

PACIFIC UNION

# recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> OCTOBER 2016



**4** Telehealth Technology  
*IMPROVES LIVES*

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## about the cover

Telemedicine technology allows patients to meet face-to-face with specialists in other locations, bringing top-notch care even to remote areas.

# PACIFIC UNION recorder

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Our mission is to inform, educate and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.



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Total paid or requested inside-county mail subs	0	0
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Other classes mailed through USPS	1,784	1,742
Total paid and/or requested circulation	76,366	75,810
Total free distribution	316	316
Total distribution	76,682	76,126
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# The Road Ahead

## For Such A Time as This...

**T**he late Jere Patzer, former president of the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, published a book in 2003 entitled *The Road Ahead*.

Jere wrote: "God's church in the 21st century needs men and women who can see the road ahead clearly and who can offer the gospel in ways that make sense to people living in the (digital) generation."

What does the road ahead look like to us in the Pacific Union Conference? What might we encounter on our journey of faith? How will our mission be affected?

Our Mission Statement says, in part: "The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Savior and to unite with His church, and nurture them in preparation for His soon return."

One thing we know for sure: The enemy will challenge us each step of the way, presenting spiritual challenges — both individual and corporate — that can be likened to roadblocks, detours and potholes en route to completing our mission.

As we move together in principle, with the various methods crafted under the leading of the Holy Spirit, I am convinced we do so with the full assurance that God is with us. (See Matthew 28:20.)

Clinging to the immutability of the Word of God and the sacred truths He has committed to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we shall continuously move ahead.

But, here are a few things that may challenge us along the way (non-exhaustive and not listed in order of significance):

Reaching the teeming masses in our territory that are challenging: the 25 or so language groups represented by the increasing numbers of refugees coming into the Pacific Union, particularly in Southeastern California and Arizona. We need new, creative methods to reach all people.

We have been announcing the loss of our youth and young adults for decades. And perhaps the hardest groups to attract are those referred to as millennials — those born between 1977 and 2000 and who make up 25 percent of the U.S. population. Millennials want to know God through experience, not just talk. There are those among us who can relate to them. We must find the way to invite them into the journey.

There is the continuing challenge to operate our higher education institutions: La Sierra University and Pacific Union College. As many of you are aware, there was recently a challenge related to Cal Grants — the largest source of California state-funded student financial aid — and faith-based colleges and universities in California. While this challenge has been halted for the moment, it is likely to come up again.

We have diminishing resources; does anyone remember stewardship? The idea that we are God's stewards — caretakers — of what is really

His? We need to re-examine and demonstrate the power of faithful stewardship with our own resources.

Our greatest resource for the journey is our people. What would happen if we deployed all our gifted, talented people into ministry within the Pacific Union through the local churches?

Our journey of faith demands that we travel into the arms of our Savior and walk in His footsteps. We must move from membership to discipleship.

Whatever the challenge, we have multiple assurances that God is with those who love Him enough to obey and be transformed by His word. (Obedience doesn't save us, of course, since that is exclusively a gift given in return for our faith, but if we love Him, we allow the Holy Spirit to bring us into obedience.)

"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11, CEB). God's truth will triumph in the end, but we will go through challenges along the way.

"Throughout the history of God's people, great mountains of difficulty, apparently insurmountable, have loomed up before those who were trying to carry out the purposes of Heaven. The Lord as a test of faith permits such obstacles. When we are hedged about on every side, this is the time above all others to trust in God and in the power of His Spirit. The exercise of a living faith means an increase of spiritual strength and the development of an unflinching trust. It is thus that the soul becomes a conquering power. Before the demand of faith, the obstacles placed by Satan across the pathway of the Christian will disappear; for the powers of heaven will come to his aid. 'Nothing shall be impossible unto you'" (*Conflict and Courage*, p. 258).

God promises that, as we deploy the talents, skills and abilities of all our members, under His banner, we shall be successful.

Even when this world seems dark, the road ahead will be illuminated by Jesus, who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6, KJV). We must know Him and show Him to others, for such a time as this. He is coming soon! Stick close to Him.

*Ricardo Graham*



# Telehealth Technology Improves Lives in Northern California Communities

**T**wo-year-old Rory Pitchford woke up on a Monday morning in February with redness around his eye. His mother, Alana Hastings, did not think much of it—Rory had wrestled with poison oak before. By afternoon, however, Rory's red eye had swollen completely shut, and he was feverish. "It was then that I knew it was something more serious," says Hastings.

After a strong recommendation from Rory's doctor, Hastings, now beginning to panic, took her son to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital's emergency room located in Willits, Calif. As an employee at the Adventist Health hospital, Hastings knew the staff personally and professionally and trusted them to take care of her son.

Blood tests were done and showed that Rory's white blood cell count was elevated,

indicating an infection. Because the infection was so close to his eye and brain, a CT scan was recommended urgently.

Two hundred miles away from Rory's hospital room, Jacqueline Evans, M.D., Ph.D., from U.C. Davis Children's Hospital was able to use computer technology to speak with Hastings, review Rory's tests and scans, as well as consult with Willits' on-duty physician, Charles Hott, M.D., as if she were sitting in the same room.

Telemedicine, which uses the same technology as Skype or other videoconferencing technology, connects patients in rural areas, such as Willits, to specialists who can perform consultations without the expense and burden of transportation. Through telemedicine, physicians are able to hear patients' heart and lung sounds, check for vital signs and perform

electrocardiograms in real time, all around the world.

"It felt like we were right there in the pediatric ICU at U.C. Davis instead of four hours away," says Hastings. "They put Rory on the screen and the doctor looked at him. They could zoom in on his body to see the details, and we were able to talk to them and ask questions."

Evans deciphered that what Rory had was a very aggressive sinus infection that tracked into the eye socket, causing pressure to the nerves in his eye. Without proper treatment, the infection could have worsened and the pressure on the nerves could have increased, threatening his vision.

After an official diagnosis, Hastings and Rory's father transported Rory to U.C. Davis Children's Hospital seamlessly, where he spent



*Adventist Health clinics that serve as telehealth locations use high-tech carts to connect patients and doctors.*

the next seven days receiving the treatment he needed for a full recovery.

“It was reassuring to know that there was this expertise from U.C. Davis coupled with our great staff at HMM,” says Hastings. “It made me feel like Rory would be fine.”

The Adventist Health TeleHealth Network provides modern technology services and functions, including telemedicine, telepharmacy, teleICU, teleradiology and telepathology, and supports regional health information sharing, patient education and provider networking.

Under an agreement with Blue Shield of California to provide medical specialty care, telehealth equipment was deployed to 21 outpatient sites in California and six inpatient sites.

“We want to take this technology and use it to our best advantage,” says Christine Martin, director of TeleHealth at Adventist Health. “We hope that more areas within California will be able to do the same.”

There are several Adventist Health locations in California that provide telehealth services. Ukiah Valley Medical Center, St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake and Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif., offer stroke services, and five locations provide pediatric services.

*Telemedicine is a great addition to our excellent patient care. We're excited to provide this service to our community. Because telemedicine enables patients to get evaluated and treated sooner, it ultimately means they can have better health outcomes.*

*— Rick Bockmann, president and CEO of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital*

“Telemedicine is a great addition to our excellent patient care,” says Rick Bockmann, president and CEO of HMM. “We’re excited to provide this service to our community. Because telemedicine enables patients to get evaluated and treated sooner, it ultimately means they can have better health outcomes.”

Adventist Health also works with the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation to use its telemedicine ministry

to serve multiple prison locations through the Telehealth Care Coordination Center.

The use of telemedicine services supports Adventist Health’s mission of bringing high-quality health and healing to the communities it serves, and is consistent with the organization’s focus on innovation and expanding its ministries.

*Ali Reiner*



**A physician can “meet” with patients using a computer and camera. This allows patients who live in rural areas to see specialists without having to drive to a larger clinic or hospital.**

# Research Says a Healthier, Longer Life Begins Before Birth

**M**any decades of research at Loma Linda University Health confirm that when moms-to-be make good health choices today, they are building a strong foundation and a brighter tomorrow for their babies.

William J. Pearce, Ph.D., professor of physiology and a researcher at the Lawrence D. Longo, M.D. Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, says more than 30 years of research have yielded one crucial insight for pregnant women: keep calm and reduce stress.

“The most important item to come from our work is that ‘fetal stress’ of any kind should be minimized,” Pearce says.

Fetal stress produces unwanted health outcomes that may last throughout the lifetime of the unborn child, including hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol and triglyceride levels, and other diseases and disorders.

Pearce says pregnant mothers can do several things to reduce fetal stress: don’t smoke, avoid breathing second-hand smoke and diesel exhaust, stay out of high altitudes whenever possible and don’t donate blood, since all these activities reduce levels of oxygen available to the unborn baby.

Inadequate nutrition can also provoke fetal stress.

“Major reductions in caloric intake, or protein intake, should be avoided during pregnancy,” Pearce continues. “Similarly, vitamin and mineral intake should be thoughtfully managed, usually by consumption of a varied diet with abundant fiber, fruits and vegetables. Consumption of foods with very high sugar and saturated fat should be minimized.”

Drinking plenty of fresh water, another key component of a well-balanced diet, is also essential during pregnancy.

Moms-to-be should also monitor their body temperature, as overheating can lead to fetal stress. “Maternal body temperature should be kept near normal,” he adds. “Strenuous activity in the heat should be avoided. However, light to moderate exercise in an environment with an ambient temperature below 80 degrees



**William J. Pearce, Ph.D., is professor of physiology and a researcher at the Lawrence D. Longo, M.D., Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.**



**Decades of research at Loma Linda University Health reveal guidelines to help build healthier, happier lives and increased longevity for unborn babies.**

Fahrenheit can be very beneficial for both mother and baby.”

Taken together, these guidelines add up to healthier, happier lives and increased longevity for unborn babies.

To learn more, visit <https://goo.gl/AaPbnb>.

*James Ponder*

# 84 Baptized During \$100 Camp

**W**hen kids think about a week at summer camp, they probably imagine new friends, activities, evening campfire skits and nature. But the one thing that sets Adventist camps apart from others is the intentional introduction of Jesus.

The Arizona Conference administration believes so strongly in the youth evangelism ministry at Camp Yavapines that they offer “\$100 Camp” — a week at camp, including lodging, food, activities, for just \$100, a fraction of the cost of other camps. Without a big price tag standing in the way, reaching children from all walks of life is a bit easier.

This year’s summer camp theme was “Forever;” more specifically, how to make Jesus Christ a forever friend. Of the 792 campers, some had never been introduced to Jesus. Some were struggling to believe He exists and, if so, whether they even wanted Him in their lives.

Throughout the week, campers were intentionally introduced to Jesus through morning chapels, classes and interactions with staff. They watched the story of Jesus and His relationship with the disciples come alive each evening during the campfire program.

At the end of each week, during the Friday evening program, campers were invited to take a stand for Jesus — whether it was a first time decision to follow Him, a recommitment,

or through baptism. Over the course of the summer, hundreds made a first-time decision or recommitment to Jesus. An additional 84 (73 campers and 11 staff) chose to be baptized.

A young man, Luis, attended teen camp this summer. He came from a home where he had experienced abuse and exposure to drugs. The camp staff introduced Luis to Jesus. When the story of the cross was unfolded, he couldn’t help but give his heart to Jesus. On Sabbath, Luis

stood before his fellow campers and made a commitment to be in a forever relationship with Jesus as he was baptized.

“As summer camp staff, we are in the relationship building business,” said Wendy Eberhardt, camp director. “We build relationships with these campers and teach them about how to have a relationship with Jesus that will go on forever.”

*Phil Draper*



*Counselor Jay Watson enjoys sharing Jesus with his young charges.*



*Counselor Stephanie Smith enjoys working with youth.*



*Counselor Ashley Avila shares a big hug with two of her campers.*

# New Sabbath School Program at Bakersfield Hillcrest Serves Children with Special Needs

When the Bakersfield Hillcrest church sponsored a Revelation series earlier this year, a unique ongoing ministry was born — a Sabbath school program designed specifically for children with autism and other special needs. One of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the United States, autism spectrum disorder affects one in 68 children. While considered incurable, experts agree that the right support at the right time can make a big difference in children's lives.

The inspiration for the new program was sparked when Darin and Kristen Seidenstricker, themselves proud parents of four children with special needs, were asked to help with the children's program during the Revelation series; three energetic autistic children were among the group. "We were pleased that the approach we've taken in home schooling our children also worked with these girls," said Darin. "We provided structure and activities, and played with them. The parents were pleased to be

able to attend the meetings, knowing their children were well cared for by professionals who understand their needs. They were also delighted the children were happy and eager to return night after night."

When the parents asked whether there was an ongoing program for children with special needs, the Seidenstrickers took that as an assignment from God and prayerfully determined to start one. Darin holds a bachelor's degree in education; Kristen, a bachelor's in family mediation and crisis intervention. The team also recruited Nicholas Arnison, a credentialed special education teacher, who shares their passion and assists with the program.

With the support of Hillcrest's new associate pastor, Stephen Hicks, and the church board, the program became a reality. Currently, 11 children, ages 4 to 15, are attending the fledgling Sabbath school class. The media-based program includes the Gracelink curriculum for

lesson study, and CedarMent Kids Action Bible Songs on YouTube. Nearly all the equipment has been donated.

The classroom, painted in soothing colors, is sparsely furnished so as not to overstimulate the children. Sabbath school begins with 15 minutes of music, then snack time, followed by lesson study, and ends with sensory time. A posted visual schedule, with pictures of each activity and the allotted time, helps keep children on task.

"The program is a win-win for all concerned," said Kristen. "Our church has expanded its evangelism outreach to the special needs population. We have connected with parents who daily face the same struggles and challenges we do, and we minister to them with prayer, understanding and support. Parents continue to express their gratitude for having one hour a week during which they can set aside worry. They also tell us their children are more at ease when they leave the classroom.

"Most important," Kristen stressed, "the children are becoming more verbal and are able to sit for longer periods. They are demonstrating an understanding of who Jesus is, and some can say 'Jesus' when they see His picture. One little girl exclaimed, 'Jesus is my friend.'"

"With the growing prevalence of autism, I can see how God is working within our church to establish an ongoing ministry of meeting the spiritual, social and academic needs of



*Bakersfield Hillcrest develops a Sabbath School class to meet the needs of children with autism.*





DARIN SEIBENSTUCKER

# MEETING THE SPECTRUM

with Barbara Newman

**Friday, Nov. 4** 6:30-8:30p.m. **&** **Saturday, Nov. 5** 3:00-6:00p.m.

Children's Ministry training to understand and empower our children with special needs.

- Autism
- ADHD
- Down Syndrome
- Various Muscular Disorders



**Barbara Newman** endeavors to create communities of inclusion through Christian Learning Center Network. Adminstrating her own Special Education classroom at Zeeland Christian School allows her to stay on top of best practices, which she shares as a consultant, speaker and trainer at schools and churches nationwide.

**Friday, Nov. 4**  
Puzzle Pieces, Perspectives & Processes  
**Saturday, Nov. 5**  
Information, Inspiration & Ideas

Mountain View Central Church  
1425 S. Springer Rd.  
Mountain View, CA 94040

Contact Lisa Plasencia, Director of Children's Ministry  
[childmindirector@cccsda.org](mailto:childmindirector@cccsda.org)  
Register at [cccchildren.adventistfaith.org](http://cccchildren.adventistfaith.org)

*Structured activities are part of the special needs Sabbath school class at Bakersfield Hillcrest church.*

these children, and their parents," said Arnison, who is also developing training materials for volunteers. "I'm truly blessed to be able to use my professional skills to help these precious children know how much they are loved, and hopefully, encourage others to volunteer."

Currently, the only marketing for the program has been through social media and word of mouth. However, the Hillcrest team envisions expanding the program: educating church members and leadership, training more volunteers, developing their own curriculum, creating a VBS program, and providing training and a Bible study group for parents. Ultimately, they hope to have enough space and volunteers to separate the children by ages and ability levels.

"We would love to see this in every Adventist church," added Darin. "These children and families deserve to hear the message of hope and know that when Jesus comes, these special children will be whole and perfect in every way."

Lisa Plasencia, the new CCC director of Children's Ministry and Sabbath School, who brings 20 years experience to the role, is very supportive of the Hillcrest program. Plasencia encourages other churches to consider similar efforts. The conference will present a special needs workshop Nov. 4-5 at the Mountain View Central church.

"Our God is a God of inclusion," Plasencia said. "When churches create programs of this kind, they are breaking down walls of stigmatization. God is ready to make amazing changes in our churches when we respond to the growing need."

*Nancy L. Reynolds*

# Lakeport County Churches Aid Fire Efforts — Again

For the second straight year, Adventists in Lake County experienced the consequences of a terrible fire and offered help to their neighbors. The Clayton fire started on Aug. 13, burning 3,929 acres and destroying 300 structures before it was completely contained on Aug. 26. Several people connected with the Clearlake church and Clearlake SDA Christian School lost homes in the fire. St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake, part of Adventist Health, was evacuated for several days.

Unfortunately, the Lake County community is well acquainted with the effects of a huge fire due to their experiences during and after the 2015 Valley fire. The churches that wanted to help knew how to proceed. "It was a lot easier to know what resources are available and to know where to go," said Ted Calkins, Clearlake/Middletown district pastor.

Once again, the Lakeport church served as an evacuation center during the fire. Organized by the Lake Ministerial Association, volunteers from several Christian churches in the area worked together to staff the center. On its

busiest night, the church housed 47 evacuees, who slept in the classrooms and the fellowship hall, and took showers in the community services center. The church also provided meals and clothing for them, as well as for people who were staying elsewhere in the community.

When things were settling down from the Clayton fire, an unrelated fire struck a Lakeport senior-living facility. The church hosted 20 evacuees from that fire for a little more than a week. "It's rewarding being able to help out when someone truly needs it," said Upper Lake church Bible worker Seth Cantu, who is a member of the Adventist Community Services disaster response management team. "At every fire we've said the same thing: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Cantu served as the coordinator of the church's distribution center during and after last year's fire, helping fire victims get clothes, gift cards for groceries, and other items. This year, he spent several sleepless nights on security duty at the shelter.

Adventist Community Services is recognized and respected for their disaster preparedness by the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "They come in and treat us like equals," said Randy Brehms, Lakeport/Upper Lake district pastor.

Also in Lake County, the Middletown church once again opened its doors for Red Cross volunteers who needed a place to live while they were helping in the area. "What an opportunity to meet volunteers from all over the United States who come to assist us in this disaster!" said Calkins. On Aug. 20, the congregation held Sabbath services outside

so that they wouldn't disturb the people who might be sleeping in the church building.

To make a donation to help those affected by the Clayton fire, mark your gift "Lake County 2016 Fires" and place it in the offering plate at church on Sabbath, or mail it to the conference office (Northern California Conference, P.O. Box 23165, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-0165).

*Julie Lorenz*



Red Cross volunteers, including transportation volunteer Mike Pringle, find shelter at the Middletown church.



Upper Lake church Bible worker Seth Cantu works on aid efforts during last year's Valley Fire. He also worked at the Lakeport church's evacuation center during this year's Clayton fire.



The Clayton fire billows smoke on the day that it began.

# Adventists Team Together at Free Napa Clinic

**W**hy are you doing this?" a woman asked Hannah Kim, coordinator of the free clinic held at Napa Christian Campus of Education on Aug. 5.

"We want to give back to the community and want to do this regularly," said Kim.

The woman — who had been standing in line since 4:30 a.m. — was visibly moved. "That's making me tear up," she said.

Although people think of the Napa Valley as a wealthy area, many farm laborers, tourist industry workers and others don't get the care they need because they are uninsured or underinsured. About 350 Napa-area residents received free care at the one-day clinic, which was staffed by 192 volunteers, including dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, optometrists, people from community organizations and church members.

People from a number of Adventist institutions worked together to make the clinic possible. Organizers of the West Coast Korean camp meeting, held each August at Pacific Union College, spearheaded the project. Many medical professionals regularly attend the camp meeting with their families. Last year's theme was mission outreach, and this year the group decided to put that focus into action. "We thought, let's do something instead of just getting a spiritual blessing. Let's take one day and give back," said Kim, a member of the Silicon Valley church.

Camp meeting participants teamed up with the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network, which provided the medical equipment and supplies. Another partner was Pacific Union College. "Over two-thirds of the medical and dental professionals who served the Napa community through this clinic were PUC alumni, so we were very privileged to be able to provide meals and support for this very impactful event for our local region," said PUC President Heather Knight.

Additional collaborators included St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake and area Adventist churches — Napa Community, Napa Spanish and Napa Valley Korean. Another major partner was OLE



*A woman receives CPR education at the Napa Fire Station's booth.*



*Assisted by a young volunteer, dentist Lambert Lee, Glendale Korean church member, treats a patient.*



*Ophthalmologist Paul Row (center), a member of the Napa Community church, works with another volunteer to examine an eye patient.*



*Physician Thomas Kim, a member of the Upper Room Fellowship, talks with kids in the childcare area.*

Health, a local medical provider that serves low-income and uninsured Hispanic workers.

Rather than conduct a blanket advertising campaign, OLE Health strategically recruited patients through its community partner organizations and reached out to its patient pool. Napa Spanish church members distributed fliers to Mexican markets and went door-to-door at several apartment buildings near their church. Also, the Napa Housing Authority arranged to bring elderly patients who otherwise would not have access to dental care.

The clinic also featured booths on various topics, such as vegan cooking, CPR and safety education, as well as medical and social welfare referral services. Pastors were available for spiritual counseling, and patients could take home the book *Steps to Christ*.

Volunteers included junior high, high school and college students. "We wanted to give a good motive to young people to serve the community," said James Lim, pastor of the Napa Valley Korean church/NCC Asian Pacific Ministries coordinator.

The team approach to outreach — among various Adventist institutions and community organizations — is a growing trend throughout

the church. "If we unite, we can reach the community more efficiently, instead of everybody trying to do their own outreach or project," said José Díaz, pastor of the Napa Spanish/St. Helena Spanish district.

Glenn Gibson, Napa Community church associate pastor, agrees. "It was just really exciting to be part of a collaborative effort," he said.

Those who participated in the clinic are eager to be involved in other team outreach. "We plan to continue to be a partner for these types of important community events in the future," said Knight.

Kim believes that when Adventists work alongside volunteers from community organizations, they are a witness for their church. "It's great to see that interaction. I think we made an impact not only on the people we served but also the people we worked alongside," she said. "I hope they walk away thinking this a great group of people who love God and love to serve."

For information about hosting a clinic or participating in one in another area, visit [amensda.org](http://amensda.org).

*Julie Lorenz*

# 2016 Redwood Camp Meeting Marks Milestones

**A**t this year's Redwood Camp Meeting, held July 21-30, campers celebrated several significant milestones and continued a number of much-appreciated traditions.

## Redwood Camp Meeting Celebrates 65 Years

In 1951, Oliver Cookson telephoned NCC President Carl Becker and suggested that the Adventists in the north state needed a camp meeting of their own, and he offered the use of his ranch. Thus, the first Adventist camp meeting in the area took place from Aug. 17-19, 1951, at Redwood Creek, with 412 people at church on Sabbath.

The next year, organizers rented a more accessible site about 12 miles east of Fortuna on Highway 36 — first known as Hammond Grove and later as Pamplin Grove. Camp meetings were held there from 1952-1975.

## Redwood Area Camp Marks Its 40th Year

In the spring of 1976, camp meeting organizers realized they wouldn't be able to rent the grove anymore. They heard about a good

place on Dyerville Loop Road, but it wasn't for sale. However, when the owner found out that the land would be used for a church camp, he talked it over with his wife, and they decided to sell.

Local church members had just a few months to get the camp into shape. All sorts of needs were resolved in the nick of time. The group didn't get a use permit for the land until just days before people arrived. The water system, electricity, telephone, chuck wagon — all were ready just the week before camp meeting started. "Truly, this has been a miracle camp," said Bill Hilliard, then Fortuna church pastor, at the first camp meeting there in 1976.

## Campers Give Blood for the 29th Summer

Since 1987, Redwood campers have donated 4,290 units of blood to the Northern California Community Blood Bank. The bloodmobile parks on the grounds for three days each year. "This year we collected 120 units from 157 donors," said Jo Anna Ow, the blood bank's donor recruiter. "We look forward to our 30th year collecting blood donations at Redwood in 2017."

## "Christ's Method Alone" is the Theme for the Second Year

The NCC chose Ellen White's well-known statement in *The Ministry of Healing* as the basis for a five-year theme. This year's emphasis was: "Showing Compassion." The speakers in Pepperwood Pavilion were Brad Thorp, General Conference field secretary and assistant to the president, and Joseph Kidder, Andrews University professor of biblical spirituality. Shantel Smith, Pacific Union College associate chaplain, was the main speaker in the Adult II tent. Henry Barrios, physician and educator from the Florida Conference, spoke for Campestre Hispano. Campers had the opportunity to attend seminars on a wide variety of subjects, including prayer, family, cooking, sign language and more.

## Hundreds Volunteer for the Second Annual Redwood Community Service Day

On Friday, July 29, no day meetings or seminars were scheduled so that campers could volunteer for 17 different projects throughout the city of Fortuna and the surrounding area.



Shantel Smith speaks in the Adult II tent.



Joseph Kidder gives a sermon in a series titled "Experiencing God."



Carol Anne Cruise plays with a dog at a rescue shelter.

JIM LORENZ



Henry Barrios speaks for *Campestre Hispano*.



Ann Parker receives birthday wishes at her campsite.

About 240 people volunteered at schools, individuals' yards, a rehabilitation center, a food bank, an animal shelter, churches and more. "We wanted to give people the opportunity to put our camp meeting theme into action," said the day's organizer, NCC Executive Secretary Marc Woodson. "During our Community Service Day, we are strengthening our relationships with the Humboldt County community."

Covelo church member Verta Johnson worked in the kitchen of the Fortuna Dining Center with her grandson, 10-year-old Brendi Johnson. "He's learning how to do community service — the fun kind," she laughed.

Paradise church members Alan Eady and his wife Glenda worked in the Fortuna Community Garden. "This is one of things we enjoy doing — helping people," he said.

### Families Continue Their Own Multi-Year Traditions

Ann and Bruce Parker, Fortuna church members, have camped in their current space on Berry Lane since the late 1970s. "The first year there, my father literally carved a cave into

the 30-foot tall blackberry vines and backed the camper in," said one of their daughters, Susan Fleming from the Dobbins church. "As the four of us girls grew into adults, married and had children, we came with our families. I know there are many families like ours who have a family reunion each year at camp meeting." This year, the family put an announcement in the camp's daily newspaper, inviting people to a birthday celebration for Ann at their site.

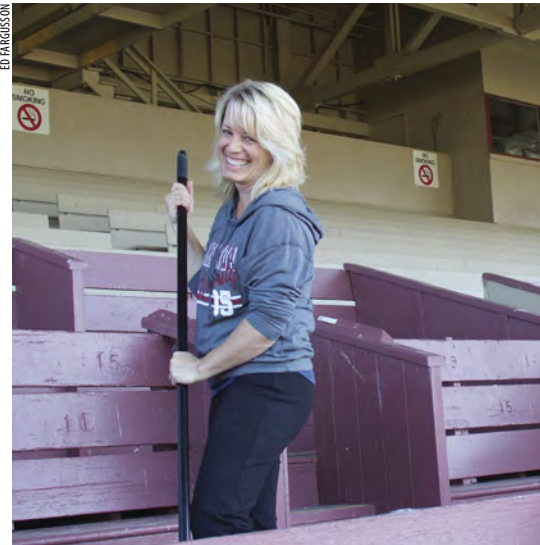
### Couple Celebrates a Significant Milestone

On July 29, Glorianna Dowswell and Daniel Adams were married in Sequoia Grove. The two grew up attending camp meeting and met each other there four years ago. "Redwood Camp Meeting has always been a very special place for the both of us," said the bride. "We've made good memories there and hope to make more."

Adventists throughout the West have made Redwood Camp Meeting an annual tradition. Find out more at [nccsda.com/redwood](http://nccsda.com/redwood).

Julie Lorenz

ED FARGUSSON



Julie Breazeale sweeps the grandstand at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds.

NATHAN REIMICHE-YU



Glorianna Dowswell and Daniel Adams get married in Sequoia Grove.

ED FARGUSSON



Volunteers meet for instructions and prayer before Redwood Community Service Day.

# Sparks Church Holds Special Prayer Service for Local Law Enforcement

**W**ith the national spotlight on police and community relations, the Sparks church family decided to do something to bridge the divide between those who serve and protect and the citizens who have felt unprotected and underserved.

So, after meeting with Sparks Police Chief Brian Allen, Sparks Pastor Omar Palmer, assistant director for NAD Chaplaincy Ministries Ivan Omana, and the Sparks church members decided to have a special prayer service for the officers and the community.

When members arrived for Sabbath school at the Sparks church on July 30, they found a sign directing them to the Sparks Police Department for Sabbath school. Coincidentally, the Sabbath school lesson that week focused on "Community Outreach," a perfect opportunity to live out the gospel commission.

Sparks Mayor Geno Martini offered prayer and thanks for the church's ministry to the city. "Pastor Palmer continues to be a regular invocation speaker at the city council with much appreciation and a well-needed voice," he said. Martini asked the church to keep praying for the city.

There were four areas of prayer focus during the service — Precinct (police department), People (members of the community), Possessions (patrol cars, weapons, etc.) and Police (officers, chief and support staff). After encircling the chief in prayer, members surrounded a patrol car and prayed for God's protection and guidance and its service to the community.

As part of its commitment to build better relationships and improve the community, the church will continue praying for the department. Member families will "adopt" all of the patrol cars and pray daily for their occupants' protection and proper use of the vehicle. "The Sparks church is determined to solidify this relationship for the benefit of the community we all serve," Palmer said.

Allen suggested that the department would like to host a community barbecue at the church. "We look forward to our continued partnership in making Sparks a great place to live, work and worship," he said.

"This session epitomizes the call to be a church in the community, for the community, building the community of God," said Palmer.

"I, along with the members of the Sparks Police Department, thank you and the Sparks church for your continued support," wrote Allen in a follow-up letter to the church. "It is comforting to know that our department, both personnel and equipment, along with our community, is being prayed for by your congregation."

*Donna Blancaflor*



**Pastor Omar Palmer prays as Sparks church members surround Police Chief Brian Allen.**



**Sparks members prayed for God's protection over the police officers, as well as their vehicles and other equipment.**



**Pastor Ivan Omana (NAD Chaplaincy Ministries), Police Chief Brian Allen, and Pastor Omar Palmer plan to work together to make the community better for all its residents.**



**Sparks Sabbath school members with Sparks Mayor Geno Martini, Pastor Omar Palmer and Police Chief Brian Allen, in front.**

# Conference Gives Teachers iPads

**O**n Aug. 15-17, the Nevada Utah Department of Education held its conference-wide teacher in-service at Riverview Christian Academy in Reno. Teachers reconnected with familiar faces and welcomed eight new colleagues to their team. In addition to the orientation for new teachers, all teachers were provided a mentor for the coming school year.

Each morning, one of the conference officers presented a devotional based on the “Critical Thinking and Inquiry” theme. Daily prayers for teachers, schools and students provided the encouragement needed as

we contemplated the beginning of the new school year. Conference President Leon Brown, Executive Secretary Carlos Camacho and Treasurer Doug Reeves attended the daily educational activities. During the final afternoon’s presentation, the officers pulled names for a drawing and surprised the 10 winning teachers with gift-wrapped iPads. Then, in Oprah-like fashion, they announced to the remaining 15 teachers that they, too, would be receiving iPads. The room was filled with palpable excitement and gratitude.

Dr. Eileen White, superintendent of schools, facilitated the two-and-half day professional development activity focused on critical thinking and inquiry with emphasis on project-based learning. She also introduced the department’s internal website, built to support teacher communication, sharing and marketing tools for the schools. In addition, administrators recognized the contributions of the teachers and distributed service pins, recognizing those with five to 35 years of teaching experience within the North American Division.

The Nevada Department of Education private school liaison gave a presentation on crisis response plans, as well as the current status of



*Eileen White, Ph.D., Nevada-Utah Conference education superintendent.*

parental choice legislation. Also, Dr. Berit von Pohle, director of education for the Pacific Union, led a session on how to use standardized testing results to improve learning. Martha Havens, associate director for elementary education for the Pacific Union, discussed NAD educational standards and the integration of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities into the curriculum. Educational legal issues, such as reporting responsibilities, were presented by Jon Daggett, the conference attorney.

Several teachers participated as presenters by sharing highlights from their schools, such as special fundraising events, robotics league community outreach, differentiated math instruction, and using music as a classroom management tool. Many teachers commented on the quality of the in-service program, the value of networking with each other, and the benefit of receiving new information and tools that will help them be successful during the new school year.

*Eileen K. White*



*Teachers surround Dr. Leon Brown Sr., president; Carlos Camacho, executive secretary, and Doug Reeves, treasurer.*



*Teachers receive new iPads from the conference officers as a token of appreciation for the educators’ dedication and sacrifice.*

# Freshmen Aim for Academic Success in New Summer Bridge Program



*Summer Bridge student Gisele Njoh-Njoh, left, tackles homework while classmate Vincent Esguerra gets direction from tutor Craig Spedden in La Sierra's first Summer Bridge program.*



*Summer Bridge tutor Christopher Avery Bradley helps student Markell Parker with math homework.*

A classroom at La Sierra University's Price Science Complex buzzed on a hot August day as more than two dozen freshmen pushed their desks together in small groups to hammer out their math homework.

The fledgling university students, whose majors run the gamut, attended a daily tutoring session on Aug. 30 as part of the university's first annual Summer Bridge program, which commenced nine days earlier. The students, with laptops open, worked and talked, occasional laughter punctuating their busyness. Four tutors hovered around the room, stooping to answer questions and give direction on writing and graphing equations of lines. Instructor Alex Rowell graded homework at a small desk near the front.

Summer Bridge is an annual boot-camp style environment for freshmen who have not tested into college-level math. The four-and-a-half-week holistic program aims to help students improve their score on the Accuplacer math placement exam, which provides an objective measure of how the students progressed. Those who place at the college level by the program's end qualify for foundational college math courses. "It's very fast-paced, but at the same time you learn so much material," said pre-dentistry major Priscila Larios of Colton. "It's hard, but it's fun."

While honing math skills, the experience also helped prepare students for college life, which

officially began on Sept. 26 with the start of fall quarter classes. To support the intensive math experience and college acclimation process, participating students were required to live in dorms Sunday through Thursday while attending Summer Bridge, and were not permitted to work. In addition to two daily math workshops and tutoring sessions, the program included a note-taking seminar, library orientation, study halls, scholarship hunting, charade-like games and team drawing exercises to build rapport and tap creativity, and weekly devotionals.

"I believe this program is better because it is focused on the learning aspect" rather than a letter grade," said Daniel Strathem, a Portland, Ore., resident who arrived at La Sierra to study marketing and management at the Zapara School of Business.

"It kind of gets you prepared for college," with 7 a.m. wake-up times and late-night study sessions, added Rubi Miranda, a pre-nursing major, also from Colton. "I love the tutors. They're so helpful."

The Summer Bridge program is sponsored by the university's Title V projects and involves four lab assistants/tutors coordinated by the Center for Student Academic Success. The math curriculum was organized by Title V appointees, math department faculty members Jason Wittlake, Sharilyn Horner and Rowell. Eric Vega, assistant professor of sociology,

created the overall program. Participants were accepted following an application process that qualified students who displayed a high level of commitment to the program. "All incoming freshman were provided and presented information about Summer Bridge, and those students who took the Accuplacer and tested into the intermediate algebra level were sent an application," Vega said.

Summer Bridge forms one of five areas of focus within the Title V projects. The other four areas are basic skills English, basic skills math, first year experience and tutoring.

Last fall, the university was awarded a \$2.6 million Title V grant by the U.S. Department of Education to enhance educational services. Title V falls under the Higher Education Act. La Sierra University, recognized for its diverse population and its service-learning programs, is one of 96 Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education across the United States to receive a portion of \$51 million in grant funds intended to help Hispanic and low-income students achieve greater academic success leading to graduation. The grants assist with faculty development, curriculum development, academic tutoring and mentoring and other services.

*Darla Martin Tucker*



# PUC Collaborates with King's College London to Authenticate 'Bounty' Mutineer Hair

Ten pigtails of hair thought to be from seven mutineers of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame and three of their female Polynesian companions will be analyzed in a collaboration between the Pitcairn Islands Study Center at Pacific Union College and the forensic DNA group at King's College London, one of the world's leading research and teaching universities.

The Pitcairn Islands Study Center holds the world's largest collection of information about the 1789 mutiny on the British ship H.M.S. Bounty and its aftermath. Strands from the pigtails, currently on display at the PISC, have been sent to King's College London for testing.

As the pigtails purportedly date back to the pre-1800s, the King's team will first attempt to extract DNA from the historical hair samples after cleaning the outside, and then digesting the hair matrix using a chemical process. Nuclear DNA is not found in hair shafts, only the roots which are not available here; however, mitochondrial DNA may be present. If sufficient mitochondrial DNA can be collected, the first step will be to investigate the ancestral origins of the owners of the pigtails.

Herbert Ford, PISC director, says, "If the tests and genealogical studies of this hair authenticates that it is of seven of the nine mutineers who hid out from British justice on Pitcairn in 1790, it will be the only tangible evidence of their having existed. There is only one known mutineer grave on Pitcairn, that of John Adams. Of the whereabouts of the remains of the eight others we can only speculate."

Ford said the reason for requesting the collaboration with a world-class research center like King's College London is that, "We want to be very sure we are not traveling under false colors about these hairs. The Pitcairn Islands Study Center was founded on the requirement that we provide only accurate information about all aspects of the Bounty Saga. This present study seeks to better meet that requirement."

Much has been written about the possible descendants of the mutineers, but this information will not be helpful with regards to the male mutineers; instead, their maternal line will need to be traced. The study will therefore try to identify their maternal ancestors, such as their respective mothers and maternal

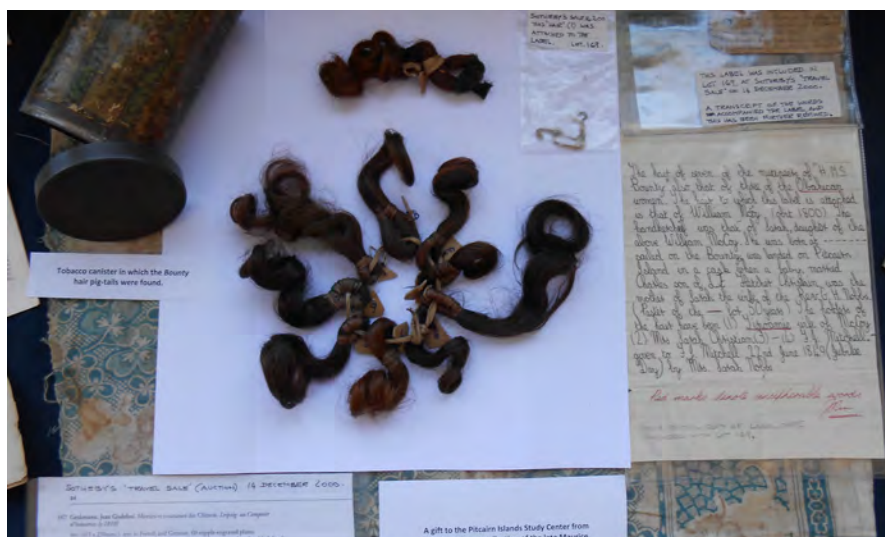
grandmothers, and research other direct female descendants down to individuals living today.

According to Ford, the hair is a gift from Joy Allward, wife of the late Maurice Allward of Hartfield, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom. In 2000, Mr. Allward successfully bid for the hair at a Sotheby's auction in London. The pigtails were housed in a 19th-century cylindrical tobacco tin. A handkerchief was also with the locks of hair and was said to have belonged to Sarah, the daughter of William McCoy, one of the Bounty mutineers.

A worn, faded label with the pigtails notes it is attached to the pigtail of hair of the mutineer McCoy, who died on Pitcairn in 1800. Notes written on the label also state the pigtails are of seven of the mutineers of H.M.S. Bounty, and "also that of three of the Tahitian women" who accompanied the mutineers to Pitcairn in 1790. Further information on the label notes that, "The holders of the hair have been (1) Teio, wife of McCoy. (2) Mrs. Sarah Christian. (3) F.G. Mitchell. Given to F.G. Mitchell, 22nd June 1849 (Jubilee day) by Mrs. Sarah Nobbs." More contemporary information about the ownership of the hair pigtails comes from V.J. Evans, of the Isle of Wight, who wrote a letter in 2001 to Mr. Allward in which he shared the pigtails and handkerchief were a gift to his great-grandmother.

Located in the Nelson Memorial Library at Pacific Union College, the Pitcairn Islands Study Center is a museum-research facility providing information about the mutiny and its aftermath to academics, journalists, researchers, authors, students and others throughout the world. The center holds the world's largest collection of information about this still popular and much-studied sea saga. For more information, visit [pitcairnstudycenter.org](http://pitcairnstudycenter.org).

Larissa Church



The 10 pigtails of hair, next to the tin they were stored in.

# Volunteers and Leaders Schedule Two Major Free Clinics for 2017

**V**olunteers, the lifeblood of Adventist outreach, will again be key to two free health clinics that pastors and lay leaders are planning in two SCC regions.

Pastors and members in the South Bay and San Fernando areas are exploring locations for the free clinics scheduled for 2017 in cooperation with the Adventist Medical Evangelist Network. Called "Clinic in a Box," the clinics will offer free dental and vision care and glasses, as well as other services.

The free clinics are following up the Pathway to Health Los Angeles whole-person outreach that was held in April 2016. "Clinic in a Box is a form of practical godliness," said Gerard Kiemeney, L.A. Metro Region director, who is overseeing the clinic they plan to hold in the Downey area March 19-20. "The clinic will be an opportunity to share Jesus' love with others in a tangible way, giving opportunity for His Spirit to work through us as we meet, mingle and minister with those who come' (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143)."

A clinic also will be held in the San Fernando area June 2 and 4. Spearheaded by volunteers under the direction of Greg Hoenes, West Region director, the clinics will be preceded by a number of get-acquainted events.

"We are hoping to prepare for our clinic by hosting 'Dinner with a Doctor' events on a monthly basis, January through April, next year," said J. R. Cahatol, R.N., a lay leader who is co-directing the event's planning with Lily Cirstiou, R.N. "We will also do some community surveys."

The clinics have been held in the U.S. for a few years, but 2017 will mark the first time they have been offered in the Southern California area.

In Yakima, Wash., one Bible worker noted that the team had learned valuable lessons while serving the public there. "We learned that it takes a whole church to be involved before, during and after a clinic," said Kili Silafau, a Bible worker who will work with the SCC AMEN clinics. "The groundwork for clinics is critical to build trust in the community."

Silafau encourages churches to survey their members to learn what talents and skills they can share in getting acquainted with the community in training classes and clubs. Surveying the community, she noted, helps churches in their preparation and follow-up, enabling them to offer lifestyle training and presentations that meet real needs.

"I see this event as something that gives the Holy Spirit

opportunity to work through us," said Bob Mason, pastor, serving on the volunteer team for a clinic in Lodi, Calif. "Why should the body of Christ be involved? There's the practical side — people have unmet medical and dental needs. Secondly, we, as members of the body of Christ, need to understand that we are channels of Christ's love. Whether people choose to become followers of Jesus or not, we pray that somehow [what we do] can become a link in a chain of showing them the love of Jesus. This clinic was amazingly moving."

"We are excited about partnering with health professionals and caregivers to show Christ's compassion to people in our community through this clinic," said Pastor Ross Calkins, co-leader with Pastor John Jenson of the Downey church, of the AMEN clinic in the South Bay area.

Clinic in a Box provides the dental, vision and other equipment needed for clinics. Volunteer health professionals and others are needed for the clinics to function and interact with communities. A special web signup for volunteers will be available soon on the [amensda.org](https://scchealthmin.adventistfaith.org) site, or check for updates at <https://scchealthmin.adventistfaith.org>.

Betty Cooney

GEORGE CHEN



A free clinic in Lodi, Calif., was held in an open-sided pavilion.

SHANE SMITH



AMEN staff drive a large truck loaded with medical and dental equipment to sites for the free clinics.

# Church Plant Reaches Out in San Pedro

**T**wo weeks after our board decision to have a health-van ministry, the Lighthouse Church Plant in San Pedro had a van and a plan," said Nancy Bogdanovic, a family health practitioner and the group's evangelism coordinator.

"Our plan is to conduct screening for height, weight and blood sugar levels to give people a picture of their overall health and counsel them on their risk factors," Bogdanovic added. Prayer and literature on spirituality and health are available on the van, and visitors may request Bible studies. "We offer coupons for a free lunch, redeemable every Saturday."

Didier Gonzalez, a mechanic who uses his skills to bless his church, facilitated the van purchase. Praying and thinking about what he might do to help with church projects, Gonzalez realized that he could purchase old cars, repair and sell them. With profits from this hands-on ministry, he assists with church projects.

So when the board voted to have a health-van ministry, Gonzalez immediately looked for a van he could adapt and detail for the new ministry. "And," he said with a smile, "God drove one right to me!"

"We desired to plant a new church in San Pedro to be part of the Seventh-Day Adventist movement," said Bogdanovic. "A movement does not remain sedentary; it has ambition. We prayed for the divine blessing and anointing of the Holy Spirit to prepare us and San Pedro to be rained on. Our prayer was to experience on a small scale corporate repentance and, making room for miracles, give others our testimony that God has visited His people.

Each week, members place their church sign outside of their rented church. "I would look away from that sign week after week and try to



*Cabrillo Beach baptism, San Pedro. Christy Guerrero, Albert Guerrero, Isaac Guerrero, Frank Hernandez and Teddy Guerrero. "We fervently prayed to the Lord to lead us to the truth. A few days later, Youth Rush participant Susan Perez knocked on our door."*

ignore it!" said Patti Lawrence, who recently was rebaptized. "I felt a tug on my heart to go to that church after leaving it 13 years ago. The war in my mind was saying things like, 'Why go there? That church is probably just as legalistic as the former church you went to.'"

"But the Holy Spirit kept prompting her," added Bogdanovic. "One Sabbath, she walked in and everyone greeted her. When I asked what her name was and where she lived, she responded, 'I recently moved back to San Pedro. I had left the church and have made a decision to come back.'"

"I know why God brought me back and especially to this church," Lawrence said. "I have found freedom at the Lighthouse; I have found my true home!"

"My vision for the church," commented Pastor Calvin Ockletree, "is that we continue increasing our fellowship and relationships within the church, loving one another as Jesus commanded us (John 13:34-35). When people visit our church, we want them to experience our love for one another even more than they have in the past. We want to increase our prayer life, constantly encouraging one another, and to increase personal Bible studies in small groups in our homes.

"We have made good contacts in San Pedro since 2010 when we started reaching out in a wide variety of ways. My prayer is that we will build on those contacts through love, as we welcome people into our church fellowship."

The Lighthouse Church meets at the San Pedro United Methodist Church, 580 W. 6th Street, San Pedro, Calif., 90731.



*Lighthouse members conduct a health ministry in San Pedro on this van, which is shown before being rehabbed by Didier Gonzalez.*

*Betty Cooney*

# SCC Churches Share Love and Light in a Climate of Fear

With tensions running high, these are trying times for law enforcement and American citizens alike. Amid growing divisions and constant violence, a number of SCC churches and at least one Adventist school have reached out to local precincts in recent months.

At midnight on July 7, the day that five officers were shot in Dallas, Texas, Manny Arteaga, senior pastor at Kaleo church in Monrovia, texted the intern and head elder at his church. "You know what?" he wrote. "I'm dumping my sermon." Then he explained his

idea to host a Love Walk that Sabbath, when the church would take to the streets to pray for families, the city and law enforcement. Church leaders were immediately supportive and spent the next day preparing. Arteaga also invited All Nations church, which is located less than a mile from Kaleo, and they joined in the walk.

The morning's Sabbath service included a baptism, worship songs and a five-minute message centering on the text, "Perfect love casts away all fear" (1 John 4:18) before members headed out. The Monrovia Police Department was the last stop on the walk,

where members prayed for city leaders and shared a brief message about their mission of love.

"This was not a pro-op or anti-anything march," said Arteaga. "This was not taking sides. As cheesy as it may sound, we just wanted to be agents of love in the community in a week that was horrible. I

said, "Bring tennis shoes. Be comfortable. We're going to be the sermon this time."

The next day, Central Spanish church hosted a health parade as part of Vacation Bible School and invited the Rampart Police to walk with them. "I think it was a good experience for them, for us and for the community," said Enoc Calderon, senior pastor.

Tom Jones, Rampart police chief, assisted in closing down the streets for the parade, walked with church members and shared his support of the church's community outreach. "In this way, we break some barriers, and we start building more bridges between the community and the police department," said Calderon.

A few weeks later, on Sabbath, Aug. 6, Glendale City church and Glendale Academy brought lunch to the Glendale Police Department and spent some time with officers. Church members and city businesses, including Two Guys from Italy and Porto's Bakery, provided food and beverages. "The message that Glendale City church wanted to send to the Police Department was that we're eager to be involved in any way we can to help provide ways for the church to help out with community events and make our city one of the best cities in the country," said Dave Ferguson.

Other events included a special Sabbath morning service to welcome and pray for the local Hollenbeck Police Department at Spanish American church. (For the full story, go to [scc.adventist.org](http://scc.adventist.org), scroll to the bottom, and click Latest SCC News.) Eagle Rock church honored local CHP and LAPD officers at their annual National Night Out Block Party on Aug. 2. Then on Sept. 24, the Downey church had an open house themed "Faith Unites for a Peaceful Community," in which the pastor and other leaders offered a special prayer for the Downey Police and a donation to their police association.

"The way to stand up against everything going on is through love," Arteaga said. "The only way fear is going to be quenched is through love."

MARK AZALI



Glendale City church members of all ages fellowshiped with officers after bringing lunch and a signed "thank you" poster to the police department.

BLANCA JO PHOTOGRAPHY



Pastor Manny Arteaga shares a message of love with police officers in Monrovia, Calif., before the group of church members and leaders offered prayer for the officers.

Lauren Armstrong

# Youth Rush Students Spend Summer Sharing Jesus

**D**uring his first summer participating in Youth Rush, Ronald Lacson prayed that someone would buy his entire set of books. "What I've learned is that when I pray specifically, God will answer," he said. "It's crazy how God answers prayers right away." One day, he met a Buddhist man named Lawrence, who opened up about his emotional pain. His wife was in a coma, and he had lost many close friends in the war. Lacson encouraged him to read the book *Steps to Christ*, believing he would find joy and peace. Lawrence bought two complete sets of books — one to keep and one to share with his friends and the community.

This is one of many experiences 62 students and leaders had while going door-to-door for 10 weeks in the Greater Los Angeles area this summer. "As our team works with God and for Him, many of the students express the joy of knowing He is also working IN them, for His glory," said Heidi Carpenter, literature ministries director for the Southern California Conference. "Every day is not only a ministry to the community, but also a ministry to us. Students learn how to depend on God and trust Him with all of their hearts."

Youth Rush student Susie Cerna prayed with a discouraged woman named Beverly she encountered in town one day. Beverly was unable to buy any books that day, but they parted ways, happy to have met. The next day, Cerna knocked on a door in her assigned area, and to her surprise, Beverly answered. Beverly says she believed God brought Cerna to her door, so she purchased a copy of *Steps to Christ*.

BRIAN GONZ



*The 2016 Youth Rush program of 62 students and leaders spent 10 weeks going door-to-door together.*

That Sabbath, Cerna shared the story of her miraculous meetings with Beverly. After the service, a church member shook Susie's hand, pressing a \$100 bill into it. "This is for Beverly, so she can get all the books she would like," the member said. That afternoon, Cerna and her team went to visit Beverly and gave her every book the literature evangelism department offers. The team also sang for Beverly and her husband. In tears, she said, "You guys hit me up hard. Wow. Don't leave me; please, don't leave me." She gladly accepted an offer of personal Bible studies.

"God has been working on the hearts of the people we connect with ever since they were born," Carpenter reflected. "It's our privilege to connect with them and leave them with books they find interesting. I believe these books change lives, because I've seen it happen before my very own eyes. Not because the books are amazing, but because they lead to Jesus, who is life-changing."

Throughout this summer, students knocked on approximately 310,000 doors throughout the Southern California Conference territory. Thousands of prayers were offered. More than \$303,000 was donated for more than 40,000 pieces of literature, and more than 300 people requested personal Bible studies.

"God's promise in Isaiah 55:11 tells us that God's Word doesn't return to Him without doing its work. Ecclesiastes 11:6 is another powerful promise: 'In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good.' We sow everywhere and leave the results with our amazing, all-knowing God who faithfully does His work," said Carpenter.

HEIDI CARPENTER



*Susie Cerna, fourth from right, and fellow literature evangelists from her team pose with Beverly, with whom they were able to share all the books the literature evangelism department offers.*

*Lauren Armstrong*

PHOTOS BY KRISTEN WOLFE



The bigger events happen on Wednesdays, such as glow parties and carnivals.



Lucas (brown shirt), Sienna (striped shirt) and other children take turns holding millipedes.

# Camp Safari Brings Summer Fun

Visit the Palm Desert Oasis church in the summer, and chances are you'll find a group of 60-80 children. It's not VBS, and it's not your typical summer camp. It's Camp Safari, a day camp for children ages 5-13 run by the youth of the church.

Camp Safari began in Oregon when Paul Savino, associate pastor of the Palm Desert Oasis church, was associate pastor there. The idea originally stemmed from the youth and their desire to do outreach. When Savino moved to Southern California, he brought the camp idea with him.

The seven-week program is similar to an overnight camp, except that the children go home at the end of the day. Campers choose the classes they want, are divided up into cabins and spend the day rotating through a series of activities. Wednesday is the big event, with activities such as a water day, a glow party and a carnival highlighting the week.

"Having an all-day summer program allows our campers to get to know our staff better, in turn making our program better," said Lissa Clark, programming director. "Being familiar with camp itself provides a better environment for the campers to learn more about God."

While run by an Adventist church, the camp is not primarily for Adventists, but rather for the community as a whole. A third of the children who visit are from Adventist families, a third are from other churches and a third claim

no religious affiliation. The camp has never had to advertise, as word-of-mouth brings in enough to fill each session.

Even though the camp draws children from all over the community, Savino does not see the camp's mission as focusing only on children, but also on the youth who run it.

"I started it for young people to believe that they are not the church of the future — they are the church of today," Savino said.

The result is a group of high school and college age staff that return year after year. The turnover is small, and staff often call months in advance asking for a spot on the team.

As for Clark, she sees the camp as a chance to show the children love and teach them the importance of simple truths.

"If we can gear them up now and get it in their heads that they're loved, then maybe one day when they're going through rough times, they will at least know that Jesus loves them," Clark said.

Savino would like to expand the program and is working with a church in Northern California to set up a Camp Safari there. The hope is to spread the success and blessing further.

"I see it as a camp where God wins, the parents win, the church wins — and the youth win," Savino said.

Julia Bonney



Over 60 children ages 5-13 attend Camp Safari, a seven-week day program at the Palm Desert Oasis church.



Papier-mâché crafts were just one of the many activities offered at camp this summer.



A group sings up front during the main program at the Palm Desert Oasis church for Camp Safari.

# Samoan Churches Host First RISE Event to Emphasize Education

**M**ore than 200 young Samoans and Tongans gathered on Aug. 13 at the Vista Samoan church for RISE, Real Islanders Stay Educated. The event emphasized the benefits of education to Pacific Islanders and the need to seek higher education.

“We want the young people who think they can’t go to college to know that if God is leading you, you will make it,” said Kazar Ackerman, associate pastor of the Loma Linda Chinese church and the organizer for the event. Ackerman and Robert Taupau, assistant district pastor for Samoan churches, started planning this event in June.

The all-day event started with worship by Iki Taimi, pastor of the Gardena Genesis Community church. There were different workshops in the afternoon focusing on education.

Shiphrah Fepulea’i, associate pastor of the Campus Hill church, conducted a workshop on how to manage finances according to biblical principles. Moliki Lualemaga, a graduate from both La Sierra and Loma Linda universities, led a workshop which allowed people to see which careers they may be suited for based on their personality.

After the workshops was a closing worship service with testimonies from college students and recent graduates. Meshach Soli, associate pastor of the Beaumont church, spoke about Bartimaeus, the blind man in the Bible who was healed by Jesus. Even though there were thousands of people following Jesus, He heard Bartimaeus, and called for him to come to Him (Mark 10:49).

“As Pacific Islanders, we are the minority of the minorities in numbers,” Soli said. “Even though we are one voice out of thousands of others, Jesus hears that one voice and calls us to rise and go to Him.”

Isaiah Aitolu is a senior at Arlington High School in Riverside. After seeing RISE on social media, he went to see what the event had to offer. “My favorite part was the testimonies from the Pacific Islanders who were in college or had just graduated,” Aitolu said. “It showed that we can do much more than society thinks we can.”

Aitolu is interested in political science and looks forward to college — but that is not the case for everyone.

According to census.gov, 88 percent of Pacific Islanders ages 25 and older had at least a high school diploma in 2014. However, only 20 percent hold a completed bachelor’s degree or higher.

As for Aitolu, he will come back to RISE next year — and he is going to make sure his friends come, too.

“Thank you, everyone who put their time and effort into this event,” Aitolu said. “It really made a difference in my life.”

*Jessica Anzai*



*Maryann Taase (near) and Emily Leituala take a personality profile test during one of the workshops.*



*Moliki Lualemaga, a graduate from both La Sierra and Loma Linda universities, leads a workshop during RISE on Aug. 13 at the Vista Samoan church. The workshop includes a test that allows people to see which career choices they are most suited for based on their personality.*



*Local pastors come together on Aug. 13 at the Vista Samoan church to support RISE and encourage higher education to young Pacific Islanders. From left to right: Eliu Lafo, pastor of the Compton church; Iki Taimi, pastor of the Gardena Genesis Community church; Robert Taupau, assistant district pastor for the SECC Samoan churches; and Kazar Ackerman, associate pastor of the Loma Linda Chinese church.*

# SECC Schools Spiritual Environment Theme Results in Students Accepting Jesus

**D**uring the 2015-2016 school year, Southeastern California Conference schools focused on creating an environment where students would intentionally be presented with opportunities to accept Jesus as their Savior, friend and companion.

"This theme led to testimonies from schools that tied directly to students being baptized, to students living out that relationship with Jesus in how they treat others," said Don Dudley, superintendent of schools.

Many academies found themselves in situations in which their teachers and students were serving their communities as missionaries.

"The influence is impacting our children from the home, school and the church, which creates a dynamic where our students can be blessed by being connected with Jesus," Dudley said, referencing an inspirational story from Escondido Adventist Academy.

## Escondido Academy

On Feb. 24, 2016, the men's varsity basketball team at Escondido was participating in the first round of the California Interscholastic Federation San Diego Section Playoffs. They played against Southwest IV High School and lost. The next morning, Escondido coach Bill Davis received a note from the Southwest coach Ruben Valenzuela, commending Davis and the team for their hospitality and kindness.



*Escondido Adventist Academy's basketball team competes against Southwest IV High School at the California Interscholastic Federation San Diego Section Playoffs on Feb. 24, 2016.*

"My kids all left your school with nothing but good things to say about you, your team and your fans," Valenzuela wrote. "You all live what you preach, and I have nothing but the utmost respect for you and your school."

When asked about this mission-minded representation, Davis said, "We know that when we take the floor, be it at our school or on the road, we represent something bigger than ourselves. We represent our God, our school and our families. The opportunity goes far beyond basketball."

Davis encourages his athletes to be gracious, to always compete with character, and to "win or lose with class."

## Calexico Mission School

At Calexico Mission School, Adventist teachers and students often find themselves representing something bigger than themselves. Ninety percent of attendees at Calexico are Catholic students who live in Mexicali, Mexico. But because the academy is on the U.S. side of the border, it presents challenges for evangelism. Susan Smith, principal during the 2015-2016 school year, explained that the staff are not as involved in the lives of students as they would like.

"Some of the teachers have visited homes across the border, but it is not something the students' parents are used to or really want," Smith said.

This year, Bible teacher Jakob Serns and his brother, Dustin, held a Week of Prayer that garnered an unprecedented response.

"Sixty-six students filled out decision cards requesting not only baptism, but to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Serns said. "We were thrilled with the response, but we must admit that our unique situation presents many challenges as well."

Serns noted that the most important step is to connect the interested students with a local church.



*Jakob Serns, a Bible teacher at Calexico, poses with students Sofia Montoya, Ivette Nevarez and Thalina Guizar at the Zaragoza church in Mexicali, Mexico.*



*We don't want to simply dunk them in some water and clap our hands; we want this to be the beginning of a lifelong spiritual journey.*

"We don't want to simply dunk them in some water and clap our hands; we want this to be the beginning of a lifelong spiritual journey," he said.

Even though none of the 66 students had been baptized at the time this article was written, pastors are connecting with their families in hopes to see the students accept Christ at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. Serns views himself and his fellow teachers as missionaries.

"Teaching is one of the spiritual gifts the apostle Paul talks about. We have a solemn responsibility and a joyous privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus," Serns said.

### La Sierra Academy

Walter Lancaster, principal of La Sierra Academy, works to spread an environment in which this responsibility and privilege can thrive. Each year, he travels to China to network with students. Many Chinese teens who make the journey to California after meeting Lancaster find the experience eye-opening.

"They have so much freedom here and so many options when it comes to higher education," Lancaster said. "It is a shock for many of them."

Since many Chinese citizens have no religious background, teachers and fellow students at LSA serve as missionaries without ever leaving campus. Their desire to present international students with the opportunity to accept Christ resulted in a new Bible class called

"Encounters" that has been a breakthrough in school evangelism.

"Patience and understanding are

most important," Lancaster said. He urges his fellow Adventists to witness by actions. "These students are away from home, homesick for family and friends. So they gravitate to those teachers they perceive as caring."

### Orangewood Academy

Perhaps the most touching story of a caring teacher and a courageous student is that of Kailani Cotton, a senior at Orangewood Academy. Oscar Olivarría was Cotton's Bible teacher at OA, and the person she came to when she decided to be baptized. Cotton hoped to commit her life to Jesus at the end-of-the-year beach vespers, but she and Olivarría hit an unexpected roadblock — the second round of their division's women softball playoffs.

"Typically, this would have been extremely exciting news for any member of the team," Olivarría said. "However, this game was scheduled on the same day as her baptism."

Cotton was conflicted. As a member of the team, she naturally wanted to participate in the game. But when the game could not be rescheduled, Cotton had to choose.

"I asked her what she was going to do," Olivarría said, "and I received the most inspiring answer that I've ever heard. She said, 'I know that it would make it a lot easier on a lot of people for me to simply change the date of my baptism, but I made a commitment to God, and I will honor it.'"

As a softball game was played and lost, Kailani Cotton gave her life to God on the beach at Corona del Mar. Her teammate and close friend, Maegan Lopez, supported her.

"I pray that He will continue to use them both to inspire a school family and who always make God their priority," reflected Olivarría.

This school year, the focus of the teachers, leaders and even students will be servant leadership. This focus will add on to the continuing theme of providing students with opportunities to accept Jesus as their savior and friend.

*Natalie Romero*



**Walter Lancaster, principal of La Sierra Academy, travels to China every year to network with students. Many of them come to the United States for the first time to attend LSA.**



**Representative schools in the United States gather together in front of The Affiliated Junior High School of South China Normal University, or Hua Shi Fu Zhong, in Guangzhou, Guangdong, China.**

# Ricardo Graham Re-elected President of Pacific Union

*All Officers and Ethnic Coordinators also Re-Elected*



ERNO MULLER

*Theodore R. Benson, treasurer; Ricardo Graham, president; Bradford C. Newton, executive secretary; Tony Anobile, vice president.*

In its 2016 quinquennial constituency session on Monday, Aug. 29, the Pacific Union constituency re-elected Ricardo Graham as president. Graham was first elected president by the Pacific Union Executive Committee in 2008.

"It is a high honor to be entrusted with this leadership role," said Graham. "God and people hold us accountable, and the tally of the votes indicated that this team of leaders has demonstrated the stewardship of leadership due to the church members, pastors and educators in the Pacific Union as a whole."

Delegates at the constituency session, chaired by Daniel R. Jackson, North American Division president, also returned to office Bradford C. Newton, executive secretary;

Tony Anobile, vice president; and Theodore R. Benson, treasurer.

The three ethnic ministry coordinators were also reelected: Virgil S. Childs, Regional Ministries; Jorge Soria, Hispanic Ministries; and VicLouis Arreola III, Asian/Pacific Ministries.

"I am honored to have been re-elected to continue my service for the Pacific Union Conference," said Anobile. "Our union is on the cutting edge of ministry in so many areas, pioneering relevant and useful initiatives and ministries for winning and keeping souls for and in the Kingdom."

The session, held in Scottsdale, Ariz., officially began at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28. Other than approving the agenda and making sure enough

delegates were present to establish a quorum, the evening program was more informational and inspirational than business.

To tell the story of the previous quinquennium, Graham invited union departments and institutions to share stories and challenges from the past five years. Delegates heard updates from the legacy ministries, such as literature evangelism and healthcare, and they also learned about new opportunities, including refugee outreach. "I would like to see rekindled, renewed and revived Asian ministries for the next quinquennium to meet the challenges and needs of the growing immigrant and refugee population in our union field," said Arreola. "If



**Pastors Vinh Nguyen (El Monte Vietnamese church in El Monte, Calif.) and Glenn L. Sta. Ana (Chandler Fil-Am church near Chandler, Ariz.) explain their ministry to 25 language groups with Elder VicLouis Arreola III, director of Asian Pacific Ministries for the Pacific Union.**

**Pastors Will James (Paradise Valley church near San Diego, Calif.) and Joel Mpabwanimana (Glendale church in Phoenix, Ariz.) bond over their shared passion for serving the thousands of refugees in their territories.**

we desire to make a difference in this world, we must be different from the world. With Jesus, anything is possible!”

Anobile wants to “keep working toward TMI — Total Member Involvement — which means members of all ages, working for kingdom growth, each with the gifts God has given them, and in the way God has gifted them to minister,” he said. “I look forward continuing to work with our excellent team of volunteer ministries directors and continue finding way to enable creative evangelism in our union as we finish the work and go home.”

“I believe that the Pacific Union is only as sound as its local conferences, churches and schools, so we need to examine how we can best support those ‘front line’ entities where people are invited into the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” said Graham.

After worship on Monday morning, the delegates got down to business. After the elections, they voted on proposed changes to the bylaws and constitution, received financial reports, learned the latest from the union’s two colleges and Holbrook Indian School, and heard a report from Adventist Health CEO Scott Reiner.



**A delegate asks a question about the proposed bylaws changes.**



**The East Valley Tongan Company Choir from Chandler, Ariz., performs for delegates.**



**Delegates test the electronic voting system by comparing a show of hands to the question they answered with their voting devices.**



**Pastors Kirk King (Imani Praise Fellowship church in Moreno Valley, Calif.) and Andrea Trusty-King (Sixteenth Street church in San Bernardino, Calif.) lead song service.**

"I appreciated the thoughtfulness of the delegates in discussing important issues," said Graham. "Even when there was a difference of opinion, the delegates spoke in tones that were, I believe, respectful of their fellow church members."

"The spirit of true Christian fellowship that was so much in evidence at our session impacted everything that was done," said Newton. "God has been abundantly blessing us here in the western U.S., and we are dedicated to finding ways to reach the millions in our cities, to better minister to our young adults and youth, and to be faithful to God's leadership."

Minutes from the business session will eventually be available online at [adventistfaith.com/session](http://adventistfaith.com/session).

The business session ended early Monday afternoon, and that evening, the union ministerial council began in the same location. Pastors and chaplains from around the union gathered for fellowship, inspiration and training.

"It was so invigorating to be with our pastoral workforce and to see first-hand their passion and enthusiasm for the gospel and the Great Commission," said Newton, who also serves as ministerial director for the union. "We are delighted that the Pacific Union can provide a platform for discovery, innovation and personal

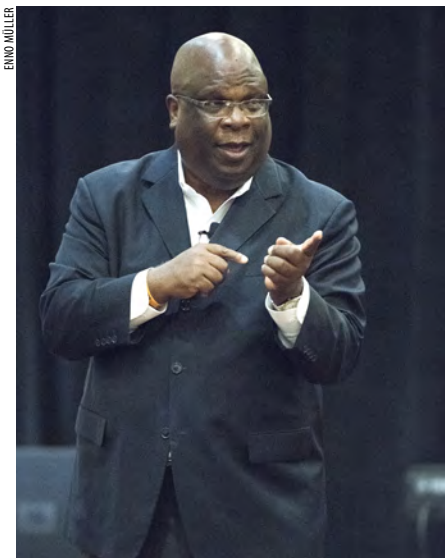
growth through our Ministerial Association. I was personally inspired and challenged many times during the ministerial council."

To catch social media highlights, search Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for #4SuchaTime16 (session) and #LiftHimUp16 (ministerial).

*Alicia Adams and Ray Tetz*



**A young attendee looks over the schedule.**



**Freddie Russell (Berean church in Atlanta, Ga.) encourages pastors to stay the course and not give up on difficult assignments.**



**Pastors and their families gathered at the J.W. Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa for fellowship, inspiration and education.**



*Elder Dan Jackson, North American Division president, speaks to ministerial council attendees Monday night. Afterward, he stayed for a Q&A session.*



*Pastor Sam Leonor (chaplain at La Sierra University) speaks to his colleagues in ministry Wednesday morning.*

## 2016 He Said Go Missions Conference Set for November in San Diego, Calif.

**O**n Nov. 18-20, the North American Division is hosting the He Said Go Missions Conference in San Diego, Calif. The purpose of this conference is to serve as a catalyst for missions, not only overseas, but also in domestic service. The vision and prayer of the church in North America is for local church members become active in their communities and abroad.

During this event, the NAD will provide training, resources, and above all, a clear vision of where the church needs to go in the area of mission service. This includes the involvement of every church member in service, becoming the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Each guest speaker will focus on igniting the spirit of service in a specific mission context. "From Native American mission opportunities, including the Siberian Eskimos in northern Alaska, to Guam-Micronesia Mission territory, it is our prayer that everyone attending will choose to respond to the opportunities of service that God may present to them," says Elden Ramirez, director of the NAD's Office of Volunteer Ministries.

Keynote speakers include Dwight Nelson, Leslie N. Pollard, Randy Roberts, Dan Jackson, Carlton Byrd, Alex Bryant, Richard H. Hart, Gary Krause, Sam Leonor, Jonathan Duffy, Yami Basan, Andrea Lurton, Elden Ramirez and Steve Case.

To register and for more information, visit [hesaidgo.org](http://hesaidgo.org).



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION  
**HE SAID GO**  
 MISSIONS CONFERENCE



# What is a Charitable Remainder Trust?

A Charitable Remainder Trust lets you make a gift of your appreciated property and receive payments for a life, two lives or a term of years. After your death, the payments can even continue to your children for up to 20 years. With a CRT, you can bypass the capital gains tax. The trust will sell your property tax-free and reinvest in assets that produce income for you and your loved ones. Best of all, you will receive a current charitable income tax deduction, and at your death, the remainder of the funds will go to your designated denominational charity.

If you own or recently sold appreciated stock or real estate, you may be concerned about capital gains tax. If you are entering your retirement years, you may be evaluating options for increasing your future income. For any or all of these reasons, you might consider a Charitable Remainder Trust. For more information about CRTs or other estate planning options, we invite you to contact us.



## *Organizations:*

Arizona	Hawaii
Central California	Nevada-Utah
Northern California	Pacific Union
Southeastern California	La Sierra University
Southern California	Pacific Union College

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This information is not intended to provide advice for any specific situation. Advice from a qualified attorney and/or tax accountant should always be obtained before implementing any of the strategies described.

TO LEARN MORE OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF OUR AGENTS, CONTACT US AT:  
**(866) 356-5595, [WWW.WILLPLAN-PUCONFERENCE.ORG](http://WWW.WILLPLAN-PUCONFERENCE.ORG), [PLANNEDGIVING@PUCONLINE.ORG](mailto:PLANNEDGIVING@PUCONLINE.ORG).**



**CALENDARS**

**Arizona Conference**

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT** (Oct. 7-9) "Where Miracles Happen." Guest speaker Carla Baker. Camp Yavapines. Young Women's Experience Ministry (ages 12 and up) are also invited to attend. Some sessions together, as well as separate sessions and activities for young women. Info: Tammi, 602-561-1634 or azsdawomen@gmail.com.

**PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** (Oct. 13-16) Camp Yavapines. Info: Evelyn, 480-991-6777, ext. 125.

**HERITAGE SINGERS CONCERT** (Oct. 15) 5 p.m., Camelback church, 5902 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. An offering appeal will take place during the concert to benefit relief funds for oppressed people within the communist countries of the world.

**EVIDENCE SEMINAR** (Oct. 21-29) by Myckal Morehouse, sponsored by the Tempe church and held on ASU campus. 7-8:15 p.m. Info: 480-967-4022.

**Central California**

**HISPANIC MEN'S CONVOCATION** (Oct. 7-8) Fresno Hispanic church, 1744 E. Nees Ave., Fresno, Calif., with Pastor A. Bullón. Pre-registration is required before Sept. 26. Contact: fmorales@cccsda.org or 559-347-3144.

**MEN'S RETREAT** (Oct. 14-16) "Let's Get Real" Soquel Conference Center; Multi-cultural worship and fellowship with Dr. Pierre Steenberg. Pre-registration: mnovielli@cccsda.org or 559-347-3142.

**HISPANIC LEADERSHIP TRAINING** (Oct. 15, 22) Valley Central's Spanish-speaking churches, Oct. 15, 4 p.m., Bakersfield Hispanic church; Sabbath School Leadership Training, Oct. 22, 4 p.m., Fresno Spanish church with Pastor

Daniel Gouveia. Contact fmorales@cccsda.org or 559-347-3144.

**PRAYER CONFERENCE** (Oct. 21-23) "Learn to Pray: Take Your Prayer to the Next Level" prayer conference; guest speaker, Pavel Goia; Camp Wawona. Come with your family, your church, and experience how to know Him personally. Register by Oct. 15 with Pat, 559-642-2396.

**La Sierra University**

**FACULTY RECITAL SERIES** (Oct. 1) LSU music faculty, cellist Marek Szpakiewicz and pianist Jiayi Shi, 7 p.m., Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info and admission: music@lasierra.edu; 951-785-2036 or lasierra.edu/music.

**ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN** (Oct. 21-23) 34th Annual Conference at LSU. Keynote speaker, Pastor Rebekah Liu, ordained pastor from China, "Here We Stand: Women and God's Call." Additional speakers, plenaries, breakout sessions and "Woman of the Year" awards. Info and registration: www.associationofadventistwomen.com.

**ORCHESTRA CONCERT** (Oct. 22) LSU Orchestra and featured pianist Jonathan Zamora, 7 p.m., Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info and admission: music@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2036 or visit, lasierra.edu/music.

**WIND ENSEMBLE CONDUCTING WORKSHOP** (Oct. 23) 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., music department and wind ensemble director Giovanni Santos hosts a wind ensemble conducting workshop, featuring guest clinician H. Robert Reynolds. Ten conducting slots available, \$95 includes luncheon with guest clinicians; non-conducting slots, \$30. Info: music@lasierra.edu; 951-785-2036; visit: lasierra.edu/music.

**VIOLINIST MASTER CLASS** (Oct. 25) 12 p.m., Hole Memorial Auditorium; with Los Angeles Philharmonic violinist and founder of music non-profit, Street

Symphony, Vijay Gupta. Free. 11 a.m. Before the class, Gupta will speak for university chapel, LSU church. Info: music@lasierra.edu; 951-785-2036; lasierra.edu/music.

**HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL** (Nov. 2-5) LSU annual event featuring more than 200 academy choir students. The ensemble will perform under guest clinician Dr. Jeff Brookey. Free vespers performance, (Nov. 5) 4 p.m., LSU church. Info: music@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2036; lasierra.edu/music.

**CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL** (Nov. 6) Featuring noted classical musicians and showcasing 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient Kristin Lee on violin with La Sierra Director of String Studies Jason Uyeyama, violin, and Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians Ben Ullery, viola, and Robert deMaine, cello. Info and tickets: music@lasierra.edu; 951-785-2036; lasierra.edu/music.

**ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY WEEKEND** (Nov. 12-13) Center for Near Eastern Archaeology, "A Man's World? Queens, Goddesses, and Mothers in the Ancient Near East." Lectures by world-famous experts, a kids' archaeology dig, hands-on labs, teachers' workshop, Middle Eastern banquet, and Bedouin

hospitality tent. Registration, admission: lasierra.edu/archaeology; 951-785-2632.

**Northern California**

**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. Golden Gate Academy, 3800 Mountain Blvd, Oakland. Speaker, José Cortes Jr., North American Division associate ministerial director. Info: Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

**BRIDGES TO HEALTH** (Oct. 2) Oakland Convention Center. NCC and AMEN are teaming up to host a free dental/medical/vision clinic. Dental, medical, and non-medical volunteers needed. Info: amensda.org/missions/free-clinics.

**PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** (Oct. 6-9) Lake Mendocino, Ukiah. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

**LA ESPERANZA ES JESÚS – SACRAMENTO** (Oct. 10-15) 7 p.m.

La Sierra University  
Stahl Center Sabbath  
October 29, 2016

La Sierra University Church  
Pierce & Sierra Vista  
Riverside, CA

**"La Sierra / U / Me"**

9:30 AM / Worship  
Stahl Center Liturgical Service

12:00 PM / Worship  
church@noon Contemporary Service

3:00 PM / Convocation  
Bilingual Service

4:00 PM / La Sierra University  
Enrollment Info Session

**JOSÉ VICENTE ROJAS**

La Sierra alum & East LA native son  
Speaking at all three services

Annual La Sierra University Church Fernando & Ana Stahl Center Day

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CENTER FOR NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY  
LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

1750 Manzanita Way, Sacramento. Speaker, Evangelist Alejandro Bullón. Info: Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY SESSION** (Oct. 16) 9 a.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 South Fairmont Avenue. Info: 925-603-1207.

**JUNIOR/SENIOR RETREAT** (Oct. 21-23) Leoni Meadows. For academy, high school, and home schooled juniors and seniors. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

**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**

**JUST TRAVLIN'** (Oct. 15) Works by Mira White, Encaustic and Mixed Media. Rasmussen Art Gallery. Opening reception, 7 p.m. Show runs through Nov. 5. Info: 707-965-6303.

**FALL REVIVAL** (Oct. 10-15) PUC church. Fall quarter week of spiritual emphasis featuring Michael B. Kelly, senior pastor of the Mt. Rubidoux church. Info: www.puc.edu.

**PUC COLLEGE DAYS** (Oct. 16-17; Nov. 6-7) High school students experience classes and college events at PUC. Two dates this fall! Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080 or puc.edu/admissions/visit.

**ACADEMY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT** (Oct. 13-15) PUC hosts an invitational tournament for women's volleyball teams. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6652.

**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.

**LOOKING TO FURTHER YOUR CAREER IN NURSING?** (Ongoing) PUC offers three ways for California nurses to further their careers through its RN to BSN programs. To learn more, visit www.puc.edu/rn-to-bsn.

**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**

**CREATURES OF THE RAINFOREST** (Oct. 1) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. We will have some BIG animals to see, some slithery animals to touch and some soft animals to play with! Join us for a wonderful program for all ages! Info: Shawna Campbell, shawnacampbell@me.com.

**THE THIRD ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CONFERENCE AND CONCERT** (Oct. 8 and 9) S.O.S. Save Our Sisters (Two locations/times) Concert: (Oct. 8) 7 p.m. Mt. Rubidoux church, 5320 Victoria Ave., Riverside. Conference: (Oct. 9) 3 p.m. Kansas Ave church, 4491 Kansas Ave., Riverside. Sponsored by Black ministries. Register: s.o.s.now@aol.com.

**AAW ANNUAL CONFERENCE** (Oct. 21-23) Association of Adventist Women at La Sierra University, 4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside. "Here we stand: women and God's call." Keynote speaker: Rebekah Liu, ordained pastor from China. Powerful speakers, informative plenaries and breakouts, as well as "Woman of the Year" awards. Register: www.associationofadventistwomen.com.

**MESSIAH'S MANSION FREE** (Nov. 5-13) Tour a full-scale model of the Mosaic sanctuary Moses and the Israelites built in the wilderness. Learn the symbolism of the sanctuary and its furniture. Field opposite 24662 Redlands Blvd., Loma Linda, CA 92354. Info: www.LLsanctuary.com or 877-540-5576.

**Southern California**

**HOPE GOLF CLASSIC** (Oct. 2) Help Others Pursue Education, sponsored by the San Gabriel Academy Alumni Association. Pacific Palms Resort, Industry Hills, Calif. Golfer, sponsor, tee sign and donation information: www.golf4sga.org or 626-292-1156.

**ALHAMBRA CHURCH** (Oct. 14-16) 90th Anniversary and Homecoming Weekend. Fri. 7 p.m. vespers; all day Sabbath; Sun. 8-2, free health fair. Info: 626-289-6137.

**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** (Oct. 22) "Precious Jewels" sponsored by the Simi Valley church. Speaker, Mary (Richards) King. Pre-registration required. Music, drama, spoken word, fellowship and prayer. Lunch provided. Registration 9:45 a.m. Program from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Pacific Union Conference Office, 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village 91361. Info: Becky, 805-583-2493.

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**SUNSETS**

	10/7	10/14	10/21	10/28
Alturas	6:31	6:20	6:09	6:00
Angwin	6:40	6:30	6:21	6:12
Calexico	6:16	6:08	6:00	5:53
Chico	6:37	6:27	6:17	6:08
Eureka	6:46	6:35	6:25	6:15
Fresno	6:31	6:21	6:12	6:04
Hilo	6:02	5:57	5:52	5:48
Honolulu	6:12	6:06	6:01	5:56
Las Vegas	6:13	6:03	5:55	5:47
Lodi	6:36	6:26	6:17	6:08
Loma Linda	6:23	6:14	6:05	5:58
Los Angeles	6:27	6:18	6:10	6:02
Moab	6:48	6:37	6:28	6:19
Oakland	6:40	6:30	6:21	6:12
Phoenix	6:02	5:53	5:45	5:38
Reno	6:29	6:19	6:09	6:00
Riverside	6:23	6:14	6:06	5:59
Sacramento	6:36	6:26	6:17	6:08
Salt Lake City	6:56	6:46	6:35	6:26
San Diego	6:23	6:14	6:06	5:59
San Francisco	6:41	6:31	6:22	6:13
San Jose	6:39	6:29	6:20	6:12
Tucson	5:58	5:50	5:42	5:35



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**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**, Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a professor to begin the winter 2017 quarter. This is a tenure-track position in which candidates should possess clinical ministry training and a completed Ph.D. (preferred). Please email a cover letter, curriculum vitae and three professional references to: Dr. Erik Carter, [ecarter@llu.edu](mailto:ecarter@llu.edu).

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**Missing Members**

**YUBA CITY.** Contact: Phyla Caldwell, clerk, Yuba City SDA Church, 1460 Richland Road, Yuba City, CA 95991; 530-673-3754; [yubacitysda@gmail.com](mailto:yubacitysda@gmail.com): Emmanuel Aziz, Kenneth Barkley, Dorothy Clark, Cynthia Davis, Daniel Davis, Daniel Davis Jr., James Davis, Joseph Davis, Linda Davis, Montreal Davis, Sharon Davis, Thomas Davis, Floyd Elliott, Raymond Ellis, John Florendo, Layne Heinrich, Nora Lopez, Jeff McGuire, Delton Owen, Deborah Ray, Janet Rhoades, Tony Sanchez, Jaswinder Singh, Sukhjweet Singh, Sukwaat Singh, Betty Thomas, Pamela Tightmeyer, Christian Weaver, June Windsor, Sue Yerkes, Jennifer Zachary, Ray Zachary.

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**Reunions**

**NAPA CHRISTIAN ALUMNI WEEKEND** (Oct. 7-9) Fri., Vespers 7 p.m. by honor class of 2006; Sabbath Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jonathan Henderson; Mexican style lunch; locals please bring desserts. Corndogs & Ball Games, 7 p.m. Sunday, Student Association Fundraising Pancake Breakfast, 9-10:30 a.m. All are welcome. School Gym. 707-255-5233 or [chenderson@napachristian.com](mailto:chenderson@napachristian.com).

**YUMA CENTRAL CHURCH** Centennial (Nov. 5) 9:15 a.m. Come share memories, stories and music with old friends and make new ones. Arizona Conference

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**AINSWORTH SR., PHILIP IRWIN** — b. Oct. 6, 1938, Boulder, Colo.; d. April 28, 2016, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: wife, Pacita; sons, Philip Jr., John; five grandchildren; brother, Kent; sisters, Sharon, Liana.

**BOCK, LOWELL** — b. June 1, 1923, Puyallup, Wash.; d. Aug. 22, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Merlo; son, Allen; daughters, Janel Isaef, Colleen Laudenslager; five grandchildren. Served as president of several North American and Canadian conferences, as a General Conference VP and as vice chair of LLU board.

**BRADFORD, CURTIS** — b. Oct. 17, 1938, Oceanside, Calif.; d. Aug. 16, 2016, Yucaipa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sandra; sons, Curtis, Kip; daughters, Ginger, Jill; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served in ministry for 32 years as pastor and evangelist, retiring in 2005 only to become a stipend pastor in both Southeastern California and Arizona conferences until 2014.

**CHRISTIANSON, CHRISTIAN PETER** — b. April 6, 1920, Albany, Ore.; d. May 22, 2016, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty; sons, Jan Eric, Michael Arne; daughter, Christina Marie Pina; six grandchildren.

**CONTRERAS, PETER** — b. Jan. 18, 1938, Van Nuys, Calif.; d. June 30, 2016, Montrose, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sylvia; son, Benjamin; daughter, Sandra Contreras-Moreno; three grandchildren; brothers, Ruben, Sam; sisters, Minnie Martinez, Corina Cagel.

**CUDNEY, INEZ ZANOMA** — b. April 4, 1923, Arcata, Calif.; d. Aug. 1, 2016,

Eureka, Calif. Survivors: brothers, Fred, Dell; sister, Charlotte.

**GAONA, CRUZ** — b. July 21, 1949, Matamoros, Mexico; d. March 4, 2016, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Yolanda; sons, Juan, Manuel, Miguel; daughters, Monica Monroe, Rachel Gaona, Rosalba Archer; 11 grandchildren.

**GUILD, LILLIAN RUTH JEANETTE MILLER** — b. Nov. 18, 1923, Ellensburg, Wash.; d. Aug. 10, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Rosanne Guild, Genee Cote.

**HARRIS, WILLIAM BRADLEY** — b. Oct. 16, 1969, Porterville, Calif.; d. July 27, 2016, Strathmore, Calif. Survivors: sons, William, Dustin, Austin; step-daughter, Katie Ragsdale; two grandchildren.

**HOUSE, TODD** — b. Oct. 7, 1966, St. Helena, Calif.; d. Aug. 19, 2016, Vacaville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Kristie; sons, Zachary, Kevin; daughters, Kaitlyn, Madison; mother, Darryl; sisters, Elizabeth Wood, Sandra McCluskey.

**JACKSON, JESSIE** — b. May 27, 1919, Roaring Ranch, Pa.; d. July 13, 2016, Tucson, Ariz. Survivors: 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 25 great-great-grandchildren.

**LAIRD, LYNWOOD MAURICE** — b. Oct. 28, 1935, San Jose, Calif.; d. July 20, 2016, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Dorene; son, Tim; daughters, Tamra Ezzell, Karen Cross; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**LOYE, MILO** — b. Oct. 22, 1923, St. Paul, Minn.; d. July 10, 2016, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patricia; son, James; daughters, Katherine, Susan; several grandchildren. Served as a physician; also designed and planted the courtyard and grounds for the Auburn church.

**LUTZ, RANDALL** — b. May 25, 1919, Estuary, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. April 18, 2016, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: wife, Lucille; daughters, Pamela Gaskell, Linda Baxter; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

**MEANS, DELMA (FISHER)** — b. Feb. 22, 1925, Lincoln, Neb.; d. July 17, 2016, Huntington Beach, Calif. Survivors: son, Rylan; daughter, Alyce Britton; two grandchildren.

**MILLER, MIRTHA ELENA (HERNANDEZ)** — b. Oct. 25, 1957, Camaguey, Cuba; d. July 15, 2016, Grand Terrace, Calif. Survivors: husband, Jay; sons, Nathan, Nicolas; mother, Esperanza; brothers, Ruben, Robert. Served as an educator in El Sobrante, Deer Park (Foothills), Tucson, Angwin (PUC Elementary principal and teacher), and La Sierra University School of Education.

**MUND, BETTY "FRAN"** — b. March 2, 1944, Fort Sumner, N.M.; d. May 25, 2016, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: husband, Paul; son, Greg; daughters, Kimberly Nottingham, Heather; four grandchildren.

**RACINE, HAROLD "HAL"** — b. Feb. 3, 1937, Pontiac, Mich.; d. Aug. 18, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Jeffrey; daughter, Judy; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

**REIBER, DARRELL LEONARD** — b. Oct. 31, 1933, Grandview, Wash.; d. Aug. 6, 2016, Yuba City, Calif. Survivors: son, Derek; daughter, Shanna Ashby; sister, Arlene Davis. He and his wife, Gloria, served as medical missionaries in Pakistan.

**ROSENQUIST, BETTY** — b. July 2, 1923, Wallowa, Ore.; d. Aug. 3, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Robert Jr.; daughters, Dianne Rice, Nancy Wernick, Jannine Cochrane; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. Betty was a missionary nurse to the Philippines, Afghanistan, Taiwan, Penang, Guam and China.

**SPIVA, CHARLES "CHARLIE"** — b. Dec. 26, 1914, Keene, Texas; d. July 23, 2016, Collegedale, Tenn. Survivors: sons, Neal, Lyle, Lowell; nine grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren.

**STUBBS JR., CHARLES** — b. April 16, 1931, Philadelphia, Pa.; d. Aug. 16, 2016, Mesa, Ariz. Survivors: son, Charles III; sister, Ann.

**WAGNER, MARTHA "DARLENE"** — b. Jan. 13, 1938, Dallas, Texas; d. May 28, 2016, Surprise, Ariz. Survivors: sons: John, Robert, Brian, Randy; three grandchildren; one great-grandson.

**WILCOX, RONALD BRUCE** — b. 1934, Seattle, Wash.; d. July 29, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Susan; daughters, Deanna, Lisa; two grandchildren; brother, Charles. Served as professor of biochemistry at LLU.

**WOODS, LEONARD SYLVESTER** — b. Aug. 21, 1959, Oakland, Calif.; d. July 23, 2016, Concord, Calif. Survivors: mother, Olivia; brothers, Elvester Jr., Raymond, Darrell Dean; sisters, Henrietta, Sandra Nuriddin, Donna Lee, Sabina.

**YOUNG, DONALD A.** — b. March 13, 1936, Columbus, Ohio; d. Aug. 5, 2016, Yreka, Calif. Survivors: wife, Denise; son, Todd; daughter, Wendy; five grandchildren.

**ZIPRICK, LYDIA "LOTTIE" CHARLOTTE** — b. June 29, 1915, Canada; d. Aug. 17, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif.

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**Information** — Circulation is approximately 76,000 homes, and magazines are scheduled to arrive in homes by the last Thursday of the previous month. For more information about advertising, please click on the Advertising tab at [www.pacificunionrecorder.com](http://www.pacificunionrecorder.com), email [comdept@puonline.org](mailto:comdept@puonline.org) or call 805-413-7280.

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

December: October 25  
January: November 28

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

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



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October 2016

# Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



**Ed Keyes**  
President

**S**o here's what you do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." –Romans 12:1-2 *The Message Bible*

I like the way the Message Bible highlights what happens when a person lets God change his life. The KJV and the original Greek for this passage put an emphasis on being transformed, not conformed. It actually shows what is being transformed — your everyday life!

Does your everyday life show you have spent time with God? Does it reveal a deep commitment to the One who loves you supremely, and died for you? Of course it should — but if it doesn't, this verse reveals how to fix it. It says, "fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out."

Let me tell you about my friend Paul. He owned his own paving business in New Jersey and seemed to be doing pretty well even though he only did small jobs. I asked him one day what

was the secret of his success. He said, "I don't really know."

I was surprised at that answer so I pursued it a little further and asked what kind of advertising he did. Again I was amazed when he answered, "I don't really do any advertising." He told me he didn't even have a listing in the phone book. This was long before Google, Craig's and Angie's List so I was amazed.

I decided to spend a day with Paul on his job hoping to find the answer. It became very evident to me as the day went on. He truly lived his faith. His life was a reflection of his faith in God.

Every place we went people told me about what a hard worker Paul was. They'd never seen anyone stand behind their work better than Paul. They could count on him to be on time. He was always fair with the estimates and charges.

One commented, "He's the salt of the earth type of guy." Another told me how he took time to listen to an issue they were dealing with and prayed with them. He wasn't getting paid by the hour, but by the job. That was impressive to his clients.

The bottom line Paul never advertised because he didn't need to. His customers advertised for him. It was obvious — Paul lived the life described in Romans 12.

I challenge you to do the same. Fix your attention on God, and let your everyday life give glory to Him.



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.



# Wickenburg Church

## Hosts 'Ocean Commotion' Vacation Bible Camp

by Deb Fink

Wickenburg has plenty of sand along the banks of nearby Hassayampa River, but is not otherwise considered a destination for coastal fun. This summer, however, from August 1-6, the Wickenburg Adventist Church hosted Vacation Bible Camp with plenty of 'Ocean Commotion' for the more than fifty 4-12 year-olds who enrolled.

The exciting difference with this program is that the leader was high-school student Nicole Reithal. When Nicole was asked if she would consider the role of coordinator, she thought about her desire to see children hear the good news about Jesus and said, "Yes!" Nicole reports her biggest challenge was to find available volunteers, as work and vacation plans compete for the summer days, especially those prime morning hours from 9-noon.

Nicole and her mother, Ana Reithal, reached out to the community with enthusiasm, and enlisted 18 fellow teen students from her high school, as well as adult volunteers from seven other churches in Wickenburg. Not only did

these churches provide needed supplies and willing workers, but even the pastors got involved, volunteering in turn to teach the Noah-themed Bible lesson in the daily program.

The Vacation Bible Camp was not only fun and rewarding for the children who attended, but Nicole's innovative method brought the community together as the volunteers made new friendships with each other as well. Nicole says, "Seeing the children singing praise songs, reciting Bible verses, and joyfully learning about trust in God was the greatest reward."





# Kingman Church Presents “Deep Sea Discovery” VBS

by Jan Morikone

Excitement filled the air June 27-July 1, 2016 as the Vacation Bible School staff of more than 20 waited and wondered how many kids were going to actually show up for VBS this year. They remembered last year’s VBS when only 12 children attended. Would this year be any different?

Long hours were spent putting up all the decorations in every room, transforming the church into a “Deep Sea Discovery” zone. Many of the decorations were hand-made.

VBS leader Boowie Tefft was very grateful for the help. Advertising was done in the newspapers, posters were hung in strategic locations, and a Facebook site was created.

“It paid off,” Tefft said, “as 32 precious children attended! All our work paid huge dividends.”

The children ranged from four to 14



years of age were divided into two groups according to age. The groups then rotated through activities such as Bible classes, sea science, crafts, games and snack time. Every day they started and ended together by going into the sanctuary for prayer and praise time.

“There is power in music,” said Tefft. “It helped the kids learn and it connected them to Jesus. The theme of the songs this year was ‘God is with me — wherever I go!’ We hope the kids are still singing those songs and remembering that God knows, hears, strengthens, sends and loves them.”

A favorite activity was the upbeat music with hand movements. The Bible class presented a spiritual lesson followed by an activity to reinforce what they learned. The sea science class featured videos and learning facts about God’s creation. Of course, game time in the gym and the special refreshments were a top priority!

Tefft summarizes, “I think every station was a hit, because wherever the kids were, they were having fun learning, connecting and praising God!”



# Arizona Adventist Book Center

by Sandi Bowman

The work of the Adventist Book Center is one of the earliest ministries of the Advent movement. It started with the first organized institution of the Seventh-day Adventist church — a publishing house. As each new conference was organized, the first department often to be appointed was a “tract and missionary society.” These “tract and missionary societies” later evolved into Adventist Book Centers — and today this is how the printed word is distributed into the hands of church members and non-Adventists alike.

The ABC staff are daily being used by the Holy Spirit to connect the right book or tract with the right person—often never knowing how it has changed a life.

While the basic mission of the Adventist Book Center is to reach out to and serve the customers who walk through their doors, it is more than that. The mission also includes sales events such as camp meetings, conference retreats, Internet sales, and bookmobile (a traveling Adventist Book Center store). The goal of the ABC is to be available where the members are to provide the resources and ministry tools they need.



*ABC customers enjoy the newly remodeled store attached to the Arizona Conference office.*

Another large part of the Arizona ABC ministry is our Bookmobile program. The Bookmobile covers the state of Arizona and Southern Nevada traveling over 5,000 miles per year, and visits nearly 80 locations. This program allows members and churches in outlying areas to take advantage of the resources and materials available through the ABC. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to provide materials needed for our local churches to continue their evangelistic ministry.

The Arizona ABC has been truly blessed in the past couple of years. Through an amazing series of open doors, we were gifted bookshelves from a Barnes and Noble store near us that was closing.

We were able then to update our store with new carpet, fresh paint and display our “new to us” shelves. We invite you to come and visit our newly

*ABC Manager Sandi Bowman and her assistant, Mitch LaCourt, enjoy serving Pastor Myckal Morehouse and the Barton girls.*

decorated store next door to the Arizona Conference.

We firmly believe in the literature ministry. God uses literature to reach people in all places and our job is to make the literature available. We are often reminded of the reason why Adventist literature and this business exists, and are thankful for our calling.

*“The influence of the Adventist Book Centers extends to all departments of the church through supplying materials for use in every phase of Christian endeavor.”* The Publishing Ministry, Page 322.

God is using literature to finish our work here on earth. Our calling in the publishing ministry is to remain relevant, sharing the materials that fit the needs of our members, and the needs of those we minister to. With every change around us, we, too, must change to meet the needs of those around us. We have an incredible opportunity and mission as we utilize our Christ-centered materials to impact every department, school, church and especially every individual who visits us in the Bookmobile, in our store or online.





# CENTRAL Acts

Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



## DEPENDENCE

Leaning on the wisdom and the grace of God for every aspect of life and leaning on each other along our spiritual journey.

A Central California Conference Core Value

### SINGLES MINISTRY FLOURISHES AT SOQUEL

**“ASAM EXPANDED THE USUAL SABBATH POTLUCK INTO A FULL PROGRAM”**

The Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) is a ministry of the North American Division that has been revitalized in the Central California Conference. While it is spiritually-based, it is event and fellowship-driven.

This year during Soquel Camp Meeting, ASAM expanded the usual Sabbath Potluck into a full program, complete with a tent where singles could meet throughout the week. There were daily “brown bag seminars” where singles brought their own lunch to a brief presentation and enjoyed a meal together. Topics ranged from general safety tips and conversation skills, to having realistic expectations and how to be a satisfied single. There was a Q&A jar which revealed some “always afraid to ask”

questions that generated open and lively discussions. Each evening, the ASAM tent was transformed into SAM’s Café where singles came together for table games, refreshments and fellowship.

A popular feature was the first-ever Ultimate AmazonGrace, based on the television show. Teams raced around the Soquel grounds to gather clues, take on challenges consisting of puzzles, calculations, cooking and Bible-related challenges, and to advance

*Continued on page 3 ►*



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CENTRAL Suite

Oct 19  
Town Hall Meeting  
Arroyo Grande Church

Oct 21-23  
Prayer Ministry Training

Nov 10-13  
Youth Prayer Conference

Nov 16  
Town Hall Meeting  
Visalia Church

Nov 17  
Town Hall Meeting  
Bakersfield Central Church

From the  
President



# DISTURBING

## THE SOIL

**“WITH GOD  
THERE IS A  
CONSTANT  
STREAM  
OF LIVING  
WATER  
READY TO  
SATISFY  
EVERY  
NEED.”**

As I drive through the Central California Conference territory, I see evidence of the severe drought condition that we are experiencing. We are now in the fifth year of a historic drought in California. Lakes and reservoirs are at historic low levels. It is affecting agriculture, food supply, and jobs—among other things—and thus far has cost over \$2.2 billion dollars at a loss of over 10,000 jobs.

Every time I travel to the Bay Area from Fresno, I take Highway 152 and pass through the Pacheco Pass. You can see the water levels in the San Luis Reservoir rapidly declining. Very disheartening to see.

Steps are being taken to curbe water usage in every community in California. In Fresno, we can only water our lawns two times per week. There are also freeway signs reminding drivers to lessen water usage. Of course, wildfires are rampant in our state, as well, exasperated by the millions of dying or dead trees. The consequences are evident and hard to miss.

There are times in our spiritual experience when we, too experience dry spells, drought conditions, a lack of the sweet moisture of heaven in our lives and thus the tangible negative results from a spiritual drought.

This can also within our local churches, which begs the question from all of us: Will a personal encounter with any of us, or a visit to our local church, lead the individual to assess that we or our church are also in severe spiritual drought?

A few years ago, when archaeologists began excavating in the courtyard of a medieval monastery, they found seeds that had been dormant for more than 400 years that had begun to grow. King Henry VIII had closed the monastery in 1539, and herbs tended by the monks died. But they sprouted to life

again after the archaeologists disturbed the earth.

So how can we be refreshed? How do we fill our declining spiritual reservoir? I believe the answer lies in disturbing the soil of our daily routine. Adjusting our daily routine can yield a refreshing from the Lord through the following: 1) Communion with God through prayer; 2) the study of His Word; and 3) loving service to those whom Jesus died for.

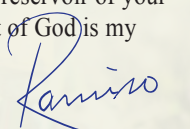
Our daily walk must incorporate these three vital areas. If applied, you will experience a refreshing from the streams that emanate from the very throne of the Almighty.

The Lord wants to bestow “showers of blessings” to each of us, as the hymn reminds us. With God there are no dormant seasons! With God there are no drought conditions! With God there are no low water levels! With God there is a constant stream of Living Water ready to satisfy every need.

In Psalm 23:1,2, the Lord promises that His sheep shall not be in want...ever! As Shepherd, “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.”

With the Lord there is no water rationing. His fields are always green; His water is ever sure. As the blades of grass in the Lord’s green pasture I encourage you to keep on growing and flourishing. May you also experience the nutrients of His Word, the watering of the Spirit in prayer, and the warmth of the Sun of Righteousness, as you serve in love those all around you.

When is all said and done, may the reservoir of your spiritual heart be filled by the Spirit of God in my prayer!

  
**RAMIRO CANO**  
President



**RON RASMUSSEN**  
Executive Secretary

October is a time that we can focus upon discovery. For some, it may be looking back to the year 1492 when a 'new world' was found. For others, it might be glancing to the year 1517 when the Protestant reformer Martin Luther helped to propel Christians to a deeper understanding of God's forgiveness. And for Seventh-day Adventists, we can picture how October of 1844 led us to the development of at least four of our Fundamental Beliefs: "The Remnant and Its Mission", "Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary", "The Second Coming of Christ", and "The New Earth".

Our belief of "The Remnant and Its Mission" states:

*The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.*

I invite you to join me this month. Let's invest some quality time and discover or even rediscover the splendor of our promised 'new world' (Revelation 21-22). Let's experience the power of God's forgiveness. Let's rejoice at what God has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. And let's answer the call to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



After completing the AmazinGrace, team photos are taken. ▲



The gold medal was earned by a team from Fresno Central Church. ▲

Continued from page 1 ►

to the finish line. Plans are underway for making this an annual event.

More singles events are on the horizon for this diversified group. The Fall Fest, coming in November, will be a full weekend concluding with a Victorian Era grand march. Followed by a New Year's Retreat to ring in the new year.

Statistics tell us there are over 14,000 Adventist single adults over 30 years old within Central encompassing different backgrounds, experiences, cultures and goals. Having a representative in every congregation is key to reaching singles that find themselves divorced, widowed, a single parent or just ready to experience a new community.

**BY DEBRA SULEN**

Get information from Debra Sulen, Central's Singles Coordinator, and get involved by texting 903-594-8868, emailing [singles@cccsda.org](mailto:singles@cccsda.org), online at [cccsingles.adventistfaith.org](http://cccsingles.adventistfaith.org) or on Facebook at CCC ASAM.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

# Build the Vision

We are so thankful to God for the amazing journey that he has had our conference on with our Capital Campaign. When we did the feasibility study several years ago, the constituents wanted the rebuilding of Camp Wawona at the top of their list. We all love Camp Wawona and we cherish the history and want to preserve the amazing memories and great ministry that has been done there. We are looking forward to the new development for the future generations that will love and enjoy Camp Wawona like we do.

In the last few years, we have built a new recreational field, camp fire bowl, new road design, yurt village and restroom and we have been so excited as each of these projects has been accomplished.

Now, we are ready to begin the next Phase, the construction of the new road. If all goes as planned, we will begin the new road construction at Camp Wawona the first part of August, 2017. We are currently in the process of preparing the area and getting a permit so construction can begin. It will basically be the same road but it will be 2 lanes wide. It will also include all the infrastructure that will be needed for the new

buildings that will be built at the top of the hill. In the Spring of 2018, the plan is to begin construction on the new Seybold dining hall. It will be built at the top of the hill with a view of Wawona Dome. Below is the new dining hall design. We also hope to begin the new Adventist Health Medical building/Administrative offices at the same time.

All of this is contingent on Funding. But we are well on our way. Currently, we have cash in hand of \$2 million dollars towards the new dining hall, \$310,000 towards the new Adventist Health Medical Building, and a \$500,000 pledge towards the new Chapel.

Over the next two years, we will be raising money for all of these buildings. We certainly can't do it without your help. We can't thank you enough for all the gifts that keep coming in for Camp Wawona and we prayerfully ask that you consider making a pledge for these projects over the next 2-3 years.

**BY JACKIE PHILLIPS**

*For more information, please contact Jackie Phillips, Capital Campaign Director at 559-217-1031*

Besides giving through your local church on your title envelope marked "Capital Campaign," we now have online giving set up through our website at [ccc.adventist.org](http://ccc.adventist.org). Then click on "Online Giving" and make your gift for any of the above mentioned buildings.

*Article originally published by Central California Conference Capital Campaign Fall 2016 Newsletter and reprint permission granted on September 14, 2016.*

SEYBOLD DINING HALL



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# HŌ'IKE

## VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

**PAGE 2** | Our schools must evolve with the digital times. The latest tech feature we're trying in Hawaii is virtual classrooms and electronic relationships via video conferencing.

**PAGE 3** | If you're working on filling out your schedule for the coming year, check out this calendar of must-attend events for the Hawaii youth department.

**PAGE 4** | Spiritual fruit — love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control — are lacking these days. Learn about Spiritual Fruit Deficiency.

## Convocation Brings Renewal

For the Hawaii Conference, convocation is one of the most special and significant times of the year. It is a time of refreshing, relaxing, enjoying great music and spiritual renewal. It is also a time to connect or reconnect with friends and family we may not have seen in a long time. There is a tremendous amount of time invested in praying, planning and preparing for convocation.

Even though convocations are completed for this year, let us continue to fellowship with one another, let us be encouraged to share with a friend, family member or colleague what Jesus means to us and has done for us. We have such an amazing and powerful message and a mandate to proclaim and fulfill Christ's mission right here in Hawaii.

This year's convocations were a tremendous spiritual blessing. Please join me in praying that God will pour out His Spirit in such an abundant fashion during the planning of next year's gatherings that planners and attendees alike will know we have spent time with the Savior. Jesus is coming soon!



EACH ONE REACH ONE!

With warmest aloha,

*Ralph S. Watts III, president*



# Sharing Through Technology

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

**“Sharing is caring” is a phrase we learn early in life. Children are encouraged to share their toys, share a snack, and share in the work around the home. As members of a church and church-school community, children are encouraged to share Jesus through fellowship with others. Sharing occurs in many ways.**

With the help of their principals and technology coordinator, students at Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki and Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus are trying something new. The schools are using video conferencing to build relationships between campuses. Through the use of writing, graphic art design, social media, video editing, directing, story boarding and so much more, the students will be able to explore a wide variety of subject areas and share what they learn in creative, useful, fun and meaningful ways.

Sister schools on all islands will be invited to participate as soon as additional equipment and training are in place.

“We want the help students share God’s love, not only with their immediate school community, but also with each other — school to school, island to island, Hawaii to the world,” explained technology coordinator Jorge Gurrola. “Students are used to sharing their gifts and talents with their parents and friends, but to share it with our Hawaii community and beyond is exciting, and we can use simple technology to do just that.”





# 2016-2017

## YOUTH DEPARTMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 4 Pathfinder Directors Meeting
- 14-16 Pathfinder Leadership Training Convention

### NOVEMBER

- 3-6 Pathfinder Camporee

### JANUARY 2017

- 10 Pathfinder Directors Meeting

### FEBRUARY 2017

- 5 Presidential Fitness Day

### MARCH 2017

- 11 Pathfinder Directors Meeting

### APRIL 2017

- 9 Pathfinder Fair

### JUNE 2017

- 19-24 Camp Waianae Staff Week
- 25-30 Adventurer Camp (ages 6-9)

### JULY 2017

- 2-7 Junior Camp (ages 9 to 13)
- 9-14 Teen Camp (ages 13 to 18)

### OCTOBER 2017

- 4-8 PUC Camporee at Lake Skinner, California



# GOD'S Remodeling Project

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

## *Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,*

Years ago, a group of church members gathered in the church sanctuary for a work bee one Sunday morning. As we stood in a circle reviewing plans for remodeling the church, one fellow made an unwelcome remark to another. Deep dislike existed between the two, so within moments, the conversation erupted into violence. The first brother picked up a shovel to use as a weapon. The other grabbed a crowbar, and both began to spar with their weapons. They had come to remodel God's House, but were now ready to reconstruct each other's faces.

I pleaded with them to stop, but they continued, so I stepped between them. Thankfully, we all survived physically unscathed. Spiritual and emotional hurts, however, were prevalent.

Church fights — they happen too often in varying degrees. One member may simply not like, let alone love the other. They discount one another's opinions as worthless. Or, perhaps, the animosity is more subtle. A woman may criticize another's parenting, looks or behavior. Her comments are not, she believes, gossip, but rather, honest evaluations or the dispensing of information. Faults are invariably thick where love is thin.

Countless individuals believe in the core teachings of the Bible; but they stop attending church because they don't feel loved or welcomed. The number of inactive members is often, tragically, greater than a church's attendees. Why? One reason is

due to a syndrome I call Spiritual Fruit Deficiency. The fruit of the Spirit is missing: "Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22, 23).

Prophet Ezekiel urged Israel to submit to God and to make radical lifestyle changes. Israel and its leaders chose, for the most part, to ignore Ezekiel's messages. They convinced themselves that God would overlook their disobedience; that He would never allow Jerusalem, God's holy city, to be destroyed — let alone His temple. Jerusalem and the temple became viewed as a talisman or a good luck charm — shielding Israel from the need of repenting.

Some, today, may likewise convince themselves that they can ignore the fruit of the Spirit as long as they believe in the 28 fundamental teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; that "possessing Biblical truth" will shield them from God's displeasure with their Spiritual Fruit Deficiencies and unloving ways.

Israel learned a bitter lesson, and so should we.

A young man approached a Catholic priest about love. The student had been dating a young woman for several months and he wondered if he had fallen in love with her. He wanted to be sure, so he described his feelings for the young woman and asked the priest: "Do you think I am in love with her?"

The priest responded, "I can't decide this

for you, but I will tell you this: You will be sure that you are really in love with her when your relationship with her starts to matter in all of your other relationships. You will be in love when the decisions you make and your feelings about her affect how you think about other people."

Loving God leads to loving His children — regardless of their shortcomings, irregular personalities and troubling traits. God's remedy for our Spiritual Fruit Deficiency is giving us a new heart; putting a new Spirit within us (Ezekiel 11:18-20). God's Spirit will birth a new paradigm in all of our relationships. I am not persuaded that God will overlook our Spiritual Fruit Deficiency just because we believe and teach the Bible. God desires to remodel our characters as His Spirit fills us.

If love is God's greatest command, then unloving, selfish and hateful acts may be the greatest of sins.

