice Scholarships but there is room for more. All five schools are anticipating increased enrollment as more parents become familiar with AB 165. Adventist Christian Education is one of the gifts provided by God to the SDA Church. Don’t miss this opportunity to unwrap and enjoy this blessing.

“Adventist elementary education specializes in creating experiences that foster a lifelong love of learning. Through invitational classrooms, engaging teachers, a Bible-based curriculum and environment where all abilities are honored, a passion for knowledge takes root,” North American Division Office of Education.

NOW IS THE TIME to apply for the 2016-17 school year. If you believe you or someone you know may qualify for one of these scholarships please contact our local Nevada Adventist schools or the NUC Office of Education.

	Adventist Schools	Public Schools
% of graduates who attend college:	85+	66
% of graduates who complete college degrees:	80+	14
% of applicants accepted to medical schools:	34	9
% of teachers certificated:	Nearly 100	58* in some states
Percentile performance on nationally normed test:	70%ile or better than 70% of all schools taking the test nationwide (which includes public and private schools)	



Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting

Coming Soon!

It's not too early to begin planning to attend camp meeting this summer. Lake Tahoe promises to continue to be one of the "best kept secrets" of camp meeting venues. The family atmosphere and real camping experience can't be beat. August 1-6, 2016, is the time to set aside for this Nevada-Utah Conference "family reunion." It will be held at Tahoe Valley RV Resort in South Lake Tahoe.

Sabbath Afternoon Concert

The **King's Heralds** will be presenting a moving Sabbath afternoon concert. Their rich blend, harmony and balance of their cappella style has been enjoyed not only in the United States, but also in over 50 countries.



served as the senior radio chaplain and operational manager for WGTS 91.9, a major market contemporary Christian music station in Washington, DC, and the second most

listened to, non-commercial Christian radio station in America. Previously, Johnson has served three U.S. presidents as part of U.S. Air Force White House Honor Guard. He has worked as a hospital chaplain, senior pastor, and youth and young adult pastor in Oregon, California and in the Washington, DC, area.



Evening Speaker

The line-up of speakers is exciting, with **Dr. Terry Johnson** as the evening speaker. Dr. Johnson is the executive director for mission integration at Adventist Health in

Portland, Oregon. Most recently, Johnson has



Morning Devotional Speaker

Pastor **Jon Terry**, the senior pastor of the Roseville Seventh-day Adventist Church in California is the featured speaker for the morning

devotional program. Pastor Terry is back by popular demand as he presented the morning devotionals in 2011 and touched the hearts of the attendees. The committee unanimously

Continued on the next page

Continued from
the previous page

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voted to invite him to return and bless us with his ministry. It will definitely be worth it to get up early enough for that special blessing bestowed upon those at the morning meeting.

Seminar Presenters



Born and raised in the Netherlands, **Marit Case** came to the United States to pursue her master's degree in counseling. Marit explains, "Not even in my wildest dreams did I imagine being a pastor, so it is hard to believe that I was a member of the Carmichael church sta^ for more than 12 years!" Prior to Carmichael, Pastor Case served at the Paciÿc Union College church. She has extensive experience working with young people, which is a real asset considering she is married to Steve Case, president of Involve Youth, a parachurch organization that energizes young people for service. She enjoys reading, looking at cooking magazines, going on walks, skiing - both water and snow - and traveling. For her, life is an adventure and God is her "go to" person, for which she is very thankful.

Pastor **Ivor Myers** began his ministry at the Campbell Seventh-day Adventist Church in November, 2014, a^er previously serving at the Templeton Hills church for nine years



as senior pastor. Pastor Myers is passionate about evangelism, and equipping church members with the skills to lead others to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and experience ÿrsthand His righteousness.

He has authored several books, including the innovative *Operation Blueprint*, *Earth's Final Movie*. He is founder/president of Power of the Lamb Ministries and ARME Bible Camp. His Operation Global Rain, now called 10-days of Prayer, has been adopted by the General Conference. Pastor Myers and his wife, Atonte, co-host the "Battles of Faith" program on 3ABN.

Prior to dedicating his life to serving the Lord, Myers, a native of Jamaica, was a rising star in the hip hop industry in the 1990s, living the dream of a lifetime. His four-man group, which included younger brother Sean, was signed to a million dollar, eight album contract until a chance encounter with a friend who was an Adventist altered the course of his life. A^er he and Sean accepted Jesus Christ and were baptized, they both le^ the music industry behind and entered full-time ministry. Pastor Myers and Atonte have four children - a son, Joshua, and three daughters, Jaden, Jenesis and Jaliyah.

Larry Siemans returns



to Tahoe Camp Meeting and will o^er his popular nature hikes to areas around the Tahoe basin. He has also planned one late evening of star gazing in the meadow behind camp meeting.

Siemens is the chair of the science department, as well as a chemistry professor, at Simpson University in Redding, California.

Upcoming EVENTS

Stewardship Sabbath
April 9

NAD Youth Sabbath
May 14

Division Level Pathÿnder
Bible Experience
April 16

Adventist Community
Services Training for Church
Members
June 10-12

Literature Evangelism
Sabbath
April 16

Adventist Community
Services Training for Pastors
June 13-14

NUC Education Sabbath
April 23

Nevada-Utah Conference
Pathÿnder Camporee
July 13-17

Pathÿnders All-Clubs
Leadership Convention
April 29-March 1

Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting
August 1-6

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

Camp Meeting Reviews

"It was so nice to reconnect with old friends and PUC classmates," said Jeannie and Bud Flory who traveled from Arizona to attend Tahoe Camp Meeting. Jeannie told a committee member, "I even met a coworker from the Glendale San where we both worked over 50 years ago. I didn't realize how many people I would know!"

"Every year we put this camp meeting in God's hands," shared Darlene Spratt, committee chairperson. "He has led us to the right speakers, the right seminar presenters, and has provided for our ÿnancial needs."

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

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Praying for Each Other

Can you imagine what it would be like to receive a letter from a dear friend with these enthusiastic and affirming words?

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:9-14, NIV.

Paul, in prison and dealing with his own difficult circumstances, was so excited about the way this new fledgling church in Colossae was growing in Christ. He penned those

words to them, wanting to encourage them to keep growing together as followers of Jesus, as a new body of believers. He shared with these dear friends and spiritual companions that he was praying for them regularly. Paul not only states that he is praying for his new brother and sisters in Christ, but he also shares with them in detail the things he is praying about. He prays regularly for wisdom, faith, hope, love and a spirit of gratitude to keep developing in this young, vibrant church.

What a model this is for us. Just as Paul prayed for the Colossian church, so we can pray for each other. I want to encourage you to identify someone in your family, someone in your church and someone you know in your community and commit to praying for them regularly. As you notice what is going on in their lives, pray specifically for the needs you observe. Talk to them and ask how you may continue to pray for them. Take time to write them a note by hand, or send an email and let them know the specific ways you are praying for them as they grow in Jesus.

A highlight of my day in the office is when mail is delivered and I receive notes from church members and employees who tell me the ways they are praying for me. Knowing there are numerous people daily on their knees specifically lifting me up in prayer is a source of strength and joy in my ministry. I sense those prayers and cherish them.

As we pray into each other's lives, we encourage, nurture and provide a sense of the reality that God is divinely at work in our world and in our church. As we pray for each other individually and collectively, we participate together in an absolutely necessary work of the body of Christ. What a divine partnership it is!

Paul thanked God for how He was working in the lives of these new church members. Paul affirmed the church

members for their openness to the Spirit and the growth they were experiencing. They were being transformed and the church was thriving!

Let us pray for each other and give thanks to God as we notice how God is working in our midst. Celebrate the

work of the Spirit in your lives as well as in the body of Christ.

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President



“What a model this is for us. Just as Paul prayed for the Colossian church, so we can pray for each other. I want to encourage you to identify someone in your family, someone in your church and someone you know in your community and commit to praying for them regularly.”

The members of the San Diego Fil-Am church eagerly wait for the official ribbon cutting ceremony.



San Diego Fil-Am Celebrates New Facility, Expanded Ministries

Prayer and perseverance are familiar themes to be studied and upheld in churches, but to the San Diego Filipino-American church, these two biblical principles have framed a strenuous yet victorious decade of growth as a church family.

An inaugural service was held at San Diego Fil-Am's newly built facility on Aug. 29, 2015. After being without their own church building for six years, this was no minor event for the congregation. This marked the culmination of years of prayer vigils, fundraising programs, construction design rejections and administrative delays—all the while only being partially able to carry out the ministries of their church. Members shared testimonies and scripture that kept them moving when things felt like they were standing still. Visiting pastors and officers from the Southeastern California Conference stood up to show their support and their pride in the San Diego Fil-Am church's journey.

Since San Diego Fil-Am's first worship together in 1981 as a company, the church has developed into a tight-knit

congregation that participated in each of its activities as a cohesive group, whether it be social, spiritual, or service. But by 2005, the church was bursting at its seams and spatial constraints were inhibiting the members' ability to minister, both to one another and to the community.

Among those affected by limited space, the church's young people took the brunt of the inconvenience. The youth and young adults—of which San Diego Fil-Am has many—didn't have a place in the facility to call their own and the active Pathfinder club didn't have the space it needed to function.

Any church family that has been through a building project knows the aches, pains and strains that inevitably come with the process. Gathering any large body of human beings to agree on every detail, to give of their limited time and money, and to ride out inconvenient circumstances during the transition is never simple. But the congregation agreed that leaning on God's guidance was a must.

Demetrio Robles, pastor of San Diego Fil-Am in 2005 (now pastoring the

building committee that elected Chester Banaag, first elder, as the committee chair. Banaag would become integral to the success of the project.

The First Bumps in the Road

As planning began, so did the setbacks. Three building designs were rejected before Banaag found a match with Building God's Way, a Christian group of architects that also built the Escondido church.

The \$1.8 million initial price tag was also daunting for this conscientious congregation. Knowing this needed to happen, however, the members launched an ambitious fundraising effort in 2007 and enlisted an Adventist professional fundraising company, Coleman Stewardship Services, to set up a plan. "They kept us Christ-centered, searching our hearts, connecting with God and asking Him to use each of us to complete our goal," said Gemma Rama-Banaag, who handles the church's PR and communication.

The members crafted a slogan for their fundraising efforts; "Equal Sacrifice, Not Equal Giving." This was to assure members that everyone's contribution was of equal value in the sacrifice given, even if they were unable to contribute the same dollar amount. Everyone was to give the same amount of effort.

"It was during this time in the project that I felt God's presence among us," Rama-Banaag continued. "We were drawn so close to one another. The church was packed with people, and the energy was powerfully God's and not ours."

Rama-Banaag expressed gratitude to

Glendale Fil-Am church), inspired the church to move forward and formed a

The new San Diego Fil-Am church looks modern and inviting.



SECC leaders who helped San Diego Fil-Am stay focused as the fundraising plan progressed.

"God sent us Brian Neal [commitment director] and Tim Rawson [former associate treasurer] to encourage us and make sure we didn't lose sight of the goal," said Rama-Banaag. "Brian Neal made the trip to meet with the fundraising committee any time he felt a meeting was in order. He held us accountable in completing the project. And Tim Rawson, the 'Miracle Number Cruncher,' helped us make the project a financial reality."

"This church made it a true team effort," said Neal. "From the senior citizens' program down to children's ministries, everyone was participating in fundraising. Skits, programs, events... they



Sandra Roberts, conference president, preaches during the opening Sabbath at the San Diego Fil-Am church.

combined in prayer and in testimony. I will always remember this church for how much they pitched in together across every age group."

Breaking New Ground

The groundbreaking in 2012 was bittersweet as the entire congregation saw the gaping hole where their old church once stood. Many tearfully reminisced as they gathered "prayer rocks" from the ruins to put together a memorial, over which they prayed for God's continued guidance.

"There were mixed emotions on this unforgettable Sabbath," Rama-Banaag shared. "We felt fear that this project may be too big for us, sadness that the church we loved was gone, but also excitement that this was finally beginning.

"Standing at the empty hole in the ground at this vesper service, I felt this was God's first sign to me that if we are willing to empty ourselves, He will rebuild a sanctuary within us."

Displaced and Waiting

But while the construction was under way, the interim tested the congregation's bond as they operated in temporary spaces, such as a rented church and a high school gym. Ministries such as Pathfinders, Adventurers and various homeless feeding ministries needed to be reconfigured, as did the weekly Sabbath services and small group

meetings. And to top it all off, the church went through several changes in leadership.

But San Diego Fil-Am endured. They conducted a series of prayer vigils that focused on the unity of the church, the spirituality of each

individual member, and the building project itself.

Finally, in May 2015, church members hosted their Pathfinder Induction service at their newly erected facility on Bonita Road in Chula Vista.

"We were overwhelmed with emotion," said Rama-Banaag. "This church was rebuilt for our youth, and the new building is the legacy of the senior members to the younger and future leaders of this church."

The only thing that remained between them and completion was the lack of a permanent occupancy permit, for which the county required \$17,000 worth of landscaping. So the committee made an appeal, and God did provide. The full amount was raised in just two Sabbaths.



Brian Neal, commitment director, shares about the long journey the church has been on to be able to move into the new building.

Launched and Living the Mission

San Diego Fil-Am members are thrilled now to be able to operate at full capacity. Children and youth programs are in full swing, and the priority for community service continues with San Diego's Feeding America food pantry. The Pathfinders conduct their own homeless feeding program as well.

"This church has not given up maintaining its focus on fulfilling our mission to connect individuals to Christ through service and witnessing," said Lemuel Niere, senior pastor. "Even during this project we still had 10 baptisms in 2015 and already four this year. We also have 11 active small groups meeting throughout the week for spiritual needs and Bible study."

Looking back, several members wished to express gratitude to Chester Banaag, as he spent so much of his personal time researching options, camping outside county offices, making presentations and conducting meetings with church members, city officials, sound engineers and contractors. "He never wavered, never doubted, never slowed down," one member reported. "He fought for the ideal church for our congregation."

"The pioneers of this church had envisioned a new edifice that would meet the challenges we face in this part of San Diego," added Niere. "The sacrificial spirit shown by our members is truly amazing. This completed project is a testimony to their unity and dedication."

*by Amy Prindle,
with Gemma Rama-Banaag*

(Far Right) Bernard A. Taylor, president of the Charles E. Weniger Society and retired pastor, introduces the 2016 award recipients. (Right) Randy Roberts hands Sandra Roberts (no relations) the Charles E. Weniger Award for Excellence.



PHOTO: DANIELLE TAYLOR-JOHNSTON



PHOTO: ENNO MÜLLER

Weniger Society Honors SECC President, Sandra Roberts

Sandra Roberts, conference president, was honored by the Charles E. Weniger Society on Sabbath, Feb. 20. This award denotes qualities of leadership and service similar to that of the society's namesake, with the "modeling of excellence that characterized his life, demonstrating the kind heart of Jesus, who came to this earth to love and to care and to make a difference." Weniger was dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in the 1950s and a teacher of research and rhetoric.

Before Roberts was elected president of the Southeastern California Conference, she had been a teacher, a chaplain, a youth director, a pastor and an administrator, serving as executive secretary of the conference for nine years before being elected president in 2013. She received a master's degree in Religious Education at Andrews University and completed her Doctor of Ministry degree at Claremont School of Theology, with an emphasis in leadership development and spirituality.

Randy Roberts (no relation to Sandra Roberts), senior pastor of the Loma Linda University church, provided the introduction for Sandra Roberts at the award ceremony with notes of respect, appreciation and admiration. During her professional and ministerial journey, young people have been a

significant part of her day-to-day focus, no matter her current position. It was pointed out how she encouraged and empowered anyone under her care. "She has left footsteps for many to follow, not just in pastoral leadership but in administrative leadership," said Randy Roberts.

He also described Roberts as a pastor at heart, an administrator in strength and a dear friend in practice. He explained at length the pastoral impact she had while an associate pastor at the Corona church, and how if a person "were to speak with anyone who attended the Corona church while she pastored there, they would say she made a profound and lasting difference in their lives."

"Even during her time as a pastor," Randy Roberts continued, "her administrative skills were evident in ensuring everything stayed organized and making sure there was follow-through after each board meeting."

"Receiving this award reminds me again that the baton is in our hands," said



PHOTOS: DANIELLE TAYLOR-JOHNSTON

(Left) Calvin B. Rock, retired General Conference vice president, addresses the candidates and the audience during his address titled, *If gold rust, what shall iron do?* (Right) Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University church, introduces Sandra Roberts, SECC president, one of the recipient of the Charles E. Weniger award.

Sandra Roberts, upon receiving the medallion of the Weniger Society. "It's our leg of the race, and not one of us is sitting here doing this alone."

"Most of my ministry has been in SECC, a conference that I love dearly," Roberts continued. "Such deep gratitude is in my heart. The opportunities for

collaboration with our pastoral teams, our educators, our office personnel—we're all in this together, trying to model what the church can look like as a healthy ministry where everyone works together as equals, taking their turn carrying the baton for the kingdom of God."

Roberts was honored alongside Robert Lemon, recently retired treasurer of the General Conference and Roy Branson, former seminary professor, associate dean of the Loma Linda University School of Religion and editor of *Spectrum* magazine, who was recognized posthumously because of his untimely death last July.

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
 11330 PIERCE STREET • RIVERSIDE, CA 92505-3303 • 951.509.2200 • WWW.SECCADVENTIST.ORG
 SANDRA ROBERTS, PRESIDENT • JONATHAN PARK, SECRETARY • VERLON STRAUSS, TREASURER
 CONFERENCE PRIORITIES • ENNO MÜLLER, EDITOR

APRIL 2016

KEEPING *intouch*

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CELEBRATIONS

Evangelism



Gerard Kiemeney
Director, L.A. Metro Region

TELL YOUR *Jesus Story Today!*

So, you have met Jesus. And like the Samaritan woman at the well, your life has been changed forever! For never has anyone spoken to you as He did. Never has anyone looked at you with such love, understanding and acceptance. You have experienced His loving grace. He has changed your life forever! You will never be the same. So, what's next?

Tell someone!

Wait, wait, not so fast. It's much more complicated than that, isn't it? I need to get training. I need more Bible study. I need more education. I'm not ready or eloquent enough to tell someone, am I? As time goes on you will grow in your ability and depth to tell your story, but don't let that stop you from telling someone now.

Satan delights in our fear that constrains us to "wait" to tell our story; to get training so that we can "get it just right." He delights in anything that will delay our

sharing our story with others. He does not want us to tell our story, certainly not today. After all, there is always tomorrow, isn't there?

Friends, share your story with others today!

But how, when, where?

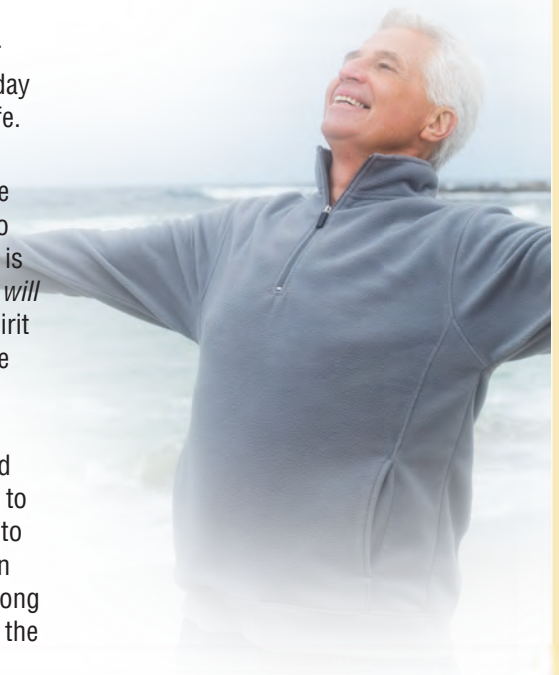
Just like the Samaritan woman, go back to people you know today and simply share your story! Share your story in a natural way in your everyday routine and in your not so routine life. Let the Spirit lead you.

But what if they won't listen? The fact is, there is always someone who won't listen, but there is always someone who *will* listen. Let the Holy Spirit lead you, and leave the results to Him.

The fact is, our everyday world is filled with people who need to hear our story. Listen to this: "**Everywhere** men are unsatisfied. They long for something to supply the need of the

soul. **Only One can meet that want. The need of the world, "The Desire of all nations," is Christ.** (DA 186, 7)

Share your story so that others may have their own story. Share Him today, so we can retell the story to one another for eternity!



Never has anyone looked at you with such love, understanding and acceptance.

In Transition

(Voted 11/12; 12/10/15; 1/14, 28; 2/10/16)

New Employees

(Voted 1/28/16)

John A. Trusty

Pastor, Valley Crossroads, as of Jan. 15, 2016.

John Cress

SCC Executive Secretary, as of Feb. 21, 2016.

Changes within the Conference

(Voted 11/12/15)

Jillian Spencer Lutes

From Seminary, to Assoc. Pastor, El Monte church, as of Oct. 15, 2016

Chad Washburn

From Assoc. Pastor, Lancaster church; to Pastor, Sylmar church, as of Oct. 17, 2016.

(Voted 1/14/16)

Judah Amargo

From Kindergarten Teacher, Adventist Union School; to Teaching Principal, Adventist Union School, as of Jan. 1, 2016.

(Voted 2/10/16)

Marvin Hugley

From Pastor, Maranatha church; to Pastor, Tamarind Ave. Church/New Hope Company, as of Nov. 7, 2015.

Retirees

(Voted 1/14/16)

Patricia Harris

Bible Instructor, as of Jan. 1, 2016.

(Voted 2/10/16)

Dennis Stirewalt

Pastor, Camarillo Church, as of May 1, 2016

Mark Papendick

Assoc. Pastor, Vallejo Drive Church, as of July 1, 2016.

Leaving the Conference

(Voted 12/10/15)

Alyce Knutsen

Teacher, Linda Vista Adventist School, as of Dec. 31, 2015.

Ian Leyva

Pastor, Hispanic Region, as of Dec. 31, 2016.

(Voted 1/14/16)

Terry Tryon

Teaching Principal, Adventist Union School, as of Dec. 31, 2015.

FROM RESTAURANT *to Baptism with GLOW*

By Susan Perez and David Fernandez

Giving Light to Our World (GLOW) is a ministry that is of the mindset that we, as Christians, should carry encouraging Bible literature wherever we go and look for God-given

opportunities to share them with people throughout the day. "Sow your seed in the morning," says Ecclesiastes 11:6, "and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well."

"We can't imagine the impact that a small leaflet will have in the life of someone when we give it," said David Fernandez, Assistant Director, Literature Evangelism Dept., "so we should always give them out."

Such was the case for Minerva and Sergio Salmeron when, in the spring of 2013, they decided to eat at their favorite Thai restaurant. "After enjoying a nice meal," said Minerva, "we left a



Minerva Salmeron, Fabian Jacome, Sergio Salmeron, and Pastor Salvador Garcia. Photo by David Fernandez

the next several months and made it a point to chat with Fabian and developed a friendship with him."

The couple also started inviting Jacome to church. Since Fabian worked on Saturdays, he was not able to accept their invitation. However, he seemed really interested in learning more, so they invited him to a Wednesday-night prayer meeting at their church. From that point on, Wednesday-night prayer meetings were

GLOW tract on the table with our tip, not imagining that a young man named Fabian Jacome would pick it up and read it. We continued to visit the restaurant over

a regular activity for Jacome.

When he began saying he wanted to learn more about the Bible, the Salmeron 's offered to give Sergio Bible studies. They agreed to meet on Sundays to study and continued for more than a year. They treated him as part of their family. He would spend the holidays with them; they helped him move and invited him over for many dinners. Jacome began to love their company and the Bible studies.

As he continued attending prayer meetings, Jacome fell in love with the church. This past Jan. 16, Minerva and Sergio invited him to an evangelistic series which he attended on his evenings off. He responded to an appeal and decided that he wanted to

fully commit his life to God and be baptized the following Sabbath. But he still needed to figure out how to get the Sabbath off.

cont. on page 3



Fabian Jacome shares his personal testimony before his baptism, as Pastor Salvador Garcia looks on.

Photo by David Fernandez

When he asked, his employer refused to give him Sabbaths off, so Jacome quit his job the day before he was baptized. He prayed and asked God to provide another job and to help him. God would not wait long to honor Fabian's faith. That very week, as Fabian searched for new employment, the Lord provided. He

shares with people how God is working in his life everywhere he goes. He says he loves talking to people about Jesus and sharing the very GLOW tracts that were instrumental in changing his life.

A husband and wife went out to sow their "GLOW seeds" in the morning and in the evening were not idle in the Lord's business. They did not foresee that

the simple act of leaving a tract with a tip would lead to the salvation of a precious person. Fabian Jacome is now a member of the Baldwin Park Bilingual Adventist church and hands out GLOW tracts wherever he goes to find lost souls. For information about GLOW tracts, please contact the SCC Literature Evangelism Dept., 818-546-8435.

HOW TO OBTAIN Follow-up Health Seminar Materials

Note: If your church language group has other health seminars in your language, please use those that are closest to the following topics:



Diabetes Undone

Order from

<http://diabetesundone.com/>

For Conducting a Class for Pathway to Health ONLY:

- The \$99 per church fee is waived.
- The \$99/per participant fee is discounted at \$49/person, IF the church covers the participant cost. (Note: A small fee of up to \$20 is allowable, to ensure that the participant values the training enough to finish.) The participant materials fees must be paid up front, so you will need to guesstimate on the number needed. Materials will be delivered to the church or other location as the church directs.

Materials will include: *Diabetes Undone* cookbook, *Diabetes Undone* Workbook. Additionally, the church will receive: cookbook, DVD and online access for homework videos during the course.



Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program™ educational kit For

Coordinator Training:

Go to <http://nedleyhealthsolutions.com>

Order Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery Program™ educational kit, an exciting updated series that will put you on the path to recovery from depression and anxiety authored by Neil Nedley, M.D. This eight-part series is sold as a unit that includes informative video lectures and a workbook that will help put your newfound knowledge into action on mental health and wellness, cognitive behavioral therapy, lifestyle, nutrition and fitness. \$249 for church trainer.

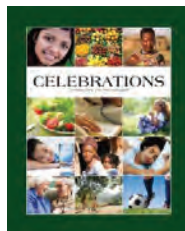
For Conducting a Class:

Participants will need the course workbook and the course test, normally at a cost of \$100 per person. Nedley Publications will discount this cost @ \$50/participant during followup for Pathway to Health LA if the church will pay the remaining \$50 per person so that participants will not need to pay to participate. (A small fee of up to \$20 is allowable, to ensure that the participant values the training and returns each week.) Payment for participant materials must be paid upfront.

Celebrations: Living Life to the Fullest

Coordinator Training:

Go to <http://healthministries.com/celebrations>



This is a lifestyle program, including Choices which is very helpful and covers a wide variety of issues that people may

be dealing with. Training information and PowerPoint files and scripts are on the site. Order softcover copies of the Celebrations textbook @\$10 plus shipping by calling 301-680-6717 from 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. EST, M-Th Or order from the site: you will be contacted to confirm quantities and payment information. NOTE: If you have had training for Creation Health, that seminar can be used instead of this course.

For Conducting a Class:

Participants will need to be registered and purchase the textbook.

Natural Lifestyle Cooking Coordinator Training:

Order one or more of the following, from the ABC or Amazon.com:

- **Natural Lifestyle Cooking Instructor's Manual** – \$19.99
- **Natural Lifestyle Cooking Workbook** – \$9.99
- **Natural Lifestyle Cooking (Spanish)** – 9.99
- **Natural Lifestyle Cookbook, spiral-bound** – \$24.99

Note: If you have received training for a Plant-Based Cooking class, offer that.

For conducting a Class:

Participants will need to have a copy of the Natural Lifestyle Cooking Workbook @ \$9.99.

SCC EVANGELISM



Luis Peña
Director

Hispanic Region

Following our annual Easter Week evangelism, when more than 40 Hispanic Region churches participated, several Hispanic Adventist churches in the Los Angeles area will offer the Overcoming Depression Seminar and other lifestyle seminars, beginning May

7, 2016. To ask about a Spanish-speaking seminar location in your area, please call the Hispanic Region office of the Southern California Conference at 818-546-8448, Mon.-Thurs. And be sure to bring friends and neighbors when you participate!

Pathway to Health has the potential to be a major help in all SCC churches, regardless of how near your church may be to the Convention Center geographically. **How?**



Volunteers of all types—nonmedical as well as medical and dental—can help by signing up at pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org and sharing a hotel room at one of the hotels listed on this site during the mega clinic.

By sharing the patient flyers in your area—wherever your church is located—you are letting your community know that Adventists care and want to help the community. (Many area residents travel many miles to Pathway events because they need the help being offered.) Pathway's public-media blitz will share the story of the Convention Center event far and wide.

Neighbors will want to know if anything is being offered soon at an Adventist church near them. Be ready to share flyers about health seminars in your community! Check for resources and events at <https://scchealthmin.adventistfaith.org> that can help you equip your church for health and spiritual outreach that people will be seeking near you! "Carpe Diem!" a familiar expression in Latin meaning, "Seize the Day," applies to all SCC churches today. Seize the opportunity that Pathway to Health can offer to reach the people in your church neighborhood throughout 2016!



James G. Lee, Jr.
Evangelism director



Betty Cooney,
Communication/
Health Response
Committee

Pathway to Health 4-2-4 Follow-Up in SCC Churches

May 4, 5 – WEDNESDAY LAB Pick Up/Intro Session Starts

THURSDAY – LAB Pick Up/Intro Session

May 7 or 9 – Start Health Information Center 4 Health Courses

- Natural Lifestyle Cooking School • Depression Recovery
- Diabetes Undone • CELEBRATIONS

June 5 – Start Two-Week Bridge Course (*bridging health with spirituality*)

Live Long Live Strong, CELEBRATIONS

June 19 – Start Four-Week Gospel Ministry

- SHAREHIM • DVD New Beginnings
- Spiritual Reformation • Or other

Pathway to Health WEEK AT A GLANCE

April 25 – MONDAY

7:00 PM – Health Information Center Follow Up Training

April 26 – TUESDAY

8:00 AM – Volunteer Registration at Convention Center

9:00 AM – Pre-Operative Clinic Starts

10:00 AM – GENERAL SET UP NEED: 1500 VOLUNTEERS

5:00 PM – Mandatory final training session at Convention Center

April 27-28 – WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY

6:00 AM – Volunteer Bus Transportation from Sheraton and Downtown LA Hotel

7:00 AM – First patients through the doors

5:30–6:30 PM – Evening Meal at LA Convention Center

(Advance tickets only; purchase from pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org)

7:00 PM – Evening Meeting at LA Convention Center

8:45 PM – Buses leave for hotel

Children's programs for Volunteer and Patient Children run consecutively during the day

April 29 – FRIDAY

6:00 AM – Health volunteers leave Hotels for LA Convention Center

7:00 AM – First patients through the doors

1:00 PM – Last patient serviced

1:00-5:00 PM – Inventory and Breakdown

5:30-6:30 PM – Evening Dinner

7:00 PM – Evening Meeting

Children's programs for Volunteer and Patient Children run consecutively during the day

April 30 – SABBATH

9:15 AM – Sabbath School LA Convention Center

10:45 AM – Church Service LA Convention Center

12:30 PM – Lunch LA Convention Center

(Advance tickets only; purchase from pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org)

3:00 PM – Gratitude Session

5:30 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Evening Meeting

May 1 – SUNDAY

7:00 AM–5 PM – BREAKDOWN AT LA CONVENTION CENTER

- May 7 or 9 Start Center of Health Information Health Seminars
- Natural Lifestyle Cooking School • Depression Recovery
- Diabetes Undone • CELEBRATIONS

June 5 – Start Two-Week Bridge Course: "Live Long Live Strong," CELEBRATIONS

June 19 – Start Four-Week Gospel Ministry

- SHAREHIM • DVD New Beginnings
- Spiritual Reformation