

PACIFIC UNION

recorder

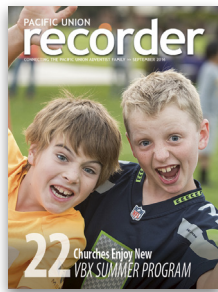
CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> SEPTEMBER 2016



22 Churches Enjoy New
VBX SUMMER PROGRAM

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about the cover

Two boys celebrate winning the tug-of-war game at Kidsville during VBX at the Loma Linda University church.

PHOTO: ENNO MÜLLER

PACIFIC UNION recorder

Publisher

Ray Tetz — ray@puonline.org

Editor / Layout

Alicia Adams — alicia@puonline.org

Editing / Proofreading

Christy K. Robinson

Printing

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Editorial Correspondents

Adventist Health 916-781-4756
Jenni Glass — glassjl@ah.org

Arizona 480-991-6777
Phil Draper — phildraper@azconference.org

Central California 559-347-3000
Costin Jordache — cjordache@cccsda.org

Hawaii 808-595-7591
Jesse Seibel — jesseseibel@gmail.com

La Sierra University 951-785-2000
Darla Tucker — dmartint@lasierra.edu

Loma Linda 909-558-4526
Nancy Yuen — nyuen@llu.edu

Nevada-Utah 775-322-6929
Michelle Ward — mward@nevadautah.org

Northern California 925-685-4300
Stephanie Leal — sleal@nccsda.com

Pacific Union College 707-965-6303
Jennifer Tyner — jtyner@puc.edu

Southeastern California 951-509-2200
Enno Müller — communications@seccsda.org

Southern California 818-546-8400
Betty Cooney — bcooney@sccsda.org



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Revive Us Again

Reflections on the 15th Anniversary of 9/11

This month, in schoolrooms across America, teachers will talk about what happened 15 years ago on 9/11/2001. Social media will be filled with status updates, and the web will be awash with reviews and retrospectives. There will be articles in newspapers and throughout the media that rehearse the details of how four airplanes were hijacked and turned into weapons. Two of the planes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York, another plane hit the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a fourth crashed in a field in Pennsylvania before reaching its likely target of Washington, D.C. Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the attacks.

For schoolchildren, 9/11 is a historical event, known only through photographs, videos and stories told to them by their teachers and parents. For those of us old enough to remember, it is all still vividly real. We can tell you exactly where we were, what we were doing, and who we were with when we heard the news on that fateful Tuesday morning. And thousands of miles away from New York and Washington, D.C., the Pacific Union woke up that morning to a world that would never be the same, a way of life that was changed forever.

It was terrifying.

It was galvanizing. Although we Americans were shaken to our core, this moment brought us together in profound and unshakeable ways.

Because, almost immediately, heroes emerged. The first responders were extraordinary. As one survivor of the World Trade Center attack said so eloquently, "While we were rushing out, they were rushing in." The heroism was widespread, and the heroes were often ordinary citizens like us. People were stunned and frightened, of course they were, but they did not hesitate to act. They were afraid, but they weren't motivated by fear.

I believe they were motivated by hope. In the midst of everything terrible, there were those who focused on life instead of death, on what could be saved instead of what had been destroyed. Hope was more than a great motivator — it was the measure of our common humanity.

And now, 15 years later, that hope is being sorely tested. We have to steel ourselves to read the newspaper or watch the news. Mass shootings, suicide bombings, trouble in our streets — these are stories that create anxiety, frustration, anger and uncertainty.

It is not possible to wish this away, but we can respond to the bad things that are happening around in specific ways that address our fears.

For one thing, it's not necessary to follow the unfolding events so closely that we lose our perspective. Keeping informed is valuable; becoming obsessed with the minute-by-minute coverage can be harmful. Maybe turning off the TV or ignoring those status updates on our smartphones can help us regain our balance.

Second, we can take stock of our blessings and think of the things that give us joy and stability. Particularly in times of uncertainty it is good to remember the things we can depend on. Now is a good time

to turn to the people who love us and care about us and keep them close — together we are strong. The community of believers is also the community of hope for the future.

And we can pray. We can turn to God and ask that our minds and hearts be renewed by His divine presence. In Psalm 85:6, we find a prayer we all can pray. It asks God, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"

This, I believe, is a text for this time — a prayer for our private meditations and a prayer for us to pray together. "Revive us again."

Revive is a word that is associated with the idea of restoration, renewal and repair. It means to awaken or energize. It means that life will continue. It gives us hope that it is possible to find a new course of action that was closed to us before. It is a word filled with promise.

Fifteen years ago we desperately needed this hope and promise, and today we must continue to pray, "Revive us again." This is a prayer of hope, a prayer that sees the future. This is a plea that joy and peace may be returned to our lives and our world. And in a time of fear and great uncertainty, with things changing constantly, it is a reminder of the divine grace that can be the agent of change and renewal.

In a world of uncertainty, this promise of hope is the one thing that's sure. God is willing and able to revive us again.

Tony Anobile



The Voice of Prophecy's 'Shadow Empire' Makes a Splash Across the Pacific Union

In today's media-saturated, on-demand landscape, many people wonder if traditional evangelism seminars still work. With all the choices people have at home, is it even possible to get them to walk through the doors of a church?

From April 28-30, the Voice of Prophecy's Shadow Empire series revealed that the answer is a clear "Yes!" Hundreds of churches across North America — including many in the Pacific Union — held this four-part event, which focused on the compelling life of Constantine and his continued impact on religious liberty today.

In addition to documentary-style segments featuring Voice of Prophecy Speaker/Director Shawn Boonstra, half of the program was facilitated by the local pastor, thus enabling guests to get to know their local church and register for follow-up Bible studies.

"Even though this was a seed-sowing event, some churches have already seen amazing results, including baptisms!" said Boonstra. "It worked because it truly engaged at the individual church level — combining the local with the national, and the historical with the topical. People couldn't help but be intrigued by the content."

The Voice of Prophecy wanted to ensure high production values for this series, so the team captured ultra-high-definition aerial footage using a quadcopter, and Boonstra taped his segments on location in countries such as Serbia, Turkey and Italy. He was even granted access to an active dig site where archeologists are unearthing what they believe is one of Constantine's homes.

Through a partnership with SermonView, an evangelism marketing ministry in Vancouver, Wash., hosts had access to a range of effective promotional resources, including direct mail and social media. And through the use of the series' accompanying book, *Shadow Emperor*,

and Shadow Empire Bible lessons, attendees received additional resources for deeper study.

Pastor Murray Miller from the Anderson, Calif., church was thrilled with the more than 20 guests who attended at his church, many of whom signed up for the church's follow-up events, including The Appearing and the NEWSTART Health Expo. He said, "One man told me, 'I came because I have a huge interest in history and wanted to compare what I had studied previously to this program.' Truly, this series attracted a seeker audience as well as some from other Christian backgrounds who were concerned about religious liberty. And the young people of our church were very impressed with each episode and would come into the main meeting to watch the presentation."

Pastor Gary Jensen from the Fresno Central church echoed these sentiments. "The presentation by Pastor Boonstra was very informative and engaging," he said. "Seeing the places where the events took place added to the enjoyment. It was very professionally done, and as a pastor, I liked how Pastor Boonstra tied the audience into the local church."

"I really enjoyed the filming on location that made the story come alive," said Pastor Ted Calkins from the Middletown, Calif., church.

"The storytelling was 'top drawer,' and the material was presented in a thoughtful way. We want to do evangelism in a new way!"

Part of this series' effectiveness was credited to the fact that it could only be seen in participating local churches. The Voice of Prophecy has made a commitment

to empower and equip local churches for evangelism, and this event is one of many resources the ministry has provided to churches this year (pastors can learn more at voplocal.com).

Due to the overwhelming response to the series and feedback from churches, Shadow Empire will return Sept. 15-17 — which happens to coincide with the National Back to Church weekend — and the series will once again be shown exclusively in churches across North America. Learn more at shadowempire.com.

Michele Stotz



The Anderson church advertises with a banner outside the church.



"I would like to extend our thanks to Pastor Shawn Boonstra for presenting this series in very unique way and for giving me the opportunity to interact with my members and guests in a very wholesome and interesting way," said James Amado from the San Francisco Tabernacle church.

Five Academy Seniors Receive Teacher Education Scholarships

The Pacific Union Conference Office of Education offers a Teacher Education Scholarship to five worthy 12th grade students who would like to become teachers. Because 10 to 20 percent of the teachers in the Pacific Union will retire within the next five to 10 years, new teachers must be ready to fill the vacancy. That was the impetus for the scholarship. This year, Mia Coley, Brianna Johnson, Cassandra Chavez, Kelly Kimura and Hannah Decolongon received the award.

Mia Coley, Thunderbird Adventist Academy



Mia Coley poses with Gus Martin, superintendent of education in the Arizona Conference.

In the Seventh-day Adventist education system it is hard to have exceptional band programs because there is a shortage of teachers and time available for lower levels of education. This results in mediocre high school level bands; the majority of students playing in the band have only just begun to learn the instrument they are playing. I want to start a movement. I want to make band programs fun, exciting, and I want to find a way to start programs at a lower level so that by the time our students get to the high school level, they can be at the same level as every other high school band out there.

Brianna Johnson, Fresno Adventist Academy

I believe the Adventist education system is vital to our faith. It is a place where kids can come to



Brianna Johnson

know Jesus through their studies, as well as learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. I would like to be a part of that process. It is my desire to see kids create a personal relationship with Jesus while they are young. I would like to integrate Jesus throughout my classroom so that there is no doubt that He is the most important thing in the room.

Cassandra Chavez, Pine Hills Adventist Academy

Without the support of the Grass Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church Education Fund and the Northern California Conference scholarships, I would not have had a chance to attain a Christian education. I am immeasurably grateful for what are certainly gifts from God.



Berit von Pohle, union education director, presents a scholarship certificate to Cassandra Chavez.

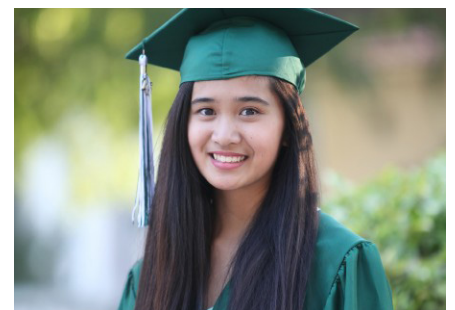
Kelly Kimura, Escondido Adventist Academy

Becoming a teacher fulfills my love for God and children. I plan on attending Pacific Union College for higher Adventist education. I admire my teachers, and several of them graduated from PUC. I want to follow in their footsteps.



Martha Havens, union associate education director, gives Kelly Kimura her award.

Hannah Decolongon, Glendale Adventist Academy



Hannah Decolongon

I would like to get the kids to know that in everything in this world, from the simplest to most complicated, God is present. I hope that through my actions and words, they will be able to see this is so. The teachers in my school have shown this to me, and I hope to pass it on, as well. I also want to have kids experience learning in different ways. Not only by sitting in the classroom, but by going outside, with each other, and kinetically. Learning is not always the tedious task it seems to be.

Cheryl Dickerson



PUC students enjoy experiencing other cultures while studying abroad.

PUC Ranks Second Per Capita for Students Studying Abroad

Pacific Union College continues its strong international presence as one of the leading Adventist institutions participating in Adventist Colleges Abroad. For the 2015–2016 academic year, PUC ranked second among the 13 Adventist colleges and universities in North America for the number of students per capita who studied abroad during the year, with 33 students studying at schools around the world.

Through ACA, PUC students have the opportunity to study at 12 international Adventist schools for a summer or a full academic year. In total, 419 PUC students have studied abroad over the last 10 years; with the most popular destinations being Spain (143), Argentina (97), Italy (64) and France (53). Of the 419 students, 344 went for the full academic year, which places PUC as the third highest Adventist college or university in North America sending students abroad for a full academic year during the last decade.

Graduating PUC students who have participated in the ACA program are given a distinctive stole to wear marking the time they spent invested in their host country (or countries). This year, 32 graduates from the class of 2016 were recognized with these stoles, with two of the graduates having the special distinction of wearing stoles decorated with two flags apiece: Pascale Péan, who studied in France and Spain and graduated with a bachelor's in intercultural communication with an emphasis in French; and Josué Tobar, who studied in France and Germany and graduated with a bachelor's in physics and an associates in engineering. Brett Hayes set a record with a stole featuring three flags for studying in France, Germany and Lebanon, and he graduated with a degree in intercultural communication with an emphasis in German.

Dr. Sylvia Rasi Gregorutti, chair of the recently renamed Department of World Languages and Cultures, says, "The time spent with ACA provides

more than a language- and culture-learning experience for students. For those who invest a full academic year, it's absolutely transformative. It's clear that our ACA students, who hail from our ethnically and culturally diverse campus, become even better equipped to become leaders, bridge-builders and intercultural communicators. It's a fantastic way to prepare for a life of service!"

As the number of students seeking to add international study experiences to their college curriculums continues to grow, PUC remains firmly committed to the tradition of sending students abroad. Between this summer and the coming school year, there will be 50 PUC students studying abroad. For more information about ACA and how studying abroad can complement career planning, call 800-862-7080, option 2, or email enroll@puc.edu to talk with an enrollment counselor.

Larissa Church

La Sierra Chamber Singers' Japan Tour Touches Lives

What began as a conversation with a music distribution executive last year morphed into a whirlwind two-week tour of Japan this summer for the La Sierra University Chamber Singers.

The tour, the group's first international performance expedition, took place from June 30 through July 9. Together with La Sierra string musicians and other singers who joined the musical journey, the Chamber Singers gave numerous concerts in five cities around the populous island nation in the Pacific Ocean. Ariel Quintana, Chamber Singers director and La Sierra's director of choral studies, organized the tour and conducted performances. Kimo Smith, director of keyboard and collaborative studies, served as pianist and performed organ solo works.

The tour included a brief stop in Sendai, a Sister City of Riverside, Calif., where the string musicians, La Sierra pianist Julian Jensen, Chamber Singers tenor Anthony Leon, and Smith participated in a "friendship concert" at a local high school.

Quintana is an avid composer and arranger whose works have been performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Walt Disney Concert Hall and New York's Avery Fisher Hall. His music has been published by a number of companies and distributed for nine years by PanaMusica, based in Kyoto. Quintana met a PanaMusica vice president during a conference last year in Salt Lake City, Utah, and from that meeting sprang the conversations leading to this summer's Japan tour.

For many of the musicians, the journey proved life-changing, and by many accounts, most of their audiences felt the same way, particularly when the group performed the traditional Japanese children's song, "Furusato." Specially arranged by Quintana for the tour, the song often conjured surprised smiles, tears and sing-alongs as the singers stood in a circle around their audiences and performed the piece in unannounced finales in churches, hospitals, schools and civic auditoriums.

"It brought tears to our eyes hear the people singing along with us because it just felt so great to know we were making the people feel happy,"

said La Sierra music major and alto Michaela Reid describing one of her favorite moments performing "Furusato" at a hospital in the city of Kobe.

"All the faces immediately had smiles of disbelief," added singer Sandra Fermin. "I think they couldn't believe that an American choir took the time to memorize and sing a tune that was close to their hearts. This piece united us in a way that cannot be described but through the harmonies in our voices," she said. "Truly, we were blessed, and I thank God for that."

For Quintana, the tour's musical high points included festivals in Tokyo and Kyoto where the Chamber Singers joined forces with Japanese choirs to perform his composition "Mass From Two Worlds" and his arrangement of "Furusato." "They were very, very well trained. It was like we'd been singing together for years. That was quite special," Quintana said.

Luke Hagelgantz, a singer and recent graduate of Mesa Grande Academy in Calimesa, was invited to tour Japan with the La Sierra musicians. "[This] has been the best experience of my life so far," he wrote in a reflection about the trip. "It was my first time traveling outside of North America. Seeing the cool things like temples, castles and palaces really made my eyes shine of excitement, they were so beautiful and well built. I would love to go back one day."

Back home in the United States, family members and friends of the musicians followed the tour through social media. Myrna Benetiz, parent of violinist and recent La Sierra graduate Jacob Benetiz, described the changes she observed in her son following the tour.

"I spoke with Jacob earlier today," she wrote in a note to Quintana. "It was almost like I was talking with a different kid that I didn't know. My son was touched on this trip. And as I have been following your travels on Facebook, I see that this was not just a music tour to another country. This was an event that touched the hearts of many, many people. I truly believe that God uses you to show others about Him."

Darla Martin Tucker



Director Ariel Quintana takes a selfie with students at Tokyo Elementary School.



The La Sierra University Chamber Singers in Mielparque Concert Hall in Osaka.

Arizona Sunshine Provides \$400,000 Free Medical Care to Prescott Valley Residents

Arizona Sunshine, a volunteer program sponsored by the Arizona Conference, offered free health care for the underserved of Prescott Valley, Ariz., for the second year in a row. The hugely successful program is held during the annual 10-day camp meeting and attracts hundreds of volunteers to run the program.

On June 9 and 10, a crew of 357 volunteers from seven states came to the Prescott Valley Event Center to serve those in need. These volunteers provided free services in the areas of dentistry, primary care, vision care, nursing and triage, immunizations and screenings, physical and occupational therapy, massage therapy, chiropractic care, hospitality, security, food service, chaplaincy, portraits, legal services and musical performances spanning the duration of the two-day event.

“With so many individuals lacking adequate health care coverage,” said Pastor Steve Salsberry, “the free services provided at Arizona Sunshine were answers to prayer for the 4,000 patient contacts at this year’s event. The value of these services given was approximately \$400,000.”

Nancy Perez, a resident of Cordes Junction, Ariz., traveled to Phoenix seeking help at several dental offices and clinics, but to no avail. She was turned away because she lived in the wrong county. She began praying, asking God to provide for her dental needs which she could not afford.



Nancy Perez’s vibrant new smile is a tangible reward for the dental team.

PHOTOS BY VICKY RAYNES

Soon, she received an invitation to the Arizona Sunshine health care event. She felt this was an answer to her prayers as she showed the invitation to her husband and daughter.

Perez and her husband attended Arizona Sunshine and received her much-needed dental care. “It is amazing to me that there are still people in this world who have love in their hearts to help those who are really in need,” she said.



Counselors were available to give encouragement to the many visitors.



Dozens of computer stations and volunteers were ready to register guests.



A guest receives a thorough dental exam from a visiting dentist.



Hundreds of patients received medical triage as they entered the center.

“The dedication and professionalism of the Arizona Sunshine volunteers is unsurpassed,” said Arizona Conference President Ed Keys. “Not only do these volunteers put in long hours at the event, but many of them travel great distances and give up income from their practices for multiple days as they become the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need.”

Arizona Sunshine made a tremendous impact on the local community leaders as well. Prescott Valley Town Mayor Harvey Skoog believes so much in this event that he has donated free of charge the Prescott Valley Event Center as a host site. “Arizona Sunshine has had a tremendous impact on the town of Prescott Valley,” said Skoog. “Many of our residents have health problems and need the services of a doctor, but have no insurance or money to pay. They leave Arizona Sunshine with their physical needs met and a new belief in the goodness of others.” Another Yavapai County supervisor was so impressed with Arizona Sunshine he plans to be a volunteer next year.

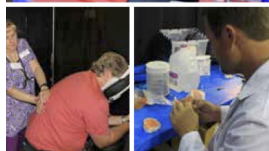
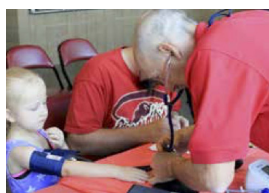
Next year’s Arizona Sunshine is scheduled for June 15-16, and organizers are already recruiting volunteers.

“It is truly a rewarding experience to bless those in need, and it’s a mission experience that doesn’t require a passport for foreign travel,” said Michelle Ritzer, Arizona Sunshine public relations director. “We hope and pray God will continue to use this event to be His hands and feet in reaching a community with His love.”

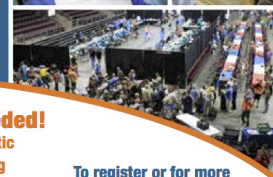
For more information, visit www.azsonshine.com or call 928-636-1884.




A patient is happy to receive a new pair of glasses after her thorough eye exam.




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Phil Draper


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“Ignite” Camp Meeting Sparks Blessings

“Ignite: Each One Reach One,” a camp meeting sponsored by the Northern California Conference African American Ministries Department, took place at Pacific Union College, June 29 to July 3. Former NCC African American Ministries Coordinator Leon Brown, along with the African American pastors and the department’s 37-member lay advisory board, decided to hold the summer event instead of the annual convocation weekend in October.

Throughout the camp meeting, several well-known preachers spoke, including evening speakers Andrea Trusty King, senior pastor of the Sixteenth Street church in San Bernardino, and Hyveth Williams, Andrews University professor of homiletics. Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life speaker/director and Oakwood University church senior pastor, spoke for the Friday night service and the divine worship service. Other highlights included Women’s Spiritual Koinonia meetings, specific programs for children and youth, and a variety of seminars options. In addition, singer/songwriter Lawrence Beaman, top-5 finalist from “America’s Got Talent,” premiered “Ignite Us,” — the camp meeting’s theme song. To see the full program, visit www.nccsda.com/ignite.

For many months, Brown, his administrative assistant Randi Wilson, the pastors and the lay advisory board worked to make the event a success — addressing promotion, pre-registration, lodging, meals, speakers and presenters — in order to meet the needs of their multi-generational and diverse constituent base.

In late May, Brown was called to serve as president of the Nevada-Utah Conference. Three pastors stepped in to manage the administrative responsibilities: Willie Johnson Jr., then pastor of the Fairfield Community church; Gregory Johnson, Oakland Immanuel Temple/Pittsburg district pastor; and Rudolph Peters, Richmond Beacon Light church pastor. “I’m amazed at what God allowed us to accomplish in a short period of time,” said Johnson, now NCC African American Ministries coordinator. “Once

people heard that Dr. Brown was leaving, they started doubting that we could pull it off. We had to double-down on our efforts to keep people focused on why we were having the camp meeting. Our lay advisory did a good job of motivating people to stay the course.”

The event made a huge impact on its coordinators and



Andrea Trusty King, Sixteenth Street church senior pastor, leads an appeal prayer.



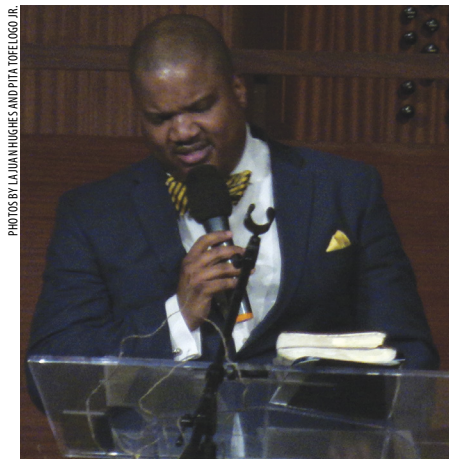
Lay advisory board member Beverly Davis, PUC head women’s basketball coach George Glover, NCC African American Ministries Department administrative assistant Randi Wilson, Oakland Immanuel Temple/Pittsburg district pastor Gregory Johnson, and NCC African American Ministries coordinator Willie Johnson take a break from helping the camp meeting participants.

participants. “For me it was a mountain-top experience,” said Rita Barnes, wife of Trevor Barnes Sr., Union City company pastor. “I could see the Holy Spirit moving among the people because there is a hungering to be together. My grandchildren are still singing the songs they learned in the children’s program.”

Kelvin Morgan, from the Vallejo Berea church, said he witnessed a diverse group of people working together to make something special happen. “From security to the college staff, everyone was friendly and helpful,” he said.

Pittsburg church member Beverly Davis, a member of the lay advisory, served on the registration team. “I worked hard, but I still had time to enjoy the praise and worship and the sermons,” she said. “I’ll be there next year, because I was rejuvenated, inspired and reinvigorated to try harder to be a blessing to someone else.”

Sali Butler



Carlton Byrd, Breath of Life speaker/director and Oakwood University church senior pastor, speaks during the weekend.

NCC Elects Willie Johnson Jr. New African American Ministries Coordinator/Urban Ministries Director

On June 29, the Northern California Conference Executive Committee voted Willie Johnson Jr. to be the new NCC African American ministries coordinator and urban ministries director. He was also voted to serve as men's ministries coordinator and prison ministries coordinator. "I'm looking forward to working closely with Pastor Johnson in his new areas of responsibility," said NCC President Jim Pedersen. "By God's grace, great things will be accomplished!"

Johnson has served as a pastor in the NCC for more than 12 years, most recently at the Fairfield Community church for the past four

years. Before that, he pastored the Oakland Elmhurst church for eight years.

As he assumed his new position, Johnson described some of his objectives. "I want to help facilitate a unity in Christ that will grow our churches and the work in our territory," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with the pastors as we focus on the conference motto, 'Doing what matters for the Kingdom' in our churches and communities."

Johnson has been married to the love of his life, Bernadette Ducre Johnson, for the last 39 years. They have three adult children — Marcus, Natalie and Nicholas — and seven grandchildren.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Johnson was working for a well-known company in Louisiana in the mid-1980s when his life took an unexpected turn. Although he had grown up in a Baptist congregation and his wife was a Catholic, Johnson hadn't been to church in more than a decade. However, a strong desire to know God kept growing in his heart, and one day he prayed, asking for guidance.

Two weeks later, he was visiting the home of a friend when someone knocked on the door. It was an elder from a local Adventist church, offering Bible studies. Both Willie and Bernadette began studying with him. "I had a ton of questions," said Johnson. "I got my answers from the Word of God. I began to see Jesus clearly and His plan for my life." After months of study, the couple was baptized.

For three years after that, Johnson kept his regular job, but also worked as a colporteur. Certain that the Lord was calling him to the ministry, he decided to study at Southwestern Adventist College (now University). His extended family strenuously objected. "They thought I was losing my mind," said Johnson. "Why give up a good job that I've had for 14 years?" Despite many difficulties, he and Bernadette moved with their three young



Bernadette and Willie Johnson Jr.

children to Texas. "By faith, we left everything," he said.

While attending Southwestern, Johnson served as a student pastor for two years. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in theology and a minor in biblical languages, he then went on to pastor in Oklahoma at the Midwest City Christian Fellowship church (which he planted) and the North Highland church in Oklahoma City (which he helped plant) — both in the Southwest Region Conference. Four years later, he became pastor of the New Life church in Tulsa and the Pryor church, both in the Oklahoma Conference. He came to the NCC in January 2004.

During the course of his ministry, Johnson has baptized more than 400 people. "My favorite part of ministry is getting to know people," he said. "As a pastor, I've seen miracle after miracle — only things that God could do. I've seen people's lives changed and families strengthened. I've seen people go from hopelessness to hopefulness. I'm in awe of God's power and His constant presence."

Stephanie Leal and Julie Lorenz



Willie and Bernadette Johnson enjoy visiting with their daughter, Natalie Cadet, and grandchildren, Ilisa and William, at the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee.



The first billboard was posted just north of the Ramona Blvd. exit off the 605 North freeway in Irwindale, Calif.

Hispanic Churches Collaborate on a “Drive-By” Witness in Southern California

“I was driving in Salem, Ore., when I saw a man running on a sidewalk,” said Abel Lopez, district pastor of the El Monte, La Puente and San Gabriel Valley Spanish churches. “His T-shirt said, ‘Jesus Is Coming!’ and I thought, ‘What about our church?! We ought to do something like this, something noticeable in the public.’ So I started praying: ‘Lord, I want to see You come.’ The idea came. “Why don’t we post the same thing on billboards all over L. A.? That message can spread all over the world!”

Lopez talked with other SCC pastors about his vision. Then he talked with Akivah Northern, M.Div., a church member who is founder of the Media Medicine Group. After studying at Howard University School of Medicine and Yale University School of Divinity, Northern developed the desire to minister to people’s social and spiritual wounds, which she found were at the root of many physical illnesses.

“The Media Medicine Group puts up inspirational billboards in the U.S. and also helps other ministries and nonprofits,” she explained. MMG shares messages of hope, love and care (www.9healingwords.org).

Members of the three churches that Lopez pastors each said, “We’ll help!” and \$2,300 came from other pastors. A San Gabriel Valley member who is a businessman, said, “I’ll give more, personally.”

“I wish the Lord Jesus was here. I’m trying to do as much as possible to speed His coming with the help of the Holy Spirit,” said Yanira Parada, a member of the San Gabriel Spanish church who contributed to the billboard project. She is co-owner with her son, Jay Parada, of the Sun Coast Home Elevator Company.

“We cannot fix all the evil in the world,” she added, “so through the years I have presented the gospel in any way possible. I love to work on a personal basis, with Bible studies. My hope is to reach as many as possible; then Jesus will come back.”

Graphics for the initial project proved challenging to locate in time to take advantage of an available discounted billboard space, since many easily obtainable ones were not high enough resolution. One Second Coming painting that has become well known across the denomination, “The Blessed Hope” by Nathan Greene, may be a possibility for future billboards.

The graphic artist at the billboard company scoured his resources and found one that was simple and clean cut that suited the need for the first board. David Lopez, the son of Pastor Lopez, quickly developed a website. “My motivation is the great need to spread the Word,” he said. “I think billboards are a great way to plant a whole lot of seeds. Many don’t know about our church, and billboards can help raise awareness.

“I’m a marketing director for a food-distribution company, but when I heard of this opportunity I thought, ‘Why not use my abilities for His work?’ So I quickly helped develop a website with a few pages for people who see the website and access the URL listed on it (yavienejesus.com). I think this and other opportunities are challenges to business and professional people in our churches to use mass media to further the kingdom of God.”

Betty Cooney

Chad Washburn Ordained

On July 9, Chad Washburn was ordained to the gospel ministry while pastoring the Sylmar church.

Chad Washburn and his twin brother, Eric, were born on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. His early years were spent both in Hawaii and Grass Valley, Calif. After graduating from high school, he and his brother pursued their dream of becoming “surf bums,” and moved to Hawaii to work in construction.

In Hawaii, according to Pastor Walter Nelson, Chad fell in love with Jesus. “Chad saw God moving in people’s lives during Bible camps and weeks of prayer, and experienced God’s Word coming alive in evangelistic meetings, and in the warm fellowship of his ohana (small, family-type group) every Friday evening” when they worshiped together.

Chad’s call to ministry came as a journey of growing and being disciplined at the Kaneohe church. “I asked Chad and his brother to attend a lay pastor training event led by Ron Halverson Sr.,” recalled Nelson. “This event and its related ministry opportunities lit a fire in Chad’s heart for continued ministry. Chad expanded his ministry in the local church, teaching a class for new believers, helping lead youth activities and leading out in prison ministries.”

Washburn’s next step was to leave behind his beach life and attend Pacific Union College,

where his brother was studying theology. Chad stepped out in faith, but couldn’t help asking at the same time, “God, are you crazy?” Fears related to his struggle with dyslexia challenged him to trust God with the impossible. As he claimed the promise, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13), God indeed accomplished what seemed impossible in his life.

Washburn and his wife, Jody, were married in 2006. (They met on a ShareHim evangelism trip to Indonesia in 2004.) After briefly serving in the Southern California Conference as associate pastor of the Santa Barbara church, the Washburns moved to Michigan, where Chad enrolled in the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. When he obtained his degree, he resumed his ministry in SCC as associate pastor of the Lancaster church. In October 2015, Washburn began serving as pastor of the Sylmar church.



The ordination included the dedication of Danielle Kalea (“filled with joy”) Washburn, with Eric Scott, a chaplain at the Antelope Valley Hospital, officiating.

The couple left in July for Washington state where Pastor Washburn will again serve in ministry and Jody will teach at Walla Walla University. “We are honored to serve God wherever He opens the door,” said Washburn, “and we look forward to many more years of ministry.”

“We are happy for what you have done in this conference,” affirmed Velino A. Salazar, SCC president, in his ordination homily. “We have seen the development of your skills. David cared for the flock as well as individual sheep. Pastor Washburn is a skillful shepherd and warrior for God. Pastor Chad, we pray that He will continue using you.”

Continuing the shepherd theme, Greg Hoenes, director of SCC’s West Region, presented Washburn with a shepherd’s crook, among other gifts for ministry.

“Eighteen years ago in Hawaii, Pastor Nelson asked my brother and I if we would be willing to go to a lay pastor training event,” reflected Washburn. “The training was for church elders, but no elders could go. Providentially, he asked two 20-year-olds to go. My journey of learning about my calling began that weekend.

“I still remember Pastor Ron Halverson Sr. sharing a fishing story on that training weekend. This story became my story.”

Betty Cooney



James G. Lee Jr. prayed the ordination prayer. (L. to r., rear): Walt Nelson, Eric Washburn, Velino Salazar, Greg Hoenes; (first row) Jody and Chad Washburn, Jim Ayars.

PHOTOS BY BETTY COONEY

Student Testimonies and Statistics Paint MITHS Successes in Bright, Bold Strokes

The 17th annual Minority Introduction to The Health Sciences program — better known as MITHS — celebrated the achievements of its latest cohort of high-achieving black high school students. The celebration took place on July 14 at Loma Linda University's Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

The Loma Linda University-based program was the brainchild of Leroy A. Reece, M.D., assistant professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and obstetrician/gynecologist at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles. The program is jointly sponsored by Black Alumni of Loma Linda & La Sierra Universities and Loma Linda University.

The MITHS program brings promising black Seventh-day Adventist high school students to the Loma Linda University campus the summer following their junior year. They spend three weeks taking intensive classes that provide specialized introductions to medical and health careers, and bolster their overall academic performance and study habits.

Jasmine Thornhill, a 16-year-old from Oakwood Adventist Academy in Huntsville, Ala., took part in the summer 2016 session. She was influenced to apply for the MITHS program because of annual visits to her school by Ricardo J. Whyte, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, as well as family members and friends who participated in previous years.

Thornhill was impressed by the program. "To me, the level at which the students improved reading speeds was unfathomable," she expressed. Thornhill emphasized that the program helped her explore new interests and options while preparing to pursue a career in medicine.

"A unanimous highlight of the trip was the visit to the surgical center," she continued. "We each took turns using the Da Vinci surgical robot, and saw a hiatal hernia repair surgery

performed by a surgeon using the robot." Other MITHS participants remarked that they enjoyed learning suturing techniques using vegetarian hot dogs.

Thornhill concluded that, while the program was rigorous, she felt better prepared to finish her senior year strong and to face the challenges of undergraduate education and medical school as a result of participating in MITHS.

During the celebration, David Conkerite II, human resource management program manager at Loma Linda University Health, reviewed the first decade of the MITHS program. During that time, total of 175 high school students have participated, not including the 17 MITHS participants this year.

Conkerite also showed that of the 175 MITHS graduates from 1999 to 2008, an amazing 99 percent had received college degrees. In

addition, 66 percent had majored in a health science discipline.

At the end of his presentation, Conkerite motioned to Reece, citing the MITHS founder's innovation, determination, and faith as driving factors in the success of the program and in encouraging so many young black students to pursue excellence and achievement.

Keith R. Doram, M.D., MBA, FACP, vice president for medical affairs at Adventist Health, located in Roseville, Calif., delivered the keynote speech and commended the participants for their hard work and diligence. He encouraged them to believe that little things, like enough sleep at night and focusing on positive thoughts, can contribute to their future success.

James Ponder and Larry Kidder



Ricardo J. Whyte, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, is joined by a group of MITHS participants — from left, Melani Cleveland, Reyna Patterson, and A'na Scott — who honored him for his work in helping to organize the summer prep course.

White Memorial Medical Center Presents

Hospital Sabbath Celebration

Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church

1720 E Cesar E Chavez Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90033



**Scott
Reed**

Singer/Songwriter



**Lee
Holdridge**

Composer, Arranger,
Conductor



**Harold
Alomia**

Lead Pastor
College View SDA Church
Union College, Lincoln, NE



**Ricardo
Rodriguez**

Singer
Dove Awards Winner



**Sam
Ocampo**

Producer/Pianist

Live String Orchestra
Conducted by Maestro Lee Holdridge



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White Memorial Medical Center
Adventist Health

East Palo Alto Church Partners with Habitat for Humanity to Create New Community Center

It took prayer, perseverance and patience, and after two years of hard work, East Palo Alto church members are enjoying their newly renovated Earl Canson Community Center and praising God for His faithfulness. The renovation came about through a cooperative partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the organization well-known for building homes for low-income families all over the world. What isn't common knowledge is that HFH also partners with community groups on worthy projects.

According to David Hudgens, then East Palo Alto church pastor, "Habitat for Humanity was committed to seeing the project through to completion, helping us in every way possible." The 3,101 sq. ft. building includes new joists, sub-floors and laminated flooring in the fellowship hall, tile flooring in the entry and kitchen, totally renovated bathrooms, all new gas lines, and state-of-the-art appliances, including a Sub-Zero refrigeration unit, granite and quartz countertops, and a new roof.

A church member first initiated the contact with HFH, and nearly 30 church members tirelessly participated in the plumbing and electrical upgrades, specified by the working agreement with the organization. Overall, the church contributed approximately \$45,000, while HFH provided all the other materials, including building supplies, professional appliances and cabinetry — an estimated \$150,000 gift, including labor. Besides using the center for potluck meals, social activities, and cooking classes, the church plans to hold regular exercise classes open to local community members.

Debra Powell, church treasurer and administrator, who was actively involved in overseeing the project, could hardly contain her excitement. "We had a dream — a first-class building with a commercial kitchen, and God provided more than we dreamed," Powell says. "We're so grateful for how God opened doors and led in this project. We now have a beautiful center that truly honors the Lord."



Breakfast at the East Palo Alto church serves nearly 40 Sabbath school members.



The original fellowship hall floor is demolished in preparations for its remodel.

The newly renovated building is named after Earl Canson Sr., the beloved second pastor, who turned what was once a home into the original official sanctuary of the East Palo Alto church.

"We're so pleased to honor Pastor Canson's ministry with the new center," says Hudgens. "Now more than ever before, we must see our local communities as an integral part of our churches — making an impact where the needs are truly great. We will continue to develop community partnerships, following Christ's example of service."

Nancy Reynolds

CCC Welcomes New Personnel

The Central California Conference is pleased to announce several personnel transitions within its office. Some of the transitions involve retiring personnel, while others help align conference operations with its recently released strategic plan.

Newly Appointed Vice Presidents

Ken Bullington has been appointed by the conference executive committee to serve as vice president for education, replacing David Gillham, who retired Aug. 1. Bullington holds master's degree in education administration and leadership, and has served as associate superintendent of schools in Central since 1992. During that time, he was instrumental in developing the Advanced Honors Diploma, community service and service learning criteria for graduation, curriculum collaboration for virtual learning schools, band and choral ministry weekends, a K-12 Mentor Teacher program and Friendship Games sports ministry tournaments and youth rallies.

David Hudgens received his appointment to join the CCC administrative team as vice president for human resources and personnel, transitioning from pastoral ministry at the East Palo Alto church. Prior to his pastoral ministry, Hudgens spent over 20 years in human resources, insurance risk and related fields. In conjunction with this, he served in pastoral roles with increasing responsibility. Transitioning from the business world, he completed his master's degree in church development from Oakwood University and has served as a senior pastor in Central churches for over 10 years. Hudgens' experience has prepared him for his new position in human resources and personnel.

New Departmental Directors

Pierre Steenberg has transitioned from vice president for human resources and personnel to into the role of ministerial director and evangelism coordinator. Since his elementary school days, he knew he wanted to be a pastor and he loved to study. In 1992, Steenberg began serving as a pastor and worked to complete two bachelor's degrees, a master's in biblical studies and a doctorate in New Testament studies. Following God's lead, in 2001 he found himself pastoring in Central. In his "spare time," Steenberg earned another doctorate in in pastoral psychology and family therapy and became a Board Certified Christian Counselor. This experience and training will allow Steenberg a seamless transition to the ministerial department.

Lisa Plasencia joins the Central family as the children's ministry director, replacing Rosa Gillham, who retired Aug. 1. Plasencia has 12 years of experience in children's ministry at the conference level and her master's degree in communication. She brings unique talents that include the ability to teach people how to give presentations, work



New vice president for human resources, David Hudgens (left), pauses for a smile with George Bronson, interim associate superintendent of education, Lisa Plasencia, children's ministries director, Ken Bullington, vice president for education, and Pierre Steenberg, ministerial director and evangelism coordinator. Allan Willmont, Central's new associate treasurer is not pictured.

together in groups, and use communication to build bridges and unite church members. Her emphasis will be to disciple children on how to communicate, connect and create an abiding relationship with God, and to impact their local church and community.

Personnel Additions

Dr. George Bronson has agreed to serve as interim associate superintendent of education as Bullington steps in to his new position. Bronson has served as teacher, principal, associate superintendent, superintendent (now known as vice president for education), throughout California. He has also served as associate director for secondary education for the Pacific Union, and for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges as associate executive director for operations. He brings a lifetime of skills to Central, having had the privilege of traveling extensively throughout the United States on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Program, visiting public schools in many states and working with the California Department of Education to establish an accreditation system for charter schools. During his time in Central, Bronson will focus on secondary schools.

Allan Willmont joins the administrative team as Central's new associate treasurer. The position was formerly titled undertreasurer, a role held for 16 years by Keith Scott before he was appointed treasurer in 2015. Willmont has extensive financial experience as an auditor with the General Conference Auditing Service, an accountant and business manager with Marriott International, and related experience in the healthcare field.

The Central California Conference welcomes all new personnel to its territory and wishes God's richest blessings for all those transitioning into new ministry roles.

Sue Schramm and Costin Jordache

Churches Enjoy New VBX Summer Program

Kidsville: Where Jesus Loves Others Through You” was the theme to this year’s VBX, which stands for Vacation Bible Xperience. This new program replaced the more traditional idea of Vacation Bible School, adding many new features, such as The Clubhouse, where children learned how to apply the daily lesson to their everyday lives.

The North American Division contacted Manuel Vitug, director of family and children’s ministries for the Southeastern California Conference, and asked him to put a team together to create the VBX program for 2016. Vitug’s team decided to have a relatable theme that put kids where they enjoy spending time, such as the playground or the mall. They created a little town called Kidsville and decided to emphasize friendships the children have with each other and, most important, with Jesus.

The group focused on three specific goals: VBX should be relational with God as well as with others; it should be interactive; and the theme should be heavily integrated into every station.

Vitug said that although he led the group, everyone’s contributions were vital. “Everything was a team effort,” he said. “We met, discussed and hashed out different things to determine if this was the direction we wanted to go.”

Kelly Pick, children’s ministry coordinator of the Corona church, was the station manual writer for the opening and closing program. Pick said it was her job to bring the aspect of friendship into the program.



Children sing this year’s theme song for Kidsville, “Love is Everything,” written by Lucas Pimentel, music producer and a member of the Corona church.

“My part as being the creator of the opening and closing ceremonies was how to introduce Jesus to these kids in a way that would make them feel that He loves them and that He is their friend,” Pick said.

Pick began writing skits about children on a playground and the things they were experiencing. The illustrations were open-ended so that the children at VBX could get together and decide what should be done in each scenario.

“Everything involved practical application, practical thinking,” Pick said. “The kids had to decide for themselves, in a group, what should be done

in a Christlike fashion.”

Another area of special interest was music. This group was led by Roy Rantung, associate pastor of the Victorville church. Rantung created two original songs and arranged another five with the help of Werner Carrasco, an Adventist producer in Nashville. The theme song, “Love is Everything,” was written



Linda Mendoza tells a story about police dogs during Kidsville at Loma Linda University church.



Ruth Thomas volunteers to do a jumping exercise during Kidsville at Loma Linda Filipino church in June.

PHOTOS BY ENNO MULLER

MANNY VITUG



Mylia pauses with her craft during Kidsville at Victoria church.

by Lucas Pimentel, a music producer and a member of the Corona church. “The point was to create songs that exemplified the theme of the week: Jesus loves others through you,” Rantung said. “With the music and the motions, we were trying to help the children experience the message through music.”

Rantung said he felt blessed to have had this role, because music is what children take with them when VBX is over. “You hope that kids will not only remember the lessons, but actually live them — to keep it in their minds and hearts.”

Joseph Oh, associate pastor of the San Diego Central church, reported that 55 children attended their program. He said that when his church was looking at different Vacation Bible Schools to select from, they initially had their doubts about VBX.

“But when we went to the training, we really loved what we saw about the program,” Oh said. “I enjoyed the depth the students got.”

Oh said that he had been frustrated with VBS programs in the past, because they typically combined the station that told the Bible story with the station that explained the life application, and there was often not enough time to cover all the material. For him, this issue was resolved in VBX.

“Because it was broken into two pieces, there was plenty of time not only to tell the story in an engaging manner that the students would enjoy, but also to give them time to process it and think about how it was practical to their lives,” Oh said.

Charlotte Jakiel, interim VBX director at the Arlington church, said 75 children attended their program. “It was awesome,” Jakiel said. “The Lord blessed us. It was one of the best years we’ve had, and I’ve had a lot of people tell me that.”



Almost 600 children gathered at the Loma Linda University church for this year’s Kidsville in June.



Children listen carefully to stories of service dogs and how they help people.



Churches created prayer stations this summer for children to pray and write prayer requests during this year’s Vacation Bible Xperience.

The North American Division has asked Vitug and his team to plan another VBX program for 2018. When Vitug contacted Jakiel to see if her church would be willing to test-run their new program in 2018, Jakiel said she quickly agreed after such a successful run this summer.

Though there were many things churches enjoyed about this summer’s VBX, Vitug said there are still things that need improvement, such as more decoration ideas. Vitug plans to address these needs in the future, as he and his team are already coming up with preliminary plans for VBX 2018.

“The 2018 VBX is looking at understanding the role of Jesus as our Savior and how it impacts our responsibilities to the world,” Vitug said.

Avery Botticelli

Walmart Opens Doors to Community Health Screening

THRIVE (Teach Heal Revive Integrated Volunteer Evangelism) is a group of young people that partner with churches throughout the Nevada-Utah Conference to minister via door-to-door outreach, literature evangelism, Bible studies, health coaching, cooking schools and church member training.

This summer, THRIVE has teamed up with Youth Rush (the summer student literature evangelism program) for a holistic approach to evangelism and church member involvement in Las Vegas. The objective is to promote physical and spiritual wellbeing with the community via a combination of the gospel message and the health message.

One of the unique opportunities this season was an invitation to Walmart to conduct a community health screening. "Normally when

we work with Walmart they have put us outside in the parking lot, but on this occasion they saw the value of putting us right inside the store," said program director Westney White. "They removed an entire section of clothes from the front entrance of the store, and we were able to set up shop in a ideal location inside the building."

During these health screenings, health professionals checked patients' basic vital signs and inquired about their lifestyle habits. Guests also learned about the eight laws of health — nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest and trust in God. Each participant received a relaxing massage and had the opportunity to sign up for other health and spiritual services that the church will be providing for the community.

There was a steady flow of traffic for the entire four hours of the event.

One man named Craig came through and asked, "What organization is putting this on?" When he learned that the team is affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist church located just three minutes from Walmart, he said, "Wow, my wife and I have been thinking about attending your church for months. We like that you worship on Saturday." After the team answered a few questions and gave him some literature, he said, "I hope to see you at your church soon."

Church members hope to continue promoting health in the community, using physical wellness to bridge the path to lasting spiritual health.

Westney White



Thomas Clark introduces Peter Neri, Paradise church pastor, to a family that is interested in Bible studies.



THRIVE member Andrew Cota shares Habits that Heal with a guest at the health expo.



Team members Thomas Clark and Anthony Baca teach participants about nutrition.



Lorelai Plata and Angele Noel invite people to the health expo at Walmart.

Camp Wai'anae Focuses on Growing Staff

College students from all over the country make an annual pilgrimage to take part in summer camp life and impact kids for Christ. Camp life is an adventure. It's a hundred miles a minute, and no two days are alike. The shifting dynamics and fast pace create an atmosphere where opportunities to share Christ pop up in the most unexpected places. Although fun, camp is hard work. Work can start before the sun comes up and last until midnight. It's not for the faint of heart!

Sometimes the spiritual development of the staff takes a backseat to executing the summer program for the campers. Erik Vandenburg, Hawaii Conference youth director, saw the ongoing spiritual development of the young adult staff as an area for growth and expansion. This summer, Camp Wai'anae initiated a mentorship and discipleship program through the summer season designed not for the campers, but for the staff.

Traditionally, most camp programs use staff worship times as an opportunity for peer-to-peer outreach, where different staff lead and share with one another. Often, the camp pastor for the week will share as well as the administrative staff. Rarely is there a pastor who focuses on the staff over the entire summer, not only in worship, but as mentor, friend, fellow staff member, leader and teacher.

Using an exclusive visual curriculum for young adults that explored and expanded Adventist fundamentals, the staff was exposed to the bedrock of the three angels' messages. Each worship time was designed to build on the last, allowing the staff to reflect deeply on the topics presented and then bring thoughts and questions to the next session.

The curriculum had two levels. First, instructional presentations had a threefold focus — the centrality of God's love, Adventist theology and difficult questions. Second was mentoring at a one-on-one level; they explored ideas and their application into the lives of the staff. This method of engagement, along with continued mentorship, yielded results.



Jonathan Leonardo leads the staff through a time of prayer before opening the evening discussion and study.

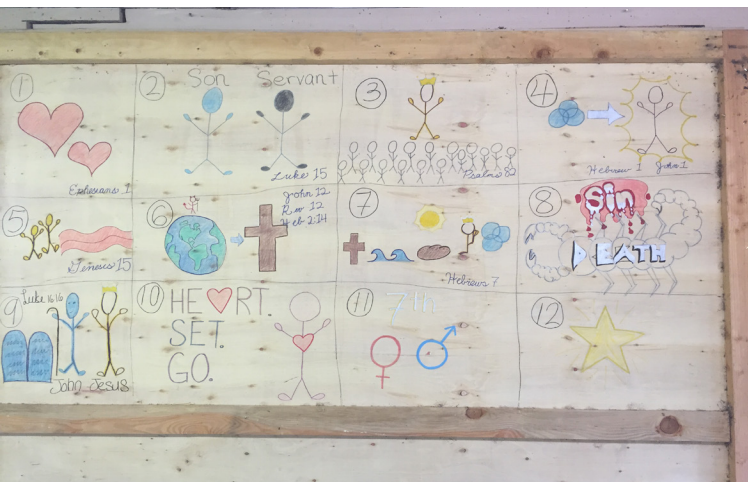
"The young adult initiative made it a summer of spiritual growth," shared Danika Ouzounian, who has several summers of camp experience. "The worships challenged me to think about new ideas and to reevaluate things I thought I understood."

Several staff members shared that the sustained nature of the initiative and curriculum allowed their growth to deepen because they were able to ask questions, dialogue and internalize the truths shared.

"I live in an area with a small Adventist presence and don't get a lot of spiritual support outside of camp," Bethany Leanne said. "The themes that we focused on were relevant and deep, taking my understanding of God to a new level. After nine years of working in camp ministry, I felt like the ministry was not just for the young kids, but also for the adults. I left this summer encouraged to keep studying and developing my relationship with God."

The curriculum and mentoring also had the effect of encouraging the staff members to share what they had learned. Ouzounian noted that she left camp simply excited to share what she learned about God with others. "Before, my summer camp ministry ended when camp ended," she said. "Now I feel like summer camp was a catalyst for my own spiritual growth and equipped me to share with those in my real world outside of camp."

"What was presented really challenged me to think about my standing before God in a different light," said Jordan Layao. "I can conceive of my standing before Him not from a place of worthlessness, but from worthiness. He loved me enough to go to great lengths for me to know it; that changes everything."



A simple image was used to encapsulate each of the 12 topics, helping staff have a visual cue for retention and interpretation.

Jonathan Leonardo

Adventist Health News Notes

Knittel Named President and CEO of Feather River Hospital

Monty Knittel has been named president and CEO of Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif., according to Jeff Eller, president and CEO of the Northern California Region of Adventist Health. Knittel, who has worked nearly 30 years at Adventist Health — with nine years as a hospital CEO — began his role in June.

Knittel most recently has served as the president and CEO of Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Washington. While there he initiated and completed construction of a \$16 million, 18,000 square-foot remodel of the hospital that included a new emergency department, centralized patient admitting and front entrance.

Prior to WWGH, Knittel worked from 1987 to 2007 at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, Ore. During his tenure, he progressed through several

roles, culminating in vice president of business development and marketing for the Pacific Northwest Region, which includes AMC in Portland, Tillamook Regional Medical Center and WWGH.

Knittel earned a bachelor's degree from Pacific Union College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Montana. He and his wife, Patty, have two adult children.



Monty Knittel

Tehachapi Valley Health Care District Passes Vote; Adventist Health to Operate New Hospital

The ballot measure to bring the Tehachapi Valley Health Care District in Tehachapi, Calif., under the operation of Adventist Health passed in a

community vote by almost 90 percent (89.02) in June, allowing Adventist Health to assume management of the hospital under a long-term lease beginning this fall.

"I am pleased that the district put its trust in Adventist Health," said Doug Duffield, president and CEO at San Joaquin Community Hospital, in Bakersfield, Calif., which will play a significant role in integrating the new hospital into Adventist Health. "I look forward to collaborating with the district and local leaders to enhance the health status of the communities in Tehachapi."

In addition to the operation and management of the current hospital, Adventist Health will provide funding to complete construction of the new hospital and supply ongoing resources to create sustainable and high-quality services, according to Bob Beehler, vice president for Market Development/Mergers and Acquisitions for Adventist Health.

The new 25-bed critical access hospital will serve the Tehachapi Valley and Southeast Kern County. The key service areas include emergency services, inpatient, swing bed, laboratory, imaging, inpatient pharmacy and dietary services. Adventist Health also will operate and manage three rural health clinics located in Tehachapi, Mojave and California City.

"This is a great opportunity for Adventist Health to share our distinctive mission of whole person health into new communities," said Scott Reiner, president and CEO of Adventist Health.

Completion of construction is expected by December, and the new hospital plans to open its doors to patients in February 2017.

Castle Medical Center Purchases Land

Castle Medical Center in Kailua, Hawaii, reached an agreement with Hawaii Pacific University to buy the 130-acre Hawaii Loa Campus, which is also located on the Windward side of Oahu. The purchase of the property will allow Castle Medical Center to expand its local presence.

"To meet the escalating needs of the community, the purchase of the Hawaii Loa Campus is both exciting and an important step in keeping our Windward community healthy," said Kathy Raethel, president and CEO of Castle Medical Center. "This step will allow us to continue offering the most advanced technology with a comprehensive medical staff and carry on our mission of serving the healthcare needs of our community and investing in its future."

Jenni Glass



CALENDARS

Central California

HISPANIC YOUNG ADULT RETREAT (Sept. 2-5) Camp Wawona. Info: FEJA, 559-347-3174 or spasillas@cccsda.org.

Northern California

FEJA YOUTH RETREAT (Sept. 2-5) Leoni Meadows. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

ADVENTURER/PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP CONVENTION (Sept. 9-11) Leoni Meadows. Info: NCC Youth Ministries Department, 925-603-5080 or Children's Ministries Department, 925-603-5082.

ASAM LUAU (Sept. 10) 7:30 p.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 S. Fairmont Avenue. Valley ASAM Fellowship invites all singles to a luau! Mail \$12 to "English Oaks SDA Church, Attn: Elota, 1260 W. Century Blvd., Lodi, CA 95240," or pay \$15 at the door. Info: Cheri, 209-625-6580.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER DEADLINE (Sept. 14) You deserve a great marriage! For applications or questions for the Oct 14-16 Marriage Encounter Weekend in the Sacramento area, contact Rob & Debbie Purvis before Sept. 14. Info: 916-599-5560 or purvis4@comcast.net.

CAPITOL CITY CHURCH Homecoming: A Time of Celebration (Sept. 14) 7 p.m.; "Gospel Concert Extravaganza" (Sept. 17) 7 p.m., featuring Pastor Damian Chandler, Dr. Wayne Bucknor, and more; Church Picnic (Sept. 18) William Land Park. Info: 916-381-5353.

ALUMNI REUNION (Sept. 17-18) El Dorado Adventist School, 1900 Broadway, Placerville. 80th year

celebration! Sabbath School, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:30 a.m.; fellowship at Placerville church, 2 p.m.; golf tournament, Sunday. Honored classes: 2001 & 2006. Featured speaker: Pastor Bill Cochran. Lunch provided. Info: Lois Roberts, lois.eas48@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT (Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Oct. 7-9) Leoni Meadows. "Everything We Need." Guest speaker Leah Jordache; guest artist Rachel Hyman. Info: www.ourchristianladies.com.

LA ESPERANZA ES JESÚS – OAKLAND (Oct. 1-8) 7 p.m. Location to be determined. Speaker, José Cortes Jr., North American Division associate ministerial director. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

LA ESPERANZA ES JESÚS – SACRAMENTO (Oct. 9-15) 7 p.m. Location to be determined. Speaker, Evangelist Alejandro Bullón. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

ASAM WEEKEND (Oct. 28-30) Albion Field Station, Mendocino Coast. Valley ASAM Fellowship invites all singles. Guest speaker, fellowship, nature activities. Lodging, four vegetarian meals - \$84. Send to "English Oaks SDA Church, Attn: Elota, 1260 W. Century Blvd., Lodi, CA 95240." Register ASAP! Station requires count. Info: 209-747-5366.

Pacific Union College

LOOKING TO FURTHER YOUR CAREER in Nursing? (Ongoing) Pacific Union College offers three ways for California nurses to expand further their careers through its RN to BSN programs. To learn more, visit www.puc.edu/rn-to-bsn. Registration still open for this fall.

PUBLICATION WORKSHOP (Sept. 6-8) High school students learn how to make the most of their publications through writing, photography, graphic design, and film courses taught by college educators and industry professionals. Info: publicationworkshop.squarespace.com.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (Sept. 21-25) New freshman experience five days of orientation, advising, and spiritual and social programs, including the FUSION Weekend retreat. Transfer student orientation takes place Sunday, Sept. 25. Info: www.puc.edu/orientation or 707-965-7362.

FALL QUARTER BEGINS (Sept. 26) PUC kicks off the 2016-2017 school year with a Welcome Back Celebration. For a full calendar of the year's events, visit www.puc.edu/calendar.

PUC COLLEGE DAYS (Oct 16-17) High school juniors and seniors from Central California Conference area academies, high schools, youth groups and home school experience classes and college events at PUC. Registration required as space is limited. Info: enroll@puc.edu or 707-965-6336.

ANGWIN TO ANGWISH (Oct. 30) Trail run offering Family 4k Fun Run, 10K, and half marathon courses on PUC trails. Registration is open. Info: www.angwintoangwish.com.

ALBION RETREAT AND LEARNING CENTER (Ongoing) Comfortable lodging for visitors and groups available along the Mendocino Coast. Perfect for classes, retreats, reunions, weddings, or vacations. Info: www.puc.edu/albion or 707-937-5440.

Southeastern California

MANGELISM 2016. 4-week campaign for men every Saturday in September,

11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Juniper Ave. church, 7347 Juniper Ave., Fontana. Speakers: Delroy Brooks, pastor, Juniper Avenue church; Ron Williams Jr., pastor of Macedonia church, Chester, Pa.; Ronnie Vanderhorst, author/community organizer, Baltimore, Md.; and Nevilon Meadows, Men Under Development, M.U.D. Inc. Info: delroybrooks@gmail.com.

PATHFINDER LEADER'S CONVENTION (Sept. 9-11) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. This event is for all Pathfinder staff/leaders. Only teens working on Master Guide or staff are invited to attend. Info: www.seccyouth.com.

ADVENTURER LEADER'S CONVENTION (Sept. 16-18) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. The leader's convention is for all Adventurer leaders and parents wishing to learn more about the Adventurer program. Info: www.seccyouth.com.

ADVENTURE BEACH DAY (Sept. 25) Meet between towers 21 and 22, Bolsa Chica State Beach, Huntington Beach. Beach Day is open to any family that is part of a SECC registered Adventure club. Info: www.seccyouth.com.

PATHFINDER TEEN INSTITUTE (Sept. 30-Oct. 2) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. This institute provides an opportunity to increase the teens' awareness of the responsibilities they can perform in their local Pathfinder Club, for their fellow man and for God. Registration deadline, Sept. 15. Info: www.seccyouth.com.

Southern California

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (Sept. 10) Featuring the Crescena Ensemble with Susan Svrcek, piano; Jacqueline Suzuki, violin; James Sullivan, clarinet and Lynn Angebrandt, cello; performing a work by Olivier Messiaen. A reception follows. 5 p.m. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Donations accepted at the door. Info: 818-244-7241.

OPTIMIZING YOUR BRAIN HEALTH SEMINAR (Sept. 16-18) Presenter Daniel Binus, M.D., a well-known psychiatrist from Northern California. Lectures on Friday evening, Sabbath morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning. Binus shares his research and findings to help you achieve optimal brain health. Strongly plant based. South Bay church, 401 S. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach 90277. Info: 310-214-3123.



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Bulletin Board

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Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Assistant - Full Professor in the Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Department to teach, advise, supervise field experience and direct student projects. Position may require teaching in any/ or all semesters including summers. Applicant chosen is expected to be involved in research as well as teaching and supervision of student teachers or graduate internships. Faculty sought will have a doctorate, be an experienced K-12 teacher who is dedicated to promoting Adventist education. For information and application visit: www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1088.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR PH.D. The Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a scholar-practitioner at the level of assistant professor to teach undergraduate and graduate courses for the various programs throughout the university, as well as core classes in the M.S. in Chaplaincy program. This is a tenure-track position and the target date of employment is the winter 2016 quarter. In addition to teaching, there

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ELMSHAVEN CARETAKER/DOCENT. Pacific Union Conference is seeking a retired married couple to work part-time at ElmsHAVEN while living on campus in Deer Park, Calif. Must have a passion for sharing Jesus with guests who visit ElmsHAVEN. Responsibilities include giving guided tours on the history of the home and Ellen G. White, light cleaning, some yard upkeep, minor maintenance, and opening and closing the property. Shifts are shared with another couple who also reside on the property. Approx. 20 hours per week; low wage but free housing in the Napa Valley is included. ElmsHAVEN is open every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Spanish-speaking a plus. Visit www.elmsHAVEN.org to tour ElmsHAVEN online. Send résumé and cover letter to stephen@puonline.org.

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY School of Pharmacy is seeking Full Time faculty in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences. Candidates for the Department of Pharmacy Practice must possess a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree, and candidates for the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences must possess a Ph.D. degree. Prior teaching experience



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THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM and Instruction at La Sierra University invites applications for a full-time, tenure track faculty position. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree with Curriculum and Instruction as the preferred specialization, and must have taught for at least five years in a K-12 classroom setting; be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church; and have demonstrated effectiveness as a teacher and scholar. Additional details and application instructions available at lasierra.edu/jobs.

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Reunions

YUMA CENTRAL CHURCH CENTENNIAL (Nov. 5) Join us in the celebration of 100 years of service to our Lord starting at 9:15 a.m. Come share memories, stories and music with old friends and make new ones. Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes will be our special speaker. For more information call: 928-783-6533 or find us at Yuma Central SDA church at Facebook.com.

Vacation Opportunities

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 at 602-788-8865 or Pastor Jim at 530-368-3301.

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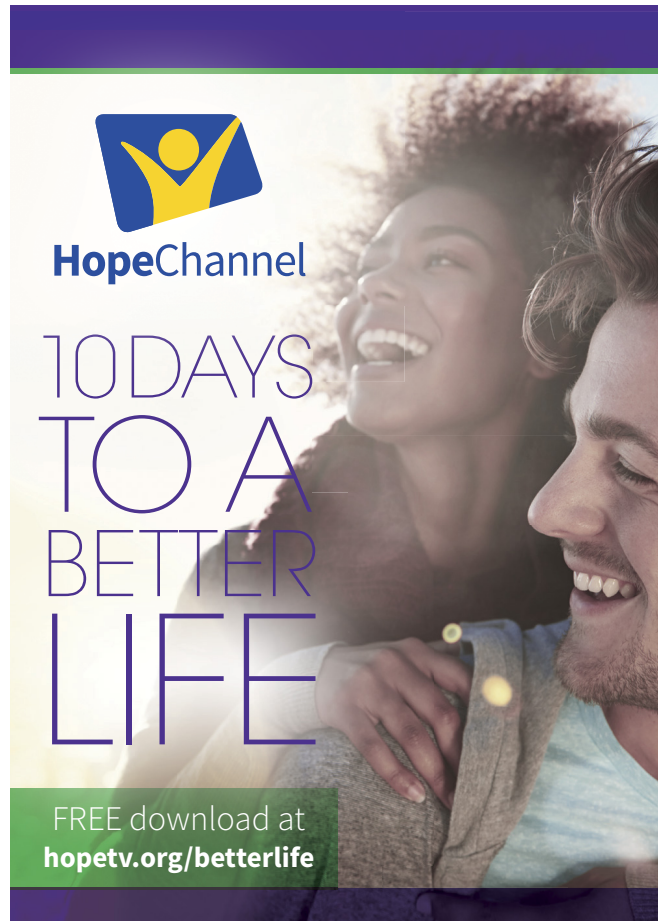
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AT REST

AHLKVIST, OLAF LENNART – b. Nov. 17, 1924, Mt. View, Calif.; d. May, 24, 2016, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: wife, Vivian; sons, Randall, Lee; daughter, Nancy Longmore; two grandchildren. Served as a printer for Pacific Press Publishing Association.

BALDWIN, ALICE GREEN – b. June 21, 1919, Missoula, Mont.; d. June 15, 2016, Benicia, Calif. Survivors: son, George Green; daughters, Donna Luksan, Denice Tuttle; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren, nine great-great grandchildren.

BARTOSIEWSKI, MARY (HOPKINS) – b. July 4, 1934, Henryetta, Okla.; d. June 21, 2016, Fountain Hills, Ariz. Survivors: husband, David; daughters, Sherri, Debora; four grandchildren.

BENSON, CARLYLE T. – b. July 10, 1921, Tryon, Neb.; d. June 15, 2016, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: wife, Claudia; sons, Robert, Frederick; daughter, Claudia; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

BRINEGAR, CHARLES H. JR. – b. Nov. 4, 1936, La Jolla, Calif.; d. June 15, 2016, Cherry Valley, Calif. Survivors: wife,

Meredith; sons, Jeffrey, Kevin; daughter, Lisa Meter; four grandchildren.

CURTIS, ORLIE L. – b. Feb. 27, 1934, Hutchinson, Kan.; d. May 24, 2016, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Idella; daughters, Elizabeth Rabbitt, Victoria Morgese; two grandchildren; sister, Judy Dedman.

CUTTS, JOHN – b. Aug. 15, 1946, Stoneham, Mass.; d. Feb. 4, 2016, Duarte, Calif. Survivors: wife, Judy Toews; daughter, Jennifer Keszler; one grandchild.

DEL FIORENTINO-VAUGHAN, MYRNA LEONE (THOMAS) – b. Feb. 18, 1933, Battle Creek, Mich.; d. July 8, 2016, Vacaville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Frank; son, Daniel; daughters, Jody Marino, Elaine Dellagana, Trena Harris; foster daughter, Kori James; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; sister, Doreen Allred.

FREED, EDNA DORIS (ANDERSON) – b. Oct. 18, 1910, Artichoke Lake, Minn.; d. March 6, 2016, Carmichael, Calif. Survivors: sons, Robert, Richard; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

GAONA, CRUZ – b. July, 21, 1949, Mata Moros, Mexico; d. March 4, 2016, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Yolanda; sons, Juan, Manuel, Miguel; daughters,

Monica Monroe, Rachel Gaona, Rosalba Archer; 11 grandchildren.

GEORGE, GARY ELDON – b. Oct. 14, 1950, Topeka, Kan.; d. July 10, 2016, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: son, Joshua; daughters, Paula, Virginia; mother, Irene; brother, Ronald.

HOLMES, VIRGIL J. – b. Dec. 25, 1958, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. July 3, 2016, Pittsburg, Calif. Survivors: wife, Adrienne; father, Richard; sisters, Sandra, Brenda.

JACKSON, NANCY (HORNING) – b. Dec. 9, 1939, Greenville, Calif.; d. May 25, 2016, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: husband, David; son, Tom Hawkins; daughter, Becky Miller; five grandchildren.

KUTZNER, AGNES – b. Nov. 3, 1930, Manitoba, Canada; d. July 18, 2016, Caldwell, Idaho. Survivors: daughters, Shirley Juhl, Wendy Kutzner; three grandchildren.

LEMONS, DAVID – b. May 9, 1946, Riverside, Calif.; d. May 29, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Maria; daughters, Yvette, Antoinette, Bernadette; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. Served in prison ministries in Inland Empire, Calif.

LUND, PAUL GEORGE – b. June 25, 1919, Geyser, Montana; d. July 9, 2016, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: sons, Arnold,

Gary; daughter, Deanna Arnett; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren. Actively involved in Maranatha Volunteer projects in Ireland, Japan, Truk, Guam, Mexico and Alaska.

MATTHEWS, BARBARA JEAN RIT- TENHOUSE – b. June 7, 1948, Flushing, N.Y.; June 29, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Robert.

MAYS, SANDRA KAY – b. Sept. 18, 1950, Austin, Texas; d. May 12, 2016, Rough and Ready, Calif. Survivors: sons, Randy Matheson, Mike Matheson.

MCINTOSH, AL – b. Oct. 16, 1920, Portland, Jamaica, W.I.; d. July 8, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Michael; daughter, Angela McIntosh-Martin; three grandchildren.

MCKINSTRY, PEARL (MAGUIRE) – b. Jan. 18, 1926, Little Rock, Ark.; d. April 13, 2016, Sandy, Utah. Survivors: husband, James; son, Larry; daughter, Anne Shihadeh; three grandsons; one great-grandson; brothers Pat, Munro; sister, Rosabelle Rearrick. Served as dean of women at Columbia Academy; assisted with publishing work of HHS for Pacific, Southwestern, Lake, North Pacific and Atlantic unions.

MOORES-RADCLIFFE, IRENE – b. Jan. 29, 1922, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada; d. June 27, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Heather,

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

SUNSETS

	9/2	9/9	9/16	9/23	9/30
Alturas	7:30	7:18	7:06	6:54	6:42
Angwin	7:35	7:24	7:13	7:02	6:51
Calexico	7:03	6:54	6:44	6:35	6:25
Chico	7:34	7:23	7:11	7:00	6:48
Eureka	7:44	7:32	7:21	7:09	6:57
Fresno	7:23	7:13	7:02	6:51	6:41
Hilo	6:33	6:27	6:21	6:14	6:08
Honolulu	6:44	6:38	6:31	6:24	6:18
Las Vegas	7:04	6:54	6:44	6:33	6:23
Lodi	7:30	7:19	7:08	6:57	6:47
Loma Linda	7:11	7:01	6:51	6:42	6:32
Los Angeles	7:15	7:06	6:56	6:46	6:36
Moab	7:43	7:32	7:21	7:09	6:58
Oakland	7:33	7:23	7:12	7:01	6:50
Phoenix	6:49	6:40	6:30	6:21	6:11
Reno	7:26	7:14	7:03	6:52	6:40
Riverside	7:11	7:02	6:52	6:42	6:33
Sacramento	7:31	7:20	7:09	6:58	6:47
Salt Lake City	7:55	7:43	7:31	7:20	7:08
San Diego	7:09	7:00	6:51	6:41	6:32
San Francisco	7:35	7:24	7:13	7:02	6:51
San Jose	7:32	7:21	7:11	7:00	6:49
Tucson	6:44	6:35	6:26	6:16	6:07

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Lyla, Rhonda; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Irene formerly served as a secretary in both Northern and Southern California conferences.

MUNSON, NAOMI HELEN — b. Dec. 1, 1917, Seoul, Korea; d. July 24, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Lloyd, Glenn; daughters, Eloise, Bonnie; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

NAPIER, WILLIAM J. — b. February 20, 1921, Ewing, Neb.; d. March 21, 2016, Walla Walla, Wash. Survivors: wife, Virginia (Proctor); son, Scott; daughters, Tamara Barr, Vicki; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served as teacher/professor of health and physical education at La Sierra University and director of the student activity center at LLU.

NIELAND, BETHEL "BETH" ELIZABETH (SMITH) — b. April 15, 1926, Minden, La.; d. July 12, 2016, Cumming, Ga. Survivors: son, Rabin; daughter, Starla McCollum; five grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

OCHOA, RUBEN JR. — b. June 20, 1981, Stockton, Calif.; d. Dec. 18, 2015, Livingston, Calif. Survivors: wife, Tiffany; son, Jacob Castro; daughters, Gabriela and Amaya.

OSWALD, ELIZABETH — b. June 11, 1924, DuQuinn, Mich.; d. Jan. 15, 2016, Dinuba, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Karen and Tonda; one grandchild.

OSWALD, JAMES — b. July 14, 1928, Detroit, Mich.; d. Dec. 22, 2015, Dinuba, Calif. Survivors: wife, Elizabeth; daughters, Karen and Tonda; one grandchild.

PARSONS, WILLIAM FRANK "CORKY" — b. Sept. 1, 1931, Mountain Park, Okla.; d. July 4, 2016, Murrieta, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty; sons, Will, Lyndon; daughter, Stephanie Matye; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

PEREIRA, MIRA M. (PERRY) — b. Dec. 21, 1918, New Bedford, Mass.; d. June 30, 2016, Grants Pass, Ore. Survivors: brother, Abe Perry; sisters, Sarah Araujo, Cecelia Perry, Betty Simpkins, Daisy Dian, Dolores Kuhn; two grandchildren. Served as a nurse.

PINNEY, HALCYON I. (MCEACHERN) — b. April 5, 1920, Nana, Argentina; d. June 6, 2016, Hot Springs, Ark. Survivors: sister, Betty Bahr, grandchildren, Brian and Karen Campbell; several nieces and nephews. Served as a secretary for LLU School of Denistry.

REED-BROWN, TRUDY (FISHER) — b. Oct. 13, 1935, Portland, Ore.; March 28, 2016, Riverbank, Calif. Survivors: son, Rodney Reed; daughter, Cindy German; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

REHNGREN, BETTY MAE BURR (BLOMBERG) — b. June 27, 1922, Denver, Colo.; d. April 23, 2016, Deer Park, Calif. Survivors: son, Russell Burr; daughter, Christina Rehngren-McCoy; five grandchildren. Taught at Pacific Union College Elementary School.

REMOCAL, ALLAN — b. Dec. 22, 1976, Baler, Aurora, Philippines; d. March 9, 2016, Daly City, Calif. Survivor: wife, Colleen Polite. Remocal was a founding member of San Francisco's Life Hope Center.

RENTFRO, RHONDA LEE — b. May 14, 1950, Berkeley, Calif.; d. June 10, 2016, Madera, Calif. Survivors: mother, Rhona Jones; step-mother, Marilyn Rentfro; brothers, Larry and Gregory.

RYCKMAN, RAYMOND — b. June 19, 1917, Wis.; d. July 18, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Evelyn; sons, Albert, Joseph Victor; daughter, Ruby; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Served as professor, department chair of microbiology and one of the founders of School of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, LLU.

SCOTT, DOLORES JUNE — b. July 9, 1934, Lodi, Calif.; d. June 2, 2016, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: son, Randy; daughter, Julie; three grandchildren; sisters, Fay, Sandra.

SCUKA, GARY LEON — b. April 13, 1941, Monterey Park, Calif.; d. June 27, 2016, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty; son, Jeff; daughter, Kelly Wiley; three grandchildren; sisters, Janie Priest, Carmen Bradley Fisch.

SWARTLEY, ROBERT "BOB" DOUGLAS — b. Jan. 8, 1937, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; d. July 23, 2016, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: son, Matthew; two grandchildren.

TESTA, CLARITA JEAN (NEBRES) — Dec. 25, 1935, Pinannungajan, Cebu, Philippines; d. June 18, 2016, Santa Maria, Calif. Survivors: sons, Joseph, Gero; daughter, Joy; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

TUCKER, HELEN L. (LUND) — b. March 28, 1923, Artichoke, Minn.; d. June 27, 2016, Moreno Valley, Calif. Survivors: sons, George, Grant; daughter, Kimberly Bohlen; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.

WELTY, JOANNE — b. May 11, 1942, Woodland, Calif.; d. July 6, 2016, Woodland, Calif. Survivors: sons, Richard Raymond, Eric; four grandchildren; brother, Pat; sister, Virginia. Served as long-time director of Woodland Community Services.

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December: October 25
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September 2016

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Being Used



Ed Keyes
President

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, here am I! Send me.” — Isaiah 6:8

When we hear the phrase “being used,” it conjures up terrible feelings of being taken advantage of. No one wants to be used. However, this is different in the context of being of service to a benevolent leader like Jesus. Then, of course, we would gladly want to be used.

The Bible is full of examples of people wanting to be used by God. Little David was going to visit his brothers to resupply them with food for the battle when he saw and heard a monstrous, imposing figure insulting God and His people. He stopped, listened and said, “Enough is enough! God use me to shut this giant’s big mouth and bring an end to the embarrassment he’s bringing to you and your people!”

In his final act, Samson asked God to use him to defeat the Philistines.

Moses didn’t really want to be used by God as His spokesman, but he was very willing to let Him use him to lead the people of Israel out of bondage from the Egyptians.

As a high school freshman I remember sitting on the sidelines of a football game just waiting to hear the coach call my name to enter the game. I was chomping at the bit to get in the game. When the time came, the coach yelled out, “Keyes, get your helmet on – you’re going in!” I was so excited to be of use to my team.

We should all have that excitement to want to be used by God to “get in the game” and take on the enemy. Only this isn’t a game we’re playing. It’s a life and death battle against a ruthless enemy. At stake are eternal consequences for all involved. So just like Isaiah, let’s say, “Here am I Lord, send me.”

I love what Paul tells his young protégé, Timothy, as he is facing the challenges of leading the church at Ephesus. “Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel of honor, SANCTIFIED AND USEFUL for the Master, prepared for every good work.”
– 2 Timothy 2:21

For the sake of the souls God has placed within our reach in Arizona, let’s be useful for the Master’s service until He comes again to redeem us.



Ed Keyes
President

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



Glendale Sanctuary Choir

Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

by Steven Gray

With voices ringing out proclaiming the imminent return of Jesus Christ, the Glendale Sanctuary Choir celebrated its 40th anniversary at the Glendale Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 14.

What started out as a small group in 1975 and became fully organized in the spring of 1976 has grown to become a special ministry not only to the Glendale church but also the local community. Twice a month the choir performs at the second of two services at the Glendale church and each year puts on at least two major concerts — one for Easter and one for Christmas — with both of those events being doubleheaders and which routinely pack the sanctuary with both members and non-members.

The music performed at the 40th anniversary concert was the “Jesus Is Coming!” Cantata composed by John W. Peterson. The choir was assisted by guest artists Walter Arties and Mary Norman as well as a handful of former choir members and orchestra.

“This cantata is one the choir has sung since the mid-80s,” said Glendale’s choir director and minister of music Dennis Marsollier. “And I felt the most appropriate thing to do was sing this cantata again because one, we do it the most consistently, plus the message and the music is wonderful, and that’s why



we did it because we wanted to keep that message going.”

Over the years there have been three Glendale choir directors. Marsollier’s mother and father, Giomar and Rene were the primary movers in getting the choir started with Giomar serving as the director. She continued in that post until the late 1980s when John Brown took over for two years, whereupon Giomar resumed the directorial duties. She then held the baton until 2004 before passing it on to Dennis.

“I think the reason why the choir has been so consistent is we try very hard to be very mission-minded,” Dennis said. “Our singing is not to entertain but to minister to people, and when we make that the focus, it really gives a meaningful experience to being in the choir.”

Glendale Pastor Gary Venden also credited the choir’s leadership.

“I think the choir has lasted because of the skill and ministry mindset of the leadership,” he said. “I’ve learned a lot watching Giomar and Dennis work with this choir, learned a lot about

calling people to commitment, getting volunteers to buy in and work hard, and come together as a united team. Some people have an innate ability to galvanize a group, and Dennis definitely has that while making it fun.”

In January the choir and orchestra professionally recorded the “Jesus Is Coming!” Cantata which became available on CD after the anniversary concert.

One person the choir has had an impact on is Pastor Venden.

“When I came here 19 years ago, coming from a contemporary music background and never really having been a pastor or member of a church that had a strong, classic-oriented choir, I really wondered if our modern world would respond to traditional choir music any more or how viable it would be for the church. And I will say I have been converted,” Venden said cheerfully.

More information about the choir, concerts and schedule can be found at gschoir.org.



Hispanic Women's Retreat 2016 by Amanda Moreira

For the 27th year, Camp Yavapines hosted the Hispanic Women's Retreat from May 13–15. It was an inspiring, Spirit-filled, life-changing event for the 300 ladies and teenage daughters who attended.

Titled "Mujer Encantadora" (lovely or charming woman) this very feminine event featured talented presenters who came from Mexico and New York: the therapists Esther Crisóstomo Cortés, Vanessa Vidales Quintana and Cinthia Riffel. Jasmin Tapia blessed everyone with her beautiful voice throughout the weekend.

The morning devotionals were led by Cinthia Riffel. The ladies had the opportunity to spend precious time praying together and talking about practical ways a woman can bless those around her showing God's love for the world.

"I loved the weekend," said Betty Carter. "I'm always eager to attend the Women's Retreat, and this year I'm happier because three of my four daughters, Michele, Sophia and Paula



Valdez, also came with me!"

When asked about what touched them most in the whole program, Michele explained, "We are all here for the same reason — to be exposed to the Holy Spirit's influence, and leave this place as women more united."

Sophia Valdez, 16, added, "My favorite part of the teen program was when we separated into groups and talked about different topics, then prayed about them. I loved this weekend. It was my first time coming to this retreat, and I'll come to the next ones for sure!"

Carol Villares, 15, loved the part when the teens made a circle and talked about their personal problems. "It was confidential," she said, "so that made me feel close to everyone." Her older

sister Jacqueline Valenzuela, 26, said, "I specially liked Esther's presentations. She had real jokes of what we actually do, and it could be applied to ladies of any age group. The themes were things we go through every day, so it was really helpful."

Their mom, Irma Lewis, agreed. "Esther's lectures were amazing! It was like she was talking only to me. I'm so happy my teenage daughter came, and that she also loved her program here!"

Valeria Estrada and Eva Gonzalez once again directed the teen program with all their love and energy. The Arizona Young Women's experienced leaders Jessie Giambra and Sarah Sykora felt incredibly blessed to be able to help the teens as well. "Everyone wanted to learn and go

cont. on next page



Arizona Conference Women's Ministry Leaders



deeper," they said. One of the most loved activities done by the girls on Sabbath was decorating the covers of the new Bibles.

Saturday night featured a beautiful Italian dinner prepared for the ladies

by the ministerial families. Live music was performed by Ismir Muñoz, Erick Ruiz, Guillermo Ximénez, Jazmín Tapia, Stefany León, Melany León and Diego Camacho. The presence of pastor Jorge Soria, Director of Hispanic Ministries for the Pacific Union, and his wife Lina, was

deeply appreciated.

The event concluded as pink balloons with prayer requests ascended Prescott's blue skies. Friends hugged each other and shed some tears of joy for such a special time in the presence of God and His wonderful creation.

TAA Graduates 13 in CNA Program

by Phil Draper

The Thunderbird Adventist Academy CNA (Certified Nurse Assistant) program has successfully completed its first year, graduating 13 students from the program. Graduates qualify for getting a job to help them work while attending high school.

As a CNA, students learn job skills with both financial and intrinsic rewards as they care for people in need – where they can truly make a difference.

Linda Kline, Girl's Dean and CNA Program Director, is excited to see her students be an important part of today's world of health care. As a nurse herself, she assures her students their newly acquired knowledge and skills are always in demand.

TAA Principal Terry Pottle says, "It is a joy to watch these students returning from their clinical tests excited with the desire to help others."

The CNA program sees some changes for next year. Special thanks to Nurse Sonja Bucknor as she leaves to complete her doctorate. The program welcomes Nurse Karla Garrison as the new CNA instructor. Garrison comes to TAA with the highest qualifications as a certified CNA State Board Examiner for the state of Arizona. Even though she will not be directly testing TAA students,



she understands what is needed to help students pass the state boards because of her vast experience.

The program will also be accepting qualified community members who have already completed their high school education. The class will remain at the 10 students per semester size (20 per year) making early application important.

The program will be accepting applications until August 8, 2016 for the 2016-2017 school year. Enrolled Junior and Senior students who will be 16 or older at the completion of the program will receive priority, followed by community members. A wait list will be established for those who do not get accepted this year.

Each cohort will complete the program in one semester qualifying them to take state boards at the end of that semester.

Another big step has been that Thunderbird Adventist Academy has become certified as a State Board Testing Center allowing TAA students to test in the environment they learn in, increasing the likelihood that they will pass state boards.

Kline concludes, "It's been exciting to see this program grow and we are looking forward to another successful year."

If interested in TAA's CNA program, contact Kline at lkline@thunderbirdacademy.org or call 480-370-3104.

CENTRAL Acts

Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



INNOVATION

Using our resources in the most effective and creative ways for enlarging the Kingdom of Heaven.

A Central California Conference Core Value

WARroom

BY CHRISTINE MARTINEZ

“I PRAYED FOR GOD TO HELP ME WITH MY PRAYER LIFE”

About a year ago I prayed for God to help me with my prayer life. I was always scared to pray, especially out loud or with other people. God quickly opened doors for me. I even became a prayer partner, praying for the children of Central Valley Christian Academy. This is where I met Joyce Mulligan [CCC director of prayer ministries] and shared how God had been helping me build a prayer life.

I attended the prayer retreat last year at Camp Wawona where I heard Anil Kanda [CCC evangelist] speak about the movie “The War Room”. God pressed on my heart to make time to watch this movie. I checked every movie theatre in the area and the movie was no longer showing. God continued to press on my heart that I should watch the movie.

I was finally able to rent the movie. I planned a movie night for my husband and our two youngest children. I was so inspired – God told me that he wanted me to have a prayer room.

I prayed for weeks about where my prayer room should be located. My closets are small but God kept pressing on my heart that he wanted it in my living room. I couldn’t understand why he wanted it there because I wanted it in a closet. God pressed on my heart that he was in control not me. I told my husband and children that the front living room would now be our prayer room.

We prayed about how God wanted us to set up the prayer room and followed his instructions. We

Continued on page 4 ►



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CENTRAL Suite

Sep 16-17	Sep 25	Oct 1, 8	Oct 14-15	Oct 21-22
African American Convocation	Clerks/Treasurers Training	Hispanic Leadership Training	Men’s Retreat	Pathfinder Camporee

From the President



leg·a·cy

/ˈlegəsē/

noun

1. a gift, anything handed down from the past as from an ancestor or predecessor.

Have you ever watched a relay race? As the lead sprinter on each team runs the first leg of the race, the next runner gets set. The runner anxiously times his teammate's arrival, and begins running before the lead sprinter overtakes him. Then, the crucial moment arrives, and the lead runner passes the baton to the middleman. The process is repeated in the race, as each runner surrenders the baton to the next.

A good track coach will tell you that the relay is won or lost in the transfer of the baton. A miscalculation, hesitation or a baton-drop at that point can cost the race.

I've been thinking about the concept of "legacy" lately, and it occurred to me that a primary objective of the Enemy is to have us mishandle the transfer of our Christian legacy baton to our children.

What do we bequeath to our children besides property and financial legacies? Character, moral makeup and Christian values. We are, in essence, living a legacy that, in turn, leaves a legacy to those we are mentoring.

**“OUR
GENERATION
SHALL PRAISE
YOUR WORKS
TO ANOTHER,
AND SHALL
DECLARE
YOUR MIGHTY
ACTS!”**

Psalm 145:4

We are the sum of our ancestral past and of the legacy left to us by our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Batons successfully passed, dropped and mishandled by our forefathers.

Our legacy is at times quite colorful, very checkered, and not at all perfect. More often than not, our family history is filled with stories of family abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, crime, suicide, divorce, poverty, disease, anger, discrimination, immorality, tragedy, broken and dysfunctional homes. These realities and truths of our past, combined with our own weaknesses and sins, are compounded serving to further denigrate the family tree, the legacy we are building and passing to those after us.

Why do I share this with you? Because, we can't do anything about the legacy given to us—the batons passed by our forefathers. I had no control, I had no choice, I was left out of having anything to do with the choices made prior to my arrival. And thus, I carry, within every fiber of my being, the flaws of past generations. We all do.

However, even though we can't do anything about the legacy we inherited, we can—praise God—do something about the legacy we live today and the legacy (the batons) we will pass to those who come after us. We are not doomed to have to repeat the cycle of pain and dysfunction.

Ellen White once wrote, “Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that [Jesus] is ready to impart.”ⁱ

Jesus came to die for you and for me—to redeem us, to give us the ability and the power to make choices.



Choices that will permit you and I to shape the legacy we live and the batons we will pass to others.

The dictionary defines the word legacy as, “a gift, anything handed down from the past as from an ancestor or predecessor.” Well, Jesus is *our* gift! Handed down from the past, He is the legacy from a loving heavenly Father. He is the ultimate Baton. We cannot afford to mishandle and drop the passing of this Baton to our children, to our family, and to those around us.

I Praise God for those who have added value to my life. And I praise God for those who are making it their intentional plan to pass on the baton of moral and Christian values to their posterity.

During a recent seminar I attended, the speaker mentioned what he had heard from a Native American, “Every tree has a canoe in it, you just have to take out the parts that don’t belong.”

When we internalize and live a life of faith in Jesus, and embrace the forgiveness He earned for us on the cross, changes occur. The parts that don’t belong begin to chip away; our present, as well as our future are affected for all eternity! Walking in step with the Divine, making decisions that are in harmony with heaven’s principles creates a legacy—a baton we can pass on with joy and with hope!

Your ancestry and even your dysfunctional personal history does not have to limit you. Be willing to allow God to give you a new moral standard, a new identity, a new living legacy—a baton to pass on to your children.

Don’t let your past decide your future. Move on with an eye toward eternity. Live today in view of tomorrow, actively seeking to influence the next generation. Live a life of purpose. Live a life centered on an active love for Christ and His Word.

RAMIRO CANO
President

¹ Ellen White. Ministry of Healing 175.1

Officers’ Perspective



COSTIN JORDACHE
*Vice President
for Communication*

What images come to mind when you think of Labor Day? Most of us conjure up images of backyard barbecues, tempting sales, family reunions, parades, and (perhaps most importantly) a no alarm clock Monday! And yet all of these Labor Day realities are only ways in which we celebrate the holiday, many times unaware of what we’re actually celebrating.

Labor Day was adopted as a national holiday in 1894 to honor “the contributions that workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of the country.”* That’s something well worth celebrating, considering the millions of hard workers in our homes, our schools, our industries and our communities that make our lives both possible and enjoyable.

The same is true within our Central California Conference. Thousands of pastors, educators and members across Central California are working hard every week vacuuming churches, preparing Sabbath School studies, grading papers, organizing outreach ministries, visiting the sick, mentoring future leaders, teaching challenging subjects, directing choirs and crunching numbers— to increase the strength, prosperity, and well-being of the Kingdom of Heaven.

As we celebrate September’s Labor Day, on behalf of the Central California Conference, I would like to say thank you for every sacrifice, every resource, every idea, and every minute that you’ve dedicated to lifting up Jesus in your churches, schools and communities. It’s an investment that will have infinite and eternal returns.

Happy Labor Day! You deserve it.

* Wikipedia, March 2006, Labor Day

Continued from page 1 ▶

removed our television, bought a screen divider to put in a corner with huge pillows, and placed a corkboard on the wall behind the divider for scripture and any prayer requests. This is also where I pin up every area in my life that I pray over. We also have set up a corner of the room as a library with Bibles and Christian books. We have an area with Bibles to hand out, prayer cards, and GLOW tracts as you enter from the front door. One side of the room has a sitting area along with an affirmation board with scripture for myself, family, friends and anyone else that enters. God also impressed on my heart to get a large glass vase with a label that says Answered Prayers. Every time God answers a prayer, we write on a small piece of paper and put it in the vase.

It didn't take very long for God to show me why he wanted my prayer room to be the first sight as you enter into my house. It became very clear a few days after the room was complete. My mom, who raised me to be Atheist, came by my house for a surprise visit. She sat in my prayer room and asked, 'What kind of room is this?' I told her it was my prayer room.

A few weeks later, my mom was telling family and friends about our beautiful prayer room where I pray and do Bible studies. She has also asked me questions about our church and has moved closer to my children's school so that she could attend the kids' events. My seven adult children that left the church soon started to ask me to pray for them. I started to receive phone calls, texts and even surprise visits. Family and friends came to ask for prayer, and to study my affirmation board filled with scripture and inspiration.

Praise God! He has a plan and we need to listen.

Christine Martinez and her husband Alfred are members of the Oakdale Seventh-day Adventist church. She is a parent prayer partner at Central Valley Christian Academy where Elijah and Leilany, the youngest of her nine children, attend school.



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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
CONFERENCE OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
P.O. Box 770
Clovis, CA 93613
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HŌ'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

PAGE 2 | Educators come and go each year. Meet the new faces you'll see around Hawaii Conference schools this year. They bring rich ideas and experience for sharing love and knowledge.

PAGE 3 | Sadly, summer is over and Camp Waianae is quiet again, but the friendships and memories campers and staff forged will last a lifetime.

PAGE 4 | Some walls are good; some walls are bad. How do we know which are which? Jesus built walls, and He destroyed them, too. Turn to the Bible to find His example.

CONVOCATION 2016

Praise God, we are one year closer to the glorious Second Coming of Jesus Christ! My heart resonates with the appeal of the Apostle Paul, who encourages us to “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and so much the more as you see the day approaching” (10:25). With the “day” quickly approaching, how important it is for us to gather together for the special convocation weekend experience.

Finding time to spend with God is certainly a challenge in this hectic world we live in. That is why I will be praying for each one of us and our families. Praying that we will receive

the rest, renewal and sense of revival each of us so desperately needs. Praying we all will be drawn that much closer to our wonderful Lord and Savior. Praying for an out-pouring of His Spirit to empower us to make a difference for His Kingdom.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

As we listen to the messages and fellowship with one another, let us be encouraged to share with a friend, family member or colleague what Jesus means to us. We have such an amazing and powerful message and mission to proclaim and fulfill right here in Hawaii. Let us renew our commitment to ...

EACH ONE REACH ONE!

With warmest aloha,

RALPH S. WATTS III

The Hawaii Conference cordially invites you to join us in worship, praise and fellowship at the following convocation services:

Kauai

September 9-10

Kapaa Church

1132 Kuhio Hwy., Kapaa, HI 96746

Speaker: Pastor Mark Etchell

August First Church, Augusta, Georgia

Maui

September 23-24

Kahului Church

261 South Puunene Ave., Kahului, HI 96732

Speaker: Karl Haffner

Mission Strategist and Pastor

Kettering Health Network

Kettering Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

Oahu

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1

Honolulu Central Church

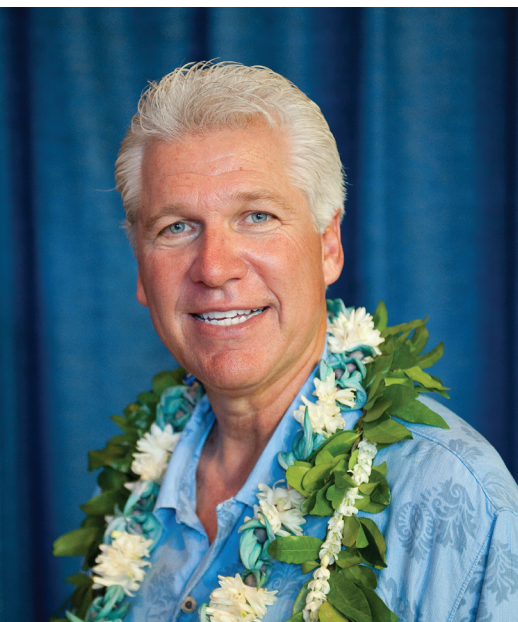
2313 Nuuanu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96817

Speaker: Karl Haffner

Mission Strategist and Pastor

Kettering Health Network

Kettering Church, Cincinnati, Ohio



EDUCATION: Meet the Team

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

Adventist Education in Hawaii has added a crop of new members to the team. We are excited about each new addition and join them in praying for the Lord's leading this school year.



CODY BLAKE is a new teacher at Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki. Cody was born and raised in Phoenix, Ariz., and recently graduated from Union College. His life has taken him on many great adventures all across the United States and now to Hawaii. Cody had been a part of the Arizona Youth Ministry team and an assistant dean at Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell, Idaho. His hobbies include swimming, bicycling and gymnastics. Cody is ready for the next adventure that God has in store.



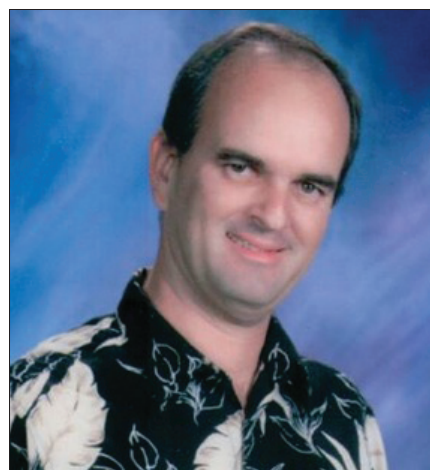
BEVERLY CHURCH is the new teaching principal at Kona Adventist Christian School. Beverly was born in Oliver, British Columbia, Canada, and is the second of five children. Beverly served as a student missionary in Lakpahana Adventist Seminary in Sri Lanka and has taught at Oliver Adventist Church School, Kona Adventist School, Aurora Adventist School, Kohala Mission School (now Kohala Adventist School), San Francisco Academy and in the Pacific Northwest in Spokane Valley and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She holds a master's degree from Walla Walla University and is a recipient of the Zapara Teaching Excellence Award. She enjoys helping students succeed in spelling bees, speech meets, and geography bees, as well as serving their community by using their talents to bring honor and glory to God. Beverly has one daughter, Meagan.



LIZA DACUHNA is a new teacher at Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki. Liza grew up in Ohio but moved to Florida to attend the University of West Florida, where she graduated with a degree in elementary education. Liza has specialized experience working with English as a Second Language and special education students. Liza is currently working on a master's degree in special education. She enjoys spending free time with her family: Don, Cameron (age 11) and Breanna (age 9), as well as going to the beach, cooking and traveling.



KEITH HATCHER is the new teaching principal at Kahili Adventist School. Keith was the teaching principal for the past nine years in Madison, Wis., and is excited to be back on Kauai, where he visited 26 years ago on his way to New Zealand. On that trip, he was given a book. Four months later, at the end of that trip, Keith closed The Great Controversy, knelt down and gave his heart to the Lord. The fifth-generation Californian became a first-generation Adventist and moved to the Midwest to start a family. Keith and his wife, Leah, have three daughters, Sierra (age 27), Naomi (age 23), Kelah (age 21) and one son, Asa (age 14). Keith asks for prayers as he and his family follow the Lord's leading on Kauai.



ALLEN LIPPS is the new teaching principal at Kohala Adventist School. He was born and raised in Dinuba. Allen graduated as a psychology major with elementary education credentials from Pacific Union College. While serving as a student missionary on the island of Yap in Micronesia, Allen fell in love

with island life and served as a principal on there, growing the enrollment of the school. He also fell in love with a fellow teacher and got married. After honeymooning on Maui, Allen and Aracely took up new positions on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands before being invited to serve on the Big Island of Hawaii at Mauna Loa School in Hilo in 1998. After eight wonderful years in Hilo, Allen took a call to serve back in his hometown of Dinuba, only to receive a call back to Hawaii, now at Kohala Adventist School. Allen and Aracely have two amazing children, Andres and Abby.



FERNANDO LISTA is the new teaching principal at Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus. Fernando graduated from River Plate Adventist University, majoring in education and theology. He moved to the United States in 2005 and completed a master's degree in supervision and administration of education in 2007. Fernando worked as a teaching principal in Atlanta, Ga., and Phoenix, Ariz., before accepting the call to Hawaii. Fernando is married to Cristine, a family medicine physician, and has two sons, Dallan (age 5) and Kian (age 3). The Listas desire to serve God in whatever capacity He sees fit.



SANDRA OLSEN is a new retired teacher at Kona Adventist Christian School. Sandi was born in Moscow, Idaho, and graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. Sandi has taught in the public sector in Anaconda and Bozeman, Mont. It was while living in Bozeman that Sandi became an Adventist and began teaching in Adventist education. Sandi has three children: Rhonda, Janel and Shaun.



AMERICA WHALEN is a new teacher at Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus. America grew up with her family in New Hampshire and recently graduated from Pacific Union College with a degree in physical education. She holds an elementary

teaching credential, as well as a secondary physical education credential. She likes the great outdoors and enjoys triathlons, hikes, open water swimming, boogie boarding, and sniffing out a good bakery. She also loves to read, as well as construct fun and innovative activities for students. America feels that God has richly blessed her, and she is eager to share His love with her students.



CATHIE WORKMAN is the new teaching principal at Adventist Malama Elementary School. Cathie joins us from El Paso Adventist Junior Academy, where she was the teaching principal for the past nine years. Cathie and her husband, Chuck, served at Kahili Mission School in the 1990s and has missionary experience in Nairobi, Kenya, and Manderville, Jamaica. Cathie and Chuck have three children: Adrienne, Kelsey and Gilman. The Workman family enjoys traveling and mission trips.

SUMMER CAMP STATS

Lives were changed out a Camp Waianae this summer. God blessed with a safe, fun, and spirit filled experience for our campers and staff. Looking ahead to Summer 2017, keep watch in January for early registration discounts. If you are 18 or older and looking for a job, apply to be a part of our ministry team. Stay up to date at www.campwaianae.org.

- 84 campers commit/recommit their life to Jesus
- 44 requested a pastor to study the Bible with them.
- 45 decisions for baptism
- 69 interested in being involved in a church ministry



WALLS

Preserve or Destroy?

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

My wife and I have been intrigued with the timeworn lava stone walls that can be seen throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Ancient Hawaiians had impressive masonry skills called drystack masonry or uhaū humu pohaku. It took a lot of patience and skill to set stones in tapered formations using weight and gravity to lock them into place.

Walls have been around for a long time; the largest being the Great Wall of China, which was constructed hundreds of years before Christ. God was the first wall-builder. He placed an angel “wall” around the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned. Revelation also describes the magnificent colorful stone wall that surrounds the New Jerusalem.

Walls are used to fortify — but they can also divide. The Berlin Wall divided East and West Germany. President Ronald Reagan stood in Berlin nearly 30 years ago and defiantly challenged the Soviet Union’s leader when he said, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” Reagan called to end hostilities; to open the barrier separating the two countries. Countless rejoiced when that wall came down.

Some walls need to be torn down. Jesus Himself tore down walls. He intentionally broke norms by including the excluded. He challenged the walls society had built based on rank, heritage or prejudice. He, in essence, called for the social wall separating Jews from Gentiles to be dismantled.

We each have walls. Some of our walls

need to be fortified; others demolished.

It’s easy to have walls in the wrong places. God expects us to build walls between good and evil; between right and wrong; between His people and the sophistries of the evil one. Many today are, sadly, tearing down the wrong walls. They are minimizing doctrinal or religious beliefs in an effort to be tolerant and broad-minded; substituting God’s Word with values and judgments of their own. God’s standards are being discarded as relics of the past.

Others erect walls that should never be built. One of the greatest griefs in my ministry has been seeing walls of “clickishness” where individuals are shunned or not included. Walls regarding nationalism, ethnicity or those inherent with human biases and prejudices are inconsistent with God’s Word. Walls of political hate also need to be torn down. Followers of Jesus are called to love people unconditionally — regardless of their actions, orientation or ethnicity. This, of course, does not mean that we endorse sinful beliefs or behaviors.

What are the walls that need to be built up? Bible-based walls. Walls dealing with doctrine, principles, values and standards. Let me take the Sabbath as an example. Are we making a distinction between Sabbath and non-Sabbath activities? What about our diets? Do we believe God cares what we eat or drink? Do we honor God with our lifestyles and in the use of our time?

Many ancient Hawaiian walls are, regret-

tably, in great need of repair. Is anything being done to preserve them? Fortunately, there are individuals who have mastered the ancient Hawaiian skill of dry masonry who are repairing some of these broken walls. So, what about God’s wall?

Ezekiel 22:30 tells us that God was searching for “a man to build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me.” What does this wall separate? “They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean” (Ezekiel 44:23).

The purpose of God’s wall is to separate the ways of God from the ways of mankind. God calls you and me to be guardians of His wall. Our misplaced walls, after all, will only serve to separate us from Him.



KINGDOM MATTERS

Northern California Conference Newsletter

“WE HAVE THIS HOPE THAT
BURNS WITHIN
OUR HEARTS,
HOPE IN THE COMING OF
THE LORD.”



We Have THIS HOPE

OUR VISION IN THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

*“We have this hope that burns
within our hearts,
Hope in the coming of the Lord.
We have this faith that Christ
alone imparts,
Faith in the promise of His Word.
We believe the time is here,
When the nations far and near
Shall awake, and shout, and sing –
Hallelujah!
Christ is King!
We have this hope that burns
within our hearts,
Hope in the coming of the Lord.”*
(Wayne Hooper) CCLI License #1262243

Strategic Plan

We have been moving forward positively with our strategic plan – which we refer to as “Northern California Adventists In Action” – with its eight goals and numerous strategies centered on our motto: “Doing What Matters for the Kingdom.” We want to be intentional about the work of God in our territory and, in the words of our Vision Statement, “to be among the most productive, effective and spiritually dynamic conferences in the North American Division. ...”

We are making progress in the areas of:

- 1. Core Message** – Understand and communicate the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 2. Leadership Development** – Produce effective, spiritual leaders.
- 3. Church Growth** – Cultivate a healthy ministry environment that grows Adventist Christian disciples.
- 4. Educational Excellence** – Demonstrate academic excellence in teaching and learning that prepares students for Christian service in this world and for heaven.
- 5. Community Outreach** – Enlarge Adventist ministry involvement in local communities.
- 6. United Mission** – Create a spirit of unity in diversity to accomplish the purposes of God’s kingdom.
- 7. Youth Involvement** – Foster an atmosphere that helps young people understand and play a significant role in the Church’s mission.
- 8. Financial Development** – Provide

In this issue . . .

We Have
This Hope



Lodi Adventists Team Up
for Outreach



Women’s Ministries
“Turning Points:
Creating Extraordinary
Relationships - The Journey
of a Lifetime”



This song, which some have called the Seventh-day Adventist “national anthem,” made its debut at the 1962 General Conference Session held in San Francisco. I was in the audience as it was sung for the first time, and I remember the thrill of the words and music, focusing us on the great hope we have in Jesus Christ. That song continues to remind us of our hope, as well as the message we have to share with the world – which is at the heart of who we are here in the Northern California Conference.

The Lord has been at work in our conference, and we give Him praise and glory for all that is accomplished.



VOLUME 14
ISSUE 5
SEPTEMBER 2016

Northern California Conference OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

8 Goals

Core Message

1 Understand and communicate the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

Strategies

- Develop an understanding that we are saved by God's grace alone
- Provide training for members to share the good news
- Identify effective models for spiritual growth

Leadership Development

Produce effective, spiritual leaders.

Strategies

- Strengthen pastoral leadership
- Increase effective lay leadership
- Develop Conference-wide leadership succession plans
- Enhance Conference administrative and staff leadership
- Improve educational leadership

Church Growth

Cultivate a healthy ministry environment that grows Adventist Christian disciples.

Strategies

- Improve local church health
- Increase membership/discipleship growth rates
- Expand reach into large population centers
- Develop more effective evangelism and outreach methods
- Provide better oversight of churches

Educational Excellence

Demonstrate academic excellence in teaching and learning that prepares students for Christian service in this world and for heaven.

Strategies

- Produce more *Journey to Excellence* schools
- Make Adventist Christian education more affordable
- Develop an overall marketing strategy for schools
- Identify ways to serve students not within the Adventist educational system
- Foster student commitment to Christ and His mission
- Enhance the student learning experience

Community Outreach

Enlarge Adventist ministry involvement in local communities.

Strategies

- Build relationships with religious, civic and other local community leaders
- Increase positive Seventh-day Adventist name recognition in the territory
- Collaborate with local community organizations, where appropriate
- Develop relevant ministries and projects that meet community needs

United Mission

Create a spirit of unity in diversity to accomplish the purposes of God's kingdom.

Strategies

- Facilitate collaboration among area Conference pastors in ministry outreach
- Discover better ways to communicate effectively with pastors, educators, ministry leaders and church membership
- Develop effective bridges between churches and schools, pastors and educators
- Foster a healthy environment to openly discuss philosophical and/or theological viewpoints that might be divisive
- Promote cultural/ethnic sensitivity and understanding

Youth Involvement

Foster an atmosphere that helps young people understand and play a significant role in the Church's mission.

Strategies

- Increase youth involvement in local church ministries and leadership
- Facilitate plans for inclusion of young people not connected to an Adventist school
- Establish mechanisms for youth to express their viewpoints
- Expand the Conference youth ministry program to effectively meet the needs of a diverse group of youth and young adults

Financial Development

Provide sufficient resources to support all aspects of the Conference's priorities.

Strategies

- Establish and implement an integrated development plan
- Assess current financial resources and discover ways to appropriate them to maximize the Conference's objectives
- Increase overall membership giving levels
- Enhance processes that make giving as simple as possible

The NCC emphasizes eight goals to further God's work, such as Church Growth (right - The Sacramento Fijian Company is organized), Community Outreach (below left - The Redding church's God's Closet ministry provides kids' clothing to community members), and Youth Involvement (below right - NCC Pathfinders march in a parade at the International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc.).



sufficient resources to support all aspects of the Conference's priorities.

As we are coming toward the end of this multiple-year plan, we will be assessing what has been completed and where we need to place our focus over the next several years. You'll be hearing more about this in the months ahead.

One of the areas where God has been at work is in the Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus outreach initiative, begun as a cooperative effort between the Central and Northern California Conferences. We are focusing our NCC attention on the city of Oakland, with cooperative strategies among our churches there to make a positive impact and grow God's work.

One of the first big events was the Bridges to Health medical outreach held in both San Francisco and Oakland, sponsored by the Pacific Union ASI (Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries) ministry. That event birthed the Pathways to Health movement across the North American Division. The Veg Hub restaurant ministry is part of the Bridges vision, along with specific plans for revival and growth in our existing churches, as well as planting new congregations and ministries in the city. Enthusiasm is spreading throughout our members in Oakland and catching hold in other places in our conference as well.

Sharing Our Team

Recently we have "shared" some of our NCC team with other parts of the Adventist work in the Pacific Union and North American Division. Elder Virgil Childs, formerly our NCC African American Ministries coordinator (among other responsibilities), as well as senior pastor of the Oakland Market Street church, is

now the director of the Regional Office of African American Affairs for the Pacific Union. Dr. Leon Brown, most recent NCC African American Ministries coordinator (and leading other ministries as well), is the new president of the neighboring Nevada-Utah Conference. And NCC Associate Treasurer Jeff Klam is now vice-president for finance and treasurer for the British Columbia Conference. Over the past few years, the NCC has "shared" at least 10 of our conference leaders with the larger Church!

Adventist Book Center

The Adventist Book Center in our territory has returned to the Conference's oversight and control. With branches in Pleasant Hill and Sacramento, along with the bookmobile, we are seeking new and innovative ways to share this ministry – not only with our members but also with the community at large – in an ever-changing retail environment.

God's Blessings

God has blessed in many ways through the various ministries in our conference – our office-based ministries, our churches, our schools, and our off-site ministries Leoni Meadows and the Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates. We're grateful to God for the growth and expansion of His work. And we continue to keep our focus on the "hope that burns within our hearts, hope in the coming of the Lord!"

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



www.facebook.com/NorCalAdventistsinAction

Lodi Adventists TEAM UP FOR OUTREACH



“I came to the clinic depressed. My teeth were shot! I was too embarrassed to smile. I had trouble eating. Look at me now. I can smile! I can eat!”

“I hoped the dentist would do a couple of fillings, but he did all 10! I am so blessed!”

“I liked the fact that you prayed for me. No one has ever prayed for me before.”

These were just a few of the responses from patients at the Health For Lodi free clinic held on May 15 at Lodi SDA Elementary School. During the event, 180 volunteers served 250 uninsured and underinsured people. In all, 430 medical and dental procedures were completed. Guests also had the opportunity to receive a massage, Christian literature, wellness counseling, and spiritual care.

The story of the clinic began in 2014 when three Lodi pastors—Fairmont church Senior Pastor Tracy Baerg, English Oaks church Senior Pastor Bob Mason and Lodi Spanish church Pastor Víctor Mérida—met to discuss their vision for evangelism and outreach in the region. *“What would our community look like if we shared our resources to complement instead of compete?”* they asked themselves. Their conversation led to the formation of a tri-church committee which included three board members from each church, the principals of Lodi Academy and Lodi SDA Elementary School and the president/CEO of Lodi Health-Adventist Health. The new team is named ALL4J, an acronym for Adventists Loving Lodi for Jesus, and its focus is on collaborative outreach within the greater Lodi area.

After considering community needs,

the ALL4J team decided to partner with AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network)—a non-profit, faith-based organization—to create a free clinic, based on Jesus’ model of health ministry. The Lodi Adventist community planned to meet the physical needs of the people and then invite them to know Jesus. Mason summed up the motivation behind the effort: “All outreach is for restoration and reconciliation.”

The churches and the hospital provided funding and volunteer personnel for the clinic. Physician George Chen and nurse Claire Lear served as boots-on-the-ground leadership for the clinic. “An event such as this one gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to work through the body of Christ,” said Chen.

Clinic volunteer Rick Schlenker, a Fairmont church member, agrees. “The Church became the hands and fingers of God,” he said. “This is Jesus’ formula for relational evangelism.”

Dentist Daryl Payne, English Oaks church member, saw firsthand the difference that the clinic made in people’s lives when he treated a woman with such severe periodontal disease that her doctor wouldn’t let her undergo a needed hip surgery. “Once we had treated her, she was able to proceed with plans for hip surgery,” he said. “She was very grateful.”

The volunteers were also thankful for the opportunity to serve. “By volunteering, I became a part of the larger family of Adventist outreach,” said Fairmont church member Tammie Rich. “I recommend this experience to everyone.”

By Hannah Thomas, RN, a member of the Lodi Fairmont church.

(Top Left) People wait in line outside Lodi SDA Elementary School. (Top Right) Guests learn how to live healthier lives through wellness coaching. (Above) A volunteer checks a patient’s blood pressure. (Photos: Weimar College)

(Below Left and Bottom) Eye and dental services are popular at free clinics because many people are not insured in these areas. (Below Right) A guest receives a relaxing massage. (Photos: Weimar College)





Rollover Your IRA for Good

By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even reach a higher tax bracket. **Rolling over** part of your IRA's "required

minimum distribution" or "RMD" to a charity like ours can help reduce your tax bill while supporting our cause.

Double the Benefits!

An **IRA charitable rollover** gift can benefit both you and our mission! Contact your IRA administrator to get started with your gift. While you will not receive an income tax deduction, you will not pay taxes on any distributions made to us. Please also inform us of your plans so that we use your gift for the causes that mean the most to you.

70½
OR OLDER

YOU CAN
DIRECT UP TO

\$100,000



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Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

401 Taylor Boulevard, P.O. Box 23165, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
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www.nccsda.com | info@nccsda.com
www.facebook.com/NorCalAdventistsinAction
Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. | Mon-Thurs

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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Turning Points

Creating Extraordinary Relationships THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

January 27 & 28, 2017

A Conference for ALL Women

Keynote Speaker

Arlene Taylor

"Fill My Cup"

"Seven Secrets of a Brain Friendly Lifestyle"

"The Physiology of Forgiveness: Can You Afford to be Unforgiving?"

Speaker: Friday Afternoon

Ginger Hanks Harwood

"Being a Woman for God: Christian Commitments and Personal Relationships"

Breakout Speakers

Brenda Abell

"Journey Through Grief: All Along in the Presence of My Savior's Arms"

Rose Briley

"Living with Limitations During Our Latter Years"

Kimberly Brown

"Essential Oils and the Brain"

Evva Martinez

"Young Mother's Greatest Ministry - Building a Relationship with God, While Caring for Your Children"

Marlene Rodriguez

"God's Purpose for Women"

Steve and Vesteria Stilson

"Ideas for a Great Marriage"

Jana Wright & Tanya Enriquez

"Hope Restored - Life after Divorce"

Young Women's Track (Ages-13/14-19/20)

Krystalynn Martin (keynote)

"Growing in Relationship with God and Others"

Erica Jones

"Healthy Relationships"

Julieta Whiteside

"Connecting with God through Bible Journaling"

Soloists

Rochelle Holman Verrett • Kathy Whiteside

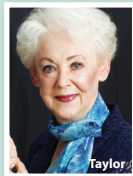
Praise Team

Jodi Dilger • Kelly Mowrer

Jolyne Simler

Cost: \$40 (includes meals)

For more information and online registration, visit www.nccsda.com/turningpoints



**Orangevale Seventh-day
Adventist Church**
5810 Pecan Avenue
Orangevale

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!*

September 2016

Our Past, Present and the Future of Our Ministry

As Adventist Christians we recognize that the turmoil of our day is a reminder to us that we are nearing home. We have a very short time to complete a great work for the Lord. Thus, it is vital to know three important things; where we have been, where we are today and finally, where we are going.

Now is the time to begin to take a closer look at the great work God has done in the past and begin to reflect on the work He is doing today. It is also vitally important to begin planning for the future of our work as we anticipate our Lord's soon return.

Below you will see a cursory review of the work of God here in the Nevada-Utah Conference.

Past

Here are a few statistic reflecting our year end membership and tithe numbers over the last three years.

	<i>Net Membership*</i>	<i>Tithe Increase/ (Decrease) in % from prior year</i>
2013	9,376	(1.8%)
2014	9,661	2.2%
2015	10,167	5.0%

**Net membership increase is determined by adding (Baptisms, additions by profession of faith, and additions by transfers) and subtracting members who were (Deceased, removed from membership or transferred).*

In the last three years, our membership had a net increase of 791 people.

Overall in the last 10 years (2006 through 2015) there has been an 11.71% increase in tithe. In 2015 alone, there was a 5% (year over year) increase. For this we thank God.



Guillermo Gucilatar, Las Vegas Fil-Am Pastor, baptizes new member.

Present

As of the second quarter of 2016, our net membership number stands at 10,283. That is already a net increase of 116 members in 2016.

The Nevada-Utah Conference's June 2016 Comparative Tithe and Mission report reflect a slight year over year decrease in tithe of (.86%). However, there were a couple of churches who had not submitted their June remittance as of this report.

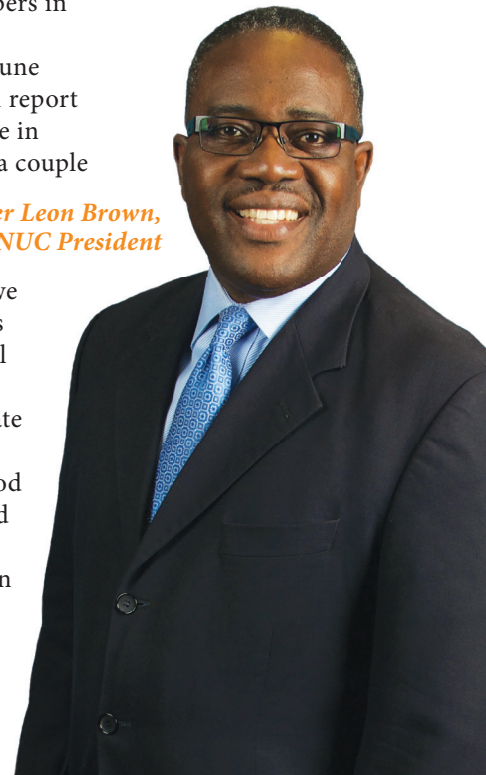
*by Elder Leon Brown,
 NUC President*

Since I started on June 1, 2016, we have already begun to redistrict areas and fill churches that needed pastoral support.

With just a few months to evaluate and assess our current status, I feel confident already that we are in a good place. Our former president, Elder Ed Keyes and his team did a wonderful job of beginning to lay the foundation for success. We are now tasked with the responsibility of continuing to lay the foundation for a finished work.

*Continued on
 the last page*

"Now is the time to begin to take a closer look at the great work God has done in the past and begin to reflect on the work He is doing today."





One of the four classrooms and the kitchen in the newly renovated learning center.

Superior Preparation Learning Opens in Ogden

By Ryan Hablitzel

About a year and a half ago, a large fourplex modular building sat almost forgotten on the campus of Deamude Adventist Christian School (DACs) in Ogden, UT. The building housed the school's library and served as storage space, but was regularly in disrepair and relatively unused.

Around the same time, a young teacher, Priscila Fleitas, made the decision to leave her regular place of employment and open a small preschool so that she could openly teach children about God instead of simply using the State's curriculum. Priscila's little apartment preschool experienced success and several young lives were impacted by her commitment to share God in the classroom.

After Priscila had been actively running her preschool for several months, she was contacted with a proposal. Priscila's former employer wanted to rehire her in order to establish a child care center in the Ogden area. Upon receiving the offer, Priscila reaffirmed her conviction to share God in the classroom. Her former employer agreed to create a partnership with her Christian preschool and instructed her to look for a suitable property in the Ogden area.

Just a few weeks before, Pastor Ryan Hablitzel had informally approached Priscila, a member at the Ogden Seventh-day Adventist Church, about the possibility of starting a Christian preschool on the school's campus. With Priscila's recent offer from her former

employer, she and the DACs began to work out the details of a possible partnership.

This venture was completely by faith. Neither Priscila nor DACs had the funding to renovate and start a preschool, but God was at work. Priscila's former employer entered into a partnership with her to create a Christian child care center at DACs. The almost forgotten fourplex building on the school's campus would be renovated with outside funding. This was a scenario that no one

could have dreamed of, but God was working and renovation began.

After several months of renovation, an issue arose. Priscila was actively teaching for her former employer while the new center was being renovated. Priscila had a practice of praying with her students before meals, and on a certain occasion a parent took offense and made a formal complaint. Priscila's former employer called her in to discuss the issue. They still wanted to move forward with Priscila to create a Christian child care center at DACs, but Priscila simply had to abstain from praying or talking about God in the classroom. Priscila wasn't interested in the offer and the partnership was terminated.

Because Priscila was acting as a middle man between her former employer and the local Adventist school, Priscila's former employer took a complete loss on investments he had made to the fourplex modular building on the Adventist school's campus. Over \$50,000 had been invested, but the building was not yet complete.

Priscila, along with her husband and other local church members, rallied to finish the building that would now become a dedicated Christian preschool. After about a year of uncertainty and hard work, Superior Preparation Learning Center (SPLC) was finally completed and open for business. With a little faith and a lot of hard work, God had accomplished what seemed impossible.

As the director of SPLC, Priscila is committed to keeping God at the center of the classroom. "Our first goal is to help children and parents to understand the love of our Creator and to be a center to prepare people for Jesus soon return."

Del Jean Butler, Head Teacher at DACs, is very enthusiastic about the possibilities of the new Preschool. "We have seen God's hand working to establish Superior Preparation Learning Center on our school's campus, and we could not be more thrilled to have this new delightful addition!"

SPLC is living testimony all things are possible with God.



The transformation of the once almost-forgotten fourplex building is amazing.

"Our first goal is to help children and parents to understand the love of our Creator and to be a center to prepare people for Jesus soon return."

Priscila Fleitas (far right) with the staff of the Superior Preparation Learning Center.





(Far Left) Students from the Las Vegas area Adventist schools enjoy outdoor education at Leoni Meadows. (Left) Micah Whitehorse, Lakota & Falicia Holliday, Nifi Gomez, in front of the Mittens at Monument Valley Utah. Navajo singers from the Monument Valley Mission School who made a CD in Navajo & English to promote and raise funds for the school.

Nevada Utah Adventist Education... Something Better

“There is a pervasive Adventist advantage in educational performance . . . The longer a child is in Adventist schools the higher their achievement level.” Jerome Thayer, Ph.D.

3 Reasons to come and experience the difference

1. Spiritual and Character Development

- a. Students are encouraged to cultivate and commit to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- b. Students participate in activities that share God’s love and provide Christian service to others
- c. Students discover and develop their God given gifts and talents

2. Educational Excellence – www.adventisteducation.org/curriculum/elementary/standards

- a. Students develop 21st Century skills integrated with a biblical worldview
- b. Students learn to think critically and demonstrate the ability to solve complex problems
- c. Students receive strong foundational preparation in Bible, Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Technology and Social Studies

d. Students engage in and enjoy Art, Music, and Physical Education/Health which enhances their aesthetic expression and appreciation of creative and performing arts

3. Personal and Social Growth

- a. Students develop values, attitudes, and behaviors that reflect the their relationship with Jesus Christ
- b. Students are taught biblical principles of self-management in personal, social and spiritual choices

c. Students develop as global citizens with respect and responsibility for each other and their environments

By Eileen White, NUC Education Superintendent

Comments from parental surveys:

“We are so happy with the school. The education our child is receiving is of high quality and the curriculum is well rounded exposing her to different experiences. We could not be happier with the quality. The teacher is completely approachable and communication is fast.”

“The school was chosen primarily because it is Christian based. In addition we felt that the quality of education would be greater because of the size of the school.”

“This school is amazing! Our teacher is fantastic. She challenges the kids at their level and in addition to their school work, teaches life skills (respect, responsibility, etc.)”

“School staff is absolutely superior to what any other local school has to offer! The love, care and attention the students receive promote a strong learning environment, for sure!”

“Good reputation, high standards, good discipline and flexible in pace of learning. . . Our child loves going to school now.”

To see about enrolling a child so they can experience the blessings of an Adventist education, call the NUC Office of Education to locate the campus nearest you – 775-322-6929.

Benefits of a Nevada-Utah Adventist Education

1. Low student teacher ratio
2. Individualized instruction
3. Dedicated teachers who inspire
4. Greater parental involvement
5. Safe environment

(Below) Summit Christian Academy, Salt Lake City, Utah. (Bottom) Riverview Christian Academy, Reno.





**Continued from
the first page**

Future

Matthew 7:24-27 and I Corinthians 3:10-14 reminds us of a very important building principle — whenever you plan to build a structure you must take the time to build a sure foundation. As we look toward the future, we must carefully build our conference upon a sure foundation. Our foundation must be built on four (4) key principles.

The first principle is to “Place our ministry (our work) into the hand of God.” We are a church and God is the head of the church. Therefore, by the grace of God, we must always seek His leading and His guidance in every decision.

I believe that the greatest gift that God has given the Nevada-Utah Conference is our people. It is not our church or school buildings, or our financial resources. The second principle is for us to intentionally plan to support our greatest resource — our people.

The third principle is a strategic plan. Right now geography divides us. However, we can be

united in one purpose and one vision. We need a global strategy that will bring our conference together.

Finally, if we desire to finish the work of God, we need all hands on deck. We need member involvement in the growth of our work in NUC.

Lets just restate our four step vision for the future.

1. Place our ministry into the hands of God
2. Intentionally plan to support our greatest resource — our people
3. Develop a strategic plan to unify our hearts and our conference
4. Ignite member involvement in the growth and expansion of our work

We must never forget Jesus’ commission to His disciples — “...Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:19-20, NLT).



(Top) Sheldon Bryan, Salt Lake Central Pastor, baptizes new member. (Above) NUC 2016 Camporee campers bless others with their music.

Upcoming EVENTS

Regional Convocation – Salt Lake City Area
September 2-4

NUC Regional Convocation
September 9-11

Celebrating Life in Recovery with Cheri Peters – Price, Utah
September 9-11

NUC Hispanic Women’s Retreat
September 16-18

Let’s Move Day
September 18

TLT Leadership Retreat
September 23-25

Utah Area Spanish Camp Meeting – Crystal Hot Springs, Honeyville, Utah
September 23-25

NUC Women’s Retreat
October 7-9

Regional Convocation – Las Vegas Area, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
October 14-15

NUC Hispanic Ministry Crusade – Las Vegas
November 1-6

Stewardship Sabbath
November 5

NUC Youth Rally – Las Vegas
November 11-13

Regional Ministries Cruise
November 22-24

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

Celebrating Life in Recovery

September 9-11, 2016

Price Civic Auditorium
185 East Main Street, Price, Utah

Cheri Peters’ (www.truestep.org) special gift of working with addicts of all kinds and reaching



deep seated hurts by God’s grace is definitely for “such a time as this.” Friday at 7 p.m. hear her story “Miracle from the Streets”; Sabbath at 10 a.m. “The Incredible Gift of Forgiveness”; Sabbath at 2 p.m. “Celebrating Life in Recovery – Understanding the Addictive Personality”; Sabbath at 6 p.m. – Musical concert; and Sunday at 10 am “Unlikely Ambassador Training Session”. Special children’s activities will be available during the Sabbath 2 p.m. and the Sunday 10 a.m. meetings. There will be childcare for infants and small children. RV parking is available at no charge at the Price Church. For information call Roger at 435-472-1161 or Tom at 385-209-3734.

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

Follow Me

Follow Me." These words of Jesus are foundational to the ministry of Southeastern California Conference. They are clear words that drive our desire and commitment to discern where Jesus is leading us in our plans, decisions, mission and even in our relationships. These words invite us to keep our eyes on Jesus in the midst of the chaos in the world surrounding us. They are the words that lead us to invite others to follow Him.

Jesus never said following Him would be easy. He never said the path we are called to walk would be revealed beyond the few steps that are just ahead. He never said it would not take faith and courage to "Follow Me."

Jesus clearly told us that He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). These words are for us. In this way a life of faithfully following Him is the only path to true meaning, joy and peace of heart. We are assured in the journey of following Jesus that He is always present and prompting us through the Spirit (John 16:13).

To follow Jesus faithfully means we should always pray for the Holy Spirit to be our guide while also seeking guidance from the Word of God. We

should seek wisdom from God's people who follow Him and who know His voice. In addition, we should commit to following Jesus no matter what the cost may be.

When I was a little girl and about as tall as my father's knees, I loved to stand on top of his feet, clinging to his legs and trying to walk with him. Even though he would take small steps, his stride was so big it required my little legs to stretch with every step. But I clung and stepped and laughed with joy to be walking along with my father.

As we follow in step and in stride with Jesus, we cling and move with Him. This adventure of following Jesus stretches us. It requires that we die to self only to be resurrected to a new life where we walk with Him.

After many months of praying, listening, discerning and planning, we are ready to roll up our sleeves and begin laying out action plans to more effectively carry out our mission. So much good is happening in our churches and schools—but we want to do better. We want

to follow Jesus more closely. So with the help of many of you, we have made plans. Hundreds of church members, leaders, pastors and teachers, youth and young adults, and retirees have prayed with us, shared ideas with us and have contributed to what we now believe is our task ahead. We will present these plans at the midterm sessions which will happen throughout our conference territory in October. This will be a living and fluid plan as we continue to prayerfully discern where the Spirit of God is leading us.

Three years ago, we concluded our constituency session in the La Sierra University church, singing these words of commitment together:

*O God, You are my God
And I will ever praise You.*

*I will seek You in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days.*

May this be the song in our hearts as we faithfully step forward into the future God has for our conference.

*By Sandra Roberts,
SECC President*

**Jesus clearly told us that He is "the way,
the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).**



Looking back with praise and forward with hope

A reflection on the past three years

Every so often we take time to reflect on the past, to see where we have come from and to decide where we will go next. Birthdays, the beginning of a new year and other anniversaries are often such moments. Last year Southeastern California Conference celebrated its centennial. So in the next few pages, we will look back at what happened in our conference since our last constituency session in October 2013.

Ellen White put it well when she said: "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (Life Sketches, p. 196).

During the past three years we have seen many changes in our conference. We have seen numerical growth in churches and membership as well as growth in the commitment of our members. We have seen our mission statement come alive. So as we look back with praise and gratitude, we look forward to the challenges ahead with hope from the God who led us in the past.



In order to treat the patients well at the December 4, 2015 AMEN Health Clinic, the right tools were needed. Fortunately, there were plenty of resources available.

with their communities. Many found that health clinics provided opportunities to reach people not likely to attend evangelistic meetings. This past April, over a thousand members volunteered at Your Best Pathway to Health in Los Angeles. Thousands of people flooded to the Los Angeles

convention center to receive free healthcare, ranging from teeth cleaning to massages to surgeries.

After the San Bernardino shooting on Dec. 2, 2015, over 500 students, medical professionals and community volunteers provided free dental, vision and medical care to over 800 people at Loma Linda Academy. Other services provided were lifestyle counseling and emotional health counseling.

In Nov. 2015, the Palm Springs church held a health and fitness expo that attracted nearly 200 people from the community. Free health screenings, massages and dental exams, along with the services of 28 other vendors, were available for everyone.

The Azure Hills church and UReach ministries from the Loma Linda University church partnered in 2013 to hold a block party at a public school. It is now an annual event with more churches and organizations joining each year. In October 2015, a Colton church health expo had over 200 attendees, 162 of whom received flu shots and 16 pints of blood were donated.

Churches aren't the only ones participating in ministry, however; schools play a large part in bringing young people and families to Jesus.

Every year the Office of Education

In our conference are more than 150 churches and over 70,000 members. We have seen our churches become mission oriented and community focused. This has resulted in our churches having a strong foundation in God.

This then leads congregations to actively participate in events to spread the Good News. Health clinics, block parties and evangelistic crusades are just some of the ways our churches engage with their community. For example, Robert Edwards, one of our two conference evangelists, presented eight evangelistic series during the past two and a half years. Yohalmo Saravia, our other evangelist, led 11 series.

Churches tried new ways of engaging

Children and families play games, visit booths and receive school supplies during the Bloc Party in Colton on April 6, 2014.



meets with our school principals to decide on a spiritual focus for the coming school year.

"In the 2014-2015 school year, the focus was on baptism, leadership and being intentional about providing opportunities for the students to accept Jesus as their Savior and lifelong companion," said Don Dudley, superintendent.

This missionary mindset led to students being baptized and families attending an Adventist church for the first time. Even sports teams from public schools noticed the positive atmosphere in our schools.

Jessica Williams, high school Bible teacher from Loma Linda Academy, noticed that students were more involved in ministry. Students were planning religious programs, leading out in small groups and having Bible studies at lunch.

"It's the day-in and day-out of walking with children and doing ministry," Williams said. "Bible classes now foster a more authentic and genuine discussion about their personal relationship with God. This is what we want for our students, to prepare them for eternity."

Although last year was focused on ministry, schools have consistently reached out to their communities. Students at Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian Academy dedicated every other Friday to community outreach in 2014.

Loma Linda Academy students developed a mission club to train students how to reach out to children who attend Vacation Bible Schools.

Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian Academy students do yard work during Outreach Friday in 2014.



A student from Valley Adventist Christian School is baptized by Meshach Soli, youth pastor at Beaumont church.

Calling themselves the "Friends Next Door Bible Club," 20 volunteer students went out in 2015 and shared a monthly Sabbath afternoon

program at different churches.

The conference departments, as well as our churches and schools, strive to facilitate growth in every aspect of our territory, from mission work to higher education to empowering and equipping our members to helping those in need. Not only have we seen a 5 percent increase in the number of churches since 2012, but we've also seen an increase in programs equipping pastors and members to witness to their families and communities effectively.

Alberto Ingleton, vice president for Hispanic ministries, focuses on how to get members more involved. Almost 40 churches have small group ministries. This is based on a discipleship concept; helping and lifting each other through fellowship, studying and praying in groups of three or more.

"Small groups are one of the more effective ways to get the members to open the doors of the church to their families and friends," Ingleton said.



The attendees of the 2014 Empower conference pose for a group photo in Palm Springs.



Upcoming Events

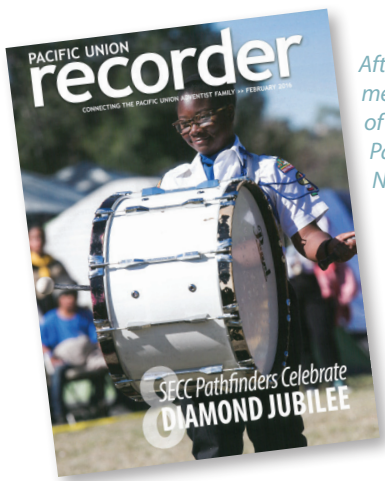
Mangelism 2016 Every Saturday in September, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Juniper Ave. church, 7347 Juniper Ave., Fontana. This is a 4-week campaign for men. Speakers include: Delroy Brooks, pastor of Juniper Ave church; Ron Williams Jr., pastor of Macedonia church in Chester, Pa.; Ronnie Vanderhorst, author/community organizer from Baltimore, Md.; and Nevilon Meadows, from Men Under Development, M.U.D. Inc. Info: Delroy Brooks, delroybrooks@gmail.com.

Pathfinder Leader's Convention (Sept. 9-11) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. This event is for all Pathfinder staff/leaders. Teens who are working on Master Guide or are staff are the only teens invited to attend. Info: www.seccyouth.com.

Adventurer Leader's Convention (Sept. 16-18) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. The leader's convention is for all Adventurer leaders and parents wishing to learn more about the Adventurer program. Info: www.seccyouth.com.

Adventure Beach Day (Sept. 25) Meet between towers 21 and 22, Bolsa Chica State Beach, Huntington Beach. Beach Day is open to any family that is part of a SECC registered Adventure club. It offers a relaxing day with an opportunity to meet families from other clubs. Info: www.seccyouth.com.

Pathfinder Teen Institute (Sept. 30 – Oct. 2) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. This institute provides an opportunity to increase the teens' awareness of the responsibilities they can perform in their local Pathfinder Club, for their fellow man and for God. Registration deadline is September 15. Info: www.seccyouth.com



After the church service, drum corps member, London Robinson, 12, a member of the Mt. Rubidoux club, entertains Pathfinders during the 60th Camporee, November 2015.

equip youth to be able to engage with their peers as well to build their confidence in trusting God for everything they do in life. This is accomplished through summer programs, training events such as Gear Up, annual prayer conventions and Pathfinders and Adventurers.

George King, vice president for Black ministries, believes in motivating pastors and members through camp meetings and lay-leadership conferences, which Black ministries provides every year. About 3,000 people have been attending SECC camp meetings.

"I want to make sure churches maintain and grow membership," King said. "I also want to foster a more unified church so that membership can be properly serviced."

Elizer Sacay, vice president for Asian/Pacific ministries, held events to equip members and pastors. In 2014 Asian/Pacific young adults attended the Empower conference. The following year, Sacay organized a theological symposium on mission and Christology, which took place in Loma Linda and San Diego.

The conference offers programs to

Pathfinders celebrated their 60th camporee in November 2015 with nearly 2,000 attendees. SECC began the first Pathfinder Club in the world. Since then, untold numbers of children have grown closer to Jesus because of the relationships they established with their leaders and peers at Pathfinder meetings and events.

For the first time this year, the North American Division asked our conference to create a new summer program for children—VBX, or "Vacation Bible Xperience." The 2016 theme was "Kidsville: Where Jesus Loves Others Through You." Churches throughout our conference, and even other states, that did VBX were met with success.

In the conference as a whole, much has happened during the past three years. Since the financial turmoil in 2008 the conference, with some significant

cuts, has regained its financial stability. A balanced budget was met in 2015 and for the first time excess money from that year's budget was returned to our churches.

But that is not all. Churches continue to find new ways to engage with their

Children at Loma Linda Filipino church participate during the VBX theme song in June 2016.



Midterm Meeting Dates

- Oct. 3** Riverside County, Arlington church
- Oct. 4** San Bernardino County, Loma Linda Filipino church
- Oct. 6** Orange County, Anaheim church
- Oct. 13** San Diego County, Tierrasanta church
- Oct. 19** Calexico, Calexico Mission School

*For times and addresses check seccadventist.org.

community. Schools discover ways to impact students, and by extension, the students' families. Yet there is still much to do to advance the kingdom of God in our five-county territory.

During the past three years conference administrators have worked diligently on a strategic plan. In an effort to understand all the needs, hundreds of people were part of focus group discussions. This input has been gleaned, reviewed and analyzed, and during the upcoming midterm meetings our conference administrators will roll out a strategic plan. This will help us move intentionally into a direction where we can better engage with our ever complex and changing landscape.

We look forward with hope. We will build a future together for the kingdom of God.

By Enno Müller and Jessica Anzai

Mission Statement

The mission of the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is the expansion of God's kingdom through the preaching, teaching, publishing, and living of the everlasting gospel by women and men in the cross-cultural communities of our territory.

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

SEPTEMBER 2016

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

Adonai Spanish Church Sponsors Neighborhood Health Fair



Upper Room Fellowship Celebrates 20-Year Commitment



Evangelism



John Cress
Executive Secretary

“Go therefore and make disciples”—

A Strategic Look at *what Jesus Calls Us to Do*

Probably the most important questions that the church and its leadership can ask are, what does God want us to do? What is our purpose? The success of any enterprise is dependent on clarity of mission.

Jesus gave us His mandate in Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples.” We are commanded to make disciples, not merely adherents of our 28 fundamental beliefs. Our sharing of the gospel, baptizing and teaching are all activities that are carried out as part of the overall goal of making disciples. Revelation 14 intensifies this call. The three angels call us to share the everlasting gospel and grow people in worship. The characteristics of the “remnant” are all aspects of discipleship.

In Matthew 10, Jesus reviews Discipleship 101 with his followers before sending them out. He makes it clear that, “It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.” (Mt. 10:25) Discipleship is more than just getting a spiritual education. A disciple is a learner and a follower, but more than that. A disciple spends

time with his master for the purpose of becoming like his master. Biblical discipling is the art of shaping the life of an individual into a growing partnership with God. It begins with acceptance of the gospel and continues integrating Christ into every area of life.

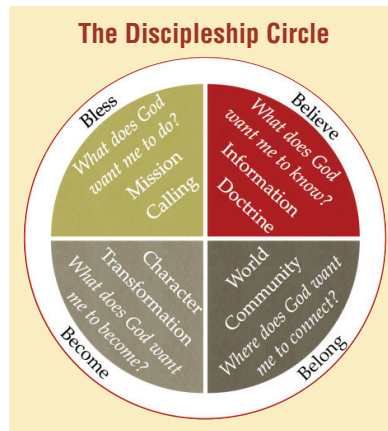
So how can a church design a discipling process? What might an outline for discipleship look like? What contours are essential to discipleship? Four areas characterize the life of a fully engaged disciple of Jesus and can become a framework for the disciple-making church:

Belief: What does God want his followers to know? What information, or doctrines? The Scriptures were given by the Holy Spirit to help us discover and know God, understand His view of our world, and bring us to the experience of

abundant life. (2 Tim. 3:16)

Belong: Where does God want us to connect? According to Scripture, believers are “added to the church.” Disciples belong to the body of Jesus Christ. The need to belong is the God-given desire of most people. The experience of community happens when we gather as a church for worship, but we connect best for growth and accountability in small groups or even in more intimate groups of two or three. (Heb. 10:24-25)

Become: What does God want me to become? We are called to be transformed. The distance between believing and being transformed is a lot more than just the 18 inches between the head and the heart. Dependence on the Holy Spirit to convert our heart is essential (Ezekiel 33:25-26). Knowing Jesus and



cont. on page 4

In Transition

(Voted 5/26, 6/23, 7/14/16)

New Employees

(Voted 5/26/16)

Gustavo Mendez

Pastor, Lancaster Spanish church, as of 5/1/16.

Orville Ortiz

SCC Treasurer, as of 5/15/16.

(Voted 6/23/16)

Lauren E. Cline

Assoc. Pastor, Thousand Oaks church, as of 6/12/16.

Jonathan Fox

Teacher, South Bay Jr. Academy, as of 7/1/16.

Ruth Perez

Teacher, South Bay Jr. Academy, as of 6/23/16.

Nellie Tassy

Teacher, San Fernando Valley Elementary, as of 7/1/16.

(Voted 7/14/16)

Jonathan Clark

Assoc. Pastor, Thousand Oaks church, as of 7/1/16.

Sarah Grover

Assist. Pastor, Lancaster church, as of 7/5/16.

Changes within the Conference

(Voted 7/14/16)

William Gile

Teacher, from San Fernando Academy, to Linda Vista Elementary, as of 7/1/16.

Carlos Granados

Pastor, from El Rio Spanish district, to Van Nuys Spanish church, as of 9/1/16.

Alfredo Lee

Pastor, from Van Nuys Spanish to El Rio district, as of 9/1/16.

Lisa Ruebush

Teacher, Antelope Valley School, to Principal, Antelope Valley School, as of 7/1/16.

Ivanelle Sunico-Perez

Teacher, East Valley School, to Teaching Principal, East Valley School, as of 7/1/16.

Leaving Conference Employment

(Voted 5/26/16)

Albert Peterson

Pastor, University church, as of 5/31/16.

(Voted 6/23/16)

Chad Washburn

Pastor, Sylmar church, as of 7/9/16.

Retirement

(Voted 7/14/16)

John Aitken

Pastor, Van Nuys church, as of 7/1/16.

Lewis Gray, Jr.

Pastor, West Covina Hills, as of 7/1/16.

ADONAI SPANISH CHURCH Sponsors Neighborhood Health Fair

By Betty Cooney

“Our main focus is letting the community know who we are, and that we are interested in their health,” said Raymundo Romero, MD, the coordinator of a health fair conducted by the Adonai Spanish church on July 16, 2016.

Romero planned with the church for nine months, hoping to get as many church members involved as possible, and as many community organizations as possible. A dozen community health-related organizations had booths at the fair, including American Cancer Society, American Heart Association,

Norwalk Community Hospital, and Samaritana Medical Clinic. The White Memorial Medical Center’s Diabetes Education Program also was featured.

“Earlier on the day of the church health fair, the city held a similar event at the park bordering the church property,” said Rogelio Paquini, Adonai pastor. “Dr. Romero spoke to the city leader in charge of the event and, once their event was over, he and the president of the “Carmelas,” the local gang, came over to our event. Not only were we able to build some rapport with the community, but the city agreed to collaborate with the church on two similar events per year.”

As many as 200 people from the community attended the health fair, which was held in the church’s large parking lot.



Nefataly Villatoro, CMT and (background) Jorge Galvan, CMT, members of Adonai Spanish church, provided free massages to participants.

Photo by Gianni Paquini



Raymond, a medical assistant from Samaritana Medical Clinic, performed a bone density scan for attendee. Photo by Gianni Paquini

The church provided a variety of services including blood pressure and blood sugar screening, diabetes counseling and DEXA Scan osteoporosis screening. Health and church literature were given to each attendee in an Adonai Spanish Adventist Church tote bag.

The free bottled water handed out was appreciated on the hot day of the fair. Pastor Rogelio Paquini worked with Dr. Romero and the volunteer team to ensure a smooth and welcoming event.

Upper Room Fellowship CELEBRATES 20-YEAR COMMITMENT

By Kevin Camato and Betty Cooney

On July 30, 2016, the Upper Room Fellowship celebrated their 20-plus year anniversary of ministry. Many well-wishers from neighboring churches, former members, pastors and SCC officers shared in the celebration festivities.

The Upper Room Fellowship was founded in 1994 by Pastor Sung Hyun Um and his wife Jewel as a young adult group at the Rosemead Korean church. The group was named Upper Room Fellowship with the desire to create a place where God would pour out His Spirit for the latter rain.

Throughout the anniversary celebration, God was recognized as the Author and Guide of the 20-plus years of ministry that Upper Room Fellowship had given to the community. Elder Keun Sang Kim, president of the Southern California Korean Elders Association, and

Pastor Robin Park, representative of the English Ministry Pastors Advisory Council, shared words of encouragement. Elder Velino Salazar shared a sermonette. “On behalf of the Southern California Conference, I wish the members of the Upper Room Fellowship a happy 20-plus year birthday,” said Salazar. “I challenge Upper Room to continue to seek God for guidance in their ministry.” The day ended with a joy-filled celebration dinner and fellowship.

“The church has withstood struggles and challenges,” noted current pastor Kevin Camato, “but by God’s providence and guidance is still here today. We have



Photo by Steve Cha DDS

become a community of believers that is being transformed by the Holy Spirit and answering the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. We may not know fully what the future holds, but we celebrate God’s mighty hand in sustaining and blessing Upper Room until His soon return.”

The Upper Room Adventist Fellowship group is located at 5319 N. Halifax Rd. Temple City 91780.

New Faces in the SCC Office

If you visited the conference office in the past several months, you may have noticed some new faces. The following will acquaint you with our newest employees, who are busily serving in their offices:



Lauren Armstrong, Communication Intern
Armstrong was blessed to grow up within the Southern California Conference territory as a student and

church member. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Pacific Union College in 2013, and wrote for the school newspaper and website.

“Soon after graduation,” she said, “I began work for a communications

firm. After three years, God led me to this opportunity in the SCC Communication department. I’m excited to use the skills God has blessed me with for His glory, to share the love of Christ in our community throughout the Southern California Conference.”



Rachel Logan, Marketing Director, Education Dept.
Logan is from Sacramento, California and received a Bachelor’s Degree in English from Walla Walla University in 2014. She

currently works as the Marketing Director for the Office of Education in the Southern California Conference. She enjoys traveling and writing.

“My job is to promote our childcare centers, elementary schools and high

schools to both Adventist parents and the community,” Logan said. “Students from our programs go on to achieve careers as doctors, engineers, teachers, lawyers, CEO’s, pastors and so much more. There does not have to be a choice between quality education and a loving, Adventist environment—at our schools students can receive both. My job is to extend the ministry of the Adventist church into the homes of students across Southern California Conference.”



Jamie Walker, Administrative Secretary, Education Dept.

Walker grew up in Albany, Oregon. She has recently moved to Southern California from Walla Walla University, where she

cont. on page 4

SCC EVANGELISM



Luis Peña
Director

Hispanic Region

Plans have been made for the SCC Hispanic Region to conduct evangelistic series that will be held Oct. 1-8 at 7:00 p.m. in approximately 20 churches. Speakers for these series will be pastors from the Southeastern California Conference (SECC).

Following this, about 20 SCC Hispanic Region pastors will conduct evangelistic series in SECC churches Oct. 15-22.

The innovative pastoral-exchange approach was planned by SCC Hispanic Region leadership and SECC Hispanic Ministries Director Alberto Ingleton. Please pray for these pastoral-exchange meetings!



Royal Harrison
Director

Greater Los Angeles Region

The "Seeds of Truth" Revival will be held Sept. 9-24 at the **54th Street church**. Pastor/Evangelists Michael Johnson and Adolphus Garnett are the featured speakers.

The Valley Crossroads church will conduct an evangelism crusade from Sept. 11 – Oct. 1. Pastor Howard Small is the featured speaker.

The Compton Community church will conduct an evangelistic crusade from Oct. 29 – Nov. 19, featuring Evangelist Robert Davis, DMin, as the speaker. Meetings will be held nightly except Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

L. A. Metro Region

A group of pastors in the region are planning to conduct a free clinic on March 19-20, 2017, in the South Bay area—the specific location had not yet been finalized as this went to press. The free clinic will be enabled by the Adventist Medical

James G. Lee, Jr.
Evangelism Director



Gerard Kiemenev
Director

Evangelistic Network (AMENsda.org), which provides dental and medical equipment in a service called "Clinic in a Box." "Mostly glasses (Vision Services) and dental will be the focus," said region director Kiemenev, "but there could be additional services as well. We are just in the early planning stages at this time."



amen
Adventist Medical
Evangelism Network

West Region

A second free clinic is being planned for the San Fernando area. Laypersons J. R. Cahatol and Lily Cirstiou, both RNs, have been meeting with community and other leaders in preparation for the clinic. Dates for this outreach will be May 31 & June 1, 2017. Services being planned include dental, vision, mental health, lifestyle counseling, tattoo removal, possibly lab work, and more.



Greg Hoenes
Director



Heidi Carpenter
Director

Literature Evangelism

As of Aug. 12, Southern California Conference Youth Rush completed 10 weeks of knock on doors! Sixty-two students and leaders ministered to area communities through literature and personal contact. \$196,950 was given in student scholarships to help with students' education. Life-changing experiences filled every week and daily lessons transformed each participant.

As a result, team members have decided to live a life of "evangeliving"—a lifestyle of ministry in their churches, schools and homes.

A Strategic Look, cont. from page 1

experiencing Him changes us. We become more like Christ and our desires and behaviors are changed. Jesus not only desires to rescue us, but to redeem and restore a people who will live out His Kingdom here on earth. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bless: What does God want me to do? This isn't about just giving to a mission; it is about being missionaries. We are invited to join Christ in His mission. Jesus was clear about two things: First, He came not to be served but to serve. Second, His purpose was to "seek and save the lost." Serving people who are in great need reflects the Great Commandment; sharing the grace of Jesus in response to the Great Commission. These reflect the convergence of ways in which we bless our communities. When we, as disciples, serve "the least of these" and pursue those who haven't experienced God's grace, we are in alignment with Jesus' mission.

This reflects God's design and missional call on his church. When we intentionally activate this design, then the church will become an irresistible influence in the community it serves.

New Faces, cont. from page 3

earned a bachelor's degree in Health Promotion and worked as an administrative assistant for the School of Nursing. She is always looking for ways to stay active and promote living a healthy lifestyle. In her free time she enjoys rock climbing and cycling.

"My job includes assisting the Superintendent of Education, along with three associate superintendents," explained Walker. "I also have the pleasure of working with principals, teachers, auxiliary staff, pastors, students and parents. Through my job as Administrative Secretary for the Office of Education, I strive to share the light of Christ in all of my interactions throughout the Southern California Conference."