

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

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22

**Adventist Health Partners with
*PATHWAY TO HEALTH L.A.***

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about the cover

Dr. Steven Popkow of the Skin Laser Center in Los Angeles removes a tattoo from a patient at Pathways to Health L.A. More info: tattooremoval.org

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Priorities

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’ If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth” Matthew 19:16-22 (NIV).

When I think of priorities, several images come to mind. For a price, priority seating is available for anything from concert tickets and moving to the front of the line at a restaurant, to getting a better spot on an aircraft. It is interesting to watch people’s reaction when their high priority status is overlooked.

The rich young ruler in Matthew 19 had a problem with priorities. This young man was drawn to Jesus and felt convicted to ask what was needed in order to inherit eternal life. Jesus shared that the last six Commandments needed to be followed. The young man acknowledged that he had done these things all of his life — but then Jesus added: “Sell all of your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” Unfortunately, the young man went away distressed because he was not willing to re-prioritize.

There are times when I have had thoughts similar to this young man. I have grown up in the church, and I have followed all of the commandments. Therefore, I am entitled to eternal life. Right? This is dangerous thinking because, despite being a good person, I need to have priorities that include all of the points made in the story. The lack of total commitment will cause me to lose my way. The relationship with our Heavenly Father must be the highest priority. Are there worldly enticements that will cause me to lose focus on the heavenly prize?

Ellen White writes in *Desire of Ages*, page 520: “He (the young ruler) wanted

the heavenly treasure, but he wanted also the temporal advantages his riches would bring him. He was sorry that such conditions existed; he desired eternal life, but he was not willing to make the sacrifice.”

For this young man, earthly wealth was something that ruled his life. He was not willing to make the request of Jesus a high priority. There is nothing wrong with having wealth, but when the desire for wealth clouds our vision of the ultimate goal, this can result in eternal trouble. There are many individuals that have wealth, but they don’t let the wealth get in the way of their relationship with the Heavenly Father.

Each day, we need to reset our priorities and make sure that our relationship with our Heavenly Father is the number one priority. The Christian journey has never been advertised as an easy trip. With prayer and daily Bible study, even when the way is rocky, we will find that the things of this world will grow dim and lose their importance. Don’t let the things of this world get in the way of the trip to your heavenly home.

Theodore R. Benson



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SPEAKERS

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GEORGE KNIGHT MIKE TUCKER
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Volunteers Distribute One Million GLOW Tracts Across San Francisco and the Bay Area

In September of last year, Pope Francis visited Philadelphia. February of this year, the Bay Area hosted Super Bowl 50. What linked these two historic events? One million GLOW tracts were distributed by a team of volunteer missionaries at each of these milestone events.

"I felt impressed to read what Ellen White says about large gatherings in the cities," said Nelson Ernest, Pacific Union GLOW director and associate director of Central California Conference's literature ministries department. "The passage reads, 'I was given instruction that as we approach the end, there will be large gatherings in our cities. . . . Leaflets containing the light of present truth should be scattered among the people like the leaves of autumn'" (Letter 296, 1904, To Be Like Jesus, p. 278).

Nearly 45 volunteers traveled to Philadelphia for the visit of Pope Francis and met the goal of distributing a million tracts in 10 days. The pocket-sized GLOW pamphlets were handed out on parked cars, to people on streets, in homes, and among crowds waiting for the Pope. But that was just the beginning. Leaders and volunteers were so impressed with how God moved in Philadelphia that plans began for another mission trip.

In January, Ernest led another team of 45 volunteers to the Bay Area, where they again reached their goal of distributing one million tracts on Sunday, Feb. 7, the day of Super Bowl 50. "Unlike the crowds anticipating the Pope's visit, the people of the Bay Area seemed much more secularly-minded," reflected Joel Moutray, CCC GLOW coordinator. "Despite the different atmosphere, recipients continue to call the GLOW office, sharing about the tract they received. Some are signing up for Bible studies."

Football fans were not the only people impacted by this initiative. According to organizers, God worked in each missionary's heart. "It's just crazy how God get's you out of your comfort zone," explained Miranda Horton, a GLOW missionary from North Carolina. "I had never flown before, and I haven't ever traveled outside of the East Coast. I have never pictured myself here [in San Francisco], and I wouldn't be able to do it if it weren't for God." As of April 2016, GLOW has printed more than 64 million tracts, worldwide. To learn more about the ministry, visit glowonline.org. To sign up for weekly updates and stories, register at glownews.org. To watch videos of all the testimonies from the mission trip, and upcoming trips, follow this ministry at [facebook.com/GivingLight](https://www.facebook.com/GivingLight).



Missionaries of all ages shared GLOW with fans on their way to the big game.



GLOW tracts, such as "Sunday is for Football," saturated the areas in and around San Francisco during the GLOW mission trip.



Joel Moutray, CCC GLOW coordinator (left) with Nelson Ernest, Pacific Union Conference GLOW director; Larry Carter, Pacific Union publishing ministries director; Bill Krick, director of Central's literature ministries; and Robert Kooreny, Upper Columbia Conference publishing ministries director, plan their day.

Tara Vang

Ignite

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JUNE 29-JULY 3, 2016

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Join us for this special five-day camp meeting, which will replace the annual two-day African American convocation in October. Sponsored by the Northern California Conference African American Ministries Department, this spiritual retreat will be held on the beautiful grounds of Pacific Union College. Come and experience a summer getaway—full of inspiration, fellowship, relaxation, and fun. **All are welcome!**

GUEST PRESENTERS

In Alphabetical Order by Last Name



CHURCH/CONCERT MUSICIAN
Lawrence Beamen
Singer, Songwriter, Producer, Psychologist, and Top 5 Finalist on NBC'S Hit TV Show, *America's Got Talent*



Mrs. Deidre Hodnett
Coordinator, West Coast Music and Worship Conference



FRIDAY KOINONIA SPEAKER
Elder Chanda Nunes
Associate Pastor, Sacramento Capitol City Seventh-day Adventist Church



Dr. Gordon Botting
Health/Community Services/Stewardship Director, Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Elder Michael B. Kelly, II
Senior Pastor, Mt. Rubidoux Seventh-day Adventist Church (in Riverside, California)



Dr. Emil Peeler
Director/Speaker, Open Bible Ministries, Inc.



Elder Edwin and Paula Brown
Pastor and Spouse, Valley Community Seventh-day Adventist Church (in Stockton, California)



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



Elder Marc Raphael, Sr.
Associate Pastor/Children & Youth Pastor, Mt. Rubidoux Seventh-day Adventist Church (in Riverside, California)



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



Elder Jose Marin
Hispanic Ministries Coordinator/Evangelist, Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



THURSDAY KOINONIA SPEAKER
Dr. Hyveth Williams
Professor of Homiletics, SDA Theological Seminary (in Berrien Springs, Michigan)



Chef GW Chew
Manager, The Veg Hub Ministry, Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

THIS EVENT INCLUDES

- ✓ Women's Koinonia on Thursday & Friday
- ✓ A variety of seminars and preaching
- ✓ A mass choir presentation and concert on Sabbath afternoon
- ✓ Children's church ✓ Activities for youth
- ✓ World premiere of Lawrence Beamen's theme song "Ignite Us, O Lord"
- ✓ A basketball tournament



For registration and workshop information, visit www.nccsda.com/IgniteCampMeeting or e-mail IgniteCampMeeting@nccsda.com.

Oroville Group Inaugurates First Hmong Church Building in the NAD

On April 2, Hmong Adventists in the Northern California Conference had good reason to say: Zoo Siab Hnub Chib So (Happy Sabbath)!

They were celebrating the inauguration of the first Hmong church building in the North American Division — home to the Oroville Hmong Seventh-day Adventist Church group. (They also celebrated the very next Sabbath when the second church building in the division was inaugurated in Fresno as part of the Central California Conference.)

The Oroville building — completely paid in full — includes an office and a parents' room, in addition to a sanctuary. It sits on a 1.39-acre plot, with a paved parking lot and room for expansion.

The congregation is a church plant of the Rancho Cordova church, which also serves as the mother church to the Rancho Cordova Hmong church plant. Lue (Rick) Vang serves as leader for both groups.

NCC Hmong members have witnessed the hand of God opening doors for them to have a



The church is located at 3161 Oro Bangor Highway, Oroville.



Three community families have expressed interest in joining the new group after seeing the church sign.

building of their own. After the annual Hmong camp meeting last summer in Central California, members of the Rancho Cordova group gathered together to talk about the direction the Lord was leading. One woman suggested that perhaps it was time to think about investing in a church of their own. The general consensus was: "If this is what God wants, He'd have to do it for us," said Cheng Vang, one of the Oroville group's organizers. After praying about it, everyone went home.

The next morning, Cheng Vang woke up very early. "The Lord just told me, 'You need to go look up a church in Oroville,'" he said. Surprised, he was a little reluctant because Oroville was so far from the established Hmong ministry. He started looking at real estate for sale online, and "lo and behold, I found a church in Oroville," he said. That same day, he gathered a group of members together and they went to see the building.

They met a series of challenges, but the small group found great support from a number of individuals and churches along the way. By February, the price of the church was paid in full. "We had less than a week left [before the deadline], and we had 50 percent of the funds needed. Despite all our efforts, the door seemed to be closing on us," said Rick Vang. "Within the last week, God provided everything else for us."

Already the members can see the Holy Spirit's work in the neighborhood. After the congregation posted a sign in front of the church, three families expressed interest in joining. "We did no outreach and had no fliers," said Cheng Vang. "We just put up the sign and opened up the church. They came without a sermon or point of contact. The Lord's just opening the doors, and we're just being given the privilege of walking through them."

Julie Lorenz



Cheng Vang speaks during the building's inauguration service.



Martha Vang Cha presents the children's story in the new sanctuary.

Practical, Frontline Ministry Recognized

Pastors Colón and Marruffo Are Ordained

The first quarter of 2016 brought ordinations for two women who have demonstrated diverse blends of talents that bless the Southeastern California Conference.

Sara-May Colón

Sara-May Colón is associate pastor for youth, children and community at the Garden Grove church. She was ordained on Feb. 27. Growing up in a missionary family that served in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, and Moscow, Russia, Colón was acquainted early with the necessity of frontline ministry, meeting people's basic needs first and foremost.

After completing her Master of Divinity degree in 2013, Colón was on her way to a position as clinical chaplain in Oahu, Hawaii, but found herself being led to the position at the Garden Grove church.

Colón has found several opportunities to harmonize youth and children's ministry with her passion for urban ministry. Each Sabbath school adopts a ministry project



During Sara-May Colón's ordination service, Gaspar Colón, her father and resource developer for the Global Mission Urban Center at the General Conference, prays during the ordination service.

for a year, so the kids learn early on the real needs that exist around them and the various ways they can make a difference.

She has also arranged for the whole congregation to "adopt" a square mile around their church. Everything they do in that immediate community is for its betterment, such as reaching out to businesses and services and keeping the area clean.

Even in her personal time, Colón doesn't stop doing ministry. She and a few colleagues run a 501(c)(3) nonprofit called Project Propel that provides sustainable life opportunities in Manila, Philippines.

"Many of the communities around Manila are built on landfills," Colón explained. "They just don't have their basic needs, such as clean drinking water or healthy soil to grow their food in."

Looking back on her ministry, she sums up her journey thus far by highlighting her conviction for practical theology: "Embracing the grime of life and finding beauty even there. Jesus would reach into the dark corners of life, get His hands dirty, spend



Sara-May Colón receives a gift from each of the pastoral staff during her ordination on Feb. 27. Dan Smith, senior pastor at Garden Grove church, presents his gift, a tabla drum from India, because she "dances to the beat of her own drum."

time with people others considered lowly all the while saying, 'My love is here, too.'"

Dan Smith, senior pastor of Garden Grove church, recalls that when they needed a youth pastor, he contacted Samuel Leonor, chaplain at La Sierra University, for a recommendation. "Leonor said, 'If I could put one name at the top of the list, it would be Sara-May Colón.' So I called her, and she was a delight right away. She's fresh, original and very, very bright. She loves kids, and all of us love working with her.



Sara-May Colón shares how God has led her to where she is today.

"In our tradition, ordination does not confer anything," Smith continued. "It confirms something that's already there. Nobody around Sara-May can deny that God has called her. God is using her, and we were the ones who hit the jackpot by getting to do ministry with her."



Patty Marruffo acknowledges her colleagues and other women pastors throughout the world.

Patty Marruffo

Patty Marruffo, pastor for children and families at the Azure Hills church in Grand Terrace, was ordained March 26. Armed with a degree in business administration from the University of California at Riverside, Marruffo worked in middle management for the State of California in workers' compensation for more than 20 years.

After her family expanded to include her husband, Dante, Azure Hills' youth pastor, and her two children, Daniel and Jessica, Marruffo became very active in family ministry activities at the churches her husband pastored throughout the Southeastern California Conference. She enjoyed this so much that she pursued a Master of Arts degree in pastoral ministry from Andrews University so she could better serve her church.

"I loved being a student and digging in, watching how God has worked through



Kendra Haloviak-Valentine, associate professor at La Sierra University, prays over Patty Marruffo during her ordination.



Sandy Roberts and Jonathan Park encourage Dante and Patty Marruffo to continue their efforts in ministry.

humanity," shared Marruffo. "It was truly a leap of faith, eventually leaving my longtime career and jumping into full-time ministry. But I've never looked back!"

Marruffo feels that her previous work in a supervisory position with human resources experience provided her a solid foundation for her pastoral career, which began as an associate pastor for children and families at the Loma Linda University church before she was called to Azure Hills. Marruffo also serves the community as a volunteer chaplain with the Riverside County Fire Department.

"What fuels my ministry is my deep desire to teach kids that they have a God who loves them unconditionally. I also try to plan activities that place God in the center of families. When God is the priority in our homes, He'll shine

out in our lives and into the communities we serve."

Marruffo expressed overwhelming appreciation to the other pastors on staff at Azure Hills. "I've learned from all of them and have built wonderful friendships."

"Patty is one of the most humble and unassuming

pastors," said Alger Keough, associate pastor at Azure Hills. "She is creative and efficient in her planning, yet her heart keeps close to people. Her presence brings joy to the staff and the congregation."

Danielle Fore, Azure Hills pastoral intern, has worked particularly closely with Marruffo and readily calls her a "mentor, pastor, supporter and friend. She has been such a blessing in helping me grow as a person, a pastor and a woman of God," she said. "She showed me that God can and does call women to pastoral ministry. It is evident to all who have seen her work and her heart for service that God is using her in mighty ways."

Amy Prindle

Breath of Life Worship Center Hosts Unity Service

“In the midst of the racial tensions going on in our society, how can our denomination speak with any credibility to provide solutions to the world if we haven’t dealt with our own issues?” — Pastor Courtney Ray



Members and friends from Spanish, English-speaking, Filipino, Ghanaian and other cultures participated in a unity service held at the Breath of Life Worship Center in Inglewood.

Michael Jenkins, senior pastor of the Breath of Life Worship Center, structured the March sermon schedule to focus on church unity. In her sermon, Associate Pastor Courtney Ray preached about helping to facilitate unity in the Seventh-day Adventist Church across racial and cultural lines.

During that same service, Todd Leonard, senior pastor of Glendale City church, was invited to worship with the congregation and pray during the main service. During his remarks, he approached the church with an open heart, addressing his desire for intentional racial unity. Leonard has long been an advocate for reconciliation and had reached out to the pastoral staff at Breath of Life to seek an opportunity for collaboration and intercongregational healing. The chance to do so had finally arrived. He cried. He prayed. Members warmly received his remarks. Breath of Life embraced him (figuratively and literally), opening a door for further collaboration.

Two weeks later, on Easter weekend, Breath of Life hosted a unity agape feast that was originally planned in conjunction with Glendale City church and Hawthorne Spanish congregation. As word spread, members from the local Ghanaian group, the Glendale Filipino church and the Hollywood church joined, as well.

Approximately 200 members from different backgrounds, languages and cultures ate, sang and prayed together. Members sat with those from congregations other than their own and engaged in various group activities, punctuated by special musical selections and spontaneous testimonials.

Pastors Sam Del Pozo, Michael Jenkins, Todd Leonard and Courtney Ray delivered thoughts on unity. Additionally, Pastor David Maldonado, president of the Sonora Conference of the Mexican Northern Union, shared a powerful testimony of praise to God. After the event ended, Maldonado reflected on how moved he was

by the service: “Que gran bendición — such a great blessing!”

Arleene Chow, youth pastor of the Glendale City congregation, noted that she hoped the occasion would be the first of much collaboration to come. Others shared that sentiment. “This was very inspirational and the messages were great,” remarked Ian Luan, a member of Glendale Filipino church. “If we were to do it again, I would be 100 percent for it. Maybe even invite more churches to come.”

Pastors from neighboring congregations voiced their desire to be involved in unity activities, as well. The pastors who organized the service say it won’t be a one-time event. “We want — actually, we need — this to be only the beginning of the path toward greater fellowship,” affirmed Jenkins. “Since we belong to Christ, we want to honor His prayer on our behalf that we may be one as He and His Father are One.”

Courtney Ray

Ojai Church Celebrates 50 Years of Service

Christian ministry faces unique challenges in towns like Ojai, Calif., a New Age Shangri-La populated by mystics, movie stars, health spas and pleasantly eccentric folk. Even so, the Adventist church has spent the past half-century sharing Jesus and serving the locals — April 2 marked the 50th anniversary of the Ojai church.

Five pastoral couples returned to share memories and see old friends and Ojai stalwarts. Former pastors Paul Emerson and Sherman Jefferson recounted the history of the church, which included a small company of Sabbath believers having to hastily pledge and raise \$30,000 in order to beat an escrow deadline. Members converted a funeral home into a thriving and beautiful sanctuary, largely through the efforts of long-time members like Ken and Vivian Vonhof and the Angelito family.

For years, the church also served the community with a popular daycare ministry, and kid-friendly evening programs often packed the sanctuary with proud parents and relatives.

Kevin and Christine Byrne drove all the way from Arkansas to join the celebration. The couple led the church in part-time lay ministry for seven years before moving in early 2014. “Pastor

Kevin” shared a homily describing the kind of mature Christian faith steadfast discipleship in Ojai requires, and then sang “Give Me Jesus.”

Two former pastors in attendance found that their ministry adventures intersected more than once. Back in 1970, newly minted Pastor John Alspaugh was happily ministering in Ojai when a mission call came. He and his bride flew over to Thailand

to serve as chaplain of the Adventist hospital in Bangkok, a position just vacated by the father of David Smith, Ojai’s part-time pastor 30 years later. In Smith’s brief reflections, he reminded the congregation that, despite the colorful challenges of ministry in Ojai, the church is part of an amazing global franchise with 18 million members. “This funky little town needs this

amazing little church where ‘everybody knows your name,’” Smith said.

Southern California Conference President Velino Salazar and Executive Secretary John Cress both attended the celebration. Both paid tribute to the pastoral couples and faithful members of Ojai who have kept the light of Jesus shining brightly for half a century.

West Region Director Greg Hoenes delivered a four-part charge: “Love, love, love — and love some more. Belonging comes first. Then believing. And then behaving.”

The conference also delivered an anniversary gift of \$5,000, which current pastor David Gardner believes was a direct answer to prayer. “We paused for a special season of prayer in the midst of our March board meeting, praying that God would bless our church with greater financial income,” he explained. “We noted at that meeting that we were just \$5,000 short of our goal of funding a Bible worker. A mere two weeks later, at our 50th anniversary celebration Sabbath, SCC leaders presented our church with that exact amount. We are now praying that God will invest these precious funds in new souls to grow His Kingdom.”



West Region Director Greg Hoenes presents an anniversary plaque to Pastor David Gardner.



The Ojai church has served in its community for 50 years.

David Gardner and David B. Smith



An audience of 1,500 Hispanic men and women attended the meetings at the Celebrity Theatre in Phoenix.

Omar Grieve Addresses 1,500 During NAD Hispanic NET

The North American Division Hispanic NET initiative held in Phoenix, Ariz., concluded on April 9. More than 20 months before, Abimael Escalante, assistant to the president for Hispanic Ministries, and Tony Anobile, then president of the Arizona Conference, coordinated with North American Division Vice President Ernest Castillo to have the Hispanic NET in Arizona. "This is really Abi's brainchild," said Anobile, "and it was an excellent event thanks to his amazing organizational skills."

"I have had the privilege of participating in about nine other NETS since I have been at the division office," said Castillo. "The 2016 Hispanic NET has to be the best organized, developed and attended I have seen. In fact, I plan to pattern my NAD Hispanic initiatives for this quinquennium after the plan used by the Arizona Conference in regard to this NET."

Escalante developed a plan with the religion department of the University of Navojoa in Mexico to have theology students spend six months in Arizona serving as Bible workers prior to the NET meetings. As a result, more than 50 people responded to the appeal of NET evangelist Omar Grieve, speaker/director of La Voz de la Esperanza, to accept Jesus as their Savior and be baptized. "The reason so many

people responded to the appeals was because of the pre-work done by the Bible workers," said Anobile.

Each evening, baptisms were held in a tent outside the Celebrity Theater. More than 100 total baptisms took place, including those in Tucson and Yuma where the meetings were being broadcast in Adventist churches.

The Hope Channel team transmitted the baptisms from the remote locations during the telecast. "Everything worked out well," said Scott Grady, production director.

Castillo, who has a show on Esperanza TV called "Vislumbres de Esperanza" (Rays of Hope) interviewed a special guest every night during the telecast. During his interview with Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes, he asked what the success of the NET was attributed to. Keyes mentioned the special emphasis on small groups as being the key to the overall success of the series. "We have over 225 small groups in the Hispanic churches of Arizona, and there is no doubt the Lord is blessing this endeavor," he said.

Junior Kelly Marchena, La Voz Music director, coordinated the music every night, which included vocal soloists, quartets and instrumentalists. The host team included Escalante,



La Voz de la Esperanza Speaker/Director Omar Grieve gave powerful appeals each night.

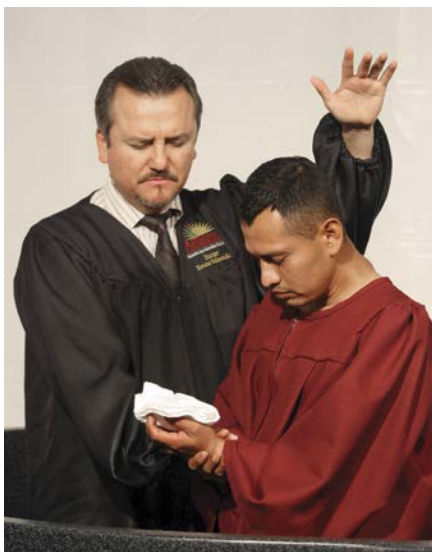
Elden Ramirez from the NAD, Ana Lopez from "Novo Tempo" in Brazil, and Adriana Villarreal, an Adventist fashion model from Southeastern California Conference.

North American Division President Dan

Jackson was speaker for a special convocation in the Tucson Convention Center the closing weekend. Grieve commented how grateful he was that the Division President supported the Hispanic work in such a tangible way. "Praise the Lord," he said.

Preparations are already under way for the next Hispanic NET in 2018.

Phil Draper



Pastor Renato Valenzuela was one of many pastors who baptized candidates each night.



NAD President Dan Jackson greeted guests at the NET meetings.



Fong and Budiawan Tija (center) have seen God take their family through many challenges and count it a privilege to serve the Lord.

Hawaii Conference Elects New Treasurer

The Hawaii Conference Executive Committee has elected Bei An (Fong) Tija to serve as conference treasurer. Born in Manado, Indonesia, Fong's life is an example of God's care and providence.

At an early age, her father passed away, leaving her mother to raise Fong and six other siblings. Fong's early childhood education came from public and Catholic schools. For college, she attended Klabat Adventist University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting. There she learned about the Adventist church and the Bible, and met her husband, Budiawan. With a move to Jarkarta, Fong worked for various for-profit companies, learning and advancing her skills in accounting, finance and auditing. There the family grew with the addition of three children: Christa, Dessya and Mario.

When riots in Jarkarta got out of hand in 1999, the family decided to move out of the country for safety. In the Philippines, Fong earned an MBA from Adventist Institute of Advanced Studies. Shortly after, Fong was called to work at the Southern Asia Pacific Division.

In 2003, the family moved to Southwestern Adventist University in Texas, where both Fong and Budiawan finished their second MBAs. In 2012, then-treasurer Gary Johnson offered Fong the job of assistant treasurer. Since Johnson first fell ill in the fall of 2015, Fong has kept the conference finances in order.



Bei An (Fong) Tija is the first woman to serve as an officer in Hawaii.

Ralph Watts, president, gave his perspective on the transition. "The time had been extremely difficult in the absence of Gary, but we are grateful to God that in His divine providence, He had already provided for the needs and challenges to see us through in having Fong as our assistant treasurer," he said. "Fong not only continued her responsibilities during this period of time, but those of treasurer, as well."

In March of 2016, the conference recognized Fong's capabilities and leadership and asked her to serve as treasurer. This is the first time the Hawaii Conference has elected a woman to serve as a conference officer.

"It has been my life-long dream to work for the church," said Fong. "I consider it an honor to serve God's purpose, to use the talent He has given me for the advancement of His kingdom."

Fong acknowledges stewardship is a very important to the mission in Hawaii. "Whether it's the widow's mite or Abraham's tithe, each gift represents a blessing from our Heavenly Father."

Jesse Seibel

Pitcairn Islands Study Center Opens at Pacific Union College

A renovated and expanded Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center that houses the world's largest collection of information about "The Bounty Saga" — the famed 1789 mutiny on H.M.S. Bounty and its aftermath — has opened on the campus of Pacific Union College.

During PUC's Homecoming Weekend, April 15-17, scores of people attended a brief ceremony of speeches and a ribbon-cutting, followed by a tour of the expanded facility, located within the college's Nelson Memorial Library.

Founded in 1977, the center is one of the known archives on Bounty history. It contains over 1,600 books relating to Captain William Bligh, his ship, the Bounty, and to Pitcairn and Norfolk islands, the two Pacific isles on which most of the descendants of the Bounty mutineers now live.

Also in the center are some 25,000 pages of articles, monographs, theses, typescripts, correspondence and other papers relating to various aspects of the mutiny and its aftermath. The center also houses collections of Pitcairn and Norfolk philately; models; paintings, photographs, and illustrations; audio-visual material; artifacts; and rare historical papers and objects.

The purpose of the center is to provide accurate information about this historically significant British naval incident and its aftermath. The worldwide telling, writing and filming of this famous sea story never seems to end. Every couple of months, somewhere in the world, a new book on some aspect of the Bounty saga is published, a major magazine article about it appears, or a new television documentary or motion picture on it is produced. The center offers its vast store of Bounty saga information to all who wish to tell, write or film the story in an accurate way.

The center was established at PUC due to the school's long association with and concern for the people of Pitcairn Island. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, young Pitcairn islanders were students at the college's campus in Healdsburg, Calif. Later in the 1900s, one of the Seventh-day Adventist missionary teachers who served on Pitcairn Island became the dean of women at PUC, and the college also maintained a weekly radio contact with Pitcairn, which sometimes included providing much needed supplies and emergency assistance.

More recently, through the center, funds have been given to provide wind generators for the island, to help build an all-weather paving of Pitcairn's "Hill of Difficulty," and to pay for emergency medical care.

For more information, visit the Herbert Ford Pitcairn Islands Study Center in person, or visit puc.edu/library.



Herb Ford, director of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center and professor emeritus of journalism.



Herb Ford officially cuts the ribbon for the Pitcairn Islands Study Center.

PHOTOS BY NIKKI NEUMANN



ABOVE and BELOW: Visitors view Pitcairn Islands collection items on display.



Herb Ford

LSU Dean, Past SAU President Receive Top Alumni Honors



John and Kimberly Thomas share a moment as they receive the La Sierra University Legend Award during the Homecoming 2016 fellowship banquet and awards ceremony.

Two leaders in Seventh-day Adventist education noted for legacy contributions to their respective fields were honored along with their spouses during La Sierra University's alumni weekend banquet.

Held April 15, the Homecoming 2016 banquet and awards ceremony was highlighted by the presentation of the La Sierra University Legend Award to Zapara School of Business Dean John Thomas and his wife, Kimberly Thomas, and the Alumni of the Year award to Southern Adventist University President Gordon Bietz and his wife, Cynthia Bietz. The awards banquet and an evening vespers were held at the Zapara School of Business Troesh Conference Center.

La Sierra University President Randal Wisbey kicked off the ceremony with the surprise announcement of the Legend Award, which was jointly presented by the university, its Enactus team, and the global Enactus organization. Both La Sierra alums, the Thomases were honored for their leadership and support of the business

school and its record-setting Enactus team, now celebrating its 25th year.

John Thomas was hired as dean of the School of Business in 1999 after serving 10 years as a business faculty member. His efforts over the years have resulted in significant growth of the business school with a focus on entrepreneurship, a state-of-the-art, \$16 million building which opened in 2013, and the establishment of the Enactus team, which has brought international acclaim to the university through its award-winning economic empowerment initiatives.

La Sierra's Enactus teams, formerly known as Students In Free Enterprise, have won seven national trophies and two world cups in competitive events against hundreds of other university teams. Their work, inspired by Thomas' vision and direction, has captured the admiration and respect of Enactus leadership and teams around the world.

Mike Cashman, business development director for the worldwide Enactus organization, and John Razzouk, La Sierra business school program manager and president of the world cup-winning 2007 SIFE presentation team, were on hand to help present the award to Thomas.

"As far as SIFE/Enactus, what he did changed the world," Cashman said of Thomas. "He didn't just build a team, he built a legacy. All the other teams had to meet the standards La Sierra set."

Said Razzouk, "All of us together we've built that team, and it



La Sierra University President Randal Wisbey (left) with Cynthia Bietz and Gordon Bietz, recently retired president of Southern Adventist University.

PHOTO'S BY NATAN VIGNA



Kimberly Thomas with husband John Thomas, dean of the Zapara School of Business who received the La Sierra University Legend Award from university President Randal Wisbey (right) on April 15. The award honored Thomas' 25 years leading the school and its record-setting Enactus team.

is really thanks to the leadership and vision of Dr. John Thomas."

In his remarks, Thomas acknowledged and thanked La Sierra's family of alumni and its leadership. "I look around at the alumni that went through this school and I am so proud," he said. "Wonderful memories — what an honor for me, what a privilege for me to grow old with all of you," he said.

Following awards to eight other alumni, Wisbey presented the Alumni of the Year award to Gordon Bietz and his wife, honoring their vision, spirit and significant leadership in Adventist education over the years. The couple graduated from La Sierra in 1966 and 1967, respectively.

Both are natives of Southern California, and met and married at La Sierra University. Gordon Bietz graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in theology, and Cynthia Bietz with an associate's degree in secretarial science. Gordon, former president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has served as president of Southern Adventist University for 19 years. He retired in May. Under his guidance, SAU's enrollment and budget doubled, nearly \$80 million in construction projects

were completed, and 13 master's degrees and a doctorate added to the university's academic offerings.

"I'm a little astonished at the recognition about leadership," Bietz said in his acceptance speech. "It's really about the people you work with, it's really about the team. Because my mantra has always been servant leadership, my goal has always been to try to help those who I work with succeed by giving them the tools, the equipment, everything I possibly can to help them. I think that is what it is to become a leader in our world today," he said.

Darla Martin Tucker



Gordon Bietz, recently retired president of Southern Adventist University and his wife, Cynthia Bietz, were honored with the LSU Alumni of the Year award. They respectively graduated from La Sierra in 1966 and '67.

Adventist Health Partners with Pathways to Provide Free Medical Care to Thousands

For three days in April, the Los Angeles Convention Center was transformed into a health clinic, dental office, eye care center and even a hair salon for the Your Best Pathway to Health megaclinic. More than 4,200 volunteers, including more than 2,500 medical professionals, assisted 8,500 patients during the free event. Three of Adventist Health's Southern California Region hospitals opened their doors and operating rooms to provide care that could only be done in a hospital setting.

"Serving the underserved population is life-changing for both the patient and the volunteer," said Beth Zachary, president and CEO of the Adventist Health Southern California Region. "I am very proud of all our dedicated

physicians, employees and volunteers who gave of their time and expertise to help reach our goal of providing free medical services in our surrounding Los Angeles communities. Months of planning, recruiting and coordination paid off as we shared our mission to serve others."

Adventist Health's southern California hospitals, Glendale Adventist Medical Center, Simi Valley Hospital and White Memorial Medical Center provided nearly 400 volunteers. At WMMC, surgeons and other caregivers performed more than 20 major surgeries ranging from hernias to hysterectomies to a bilateral mastectomy with reconstruction. GAMC completed more than 10 major surgeries,

including orthopedic procedures, hand surgery and hernias.

"Our Adventist Health hospitals became instrumental to the success of Your Best Pathway to Health in different levels, including surgeries," said Esther Ong, a nurse at WMMC. "I became so emotional seeing patients begging me to include them in our surgery schedules especially those coming from far places like Washington, Arizona and Texas."

On the second day of the event, the team at WMMC performed a laparoscopy procedure on a woman with a tumor. It has caused ongoing problems, often landing her in the emergency room. The procedure was a success and now the patient will have a healthier future.



In addition to major surgical procedures, the three hospitals teamed up to provide 1,500 lipid panels, pathology services, 185 mammograms, 60 colorectal screenings, more than 700 cardiology tests including 2D echocardiograms, 12 Lead EKGs and treadmill tests. The partnership between Adventist Health and Your Best Pathway to Health made it possible to offer these services for the first time.

“Without the dedication and commitment each hospital and their teams provided, we would have been unable to bring together an event of this magnitude and caliber,” said Paul Crampton, assistant vice president of Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health.



Kevin Roberts, R.N., (second from right, front row) president and CEO of Glendale Adventist Medical Center, led a busload of volunteers.

Jon Ferguson, a team lead in IT services for Adventist Health in Roseville, Calif., and member of the Granite Bay church, took time off work to drive to Los Angeles and volunteer at the clinic. He has volunteered at every Pathways event since 2014 and summed up his latest experience: “Your Best Pathway to Health makes me look forward to heaven more every day. I

saw people I hadn’t seen in a while and made more friends. It was great getting to serve with so many kind, caring people in the registration area for the vision care.”

Jenni Glass



Smartphone App Enables Public to Help Track Endangered Sea Turtles

Sea turtles travel immense distances across the world's oceans, filling important roles in the balance of marine habitats and marine ecosystems.

"Human activities have tipped the scales against the survival of these ancient mariners," says Stephen Dunbar, Ph.D. "Nearly all species of sea turtle are classified as threatened or endangered."

Dunbar, a professor in the Loma Linda University School of Medicine department of earth and biological sciences, studies sea turtles in Roatán and Utila, islands off the Honduran coast.

"We saw the need for people to be a part of the scientific process," he says, "to link up with us as researchers and become citizen-scientists."

One of Dunbar's Ph.D. students, Dustin Baumbach, is part of a research team studying endangered sea turtles. Baumbach created the first and only smartphone app that can map sightings and photograph sea turtles anywhere in the world. The app, TURT (Turtles Uniting Researchers and Tourists), debuted April 4 and is available for both Android smartphones and iPhones.

TURT allows users to record photos of sea turtles, comments and observations, weather conditions, date/time stamps, and location information. The information is uploaded to a worldwide database where researchers and conservationists may retrieve the information to analyze trends and sightings and assess sea turtle species distribution.



Dustin Baumbach, a Ph.D. student and researcher, swims alongside a sea turtle subject to photograph it. He and his professor, Stephen Dunbar, Ph.D., developed an app that enables the public to collect information about sea turtles.

To learn more about the TURT app, visit:
play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.esri.TURT

Susan Onuma

Lauren Simon Named 2016 Hero of Family Medicine

Many medical heroes work at Loma Linda University Health.

One was just given special designation by a significant professional association. Physician and School of Medicine faculty member Lauren Simon, M.D., M.P.H., was named 2016 Hero of Family Medicine by the California Academy of Family Physicians.

Simon, an associate professor in the department of family medicine, earned this distinction out of 9,000 members of the academy.

"Dr. Simon," says academy President Jay Lee, M.D., M.P.H., "is a stellar and steadfast advocate for patients, colleagues and the family medicine specialty. Her efforts to grow and strengthen the family physician community

through education, advocacy and leadership make her a true family medicine champion."

In addition to teaching, Simon sees patients, directs family medicine residents and is a leader in the discipline of sports medicine at Loma Linda University Health. She is also an alumna of Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

She says, "The importance of the family medicine profession to our community fuels my passion, and it's a natural fit with the Loma Linda University Health calling to provide whole person care throughout the age spectrum.

"I have a strong desire to promote the future family medicine workforce through engaging students' and residents' interest in becoming involved, compassionate family physicians," she adds.



Lauren Simon, M.D., M.P.H., responds upon receiving the award as Jay Lee, M.D., M.P.H., looks on. Lee is president of the California Academy of Family Physicians, which named Simon the 2016 Hero of Family Medicine.

Heather Reifsnnyder

Hispanic Women's Ministry Leadership Certification Draws 80+

This spring, Nevada-Utah Conference Hispanic Women's Ministry held two training sessions where attendees completed level one of the Women's Ministry Leadership Certification. One session was held in Las Vegas and another in Utah. One more area-wide meeting is scheduled in Reno.

In Las Vegas, more than 80 women from five Hispanic churches met the first weekend of April at the Maranatha Spanish church to complete the training that will empower them to be better leaders. Pastor Benjamin Carballo, his wife Veronica, and the leadership of the church facilitated worship experiences, prayer exercises, icebreakers and formal presentations.

"I am very happy to have attended the first certification leadership," said Mirna Becerra, director of Hispanic women's ministries for Sion Iglesia Adventista in North Las Vegas. "It really was a terrific training and an indispensable resource for all."

Event organizers were pleased with the turnout. Afterward, Noreen Vargas, NUC Hispanic Women's Ministry coordinator, met with the five women's ministry leaders from the Las Vegas



Dozens completed the Hispanic Women's Leadership Certification, level one.

churches to discuss future events, including a retreat in Lehi, Utah.

The following weekend, Vargas traveled to the Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) church in West Jordan, Utah, to meet with more than 40 women from Ogden, the Salt Lake City area, Provo and Springville. Pastor William Davis, NUC Hispanic Ministry coordinator, opened the weekend by talking about leadership. The director of communication of the InterOceanic Union in Mexico was also a featured speaker.

"I thank God very much for giving me the opportunity to organize these meetings and help my sisters realize how valuable they are for the kingdom of God," said Vargas.

"This meeting was very enriching for me," said Mary Espinosa. "I noticed that there was a lot of participation from churches. The topics discussed are helpful for all. I felt blessed to have been there, because it helps me to guide myself and to improve our service to our good God."

Approximately 130 women attended the training sessions, with about 70 of them receiving their certifications. The department's goal is to offer all four levels of training by the summer of 2019. "The leadership training weekend gave the opportunity to acquire valuable tools for personal development, as well as to share with



Maranatha Spanish church worship team leads attendees in music.

other women in their churches who are part of their daily life or their environments," said Pastor Carballo. "I pray to God to continue to refine the work that He has started in each one of them."

PHOTOS BY NOREEN VARGAS



Veronica Carballo presents "A Woman of Value."

Noreen Vargas

CALENDARS

Arizona

CAMP MEETING (June 3-11) Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Featured speakers and music: Dan Jackson, North American Division President; Mike Tucker, Faith for Today; Bill Knott, Adventist Review; Paul Anderson, North American Division Chaplain; Don Macintosh, Weimar Institute; Don Klinger, Idaho Conf.; Jaime Jorge, violinist; Gail Jones Murphy, vocalist; Stephanie Dawn, vocalist; Walter Arties, vocalist. Info: 480-991-6777 or www.azconference.org.

SOMETHING NEW (June 4, 11, 18, 25) 1:30 p.m. Music, prayer, fellowship, Bible study and refreshments by the father/son team of Ben and David George. Florence Community Center, 778 N. Main S., Florence, Ariz.

ARIZONA SONSHINE (June 8-10) medical/dental/optical event at the Prescott Valley Event Center. Info: arizonasonshine.com or 928-636-1884.

RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER (June 11) Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Central church, 777 W. Montecito, Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Info: 480-430-5492.

SPANISH CAMP MEETING (June 13-18) Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Featured speakers and music: Charles White; Alberto Ingleton, Cal. Hispano Conf.; Guillermo Quiroz, Pastor Jorge Soria, director, Pacific Union Hispanic Ministries; Alberto Treijer, Teologia Conf. Int. Info: Gabby, 480-991-6777, ext. 117.

SUMMER CAMP. Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Adventurer Camp, ages 6-9 (June 26-July 2); Junior Camp 1, ages 9-12 (June 26-July 2); Junior Camp 2, ages 9-12 (July 3-9); Tween Camp, ages 12-14 (July 10-16); Teen Camp, ages 14-16 (July 17-23). Online registration is open, www.azsdayouth.com or call 480-991-6777, ext. 114.

APMOA PRISON MINISTRY International Convention (July 27-31) Charlotte, N.C., presents methods to be effective in Prison Evangelism, Family Support Ministry and Ministry to Returning Citizens. Info: shirleychipman@azconference.org.

Northern California

COMMENCEMENT (June 5) 10 a.m. Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, 3200 Rio Lindo Avenue, Healdsburg. Info: 707-431-5100.

HISPANIC MINISTRIES LAY EVANGELISM (June 18-25) 7 p.m. Lay-led evangelism reaping event held simultaneously at NCC Hispanic churches. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

ADVENTIST SINGLES MINISTRY: Bowling Tournament (June 26) Pins and Strikes, 3443 Laguna Blvd., Elk Grove. 10 a.m. bowling, noon lunch (optional). \$15 per person (bowling only). Lunch location TBD by winning team. Info: Mary Dybdahl, 209-471-9395.

CAMP MEETING (June 29-July 3) "Ignite: Each One Reach One." Pacific Union College. Come and experience a summer getaway — full of inspiration, fellowship, relaxation, and fun. Sponsored by the NCC African-American Ministries Department. All are welcome! Info: nccsda.com/AfricanAmericanCampMeeting.

WOMEN'S KOINONIA (June 30-July 1) Held during camp meeting, Pacific Union College. (No November event at Leoni Meadows this year.) Keynote speakers: Dr. Hyveth Williams, Pastor Chanda Nunes. Info and REQUIRED free tickets: www.womenskoinonia.com. Info about housing, meals, etc.: nccsda.com/AfricanAmericanCampMeeting.

Pacific Union College

GRADUATION WEEKEND (June 10-12). PUC's graduating seniors, family and friends enjoy a weekend of celebration culminating in a ceremony in Commencement Grove on June 12, 9 a.m. Info: www.puc.edu/graduation

ENGLISH TEACHER WORKSHOP (June 27-30) Albion Retreat & Learning Center. Junior high and secondary English teacher workshop on the Mendocino Coast (1 academic credit). Info: www.puc.edu/albion.

PACIFICQUEST (July 17-22) Motivated students entering grades 6-8 enjoy a week of learning and fun. Info: www.puc.edu/pacificquest.

COLLEGE EARLY: Summer in Residence (June 20-July 15) High school juniors and seniors are invited to experience PUC's rigorous academic environment while earning PUC credit in popular general education courses. Info: www.puc.edu/college-early or 707-965-7103.

SUMMER QUARTER (begins June 13) PUC offers a full range of courses on campus, with tuition and housing both 50% off. Info: puc.edu/summer-classes or 800-862-7080.

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Southeastern California

VACATION BIBLE XPERIENCE
(June 12-16) 6-8:30 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Come hear the Happy Daddy Band play, attend a parent seminar, grab a bite to eat at the cafe or maybe browse the VBX store. Info www.lluc.org, 909-558-4570.

SIZZLING SUMMER KICK OFF (June 17) 3-9 p.m. Coronado Island, Coronado. Start the summer off right by joining us at the annual SECC Youth Sizzling Summer Kick Off. Come enjoy God's creation and celebrate Him! Info: Liz Adams, 951-509-2260, email syya@seccsda.org.

SPIRITUAL PARENTING WORKSHOP (June 25) 3-6 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Michelle Anthony, author of "Spiritual Parenting", will hold a parenting workshop at Loma Linda University church. The workshop will be translated into Spanish. Info: Manny Vitug, 951-509-2269; childmin@seccsda.org.

Southern California

GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY
Consecration (June 3) 7 p.m. Vallejo Drive church, 300 Vallejo Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-244-8671.

GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY
Graduation (June 5) 6 p.m. Hall of Liberty, Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles 90068. Info: 818-244-8671.


SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT
(June 11) 5 p.m., featuring Sunset ChamberFest, includes World Premiere of Max Lesser (Young Composer from 2015 Workshop); West Coast Premiere of "Who Nose" by Daniel Schnyder, music by Aaron Jay Kernis and Arnold Schoenberg. Glendale City church, 610 E. California. A reception to meet the artists follows. Info: 818-244-7241.

LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST FORUM
(June 25) 3 p.m. Speaker, David Larson, Ph.D., professor of Religion, LLU School of Religion. Larson and a panel of distinguished professionals will discuss the new California "Option in Death Act." Chapel Glendale City church, 610 E. California. Info: 818-244-7241.

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

— Exodus 20:8

SUNSETS



	6/3	6/10	6/17	6/24
Alturas	8:32	8:36	8:38	8:40
Angwin	8:30	8:34	8:36	8:38
Calexico	7:46	7:50	7:52	7:53
Chico	8:31	8:35	8:38	8:39
Eureka	8:44	8:48	8:50	8:52
Fresno	8:14	8:18	8:20	8:21
Hilo	6:57	7:00	7:02	7:03
Honolulu	7:11	7:13	7:15	7:16
Las Vegas	7:54	7:58	8:00	8:01
Lodi	8:24	8:28	8:30	8:32
Loma Linda	7:57	8:00	8:03	8:04
Los Angeles	8:01	8:05	8:07	8:08
Moab	8:38	8:42	8:44	8:45
Oakland	8:27	8:30	8:33	8:34
Phoenix	7:34	7:38	7:40	7:41
Reno	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:30
Riverside	7:57	8:00	8:03	8:04
Sacramento	8:26	8:30	8:32	8:34
Salt Lake City	8:54	8:58	9:01	9:02
San Diego	7:53	7:56	7:58	8:00
San Francisco	8:28	8:31	8:34	8:35
San Jose	8:24	8:28	8:30	8:32
Tucson	7:27	7:30	7:32	7:34



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ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO seeks Donor Relations Director. Key roles include major donor cultivation, donor segmentation, planned giving outreach, and future capital campaign management. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Send résumé to

AWR President Dowell Chow, chowd@gc.adventist.org.

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO seeks Maintenance Director for Guam station. Key roles include upkeep of buildings, vehicles, and grounds. HVAC certification preferred. It is the policy of the GC to hire only SDA church members. Send résumé to Kent Sharpe, sharpek@gc.adventist.org.

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LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY announces available tenure-track faculty positions in: Computer Science, a growing department with expanded curriculum, Biochemistry, as it moves toward ASBMB accreditation, & Physics, a strong teaching & scholarship program. Info: goo.gl/1lBpWf for more details.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY is looking for a Director of Food Services. This position is responsible for the overall operations of the University Food Services and Catering Department. LLU is an exclusively vegetarian campus and has a deep tradition of preparing and serving ovo-lacto and vegan menu items to

support institutional wholeness initiatives. Responsibilities include Catering, Wong Kerlee Conference Center, Pharmacy Fresh Café, Councilors Pavilion Cafeteria, Faculty Dining Room, Patio Pantry, and 101 Café. Job requirements include a Bachelor's degree in Business or a related field and five years related experience in food service and/or training. ServSafe certification is required. Nine years of relevant experience may be considered in lieu of education requirement. For more information and to apply, please visit our website at careers.llu.edu.

LOOKING FOR A MAINSTREAM Adventist caretaker for a rural property in Lake County, Calif., 80 acres, 1 mile highway on dirt road, required 4-wheel drive, preferred married person, knowledgeable in solar system, water system, cutting trees. Place to stay is provided, reference necessary. Email: kennethgul@hotmail.com.

MATH & PHYSICAL SCIENCES Department at Southwestern Adventist University is seeking a highly motivated individual to teach a combination of statistics, upper-level mathematics and/or general physics. Doctoral degree preferred; master's degree considered. Send CV and copy of transcripts to Dr. Amy Rosenthal (arosenthal@swau.edu).

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified professional to serve the Department of Music as Director

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of Orchestral Studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Preferred candidate will hold a doctoral degree, be an accomplished string performer, and have professional experience as a conductor. Send CV and cover letter to Mr. Jonathan Wall at jwall@swau.edu.

PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC AND WELLNESS practice, Auburn, Calif., has two openings: Psychiatric Technician & Psychologist or LCSW. Our outpatient mental health practice, Beautiful Minds Medical, Inc., focuses on wholeness accessible to anyone desiring personal growth and mental health. Please visit our website, www.beautifulmindsmedical.com, or contact us at 530-889-8780, ask for Gary.

VEGETARIAN CULINARY ARTS PROFESSOR to teach vegetarian culinary arts classes at Southern Adventist University, advise students and participate in service/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. Send 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; southern.edu/hr.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor in counseling education for graduate/undergraduate programs and to provide clinical supervision. Doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision from CACREP-accredited program, or doctorate in clinical/counseling psychology from APA-accredited program required, and experience in counselor education prior to July 1, 2013. Candidate must be licensed/eligible for licensure in Tennessee and have two years of clinical mental health or PK-12 school counseling. Submit 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; southern.edu/hr.

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a dynamic and visionary leader for its Department of Health, Wellness and Physical Education. Qualifications: strong commitment to Adventist Christian education; Doctorate degree with curriculum awareness in one of the following areas: physical education, kinesiology, physiology of exercise, health education, or exercise science; minimum of 3-5 years of experience teaching physical education, health, wellness and related fields; at least two years of academic supervisory experience. To apply, visit www.wau.edu/careers.

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 - Kendra Haloviak Valentine
- ✓ **Reaching our Exiting Young Adults**
 - Ben Lundquist
- ✓ **The Pastoral Family**
 - Sharon Cress Parker and Jennifer Newton

"Never draw back. The Lord will make the right impressions upon hearts, if we will work in unison with His Spirit. I have words of encouragement for you.... We are to move forward in faith and hope, expecting large things from God." —Ellen G. White, Review and Herald, May 1913

AT REST

ALLEN, GLEN RODNEY — b. Aug. 22, 1922, Boise, Idaho; d. March 28, 2016, Napa, Calif. Survivor: brother, Ted.

AOYAGI, YOSHIYUKI PAUL — b. Dec. 4, 1946, Denver, Colo.; d. March 30, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Maritza; daughters, Tara Heghesan, Melissa Williams; three grandchildren.

BORBA, VERNA — Aug. 13, 1925, Mt. Vernon, Ohio; d. Jan. 15, 2016, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: husband, Demas; daughters, Lisa Pederson; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

BRANSON, ROY — b. July 3, 1938, Portland, Ore.; d. July 7, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: nephews, Brian, Brett. Served as associate dean of the School of Religion of Loma Linda University, director of the Center for Christian Bioethics, taught at Andrews University and Washington Adventist University, founded the Center for Law and Public Policy at Washington Adventist University, founded the Interfaith Coalition against Tobacco, co-founded and became editor of *Spectrum* magazine and president for The Adventist Society for Religious Studies.

BRECKENRIDGE, CHARLES ROBERT — b. Sept. 30, 1939, Yucatan, Mexico; d. April 10, 2016, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Lisa, Mitzi, Stephanie Dickinson, Tiffany; five grandchildren.

BROOKS, JAMES ARLEY — b. May 1, 1923, Hubbard, Ark.; d. Feb. 20, 2016, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. Survivors: wife, Leona; daughter, Karen, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren.

CASSEL, JUDITH RENEE (REISWIG) — b. Dec. 8, 1946, Denver, Colo.; d. March 15, 2016, Fullerton, Calif. Survivors: husband, Richard; daughters, Julie Ho, Debbie Tamayo; four grandchildren; brothers, Oran, John Sr., Robert.

CLARK, THOMAS DALTON — b. March 24, 1931, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. March 24, 2016, Palm Desert, Calif. Survivors: sons, Thomas, Timothy; daughters, Karen Ellstrom, Janies Heinrich; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

COLE, BERTHA LUCILE — b. June 13, 1911, Lodi, Calif.; d. March 22, 2016, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: son, Charles Lester Wheeler Jr.; stepson, Jerry Cole; one granddaughter; two great-grandchildren.

COMSTOCK, BETTY JANET (TONN) — b. Aug. 11, 1933, Lodi, Calif.; d. April 1, 2016, Salem, Ore. Survivors: son, Doug; daughter, Ashley; two grandchildren;

two great-grandchildren; brother, Elverne Tonn. Served as elementary school teacher at Golden Gate Academy, Oakland, Calif., and Livingstone Academy, Salem, Ore.

COOLEY, MOLLIE — b. Aug. 21, 1925, East River, W. Va.; March 24, 2016, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: son, Alvin Cochran; one grandson; two great-grandchildren.

DE BOCK, THELMA — b. March 9, 1919, Beloit, Wis.; d. April 4, 2016, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Barbara Adams, Sonia Senosian; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

DRIEBERG, JUSTIN FREDRICK SCHOKMAN — b. Dec. 23, 1925, Colombo, Ceylon; d. Aug. 3, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ivy; sons, Keith, Denver; daughters: Loretta, Aloma; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Served as a literature evangelist and assistant publishing secretary, Ontario Conference, Canada; assistant publishing secretary and pastor, Southeastern California Conference.

DYKES, BOYCE L. — b. Nov. 23, 1937, Tulare, Calif.; d. Jan. 3, 2016, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joyce; son, Russell; daughters, Laura Cox, Stephanie Petersen.

FRANKLIN, MERRILYN — b. March 30, 1933, San Bernardino, Calif.; d. April 5, 2016, Woodland, Calif. Survivors: son, Ken Crumb; daughters, Barbara Crumb, Annie Crumb, Kitty Crumb; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

HARTNELL, CALVIN — b. Oct. 20, 1923, Bellingham, Wash.; d. April 3, 2016, Portland, Ore. Survivors: wife, Shirley; son, Bryan, Bernard; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

JONES, MAVIS E. (BATY) — b. Aug. 15, 1922, Eagleville, Calif.; d. March 5, 2016, Roseburg, Ore. Survivors: son, Melvin; stepsons, David, Kevin; daughter, Bonnie; stepdaughters, Dawn, Virginia; 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Margaret (Baty) Bobst.

Correction: **KLOOSTER, ARLENE JEAN** — b. May 14, 1925, Glendale, Calif.; d. March 25, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Lynette Tibbetts, Terrill McClanahan; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

LANG SR., ALONZO NICOLAS — b. March 10, 1931, Portland, Ore.; d. April 7, 2016, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife,

Barbara; sons, Alonzo Nicolas Jr., Christopher; daughter, Wendy Wright.

LONGFELLOW, DUANE E. — b. May 28, 1928, Lovell, Wyo.; d. April 2, 2016, Kingman, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Ruby; sister, Veta Mae Wenzel. Served as pastor in Wisconsin, Wyoming, Indiana and Arizona.

LUCKEY, MANLEY J. — b. Feb. 11, 1925, Brawley, Calif.; d. April 10, 2016, Hesperia, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carolyn; son, John; daughters, Ola Smith, Laurie Reisch, Linda Werner; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

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

PETERSON, RAYMOND LEON — b. Jan. 24, 1941, Lincoln, Neb.; d. April 1, 2016, Tucson, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Myna Barlow; sons, Neal, Ned; daughters, Nadine, Natalie; five grandchildren; sister, Gloria June. Served as an electrical engineer at Pacific Union College.

PRICE, HALFORD REID — b. Dec. 23, 1946, Clearfield, Pa.; d. Oct. 28, 2015, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Virginia; daughters, Ginger, Carol; three grandchildren.

RAYMOND, GABRIEL BRANDON — b. March 1, 1976, Napa, Calif.; d. Jan. 26, 2016, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Survivors: wife, Caren; son, Genesis; father, Lee; mother, Judy; sisters, Kirsha, Shannon, Tara, Sharon, Jodi, Felicia.

ROBERSON, WILLIAM H. — b. July 4, 1923, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Dec. 23, 2015, Soquel, Calif. Survivors: sons, Clifford, Brian; daughter, Jeannette; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

SCROGGIN, DONALD K. — b. April 18, 1926, Pasadena, Calif.; d. March 22, 2016, Klamath Falls, Ore. Survivors: sons, Fredrick, Donald, Wayne Jr., Patrick David; daughters, Desiree, Jeanie.

SYKES, IVAN ROBERT — b. June 18, 1919, Battle Creek, Mich.; d. Oct. 6, 2015, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marilyn; son, Steve Morrison; daughters, Judi Paliungas, Rebecca Noel, Donna Shane, Paula Shane; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

ADVERTISING

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2016 Deadlines — Please note that these are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

August: June 28
September: August 2
October: August 30
November: September 27
December: October 25
January: November 28

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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June 2016

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Ed Keyes
President

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.” ~1 Timothy 1:15

Have you ever thought about this verse? I mean really considered what was being said, and who was saying it? I’m sure every sincere follower of Christ at one time or another has felt they were chief of sinners. I have!

This verse was written by Paul many years after his conversion experience. Had Paul written this right after his conversion, he certainly had a right to make the claim as “chief of sinners.”

Remember Paul, or Saul as he was known, was a great persecutor of the followers of Jesus. In fact, he held the coats of those who hurled the rocks at the martyr Stephen. (Acts 22:20) He was on a journey to find more disciples of Christ when he had his famous Damascus Road experience. (Acts 9) Yes, he could easily claim to be chief of sinners at that time. But after many years of serving Christ and suffering for His sake, that doesn’t seem to make sense — or does it?

I can tell from personal experience, when I gave my life to Christ after running with a pretty rough crowd, I felt like I was chief of sinners. In fact, it took many years to get rid of that feeling. Could it be the closer I got to Christ, the uglier my sin appeared? I think this is what Paul was saying.

At this point Paul had many

years to spend time with his Lord and Savior. As he beheld the spotless Son of God in all His holiness — through prayer, visions and study of God’s Word — he realized he could easily call himself chief of sinners for his entire life, but that’s where the great news of God’s Grace kicks in.

The same Paul who said he was chief of sinners said, “We are saved by grace through faith.” (Ephesians 2:8) He also said we “are justified freely by His grace.” (Romans 3:24) Paul says, “by the Grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain...” (1Corinthians 15:10)

I hope we can all say the same. I pray the grace of God for Ed Keyes will not have been in vain, but like Paul, because of that grace, I will labor all the more fervently for my Lord.

Many years ago I was sitting in a Sabbath School class. A retired pastor sitting beside me made a comment I will never forget. He said, “When I look at myself and the life I have lived, I wonder could I ever be saved. But when I look at Jesus and His life, I wonder how could I ever be lost.”

God’s Grace is limitless and is there for you and me today and always!



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.



Cleo Mock Celebrates 100 Years

by Shirley Chipman

Sixteen-year-old Cleo had never been away from her Texas home when she found she was moving to far-off Patagonia, Arizona. Her step-grandmother was in poor health and grandfather was desperate for help.

When the train arrived in Patagonia, Cleo waited anxiously at the train station while the postman carried the news of her arrival to her grandfather who came quickly to fetch her.

This was her first introduction to the beautiful little town of Patagonia which would be her home from that day to the present – nearly 84 years later – as Cleo prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday both in Patagonia and in Calhoun, Georgia.

Cleo is looking forward to her birthday party July 9-10 in Patagonia with her children and grandchildren. There will be family and friends, a lot of great music



Cleo Mock with daughters Noni, Delma and Carol

and the sermon that day will be given by a very special person – Cleo herself. In January an amazing thing had happened; she woke to envision blazing words written across her bedroom wall – *You Must Be Born Again*. She wrote a sermon from that and will present it the day of her birthday.

Cleo took pre-nursing and teacher's training at LaSierra. When she married Dr. Delmar Mock, she thought about getting further medical education, but her husband said, "I'll teach you everything you need to know right in the office with on-the-job training." For many years she worked alongside her husband as the receptionist, assisted patients, did the billing, and whatever else was needed.

The family was very musical – from

Grandpa who won the fiddler's contest every year or Cleo and her sisters who sang in a trio for church and camp meeting, the Mock children, Carol, Winona, Delma and Delbert, who played instruments or sang – and Cleo who played lead guitar with a group on her 98th birthday.

One of her favorite pastimes was her big garden with all kinds of fruits and vegetables. Patagonia is the hummingbird capital of the world, with people coming from all over to see them.

Her garden had hummingbirds and many bird feeders, and she loved to identify the birds.

Just steps from their home, the Patagonia SDA Church was a central part of life for the Mock family. VBS was a special treat for Patagonia children. Led by Cleo, all the children in town were invited. The church was full for those ten days and all the kids were invited to go swimming in the Mock's pool at the end of the day. The local Catholic priest would tell his congregation that this VBS had his blessing and encouraged the families to send their children.

Looking back on her life, Cleo is very thankful to God for how He's directed her, for the love of family and friends, and how she's been able to work with and be a blessing to others.





Historic Granite Marker Unveiled on TAA Campus

By Rondi Aastrup Reynolds

A supportive crowd of Thunderbird Adventist Academy (TAA) alumni gathered the weekend of April 2, 2016 to witness the unveiling of a magnificent granite stone and brass plaque at the entrance of the school.

Gary Duff, a graduate of Thunderbird Adventist Academy's Class of 1961, told the story of the origins of the Thunderbird campus.

He began, "Why do we attend high school reunions? It is a desire to revisit times and places of happiness. We look back to times when we were not quite adults, but no longer children. We had not experienced the anguishes and losses that happen later on in so many of our lives."

He then told the fascinating story of how the Thunderbird campus was a training center for pilots during World War II.

Phoenix Academy became Thunderbird Adventist Academy in 1953 when the government sold a 720-acre package in Scottsdale to the Arizona Conference for just \$1. The Conference moved the campus from downtown Phoenix to the present location which had been Thunderbird Field #2.

Boeing PT-17 bi-planes leased from the Army were used exclusively for a ten-week training course which included all of the basics of flight instruction as well as actual flight experience.

The peak training was reached in November 1943 when 615 cadets graduated. Each cadet had flown approximately 65 hours during the ten

weeks. By the end of operations in October 1944, approximately 5500 young cadets had trained for the next step in preparing for combat. Many became decorated airmen for their exploits overseas, and a lesser number made the ultimate sacrifice.

Duff shared much more regarding the history of the field, including accounts some prominent visitors including Madam Chiang, wife of China's President Chiang Kai-shek; a flight instructor who eventually became Scottsdale's first mayor; and the first educational facility on the Thunderbird campus that would change its name later to Arizona State University. Delta Airlines can also trace its roots back to the campus.

Under the inspiration of Duff, the Class of '61 raised monies for a commemorative stone to honor those men, women and cadets who served their nation at Thunderbird Field #2.



TAA principal Terry Pottle with Gary Duff.

Hopefully, as TAA students walk past the massive granite marker, they will appreciate the history of their school knowing great men and women walked these green lawns and went on to do great things for the United States of America.



Three Arizona Pathfinder Clubs Win Bible Experience Awards

By Manny Cruz

More than 1,200 Pathfinders from across the North American Division arrived in Prescott, Arizona for the North American Division's Pathfinder Bible Experience the weekend of April 15 and 16. A total of 98 Pathfinder teams represented the nine Union Conferences as well as the British Union from Great Britain. Many of the guests stayed at Camp Yavapines. Others stayed in surrounding hotels. The venue was Prescott High School.

The weekend event began with a worship service on Friday night followed by the Pathfinder Bible Experience on Sabbath morning. Each Pathfinder team was challenged with questions from the book of Exodus. Many of the questions required specific answers that only those who had diligently studied could answer.

The 90 questions took about two hours to complete. Several Pathfinder teams had been preparing for 10 months or more. Many Pathfinders had memorized entire portions from the book of Exodus.

When the testing was completed and the last question read, the participants erupted with cheering and applause, and the audience joined in. A sense of relief and excitement was felt throughout the auditorium.



A luncheon was provided following the testing and many friendships and connections were made as Pathfinders from various clubs sat together in the cafeteria. After the meal, Pastor Ken Rogers from the Southern Union led the attendees in the worship service.

Pathfinders provided a variety of special music numbers that included singing, piano, violin, choirs and other instrumentals. The Pathfinders were blessed with messages shared by North American Division Associate Youth Director Armando Miranda Jr. and South England Conference Youth Director Kevin Johns. The Sabbath concluded with the much anticipated awards ceremony where Pathfinder teams were able to find how

they had scored on the testing.

The Pacific Union Conference had 11 teams represented as follows: Arizona with three teams; Central California with two teams; Nevada-Utah with three teams; Northern California with two teams and Southeastern California with one team.

The three teams from Arizona — Tucson Spanish Central, Shalom Spanish and Chandler Phil-Am — were presented second place awards which required answering 80% of their questions correctly.

Congratulations to all the teams for making it to the North American Division level and for taking part in this year's Pathfinder Bible Experience.



CENTRAL Acts

Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



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LOCAL SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE CONTEST

Small but mighty, Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Christian School has won a national prize.

the public about the vital role soil nutrients play in growing our world.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Discovery Education and the Nutrients for Life Foundation, announced the winners of the 2016 Let It Grow Contest. This contest awards more than \$10,000 in prizes to six schools nationwide as part of From the Ground Up: The Science of Soil, an education initiative that offers middle school students a deeper understanding of the importance of soil science.

Out of more than 30,000 entries nationwide, Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Christian School received the votes needed to be named a national winner in the Let it Grow Contest and will receive a \$1,000 agricultural grant and Nutrients for Life Foundation prize pack. Educators, parents and community members entered in the Let It Grow Contest by answering soil-related questions and voting daily for a school of their choice.

Discovery Education is the leading provider of digital content and professional development for K-12 classrooms, and Nutrients for Life Foundation is an educational non-profit that teaches students and

“We are so honored that our community has supported us in helping to grow our science department by voting for us to win this grant,” said Sonya Reaves, principal and K-2 teacher at Oakhurst

Continued on page 4 ►



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CENTRAL Suite

June 19

Teen Bible Academy Starts

June 26

Clerks/Treasurers Training

July 8-9

Pre-Camp Meeting Prayer Walk

July 14-23

Camp Meeting

Aug 10-14

Youth "X" Tour

From the
President



Jesus left us a very practical example for ministry and we are urged to follow in His footsteps.¹ Those footsteps consist of a three-fold ministry approach: that of teaching, preaching and healing, actuated and moved by compassion.²

USING CHRIST'S METHOD TO REACH THE CITIES

In April 2014, *Bridges to Health*, a massive effort to provide free health care to more than 3,000 Bay Area residents in 72 hours took place (see video at: www.vimeo.com/95311484). Organized by the Pacific Union chapter of Adventist Services and Industries (ASI), together with Central and Northern California Conferences, the Pacific Union Conference, Adventist Health and others, the event garnered the full support of the Offices of the Mayor in both San Francisco and Oakland and attracted over a dozen news media outlets. Follow-up seminars were hosted by local Adventist churches and all patients received information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and an invitation to visit a local Adventist church, if they were interested in connecting with a local community of faith.

This was the beginning of a movement now called *Your Best Pathway to Health* (www.pathwaytohealth.org). Several large citywide mega clinic events have now taken place in San Antonio, Texas (just before the 2015

General Conference Session); in Spokane, Washington; just recently in Los Angeles, California; and many other cities are being planned for, including, Soquel/Santa Cruz/Capitola in 2017.

However, as effective as the mega clinics are, and will continue to be, in Central there was a need to develop a small footprint model that could be used on a rotational, sustainable basis and approach. Hence, we launched the *Life Hope Centers* initiative. This initiative calls for each individual to be engaged in local services of compassion in our communities—being the hands and feet of Jesus to alleviate hurting, while providing health and healing.

I am so happy to share that many of our churches are embracing the blessings that come from helping others. *Life Hope Centers* events are now springing up in Central through health fairs, medical outreach events and service-oriented projects around local communities: Visalia, Chowchilla, Santa Cruz, Watsonville,

Hollister, Bakersfield, Fresno and San Francisco, to name a few. Many other local church and area events are now in the planning stages.

In order to develop the *Life Hope Centers* concept, Central has recently purchased six portable dental service units, chairs and related dental equipment, as well as vision equipment, all made possible through the Soquel camp meeting evangelism offering and other sponsors. Additionally, we have purchased a truck and trailer to transport the equipment.

We have also named Pastor and Dr. Ed Urbina, DDS, as the *Life Hope Centers* director, under the leadership of Vice President Steve Horton, to run this vital ministry of compassion. This equipment is now operational and being used to serve local church communities on a rotational basis.

We plan to provide services at the Soquel campground during next month's camp meeting experience. In addition, the 2017 camp meeting theme will be dedicated to the *Life Hope Centers* initiative.

I prayerfully encourage each member and local church to be engaged in ministries of compassion in every area of the Central California Conference.

"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." MH 143



RAMIRO CANO
President

¹1 Peter 2:21 ²Matt. 9:35-38

JOIN THE VISION



Officers' Perspective



DAVE GILLHAM
Vice President
for Education

Lately, I have been thinking more about retirement. Maybe it's because I'm retiring! Yes, after over 40 years of ministry for the church family, my wife, Rosa and I are taking the BIG step. We certainly have mixed feelings. Our whole lives have been wrapped up in ministry. How will it be to no longer be 'needed' by our constituents?

What Bible experiences can I compare this to? I think about Elijah, O.T. school administrator, 'retiring' in a fiery chariot? Then there is Enoch, ante-diluvian friend of God ending his ministry by just disappearing? What about Moses, great leader of God's people, climbing Mount Nebo for his final view of the promised land, completing his last trip as a church leader? I could go on, but wish you to consider one final name: Jesus.

How did Jesus end his ministry? Not having many years notched up on his official church service record form, he ended his ministry with all his labors seemingly having been in vain. Spending only about three and a half years in his position, he must have been viewed by many as a failure. In fact, in our day, anyone that applies for church employment and has only brief stints of service on his/her resume is considered somewhat unstable and unlikely to get a job.

Jesus 'retired,' ending his labors for his church on the cross. He had given his all, and entered 'retirement' via the death of a criminal. His labors, though seeming to bear no fruit, would one day produce the greatest movement in the history of the world.

In closing, I invite you to ponder the eternal promised rest (retirement) in the kingdom of God. May the Lord grant us renewed energy, commensurate to the day, to fulfill, as Jesus did, the purpose for our existence, pressing onward toward the mark of our high calling for our Lord and Savior until that day that we truly enter into his rest.



Continued from page 1 ▶

LOCAL SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE CONTEST

Seventh-day Adventist Christian School. “We are excited to start growing our gardening project and eating the fruits of our labor!”

Launched in 2013, *From the Ground Up: The Science of Soil* offers middle school students, educators and families a suite of comprehensive digital resources including standards-aligned interactive lesson plans, digital explorations, bilingual family activities and agricultural career profiles. Designed to highlight the importance of soil, its nutrients and the science behind sustainable plant and crop growth, these resources are available at no cost and engage students of all learning styles.

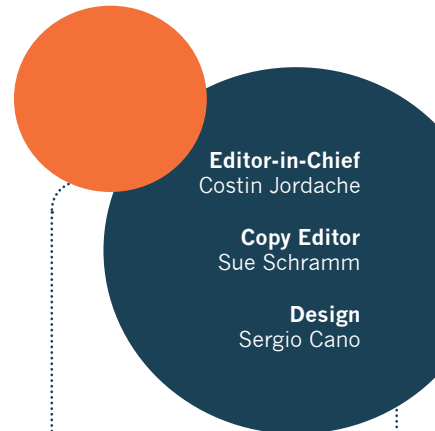
“We congratulate the community of Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Christian School for its active engagement throughout the contest that won their school a national prize,” said Nutrients for Life Foundation chairman and Simplot Agribusiness president Garrett Lofto. “We are proud to award this agriculture grant to help these students learn more about growing plants and the need for crop nutrients for healthy plants.”

“Discovery Education is committed to providing students nationwide with engaging, interactive curriculum and resources that make science both

relevant and exciting,” said Lori McFarling, senior vice president, Discovery Education. “We are proud to continue our partnership with the Nutrients for Life Foundation to offer dynamic digital resources and incentive opportunities like the Let It Grow Contest that connect science concepts to real-world examples through unique learning experiences that enhance student achievement.”

BY KELLIE FLANAGAN AND ALCYIA CHANIN

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HŌ'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

PAGE 2 | Congratulations, Class of 2016 graduates! God has great things in store for your life; plans to prosper and not to harm. You can trust in Him with all your heart.

PAGE 3 | Can we command or control the God of Heaven? Certainly not. But we can trust that when we release control to Him, we receive peace that passes understanding.

PAGE 4 | Kids "bored" already? Summer camp is the answer! Here's the schedule... Also, the children of Kona Hispanic church lead Sabbath school monthly; they'll make great leaders!

GOD WILL DO A NEW THING

One of my great joys is when I introduce a new pastor to a new congregation. I love new beginnings! Recently, I had the privilege of introducing Pastor Vassili Khrapov and his wife, Marina, to the Kahului church. Then the very next week, I introduced Pastor Mike Asuega and his wife, Mila, to the Honokaa church. On these Sabbaths of new beginnings I think of Isaiah 43:18-19 and the majestic promise of God: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

The context of this passage we find the Hebrew remnant facing the arduous trek back to the Promised Land and the challenging



Vassili and Marina Khrapov



Mike and Mila Asuega

demands of rebuilding their lives. Even though there was a sense of insecurity pulsating through their hearts, the fact is that God was with them and promised protection and success.

Even for us today, we must find ourselves trusting in God's provision and protection as we face the challenges of transition, new circumstances and an uncertain future, which can cause anxiety. Yet, during those times we must hear the ringing assurance of Jesus, "I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (verse 19). It matters not the uncharted and uncertain future we encounter, because God will find a way for us: "See, I am doing a new thing!" (verse 18).

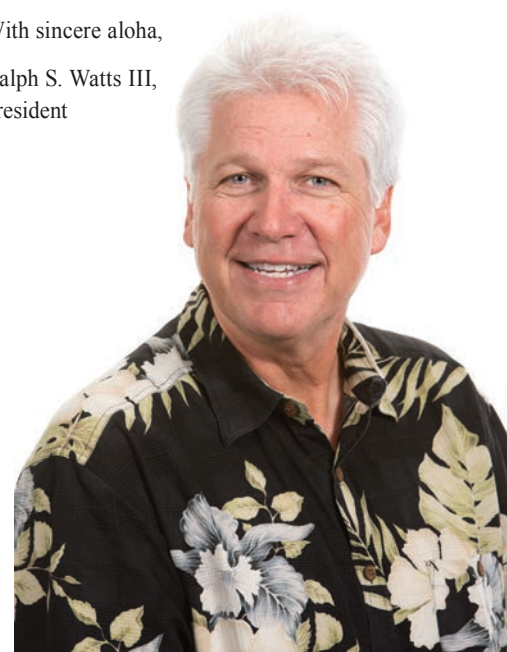
These scriptures and this promise still apply today because God isn't done yet. God wants to do a new thing in all of our lives and His churches. This is a constant theme throughout all of Scripture.

As we welcome the Khrapov and Asuega families to their new churches, we remember

how God made a promise to the church of Israel that He would do yet greater things for them than He had already done in the past. We have every reason to believe He will do a "new thing" in His churches today. Alleluia!

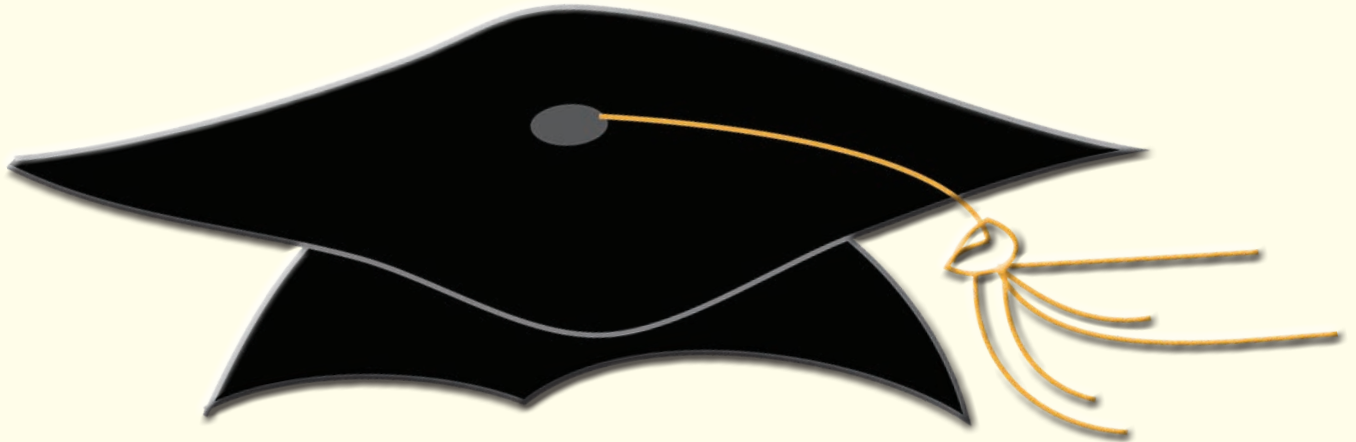
With sincere aloha,

Ralph S. Watts III,
president



Congratulations Class of 2016

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON



The Hawaii Conference congratulates the Class of 2016. We celebrate this milestone with you and wish you the best as you journey forward. Always remember Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

HAWAIIAN MISSION ACADEMY

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Tianni Iokepa
Alana Reiko
Puamaolipihaokeolalauloakalani Kahiapo
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Anaya Realin

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Erica Nicole Bordenkircher

KOHALA ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Prince Singh

KONA ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Larissa Clubb

Ha'ena Paleka

MAUI ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Paul Raciles

MAUNA LOA SCHOOL

Micah Teehee

HOW TO BE FREE

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Control. It seems like we all want more control: to control the weather, traffic, financial markets — the list goes on. Many even want to control God. Faith healers, for example, don't just ask for miracles; they command God to heal. It's called decreeing. They believe asking God's will to heal the sick represents weak faith. Commanding God to do their will is, for them, the mark of a true believer.

I am very uncomfortable with this perspective. Masters and bosses command and give orders. Servants take orders and obey; not the other way around. God is my Father and Master. Commanding my Father (or those in authority) is wrong. God is God, and we are not. His will, the Bible repeatedly informs us, is to prevail on Planet Earth.

So here is an amazing behavior about God when it comes to control. God does not allow us to control Him, but He does allow us to control how much we want of Him. God,

unlike the devil, does not storm into our lives. He waits for an invitation. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). God gives you and me control — control to determine how much we want of Him!

We own a Shih Tzu dog named Simon. Simon loves to get harnessed to go for walks and squeals with joy when it is placed on him. He views his harness as freedom — not



restraint. His harness means he is about to lose control — sometimes it means being pulled in the opposite direction of where he wants to go; but losing control also means that Simon gains freedom to walk the streets. Simon is comfortable losing control when he is with us. Are we, when it comes to God?

It did not take God very long to lead Israel out of Egypt. However, it took 40 years to get slavery out of Israel. Why? Because Israel, as a whole, desired freedom without some of God's commands. They did not make enough room for God in their lives. They witnessed many miracles but self-reliance was still Israel's default point of view. Their fear of confronting giants (losing control) was greater than their discomfort to living in tents.

God gives us choices. We determine how much or how little we want of God through our prayer life and the study of His Word. Each of us has 24 hours in a day. We can choose the extent we want of God's involvement. Sports, Hollywood, internet, computer games and time spent hanging out will influence how much we get of God. You and I, in other words, have control of the "God spigot." The choice is ours.

Are we satisfied with just a dribble of God? We attend church on Sabbath mornings, read the Bible and never skip giving thanks before we eat. Yet, are we settling for spiritual "spit baths" when God is waiting to shower us with His presence and power?

"God opposes the proud [those who seek control] but shows favor to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:5-6).

God's power comes as we give Him control!



KIDS BORED?

Summer Camp to the Rescue!

It's summertime and school is out. Parents fear the dreaded, "I'm bored!" and hear it more often than they can count, even in the first days after school gets out for the summer.

Give your kids an exciting alternative to boredom by sending them to Camp Waianae. There they will make new friends, have fun, and get to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

Our theme this year is "Branch Out," based on John 15:5. When we connect our lives to Christ, we will bear much fruit — that is our goal at Camp Waianae! We want to help our youth know there is a God who loves them and has a plan for their lives. We want them to trust and accept Him as their Friend and Savior.

We have an excellent staff trained to make sure each camper receives top-notch care. Each one has gone through a background check and will make sure your child has the best week of their lives.

If you are an empty nester, consider sponsoring the child of a strapped young couple or a single parent in your neighbor-

DATES	CAMP	AGES
July 3-8	Adventure Camp	6-9
July 10-15	Junior Camp	10-13
July 17-22	Teen Camp	14-17

hood. Camp is a great evangelistic tool for reaching relatives, coworkers, kids from VBS — and even the noisy kid next door.

Let's partner this summer to reach our kids for Christ.

To register for Camp Waianae visit Hawaiisdayouth.org.

Erik VanDenburgh, youth director

Kids at Kona Hispanic Lead Sabbath School Monthly

Children at Kona Hispanic church lead Sabbath school once a month. They collect the offering, lead the song service, offer prayers, and share messages. Why? Here's what members say:

"Children are not the future; they are the present."

"This helps them develop and become great leaders as they grow."

"This is an opportunity to participate in leadership positions so that they are better prepared for the future."

Do children have a place in your church where they can learn to lead? How do we train them to serve others? Every church can prepare children to lead and serve for the future by giving them a chance today.



KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

“YOU CARE FOR PEOPLE
AND ANIMALS ALIKE, O
LORD” (PSALM 36:6).



How Great Thou ART!

In this issue . . .

NCC Women's Ministries
Offer Support
and Friendship



Free Health Clinic
Helps Hundreds
in Oroville



Redwood Creek
Camp



VOLUME 14
ISSUE 3
JUNE 2016

I am very thankful for many things in my life. One of those items from my “thankfulness list” is the fact that I have lived the majority of my life in the western part of the United States. I realize that there is something positive to be said for every part of our great country. But, having been born, raised and employed in California, I especially appreciate the grandeur of the mountains that are ever-present here.

No matter where I may be in the West, it doesn't take long to see or even go to the great hills and mountains.

When my wife and I moved to Michigan for further education, one of the first things we both noticed was the lack of mountains. After we drove down the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains and headed across the Great Plains, we very quickly began to recognize the flatness of the landscape all around us. And for the two years we were away from “home,” we often remarked to each other how much we missed seeing the mountains.

For me, looking at the massive, towering, immovable magnificence of our mountains, I find a sense of strength, of awesome wonder and of peace for my life. I find

my heart resonating with the words of that great hymn, “How Great Thou Art” (inset).

The Psalmist David spent a lot of time in and around the mountains of Israel during his fugitive years hiding from King Saul. He found safety and solitude there, as well as opportunity to communicate with God. Many of the psalms he wrote

*“When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze,
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!”*

CCU License #1262243

make reference to hills and mountains. Two of my favorites are these:

“I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!” (Psalm 121:1,2 *New Living Translation*).

“Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O Lord” (Psalm 36:6, *New Living Translation*).

God wants us to trust Him with our lives—both now and for all eternity. He gives us knowledge and experience about Himself that should give us confidence in His promises. Like David, when we consider our lives in relation to God, we can see the towering, majestic power and immovable strength that are found in Him. He is our help, our strength, our righteousness and our hope. My response to Him can be nothing less than this: “Then sings my soul . . . how great Thou art!”

Peace.



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

NCC Women's Ministries Offer Support AND FRIENDSHIP



At the conference and local levels, Northern California Conference women's ministries events are making a difference in the lives of church and community members.

NCC Women's Ministries Presents Leadership Conference

In January, the NCC Women's Ministries Department presented its annual leadership conference. More than 200 women attended the event, titled "Turning Points: Healing Hearts for Ministry," held at the Orangevale church and Orangevale SDA School. The speaker was Pacific Union College Associate Chaplain Shantel Smith, whose theme was "Unfinished Business."

"She brought healing for women who had painful issues in their lives," said NCC Women's Ministries Coordinator Mary Jo Lauderdale. "Many women were moved to ask God for his healing mercy and to bring forgiveness into their hearts."

Breakout groups dealt with various topics, such as grief, healthy living, hormonal balance, women of power, being still in God's presence, and healing and restoring transformation. After hearing an update on the Congo Widows Mission Project, attendees gave over \$11,000 in offerings and commitments.

light refreshments. "It was so relaxing to take part in the massages, pedicures, etc. And of course it was refreshing for our spirits to be able to socialize together," said church member Michelle Moore.

This year the team added a prayer walk, which gave the women an opportunity to refresh their souls. "Each stop had a special note with suggestions for our thoughts and prayers," said church member Phyllis Sawvell. "I found the time very meaningful and continue to use the thoughts expressed in the prayer walk in my personal prayer time."



Community and church members enjoy a tea party at the Vallejo Berea church, which included a vespers program, shoulder massages, makeup tips and an opportunity to take home gently used clothing. (Photo: Cherlyn Morgan)

Vallejo Berea Church Hosts Tea Party

The Vallejo Berea church's "Ladies of Berea" sent out invitations to an April "Community Tea Party," inviting women who had previously attended other church events. One woman planned to come, but had to cancel at the last minute, leaving her friend to go alone. "[My friend] was concerned about not knowing anyone there," the woman told church member Cherlyn Morgan. "But she called me after she got home and told me what a wonderful time she had and how welcomed she felt."

Morgan was happy to hear that the woman felt she belonged at the event. "This is what God instructs us to do," she said. "Show others Himself through love."

(Top) The Orangevale SDA School Girls' Chorus sings for the leadership conference. (Photo: Davina Brown)
(Top Middle) PUC Associate Chaplain Shantel Smith speaks about "Unfinished Business." (Photo: Anna McMillen)
(Top Bottom) The NCC Women's Ministries Advisory Council works together to provide training, resources and encouragement for local church women's ministries. (Photo: Davina Brown)

(Below Top) Janice Deardorff, Keira Redfield, Alexandra AcMoody and Pauline AcMoody discuss nail care.

(Bottom) Marilyn Fridley gives Lori Redfield a foot massage. (Inset) Vicki Sagara and Joanie Fox enjoy a foot soak. (Photos: Anna McMillen)



Grass Valley Church Treats Women to Spa Day

By Anna McMillen, who is co-chair of the Grass Valley church's women's ministry team.

In February, the Grass Valley church held its third annual "Pamper Yourself" Ladies' Spa Day, attended by about 60 women from the church and community. Hosted by the women's ministry team, women of all ages were invited to come to the church for an afternoon of free spa services. Pampering services included manicures, chair massage, facials, foot and hand treatments, and hair trims—all provided free of charge by local vendors. In between appointments, women enjoyed



Free Health Clinic Helps Hundreds IN OROVILLE

For nearly 250 people, the free health clinic held Sunday, April 3, at the Southside Oroville Community Center was an opportunity to receive specially delivered health care they otherwise couldn't afford. They were willing to navigate waiting lines for eye exams and glasses, dental cleaning, x-rays, extractions and fillings—all provided free by volunteer professionals. Though vision and dental services were the most sought-after, both routine and urgent medical care were chosen by some. Pap smears, skin cancer checks, out-of-control hypertension, diabetes and dog bites were among the issues addressed.

Led by the vision of service springing from Oroville physicians, Randell and Melinda Skau, a team of more than 160 volunteers from Oroville and across Northern California converged on the center to blend their energy and skills during the all-day event. The Oroville church sponsored the clinic, with support from the Golden Feather church. "People drop through the cracks [of health services]," said Pastor Larre Kostenko, Golden Feather/Oroville district pastor. This clinic provided those services under the aim, "Healing Hands - Caring Hearts - Sharing God's Love."

The Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) provided equipment, organizational and financial support. An early boost came from Oroville Hospital CEO Bob Wentz, who offered phlebotomists and lab services, medical supplies, financial counselors and more. Southside Oroville Community Center donated the use of the facilities. Other organizations and individuals followed with

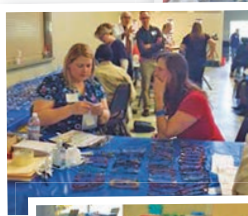
generous support, sharing Randell Skau's passion for helping "people to get well and find relief from suffering and pain because that's what Jesus did," he said.

"What was satisfying for me was seeing the smiles on people's faces before—and even after—dental work. And the fact that it was all free made it even better!" said Daniel Orozco, a nurse working in the dental supplies area. Non-medical volunteers supported the care providers and helped clients navigate the treatment "tracks," often acting as interpreters in one of the eight languages available. Another popular service was professional massage provided by two local physical therapists.

Dentist Randy Landis, who directed dental services, took the demanding pace of the clinic in stride, efficiently working between several patients. One of his grateful clients had seven teeth removed in one sitting. Eleven other dentists and four hygienists joined him for all or part of the day, working from simple stations with patients reclined on zero-gravity folding chairs. Two teams made of seven workers cleaned and re-sterilized instruments on site.

LaFreedra Thomas, chaplain at Oroville Hospital, found that clients were eager for support at all levels—body, mind and spirit. Counseling was provided to those in need. One of the highlights of Thomas's day was offering a prayer of thanks with a woman who had just been prescribed a pair of glasses—her first since 1990. "She was so *thankful!*" said Thomas.

By Kathy Nixon, who is communication secretary for the Golden Feather church.



(Top) Clinic volunteers work to sterilize dental instruments. (Left Middle) With the help of volunteers, clients select frames for their new—free—glasses. (Bottom) People receive professional dental care in an unusual setting. (Photos: Richard Myers and Kathy Nixon)



Redwood Creek Camp

During two weeks last July, 15 kids and two staff members publicly committed their lives to Jesus at Redwood Creek Camp. Eighty campers in all enjoyed a fun and meaningful summer camp experience at Cookson Ranch, located 30 miles east of Arcata.

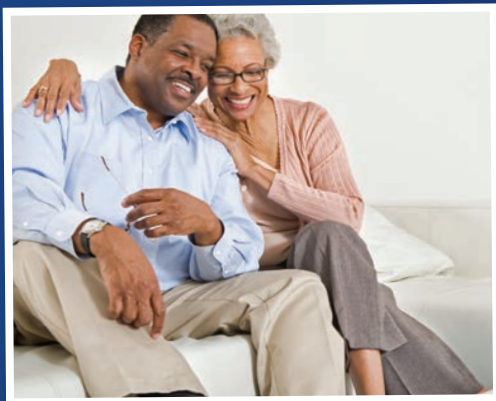
Each summer, the majority of kids get to attend Redwood Creek due to the Campership Program, operated by the Orleans church, which provides financial assistance as an outreach to local kids who don't have many opportunities to have fun in a Christian environment. "They're making friends and memories to last a lifetime—and getting to know God better," said Jeanette Quinn, campership coordinator.

The camp is managed by a board composed of representatives from local Adventist churches: Arcata/McKinleyville, Eureka, Fortuna and Orleans. This year's camp dates are July 3-10 (ages 9-11) and July 10-17 (ages 12-15). For more information, visit www.redwoodcreekcamp.org.

To help a local kid have the time of his/her life at camp this summer, please send a donation to Attn. Treasurer, Orleans SDA Church, PO Box 220, Orleans, CA 95556. Please indicate on the memo line: RCSC Operating Fund or Campership Fund.

Photos: Jeanette Quinn

~ IRA Rollover Gifts ~



Charitable IRA Giving

Congress has changed the rules for charitable gifts made from IRAs. If you are over age 70 ½, the federal government now permits you to rollover up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity without tax.

To learn more about IRA Rollover Gifts please visit our website or feel free to give us a call.



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REDWOOD CAMP MEETING

JULY 21 - 30, 2016



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

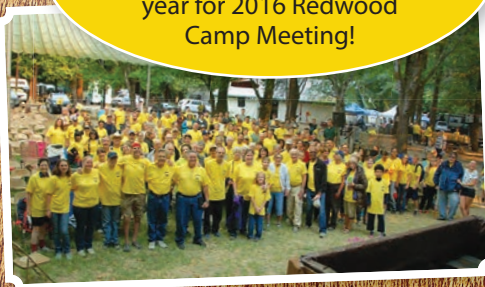
This summer's Redwood Camp Meeting theme is the second of a five-year series focusing on Christ's method of evangelism, as described in Ellen White's book, *The Ministry of Healing*.

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.

For a complete list of speakers and seminars, visit www.nccsda.com/redwoodschedule.

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

2015 Redwood Attendees:
Don't forget to bring your yellow community service shirt from last year for 2016 Redwood Camp Meeting!



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Nevada-Utah Views

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

June 2016

Leon Brown to be New Nevada-Utah Conference President!

On Wednesday, May 4, Leon Brown, Sr., accepted the call to serve as the new president of the Nevada-Utah Conference. The Nevada-Utah Conference's Presidential Search Committee voted to extend him the invitation on Monday, May 2.

"We are excited about the opportunity to work with Elder Leon Brown," said NUC Treasurer Doug Reeves. "We have heard great things about him and look forward to his leadership in our conference."

"God's provision is always right and on time. We can trust Him fully, always!" said NUC Executive Secretary Carlos A. Camacho, in a letter to NUC pastors and Bible workers.

Brown has served as the NCC's African American ministries coordinator, urban ministries director, men's ministries coordinator, and prison ministries coordinator since March 5, 2014. Before that, he served as senior pastor of the Sacramento Capitol City church from 2012-2014, pastor of the Fairfield Community church from 2006-2012, and pastor of the Pittsburg church from 1998-2006. Prior to pastoral ministry, he worked for a decade in business and education.

Born in Jamaica, Brown grew up in Rochester, New York, and graduated from



Elder Leon Brown with his wife Julie

Pine Forge Academy. A firm believer in higher education, he graduated with a double major in theology and business from Oakwood University, and then went on to earn a Master of Divinity and a Master of Business Administration at Andrews University. He also holds a Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Brown has been married for 28 years to Julie Albritton, who works as a program

manager for the San Joaquin County Office of Education. They have two adult sons—Leon, II, a graduate of Oakwood University, and Lawrence, who will soon begin his third year of medical school at Meharry Medical College in Tennessee. In his spare time, Brown enjoys various forms of physical exercise and listening to music.

He is looking forward to this next stage of his life. "When I became a pastor, I surrendered my heart and mind to God," said Brown. "Throughout the years, Julie and I have learned that our commitment to God means that we must always be open to follow God's will wherever He leads us. I am looking forward to seeing how God is going to lead us in Nevada and Utah."

"We are excited about the opportunity to work with Elder Leon Brown. We have heard great things about him and look forward to his leadership in our conference."

Aniiyah Robinson

On Fire for God

By Brenton Henderson, who lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, with his wife Remilyn, and serves as elder of the youth department at the Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist church

On a backdrop of gang violence, crime and unemployment, certain sections of southern California are anything but safe to live in. Not just safe as it relates to health, but safe as it relates to the inhibition



Aniiyah Robinson and her family on Pathfinder Sabbath.

achiever?" she says that she believes in goal setting and then puts her passion behind whatever goal is before her. She believes it is her passion for animals that garners her scholastic results. She has learned the art of keeping her



of scholastic growth. However, there is one young lady who has been defying these odds consistently since she was a little girl. Her name is Aniiyah Robinson and she attends the Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This 12-year-old seventh grader is fully engaged in life and is very quick to profess her love for her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When the rate of arrests and incarcerations of young African American females is rising at an alarming rate, Aniiyah is determined not to be another statistic.

Recognizing this, her parents, after much prayer, made the decision to move to Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2011 to pursue a better way of life.

Aniiyah has the hope of becoming a veterinarian, which is one of her driving forces. She consistently makes the honor roll, is always on the principal's list, participates in the student choir, is active in all school plays, and has achieved the level of Ranger within the Pathfinder organization at the Abundant Life church. Whenever she is asked the question: "what makes you a high

achiever?" she says that she believes in goal setting and then puts her passion behind whatever goal is before her. She believes it is her passion for animals that garners her scholastic results. She has learned the art of keeping her

eye on the prize. "Wanting to help them (the animals) means I have to have good grades. Otherwise people won't bring their pets to me," she says. Anissa Johnson, one of her teachers, is very proud of her and was excited when she was chosen to be featured in this article. Her principal, Janice Stevenson was equally excited as well. She stated that it is very rare for a student like Aniiyah

"Heaven is my goal. Therefore, I know I have to have a real relationship with God if I want to be with Him."

to come along. "When they do you just want to immerse them in academia because they soak it up like a sponge."

Her pastor, Oneil Madden, stated that she is awesome in school and on fire for Christ. Her Pathfinder director stated that she is helpful in every way. Her love for Christ is even more passionate. Her formula for Him is akin to her method for school. "Heaven is my goal. Therefore, I know I have to have a real relationship with God if I want to be with Him." Her simplistic, mature approach leaves one in complete admiration.

It is obvious that Adventist education is effective and it works, not only within the church, but in the secular world as well. Aniiyah is a true woman of God. We pray that her influence of love for God and man will affect change in the world!



S.T.E.M. *at ALCA*

An old nursery rhyme asks, “Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?” I suggest you ask Mrs. Anissa Johnson, 4th-8th grade teacher, and the students of the Abundant Life Christian Academy (ALCA) because surely they would know. Gardens grow with hard work, patience, tender care, and proper supplies that encompass the pure anticipation of the students as they daily watch the miracles and handiwork of God happen right before their eyes! You know it’s a miracle because they are located in the middle of the desert.

Incorporating science, technology, engineering, and math into the curriculum is what S.T.E.M. is all about. After attending the Loma Linda University 2014 EXSEED Conference, Johnson conceived the idea of creating an organic school garden at ALCA to support the science and health curriculum. With collaborative efforts of retired engineer O.C. White, retired welder Thomas Adams, Theresa Adams, and maintenance engineer Gary Lewis, the ALCA team built cinder block containers, erected fences and designed irrigation. Johnson used her “green thumb” to work with her students to produce a beautiful, thriving, vegetable garden, including zucchini squash, yellow squash, carrots, lettuce, and snap beans. The students have also planted herbs, strawberries and corn.

The ALCA garden has a compost bin where students place recyclable food resources that are left over from their lunches. The rich minerals from the decomposed food items are used to help enrich the soil. Johnson uses natural, environment-friendly methods to ward off pests!

The garden is a multi-purpose venture.

Firstly, it serves to stimulate the scientific minds of the students and to increase their desire for healthy vegetables as alternatives to sweets. Secondly, it serves to focus their minds on the mighty power of God to create. This is emphasized when school worship is held in the garden. Thirdly, it serves as a community outreach venture because the crops will be shared with needy families in the community.

The school garden is one of several STEM-based initiatives integrated into the ALCA curriculum. The initial funding for the garden was provided through a generous donation to the school in support of S.T.E.M. activities. Additional thanks goes to Janice

Stevenson, head teacher, and Pastors Oneil Madden and Marvin Clarke for their spiritual support of this educational venture.

*By Janice Stevenson,
head teacher at
Abundant Life
Christian Academy
in Las Vegas,
Nevada*

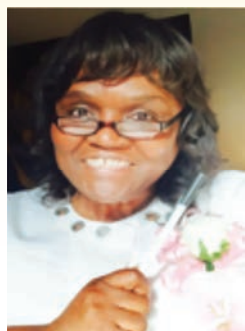


Anissa Johnson and her students harvest the squash with her students. The students invite others to join them at Abundant Life Christian Academy.



By Janice Stevenson,
head teacher at
Abundant Life
Christian Academy
in Las Vegas,
Nevada

Going Forward!



In the middle of the Mojave Desert, encompassed by the Sierra Nevada Mountains, sits the city of Las Vegas. There you can find an oasis. Not just the fertile land where water is plentiful in the middle of the desert, but the spiritual oasis of the Abundant Life Christian Academy, a school where the angels of God love to dwell. A school that is fertile with the blessings of God flowing freely.

This year, God saw fit to allow 32 students to grace the hallways of this campus at some

point during the year. Those students have been taught of the Lord and academically enriched; which is evidenced by their standardized test scores.

The faculty, staff and school board consist of 16 dedicated, committed individuals who give sacrificially of their time, talents and means for the educating of these students. The fervent prayers of many have been instrumental in enabling the students to reap the benefits of the Nevada Choice Scholarship Program. Not only are they blessed through the scholarship program, but we also have many committed donors who give unselfishly to the school and individual students. This school year, we will finish with a positive financial report.

S.T.E.M. education and differentiated instruction is evident not only when you walk the hallways and peek in the classrooms, but also through dramatic performances that teach spiritual truths in unique and creative ways. Looking outdoors you can see the flourishing garden (see page 3). Grades 4-7 Teacher Anissa Johnson leads out in the gardening project. She continues to nurture and care for it, with the aid of the students. Already, the students and community have been able to share in the bountiful blessings of the produce from the garden!

All the team players — the school board members; Johnson; Sintia Regino, the bilingual registrar; Barbara McDavid, teacher's aide; Erica Brown and Clarence Brown, PE instructors; Elizabeth Boyd, lunch room and recess supervisor; Associate Pastor Marvin Clarke, Bible instructor for grades 4-7; Senior Pastor Oneil Madden, spiritual advisor; Mrs. Charlotte Epane, home and school leader; parents, students, and other supporters; and yours truly, Janice Stevenson, principal and teacher of grades K-3 — realize that they have had some great "plays" this year and sometimes they have fumbled, but by the grace of God, we are determined to stay in the race and go forward. We are almost home.

Upcoming EVENTS

Women's Ministry Sabbath
June 11

NUC Pastors Retreat
August 29-31

**Adventist Community
Services Training for Church
Members**
June 10-12

NUC Regional Convocation
September 9-11

**Adventist Community
Services Training for Pastors**
June 13-14

**NUC Hispanic Women's
Retreat**
September 16-18

Let's Move Day
September 18

LLU Exceed Workshop
June 20-24

TLT Leadership Retreat
September 23-25

**Nevada-Utah Conference
Pathfinder Camporee**
July 13-17

NUC Women's Retreat
October 7-9

Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting
August 1-6

**NUC Hispanic Ministry
Crusade – Las Vegas**
November 1-6

National ASI Convention
August 1-6

Stewardship Sabbath
November 5

**Pacific Union Conference
Constituency Session**
August 28-29

NUC Youth Rally – Las Vegas
November 11-13

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

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

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

SECC Field Trips

I have always loved the adventure of a great road trip with people I value and to places I can't wait to see, experience and explore. On April 14, five officers—Jonathan Park, executive secretary; Verlon Strauss, treasurer; Elizer Sacay, vice president for Asian/Pacific ministries; George King, vice president for Black ministries, and I—along with

Mario Perez, assistant to the president, and Chin Kim, associate treasurer,

took a trip to visit 16 churches in Orange County. It is the goal of our team to personally visit all churches and schools in our conference. We want to get beyond the walls of our offices and meet our pastors and educators at their places of ministry. These visits include a tour of the church or school property, listening to ministry realities and dreams in the context of the communities they serve and praying with employees on site.

Our first all-day field trip was on March 4, 2015, to south Riverside County, visiting churches in Hemet, Perris, Moreno Valley and Menifee. The second trip took place on December 2, visiting 13 churches in north San Bernardino County. This day of church visitation took a dramatic turn when

(Top Left) Pictured here is the Orange County Vietnamese church in Santa Ana. (Top Right) This beautiful church is the Santa Ana Spanish church in Santa Ana. (Bottom Left) The conference's administrators went to 16 different churches on April 14, in Orange County to visit and pray, as seen here in the Fullerton church. (Bottom Right) The conference administrators with the New Hope Samoan Company in Garden Grove.



PHOTOS: CHIN KIM

Perez received a text from his wife, Martha, that there was an active shooting situation at her work. We continued to have an inside view through her to what turned out to be a terrorist attack at the Inland Regional Center. We continued visiting churches peripheral to the site as helicopters circled overhead and first responder vehicles raced by. We were reminded of the sanctuaries our churches and schools can be as they reach into their communities.

With each of these

visits so far, we have been in awe of the places of worship, the ministry reports we received, the creativity of the children's spaces, the welcoming grounds, the hospitality of the church and school staff, and the passion our team of pastors and teachers have for their ministry. We also listened to their dreams and challenges and learned of ways we can better support them as they go beyond their walls to impact communities. I give thanks to God for

the sacred spaces our churches provide in the communities they serve.

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President





(Above) Orangewood Academy string ensemble performs as well as the choir twice a day at various locations. (Right) Elementary students at Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus gather together to hear OA perform on Friday, March 18.



Orangewood Academy Choir and String Ensemble Tour Hawaii

After months of fundraising, 35 students making up Orangewood Academy's choir and string ensemble, along with faculty sponsors, landed on the island of Oahu in Hawaii on March 17. Though the highlight of the trip were the musical performances, the group also explored the historical and natural beauties of Oahu, such as Pali Lookout, Waimea Falls, Pearl Harbor, Polynesian Cultural Center, local beaches and hiking up Diamond Head.

The groups gave two performances a day at various churches and schools. Terri Taafe, OA's music director, made an effort to perform in places that don't usually have musical groups visit.

One of the first performances was for 86 elementary students at the Windward Campus of Hawaiian Mission Academy in Kailua. The kids eagerly wanted their picture taken with the OA students after the program. That evening everyone received leis from Samoan church members at their youth vespers.

"The Samoans' friendliness, warm

aments and delicious food made for a perfect way to start the Sabbath," Datha Tickner, OA principal, said.

Most traveling music groups try to perform at the Honolulu Central church, and OA's choir and strings had that privilege also. However, on Sabbath afternoon the group drove to Waimanalo church, where they outnumbered the congregation two to one.

"I think it was one of their best performances," Nate Furness, chaperone and pastor of the Costa Mesa church, said. "The teacher made it clear that every performance mattered, and the students rose to the challenge. They gave it their all, because they were there to minister."

On Sunday, the students performed at an assisted living facility for the elderly. The residents sang along and seemed to appreciate the students' smiles and willingness to talk to them afterwards.

OA senior Fifita Vunileva had the opportunity to teach the choir a song in her native tongue, Tongan. It took a while for them to get the right inflections and words down, but the result was very moving. Every time Vunileva was asked to

lead the choir in singing "Fiki Ta'e Fua" while in Hawaii, the reaction was either applause or tears.

The students also performed this song to the Tongan employees at the Polynesian Cultural Center. Once they started singing it to them, the employees realized they knew the song and joined in singing.

The students not only explored God's nature, but also their own spiritual lives.

"As a pastor going as a chaperone, I felt the time riding in the bus was very meaningful," Furness said.

Often when Furness was with the students, they would ask for spiritual advice. Several times they had an impromptu worship service, at which Furness would talk, listen and pray with them.

This is Taafe's second year at Orangewood Academy as music director and her first big tour.

"Getting to watch most of these students experience Hawaii for the first time was very rewarding," Taafe said. "But my favorite thing was how much they enjoyed singing and performing. It really showed the audiences how much the students loved their music."

by Datha Tickner, with Jessica Anzai



(Far Left) Orangewood Academy choir performs at one of the multiple churches in Hawaii. (Left) Between performances, students pose for a picture on the beach in Oahu.

(Right) Alberto Ingleton, vice president of Hispanic ministries, and Norma Alban, initiator of Hispanic education ministry, pose with a celebratory cake that reads, "Educar es Redimir, Ministerio de Educacion." (Far Right) Don Dudley, superintendent of education, and Alberto Ingleton, vice president of Hispanic ministries, thank attendees for their support in Hispanic education ministry during the weekend of March 4-6.



Operation Rescue Education: Impacting Children for Eternity

The conference Hispanic ministries department achieved a significant milestone in March.

The Office of Education, Hispanic ministries, 20 Hispanic churches and various schools pioneered a cooperative movement to promote Adventist education for Hispanic children and youth. During the weekend of March 4-6, the newly minted Hispanic education ministry hosted a spiritual enrichment weekend, topped off with a celebration Sunday morning on the official launch of the ministry to the churches.

In January of 2015, Hispanic pastors, under the leadership of Alberto Ingleton, vice president for Hispanic ministries, responded to the need to enroll more Hispanic children in

Adventist education. They did this by establishing the Hispanic education ministry.

Norma Alban, the driving force behind the movement, said, "The project name is *Operacion Rescate Educacion* (Operation Rescue Education) because we are rescuing our children from public schools and because our belief is that as Ellen White said, 'In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one'" (*Education*, p. 30).

Following its organization, more blessings flowed. In March of 2015 a substantial \$62,000 seed money fund for ORE was established to assist parents in transitioning their children to Adventist schools. Participating churches that accepted the challenge to transfer five or more K-12 students from secular

education to Adventist education were each given \$2,000. The funds are being invested in a variety of fundraising projects organized by the parents to grow the funds to use again the following year.

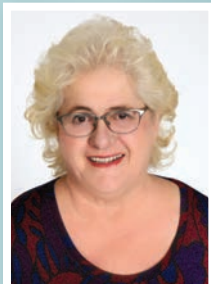
Operacion Rescate Educacion began during the 2013-2014 school year in the Loma Linda Spanish church. That first year, 11 children enrolled in Loma Linda Academy or Redlands Adventist Academy. The second year 14 students participated in O.R.E.; this year 26 children are taking part in O.R.E. Thanks to this program, children are impacted for eternity.

By Mirtha Hernandez-Miller

FACES OF SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

HELEN DOWSER

Helen Dowser teaches high school biology, anatomy and physiology and junior high science at Orangewood Academy. She has been teaching with enthusiasm and dedication over 40 years. Her love for science and bringing it to life for her students is amazing. On February 4, she received an unusual phone call from the Orange County Parenting Magazine and was informed that she had been named



one of the top ten teachers from both public and private schools in Orange County.

Her classes and labs are interactive, lively and creative. She likes to challenge her students to think critically and research things themselves before just giving them answers.

OA celebrates Helen Dowser's 43 years of teaching, 33 of which have been at the school. "Our school is lucky to have such an outstanding teacher and I am very proud of her and this monumental recognition," said Datha Tickner, OA principal.

Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible Xperience (June 12-16)
6-8:30 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Come hear the Happy Daddy Band play, attend a parent seminar, grab a bite to eat at the cafe or maybe browse the VBX store. Info: www.lluc.org, 909-558-4570.

Sizzling Summer Kick Off (June 17)
3-9 p.m. Coronado Island, Coronado. Start the summer off right by joining us at the annual SECC Youth Sizzling Summer Kick Off. Come enjoy God's creation and celebrate Him! Info: Liz Adams, 951-509-2260, email syaa@seccsda.org.

Spiritual Parenting Workshop (June 25) 3-6 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Michelle Anthony, author of "Spiritual Parenting," will hold a parenting workshop at Loma Linda University church. Translation into Spanish is available. Info: Manny Vitug, 951-509-2269, email childmin@seccsda.org.



(Above) Jonathan Park, executive secretary, preaches during the special service. (Right) The founding members of the Hemet Spanish church are recognized and acknowledged.



PHOTOS: ENNO MÜLLER

Hemet Spanish Organized as a Church

About 40 members in the Hemet Spanish group gathered together in March 2000, not knowing how much they would grow. Almost 16 years later, on Dec. 19, 2015, more than 130 members gathered together to celebrate their accomplishment in becoming a church.

Becoming Hemet Spanish church is more than just an accomplishment of a title, however.

"The members are happier and more willing to work hard for church events now," Daniel Rumrill, pastor of Hemet Spanish church, said. "There is a completely different atmosphere."

One example is a yard sale that the church members held to benefit their school, Hemet Christian school. Before, whenever an event of this type happened, members were not as willing to go. This time, many people came and donated items and participated in the

yard sale. The church members ended up raising more than \$3,000 for their school.

The journey to become a church can be a long process, but Hemet Spanish demonstrated the necessary criteria in becoming one, even purchasing a building along the way.

"Pastor Rumrill shows unique qualities as a spiritual preacher by challenging members to reach out to their community," Alberto Ingleton, vice president of Hispanic ministries, said. "Men and women came to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the church grew spiritually and numerically."

In May 2015, Hemet Spanish members celebrated their new place of worship, which in the past had been the location for the Department of Motor Vehicles. Their original offer for the building was rejected by the seller; their second offer was \$50,000 lower and accepted.

At the end of the dedication, everyone was joking about their new church being a DMV building.

Sandra Roberts, president, and Jonathan Park, executive secretary, present the official church certificate to Daniel Rumrill, pastor of the church.

"We'll drop the 'D' and keep the 'MV' for 'Missionary Volunteers,'" Rumrill said.

One goal the church has is to grow to 200 members and fill up the church, and then start a group in the city of San Jacinto. As of April, the church had 145 members and more than 200 in attendance.

Another goal is to pay off the remaining amount on the building. Everyone works together to achieve these goals and serve others at the same time. Five other retired pastors help Rumrill, along with Lucy, Rumrill's wife.

"There is no doubt that they'll continue to be a light in their community and gather all their necessary funds to be able to own their building," Ingleton said.

In the past, there were struggles of identity and establishing a connection with leaders in the conference. Through lots of prayer and being faithful to God, Hemet Spanish finally succeeded in becoming a church after existing for more than a decade.

"A phrase we use a lot is 'The church where you will find the love of Jesus,'" Rumrill said, "and that has become a reality."

By Jessica Anzai



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

JUNE 2016

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

*Junseok Lee
Ordained to the
Gospel Ministry*



*Working the
Pre-Dawn Shift at
Pathway to Health*



Evangelism



Gerard Kiemeney
Director, L.A. Metro Region

MEETING, MINGLING AND MINISTERING, *for Christ*

In a previous editorial (March, 2016), we mentioned that once a person has experienced the love and grace of God in her/his life the natural impulse is to share that good news with other people. The editorial's appeal was, "Do it now—share your story today."

The "How" of sharing the Good News can be done in a very natural way—a way which a group of young adults refer to as SHIFT—Sharing Him in Familiar Territory.

The inspiration for this natural way of sharing Jesus comes from the following statements:

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior 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." (MH 143.3)

This statement identifies the 3Ms of ministry: meeting, mingling and ministering. Before we pursue these three components, we need to at first address

the state of the heart and mind.

"He showed sympathy for them." Sharing the good news of Jesus' love and grace stems from a converted heart. Effective evangelism is rooted in the compassionate/relational heart of Jesus dwelling in our hearts through His Spirit. We share the good news when we have genuine interest in the temporal and eternal welfare of fellow humans. Jesus' compassionate heart led Him to meet, mingle and minister to others. As He mingled with others, His sympathy for them led Him to minister to their current challenges and needs. It is His passion/compassion dwelling in us through His Spirit that motivates and energizes our reaching out to others.

Meeting people. We are surrounded by hundreds of people in our daily lives, but do we take time to meet them, to connect with them? It seems to me that, in North America, our "high-tech" society has left us in a "low-touch" frame of mind. We are too absorbed with tablets and smartphones so that rather than being tuned in, we are tuned out to the world around us. Is it possible

that our North American technological communication devices have contributed to an increase of personal isolation? Has the Internet medium supplanted the experience of actually meeting the people around us? Take time to look up and out; make it a point to meet one person every day.

Mingling with people simply means "hanging with" those within our daily circle of influence. Technology will never be a substitute for the personal touch, the smile, the listening ear, the personal connection. In my classroom at La Sierra University, I invited students to touch their fellow classmate gently on the arm. What was the result? A deeper appreciation for the personhood of their classmate and a personal warmth that could only come from human touch. What the world of high-tech needs is high-touch. The world needs our Spirit-led high touch. Imagine how our personal quality of life will improve if we prayerfully take the time to mingle with others. So begin today, tune in and "hang with" others. Take time to

cont. on page 2

listen, converse, laugh and connect with those to whom the Spirit is prompting you. Mingle with people at home, at the store, at work; wherever you are. As you commit to mingling, remember that mingling is not a single event but a lifestyle. It takes time, but is very much worth the effort. Spiritually, where would we be if Jesus had not had time to become man and mingle with us?

Ministering to People. By mingling, we will begin to see opportunities to

share God's grace and change the world "one person at a time." So often we hear of grandiose evangelistic plans where the "masses" will come to Jesus, but as we observe the ministry and life of Jesus, He was never too busy to minister to one person. In the Scriptures, we see Him on the streets of Galilee, Jerusalem, Samaria, etc., ministering to one person at a time. He was never too self-absorbed to care about the plight of anyone in His presence. Take the time to mingle and then ministering the grace

of God will naturally follow. As Jesus met, mingled and ministered, it naturally followed that He bade them follow Him.

There is one more M beyond the three Ms that I want to share with you. Once you have ministered to others, take time to **mentor** the person you have invited to Christ and also invite others to join in the movement of meeting, mingling and ministering to others.

Junseok Lee ORDAINED TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

On April 15, 2016, the Cerritos Korean church celebrated the ordination of their associate pastor, Junseok (James) Lee.

Lee and a younger sister were born in Seoul, South Korea to Woo Young Lee and Young Hee Kim. He was born into an Adventist family and educated in Adventist schools. Lee was active in leading the Adventist Youth organization in his church. He also served as a choir director and was a member of the Voice of Hope Choral. Currently, he is a member of the Three Angels Chorale.

In 2002, Lee came to the U. S. He studied theology at Hartland College and was working as a voluntary youth pastor at Nova Korean Adventist church for two years. Following graduation, he returned to Korea and married Haeng Nam Lim in 2008. Junseok and Haeng Nam have three precious little daughters: Michelle, Olivia and Sophia. "So I am known as the father of many daughters," said Lee, with a smile.

In 2008, Lee pursued his Master of Divinity degree at the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Following graduation from the seminary, he received a call from the Cerritos Korean church for its English Ministries. Currently, Lee serves as an associate pastor for Korean Ministries at the church.

Since 2013, Lee has been the producer of the Korean Faith for Today Television program (KSCI 18-1; Sundays from 8:30-9:00 a.m.).



Pastor Se Bong Im (r), senior pastor of the Cerritos Korean church, introduces his newly-ordained associate pastor Junseok and Haeng Nam Lee, as church elders and SCC administrators look on.

The program is spreading the gospel 24 hours, 365 days a year worldwide, through the Web.

"I believe that the God of Ebenezer, who has led me till this point of my life, will continue to guide and lead me for the ministries to come," said Lee. "I want to live as a messenger of the gospel. Fifteen years ago, my father gave me a memo just before I came to the United States, and truly this message has been a blessing on my journey: 'We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history' *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 196 (1902)."



"The number 40 is a significant one in many stories in the Bible," said Elder Junseok Lee as he addressed the congregation during his ordination service. "I am almost 40, and though I have had many ups and downs in my life, Jesus has remained faithful; He led me to this moment. I am thankful that He has prepared me to do His work and I rededicate myself to His service."

Working the Pre-Dawn Shift



AT PATHWAY TO HEALTH

Pathway to Health required a lot of volunteers. In Los Angeles, April 27-29, 4,300 volunteers from all over the U. S. and from other countries came to the L. A. Convention Center on a mission to help bring free health services to thousands of area residents.

In addition to those volunteers was a team of persons who worked off-site at the Olympic Korean Adventist church. Their mission? To prepare and distribute up to 1,700 breakfasts each morning to volunteers staying in the two convention hotels.

“We actually began the work of prepping the breakfasts on Tuesday, April 26,” said James G. Lee, Jr., the SCC administrator overseeing the local coordination for the event. “That first day changed the tenor of the entire week for us,” he said. “Tillie Sakai, leader of the breakfast team and a very active and dedicated volunteer year round, fell and broke her hip. In addition to the deep sadness we all felt because of her tragic accident, we needed the Lord’s guidance about how we could move forward with the demanding task of preparing breakfasts.

“We were blessed with a quick response from two Northern California volunteers: Peggy Williams, a volunteer

who had led in previous Pathway meal preparation, led the team, assisted by Connie Huitt. Others on the team included members of the Olympic Korean and other SCC churches. As many as 20 students from Los Angeles Adventist Academy also helped, providing energy and strong assistance for the work.”

“It was easy to focus on the ‘what’—our task of packing 1,700 meals each day,” reflected Tony Yang, pastor of the English Ministry at the Olympic Korean church. “But as I saw how many people the clinic was helping, God helped me to see the ‘why.’ The meals were a small way to give the volunteers strength and energy to do their work. And through their healing ministry, lots of people saw Jesus. That’s what it was all about, and it made it all worthwhile.”

In addition to purchasing, prepping and actually cooking the substantial breakfast menus, the meals had to be assembled, packaged and trucked to the



Breakfast-crew members came together at 2:00 a.m. each morning to finalize and bag the breakfasts for delivery by 4:00 a.m. to the volunteers staying in the Sheraton and Downtown L. A. hotels during the Pathway to Health mega-clinic.

two convention hotels in downtown L. A., by 4:00 a.m. each day. So the volunteers, who began their work each morning at 2:30 a.m., loaded the sack breakfasts into rented vehicles for the 10-minute ride downtown. They were met at the hotels by volunteers Gerard Kiemeny and Luis Pena, L. A. Metro and Hispanic Region directors, respectively, who made sure the earliest-rising volunteers received their breakfasts.

Other volunteers were needed in the same early hour to guide volunteers to buses rented by SCC so they could arrive for their duties in time. Volunteer

bus dispatchers were also on hand at the end of the day, to make sure volunteers wanting to ride to the hotels found their buses in time.



Early-rising volunteers prepared and bagged 1,700 breakfasts for P2H volunteers. Photos courtesy of Olympic Korean church



Early morning volunteers board bus for the Convention Center after receiving their sack breakfast.

SCC EVANGELISM



P2H Health Information Centers Follow Up at 76 Locations



*James G. Lee, Jr.
Evangelism director*



*Betty Cooney,
Communication/
Health Response
Committee*

When the Pathway to Health mega clinic ended April 29, tired but blessed volunteers breathed sighs of relief for the help given to 8,500 patients.

But pastors and members at the 76 SCC church Centers of Health Information were praying for renewed strength and energy. Their task was to gear up to receive P2H patients who would come to them for their lab test results.

To prepare the lab test results, a team of volunteers came together from local churches, with the primary team coming from the Glendale and Central Filipino churches. This faithful team worked with Pathway volunteers Pastor Bill Lindeman, assistant coordinator, Exit One Management; and Cheryl Lindeman, Follow-up coordinator. The conference committee room served as the work site. Volunteers worked steadily to sort test results so they could be placed in boxes identified by church name and number. Though the work of preparation was tedious, the volunteers worked steadily and cheerfully, then put the sealed reports into boxes with churches' names.

Not seen in the committee room "beehive" of volunteers were a number of doctors who worked long and late, signing off on lab test results. These included Drs. Julie Bryson and Jason and Belen Lohr. Other doctors, including Rodney McKeever and Schubert Palmer who, along with several nurses, served in the churches, helping patients understand their lab test results. Thomas Biehl provided tech support for both Pathway to Health and the follow-up.

Pastors and lay leaders came to pick up test results on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the Convention Center event, then opened their churches on Wed. and Thurs. evenings so patients could come for their test results. Doctors or nurses waited at the churches, too, so they could go over the test results. Where indicated by laboratory doctors, health professionals referred patients to their doctors for follow-up. In addition, they suggested lifestyle seminars scheduled that

weekend at their churches.

"We learned from the experience that having the test results and the start of health seminars at the 76 locations all in the same week right after Pathway to Health had both an upside and a downside," said James G. Lee, Jr., vice president. "Some laboratories did not get their reports in as early as we had hoped, which meant extended preparation time and more than one trip by pastors or coordinators to pick up the results."

"One the upside of the close scheduling," noted Betty Cooney, SCC Communication director and chair of the Health Response Steering Committee, "the timing meant that the Pathway event and its benefits for both patients and volunteers were still freshly in mind.

"Another lesson we learned in hindsight, however, was that the exit process at the Convention Center in which patients either chose or were directed to a particular church needed advisors with long-term association with SCC churches as well as area geography. This would help avoid patients being directed to locations some distance from their homes or work."

Despite delays and occasional confusion, volunteers and pastors as well as patients responded gratefully because of the treatment they had received. One patient emailed, "Just wanted to write you and say thank you once again for affording us this opportunity. Unfortunately, we did not get the dental, but we are still very appreciative of your generosity and kindness."

Immediately after the first post-Pathway weekend, one pastor called in to report, "On Sabbath, two or three patients came to our church," said Vasco Brown, associate pastor of the Norwalk church. "One person requested Bible studies and began studying that Sabbath afternoon. All three of the patients attended the lifestyle presentation and natural lifestyle cooking class that evening."

Health Information Centers represent all five SCC regions and include 18 Spanish churches, as well as churches sharing health and spirituality in 10 additional languages. Because it is the largest P2H follow-up to date, the General Conference "Mission to the Cities" initiative has plans to follow and report on the Southern California Conference follow-up plan. SCC follow-up includes a two-week bridge seminar called "Live Long, Live Strong" starting June 5 and concludes with four weeks of gospel ministry, starting June 19.



Volunteers help sort lab reports for patients to pick up from Health Information Center churches. Marcy Rood, Helen Rivero, Salvador Wong; Back row, Sam and Helen Adarme.