

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> JULY 2016



16

GOD'S CLOSET

Becomes NAD Ministry

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about the cover

Redding, Calif., church member Merryl Tschoepe is the founder of God's Closet, a community service ministry now adopted by the North American Division.

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The Path to Victory

This political season certainly has captured the interest of many with its twists and turns.

One oft-repeated phrase used by both major political parties' presidential aspirants is "a path to victory," which is, for them, securing the necessary number of votes in primaries and caucuses to acquire nomination from their respective political conventions to compete for the presidency of the United States of America, the most coveted position of U.S. politicians.

Their objective is clear.

While we may not say it in the same way, the Christian also has a "clear path to victory." Victory is competitive language. It recognizes a battle, a fight or a warfare that is entered and engaged. And certainly we realize that we are in a fight for our souls. We are engaged in what Ellen White called the Great Controversy. It is really between Christ and Satan. But, by the mere fact we were born on Planet Earth, we are in the midst of the battle, too.

Hymn writers acknowledge this fact. "Onward Christian Soldiers," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus," and many other songs reflect this motif. And the Bible certainly reminds us that there was war waged in Heaven, and continues on this rebellious planet (Rev. 12:7).

This victory, of course, is not for an earthly office. The Bible tells us "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

Countless individuals from ancient times have found the path to victory over the evil one.

Consider Esther, the queen who was chosen by King Ahasuerus (a.k.a. Xerxes in modern translations of the Bible) to replace Vashti as queen when she refused to display her beauty at a banquet the king held.

Space limits the re-telling of the narrative here, but a few powerful points are revealed in the biblical text.

Chosen for her beauty, she, a Jew, was in a prominent position to affect the king's attitude in favor of rescuing her people from genocide prompted by the evil scheming of Haman, an egoistic politician, who had risen in the king's court.

Remember, Esther hadn't disclosed her heritage on the advice of her cousin, Mordecai. But, learning of Haman's plot of national execution of the Jews, he told Esther that she should use her influence with the king to stay the mass killing of her people.

Mordecai spoke to Esther, "Think not with yourself that you shall escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if you altogether hold your peace at this time, then shall their enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; . . . and who knows whether you are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14).

What a moment in history. Had Esther come to the kingdom for this moment? Was this her destiny, planned out by God to serve as His messenger of deliverance? What did Esther do? She instructed Mordecai to call all the Jews to fast for her (Esther 4:14). Maybe there was praying, too. Through an amazing turn of events, the Jews were spared from the genocide.

We are living in momentous times. These are the closing moments of Earth's history. Sometimes the path to victory may seem obscured, but it is clearly presented in Scripture.

Our victory is in clinging to Jesus, Who declared that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). He is our path to victory and the "Savior of the world" (John 4:42). Not only is He our path to victory, He is our victory.

Paul wrote: "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Romans 13:11).

Salvation is near and we have the opportunity of sharing with others outside the faith of Christianity, that God's great salvation includes them.

What is our "for such a time as this" moment? Only God truly knows, and as we draw close to Him, through He will make it clear.

Ricardo Graham



Orville Ortiz Appointed SCC Treasurer

Orville Ortiz, the newly-appointed treasurer of Southern California Conference, began his work in the conference on May 16.

Ortiz came to SCC from the Southeastern California Conference, where he served as associate treasurer. Prior to Southeastern, he served in academy, conference and union settings.

How does he feel about coming to SCC? "Excited," he said, though acknowledging he did not apply for the job. "I never look for a position. God decides where He wants me to serve."

Asked if he would consider coming to the Southern California Conference, Ortiz said he would pray, "Because God has taken me where He chooses," he said. He began his career in an entry-level position in the mortgage banking industry and was promoted rapidly. "Within three years, I was in management," he said.

While working for that company, Ortiz agreed to be the volunteer treasurer of his church in Wisconsin. Since the church had no accounting software, he called the conference office to request a manual and the software. "The church had been late sending remittances, and had no

budget. With diligence, we were able to send timely remittances and construct a budget that helped the church liquidate mortgage debt," he said.

That experience set him on a course he hadn't imagined. Impressed with his work for his church, the Wisconsin Conference treasurer sent an email entitled, "God might be knocking at your door."

"The treasurer hoped I'd be open to considering the business manager's position at Indiana Academy. "Since I have chosen to be open to God's leading," Ortiz said, "I accepted his invitation to interview with the Indiana Conference, eventually receiving the call to serve at the school. This was after both my father, a retired pastor, and my father-in-law shared that they each had prayed for two years that I would work for the church." Convicted, his fiancée Rachel weighed in while he was seeking confirmation. "Orville, are you blind?! Can't you see God wants you there? You have to go!"

Ortiz delivered a resignation letter to his superior the next day. "Is there anything we can do to change your mind?" he was asked. "More money, another position?"

"No, it's about mission and purpose," Ortiz replied with a smile, "and you can't give me that."

Ortiz next worked for the Texas Conference, then for the Southwestern Union Conference; at the latter, as an associate director for Information Systems and a conference consultant. He frequently accepted invitations to preach about stewardship and had an opportunity to



Orville Ortiz

conduct an evangelistic series on a mission trip, "where the Lord gave me the blessing of baptizing three souls."

"No matter where you are," Ortiz reflected, "you're serving God, His church, His people. Your title just reflects the way you're serving."

Approached about serving in the Southern California Conference, Ortiz prayed with his wife and called his dad, who counseled him to read Nehemiah.

"For Nehemiah, the challenges seemed insurmountable. I recognized that I could be facing problems as SCC treasurer that were not human-sized problems, but God-sized problems. Reading Nehemiah impressed me that if God allowed me to be chosen to watch His handiwork, He must be planning to do something special. Why miss the miracle?"

"Treasury work involves handling sacred money that has been channeled through His people. In Leviticus, God said, 'The tithe is holy; it's Mine.' It's a tremendous responsibility. The way we deal with money reveals our intimacy with God. The way we use the money will reflect our intentionality in that relationship."

Sung "Sunny" Oh, SCC's previous treasurer, is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement, exactly one year after officially retiring in May 2015.

Betty Cooney



Orville and his wife Rachel, a graphic designer, enjoy mountain hiking and backpacking.

White Memorial “RoboKnights” Compete in National Robotics for Second Year

The White Memorial Adventist School RoboKnights competed at the National Seventh-day Adventist Robotics League Championship for the second year in a row.

On May 1, 2016, six White Memorial Adventist School students stood in the gymnasium at Sacramento Adventist Academy, waiting to hear the final results of their presentation. This was the second year their school had participated in the Adventist Robotics League, but it was also the second year they had advanced from the regional competition in Southern California to the national-level competition in Sacramento, Calif.

The RoboKnights team, including three female and three male students, had prepared for the Robotics Challenge from early September, 2015. They met at least once a week, working on the four competition areas: robot design, performance, project and core values.

The team developed many different skills during their months of meetings. “Solving a problem earlier can make a big difference later on,” said seventh-grade RoboKnight Isaac San Felipe.

“At first I joined Robotics to have a better understanding of programming, but after our first meet, I realized it would be a lot more than that,” said eighth-grade RoboKnight Emily Montes.

In March 2016, the RoboKnights competed against 22 other SCC and Southeastern California Conference teams at Loma Linda Adventist Academy. After an early morning drive from Los Angeles, the RoboKnights practiced and performed their skills all day before judges. By late afternoon, they were one of three teams given the Championship Award, earning the RoboKnights a slot in the national competition.

Not every Adventist school has a robotics team. Participation in robotics is voluntary, so there has to be a group of students dedicated to forming an active team. The students must acquire a coach, someone willing to attend all of their meetings to provide guidance and support. The team also must pay an entrance fee of \$250 to the Adventist Robotics League and purchase the robot tools and accessories. Some schools apply for grants to cover the



PHOTOS BY FRANCIS LEZCANO-PEREZ

(L. to r.) Genesis Alvarez, Gwen Perez, Emily Montes, Noah Perez, Jake Ampong, Isaac San Felipe.

costs or run fundraising campaigns. White Memorial Adventist Medical Center has sponsored the RoboKnights for the past two years.

Despite its voluntary nature, White Memorial Adventist School Principal David Olivares considers the robotics program vital to his school's curriculum. “Robotics offers a different opportunity for our students who may not play sports; it gives them the chance to be on a team,” Olivares said. “It’s an inclusive program on many levels, open to both girls and boys. You don’t have to be a straight-A student to be involved, you just have to be dedicated.”

“I think other students should join robotics because you get to learn a lot — about yourself, about others and how to work with the robots,” said Jake Lee Ampong, an eighth-grade RoboKnight. “With all of this, you get to have fun.”

The program aims to teach students a good work ethic while learning to program a successful robot. “I learned in Robotics that if you put yourself up to the job, you can do the job,” said sixth-grade RoboKnight Noah Perez.

Seventeen teams from across the U.S. traveled to Sacramento to compete in the nationals all day on a Sunday. Only one team could win the award for Grand Champion, but every team was awarded points based on performance.

The White Memorial RoboKnights left Sacramento outscored by only one team from Florida, which took home the Grand Champion title. Principal Olivares and RoboKnights Coach Michele Cortner were both proud of their students’ accomplishments.

“Robotics is really fun and challenging,” said eighth-grade RoboKnight Genesis Alvarez. “You experience so much and you learn to work with people and make new friends.”

Rachel Logan



White Memorial School's RoboKnights strategize at the Robotics League event.

Mega Clinic Volunteers Follow Up in Churches and Hospitals

The key words coming from patients treated at the Pathway to Health (PTH) mega clinic (April 27-29) were gratitude and awareness, as in “Who are you people?” and “Thank you, thank you, thank you, for what you have done for me!” Cuong Diep is one of those patients. (His name and story appear with his permission.)

“Thank you so much to all the kind, dedicated physicians and volunteers who helped me and others!” Cuong said. He was one of more than 8,500 patients who received care from the 4,400 volunteers at Your Best Pathway to Health Los Angeles. The event was co-sponsored by the Southern California Conference and other church and health entities, including South-eastern California Conference, Pacific Union Conference, the North American Division and General Conference, as well as local businesses and government leaders. Cuong said his heart was touched as Ferrando Urrutia, M.D., his PTH physician, shared that he had been a volunteer physician in the refugee camps for Cambodian and Vietnamese people in years past.

In an emotional moment, Urrutia prayed with Cuong for his health and his family. He continued to the X-ray and surgery areas to have the golf-ball-sized cyst removed from his forehead. The surgery was successful, and the next day Cuong brought his family to the event.

At Pathway to Health L.A., approximately 200 volunteers interpreted in 20 different languages, providing language and immigrant/refugee services and support. Without the interpreters, non-English speaking patients like Cuong might not have been able to receive care.

For area residents speaking languages other than English, thousands of flyers were printed in a dozen languages, including Asian, Russian, Armenian and Farsi languages. In the Vietnamese community, television and radio announcements aired throughout the month before the clinic.

Cuong and his extended family’s care continue with follow-up and visitation through the El Monte Vietnamese Health Information Center, where he now has support and new friendships near his home. “I praise God for His blessings,” Cuong said.



(L. to r.) Ferrando Urrutia, M.D.; Cuong Diep, Pastor Vinh and Cynthia Nguyen.

Pastor Sam DelPozo served as a chaplain and interpreter at the Pathway to Health event. “Nohemi came on April 27 for treatment,” he said. “She needed an interpreter, so Chaplain Annie Stricker from Nevada was assigned to her, to go with her to the women’s medical section. I joined them as a local pastor-chaplain.”

“I cannot believe your church is doing this for the community with no strings attached. I’m so grateful,” Nohemi said, asking both chaplains to pray for her. “I would like to come to a church or to have someone come to my home for Bible studies.” Del Pozo arranged to meet with her.

Pathway to Health follow-up lifestyle seminars were held at approximately 70 locations in Greater Los Angeles in May.

The Community Adventist Fellowship (CAF) in Pasadena conducted the Depression Recovery Seminar in both English and Spanish as a follow-up, with good interest from Pathway patients and the community. Other lifestyle classes were also offered in SCC churches in a number of languages.

Andres Altamirano, a lay member and CAF volunteer at Pathway to Health, assisted and served as a Spanish translator in the surgical area at the Convention Center. “A Hispanic woman who spoke no English came to Los Angeles and noticed people standing outside the Convention Center on the first day,” he said.

“When she found out about PTH, she returned the second day to wait in line.”

The woman had come from Arizona needing help with a tumor that had been inside one of her fingers for years, causing a lot of pain. She was without insurance or money to pay for its removal. “On the day she came,” said Altamirano, “she got an X-ray and plastic surgery. When she came to the surgical unit, I prayed with her and encouraged her.” Following up with her by phone when she returned to Arizona, he found that she was just past the time when the stitches needed to come out, so he arranged for a health professional to remove the stitches when she returned to Los Angeles.

“I had been working a short time as a family nurse practitioner,” said Jhamillia Weekes-Bowers, “when my physician mother, a regular PTH volunteer, suggested that I sign up at the Los Angeles event. During the months leading up to the event, she sent frequent reminders. I declined, because I had just started a new position in San Diego and did not want to take time off work so soon.

“About a week before the Pathway L.A. event, a Hispanic female in her late 30s came in for a regular checkup. During her exam, I noticed a large pelvic mass,” said Weekes-Bowers. “When I questioned her about it, she said she had been diagnosed with uterine fibroids several years

earlier. Her immigration status did not qualify her for health insurance and neither she nor her husband can afford surgery. Instead, she was treated at various county clinics for her chronic iron deficiency anemia, a common symptom associated with uterine fibroids. The patient and her husband have no children and had been trying for over 10 years to conceive.

"Remembering the Pathway event," said Weekes-Bowers, "I called and asked if they could help. They said if she were willing to go to L.A. within the next week, they would schedule her for evaluation and surgery, without charge. All I had to do was order pre-op blood work and fax them the results. The patient was incredulous. She had only hoped for iron supplements for her anemia!

"Pathway to Health took care of everything, in a swift, efficient referral process. It's not even that easy with my insured patients!" Weekes-Bowers added. The successful surgery was performed by OB/GYN volunteers at White Memorial Medical Center.

"I received a big hug from her when she returned for her post-op exam," Weekes-Bowers added. "I'm looking forward to volunteering with Pathway to Health in the future!"

Three Adventist hospitals within the Southern California Conference territory — White Memorial Medical Center, Glendale Adventist Medical Center and Simi Valley Hospital — were also sponsors of Pathway to Health L.A., as well as Loma Linda University and Adventist Health. The more than 100 hospital employees volunteering at the clinic included Kevin Roberts, R.N. and CEO of Glendale Adventist Medical Center. "The Pathway to Health medical mission in Los Angeles inspired our employees in ways that they are still beginning to realize," Roberts said afterward. "Being part of the purely charitable activity liberated us all from the complexities of what we do day-to-day as healthcare providers. Treating people as Jesus did, loving them as Jesus did and, ultimately seeing them as Jesus did — children of a loving God — warmed our hearts, heads and hands!"

"Thirty people came to our depression recovery seminar," reported John Jenson, senior pastor of the South Bay church. "Doctors who hadn't been coming to church in awhile started attending and helping with health outreach; a woman who worked for nearly 20 years in hospital lab work served as registrar for our depression and recovery classes.

"A couple from another Christian church decided to come to our church after he and his wife started attending the plant-based cooking classes that our church annually sponsors. He even volunteered to train to be a facilitator for the depression recovery and anxiety recovery classes!"

*Cynthia Nguyen
and Betty Cooney*



The P2H follow-up cooking class at the El Monte church blessed members and friends. Heidi Carpenter, director of the SCC Literature Evangelism Dept., was the instructor.



More than 100 gathered for food sampling following cooking seminars leading up to and included in follow-up sessions at South Bay church.



Israel Chambi, M.D., conducts a "Diabetes, Undone" class at the Spanish American church.

Loma Linda Academy Family Volunteer Night Draws Hundreds



Survival paracord bracelets, 450 in total, are assembled for service people to be distributed through Operation Gratitude.



Families, students and teachers assemble 3,300 hygiene packs for the homeless in San Bernardino.

More than 600 students, families and local community members gathered in Loma Linda Academy's high school gymnasium for the Fifth Annual Family Volunteer Night. Families spent the evening on March 12 packaging food and toiletries, and performing other activities toward aiding homeless and low-income populations in the area. Activities also benefited military personnel.

The group's efforts resulted in preparing more than 3,300 hygiene kits, 1,200 bags of pet food, 400 bags of soup mix, 1,250 pet toys and 450 survival bracelets for military service members.

The items were delivered to a wide range of charities: Helping Hands Pantry in San Bernardino, San Bernardino Animal Shelter, Paws to Feed pet food bank, Loma Linda Ronald McDonald House and Meals on Wheels.

At one workstation 7-year-old Liana Leukert and her sister, 5-year-old Kaliiegh Leukert, decorated door hangers with strips of fabric tape. Their hangers were among 200 completed for use at the Ronald McDonald House, where families stay while their children undergo medical treatment.

"It's one thing to talk about how important it is to help; it's another to do it," Liana and

Kaliegh's father, Kristian Leukert, said. "It's a good thing to make it a habit in their lives."

Volunteers also crafted paracord survival bracelets for military personnel. The bracelets are made of braided parachute cord and shipped by Operation Gratitude, a care package charity in Chatsworth, Calif., to thousands of U.S. service members.

Hairdressers from Mane Street Salon in Loma Linda attended the event to cut and style the hair of individuals who wanted to contribute to Locks of Love, an organization that creates hairpieces for financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Fourth-grader Madison Kohlfarber sat in a salon chair on the gym stage while a hairdresser cut her long brown hair. "The whole reason why I was growing it was to give it away," she said.

"She's wanted to do this for a while," said her father, Bobby Kohlfarber. "She's been excited for the past month or so about Family Volunteer Night and about donating her hair."

Organizers Kimberly Thomas and Alane Hegstad, along with the Home and School Association, launched Family Volunteer Night in 2012. The past four annual events have resulted in thousands of packaged and prepared items including 12,000 hygiene kits, 1,700

first aid kits, 7,500 cat- and dog-food bags, 1,100 soup mix bags, 385 fleece blankets and last year, 330 paracord bracelets and 300 care packages for Operation Gratitude.

"Family Volunteer Night was designed to give children the opportunity to help those in need in their own community," said Hegstad. "By working together as a family, it inspires kids to care about others and provides a positive way for families to spend time together."

Darla Tucker



Volunteers design cards and bags for Meals on Wheels.

SECC Ordains Brandon Moningka

Brandon Kaipo Moningka was ordained to the ministry on April 30 at the Costa Mesa church. His wife, Christine, and their three children — Kalea, 11, Maile, 9, and Malachi, 6 — participated in the Sabbath afternoon service.

At the time of his ordination, Moningka was serving as Costa Mesa church assistant pastor, but soon afterward he became the associate pastor of Oceanside church.

“Brandon has an infectious, positive outlook on life. He never seems to tire of showing grace and the love of Christ,” said Nate Furness, Costa Mesa church senior pastor, who spoke at Moningka’s ordination. “Our church will miss him, and I know the Oceanside church will be blessed by his ministry, just as we have been.”

Growing up, Moningka never thought he would become a pastor. When he was a 10-year-old student at Loma Linda Academy, he wanted to be a professional stunt man. As a teenager at Redlands High School, he expected to be a performer of some kind. After graduation, he took college classes with the idea of becoming a physician’s assistant. It wasn’t until he was well into adulthood that he acknowledged God’s call to ministry. “My journey was the result of good mentors,” said Moningka.

One of them was Angie Kwik, the youth leader at Loma Linda Indonesian church, where he often attended.

“I don’t know what she saw in me, but she promoted me to be the next youth leader, and I got my feet wet in church work,” said Moningka.

In 2003, the Moningkas married and moved to Hawaii, where Christine had a teaching job.

Four years later, they returned to California, and Moningka enrolled at La Sierra University as a religious studies major. He chose the school as the result of another mentor, Iki Taimi. For most of his college years, Moningka planned to be a religion teacher, but in his final year, he decided to pursue ministry.



Pastors, elders and administration pray over the Moningka family during the ordination service at Costa Mesa church on April 30.



Brandon Moningka speaks during his ordination service at Costa Mesa church on April 30.



Brandon Moningka’s wife, Christine, introduces her husband before he speaks at his ordination service.

This decision was the result of yet another mentor, one of his professors, Wonil Kim.

“La Sierra was one of the best things that happened to my faith,” said Moningka. “It forced to think about the process of my faith.”

After receiving his bachelor’s degree, Moningka became the associate pastor of the Loma Linda Indonesian church. Three years later, he was called to serve part time at the Costa Mesa church, while he earned his master’s degree from the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School at La Sierra University. During this time, he also taught religion to ninth and 10th graders

at Laguna Niguel Junior Academy. In May, he began work at the Oceanside church.

Moningka looks forward to developing one of his favorite parts of ministry — discipleship. Because he was mentored, he wants to help others. “I like speaking and planning programs, but really I like just hanging out with youth and young adults, hearing their stories — being a support system to people. I want to build strong relationships on an individual basis.”

Julie Lorenz



Nate Furness, pastor of the Costa Mesa church, speaks to the audience during Brandon Moningka’s ordination.



La Sierra University Enactus team member Xavier Watson, center, celebrates with his teammates on stage in St. Louis, Mo. after being pronounced national championship winners. Left to right, Kendell Angeles, JT Landenberger, Surya Baraiya, Andrew Parker, Joe Rees with Branden Lai-Lau in back, Sharina Carruthers, Eliza Hakobyan, Daisy Benitez, Nahed Malek in blue, John Thomas, back, Zapara School of Business dean.

OTTO MEJIA/ENACTUS USA

La Sierra University Enactus Wins National Championship

After months of work and hours of practice, the La Sierra University Enactus team reaped its reward with a first-place win on May 17 at the Enactus National Expo in St. Louis, Mo.

Approximately 20 La Sierra Enactus team members, led by a six-member presentation team, competed May 15-17 against 118 universities and colleges from around the United States. During the final round, La Sierra took first place for its economic empowerment projects with second place going to John Brown University, third place to Flagler College, and Heritage University in fourth place.

La Sierra will represent the United States during Enactus World Cup competitions in Toronto Sept. 28-30.

Regional, national and world cup events are held each year by the Enactus organization, an international nonprofit based in Springfield, Mo. This is the La Sierra team's seventh national title during its 25-year history, an unprecedented string of national wins. The team last brought home the national trophy in 2007, going on to win the world cup that year in New York City. The team won its first world cup event in Amsterdam in 2002.

During competition, teams from each school give 17-minute, multi-media presentations on the impact of their school's Enactus projects which aim to economically empower and sustain communities locally and in other parts of the globe through entrepreneurial endeavors. Panels of judges comprised of executives from America's leading corporations

decide winners. La Sierra's first-place win includes a \$10,000 prize for use with the team's projects.

Those projects include:

- Mobile Fresh, a partner project with Family Service Association in Riverside in which a renovated commuter bus functions as a mobile grocery store bringing reduced-rate fresh produce and dry goods to areas with few supermarkets. The team, which manages marketing and educational programming for the project, took the Mobile Fresh bus to 40 locations throughout the Riverside area. They achieved 1,800 customer transactions per month this school year with 3,824 people directly impacted. Customers saved up to 50 percent on food costs.

- Enactus Field Station, Denkanikottai, India, where an Enactus Cow Bank micro-lending program started in 2013 has more than doubled the income of participating families who receive milk cows on loan from the team. The families sell milk to wholesalers, repay the loan and ultimately buy the cow while earning significantly higher income. The team has purchased and loaned 117 cows thus far. Cow Bank entrepreneurs have invested \$154,740 into the local economy and none have defaulted on their loans. The field station last November also established a new micro-lending program involving sewing machines and a sewing school. Thirteen young women completed the program in June, ready to earn additional income with their new skills.



La Sierra Enactus presentation team members Andrew Ranzinger, center left, and Branden Lai-Lau hold up the Enactus national championship trophy while presentation team member Sharina Carruthers, right, cheers. They are surrounded by teammates Tiffani Brown, Kendell Angeles, Andrew Parker, Wessam Rabbady, Joe Rees, Surya Baraiya, Eliza Hakobyan, Daisy Benitez, Nahed Malek, Neil Shah, and Klarissa Bietz.



The La Sierra University Enactus presentation team on stage at the national championship competition. Left to right, Joe Rees, Andrew Ranzinger, Sharina Carruthers, Eliza Hakobyan, Branden Lai-Lau, and Xavier Watson.

Presentation team member and senior business management major Xavier Watson described the moment on stage when the team was pronounced national champion. "It was as if time slowed down and my entire time with the Enactus team flashed before my eyes. In that very moment all the late nights and early mornings, all of the stress, all of the hard work turned into an overwhelming sense of triumph," he said.

Watson will work with the team over the coming months in preparation for the world cup, further honing his presentation skills, working on projects and serving as an executive leadership consultant with other team members. In addition to strengthening his own abilities and confidence, his experience with Enactus deepened his faith in God.

"There is nothing too hard for God and there is no aspect of your life God doesn't want to be involved in," said Watson. "When I see the impact we are having in our community and around the world, I am confident that this is the work of God's children. We are having a real impact that goes far beyond any competition."

La Sierra's Enactus team is based out of the university's Zapara School of Business. John Thomas, business school dean and an instrumental founder of La Sierra's first team, accompanies the Enactus teams to their competitions. He described how proud he was of the team's achievement and their efforts to live out the business school's slogan, "Create Value. Make a Difference."

"These projects are making a difference and the students are doing it on their own time," he said. "We wanted to make sure the students believed in their projects. It was totally student empowered. We let the students lead."

"What a moment for La Sierra Enactus. We are so very proud of these students who have invested so many volunteer hours on significant projects that are continuing to impact hundreds of people in the local region and in India," said La Sierra University President Randal Wisbey. "We are gratified and thankful that leaders from America's top corporations also see the value in our students' projects and have rewarded them for their superb work."

Enactus has 533 universities and more than 16,800 students participating in its U.S. division, and more than 69,000 students participating



The La Sierra Enactus presentation team prays before competition in St. Louis, Mo.

in 36 countries. The organization began in 1975 as SIFE, or Students in Free Enterprise, and changed its name in 2012 to Enactus. Its partners and donors include Walmart, KPMG, Unilever, Ford, AIG, Coca-Cola, and Hershey, among many others.

(Watch a video of the La Sierra team in their Enactus National Expo final round presentation: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SLyeuqp2UU)

Darla Martin Tucker

Fresno Remnant Church Offers Salvation Over the Airwaves

Humble Beginnings

A couple of years ago, Adrian Ramírez, former pastor of Fresno Remnant church, along with several volunteers, started a local 30-minute program that was broadcast twice a week on a secular radio station. They presented health nuggets, Bible topics and Jesus to the community. When Ramírez was called to another conference, it initially seemed as if the radio outreach would come to an end. But according to local members, God had different plans, greater ones.

New Hope

It was during that time that the Terón family moved from Illinois and began attending the Remnant church. The first thing that caught their attention was the radio project. Ismael Terón saw this as God's answer to his prayers. Prior to his move, God impressed Terón to begin a radio station with Christ-centered programming 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"Upon my arrival, Ismael Terón shared his dream of starting a radio ministry in our church, and received much support," recalls Francisco Javier Yépez, pastor of the Fresno Sequoia and Remnant churches. "We began to work on the project immediately and today we have six transmitters up and running." The enthusiasm is growing as the goal is expanding to cover all Central California territory and beyond.

Moving Forward

At the start of the project, there were no funds available to buy an AM or FM radio station. Despite what seemed impossible, church members believed in the power of God and proceeded with planning. Terón believes that God led him to a low power AM transmitter. If installed at the church, it would reach the local neighborhood within a two- to six-mile radius. Yépez presented the opportunity to the entire church, facilitating prayer for heavenly guidance. Donations started coming in and the church board approved the radio project.

"Radio Inspiración" started broadcasting last summer over the internet on

the website MiRadiInspiración.com. On Nov. 25, 2015, the transmitter was installed in the Remnant church and began broadcasting locally on the 1710 AM frequency. Fresno Spanish and Sequoia Adventist churches joined, as well.

Bigger Plans

With four transmitters in Fresno, and at the Hanford and Selma Bilingual churches, the concept of sharing God's plan for salvation over the airwaves is inspiring more and more people. "I praise God for the radio ministry. What excites me the most is to know that this ministry originated as a lay-led initiative," explains Antonio Huerta, Central's Hispanic Ministries director. "Now, greater plans are in store for this ministry. We look forward to the thousands of people who will hear the good news of salvation through Radio Inspiración."

"Radio and television are powerful tools for evangelism," concludes Terón. "We are just God's servants willing to do whatever is needed to bring the Good News to others. All we can say is, 'Here I am! Send me, Lord.'"

For information on transmitting in your community, visit www.miradioinspiracion.com.

Teresa Bonilla



Volunteers mount the antennae on the Fresno Remnant Church building. Jóvenes voluntarios instalan la antena en el edificio de la Iglesia de Fresno Remanente.



Ismael Terón (left) and Francisco Javier Yépez, Fresno Remnant church pastor, celebrate Radio Inspiración's inauguration day. Ismael Terón (izquierda) y Francisco Javier Yépez, pastor de la Iglesia de Fresno Remanente, celebran la inauguración de la Radio Inspiración.

Salvación a Través de las Ondas Radiales

Humilde Comienzo

Hace un par de años, Adrián Ramírez, pastor de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día Fresno Remanente, junto con algunos voluntarios, iniciaron un programa radial de media hora que se transmitía dos veces por semana, en una emisora de radio secular. Presentaban temas bíblicos, consejos de salud y lo más importante a Jesús en la comunidad. Pero lo inesperado pasó cuando el pastor Ramírez tuvo que mudarse a otra área. Al parecer este proyecto llegaría a su final. Sin embargo, Dios tenía otros planes mucho más grandes.

Nueva Esperanza

Durante ese mismo tiempo, la familia Terón se trasladó de Illinois a Fresno y comenzaron a asistir a la Iglesia Remanente. Lo primero que les llamó la atención, fue el anuncio que hizo el pastor Ramírez mientras transmitía el programa de radio. Ismael Terón vio esto como la respuesta de Dios a sus oraciones. Antes de conocer este proyecto, Dios ya había impresionado a Ismael para que comenzara una emisora de radio, cuya programación cristo-céntrica fuera transmitida 24 horas al día, 7 días a la semana. Y “¿por qué no en Fresno?” —se preguntó.

“Al llegar a mi iglesia como nuevo pastor, Ismael Terón compartió su sueño de iniciar un ministerio de radio en nuestra iglesia, propuesta que recibió mucho apoyo” —recordó Francisco Javier Yépez, pastor de las iglesias de Fresno Remanente y Sequoia. “Comenzamos a trabajar de inmediato en el proyecto y ahora tenemos seis transmisores en funcionamiento” —agregó el pastor Yépez. El entusiasmo crece a medida que el objetivo se está extendiendo a través de todo el territorio del centro de California y más allá.

Avanzando

Al comienzo del proyecto no había fondos disponibles para comprar una estación de radio AM o FM. A pesar de lo que parecía imposible, los miembros de la iglesia creyeron en el poder de Dios y procedieron con la planificación. Dios dirigió a Ismael para que encontrara un transmisor AM de baja potencia. Si se instalaba en la iglesia, alcanzaría al vecindario local dentro de un radio de 2 a 6 millas. El pastor Yépez presentó esta oportunidad a toda la iglesia, seguida de las oraciones para recibir la conducción divina. Las donaciones comenzaron a llegar y la junta de la iglesia aprobó el proyecto.

“Radio Inspiración” empezó a transmitir el verano pasado por el Internet, en el sitio web miradioinspiracion.org. El 25 de noviembre, 2015, el transmisor fue instalado en la Iglesia Remanente y comenzó a funcionar localmente en la frecuencia 1710 AM. Las iglesias hispanas adventistas de Fresno y Sequoia también se unieron.

Planes Más Grandes

Con cuatro transmisores en Fresno y en las iglesias bilingües de Hanford y Selma, el concepto de compartir el plan de Dios para la salvación



La programación del aire comienza en la Radio Inspiración, en la frecuencia 1710 a.m. On-air programming begins at Radio Inspiración on the 1710 AM frequency.



La programación incluye temas para niños. Programming includes content for children.

de las almas mediante las ondas radiales, está inspirando a más y más personas.

“Alabo a Dios por el ministerio de la radio. Lo que me entusiasma más es saber que este ministerio tuvo su origen por la visión de laicos” —explicó el pastor Antonio Huerta, director de los Ministerios Hispánicos de la Conferencia Central de California. “Ahora hay planes más grandes esperando ser realizados en este ministerio, deseamos de todo corazón que millares de personas puedan escuchar las buenas nuevas de salvación a través de Radio Inspiración. Nosotros solamente somos servidores de Dios, dispuestos a hacer lo que sea necesario para llevar las buenas nuevas a los demás. Todo lo que podemos decir es: ‘¡Aquí estoy, envíame Señor!’” —Concluyó el Hno. Terón.

Para obtener más información acerca de esta transmisión radial en su comunidad, visite www.miradioinspiracion.com.

Forty Years of Wandering Ends with New Hmong Church

On April 9, the Fresno Hmong Seventh-day Adventist congregation consecrated the second Hmong church in the North American Division.

A Look at History

Over the past century, Adventist missionaries have traveled to the far corners of the world. In the 1950s, Richard Hall and his wife were the very first to enter Northern Laos, followed shortly by Abel and Ofelia Pangan. By 1959, Pangan had developed a Tribal Training School with the objective of teaching the Bible. The Hmong people were quick to embrace Christianity and soon spread the message to their home villages.

When the Communist party took over Laos, the group of Seventh-day Adventist believers fled to Thailand and rebuilt the training school, and continued their education. Many became missionaries to fellow Hmong in nearby mountain villages.

Throughout the Vietnam Conflict, the Hmong supported the U.S. troops. North Vietnam came to hate the Hmong people for this alliance with the U.S., so the Hmong sought asylum on U.S. soil. The first refugees arrived in 1975 as they fled persecution, human rights violations, military attacks, ethnic cleansing, and religious freedom violations. Initially, 3,466 were granted asylum as official refugees.

The second wave of immigration took place in 1980, with nearly 250,000 refugees arriving in the U.S. by the turn of the century. Today, there are 91,000 in California, including 32,000 of those in the Fresno area.

It Gets Personal

Throughout the 1980s, Peter and Mary Nicholas, along with Chris Ishii, then-senior pastor of the Fresno Asian church, planted the work for the Hmong/Lao people. They secured a building in the Hmong village for worship, and the Nicholases began working with the Hmong youth and children. One young Hmong man showed “fire” for the Lord and wanted to formally study to become a pastor. With



Central president, Ramiro Cano looks on as Neng Lee, Fresno Hmong pastor cuts the ribbon.



All attendees were served a vegetarian luncheon following the service.

the financial help of the Nicholases, Neng Lee completed his ministry studies in 1990, earning a bachelor's degree from Pacific Union College.

The Hmong people began worshipping together on Sabbath afternoons at the Fresno Asian church, where church elder Peter Chan taught and worked with the children. When

Dayton Chong arrived as senior pastor in 1996, he started a Friday night Bible class for the Hmong youth. These classes continued for four years with Hmong young adults making decisions for baptism.

Neng Lee returned to the Central Valley, serving as a Bible worker with the Hmong people



Fresno Hmong members at the previously rented church facility.

in both Visalia and Fresno. By 2000, there were 30 families worshipping together. They formed a group and continued to grow. Lee fostered the collective unity of the people. By April 2015, the Fresno Hmong group had been voted as an official company with Lee as their pastor.

The Journey Continues

A church committee was formed to search for their future home. The property had many criteria that needed to be met. It must be in the southeast area of Fresno near the highest concentration of Hmong, be the right size, and have the right amenities to aid the growth and outreach plans, among others. After months of prayers, and one visit to the property, they knew God had led them. "After 40 years of the wilderness, here is the door to the promised land," reflected Martha Vang, a member of the Hmong congregation.

Looking Back and Forward

Nearly 140 people gathered for the ribbon cutting and inaugural service at the new church building. The divine service was complete with stories of the Hmong members' journey, and the spiritual message presented by Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference.

"For so many years, the Hmong people lived without a country, and they worshipped without a church," Cano explained. "And now

we rejoice! They are a people with their own sanctuary, and the field is ripe. We look forward to the future with great anticipation, knowing that God will continue to bless this ministry."

Among other guests were Central's Asian/Pacific director, Manuao Mauia, with a monetary gift from the Pacific Union, along with Hmong Adventists from Northern and Southern California conferences.

Plans continue to develop for more effective ways to engage with the Hmong population,

including the continued production of a television show produced in Fresno in the Hmong language. Meanwhile, the church building will give local leaders a ministry center to facilitate all of these outreach ministries.

"This is not an end of an accomplishment," concludes Kee Lee, Fresno Hmong company elder, "but the beginning of a journey."

Sue Schramm



Guests arrive in Hmong native dress to emphasize their heritage.

God's Closet Outreach Grows to Become NAD Ministry

Take an Adventist tradition, put a unique spin on it, and you have God's Closet — the result of an inspired idea by Merryl Tschoepe, a Redding church member. Begun in 2009 as a local church outreach in Spokane, Wash., God's Closet is now an official ministry of the North American Division. "I'm amazed at what God has done with this ministry!" said Tschoepe, who moved to Redding several years ago. "This is very exciting!"

For decades, churches have distributed used clothing to people in need. Tschoepe built on that idea when she envisioned turning the experience into a fun and relationship-building event. Not only do families find clothes for their kids, they also find friendship and spiritual

support. "God's Closet reaches the community and it costs churches basically nothing," said Tschoepe. "People are so grateful — because times are tough, and clothes are expensive."

As many as 600 people have attended a single God's Closet event. Currently there are 15 local chapters of the organization, including two in Canada and one in Australia. "I thought 'Why not 10 times that many?'" said Maitland DiPinto, NAD director for community engagement. After hearing about the program, DiPinto visited two local chapters and felt impressed by what he saw. "God's Closet meets a real need, and it gets our members engaged in our community in a holistic way that makes a real impact," he said.

Each local church chapter of God's Closet hosts four "free shop day" events during the year, when parents and grandparents can select new

and gently used children's clothes, shoes and bedding, donated by individuals and businesses. A family pays an entrance fee of \$1 to cover expenses, and then they can "shop" for a certain number of bags of clothes, depending on how much is available. People who come

PHOTOS BY KEN MERZ



God's Closet founder Merryl Tschoepe stands with Bill McVay, Redding church pastor, at the May 4 free shop day.



Church and community volunteers work together to sort clothes the day before the "free shop day."



God's Closet volunteers — including Anne Haddad — provide an hour of free childcare so parents can shop in peace.



Filed by Pieter Damsteegt, Maitland DiPinto conducts an interview for the NAD training videos.



Larry Taylor hands out cups of hot chocolate to waiting families.



Judy Nicholas gets ready to give away new pairs of kids' pajamas.

a day early to help sort items receive an extra bag of clothes. At every event, God's Closet volunteers ask clients to fill out a registration card. The card asks if they would like more information about children's programs and offers Bible studies and prayer.

Each congregation can tailor the event to fit their community's needs and their church's personality. For example, more than 30 Redding church members volunteered at the May event. They served a pancake breakfast, gave each mother a present, and distributed balloons and literature. As an extra gift, each family received one or two pairs of new kids' pajamas.

DiPinto likes the way that community members are encouraged to volunteer alongside church members. At the most recent Redding event, 23 community people came a day early to help — more than half of the people working to set up the event. "The church is building a relationship with the repeat volunteers," he said.

The NAD is currently working on plans to share the program throughout the division. In the past, Tschoepe trained new leaders individually — a time-consuming process — but soon online training videos will be available to inspire church members and to give practical advice. "It's like a cooking show," said DiPinto. "You show the final result and then you say, 'Here's how to do it. If you follow these steps, chances are you'll have a successful ministry.'" He also plans to provide materials that interested church members can download, such as instructions and sample forms.

As the NAD takes over the ministry, Tschoepe plans to work closely with her local chapter, as well as help the division-wide organization in various ways. She stresses the blessings that she and other volunteers receive as they help others. "There's nothing like working for God," said Tschoepe. "It has strengthened my faith. I have seen the miracles."

One recent miracle took place in Redding. As an incentive for people to turn in the

registration cards at each event, Tschoepe conducts a drawing for a food basket. "Before selecting a winner, I always pray over the cards," she said.

When she delivered the basket to a local mother, the woman told her: "I was not surprised at all that I won. When I was standing in line filling out the card, I told God I needed the food. I have six children, and I'm in dire financial straights."

"I got chills when she said this to me," said Tschoepe. "When I see God at work, that straightens my faith!"

For more information about God's Closet, visit www.godscloset.com.

Julie Lorenz



A huge team of volunteers makes God's Closet events successful at the Redding church.



Parents and grandparents choose clothes, neatly arranged by size.

In Their Own Words: Rio Lindo Adventist Academy Students Volunteer in Thailand



Gabby Lua, a senior from Galt, samples the local cuisine.

Over their school's spring break, a group of 32 Rio Lindo Adventist Academy students and five sponsors traveled to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to minister and do service projects. Working with Quiet Hour Ministries, the volunteers split up into smaller groups to provide medical care, paint a church, and conduct a Vacation Bible School and evangelism series for local villagers.

By the end of the week, 21 local people were baptized. In addition, the volunteers had helped 202 people receive medical care, distributed more than 500 pairs of eyeglasses in four locations, and finished painting and styling a church in the countryside. They also made a lot of friends, especially with the children.

Every student who went on the trip returned home eager to help others in need and hoping to return to Thailand someday. Here are some of the students' personal accounts of the trip.

"As I took blood pressure and blood sugar from various Thai villagers, I saw how gracious and thankful the people were after we were

done. Very few people who had high or low blood pressures and blood sugars actually knew that they had an issue. After we finished with each patient, every single person — young or old — took the time to say thank you. After witnessing this and then coming back to America, it's easy to see how different our cultures of gratitude are. When I first ate a meal after coming back from Thailand, I don't think I saw anyone say thank you to the chefs. We just kept our heads down and ate our food. However, in Thailand, every time anyone ate food during a meal, they would thank the cooks. The simple difference between Thailand's respectfulness and gratitude for everything they receive and America's tendency to not see the importance in things until they're gone really impacted how I see the world as a whole." - Sebastian Anderson

"Because of the language barrier, I didn't know if I was going to be able to interact with the kids. Whenever I arrived to help with VBS each night, the kids grabbed my hand and said 'Gabby' and knew that I was there to help them. All I could say in their language was 'hi' and 'good,' but I was overwhelmed at how well we could still communicate and understand each other just by using hand motions and body language." - Gabby Lua

"[One night at VBS] our theme was rainbows, to go along with the story of Noah and the Ark. As I helped my group of girls make paper rainbows, I really connected with them. They started teaching me the names of the colors of the rainbow in Thai. To my surprise they already knew the names of the colors in English. After the adult program ended, we started saying goodbye to the kids for the night. Suddenly two of the girls that had been in my group grabbed their phones and conveyed that they wanted to take pictures with me. I was so touched; it was so funny and cute of them. This evening was a clear sign that I am doing exactly what



PHOTOS BY RIO LINDO ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Sebastian Anderson, a junior from Fort Bragg, encourages kids to participate in a Bible story.



Senior Michael Vasquez, from Santa Rosa, takes the blood pressure of a patient at a traveling health clinic.

God intended for me to do, and I couldn't be happier." - Hailey Johanson

"I spent a couple days as part of the medical team, which was led by a nurse and a nurse practitioner. We students checked patients' eyes, blood pressure, and blood sugar and passed the results on to the lead nurses. At first, it was challenging, but I quickly learned the Thai words for 'good' and 'bad' to communicate to patients about their blood pressure. This mission trip really made me rethink my future, and it helped me open my mind to new opportunities. Because of it, I want to do something that will not only benefit me, but the people around me. I now want to work for others and not just myself anymore." - Estefania Sanchez -Mayorquin

Rika Meyer



Sophomore Hailey Johanson (left), from McKinleyville, leads music for an evangelistic meeting with parent sponsor Marc Selivanoff, of Santa Rosa, and senior Joyleen Mabika, from Riverside.



Kids and volunteers, including senior Estefania Sanchez -Mayorquin (green shirt), from Sacramento, display the Bible crafts they created.



Senior Calvin Luo, from China, hands out stickers to children during the VBS program.

NOTICE OF CONSTITUENCY MEETING OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Lodi Fairmont church in Lodi, California, on Sunday, October 16, 2016, at 9 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive from the officers and department directors of the Conference reports pertaining to the work carried on within its territory since the last conference session and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof.

James E. Pedersen, President
Marc K. Woodson, Executive Secretary

Pathfinders Showcase Skills, Accomplishments at Fair

On April 17, Pathfinders gathered at Kapolei Regional Park for the annual Hawaii Conference Pathfinder Fair. This year's theme was "Piercing the Darkness," which seemed appropriate given the heavy rain forecasted for the island of Oahu that day. "Let's run the schedule as planned," said one club leader. "We are Pathfinders!" Though a few rain squalls came through, the event ran smoothly.

Opening ceremonies included club inspections, a parade, and a short devotion by Pastor Jon Clark. Pathfinders prepared for drill down, booth presentations and field games. The drill down took attendees through basic commands and eliminated those who were too slow or made mistakes. Those who endured to the end were rewarded.

In their booths, the clubs were responsible for showcasing their accomplishments for the year. A panel of pastors volunteered as judges, giving points for creativity, cleanliness and evangelistic effort. Some clubs even had tour guides to explain the booth's crafts, awards and interactive features. One club had Bible trivia games to play. Another had free lemonade and sweets labeled with Bible promises.

All of the field games showcased knot-tying skills. Each club had to build a tent, a flagpole, and a chariot using various knots they had

learned over the year. Clubs were not pitted against each other, but instead given a designated time to win first, second, or third place awards.

While the tent challenge was underway, the rain started, making tent building both more difficult and more rewarding. The chariot race required one Pathfinder to ride a simple platform pulled by two others. Without wheels, the chariot's knots were tested with each bump, causing some to unravel and riders to unsaddle midway. While each event tested the teamwork, skill and determination of the clubs, encouragement and laughter prevailed.

The Adventurer clubs had their own program on the other side of the park. The Kapolei fire station team arrived with three emergency vehicles — a fire engine, a ladder truck, and a pump truck — plus firefighters ready to greet and instruct children on fire safety. Madonna Taueu, who volunteers as the Hawaii Adventurer director, wanted to make sure each child not only learned fire safety, but also had a great time with a hands-on activity. Kids lined up for hours, taking turns touring the trucks and learning to shoot water from fire hoses.

As clubs began wrapping up their displays and personal belongings at the end of the day, the heavy rain began. "It was amazing to be



Aiea Pathfinders stand with their first place flag.

able to lead and guide the younger generation of Pathfinders," said Master Guide Brandon Taylor. "I was able to share the love of Christ within my own community in the city of Kapolei."

Jesse Seibel



Brandon Taylor comes ready to use his Master Guide training to lead other Pathfinders.



Adventurers take a tour of the Kapolei fire truck.

Tagged by Christ

We recently asked Milton Coronado a few questions about his life, art and ministry. Here's what he said:

Editor – Milton, because we're on the West Coast and you are in the Great Lakes region, specifically the Chicago-land area, some of our readers won't know who you are. Please briefly tell us about yourself and what you are "famous" for. I use that word loosely because we all have something about us that people typically identify us with.

Coronado – Well, I am an artist, a youth counselor, and a pastor. My name is Milton Coronado, also known as Milt-one, and Pr. Graff. I was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 4, 1980 from Mexican immigrants, the fourth child in a family of 10 children, not all from the same parents, however.

At a young age of five, my family accepted the Christian faith. One year later, my mother passed away. My father remarried months later but the type of relationship I had with my stepmother led me to a life of rebellion. By the grace of God I was able to graduate high school in 1998. One year after this, my father and stepmother got a divorce.



Just when thinking that life was going upright, the worst happened. In September of 2001, my father was fatally shot in the head, dragging me into a deep physical, mental, and spiritual desolation where I felt hopeless. However, through the outcome of Divine intervention and help from great friends, I was able to get my life back on a veracious path.

Today I am known and "famous" for being a "graffiti pastor" who travels across the country empowering youth, educating parents and community leaders on issues that relate to young people. Through a ministry called Street Art Ministry, I am able to share the love of Jesus, and disciple others through creative mural art and letter style writing.

Read full interview at:
www.inspire.reviews/featured.html



Stories of Faith

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a video is worth millions! Check out the inventory of short video stories we produced about Adventists throughout the Pacific Union Conference.

Visit: www.vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith

inspire 2016

...A Weekend to Remember



On April 15-17, 2016, members and visitors gathered at the Carmichael SDA Church in Sacramento to celebrate creativity and the arts. The event, which has been running three years now (Berkeley, Riverside and Sacramento), is sponsored by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services (CSS) and is called inSpire. CSS focuses its energies on creating culturally relevant resources and efforts to stimulate grassroots ministries throughout the Pacific Union Conference. Other endeavors include a quarterly newsletter with ministry ideas, a smartphone devotional app (SpiritRenew), a Bible study website, a life issues website, the production of short videos, books and training events.

inSpire encourages Adventist members who are gifted in the creative arts (film, music, photography, poetry, songwriting, visual art and more) to use their skills to share God's message of hope and healing with their communities.

This year's activities included a songwriting contest that resulted in 65 submissions from throughout the Pacific Union Conference and the North American Division. Every songwriter was a winner, in that they took the brave step of sharing their music with the world. In the end, seven songwriting judges selected a handful of songs for special recognition.

Listen to the winning songs at:
www.inspire.reviews

Technology *and the Church*

We interviewed Tim Adams about using media in the local church. Technology provides us with powerful tools to enhance our nurture and outreach efforts, but they can also be confusing and distracting. How can we make them an asset?

Editor – Tim, you have a passion for technology, particularly as it relates to promoting quality communication within church and ministry settings. Tell us about your background and how you came to have this interest.

Adams – My beginnings in church tech date back to the mid 1990's when I was asked to help record the worship services at my church. We were using tape cassettes at that point, though we had a pretty slick CD player. I was just starting high school at this time and had started to learn sound mixing as well. I remember running music and effects off a cassette for a production of "Much Ado About Nothing." Let me tell you, that was nerve-wracking!

Read more at:
www.churchsupportservices.org/technology



Resources You Can Use



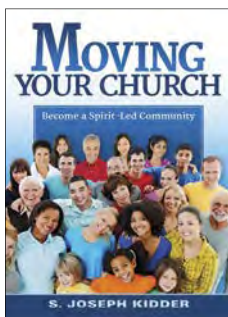
Everyone Welcome (Certain Restrictions Apply), by Roger Hernandez – And what are you doing about it? In *Everyone Welcome*, author Roger Hernandez shares what breaks his heart and gives insight into the deep passion that burns within him for reaching those whom God misses the most. Using the prodigal son and his elder brother as reference points, Hernandez divides his message into three parts:

- **Problem** – an honest look at what ails us
- **Plan** – four practical solutions
- **Preach** – a proven approach to a more intentional evangelistic experience.

As you read, Hernandez requests that you ask yourself these two questions: What breaks my heart? What am I doing about it?

Everyone Welcome is a powerful, insightful, and honest resource for anyone wanting their church to make a difference in their families and communities.

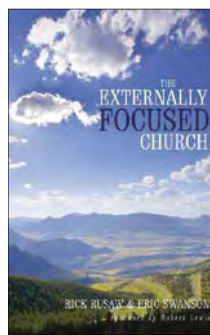
Price: US\$4.99. **Published by:** Pacific Press. **Pages:** 176.
Available At: AdventistBookCenter.com.



Moving Your Church: Become a Spirit-Led Community, By S. Joseph Kidder – When did you last invite someone to attend church? Research reveals that only 2 percent of members invite an unchurched person to church in a given year. That means 98 percent of churchgoers never invite a seeker to church. If your church were to disappear, would the members of your community miss it? Seventy-five percent of the Seventh-day Adventist church members in North America who were asked this question responded, "They don't even know we are here." "That's what happens when members view evangelism as something only pastors and professional evangelists do. Only when the members believe evangelism to be a way of life does the church begin to flourish.

Moving Your Church was written to encourage and equip members and leaders to successfully carry out the vision and mission of Christ in their local community. Dr. Kidder offers us this encouragement: "Through the power of the Spirit, ordinary people like you and me can do extraordinary things for God."

Price: US\$13.99. **Published by:** Pacific Press, 2015.
Available at: AdventistBookCenter.com.



The Externally Focused Church, by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson – If your church vanished, would your community weep? Would anyone notice? Would anyone care?

Learn from churches that have made serving their communities a priority – with dramatic results. Your church can be a firm pillar in your community because of the unwavering truth and love of its members.

Use case studies from churches that have mastered community service, and apply the action steps to:

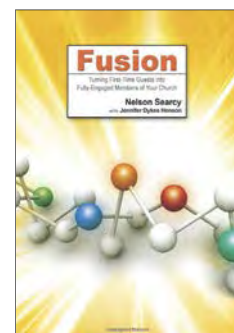
- Attract new believers and reach hurt and skeptical people through service
- Use the resources your church already has to impact those in need
- Learn how churches have made community service a part of their DNA
- Help your members deepen their spiritual commitment through service
- Discover practical ways to change your community – starting now


From the minister to the mechanic and the teen to the tenured, your church will expand God's kingdom when it extends his love to the people in your community.

Price: US\$14.99. **Published by:** Group.
Available at: Amazon.com.

Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully-Engaged Members of Your Church, by Nelson Searcy with Jennifer Dykes Hanson – Engaging, informative, and immediately applicable, this biblically grounded, proven plan for establishing relationships with newcomers prompting them to become fully developing members of our congregations.

Price: US\$12.44. **Published by:** Baker Books, 2007. **Available at:** Amazon.com.



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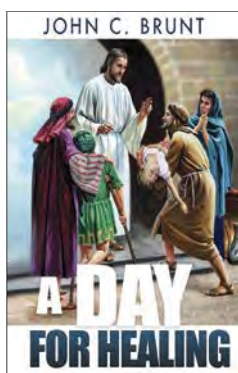
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Resources, cont.



A Day *for Healing*

By John C. Brunt – Jesus' actions often transgressed the rabbinical laws of his day...but never so purposefully as when he performed miracles of healing on the Sabbath. The Gospels record five specific Sabbath acts of healing performed by Jesus. Each one was intentional. Each one had a purpose. Each one show something about who Jesus is...Each one

underscore the significance of salvation and healing that he came to bring.

A Day for Healing examines these miracles with the intent of helping Sabbath-keepers understand what Jesus was trying to teach us, and to demonstrate what the Sabbath is – and what it is not. Jesus, by word and action, demonstrates that salvation lies at the very core of the Sabbath. It is not a day for rules. Sabbath is a day when we receive God's healing. But it's more than that. As we receive healing we are called to carry on the work of Jesus by offering the healing leaves of the tree of life to a hurting, desperate world.

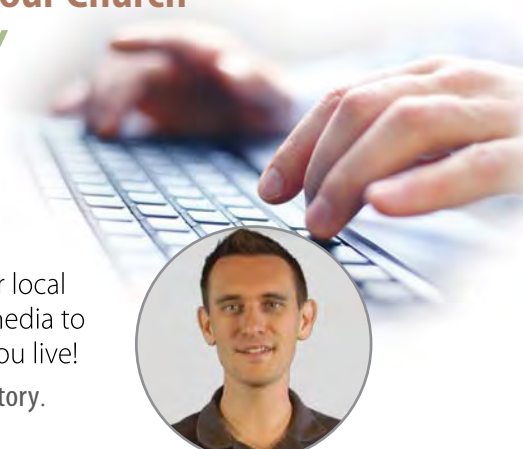
Price: US\$13.99. **Published by:** Pacific Press, 2016.

Available at: AdventistBookCenter.com.

Use Media to Connect Your Church *to the Community*

Todd Comm has prepared an online course for pastors and local church leaders that's designed to help churches effectively tell their stories (within the context of God's story) to their local communities! Learn how to use media to connect with the people where you live!

Online: www.Udemy.com/themediastory.



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www.ClothesCabin.org

Barna Group
www.Barna.org

Pathways to Health
www.PathwayToHealth.org

Pew Research Center
www.PewResearch.org

SpiritWERKS
www.SpiritWerks.org

Hawaii Youth Ministries
www.HawaiiSDAYouth.org

Lava Mae
www.LavaMae.org

Answers for Your Life
www.AnswersForMe.org



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PUC Freshman Sam Delaware Named Sony Youth Photographer of the Year

Pacific Union College is delighted to announce that Sam Delaware, an 18-year-old freshman photography major, has been named Youth Photographer of the Year in the 2016 Sony World Photography Awards. The recognition follows his win in the competition's Youth Portraits category.

Delaware came to PUC from Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine, as one of the college's five Maxwell Scholar recipients in 2015, PUC's most prestigious scholarship. He was senior class president, a member of the National Honor Society, a Phi Beta Kappa Award recipient, and first chair trumpet in the academy band.

PUC professor Brian Kyle, who is Delaware's photography instructor, commended him on his win, saying, "Sam is a talented photographer and dedicated student of the arts whom I am thrilled to have here at PUC. The fact that such a young student is already being publicly recognized for his talents is a testament to his dedication, passion, and artistic vision."

Delaware's entry was titled "Sarah," and is a portrait of his sister. When asked about the inspiration behind the winning photograph, Delaware shares, "After moving to a university across the country, I understood I'd miss my family; my mother and father, and especially my sister. Like so many millions of other young adults around me, I left my family and my home this year for the first time, and in an instant, they were no longer a daily part of my life. I wanted to somehow speak to the mixed feelings I was experiencing; excitement, for the life I was about to begin, and nostalgia, for the one I was leaving behind. Traveling back to Maine for a short time allowed me to create this somewhat spontaneous image of my sister, giving me the opportunity to express this change in the best way I knew how."

The Sony World Photography Awards is the largest and most comprehensive photography competition in existence today. This year, the organization received a record-breaking 230,103

entries submitted from 186 different countries. The Youth competition of the awards is open to any photographer between the ages of 12 and 19 and is judged on just a single photograph within three categories: Culture, Environment, and Portraits. Delaware's win in the Youth Portraits category positioned him to compete for the overall Youth Photographer of the Year title. He was joined by 17-year-old Sepehr Jamshidi Fard from Iran, winner of the Culture category; and 12-year-old Anais Stupka from Italy, winner of the Environment category.

The awards are organized by the World Photography Organisation, a global platform that features photographers with a wide range of abilities and provides them with the opportunity to promote their work as well as receive worldwide exposure and recognition. Competition winners received a Sony a7R II camera and their winning photographs were displayed at the prestigious Somerset House in London, England, from April 22 to May 8. Their images will also be published in the 2016 Sony World Photography Awards book. To receive his award, Delaware was flown to London to attend an awards gala and ceremony.

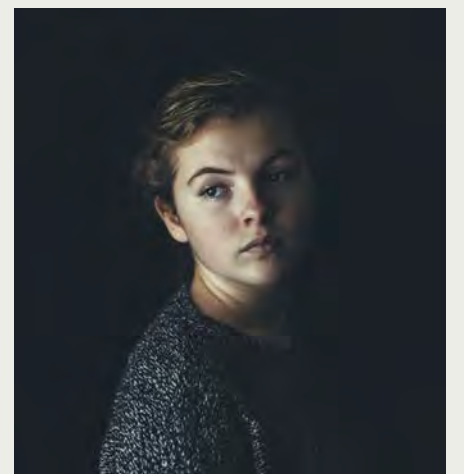
"I'm extremely honored to be recognized at this stage in my career," Delaware shares. "The World Photography Organisation is an incredible platform both for young artists and established professionals, and I'm really quite grateful to be recognized along such immense talent. Above all else, the award has given me some validation that I'm headed in the right direction — it's strong motivation to keep making better and better imagery."

To learn more about the Sony World Photography Awards competition, as well as to view winning photographs, visit worldphoto.org.

Visual arts is one of the PUC's largest academic departments, featuring excellent programs in photography, graphic design, film and television, fine art, and more. Follow the visual arts students and their creative process



Delaware with his award at the Sony World Photography Awards gala in London on April 21, 2016.



Delaware's winning entry, "Sarah."

on Instagram at @pucart. If you're interested in learning more about the department of visual arts, contact the office of enrollment services at 800-862-7080, option 2 or enroll@puc.edu.

Larissa Church

Sandra Depner Celebrates 40 Years of Service

Jimmy Mulligan arrived in Sandra Depner's second-grade class in August 2010. He brought with him behavioral difficulties that had made learning a challenge before that year. What Jimmy found in Depner's classroom became more than just another year in school. He found a connection that propelled him forward in his schooling experience, and Depner found one of her greatest successes in her 25 years of teaching at Las Vegas Junior Academy.

"Jimmy was a student of mine for four years," Depner said. "It's a long story, but I made friends for life in him and his parents. Jimmy has ADHD. Jimmy is very intelligent, but his mind works so fast that it is hard for him to concentrate on one thing. I love him and will always remember Jimmy more than any other student."

Depner retired at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Four decades of teaching experience overall, the last 25 of those years at LVJA, go with her.

"I have wanted to be a teacher since I was 9 years old," she said. "I never changed my mind. My parents were low-earning factory workers who wanted me to be what I wanted to be. There was never a question of whether or not I would go to college. I wanted to be a teacher

bad enough that I worked and paid the bill myself. My 40 years of teaching have been even more rewarding because of this."

The enormity of what she's accomplished will never be completely known. Many of her students are now in their 40s and have disappeared into society. Like most teachers, she has lost track of the large majority of those who entered and left her classroom over the years. Jimmy was different.

When he moved into the second grade, he stayed with Depner. "I was unfocused, unorganized and didn't really want to learn," Jimmy said. "In Ms. Depner's class, I was able to gain much knowledge and also learn that reading is not a completely horrible, despicable thing. It's actually really fun. I improved there much more than I think I could have improved with any other teacher."

Jimmy and Depner's bond grew over the years. He remained in her classroom through the third, fourth and fifth grades. "He and I have a long-term bond that is hard for teachers to have with their students," she explained.

Still, Depner is proud of all her students. "I have taught future teachers, doctors, lawyers, and many more with worthy occupations,"



Sandra Depner retires from Las Vegas Junior Academy after 40 years in the classroom.

Depner said. "I love it when my former students come to see me. I even meet them or their parents at the store or vet's office."

Now, as she comes to the conclusion of a long, rewarding career, Depner stands in awe of what she's been able to do professionally and in the service of God. "Looking back on my career, I can't believe that I have been teaching for 40 years," she said. "I will never know what has happened to most of my students. But the warmth in your heart when a student smiles up at you because they finally learned to read or do a math problem is beyond anything else that can happen to a teacher.

"I have always felt blessed because of the hugs and sometimes kisses that I get. No other profession is more rewarding than teaching. Yes, some days are difficult. Yes, some students are difficult. But I truly believe that I was put here to do God's most important job: teach our young people for a place in God's kingdom."

Depner certainly had a profound effect on Jimmy. "I think that Ms. Depner is one of the greatest teachers in the history, definitely of this school, and possibly the whole world," Jimmy said. "Ms. Depner is and will always be the best teacher to me, and not only is she an amazing teacher, she's also a great friend."



Sandra Depner graduating with a degree in education from Walla Walla College.



Jimmy Mulligan says Sandra Depner is "one of the greatest teachers in history."

Dora Leah Scott

Summit Christian Academy Students Learn With Legos

This school year several Nevada-Utah Conference schools have been intentional about the integration of STEM activities into the NAD curriculum. STEM is the application of concepts from the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the primary and secondary grades.

Exposing students to STEM-related areas fosters inquiring minds, logical reasoning and collaborative skills. STEM education can take place in special classes or activities or be incorporated into almost any subject or grade level. For example, Abundant Life Christian Academy in Las Vegas, Nev., started an organic garden and environmental conservation lessons to enhance the science and health curriculum.

One of the strategic goals for the office of education is to conduct a capital campaign to raise funds to support STEM education in each of the 10 conference schools. These funds will be used to purchase current technology (hardware

and software), enhance robotic activities, update school data management systems, and implement the upcoming new NAD technology educational standards and curriculum.

Summit Christian Academy in Salt Lake City, Utah, has had a blast becoming involved with STEM. Already into their second year of exploring the eye-popping possibilities, they've enjoyed both attending and hosting STEM-related events.

For two years, SCA has hosted a First Lego League activity. This year, they hosted a Sunday competition that drew four teams from the community in addition to their own two teams. One of their teams qualified for the second round in the Adventist Lego League.

The SCA team is a blend of Adventist and non-Adventist young people, some parents of both groups, and SCA staff members. The non-Adventist families, as well as the teams that Summit hosted for the competition, have expressed curiosity and interest in Summit Christian Academy and in Adventism in general. "We have had the joy witnessing to them and exposing them to what we have to offer," said Tom Roy, Summit staff member. "We're looking forward to continuing to see our teams grow and improve. Our students have already had the opportunity of learning how to program, design and operate a robot. They have also learned how to do a presentation of the year's theme."

This year's theme was "Trash Trek" — what to do with trash so it doesn't negatively impact the environment. The teams had to come up with ideas of their own and projects to deal with recycling.

This year, Summit's upper grade students visited a STEM robotics competition in which teams from Canada and all over North America competed with robots trying to defeat the other



Legoy Team members from Summit Christian Academy attend their First® Lego® League competition.



Team Legoy members work on a Legos robotic project.

teams' castles with volleyballs. The robot had to be able to pick up volleyballs and shoot them into the castles, like a real-life version of Angry Birds.

"We got to go on an overhead camera to watch the competition," said sixth-grader Joseph Hernandez. "They also let us go behind the stage and watch teams build their robots."

"It was cool to see science in action," added sixth-grader Ula Matangi. "We were excited when the volleyballs made the hoops and felt sad when they missed." The students also enjoyed getting to talk with members of these teams.

This event sparked huge new interest for the students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math, and helped them to understand more about programming robots.

For more information, visit www.nuceducation.info.

Pam Mertz and Eileen White



Summit Christian Academy Team Legoy



First® Lego® League competition.

Two Arizona Conference Pastors Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

Pastor Jackie James

Pastor Jackie Nathaniel James Jr. was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Camelback church in Phoenix, Ariz., on May 7, 2016, where he has worked as associate administrative pastor for the past three years.

James was born and raised in Miami, Fla., by very supportive and nurturing grandparents who often wrestled with his independent spirit.

Both sets of grandparents introduced James to the gospel at an early age — his dad's family was Pentecostal and his mom's were Seventh-day Adventist. James was baptized and dedicated his life to Christ in ninth grade at Greater Miami Academy.

Working with youth came natural for Jackie. Upon graduation from GMA, the Florida Conference invited him to be part of a unique summer camp program for inner city children. Over the course of four summers, he worked with local churches to create a church-based day camp program.

During his college years, James spent four summers working at Nosoca Pines Ranch in the Carolina Conference as boys' counselor, boys' director and assistant summer camp director.

James attended Southern Adventist University from 1988-95 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology and a minor in behavioral science. He accepted his first call to work at Fletcher Academy as chaplain and Bible teacher. He has also served at La Sierra University, Madison Academy and Forest Lake Academy.

In 2003, James accepted a job as recruiter for Southern Adventist University. This led to 10 years of introducing countless families and students to the faith community that shaped his life.

Church ministry took on new dimensions when he began attending Connect, a smaller worship service of the Collegedale church. This eight-year journey of ministry resulted in a real passion and love for the local church.

After committing his new calling to prayer, James began seeking a pastoral position. In 2011, he received an invitation from the Arizona Conference to be an assistant pastor at the Camelback church in Phoenix.

Church administrator Cherie Oberlick says, "Having the opportunity to work and become better acquainted with Pastor Jackie these past three years has been a blessing. I count it a privilege to call him friend, and it has been refreshing to be a part of the vitality and new outlook he has brought to Camelback."

While working at Southern Adventist University, James met Lauryl Murphree, a pre-physical therapy major. A friendship developed. After Murphree moved to Andrews University to complete her degree in physical therapy, their friendship developed into something deeper. They began dating in July 2013 and were married Nov. 7, 2015, at her home church in Birmingham, Ala.

James views Mark 1:17 as his personal directive for service. Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." The Jameses are excited to see how God will use their ministry to introduce others to a loving relationship with Jesus.

Pastor Chris Morris

Christopher Lacey Morris was ordained to the gospel ministry on May 21, 2016, at the Adventist Worship Center in Phoenix, Ariz., where he has pastored for the past four years.

Born in Las Vegas, Nev., Chris was adopted by Lloyd and Willie



Pastor Jackie and Lauryl James celebrate Jackie's ordination with Dr. Curtis Miller, Kingsley Palmer, Sam Leonor, Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes, Charles White and Arizona Conference Executive Secretary Mike Ortel.

Belle Morris, and grew up with four brothers and two sisters. The Morris family was very active in the Seventh-day Adventist church, particularly in music ministry. "Everybody in our family learned to sing and/or play an instrument," Chris Morris said.

Morris attended Las Vegas Jr. Academy and Thunderbird Adventist Academy during his high school years. Although he was baptized at age 7, he felt like he truly gave his life to Christ as a junior at TAA. "My religion teacher and assistant dean helped me see

the love of Jesus in ways I hadn't seen before," said Morris. "I wanted to know Jesus for myself and not just have a blind faith."

Morris graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a bachelor's in mathematics and a minor in religion, and obtained his Pacific Union Conference standard teaching credentials.

"I knew going in that I wanted to be a math teacher," he remembers. "Working with people and showing them that math wasn't as difficult as they imagined was my passion."

After his graduation, Morris worked 16 years in various academies teaching math, religion, science and music. He also worked eight summers at Camp Yavapines and Camp Rio Grande as a counselor, boys' director and program director.

In 2012, the Adventist Worship Center in Phoenix called him to full time ministry. "I was scared out of my mind to even think about becoming a pastor, so I turned down the call," he said. "I am thankful the Holy Spirit and the AWC church family were more stubborn than I was. In ministry, God has used me in ways I could never have imagined."

Morris volunteered as the associate pastor at the Adventist Worship Center under Pastor Ruben Escalante for one year before working as the senior pastor for the next three years. In April 2015, he extended his pastoral ministry to



Pastor Christopher and Cesiah Morris celebrate Chris' ordination with Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes and executive secretary Mike Ortel.

include the Maricopa Village church in Laveen, Ariz.

Morris partners in ministry with his wife, Cesiah, and their two children, Miles and Carissa. "Ministry is always more effective through collaborative efforts," he said, "and we enjoy working together to share the beautiful love of the Father, Son and Spirit to everyone we encounter."

The text that fuels Chris's ministry is found in Galatians 4:4-7. "But when the fullness of

time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

Phil Draper

NOTICE OF ARIZONA CONFERENCE CORPORATION REGULAR CONSTITUENCY SESSION

The 30th regular Constituency Session of the Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene as follows:

Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church
5902 East Camelback Road • Phoenix, AZ 85018
October 23, 2016, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., or until business is completed

The purpose of this session is to receive reports, to elect Conference Officers, Departmental Directors, the Executive Committee, Bylaws Committee, and the Adventist Scholarship Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Ed Keyes, President
Mike Ortel, Executive Secretary



Janae's handicap placard expired in June 2015 and she traded it in for a Yamaha FZ8 motorcycle. Days that were once filled with illness and sorrow are now filled with laughter, running, riding, backpacking, camping and hiking with friends.

Janae ran the final leg of the California International Marathon with her relay team of co-workers in December 2015.



Crossing the Finish Line

My Journey to Wellness

By Janae Carr

Barely able to stand while cheering on my Adventist Health co-workers at the 2010 California International Marathon, I turned to my friend and said, “Someday I’ll cross that finish line.” After battling a mystery illness for many years — which on my worst days left me wheelchair bound — I knew it would take a miracle.

Five years earlier, my lifestyle was one of constant outdoor adventures; I was 22, a senior at Pacific Union College, and on top of the world. However, my life came to a halt one summer night when I went to bed with what I thought was a bad flu. After severe full-body hives, multiple ER visits, weeks of splitting headaches and weakness that left me unable to stand, I awoke to a world where my body no longer functioned and where everything that defined me was forever turned upside down. For the next 10 years, the mystery disease progressed and I became so sick and weak that my legs buckled under me and I spent many days lying in bed.

Despite my determination to find a cure, my disease progressed, landing me at an out-of-state clinic where I went through nine months of unsuccessful treatments. I was heartbroken and could feel my grip on hope slowly slipping away. It was then that God impressed me to stop focusing on my illness and give my time to those less fortunate than myself. I signed up for a mission trip to Guatemala where I met Julia, a woman with severe Parkinson’s disease

who lived her life crippled in a wheelchair. Her home was a shack with a dirt floor and she had no money for food or for the medication she needed. When I returned home I couldn’t get her out of my mind or my heart. Together with several friends, we raised more than \$7,000 to improve the quality of her life.

During this time, a co-worker said, “Janae, the Lord wants you well and I’m going to take hold of Him and pray until He heals you.” I agreed to her proposition: 30 days of prayer. Every day, she faithfully called me or pulled me aside into a conference room where we poured our hearts out to God. A few weeks later, God impressed me to return to Guatemala with the \$7,000 and build a home for Julia. Looking out for my best interest, my parents, friends, husband and co-workers all advised me not to go alone since I could barely walk and was often in a wheelchair. But God told me to go, so I went.

During the trip, a fellow mission worker suggested I watch the documentary “Under Our Skin,” telling me he thought my mystery disease was actually Lyme disease. When I returned home, my mom referenced the same documentary that some of her friends had just recommended. Goosebumps covered my body as I realized this could be the miracle we’d been praying for. I made an appointment at a clinic where doctors soon discovered Lyme spirochetes in my blood. “How are you sitting upright?” one doctor asked me. “The people I’ve

seen with blood work like this are bedridden!” I told him it was only by the grace of God.

For the next two months, I underwent excruciating treatments lasting up to 12 hours a day. During one treatment, my heart rate became dangerously low and I blacked out until a medic revived me and sent me to the ICU. That night as I watched the sunset, tears streamed down my face because I knew God had spared my life.

My recovery was painfully slow, and a major personal loss set my healing back a couple of years, but by spring of 2015 I was able to participate in an Adventist Health Wellness Challenge where I attended the gym three days a week. Though I began with a slow walk while holding onto the sides of the treadmill, it was just three months later that I set a personal record — running the mile in 6:30.

Energized by this victory and excited to fulfill my dream, I organized a California International Marathon relay team. As I ran I recalled the many years of illness and my days in a wheelchair. I thought about the miracle of healing and the hope I have in my heart. I remembered my friends from treatment — many who fight daily for their lives — and I thought about what they would give to have this miracle of health. So I ran harder; I ran to give them hope. On Dec. 6, 2015, together with my fantastic co-workers and friends, I experienced another miracle and crossed the CIM finish line.

Adventist Health began participating in the CIM in 2007 and employees use the experience to create healthy habits, form relationships and bond as a team. In 2015, participants came from Roseville as well as many facilities, representing Sonora Regional Medical Center, Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Feather River Hospital, Lodi Health, Adventist Medical Center — Hanford and St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley.

Vision 2020 Groundbreaking for Loma Linda U

We are growing to meet the needs of our community," read the Loma Linda University Health invitation. "Join us in celebrating the groundbreaking of our new adult and children's hospital towers and experience the future of health care."

The community responded with enthusiasm as more than 3,000 people gathered May 22 to watch the ceremonial groundbreaking.

The 111-year history that led to Vision 2020 was highlighted by Richard H. Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president, Loma Linda University Health: "This institution was built through stages, by visionary leaders who took the realities of their day and molded them into a strategy for the future. Our hospitals are where our beliefs are put into action where our knowledge, our expertise and our compassion come together to restore lives and families."

The Vision 2020 Groundbreaking Event was a joyous time for entire families. Excited children interacted with ducks, goats and other small animals in the petting zoo and talked to and petted cats and dogs in the pet therapy booth. They raced through the obstacle course and waved to the crowd from the train ride. Hundreds of children lined up to experience health care as they named teddy bears that were given physicals, complete with a record of the stuffed animal's temperature, weight and height measurement. They also had fun working with the earth as they planted flowers at the gardening station.

A four-minute video highlighting the five hours of the Vision 2020 Groundbreaking Event activities is live: bit.ly/LLUHgroundbreaking.

The hospital will be the tallest building in San Bernardino County and one of the safest in the state. Vision 2020 will result in the implementation of a first-of-its-kind vertical earthquake isolation system, separating the building from the ground using more than 500 vertical shock absorbers; a large-scale version of a modern car suspension system.



Rachelle Bussell, CFRE, senior vice president of advancement, Loma Linda University Health, shared the news that more than \$225 million has been raised toward the \$360 million campaign goal.

ing Event Marks Milestone University Health

The most recent rendering of the new Loma Linda University Health hospital complex, which will house an expanded Children's Hospital and a new adult hospital. Upon completion, the adult and children's hospitals will have a total licensed bed count of 693.

RENDERING COURTESY NBBJ



Working hand-in-hand with a lateral earthquake isolation system of sliding bearings and dampers, the system will protect patients and staff from injury while keeping the hospital operational following a potentially catastrophic magnitude 7.9 earthquake on the nearby San Jacinto Fault.

The new hospital complex, which will open its doors to the community in 2020, has been designed to embrace a healing environment, from wellness gardens that will enhance physical, social and spiritual health, to patient rooms that promote patient and family healing, nursing stations that encourage collaboration and community spaces filled with natural light.

LLUH Staff



JAMES SPONDER

Kerry Heinrich, CEO, Loma Linda University Medical Center, shared his excitement that discoveries will be made within the walls of the new facility that will advance medical care. Heinrich said, "This facility, which will stand 16 floors and span a distance longer than a football field, will be an instantly recognizable icon. More importantly, it will stand as a beacon of hope for all, especially those who are facing their darkest hour."



Shovels move earth at the site of the new Loma Linda University Health (LLUH) adult and children's towers during the May 22 groundbreaking ceremony at Loma Linda University Health.

2016 Asian/Pacific Pastors' Convention Held in Sacramento

Inspired by the theme, "The Upward Way," this year's Asian/Pacific Pastors' Convention kicked off with about 200 pastors and their spouses. Attendees came from all over the country, Guam and Canada with representatives from many different language groups, including Chinese, Filipinos, Fijians, Indonesians, Japanese, Koreans, Laotians, Samoans, Thais, Vietnamese and others.

Organized and sponsored by the Asian/Pacific Ministries department of the North American Division, this division-wide event was held Feb. 21-24, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento, Calif.

R. Ernest Castillo, vice president of the North American Division; VicLouis Arreola III, director of NAD Asian/Pacific Ministries; and Jim Pedersen, president of Northern California Conference, welcomed attendees on opening night. Ricardo Graham, president of Pacific Union, gave the keynote address.

Daily programs included morning and evening devotionals, plenary sessions, mid-day meditation and ministry features, plus programming for spouses. A number of vibrant presenters, all of whom are experts in their respective disciplines, joined this year's roster of speakers, including conference, union and division leaders with stories from the front lines, seminary professors with latest data and research, and lay people with invigorated ministries that project lofty goals in soul-winning.

Four theologians presented during the event: Dr. P. Richard Choi from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University



John Mathews enhances his presentation with his guitar.



VicLouis Arreola III presents a plaque of appreciation to Dan Jackson, NAD president.

(New Testament), Dr. Friedbert Ninow of La Sierra University (Biblical Archaeology), Dr. Johnny Ramirez-Johnson of Fuller Theological Seminary (Multicultural Ministry), and Dr. Ross Winkle of Pacific Union College (Ministry of Jesus).

Imelda C. Arreola, coordinator of NAD Asian/Pacific ministerial spouses, developed parallel workshops for pastoral spouses. "The entire week was educationally enlightening and spiritual at the same time," said Eppie Manalo from Loma Linda, Calif. "I especially enjoyed spending time with the other pastoral spouses."

John Mathews, stewardship director for the North American Division, gave a trademark impromptu country western concert, delighting attendees. With his unique guitar and creative songwriting skills, the audience insisted on an encore.

Sung Kwon, director of Adventist Community Services for the North American Division, emphasized, reiterated and highlighted Scripture and complementary Spirit of Prophecy content.

With in-depth topics on evangelism, health, hospital chaplaincy, church and state issues, and thought-provoking devotionals, everyone had a plethora of choices.

Daniel R. Jackson, president of North American Division, gave the final keynote address on Wednesday, Feb. 24, followed by a consecration ceremony led by VicLouis Arreola III and Castillo.

"I thank and praise God for the success of the convention," said Arreola. "I am so grateful to all our speakers who joined us this year and for everyone in attendance. I also appreciate the hard work and cooperation of our APM coordinators and the support of Elder R. Ernest Castillo and the NAD leadership. It is my prayer that everything that we learned from this convention will inspire us to do our part in hastening the coming of our Savior."

Maricel P. Felarca and Matthew Belonio



About 200 attended the 2016 NAD Asian/Pacific Pastors' Convention.

CALENDARS

Central California

IT'S SUMMER CAMP TIME at Camp Wawona! Week-long camps (June 19-July 31) Camp Wawona inside Yosemite National Park. Find the camp that is right for you and your family at campwawona.org or email summercampoffice@campwawona.org.

PRAYER WALK (July 8-9) Soquel Conference Center. Join us for the pre-camp meeting prayer walk. Registration and info: 559-696-3692.

SOQUEL CAMP MEETING (July 14-23) Soquel Conference Center. Theme: TransformED: Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow. Speakers: Carlton Byrd and George Knight with musical guest Steve Green. Reservations and info: 831-460-9811.

ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES Sabbath and Social (July 30) 9:30 a.m. Central California Conference office. Bring a dish for fellowship lunch. Info: 903-594-8868 or visit ccsingles@adventistfaith.org.

Northern California

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.

ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES (July 16) ASAM young adults (20-35). Leave Lodi English Oaks church, 12:15 p.m.; caravan to 1170 East Hwy 4, Arnold — entrance gate, Calaveras Big Trees State Park (\$10/car); potluck lunch; hike to view spot; worship by river; Mexican restaurant for dinner. Info: Sergio, 209-601-5815, sergiochan@sbcglobal.net.

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING (July 21-30) 2437 Dyerville Loop Road, Redcrest. Pepperwood Pavilion: Joseph Kidder, Brad Thorp, Martin Weber. Adult II: Clarissa Sproul, David Trim. Campestre Hispano (begins July 22): Henry Barrios, Félix Hadid Cortez. Interesting seminars, inspiring music, beautiful scenery and warm fellowship! Info: nccsda.com/redwood.

MISSION TRIP to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (July 29-Aug. 8, 2016). Doctors, dentists and other volunteers needed. If interested, please call 916-585-6511.

Pacific Union College

NCC AFRICAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES Camp Meeting (June 29-July 3) PUC hosts a special five-day camp meeting sponsored by the Northern California Conference African American Ministries Department. Info: www.nccsda.com/IgniteCampMeeting.

PUC AT SOQUEL Camp Meeting (July 14-23) Stop by PUC's booth during Soquel Camp Meeting, then join PUC's Alumni Relations team for a special luncheon on Sabbath, July 23. Info: alumni@puc.edu or 707-965-7500.

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

PUC AT REDWOOD Camp Meeting (July 21-July 30) Stop by the PUC booth, then join PUC's Alumni Relations team for a luncheon on Sabbath, July 30. Info: alumni@puc.edu or 707-965-7500.

KOREAN CAMP MEETING (July 26-August 1) PUC hosts the annual assembly for Korean Adventist congregations on the west coast on its Napa Valley destination campus. Info: 707-965-7362.

SUMMER QUARTER CLASSES. 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.

FALL QUARTER REGISTRATION (Ongoing). Incoming and returning students can register for the ideal Fall quarter schedule as they prepare for career or graduate school. Info: 707-965-6336 or puc.edu/admissions.

Southeastern California

EVANGELISTIC SERIES (July 1-31) Fridays, 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m. San Diego Fil-Am church, 3062 Bonita Road, Chula Vista. There will be health lecture presentations by health professionals of the church. Info: www.sdfilam.org.

CAMP MEETING (July 8-9) Riverside Convention Center, 3637 5th St., Riverside. Join us for our 2016 camp meeting with adult and youth services, a health presentation and a live concert featuring special musical guests Anthony Brown & Group Therapy. Info: bit.ly/1NbQD6K. To purchase concert tickets, go to bit.ly/25NYaEl.

KIDSVILLE VBX (July 11-16) 6-8:30 p.m. Hemet church, 27025 Girard St., Hemet. Free t-shirts, snacks and lots of fun! Come join us at the Hemet church Kidsville VBX. Info: Nancy Chadwick, 951-756-1960.

CAVE QUEST VBS (July 11-16) 6-8:30 p.m. Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton

Rd., Grand Terrace. Our week of adventure will include a state-of-the-art rock climbing wall, songs and skits at Sing and Play Rock, Deep Bible Quests, Spelunker Sports and Games and more. Info: Patty Marruffo, 951-317-3868, www.azurehills.org.

SECC YOUTH DAY — Magic Mountain (July 17) 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Six Flags Magic Mountain, 26101 Magic Mountain Pkwy, Valencia. A leisurely day for youth and young adults at the park. Tickets are \$45/person. This includes admission for a full day and all you can eat lunch buffet. Info: Liz Adams, 951-509-2260, liz.adams@seccsda.org.

VBX (Vacation Bible Xperience) (July 17-23) 6-8 p.m. Victoria church, 1860 S. Mountain View Ave., Loma Linda. Info: <http://www.victoriaadventist.org/>.

HERITAGE SINGERS 45TH Anniversary Reunion Concert (July 30) 7 p.m. Citizens Business Bank Arena, 4000 East Ontario Center Parkway, Ontario. This is their final reunion. Tickets: bit.ly/25eNqH6, 888-929-7849.

Southern California Conference

THE COST OF WAITING (July 24) 9 a.m. Presenter, Lynda Lee Park, CEO, Consultants Extraordinaire; provider of education for the assisted living and adult residential industry. Scholl Canyon Retirement Center, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Free brunch. Presentation followed by Q&A session. For reserved seating: 818-546-8421; gpark@seccsda.org. Walk-ins welcome!

CLASSIC CAR SHOW (July 31) 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Prizes, food, live entertainment, raffles and fun. Sponsored by Men's Ministry and Community Outreach at the Altadena church, 2609 N. Lincoln Ave. Info: Billy Keets, 818-512-2160.

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Bulletin Board

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MISSION: MARANATHA! You're invited to Maranatha Volunteers International's annual mission weekend (Sept. 23-24) Sacramento, Calif., featuring inspiring testimonies from volunteers, mission stories from international guests, and musical performances by Christian Edition. For times, location, and registration for this FREE event, visit maranatha.org/convention or call 916-774-7700.

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PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking Nursing Faculty positions for Full Time and Adjunct status in the Nursing and Health Sciences Department. Ideal candidate will possess a master's degree in nursing or related field, current RN license, and meet CA BRN eligibility requirements. For more information or to apply, call 707-965-6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a Supervisor/Operator to begin immediately. Preference is for candidate with electrical/mechanical systems experience. Civil Engineering License or higher preferred. Supervisor will oversee the operation and maintenance of the Co-Gen plant, boilers, and steam distribution, as well as campus utility master planning. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

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UNION COLLEGE seeks a Seventh-day Adventist PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in Family Practice and Emergency Medicine. An appropriate master's degree is essential; prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date June 1, 2017. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, jochewak@ucollege.edu.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY has two faculty openings in Music and one in Psychology for Fall 2016. To view the respective job descriptions and to apply, please visit: jobs.wallawalla.edu. We invite you to share this announcement as you deem appropriate. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: wallawalla.edu/.

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Reunions

CALLING ALL GREATER New York Academy Alumni (Oct. 7-9) Please join us for our 95th Anniversary Reunion Honoring classes ending in 0 and 5. Welcome Table supper, 6 p.m. For details and hotel information, contact us: on Facebook on "Greater Nya," or

email: alumni@gnyacademy.org, or call GNYA at 718-639-1752.

Vacations

ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley and Friends. Two trips this fall, (Sept. 26-Oct. 4) \$3,099. (Nov. 28-Dec. 6) \$2,499. Includes all tips, taxes, airfare; breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York; other departure cities available. Call Jennifer, 602-788-8865 or Pastor Jim at 530-368-3301.

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Ephesians 1:7

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AT REST

AMUNDSON, MAE (BEYER) – b. April 10, 1924, Ramona, S.D.; d. Aug. 12, 2015, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: son, Wesley E.; daughter, Pamela Mundy; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren.

ANDERSON, ARTHUR EUGENE – b. Feb. 14, 1918, St. Helena, Calif.; d. Nov. 2, 2015, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: sons, David, Daniel, Vernon; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

ANDERSON, ARTHUR V. – b. Feb. 19, 1915, Oakland, Calif.; d. April 28, 2016, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marion; son, James; daughters, Sandra Caban, Lenna Brownfield, Cindy; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

BRANSON, ROY – b. July 3, 1938, Portland, Ore.; d. July 7, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: nephews, Brian, Brett. Branson worked as associate dean of the School of Religion of Loma Linda University and was the director of the Center for Christian Bioethics. He also taught at Andrews University and Washington Adventist University. Branson was involved in many other things, including founding the Center for Law and Public Policy at Washington Adventist University, founding the Interfaith Coalition against Tobacco, co-founding and

becoming editor of Spectrum magazine and being the president for The Adventist Society for Religious Studies.

BRENNEISE, EHUD “ED” – b. Sept 20, 1923, Eureka, S.D.; d. April 27, 2016, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: son, Harvey; daughters, Linda Mack, Carmen; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Edna Gill. Worked as a printer at Pacific Press Publishing.

CHRISTENSEN, FRED C. – b. June 5, 1930, Santa Monica, Calif.; d. May 6, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Gwen; son, Todd; daughter, Tammy Rubio; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

COLLINS, TEXANNA – b. June 1, 1907, San Augustine, Texas; d. Aug. 28, 2015, Lancaster, Calif. There were no survivors.

COTTON, MARILYN DOLLOW – b. Dec. 14, 1933, Red Bank, Tenn.; d. May 20, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Dan; daughters, Patti Cotton McNeily, Jenny Cotton Oliver, Beth Cotton McCarty, Lori Cotton Thomas; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandsons. Served Faith for Today and It Is Written as a soprano solo artist.

COX, RICHARD MELBOURNE – b. Jan. 6, 1927, San Diego, Calif.; d. April 17, 2016, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: wife, Doris; son, Gordon; daughters, Cheryl

Kopp, Diane Alberts; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. Served as printer for St. Helena Hospital and the Northern California Conference Communication Department.

CRISP, ELIZABETH – b. Sept 13, 1936, Lemore, Calif.; d. June 19, 2015, Oakhurst, Calif. Survivors: husband, Donald W.; sons, Rick Sisco and Don Jr.; daughters, Laurie Norton, Lisa Facinto, Christine Lamb and Kathleen Luna; 13 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren. Beth served the Lord through music and writing, and with her husband in pastoral ministry.

DAGGETT, DEBBIE – b. Aug. 30, 1958, Pueblo, Colo.; d. May 30, 2016, Eureka, Calif. Survivor: stepmother, Effie Brown.

DAVIS, BILLY – b. July 23, 1921, Idaho; d. May 12, 2016, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: son, Scott Peterson; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brother, Cy; sisters, Joy Jimenez, Mary.

DEY, SAMUEL EZEKIEL – b. June 16, 1932, Mahaicony, East Coast Demerara, British Guiana; d. Dec. 13, 2015, Fontana, Calif. Survivors: wife, Pauline; sons, Samuel Jr., John, Steven, Sylvester; daughters, Donna McBean, Sharon Dey-Layne; 10 grandchildren.

EMMERSON, LAVERLE ADRIAN – b. May 17, 1933, Milton-Freewater, Ore.; d. Dec. 31, 2015, Arkansas City, Kan. Survivors: wife, Janet; sons, Lloyd, Ron, Don, Dean, Dan; daughters, Kathy Turner, Lana DeLorenzo, Connie Dutton, Pat Dever; grandchildren; great-grandchildren.

FURTADO, MADELENE – b. Feb. 16, 1933, Delaware; d. March 6, 2016, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Stacy Rulofson, Elizabeth.

GA SPIE, SHIRLEY – b. Jan. 2, 1921, Hebron, Conn.; d. Aug. 21, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Shirley Dobias, Judy Johnson; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

HECKAMAH, SEWARD – b. Aug. 27, 1929, Burkett, Ind.; d. Feb. 23, 2016, Columbia City, Ind. Survivors: wife, Jean; sons, David and Dirk; daughter, Dorothy Gillespie; 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.

HOGGAN, BEVERLY C. – b. August 26, 1928, San Francisco, Calif.; d. April 28, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Mary Ellen Neslund, Judith Anne Hoggan, Nancy Kim Hoggan; one grandchild; one great-grandchild.

HULSE, LEON – b. Dec. 16, 1928, Denver, Colo.; d. April 16, 2016, Loma

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

SUNSETS

	7/1	7/8	7/15	7/22	7/29
Alturas	8:39	8:37	8:33	8:27	8:20
Angwin	8:37	8:35	8:32	8:27	8:21
Calexico	7:53	7:52	7:50	7:46	7:41
Chico	8:38	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:21
Eureka	8:51	8:49	8:45	8:40	8:33
Fresno	8:21	8:20	8:16	8:12	8:06
Hilo	7:04	7:03	7:02	7:01	6:58
Honolulu	7:17	7:17	7:16	7:13	7:10
Las Vegas	8:01	8:00	7:57	7:52	7:47
Lodi	8:31	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:15
Loma Linda	8:04	8:02	8:00	7:56	7:51
Los Angeles	8:08	8:07	8:04	8:00	7:55
Moab	8:45	8:43	8:40	8:35	8:29
Oakland	8:34	8:32	8:29	8:24	8:18
Phoenix	7:41	7:40	7:37	7:33	7:28
Reno	8:30	8:28	8:24	8:19	8:13
Riverside	8:04	8:03	8:00	7:56	7:51
Sacramento	8:33	8:31	8:28	8:23	8:17
Salt Lake City	9:02	9:00	8:56	8:50	8:44
San Diego	8:00	7:59	7:56	7:52	7:47
San Francisco	8:35	8:33	8:30	8:25	8:19
San Jose	8:31	8:30	8:26	8:22	8:16
Tucson	7:34	7:32	7:30	7:26	7:21

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Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Gladys; daughters, Nancy Falter, Karen Wolfkill, Diane Thompson; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

LOVE, MARTHA (RUFF) — b. June 4, 1951, San Diego, Calif.; d. Dec. 6, 2015, Hanford, Calif. Survivors: husband, Stanley; son, Stanley C. II; daughter, Kristina Keen; three grandchildren.

MACOMBER, ROBERT — b. July 7, 1925, Escalon Calif.; d. May 12, 2016, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marjorie; sons, Don, Tom, Michael, Douglas; daughter, Michele; 15 grandchildren; two great-grandsons. Served as a volunteer on the SECC conference executive committee and as judge in the Riverside County Superior Court.

MCBRIDE, DALE — b. April 16, 1926, National City, Calif.; d. April 8, 2016, Alpine, Calif. Survivor: wife, Ann.

ORTIZ, JUAN — b. Sept. 4, 1922, Aibonio, Puerto Rico; d. Feb. 23, 2016, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: wife, Dulce (Almonte); son, Hector; daughters, Yvonne Ortiz-Bachar, Miriam Ortiz-Gutierrez; step-daughters, Nilda Almonte-Velasquez, Lorraine Almonte-Sandoval and Roselyn Almonte; four grandchildren.

PEREZ, RAMON LUIS — b. July 7, 1935, Penuelas, Puerto Rico; d. May 16, 2016, Antioch, Calif. Survivors: sons, Ramon Jr., Jose, Daniel; daughters, Angela,

Mariester, Patricia; 23 grandchildren; brothers, Pedro Juan, Angel Miguel.

RAMIREZ, ENRIQUE — b. Feb. 26, 1958, Brownsville, Texas; d. June 15, 2015, Wasco, Calif. Survivors: brothers, Crescencio, Eliberto and Saul; sisters, Maria Quintana, Elvira Gonzalez, Anita Campos, Julia Gains, Belen Ramirez, Virginia Torres, Alejandrina Ramirez, Teresa Navarro, and Susana Guira.

RILEY, ANNIE LAURIE (WHITE) — b. March 7, 1926, Valdosta, Ga.; d. May 15, 2016, Huntsville, Ala. Survivors: son, James; daughters, Carol Hairston, Michele; five grandchildren; one great-grandson. Hosted cottage meetings in her home that eventually led to the formation of the Mt. Rubidoux church, Riverside, Calif.

ROGERS, DONNA MARLENE — b. April 22, 1932, Ukiah, Calif.; d. March 6, 2016, Winnemucca, Nev. Survivors: sons, Lee, Daniel; daughter, Christine Oelze; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

ROSALES, JONATHAN L. — b. Dec. 5, 1933, Jerome, Ariz.; d. April 17, 2016, Hopland, Calif.

SCHALES, CLEVELAND — b. July 9, 1935; d. Nov. 23, 2015, Hanford, Calif. Survivors: wife, Clara; sons, William (Michael) and Mark; daughters, Marie Biesbrock and Marliss Baca; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

SCHLENKER, IVA M. (BEAM) — b. Oct. 24, 1925, Eureka, Calif.; d. Jan. 6, 2016, Fair Oaks, Calif. Survivors: sons, William, Richard; daughters, Shirley Morton-Cheek, Pauline Rowan; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

SIPES, GLADYS VIRGINIA (INMAN) — b. Nov. 27, 1923, Mt. Airy, N.C.; d. Jan. 10, 2016, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: sons, Mike, Ken; one grandchild; two great-grandchildren; brother, Clifford Inman; sister, Mabel Hill.

STEWART, EDWIN LINCOLN — b. April 5, 1925, Ocean Falls, British Columbia, Canada; d. Feb. 20, 2016, Hemet, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Lottie, Jenice; two grandchildren, one great-grandson.

THORNTON, LOIS — b. Feb. 3, 1928, Bloemfontein, South Africa; d. March 24, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Irving; son, Kenneth Sievers; daughter, Deana Nelson; stepdaughters, Linda Mullen, Donna Mendenhall; step-sons, Richard, David; 14 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

VARGAS, SALLY M. — b. Jan. 10, 1936, Fresno, Calif.; d. March 9, 2016, Lemoore, Calif. Survivors: husband, Louie; son, Steven; daughter, Marlene Vargas.

WATTS, CARL B. — b. July 12, 1919, Topeka, Kansas; d. April 17, 2016, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: son, Howard Thomas; daughter, Catherine; two grandchildren. Served as colporteur, teacher, ordained minister, publishing secretary in Kansas and Missouri, missionary in Japan and Okinawa; pastor of Anaheim and Escondido churches.

WATTS, CARL B. — b. July 12, 1919, Topeka, Kan.; d. April 17, 2016, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: son, Howard; daughter, Kit; two grandchildren.

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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 2017: 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.

Register at ADVENTISTFAITH.COM/SESSION

PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

2016 CONSTITUENCY SESSION
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

—
AUGUST 28-29

NOTICE OF PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE SESSION

The 30th session of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort and Spa, 5402 E Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona, August 28 and 29, 2016. The first meeting of the business session will be called at 6 pm, August 28. Registration will begin at 2 pm.

This session is called to receive reports from the officers and various departments, to elect personnel for the ensuing term, to consider revisions in the Bylaws and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates.

Delegates are selected by the local conferences according to the terms of the Pacific Union Bylaws.

Ricardo Graham, President
Bradford Newton, Executive Secretary

Register at ADVENTISTFAITH.COM/MINISTERIAL

PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

LIFT HIM UP

2016 MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

—
AUGUST 29-31

PASTORS, JOIN US IN AN
INSPIRING OPPORTUNITY TO
WORSHIP AND ENGAGE IN
RELEVANT CONVERSATION.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

With Calvin Rock, Ben Lunquist, and
Kendra Haloviak Valentine

TARGETED DISCUSSION

Centered on pastoral health and effectiveness

WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

With the Pacific Union ministerial workforce

KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

“BECAUSE OF THAT CROSS, MY INTEREST IN THIS WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED, AND THE WORLD’S INTEREST IN ME HAS ALSO DIED,” GALATIANS 6:14.



I Love That OLD CROSS

One of the best-known gospel songs is “The Old Rugged Cross.” Most Christians are familiar with the tune and probably can sing many of the words without even looking at the hymnal. It was written in 1912 by evangelist and song-leader George Bennard and publicly sung for the first time in 1913 by a choir of five voices at a church in Pokagon, Michigan—a very humble beginning for such a blessed hymn.

When my wife and I moved to southwestern Michigan for university/ seminary studies, I realized that Pokagon was only a few miles from where we were living. We finally had a free day to drive over there and see the little church where this great song had its beginning. It was a bit disappointing to see the poor condition of the church at that time. The doors were locked, the windows were boarded up, and the yard was a mess. I looked through a crack in the door and saw that the condition of the sanctuary was just as bad—the pews were mostly gone, an old piano was tipped over, etc. Since then, however, the church has been renovated, and there’s a nice marker commemorating the birth of this hymn.

The message of the song certainly transcends the little church where it had its debut.

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest
and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
Refrain:
So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.*

CCLI License #1262243

If you have an opportunity to visit the city of Jerusalem, you’ll be shown two different spots where Jesus could have died on that “old rugged cross.” One is contained in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the other is a spot called Gordon’s Calvary. The true location depends on your theological perspective, as well as the scene that appeals most to your imagination. Fortunately, the message of the cross of Jesus far transcends its historical location.

What is most important about the cross of Calvary is not a song about it or even its location. What is important is the reality of what Jesus did on that cross. With Paul, I hope each one of us can say: “As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died” (Galatians 6:14, *New Living Translation*).

Peace.



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

In this issue . . .

Faith Community
Nurses Are
Adventists in Action



Faith Community Nurse:
First Person



Congratulations
2016
Graduates!



VOLUME 14
ISSUE 4
JULY 2016

Faith Community Nurses ARE ADVENTISTS IN ACTION

Educator, resource, supporter, advocate ... faith community nurse. Many Adventists have never heard of faith community nursing, but it's a growing movement in congregations across the country.

A faith community nurse—also called a parish nurse—combines knowledge of nursing with

“We don’t want to leave sick and elderly people wondering, ‘where’s my church?’ The faith community nurse is the key to keeping people connected.”

church. After hearing about a need, a pastor or church member asks

the faith community nurse to make a visit. The nurse does not serve as a caregiver, but as a resource—answering questions, evaluating needs, and finding services. “If an older person needs hand rails installed, I connect them with a community agency that will do it for free,” said Blome. “If I see a yard that needs work, I get a church group to come out and clean up.”

The sick person is not the only one who benefits from FCN support. “We are not only there for the patient, but also for the caregivers—the family members,” said Jarrett. After she visited a community man several times before he passed away, the man’s daughter appreciated her visits so much that they developed a friendship, and now the woman is studying the Bible with Jarrett.

Years ago, Gracepoint church member Maxine Blome heard about the role, sought out and received training, and brought the idea to the Northern California Conference and Adventist Health.

“Maxine is the pioneer,” said Walter Groff, senior pastor of the Gracepoint church, which currently has a team of faith community

nurses. “FCN is one of the best things you could do for your congregation,” he said.

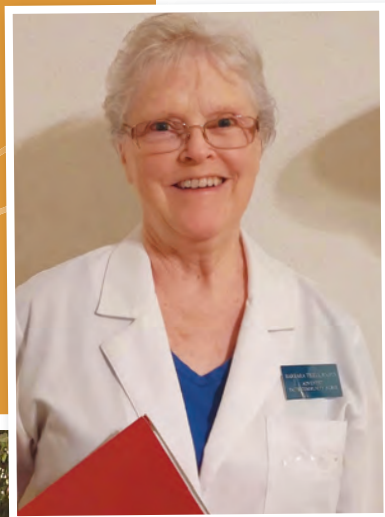
As one aspect of their work, faith community nurses work closely with pastors to minister to those who can no longer make it to church. “We don’t want to leave sick and elderly people wondering, ‘where’s my church?’ The faith community nurse is the key to keeping people connected,” said Sherry Jarrett, who has served at the Galt

The faith community nurse can be a consistent presence during an unsettling time. Santa Rosa church faith community nurse Barbara Thiele was asked to visit a woman in a residential care home. “I followed her to four places over a two-and-a-half year period,” she said.

Faith community nurses also serve as health educators for their congregations, giving talks and organizing seminars. A common practice is for nurses to be available to take people’s blood pressure at church on Sabbath mornings. Even just a brief interaction can make a difference. “Because I’m a nurse, people tell me



(Top) Sherry Jarrett talks with church member Betty Lou Quarton, whom she visits several times a month. (Photo: Bill Jarrett)



(Inset) Barbara Thiele serves as faith community nurse for the Santa Rosa church. (Photo: David Thiele)

(Below) Faith community nurse Iris Baker takes a church member’s blood pressure at the Pleasant Hill church. (Photo: Jim Lorenz)



things that they might not tell other people,” said Iris Baker, faith community nurse at the Pleasant Hill

“Because I’m a nurse, people tell me things that they might not tell other people. Sometimes I do a visit after church—right in the pew.”

church. “Sometimes I do a visit after church—right in the pew.”

People are thankful for the chance to talk to a knowledgeable nurse—for free! “When she was taking my blood pressure, Iris suggested a few questions for me to ask my doctor,” said former Pleasant Hill church Pastor Jim Lorenz. “I really appreciated it!”

The spiritual aspect of faith

community nursing is vital. The nurses regularly pray with their patients. Thiele visits care

facilities — often with Christian music DVDs — in order to bring spiritual encouragement to the residents. “At every place I’ve gone, I can see God’s hand,” she said. “I just love it all! God set me up to do this.”

Find out more about the Adventist Association of Faith Community Nursing (AAFNCN)—including many excellent resources—at www.AdventistFCN.org.

Faith Community Nurse: FIRST PERSON

Jane* had a massive stroke that left her totally paralyzed on the left side of her body and unable to talk. When it was time for her to come home from the hospital, her husband—a self-supporting businessman—gave up his work to care for his wife. As a parish nurse, I wanted to help during this transition with encouragement, prayer, and spiritual support. I visited the home regularly.

A pioneer of faith community nursing in the Adventist church, Maxine Blome prays with Wynelle Huff. (Photo: Gloria Bancarz)



Although home health care came to help with her rehabilitation, it was evident a full-time caregiver was necessary so her husband could return to work. Jane loves the Lord and loves to have prayer, so I prayed with her several times, asking for a loving caregiver so her husband could go back to work. I made contact with one of our church members, who said she would do it. The caregiver stayed at the home during the week—doing housework, laundry, and whatever needed to be done in caring for Jane.

I was delighted when Jane could talk again. However, after many months it seemed she was at a standstill for progress, and she wanted to walk again. Her husband found a rehabilitation facility, where Jane had appointments three times a week.

Because the caregiver cannot drive, again Jane’s husband was faced with taking time off from work. After talking over the situation with him, I utilized my parish connections and found a local agency that could provide transportation.

Through spiritual and emotional support, I was able to empower and enable this couple to make holistic healthcare decisions by helping them to know what is available in the community. Bringing relief and healing in the middle of the problems people are facing helps them to see Jesus. I believe faith community nursing is one of the greatest types of evangelistic opportunities.

**not her real name*

By Maxine Blome, a faith community nurse at the Gracepoint church in Rocklin.



✓ To encourage the spiritual and professional growth and development of its members by:

- Promoting understanding of Faith Community Nursing as a specialty practice for Seventh-day Adventist Registered Nurses and congregations in North America.
- Fostering the cooperation between the pastor, local leadership and Faith Community Nurses to develop health as a ministry at the local congregational level.
- Assisting each congregation to become a center of healing and wholeness in the community.
- Encouraging each member to experience the abundant life promised in John 10:10 for spiritual, physical, mental and emotional well being.

✓ To follow after Christ’s healing ministry to make man whole, furthering the spiritual, physical and emotional health objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Health Ministries Department.

From the NAD FCN brochure, available at www.AdventistFCN.org.

**Find out more today
at www.AdventistFCN.org
or call 301-680-6733.**

SECURITY FOR YOU TODAY A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR TOMORROW



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

Congratulations 2016 Graduates



1. El Dorado Adventist School (Photo: Linda Grado)
2. Lodi Academy - Selfie taken by commencement speaker (Photo: Kori Gabrys)
3. Napa Christian Campus of Education (Photo: Abdiel Bosque)
4. Pacific Union College Preparatory School (Photo: Heather VandenHoven)
5. Paradise Adventist Academy (Photo: Brenda Muth)
6. Pine Hills Adventist Academy (Photo: Pine Hills Adventist Academy)
7. Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy (Photo: Evva Martinez)
8. Redwood Adventist Academy (Photo: Redwood Adventist Academy)
9. Rio Lindo Adventist Academy (Photo: Ralph Vieux)
10. Sacramento Adventist Academy (Photo: Sacramento Adventist Academy)

You are the Light of the World
MATTHEW 5:14

No matter where the future takes you, may you always be a light for Him.

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521
Phone: 775-322-6929 • Fax: 775-322-9371



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

July 2016

Leon Brown to be New Nevada-Utah Conference President!

On Wednesday, May 4, 2016, my wife Julie and I accepted the call to serve as president of the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. And on June 1, 2016, we officially became a part of the Nevada Utah family. Before I continue, we want to personally thank our Heavenly Father, the Nevada-Utah Conference Executive Committee, and by extension, the Nevada-Utah constituents for extending the great honor of serving as president.

We are both excited and pleased to be a part of the Nevada-Utah family. Once I accepted the call to become president, things began to move rather rapidly. Even so, since May 4, I have had time to reflect on what God has done. After prayer and reflection, there is one thing I am sure of — my wife and I are clearly in the will of God. Throughout this process we have seen God clearly reveal His will, His purpose, and His plan.

Our journey throughout our ministry has been nothing short of a blessing. I started out believing that I wanted to become wealthy in this world, but God needed a servant who would be His alone.

I have worked as an accountant, managed the payroll department at a law firm, taught accounting and math on the collegiate level, served as the dean of students at a private college, pastored progressively larger churches, and worked as a director in the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. All the while, unbeknownst to me, God had another plan.

As we begin this journey with our new family, there are two things my wife and I would like you to know about how we approach ministry.

1. First, we never start our journey without God.

2. Second, love is the center of our ministry. Simplistic, but these two rules have guided our ministry over the years.

Let me explain our rationale. First, if God assigns you, your success is guaranteed. We have learned over the years that every call comes with the promise: "...I will never leave you nor forsake you," (Hebrews 13:5). God has always kept His promise.

Secondly, we love people. Everywhere we have served, that has been the foundation of our ministry

Brief Report

On May 17, I attended the Pacific Union Conference Nominating Committee. During the meeting, the committee voted to recommend the names of the current Pacific Union Conference officers to the upcoming constituency session, in Scottsdale, Arizona, on August 28-29, 2016. This will be the 30th quinquennial constituency session of the Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The theme for this year's session is "For Such a Time as This". In the afternoon I attended my first Presidents Council where I was introduced and warmly welcomed.

On May 18, I attended the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. During the meeting we received reports on the progress of the work in the Pacific Union Conference. We also received a financial summary that revealed the blessings of many years of good financial stewardship. We are blessed to have such

*Continued on
the next page*

"If God assigns you, your success is guaranteed. We have learned over the years that every call comes with the promise: '...I will never leave you nor forsake you,' (Hebrews 13:5)."





The Nevada-Utah Conference Executive Committee welcomes Dr. Leon B. Brown, Sr.

Continued from the previous page

strong and effective leaders in our union. In the afternoon, I attended the La Sierra Constituency Session. During the La Sierra Constituency session we voted to add John Brunt, Karen Hansberger, and Doug Rebok to the La Sierra Board of Trustees. They will serve with returning board members Ed Boyatt, Meredith Jobe, Alvin Kwiram, George Melara, Alina Sanchez, Justin Sandefur, Alina Tolan and Lisa Walcker.

On Monday, May 23, I attended the Pacific Union College Board. During the discussion, we were given reports on the overall status of the college. We listened attentively to the report

provided by the external presidential review team. The team expressed confidence in the work that college president Dr. Heather Knight has done. The Board of Trustees gave Dr. Knight a vote of confidence for her work at Pacific Union College.

On June 7, I chaired the Nevada-Utah Conference Personnel Committee and Executive Committee. After hearing the reports from our ministries and departments, I came away with the feeling that God is blessing our work in the Nevada-Utah Conference. It is wonderful to work with such committed members, pastors, staff and conference officers.

Below you will find a brief summary of the reports we received during the NUC Executive Committee.

Hard at Work in All Departments!

God is working mightily in the Nevada-Utah Conference as evidenced by the recent departmental reports presented to the Executive Committee.

And...speaking of Centers of Influence...

Regional Ministries

“Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate and infuse in order to preserve. So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. They are not saved in masses, but as individuals. Personal influence is a power. We must come close to those whom we desire to benefit” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 36). This was the opening statement of the report for the regional ministries department.

The regional ministries of the Nevada-Utah Conference has embarked on a mission to have the churches within the region become centers of influence within the community. We seek to create relevant ministries, where individuals within our community will gravitate toward our churches for social, physical, economic, and spiritual needs.

This vision was shared with all of our regional pastors. Some of our churches have started resource centers, parking-lot preaching,

Pastor Sheldon Bryan baptizes a member at the Central Church in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Community Services

You may have already heard about the new Adventist Center of Influence housed in the old conference office on 1095 East Taylor Street in Reno. After purchasing the new office facility, a strong attempt was made to sell the old office. It seemed that no matter what the price, the property was not selling. After a couple years of trying to sell the building our Winnemucca pastor, Jerry Waggoner, one year ago, presented his vision to our Executive Committee. For

an encouraging report please visit this link <http://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Midtown-center-opens-to-help-neighbors-in-need-379611841.html> to the KOLO television news report of how his dream has come to fruition, and read the full article in the Nevada-Utah section of the July issue of the Recorder.



The Nevada-Utah Conference's new Center of Influence is located in the old conference office building in Reno.

(Right) The Sabbath School class at the Fil-Am SDA Christian Fellowship Church. (Far Right) Fil-Am pastor Guillermo Gucilatar baptizes a candidate during the 12th Anniversary Celebration.



health fairs, food banks, community outreach Sabbaths, summer camp, Vacation Bible School, and other community initiatives where our aim is to impact the community in varied ways.

In February, regional directors of the Pacific Union and North Pacific Union attended meetings focused on churches becoming more community-minded. The regional department of the Pacific Union hosted the annual “Curriculum of Care” pastoral family retreat in Santa Anna, California, where regional pastors and leaders heard reports and presentations on new initiatives on how to be more effective in our churches and regions as we prepare to reach communities for Christ.

The theme recently chosen for the regional department in the Pacific Union is “Connecting Urban Communities to Christ.”

Our NUC regional churches had a baptismal/transfer growth of 11 people for the first quarter of 2016; a direct result of revivals and evangelism weekends. We project 30 baptisms by the end of 2016, with each church conducting one evangelistic meeting within the remaining months.

We are excited about our upcoming regional convocation which is scheduled to be held on September 2-4, 2016, under the theme “Rediscovering the Dream.” The keynote speakers will be President Dr. Leon Brown, who will address the adults, and Pastor David Solomon Hall, Sr., who will address the youth. We will be assisting the Salt Lake Central church in their evangelistic efforts which will culminate with our convocation.

It is our prayer that we will adopt the method that Christ used to win souls—mingle, sympathize, know the needs, and then invite them to follow Christ

Asian-Pacific Ministries

Guillermo Gucilatar has recently joined the NUC family as pastor of the Las Vegas Fil-Am SDA Christian Fellowship Church and Asian/Pacific coordinator for the conference on February 1, 2016. He comes very well qualified

for this position with two masters degrees and three doctorates along with many years of experience in the field. He is a wise and Godly man.

We now have six Asian-Pacific congregations and Pastor Gucilatar is working to develop a five-year strategy plan for their continued progress.

Education

“Something Better” is the motto for the Nevada-Utah Adventist Education Department.

This school year we had 302 students enrolled in K-12 in our 10 schools, with 14 of those students graduating this spring.

SB 165 in Nevada has been a real blessing to our schools.

We have 30 students benefitting from the financial assistance of this Parental Choice Legislation. If you have school-aged children, be sure to check this out. You may call the NUC department of education for more information.



Summit Christian Academy, located in Salt Lake City, Utah, is just one of the schools of the Nevada-Utah Conference.

Youth Ministries

Clubs’ Executive Leadership Pastor Benjamin Carballo, clubs’ chaplain and advisor; Isoroku Vernon, clubs’ director; and Noreen Vargas, administrative assistant to youth and clubs have been working together to develop strategies for the ministry of clubs to the youth of our Conference. The opportunities have been abundant.



Pathfinder Bible Experience at the

Nevada-Utah Conference Pathfinder directors

Continued from the previous page



Las Vegas area school students attend a campout at Leoni Meadows.

conference level took place in Reno, on February 27, 2016. Three teams advanced to union level and two of them advanced to the division level.

The annual Leadership Convention took place in Provo, Utah, at the Provo church on April 29-May 1. The attendance increased by 300% over 2015. Many workshops were presented for Master

Guides, Adventist Youth Ministers Training (AYMT) and Teen Leadership Training (TLT.)

Fairs and Bike-a-Thons have been scheduled during the summer to help the clubs raise funds and display what they have done during the year, in Las Vegas, Reno and Salt Lake City. The Pathfinder Camporee this year will take place at Fort Buenaventura in Ogden, Utah from July 14-17. Most of the Utah pastors will be attending as staff and all the Hispanic pastors as well. Many fun activities are planned for the camporee. We are expecting at least 350 pathfinders.

The annual Teen Leadership Training (TLT) convention will take place near Salt Lake City Utah. This year the teen leaders will be learning three different tracks to help them advance in their skills.

Pacific Union Hispanic ministries is organizing the 25th anniversary of the Youth Federation in Riverside, Calif. The Hispanic youth leaders have gotten together, led by the NUC youth ministry team to take a group representing the Nevada-Utah Conference. We are expecting at least 130 youth from the three geographic areas of the Conference to attend and participate in activities ranging from the Bible bowl to sports.

The annual NUC Youth Rally will take place this year in Las Vegas on November 4-6. NUC Youth Ministries, Elder Carlos Camacho, and the Las Vegas youth pastors are working together to make this an exciting conference-wide event.

The NUC has joined forces with the Arizona Conference to make available a wonderful summer camp experience for our young people.

Upcoming EVENTS

Women's Ministry Offering Sabbath – Please give generously
July 9

Nevada-Utah Conference Pathfinder Camporee
July 13-17

Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting
August 1-6

National ASI Convention
August 1-6

Pacific Union Conference Constituency Session
August 28-29

NUC Pastor's Retreat
August 29-31

NUC Regional Convocation
September 2-4

NUC Hispanic Women's Retreat
September 16-18

Let's Move Day
September 18

TLT Leadership Retreat
September 23-25

NUC Women's Retreat
October 7-9

NUC Hispanic Ministry Crusade – Las Vegas
November 1-6

Stewardship Sabbath
November 5

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 Shiloh/Zion Team Diamonds compete at the Pathfinder Bible Experience division finals in Arizona.

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

Do You Know the Community You Are Called to Serve?

The “nones,” the “de-churched,” the “religiously unaffiliated” and the “post-Christian” are all interchangeable terms used to identify a growing population in North America. These terms refer to people who say their religion is “nothing in particular.” In the five counties of our conference, the people who fall into these categories currently make up 50-60 percent of many communities around our churches where we are called to serve. This by far exceeds the 23 percent national average for the religiously unaffiliated population.

The increase in nones creates a challenge as we carry out our mission to expand the kingdom of God.

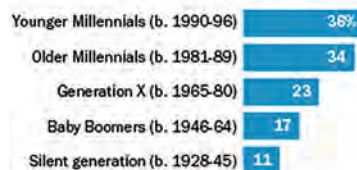
We are learning more and more about this rapidly changing landscape. According to the Pew Research Center and the Barna Group, we know that:

- Religiously unaffiliated people are higher among young adults—over 35 percent of these being Millennials (see graph).
- Over 17 percent of Baby Boomers now identify as nones, an increase of 3 percent from 2007.
- Only 5 to 6 percent are atheist or agnostic.

“We must continue to be a part of creating authentic incarnational ministry in our churches and communities as we cooperate with the Spirit of God.”

Younger Americans More Likely to be Unaffiliated

% of each generation who identify their religion as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular



Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

• One in five Americans said they were raised as Christians or members of another faith but now have no religious affiliation.

So what can we do to reach the nones? One of the first things we can do is to seek to understand. If we go on a mission trip or hold an evangelistic campaign, we often do a lot of research beforehand to understand life from the viewpoint of those in that culture and community. We begin to reach people by learning what we can about their

concept of God and understanding their views and perspectives on life, which provides a context for the ministry we do. I urge us to prayerfully explore how we can engage this population as we dwell among them. Our call is to be the hands and feet, and the voices and hearts, who exude the love of Jesus.

“If I be lifted up,” Jesus said, “I will draw all people to me” (John 12:32).

We must continue to be a part of creating authentic incarnational ministry in our churches and communities as we cooperate with the Spirit of God. This means prayerfully developing relational and grace-oriented ministries that create trust as we love the people around us as Jesus would love them.

Last, we must learn collaboratively what works in our outreach as churches and share our successes and failures with each other.

I pray that God uses each member in our conference to reach this growing population of people who have walked away from organized religion; I pray that these people find a renewed sense of belonging in our growing, thriving and authentic Seventh-day Adventist church communities.

By Sandra Roberts, SECC President





Pathfinders canoe down the Colorado River, spanning 28 miles from Needles to Castle Rock, a landmark on the upper end of Lake Havasu.



PHOTOS: ENNO MÜLLER

Teens Attend 46th Annual Pathfinder Teen River Trip

When you feel as if you have worked so hard to get to where you are, you need a break to relax and unwind. That's what 225 Pathfinders ages 13-18 did from March 31 to April 3 during the 46th Annual Pathfinder Teen River Trip to Needles.

The weekend trip showed appreciation for members in the Pathfinder Teen Counselor Program, which trains teenagers to be active leaders in their local clubs.

"This trip not only shows that the teens are becoming better leaders, but it also recognizes the growth of these teens as they are developing into young adults," Rudy Carrillo, director of youth ministries, said.

Pathfinders were divided up by their counties. Pathfinders from one county started each day by raising the flag and

giving morning worship. At the end of the day, teens from a different county would lower the flag and do a closing devotional.

On Friday, the Pathfinders canoed 11 miles on the Colorado River, starting from Needles and ending at their campground. All participants were required to have earned their intermediate swimming honor to be able to participate in this activity.

Shirley King, a member of the Fallbrook church, spoke for the service Saturday morning. Years ago, King and her children ran away from her physically abusive husband and moved to Southern California. She met church members and saw God's kindness through them. Through God's power,

Pathfinders go on the Carrillo Run every year to see petroglyphs in Grapevine Canyon, near Laughlin, Nevada.



Alcoholics Anonymous and caring friends, King overcame her alcohol addiction. She is a testament that no matter where a person is in life, God will always find them and lead them back to Him.

Free time on Sabbath afternoon allowed teens to enjoy nature and



(Left) Every morning and evening, Pathfinders by county raise or lower the flag and give worship.



bond while exploring the area. Some Pathfinders enjoyed rock drawing and painting.

There were off-site trips as well, including boating to a bird sanctuary in Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and going on the Carrillo Run, a hike to see the Grapevine Canyon Petroglyphs near Laughlin, Nevada. A few clubs traveled to Oatman, Arizona, dubbed "Donkey Town," to see the wild donkeys that freely roam the town.

One of highlights of the weekend was a baptism. Jared Vejar, member of the High Desert Bilingual club, was baptized by Carrillo in the Colorado River.

"Every year, some Pathfinders choose to get baptized during the trip," Carrillo said. "It adds a very special tradition to the event."

The trip ended on Sunday with a 17-mile canoe trip from the Pathfinders' campground to Castle Rock, a landmark on the upper end of Lake Havasu. This

"This trip not only shows that the teens are becoming better leaders, but it also recognizes the growth of these teens as they are developing into young adults."

is a great way to end the weekend before everyone goes home.

"When we go, all of us are together having fun," Diana

Quiroz, member of the La Sierra Spanish Pathfinder club, said. "We eat together, canoe together, play-fight in the river—someone even picked me up and threw me in!" This is Quiroz's first year in the Pathfinder Teen Program, which meets once a month to complete leadership training courses. She attends the program not only for the events, but also so she can learn how to be a leader of others.

"In the end, it doesn't matter which honors they've earned or what tournaments they've won," Carrillo said. "The main purpose of Pathfinders is to lead our kids to Christ."

By Adrian Wilson and Jessica Anzai



(Right) Rudy Carrillo, director of youth ministries, speaks to more than 200 Pathfinders during the 46th annual Pathfinder Teen River Trip in Needles. (Below) Jared Vejar, left, is about to be baptized by Rudy Carrillo, director of youth ministries, in the Colorado River on April 2.



Upcoming Events

SECC Camp meeting (July 8-9)
Riverside Convention Center, 3637 5th St., Riverside. Join us for our 2016 camp meeting with adult and youth services, a health presentation and a live concert featuring special musical guests—Anthony Brown & Group Therapy. Info: <http://bit.ly/1NbQD6K>. To purchase concert tickets: <http://bit.ly/25NYaEL>.

Kidsville VBX (July 11-16) 6-8:30 p.m.
Hemet church, 27025 Girard St., Hemet. Free t-shirts, snacks and lots of fun! Come join us at the Hemet church Kidsville VBX. Info: Nancy Chadwick, 951-756-1960.

Cave Quest VBS (July 11-16) 6-8:30 p.m.
Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. Our week of adventure will include a rock climbing wall, songs and skits at Sing and Play Rock, Deep Bible Quests, Spelunker Sports and Games and more. Info: Patty Marruffo, 951-317-3868, www.azurehills.org.

SECC Youth Day – Magic Mountain (July 17) 10:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Six Flags Magic Mountain, 26101 Magic Mountain Pkwy, Valencia. A leisurely day for youth and young adults at the park. Tickets are \$45/person. This includes admission for a full day and all you can eat lunch buffet. Info: Liz Adams, 951-509-2260, ladams@seccsda.org.

ABC Summer Sale (July 17-21) Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Mon.-Thur. 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Adventist Book Center, 11320 Pierce St., Riverside. Check out our special sale days, including Chef's day, Bible day, Kid's day and more. Info: 951-509-2274, abc@seccsda.org.

VBX (Vacation Bible Xperience) (July 17-23) 6-8 p.m.
Victoria church, 1860 S. Mountain View Ave., Loma Linda. Info: www.victoriaadventist.org.

Hispanic Ministries Family Retreat (Aug. 19-21) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. Uniting families for eternity. This camp has great workshops and activities for the whole family to participate in. Register by August 11. Tickets: www.vacacionesfamiliares2016.eventbrite.com. Info: Marvella Garcia, 951-509-2333, mgarcia@seccsda.org.



(Left) David Roysdon, junior high science, Bible and history teacher at San Diego academy, wows the audience with his science demonstrations. (Right) Alayna Theye, a senior, puts Margarete Labrador, a sixth grader, inside a soap bubble as Jamaesha Early, senior, looks on.



on. (Far Right) Hanna Verduzco, left, stands with her project, "Does Music Affect Concentration," which won second place for seventh grade. Dali Sanchez, right, stands with her project, "Crystal Snowflake."



Science Fair Comes to Life at San Diego Academy

Oxidized apples, potted plants, solar panels, bicycle pumps, empty Happy Meal bags and dozens of tri-fold poster boards filled the gym as students, with arms overflowing, dropped off their science projects the day before San Diego Academy's first Science Fair, which was conducted on May 5. Over 250 students, relatives and community members were able to witness projects that took months of research to complete at this fair of students from grades 4 to 12.

Tables were set-up, projects were organized and judges scored the students' efforts and determined the best of the best, awarding blue, red and white ribbons. The first place winners also received \$100 cash prizes.

"Students' scores were determined by their three-page analysis and conclusion, the project itself and the presentation board and table," David Roysdon, head organizer and seventh- and eighth-grade science, Bible and history teacher said.

Roysdon, along with a supportive team of teachers, dedicated class time throughout the year to teaching students the proper techniques in conducting a scientific research project. This included not only research, but creating a

hypothesis, doing experiments, collecting data and creating an analysis and conclusion.

The students learned a great deal of science in topics such as optical illusions, music and concentration, water analysis, food preservation and memorization techniques. Many students chose to do an engineering project using examples of roller coasters, solar ovens and electromagnetic devices. Gabe Pitrone, a seventh grader, studied electromagnetic induction using batteries, wire and a nail to get washers to magnetize the nail. Gabe

was one of the students to win first place.

"My favorite part about science is learning how to apply what we learn in real life," Gabe said.

Becky

Mercado, a sixth

Sixth grader Becky Mercado's display shows how additives in foods from McDonald's and other fast food companies affect health. Her research helped influence her family to change to a vegetarian diet.



grader, presented a project that showed how additives in foods from McDonald's and other fast food companies affect health, also comparing the effects of diet between vegetarians and meat eaters. Her research changed the eating and dietary habits of not only members of her immediate family but members of her extended family as well.

Rob Shultz, junior and senior high school teacher for Honors Chemistry

and Honors Physics, oversaw his physics students as they performed science shows throughout the evening. The Physics Wild Science Show included a bed of nails, jumbo-sized bubbles and bolts of lightning. The audience participated in the Chemistry Magic Show by blowing up hydrogen balloons to make water. Rubber balls were shattered by liquid nitrogen and frozen bananas were used to hammer nails. The crowds were wowed by the exotic chemicals and fantastic chemical reactions.

Almost \$700 was raised for the school's science program. Since the fair fell on Cinco de Mayo, a lot of the money was raised by selling food provided by the home and school leaders. The rest was raised from the \$2 entrance fee.

The school's science and math program has grown significantly in the past few years with the addition of classes such as Robotics, Honors Chemistry, Honors Physics and AP Calculus. An Anatomy and Physiology class is planned for next fall. The new school-wide science fair enhances the science program even more by giving students actual research experience. Next year, more teachers will be involved and more students will make presentations.

"Students truly need to understand the world around them," Roysdon said. "God has set this up not only for their benefit—but for their pleasure."

By Pam Shultz, David Roysdon, Jessica Anzai

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