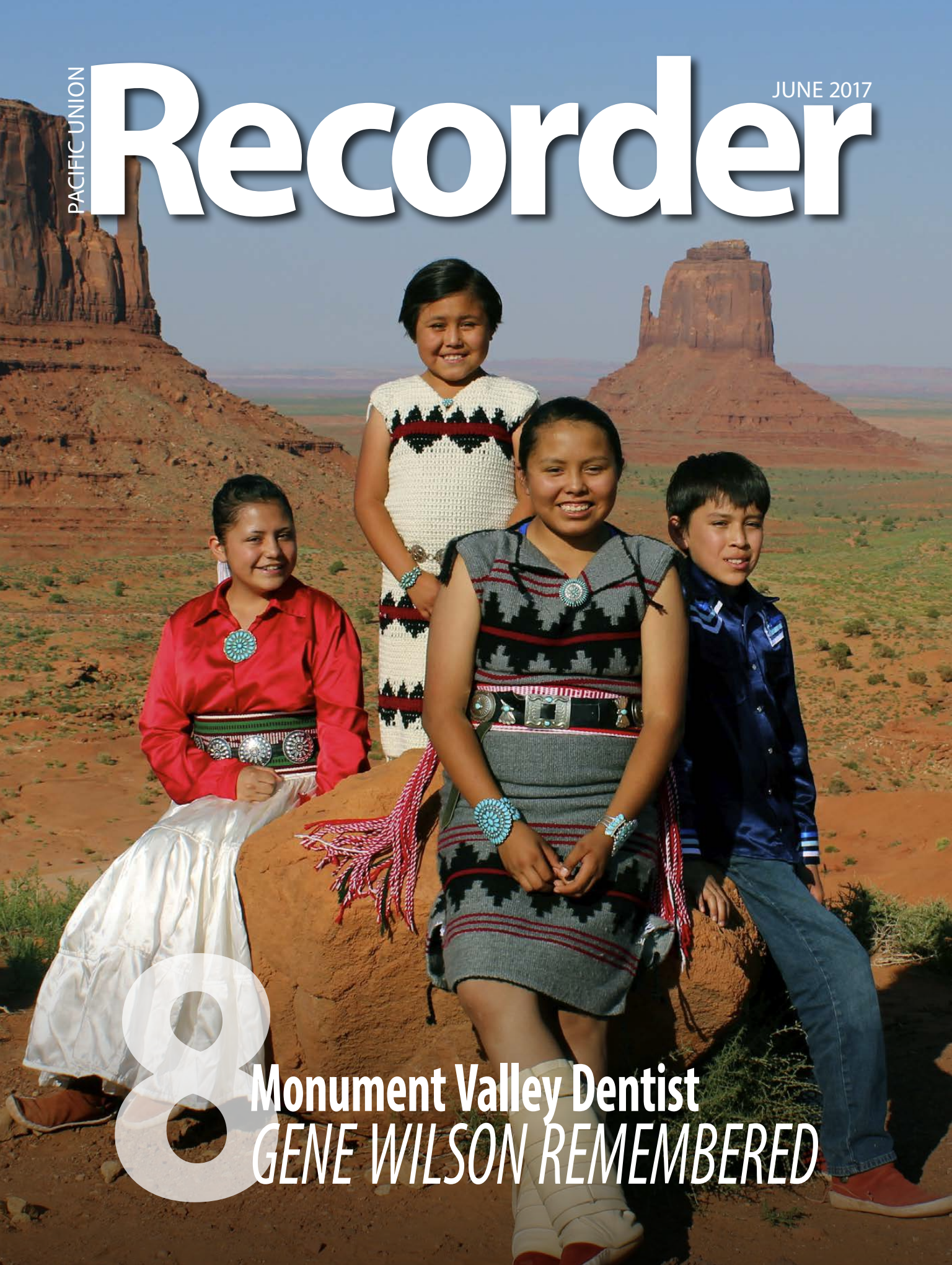


PACIFIC UNION

JUNE 2017

Recorder

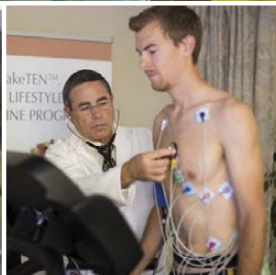
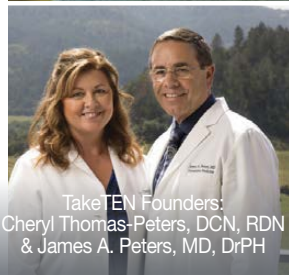


8

Monument Valley Dentist
GENE WILSON REMEMBERED

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Thirsty?

Ted Benson, Treasurer

When living things begin to sense dehydration, the reflex to drink kicks in. This is a natural reaction, and we usually say, "I'm thirsty." Without water, we can't survive for very long. The human body needs water on a regular basis. Without it, we become dehydrated and our organs begin to fail.

The earth needs water to properly function, as well. For those of us who live in California, there has been a drought for many years. Cities imposed water restrictions and, as the drought continued, the restrictions became more and more severe. Farmers allowed orchards to languish and die because there was no water. Farmlands were allowed to go fallow because of a lack of water. This past winter changed all of that as storm after storm dropped precious liquid on the state. In fact, over a period of several weeks, so much rain fell that lakes and rivers overflowed, causing flooding.

Even in the desert, plants need water to survive. The deserts of Arizona and California have a variety of plants that, when there is rain, they drink their fill and store the moisture to help through the harsh dry seasons. This past few months, there has been so much rain in the desert that a phenomenon known as a "super bloom" turned the desert into a veritable palette of

colorful flowers for a short period of time. Psalms 68:9 states, "You sent abundant rain, O God, to refresh the weary land." And this has been very true the last few months.

As I thought about the need for water, I was reminded of many references to water in God's Word. One reference that I especially like is the discussion in John 4 with the Samaritan woman at the well. As she engages with Jesus, she thinks His promise for "living water" is literal water from Jacob's well. He corrects her: with water from the that well, she will get thirsty again, but He is able to quench the thirsts of the heart with His living water.

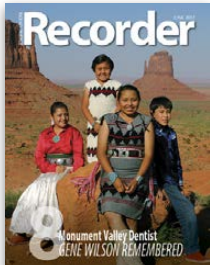
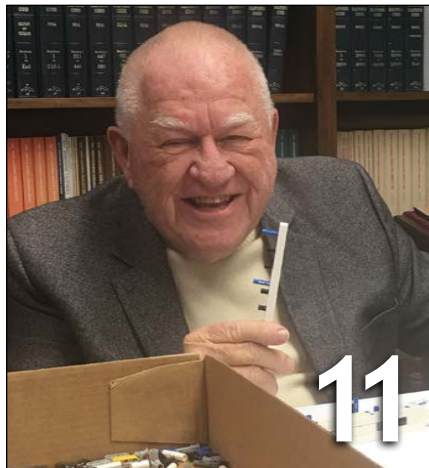
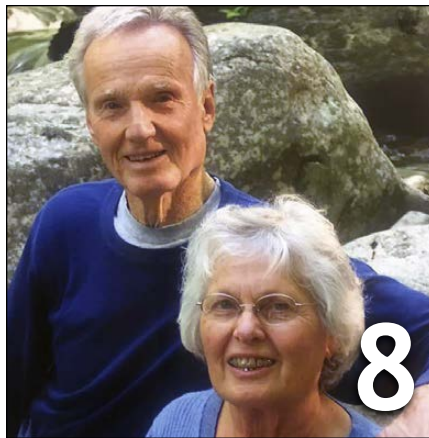
Recently, I met an individual who grew up without knowing what Jesus can do in our lives when we believe in Him. He needed to make changes in his lifestyle, but did not know how. As a young adult, a simple invitation to a church meeting changed his life. In that one meeting, he realized that something was being shared that would be positive for his life. He became a church member, but longed to know more about Jesus. His thirst for biblical knowledge led him to enroll at an Adventist school where he studied religion. He wants to share with others what Jesus has done in his life.

Sometimes, as longtime members of the church, we think we have the answers and become complacent. This can lead to a drought in our personal relationship with Jesus. By daily study of His Word, the teachings of the Bible become clearer. Jesus promises us, as He did the woman so long ago, "Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life" (John 4:14, NLT).



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ABOUT THE COVER

The Navajo Children's Singers from Monument Valley, Utah.

PHOTO: JOELLA MEYER



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Central Welcomes New Vice President for Communication

The Central California Conference welcomes a new vice president for communication. Cindy Chamberlin has worked in communication and public relations for more than 14 years.

Chamberlin, who previously served as communication director of the Illinois Conference was named to replace Costin Jordache, who is transitioning to a new role as director of communication and news editor for the *Adventist Review*.

"We are excited to welcome Cindy Chamberlin as our new vice president for communication," explains Ramiro Cano, conference president. "Her broad experience, dedication and deep-rooted passion in this vital field of ministry will augment our growing ability to create consistent, strategic, innovative and effective messaging for both internal constituencies and external audiences."

Chamberlin comes with experience in several critical areas of corporate communication, most notably writing and editing content for print and digital publications. Prior to her appointment in Illinois, Chamberlin worked as assistant director of communication in the North Pacific Union and, in that capacity, served as managing editor of the Union's *Gleaner* magazine. She also served on the news team of the 2010 GC Session in Atlanta.

In addition to print journalism, Chamberlin has been exposed to the television industry. She worked at KVEW, an ABC affiliate in the Tri-Cities, Wash., as a news writer and editor and, previous to that, as a student television anchor at Walla Walla. Over the years, she has also transitioned into online communication, and has been recognized for her innovative work in social media.

Chamberlin joins Central's Office of Communication to lead an award-winning team of designers, film and video producers and writers, both on staff and contractors, who produce projects and events throughout the year as needed. "It has been a tremendous pleasure to work with some of the most talented people in creative ministry, and



Cindy Chamberlin joins CCC June 1 as vice president for communication.

I'm thrilled that Cindy will have that same opportunity," said Jordache.

Chamberlin shares the enthusiasm. "I am excited to be joining a conference with a 'well-oiled,' well-functioning communication team and look forward to being a part of that beautiful vision," said Chamberlin. "I take this position with both the humility and gravity of the times in which we live."

Chamberlin assumes her new responsibilities June 1, in time to experience a full season of Soquel Camp Meeting, Central's flagship event that draws over 10,000 attendees and broadcasts internationally to thousands more.

CCC Communication Staff

Central's Print Shop Saves Costs, Enhances Ministry Opportunities

Among Central California Conference's core values — adopted recently as part of the organization's strategic plan — is innovation, defined by Central as using resources in the most effective ways for enlarging the kingdom of heaven. The same plan includes several strategic goals, among which is streamlined structures — a concerted effort to build increasingly integrated and efficient organizational structures to maximize assets, cooperation and accountability.

It's a mouthful, but the conference is quite serious about investing in innovation, especially when it leads to efficient operations and cost savings.

Such is the case with Central's print shop, one of the few commercial print shops operated by a conference. The print shop was originally managed by the graphic arts department, which produced design projects for the conference and procured printouts for various ministries and departments.

In late 2013, Central reorganized its Office of Communication with the primary intent of becoming better stewards of God's money. This reorganization involved combining three departments into one: corporate communication, graphic arts and information technology.

"Central pioneered a powerful model," explains Costin Jordache, then vice president for communication who oversaw the conglomerated Office of Communication through the merger. "By merging all three areas, the conference has been able to create noticeable synergy in managing all technology-related and creative projects with one unified team."

Following the reorganization, the Office of Communication continued to proactively reduce costs, all the while improving the quality of products and services. In the print shop, the first improvement involved the lease of a new enterprise-level, high-capacity copier — the identical model used (behind the counter) at Fedex Office locations throughout the U.S.

"The new copier, which replaced two smaller and older ones, increased the speed of print jobs, added several new features that eliminated older extra equipment, and visibly increased the quality of each print," says Sergio Cano, assistant director of communication, who, among other



The 63-inch banner printer can print canvas or vinyl banners, posters, and window-clings.

tasks, oversees print shop operations. "In addition, the cost of each page printed dropped dramatically with the negotiated contract."

The second step in creating a streamlined print shop was developing relationships and competitive financial agreements with a set of preferred vendors, as Central calls them. These vendors would provide print services beyond the capacity that the conference print shop could offer, such as extremely high runs and perfect binding (the square binding seen on larger booklets and books).

The final step in the print shop reorganization involved the lease of a commercial banner printer, able to print professional banners on dozens of material types up to 5 feet wide, by any length. The banner printer, along with the other tools and relationships already mentioned, has allowed Central to save significantly on such large events as Soquel Camp Meeting. In 2016, a total of 39 assorted banners for camp meeting cost as much as six outsourced banners just two years earlier, a savings of 85 percent.

Even the updated camp meeting program guide, an 88-page full-color book, was produced at a significant cost savings over previous years. By combining all ministry announcements, speaker information, schedules and the evangelism report into one cohesive and themed presentation, the conference was able to reduced camp meeting printing costs by 27 percent, thus allowing God's money to be used more effectively.

Perhaps the most meaningful result of the communication reorganization and the development of the print shop is that Central is able to pass these significant savings on to its local churches, schools and ministries throughout its territory and to ministry partners beyond Central. "As we continue to invest in innovation and streamlined structures, we're excited to be able to contribute these saving right into the ministry budgets of our churches, schools, ministries and sister conferences," concludes Cano.



Central's high-speed graphic arts production printer.

Sue Schramm

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
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Nevada-Utah Conference Remembers Monument Valley Dentist Gene Wilson

Granville Gene Wilson, born June 10, 1930, was one of five children, and growing up through the Great Depression, he learned the value of hard work and responsibility. In second grade, Wilson began working as a janitor to help pay his tuition. His parents insisted on a Christian education for all their children.

Wilson began developing an interest in dentistry because he admired the polish and cleanliness of dental offices. By 16, he had already saved \$800 for dental school.

Wilson spent a lot of time camping, hiking and gardening. He was a natural athlete and was recruited to pursue a baseball career. Instead, the family moved to Pacific Union College, where he considered a physical education major. However, he was drafted by the U.S. Army Medical Corps and served as a conscientious objector. His night-shift duty in the mental wards gave him free time during the day to devote to bodybuilding and gymnastics.

Upon his return home, Wilson “decided that gymnastics was a

physical education program that could be developed for Christian young people to beneficially participate in,” he said. Wilson and his friend Robert “Bob” Kalua co-founded the organization that would become Gymnics International,

a traveling acrobatic team program. The program emphasized “the wise and loving God who created our bodies as temples to be used by His indwelling Spirit.”

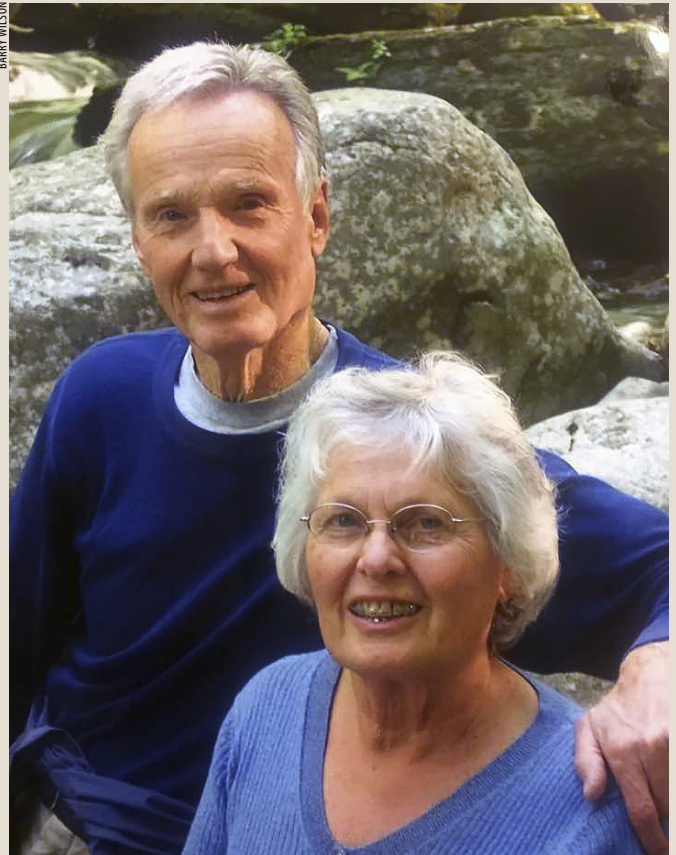
Eventually, Wilson’s future father-in-law persuaded him to refocus on dentistry. In spite of the intensity of dental school, Wilson found time for teaching gymnastics and swimming, performing gymnastics, landscaping, and teaching Sabbath school.

Wilson’s first practice was in Ft. Bragg, Calif., where he also studied and obtained his private pilot’s license.

In late 1970, Wilson replaced Dr. Ken Wical as the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry’s Monument Valley Extension Clinic as clinical instructor and director, where, over the next 12 years, he supervised many of the 500 senior dental students coming to Monument Valley for their clinical rotations, often flying them to rural satellite clinics. “Flying year-round, making decisions to cope with windstorms, thunderstorms and landing strips compromised by mud, snow and wandering livestock, not to mention night time landings, has given us many memories,” Wilson wrote. Many of those students remember their time in Monument Valley as the great highlight of dental school.

Wilson also became an EMT and volunteered with search and rescue efforts with the Sheriff’s Department.

BARRY WILSON



Dr. Gene and Blanche Wilson



Gene Wilson performs gymnastics while attending Pacific Union College.



The road into Monument Valley, home to the Wilson family for 46 years.

Eventually, Wilson began running long-distance, with “practice runs” up to 35 miles long. He completed his first marathon in 1980. He ran his last full marathon at the age of 80, when he switched to half marathons until the age of 85.

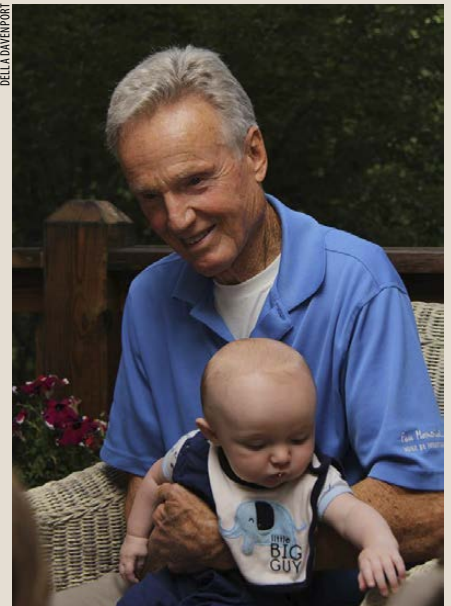
Wilson was sponsored for the Orthodontic M.S. program through Loma Linda with the agreement that he would provide this service specialty in Monument Valley. After the Monument Valley program ended, Wilson stayed on in private practice to provide necessary care for the residents of the community. He also added the communities of Chinle and Ganado, over 100 miles away, to his service area. He provided skilled care to hundreds of patients until one month before his death in January 2017. He was not only their dentist, but also a friend, a mentor and an inspiration. “He was an amazing person with a huge heart,” said former patient Moriah Ward. “He was an incredible example of Christianity being

lived out but not preached.”

Gene and his wife, Blanche (Nicola) Wilson, were instrumental in obtaining the funds for the Dine Wellness Center, which opened in 2010 in Monument Valley. Gene worked constructing the foundation, walls, and roofing, navigating the framework like the younger men beside him.

The Wilsons earned deep trust and respect through their years of steadfast service in Monument Valley. After the closure of the Monument Valley SDA Mission Hospital in 1996, the Wilsons brought a stabilizing and encouraging influence in the community. In 1995, Wilson received the prestigious Charles Elliott Weniger award, recognizing “significant humble persons who have portrayed admirable traits of character and commitment in their personal lives and chosen professions . . . those who exhibit perennial servanthood and have consistently demonstrated those ideals . . . and contributed in significant ways to their communities, the church and the larger world.”

DELLA DAVENPORT



Gene Wilson with one of his 12 grandchildren.



JOELLA MEYER

Dine Lifestyle Center, Monument Valley, Utah.

Dan Wilson

Downey AMEN Clinic Treats More Than 300 Patients

Eleven Southern California Conference churches worked together to provide volunteer staffing and other support for an AMEN (Adventist Medical Evangelism Network) Free Clinic at the Downey-Florence church on March 19 and 20. The clinic planning and implementation was done by a team from the involved churches, which included Norwalk, Downey-Florence, Bellflower-Lakewood, Temple City, Long Beach, Whittier, South Bay, Gardena Genesis, Alhambra, Hawthorne/Carson International, and Journey.

The team prepared and distributed advertising for volunteers — both nonmedical and health professionals — and then for patients. Targeted marketing was done through the online list of AMEN registrants. Some of the involved churches sent direct mail announcements inviting residents in their communities and neighborhoods to the clinic and to their church.

Pastors John Jenson, South Bay, and Ross Calkins, Bellflower-Lakewood, served as co-coordinators of the clinic planning team. “I was watching the chiropractors working with patients,” reported Jenson. “One of them, Anhtwan Lee, D.C., had recently lost his wife to cancer. He made extra effort, both days, praying with the patients. He made a very special point of leading each patient spiritually. ‘I want to be done here and see my wife again,’ Dr. Lee said.”

Team spirit was high among the participating church pastors and 175 volunteers. “They enjoyed working together,” noted Gerard Kiemeny, director of the L.A. Metro Region, the sponsoring region for the clinic.



A total of 20 volunteer dentists treated 133 dental patients during the two days. Since many people do not have either dental or vision insurance, those two areas were in high demand during the clinic.

“They helped wherever needed and with patients from any area, regardless of whether patients were from their church area or not.”

“The free AMEN clinic in Downey went very well,” said Jenson, “and exceeded our objective of having

300 people coming to the church and into the arms of encouragement, hope, and healing: a total of 341 came (260 on the first day; 81 on the second).”

Ross Calkins’ church, Bellflower-Lakewood, followed up the clinic with a cooking school, which some community people attended, though, he said, he was not sure that any who had been at the clinic had come to the class.

“But, you know, Jesus healed a lot of people who are not known to have been baptized,” Calkins said. “With the clinic, we tried to connect with as many people from the community as possible, offering health-related and spiritual books and other materials if they wished to have them. One volunteer told me, ‘I heard one of the patients telling other patients, ‘They [volunteers] are all going to get their crowns!’ My prayer for the clinic had been that people would be able to experience Jesus in some way by coming to the clinic and receiving services. From her remark, I think they got the spiritual message we were hoping to convey!”

Downey-Florence, the host church, was delighted to be the clinic location, according to Pastor Cary Fisher. “It was an awesome experience!” he said. “I really recommend that other churches have a clinic. It’s an opportunity to do real hands-on service for others in the community. For those in the medical field, who many times can get caught up in bureaucracy, insurance issues, and long hours, volunteering in an AMEN clinic gives them an opportunity to reclaim the sense of mission that drew them to the medical field.”

“For our church as a whole, the clinic was an opportunity to have a tangible relationship with our community,” Pastor Fisher continued. “They realize that we want to help. City leaders also know about our church through the clinic. The City of Downey’s Health Initiative is sharing information about our follow-up diabetes seminar and cooking school.”



Martin Hyman, M.D., examines a patient's vision. The patient was one of 146 patients who received vision care and prescription glasses, as needed.



Pastor Cherise Gardner, Long Beach church, chats with a young patient about her choice of glasses.

Betty Cooney

The May issue of the *Recorder* in the Southern California Conference section contained an incorrect author of an article. The author of “Community Blossoms at One-Day Women’s Retreat” was actually Evelyn Flores. We regret the error.

SoCal Adventist Robotics League 2017 Focuses on “Animal Allies”

The excited buzz of youthful voices grew louder and louder in the crisp early morning air of March 13. Twenty-five teams gathered for the annual SoCal Adventist Robotics League Challenge tournament. Hosted by the Southern California Conference Office of Education, the tournament was held at Los Angeles Adventist Academy. “We were delighted to host the Robotics Tournament for the first time on our campus,” said Lily Nelson, Ed.D., principal.

Launched in March 2005 by Bob Dennis, Ed.D., the SoCal Adventist Robotics League has grown exponentially through the years. Dennis, a longtime admirer of spelling bee events and social studies’ mock trials, sought the use of an education vehicle through which the “visibility of learning” can be achieved in a fun and competitive way. Introduced earlier to what is now known as FIRST Lego League, Dennis brought to this part of the Pacific Union a program that would give “tomorrow’s innovators a way to practice imaginative thinking and teamwork.”

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international organization designed to motivate K-12 students to embrace science, technology, engineering, and math in a challenging, colorful, and fun way, primarily with the use of Legos. Such uses have resulted in team participants becoming more interested in doing well in school, taking more challenging math and science courses, and developing more interest in going to college. The SoCal league began with nine participating teams, and by 2011, expanded to include schools

from Southeastern California Conference.

The theme for this year’s competition was “Animal Allies.” More than 220 students and coaches were challenged to “think about people and animals as allies in the quest to make life better for everyone.”

With the use of Legos, teams built robots and Lego models designed to show and achieve specific interactions between people and animals. Each team was also tasked with identifying what problems may exist with such interactions. Once the problem was

selected, they were to design a solution and share the solution with one who owns, sells, or cares for animals. On the day of the tournament, teams presented the results of their efforts to a panel of judges.

From 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., judges evaluated team presentations that highlighted three categories: Core Values, Project, and Robot Design. Recognitions were given to those teams scoring highest in demonstrating innovative solutions, teamwork, team spirit, mechanical design, and mechanical integrity. The afternoon was consumed with table competitions, with each team using their robot to score points by maneuvering on the championship robot game tables. The accumulation of these points, added to the panel presentations, resulted in the following overall team co-champions and team recognitions categorically:

Overall Co-Champions –

- Shelter Angels of Loma Linda Adventist Academy
- The Mazings of Loma Linda Adventist Academy

Project Certificate of Recognition –

- Shelter Angels of Loma Linda Adventist Academy
- The Mazings of Loma Linda Adventist Academy

Robot Design Certificate of Recognition –

- Today Has Been Ruff of Loma Linda Adventist Academy
- Road Runner Robotics of Loma Linda Adventist Academy

Core Values Certificate of Recognition –

- Cougars 1 of Conejo Adventist Elementary School
- RoboGears of Mesa Grande Adventist Academy

Students explained what the robotics experience taught them this year. “We learned how to program, and we learned the real truth about the zoo,” said Briana Oros of Loma Linda Academy.

“It taught us how to work in a group, and it made me feel like all of our hard work paid off,” said her teammate, Sami Reynolds.

Next year’s competition will be hosted by the SECC Office of Education.

James P. Willis II



(L. to r.) Martha Havens, associate director of elementary education, Pacific Union, and Mel Wade, director for NAD Robotics Leagues and technical director, Sacramento Adventist Academy, check a Lego model for students.



Overall 2017 Robotics co-champions:
Loma Linda Academy Shelter Angels.



Overall 2017 Robotics co-champions:
Loma Linda Academy The Mazings

Auburn Church Expands Its Community Outreach

The Auburn church's Adventist Community Services Center celebrated its grand re-opening on March 4 with an open house. Now, in addition to providing food, clothes, and hot showers, the center has a children's play area, accessible restrooms, computer stations for clients to find jobs and housing, and free counseling provided by volunteers.

The Auburn church is known for its innovative community outreach, including ACS, a community garden, and the Auburn Renewal Clinic, which provides professional medical, dental, vision, chiropractic, and family counseling services to the public. All the staff are volunteers. "As the new pastor, I am pleased to discover that community outreach is already a deeply ingrained value at the Auburn church," said Pastor Mel Baga. "Looking at how much this church does for the community, I can say — without the slightest hyperbole — that Auburn church punches above its weight."

The ACS center has helped hundreds of people through the years, including Auburn resident Jane Smith. "It saved my life," she said. Smith

was down on her luck and out on the street when she first started availing herself of Auburn's services.

"At first I felt guilty, like I was asking for handouts," she said. But Smith soon got to know the volunteers.

The fresh vegetables from their garden did more than nourish her body; the love she felt from the people giving out the food nourished her soul.

In 2012, church visionaries wanted to expand the existing ministry to include a free clinic. However, the ACS building was already at capacity. Two modular classroom units became available for free from a Christian church in the area. When these two units were joined together, they resembled Noah's ark, which members thought was fitting because God had provided them.

Those involved in the project continued to see miracles. Volunteers from the church and community provided all the site work. Materials needed for renovations were donated. Placer County and the State streamlined permits and approvals. Clinic equipment was acquired for free or at greatly reduced prices. Professional staff — both church and community members — volunteered to serve. After extensive renovation, on Aug. 24, 2013, the ARC was officially dedicated and began providing services.

"It was a lifeline when I quit my job and lost my insurance," said Huraj Masih, who moved to the United States a little over a year ago. "I quit because I couldn't get Sabbaths off because of religious convictions." Masih was apprehensive and didn't know what to expect at first, but everyone at the ARC was very welcoming to him and his family. He believes God led him there.

The Auburn congregation has discovered that outreach is a blessing, not only for the people served, but also for the people doing the serving. "Every volunteer — woman, man, or child — that has partaken in this ongoing labor of kindness has not only touched the hearts of those who come seeking help, but also the hearts of one another," said Steve Holm, church elder and Auburn's community outreach and ARC director. (Until recently, he also served as interim ACS director.) "It has been pure joy to witness the washing away of the barriers that separate us who faithfully carry the banner of Christianity."

**Not her real name.*



The improvements to the ACS Center include Bible verses displayed on the walls.

PHOTOS BY D. MICHAEL O'HAYER



Guests stand outside the Auburn Adventist Community Services Center.



The general waiting area at the Auburn Renewal Center conveys a professional atmosphere.

D. Michael O'Haver

Redwood Camp Meeting



JULY 20-29, 2017

Don't miss a meaningful 10-day spiritual retreat in one of the most beautiful locations in the world. Nestled in the midst of Northern California's grand redwoods, this special event will leave you rejuvenated and connected to God.



This year, we continue our Christ Method's Alone 5-year series with the emphasis on "Serving Others." We will again have the opportunity to make a real impact on the surrounding community during the annual Redwood Community Service Day.



Get spiritually recharged at Redwood Camp Meeting. Don't miss this year's speakers, which include:

Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams, Holbrook Indian School dean of students; **Ty Gibson**,



Light Bearers co-director/speaker; **Raul & Mireya Hernandez** (for Campestre Hispano), Perris Spanish church pastoral couple; **Roy Ice**, Loma Linda University church pastor for resource development (in Adult II); **David Osborne**, retired North American Division ministerial director/Northern California Conference pastor; **Arlene Taylor**, Realizations, Inc. founder/president; **and more!**



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Camp Waianae Hosts Adventurer Family Retreat

On April 21-23, nearly 300 people from eight Oahu Adventurer clubs attended the Hawaii Conference Adventurer Family Retreat. While Camp Waianae's usage has grown with youth camps, mission trips, and educational events, this was the first retreat designed for families with children under 10.

The theme for the weekend was Friends Forever. "We wanted parents to remember that God has a purpose for each child," said Madonna Tauau, Children's Ministries director. "We wanted children to grow in their social skills and understanding of Jesus. We also wanted our churches to grow in their appreciation for Camp Waianae."

It was an eventful weekend full of activities and worship. On Friday afternoon, clubs began to arrive. Many families pitched their own tents for the first time. The puppets featured during sundown worship quickly became everyone's favorite campers. Throughout the weekend, the puppets gripped the kids' attention, telling stories of the Golden Rule and God's love and forgiveness. Their messages resonated with Adventurers and parents alike. "Parents shared that their kids really paid close attention, and even adults mentioned being able to relate and connect with the puppets," said Pastor J.R. Bonilla.

Sabbath morning, the clubs gathered in their uniforms, ready for Sabbath school. During the worship service, different clubs shared songs in various languages, representing their church and cultural heritage. After lunch, families went on nature walks or enjoyed some quiet time.

After sundown vespers, kids surprised their friends and parents with their talent show performances.

"I liked that all these churches got together like this," said one parent. "I'm so tired, but my kids had a great time," said another.

Jana VanDenburgh, Kailua church's Adventurer director, saw this camp as an evangelistic endeavor for her club's families who don't attend an Adventist church. "The whole weekend was very special," VanDenburgh said, "but my highlight was knowing that multiple families were getting a full dose of the Sabbath with a whole conference of families. I think this was the first time they had experienced anything like that!"

Plans are underway for a 2018 Adventurer retreat. Organizers hope to include more clubs, as well as families from churches without an active Adventurer Club ministry, including those on the neighbor islands.

Jesse Siebel



Pastor Erik Vandenburg and Pastor Mikey Archibeque, youth ministry intern, lead the campers with the Puppet Praise Team.



Campers sing, "Rub a neighbor's back, rub a back next to you..."

Southeastern California Conference Focuses on Four Strategic Initiatives



ENGAGE, EVANGELIZE, EDUCATE and EQUIP. Members of churches in the Southeastern California Conference can expect to hear these four words more frequently in the future than they have in the past. They are the conference's new strategic initiatives.

ENGAGE. Visitors to Adventist churches appreciate the welcoming spirit and comfortable atmosphere within the congregation. But we need to make sure we are a welcoming community not only to guests, but also to our youth. As they mature, they are discovering their gifts and abilities, as well as their wants and needs. We need to engage with the next generation and provide leadership opportunities that enhance and shape their future. One of the ways we can do this is through events of many kinds — spiritual, educational, and social.

EVANGELIZE. The church's mission is to call all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the everlasting gospel embraced by the three angels' messages (Rev. 14:6-12), and to prepare the world for Christ's soon return.

Preaching the gospel takes many forms, from large-scale evangelistic meetings to something as small as an act that influences another person to change for good. Special events advance the gospel as well, and in a conference of this size, they happen often. One example is the Mt. Rubidoux church's recent health clinic, one of many clinics being held this year within the conference territory. See the story on the next page.

EDUCATE. April was education awareness month for our churches. We collected a special offering and emphasized helping students receive an Adventist education with scholarships. In that same issue, we shared stories of how parents were able to send their children to Adventist schools because they received

scholarships after praying for a miracle. SECC schools embrace the highest standards of academic excellence. We hope not only to educate students in the classroom, but also to prepare them for success in their careers and growth in their spiritual lives.

EQUIP. As a church body, we do not stop caring for someone's spiritual well-being after they graduate from school or are baptized into the church. For most, the struggle really begins after baptism. With that in mind, we equip our members of every age to embrace the call to mission and service. It is our goal to stabilize and empower discipleship through mentoring, training, and resourcing.

Throughout the year, various departments host training events. These events are geared for leaders in youth ministries, commitment directors, communication, Sabbath school teachers, and much more. The conference aims to support not only our pastors, but also church members who engage in their churches and communities. Many more training events will be available in the future.

As we move forward and focus on how we can expand the kingdom of God, we want to empower our churches to reach people all around them. We want to engage our youth so they can lead; we want to evangelize our communities to share the love of God; we will continue to support Adventist education; and we will find ways to equip our church members to become powerful tools for God to use.

Jessica Anzai



Mt. Rubidoux Church, AMEN Partner to Provide Services to Local Community

Close to 300 neighborhood residents took advantage of free dental and vision care, as well as medical and legal advice provided by professional volunteers, on March 23 and 24 at Mt. Rubidoux church in Riverside.

The Adventist Medical Evangelistic Network periodically supports local churches in identifying and training their members, especially physicians and dentists, in order to provide love, support, and services to their immediate communities. Mt. Rubidoux church leaders accepted the challenge of partnering with AMEN for a free health clinic, and members worked together to prepare for a large amount of people from the community.

“Getting everyone on the same page was a challenge,” said Mike Kelly, senior pastor. “Preparing for the event and for this influx of people — and getting our facilities physically ready — wasn’t the easiest thing. However, we had amazing volunteers.”

Event organizer Sandra Brooks reminded members of the upcoming event through weekly announcements on the church’s Facebook page and personal communication. She surveyed each member to find out how they could help. Then she met with the volunteers to ensure their commitment and formulate the plan.

Josie Asencio, the church’s ministry coordinator for congregational and pastoral care, promoted the event to local community meetings attended by agencies such as the police and fire departments, local government, and non-governmental organizations.

Additionally, fliers were handed out to radio stations and print news outlets inviting those who do not normally have access to dental, vision, medical, or even legal services.

“Sometimes we think about making sure that everything is perfect in our church before we



There were more than 40 dentist tables, haircuts, health talks, eye examinations, and more.

start reaching out the community,” Asencio said. “But I have learned that while we are reaching out, we as a church community are growing stronger.”

This was evident during the two-day event when the church members greeted, listened to, and assisted those who attended. One church member remarked that the people who were coming did not necessarily need to know about the health message or “how to dress appropriately” at church. They just needed to come and be loved.

“If you weren’t doing this, I don’t know what I would have done,” said a visitor to Kelly. The church became a safe place for many people who may have had nowhere else to go.

Initially, the pastors and event organizers expected close to 1,000 participants. However, both Kelly and Asencio heard from some attendees that attendance was lower because undocumented immigrants are afraid to attend public events where they may be detained or arrested. The church leaders will work to redefine what it means to be a church family and embrace those in the community who have often been shunned.

“The church is not four walls,” remarked Kelly. “It’s not praise and worship, though I really appreciate that aspect. However, church is really about when you are impacting the life of those who may or may not know Jesus, but are facing difficult times.”

Mario A. Munoz



The registration team made sure volunteers and visitors knew when and where to go.

PHOTOS BY JOSIE A. SENCIO



A visitor receives a free haircut.



Michael Kelly, senior pastor at Mt. Rubidoux church, learns how many tablespoons of sugar are in his favorite candy.

Freshmen Biology Majors Explore Real-World Virus Research

This school year, thanks to La Sierra University's participation in a national research program, freshman biology majors have the unique opportunity to discover and name new viruses, and to publish their findings.

The university's biology department was accepted last year into the SEA-PHAGES program, a science education alliance of more than 140 colleges and universities and jointly administered by the University of Pittsburgh and Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Maryland. The initiative aims to spur undergraduate interest in the biological sciences and provide research and publication opportunities traditionally reserved for graduate students and professors.

Consisting of two semesters of study that began during winter quarter, the project-based, hands-on SEA-PHAGES research class at La Sierra replaces the standard introductory biology lab courses for high-performing freshmen. Using course manuals provided by the program, the students spend more than four months isolating, naming, sequencing, and analyzing newly-discovered bacterial viruses, better known as bacteriophages or phages for short.

In March, La Sierra students' efforts resulted in the discovery of three new viruses, which they named JangDynasty, found by student Casey Jang; Shaqnato, discovered by Shaquille Fyfe; and Roliet, found by Brian Hwang. To find and confirm the new phages, the students used an electron microscope at the University of California, Riverside, to observe the shapes of the viruses. Based on the electron microscopy results, three genomes were selected and sequenced at the University of Pittsburgh. Comparing the genomes isolated at La Sierra to those found in public databases led to the conclusion that La Sierra students had found three new viruses.

In June, Jang and student Nancy Kalaj will present the class findings at the annual SEA-PHAGES symposium at the HHMI headquarters in Virginia. SEA-PHAGES membership includes expenses for two students and an instructor to attend the conference.

"One of our goals is to stimulate students' interest in science, positively influence academic achievement, develop their critical thinking skills, and enhance persistence in STEM disciplines," said Arturo Diaz, assistant



Front (left to right): Jason Tedjakusnadi, Nancy Kalaj, Connie Yang. Second row: Katarina Brankov, Truc Nguyen, Lorelei Hughes. Third row: Thomas Pak, Nicholas Fernandez, Cecilia Saucedo. Fourth row: Dong Soon Han, Casey Jang, Emily Poon. Fifth row: Shaquille Fyfe, Jennifer Gallao, Brian Hwang. Sixth row: Arturo Diaz, John Kim, Nathaniel Sutter. Back row: Arun Muthiah



Freshmen in La Sierra's new, project-based biology class conduct lab experiments toward discovering new viruses.

professor, who submitted the department's application for SEA-PHAGES membership. He co-teaches the bioinformatics portion of the course along with associate biology professor Nate Sutter. "Another perk for those who are part of the program is that the results could be published in scientific journals with the students listed as co-authors," Diaz said.

During the winter quarter, SEA-PHAGES students collected soil samples from around campus, then performed isolation and characterization processes. These steps include the electron microscopy and DNA restriction analysis to discover previously unknown bacteriophages, which are viruses that infect and replicate within a bacterium.

During a February lab session, biomedical science major John Kim added a solution to bacteriophages isolated from soil to a petri dish that contained a "lawn" of bacteria so that it would grow and "amplify," he said. The goal was to determine the presence of a virus and ensure that the sample contained only one kind of bacteriophage. If bacteriophages are present, they will infect and replicate within the bacterial host, and this will result in a visible circular clearing within the bacterial lawn. Next steps involved determining the type of virus.

The La Sierra class is also impacting students through the non-traditional nature of the course. In course evaluations, students praised its open structure as well as the scientific opportunities presented.

"Instead of emulating experiments with known results set forth by standard biology lab manuals, we were creating our own science at our own pace without the pressure of doing things 'wrong' or getting the 'wrong' results," said student Brian Hwang.

"This is the one science class that I've taken that I have liked," said Jang. "I didn't have to focus on studying and turning in lab reports so I could pass. Instead, I was able to focus on what I was really doing in the lab and learn. It wasn't just words and definitions I had to memorize. The class made me want to work."

Darla Martin Tucker

Loma Linda University Medical Center Awarded Certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center

Loma Linda University Medical Center was recently approved as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission, the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association, making it the first hospital in the Inland Empire to earn this accreditation.

On April 18, the Medical Center announced it had received the Gold Seal of Approval® from the Joint Commission as well as the American Heart Association's and American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification. The designations mean LLUMC has attained the highest level of stroke care certification for hospitals that meet care standards for the most complex stroke cases on a 24/7 basis.

To do that, LLUMC had to demonstrate compliance with Primary Stroke Center standards as well as additional requirements including:

- Advanced imaging capabilities
- Advanced, specialized treatments available 24/7
- Advanced educational opportunities and competencies to enable staff members to care for complex stroke patients.

Vincent V. Truong, M.D., director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center, says it represents a streamlined, interdisciplinary effort to rapidly recognize and treat stroke patients with the highest quality of care.

"When timing is critical, you want a stroke center that is prepared to deliver the most advanced, comprehensive stroke care," Truong said. "Our recent designation proves we can do just that."

The Stroke Center is an alliance of health professionals working toward the common goal of protecting and healing stroke patients from the time they have a stroke until the day they are discharged home and even beyond. Collaborative care is provided by physicians and nurses trained in each of the following specialties:

- Neurology
- Emergency medicine
- Neuro-critical care
- Endovascular and cerebrovascular neurosurgery
- Interventional neuroradiology
- Vascular surgery, and
- Neuro-rehabilitation

In calling the multi-agency certification a testament to the organization's commitment to the health of the community, Lyndon Edwards, MBA, MHS, senior vice president of adult hospital services, said LLUMC is committed to "providing quick, innovative, compassionate care from the minute patients arrive."

For more information on the Stroke Center, visit lomalindastroke.org or call 909-558-2880.

Briana Pastorino and James Ponder



Patients treated at Loma Linda University Medical Center for stroke will receive collaborative care provided by physicians and nurses trained in a variety of specialties.

BUILDING WITH BEAR HANDS: *The Journey of a Teddy Bear*

In March, Adventist Health leaders came together in Roseville, Calif., to participate in the annual Mission Day, which is a day devoted to connecting each other with news, inspiring stories and learning new ways to reach their communities.

“Mission Day is, historically, all about education and inspiration,” says Dustin Aho, assistant vice president of Community Mission at Adventist Health. “But we added a third piece this year: action. How do we not only talk about things, but also physically do something that will help our community?” Aho goes on to say that event organizers wanted choose an activity each member could participate in that would provide “something tangible that represented health, wholeness and hope.”

Partnering with Impact 4 Good, a company that specializes in creating community service opportunities that can be used as team-building exercises, nearly 200 Adventist Health leaders put their mission to action by stuffing plush toy bears, dogs and moose to be given to kids in pediatric units.

After being named and oo’d and ahhh’d over, each of the toys were sent to the 20 Adventist Health hospitals across Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii to be distributed to their new owners.

One bear (“Fluffy” to be exact — made by Kevin Erich, former interim CEO of the Frank



Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for Mission at Adventist Health, stuffs toys on Mission Day.

R. Howard Memorial Hospital) found a forever home in the arms of a young girl at Ukiah Valley Medical Center.

During a leadership meeting, Gwen Matthews, president and CEO of Ukiah Valley Medical Center, brought “Fluffy” with her to share the heartwarming story behind the origin of the teddy bears and how it was important that each bear be made with love, joy and compassion before making its way to its recipient, and how

community projects such as these were at the core of why they do what they do.

“I was called away from the leadership meeting to join our surgery team attending to a child who had undergone a difficult experience,” says Heather Van Housen, chief nursing officer of UVMC. “As I stood there at her bedside with the child’s family, I got a text from Gwen that said ‘Do you need Fluffy?’ ‘Yes!’ was my quick response.”

Within minutes, Fluffy was in the arms of his new owner. “Oh the joy on this child’s face — those outstretched arms immediately reaching out for this messenger of love and caring!” says Van Housen, adding that the family was touched by the story of Fluffy’s origin. “It was a privilege to have been a part of Fluffy’s journey bringing health, wholeness, and hope in a very special way.”

People may think of “healing” as going to the doctor and getting a prescription, a diagnosis or surgery. While these things are key components — sometimes healing can mean the comfort of a stuffy named Fluffy, made with love. To read more stories like this, visit our blog at togetherinspired.ah.org.



More than 200 stuffed animals were sent to Adventist Health’s 20 hospitals.



Scott Reiner, Adventist Health CEO, shows off his stuffed dog.

Mollie Hawkins

FEMALE YOUTH SHARE LOVE WITH



Arizona Young Women's Experience organized an event in February intended to change the way young people put love and compassion into action, making them essential parts of daily life. They hoped to strengthen relationships between young women, to make new ones, and to inspire girls everywhere to take relevant actions of love in their communities.

"What is Love" drew attendees from all over Arizona, including Holbrook Indian School. Featured speaker Alicia Johnston,

former pastor of the Foothills Community church, spoke powerfully about a loving God and challenged each listener to examine personal barriers that might block the flow of God's love towards others. She said, "Love isn't just something we say or do, it's an attitude we have the privilege to choose each day. The message of Romans 12:9, 'let love be genuine,' echoes in our hearts as we continue to serve the Lord by loving others."

The teen and young adult women were inspired to think deeply about what love

looks like from the perspective of God and others. Sabbath afternoon, the group loved on local foster children, orphans and refugees through fun activities, such as designing a custom T-shirt, playing games, and watching a dramatization of the story of Daniel. Each child was paired with a "big sister" who played alongside them.

The interactive program created a platform for girls to use their similarities and differences to bless others and reflect the character of Christ.

REFUGEE AND FOSTER CHILDREN



Refugee and foster children enjoy an afternoon of love and acceptance at Young Women's Experience "What is Love?" event.

Evelyn Saravia, 25, recalls the excitement of the weekend participants as they met the refugee and foster kids. She also noticed how the children were thrilled and entertained with the simplest of things.

"It puts into perspective how easy it is to take the small things for granted," said Saravia. "To summarize what I learned that weekend — love can break through any barrier and doesn't discriminate."

"What is Love' has really impacted me," said Iris, a young refugee. "It has been a great weekend!"

Visit azyoungwe.com to find out more about the YWE ministry and upcoming events.

Sarah Sykora and Phil Draper



PHOTOS BY RELIEFUSE

Children sackrace in T-shirts they decorated that proclaim, "Let love be genuine."

Third Annual PUC Talks Features Distinguished Faculty, Guests

The festivities of Pacific Union College's Homecoming Weekend 2017 began with the third annual PUC Talks on Friday afternoon, April 21. This recent tradition is a series of mini lectures modeled after the popular TED Talks, in which speakers share exciting new ideas. This year, the featured speakers were Dr. Jean Sheldon, Dr. Nancy Lecourt and Peter Lecourt, and Dr. Vola Andrianarijaona. "We would like to introduce you to the kinds of things we do in our classrooms," said President Eric Anderson in his introduction. The topics sparked lively discussion and engaged both visiting alumni and students in attendance.

God's Will Vs. Human Will

Dr. Jean Sheldon, professor of Old Testament, has taught at PUC for over 20 years and specializes in Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East. Her talk, "Two Competing Voices: A Canonical Approach to Solving Ethical Issues in the Old Testament," analyzed violence in the Old Testament from an ethical perspective. Sheldon explained her topic was inspired by questions she has been asked through the years by students in her interactive, discussion-based classes. She evaluated God's will versus human will, which often demands a different choice, and found in that conflict God allows that will to dominate the narrative, to a certain extent, and often even acquiesces to the human will so it comes to be seen as the "acceptable" view.

Preserving PUC's Forest Land

Dr. Nancy Lecourt and Peter Lecourt's presentation, "Saving Our Land: The Future of a Unique Heritage," was an engaging conversation about the college's land. Dr. Lecourt has served as academic dean and vice president for academic administration at PUC since 2006, while her son Peter recently completed a master's degree in geographic information systems at the University of Redlands. They described PUC's partnership with the Land Trust of Napa County, the progress on the purchase of a \$9 million conservation easement, and the creation of an endowed fund to ensure ongoing sustainable management of over 850 acres of PUC's forestland. When asked if future administrations would share the philosophy of protection and conservation of the forest, Dr. Lecourt said, "We want to remember our heritage, who we are, and we think the land is part of that," noting the college is currently creating a new strategic plan. "We intend to make sure the plan paints a vision that includes the



land as part of where PUC goes in the future." If you would like to help support this endeavor, donate to the PUC Forest Fund, visit puc.edu/give.

The Beauty of an Ion Beam

Dr. Vola Andrianarijaona, professor of physics, has taught at the college since 2006, and specializes in lasers, solid state physics, and atomic, molecular, and optical physics. During his talk, "Why an Ion Beam?" Dr. Vola, as he is known, told the audience he conducts research for the benefit of PUC students. He gives them the opportunity to conduct research at nationally recognized laboratories and participate in prestigious conferences where they can present their work. Thanks to a \$170,000 grant Vola received from the National Science Foundation, he has involved students in his research measuring the energy levels of hydrogen beams. During his talk, he shared updates on his research and student projects, and highlighted students who have had their research published in peer-reviewed journals or presented at conferences.

Recordings of these inspirational and informative presentations are available at puc.edu/audio.

Larissa Church



**GO HEALTHY...
FOR GOOD!**

as seen on  HopeChannel

16 TASTY, HEALTHY RECIPES

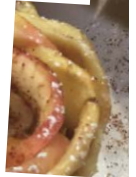


Apple Roses

INGREDIENTS

3-4 red apples

(optional)
Cinnamon (optional)



Strip over the apples.
to the other and place in muffin
tray with cinnamon.
Baking, remove from oven and cool
from muffin tray.
with a little powdered sugar.



Beet and Lentil Hummus

INGREDIENTS

½ cup black beluga lentils, rinsed and soaked overnight
2 medium beets, peeled and cut into chunks
1 clove garlic, peeled and chopped

2 Tbsp tahini paste
2 Tbsp cold-pressed olive oil
2 Tbsp lemon juice
2 tsp grated lemon zest
1 tsp sea salt

DIRECTIONS

Soak lentils for 6-8 hours in plenty of water. Drain and rinse soaked lentils, discarding the soak water.
Bring lentils, beets, and 1 cup water to a boil in medium saucepan. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer 15 to 20 minutes, or until all water is absorbed.
Blend lentils and beets on high until smooth in a food processor.
Add garlic while running to finely chop, then add tahini, oil, lemon juice, zest, and salt; process until creamy.

FREE DOWNLOAD at hopetv.org/freerecipes

CALENDARS

Arizona

CHANDLER CHURCH VBS "GALACTIC STARVEYORS" (June 5-9) 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. A week of searching the visible to discover the invisible, 1188 W. Galveston St., Chandler, Ariz. Make crafts, play games, sing songs, and learn about missions. Register at kideventpro.lifeway.com/myChurch/?id=38400.

ENGLISH CAMP MEETING (June 9-17) Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Speakers: Lonnie Melashenko, Lee Venden, Ron Halvorsen Jr., Ralph Robertson, Myckal Morehouse, Ron du Preez. Musicians: Melashenko Four, Larry Ford. Health Lectures by Dr. Tim Arnott.

ABC AUDITORIUM SALE (June 11) and Truckload Food Sale, 1:15 p.m. Camp Yavapines Main Auditorium! Best prices of the year on select books and food.

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING (June 19-24) Camp Yavapines, Prescott. Speakers: Roger Hernandez, Jorge Mayer. Musicians: Jamayra Garcia, Joel Armenta. Info: 480-991-6777, ext. 125 or esaravia@azconference.org.

Central California

LIFE HOPE CENTERS: SOQUEL (June 10-11) for the Santa Cruz County residents at the Soquel Conference Center. Free medical, dental, vision care for the uninsured or underinsured. Sign up to volunteer at lifehopecenterscentral.com.

La Sierra University

GRADUATION WEEKEND (June 16-18) Commencement at 8 a.m. June 18 on Founders' Green. Info: lasierra.edu/graduation.

MONTECITO INT'L MUSIC FESTIVAL (July 16-Aug. 4) Free concerts feature students and pros, including former New York Philharmonic Orchestra concertmaster Glenn Dicterow and Grammy-nominated violist/violinist Andrés Cárdenes. Info: montecitomusicfestival.com.

Northern California

REDWOOD PROJECT (June 4-11) Redwood Area Camp, 2437 Dyerville Loop Road, Redcrest. Join Maranatha Volunteers International for a mission project. Volunteers needed to help with woodcutting, repairing a bridge, and general cleanup to get ready for Redwood camp meeting. Infi: maranatha.org/volunteer-opportunities.

TONGAN CAMP MEETING (June 19-24) Tahoe Valley Campground. "Transformed for His Glory." Info: Pastor Sione Latuhoi, 916-599-3543, or visit Facebook: Apitanga Tonga - USA.

ASAM SABBATH (June 24) 9:30 a.m. San Andreas church, 399 Mariposa Street. Worship at church. Bring a chair and a cold dish for a picnic and/or hike at Lake Tabeaud in Pine Grove. Six kayaks and life vests available. Maps at the church. Info: nccsda.com/valleyasam.

HISPANIC CONVOCATION (June 24) Lodi Academy gym, 1230 South Central Avenue. Info: 925-603-5092.

IGNITE 2 (June 28-July 1) @PUC. Camp meeting sponsored by NCC African-American Ministries. Inspiration, training, fellowship. Speakers: Debleaire Snell, Chanda Nunes. Seminars: Bobby Mitchell (prison ministry), Geston Pierre (activism in Adventism), more. Youth: Jeremy Anderson - GRACE Tour. Women's Koinonia: "Essentials for Fashioning a Change!" Register: nccsda.com/ignite2.

LOCAL CHURCH TREASURER TRAINING (July 2) 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Lunch incl. Info: 888-434-4622, ext. 209.

EL DORADO ADVENTIST SCHOOL ALUMNI REUNION (Sept. 16-17) 1900 Broadway, Placerville. Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.; Worship: 10:30 a.m.; golf tournament: Sunday. Honored classes: 2002 & 2007. Featured speaker: Pastor Ryan Jones. Lunch provided. Info: Lois Roberts, lois.eas48@gmail.com.

Pacific Union College

GRADUATION WEEKEND (June 16-18) Culminates at Maxwell Commons on 6/18 at 9 a.m. Info: puc.edu/graduation.

SUMMER QUARTER BEGINS (June 19) PUC offers a full range of courses on campus, with tuition and housing both 50% off. Info: puc.edu/summer-classes or 800-862-7080.

SUMMER IN RESIDENCE (June 26-July 21) College Early: High school juniors and seniors are invited to experience PUC's rigorous academic environment while earning college credit in popular general education courses. Info: academicadministration@puc.edu or 707-965-7103.

PACIFICQUEST (July 9-14) Motivated students entering grades 6-8 enjoy a week of learning and fun. Info: www.puc.edu/pacificquest.

FALL REGISTRATION (ongoing) Info: 707-965-6336 or puc.edu/admissions.

PUC NOW (online) Stay connected by signing up for our email newsletter. Info: puc.edu/puc-now.

Southern California

SAN FERNANDO AMEN CLINIC (June 2 & 4) "Impact Your Health" Free medical, dental, vision care and more. San Fernando Valley Academy, 17601 Lassen St., Northridge. Info: amensda.org.

GLENDALE ACADEMY CONSECRATION (June 9) Class of 2017, 7:30 p.m. Vallejo Drive church, 300 Vallejo Dr., Glendale. Info: 818-244-8671.

DISCIPLESHIP-7 TRAINING COURSE (June 9-11) Presenter: Michael Johnson. 6:30 p.m. Fri., Sat.; 12 p.m. Sun. School of Evangelism & Resource Center, 1501 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-549-4147.

GLENDALE ACADEMY GRADUATION (June 11) 10 a.m. Hall of Liberty, Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn, 6300 Forest Lawn Dr., Los Angeles. Info: 818-244-8671.

"TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY" (June 16-18) Free family event. Temple City church, 9664 Broadway, Temple City 91780. Friday: 7 p.m. family vespers, Celeste Harrison. Sabbath: 11 a.m. worship, Jesús Noland; 2 p.m. breakout sessions include: Straight 2 the Heart, Pastor Ben Guerrero & Lauren Armstrong; Communication, Benjamin Nate & Katryna Nate; Healthy Living, JR Cahatol. Info: 626-286-5437.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (June 17) Third Saturday of June. Featuring musicians from the Sunset ChamberFest and a world premier with the SAKURA cello ensemble plus the conclusion of a Young Composers Workshop. 5 p.m. Reception follows. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave., Glendale. Info: 818-244-7241.

CHRISTIAN EDITION CONCERT (June 17) 6 p.m. Van Nuys church, 14615 Sherman Way, Van Nuys 91405. Info: 818-787-8380.

CAMARILLO CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY (June 24) All day, beginning with a continental breakfast at 8:15. Sabbath school speakers: Tony Anobile, VP, Pacific Union; Pastor Will Sellers. Worship speaker: Lonnie Melashenko. Afternoon conversations, vespers and evening social. 3975 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo. Info: 805-482-4632.

SUNDAY BRUNCH SEMINAR (June 25) "Political Environment and Market Opportunities." Presenter: James Brown, MBA, CSPG, president of Western Adventist Foundation in Tempe, Ariz. 9 a.m. Scholl Canyon Retirement Center, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Free. Reservations: 818-546-8421; walkers welcome. Info: gpark@scsda.org.

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
— Exodus 20:8

SUNSETS

	6/2	6/9	6/16	6/23	6/30
Alturas	8:31	8:35	8:38	8:39	8:39
Angwin	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:38	8:37
Calexico	7:46	7:49	7:52	7:53	7:53
Chico	8:30	8:35	8:37	8:39	8:39
Eureka	8:43	8:47	8:50	8:52	8:51
Fresno	8:13	8:17	8:20	8:21	8:21
Hilo	6:57	6:59	7:01	7:03	7:04
Honolulu	7:10	7:13	7:15	7:16	7:17
Las Vegas	7:53	7:57	8:00	8:01	8:01
Lodi	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:31	8:31
Loma Linda	7:56	8:00	8:02	8:04	8:04
Los Angeles	8:01	8:04	8:07	8:08	8:08
Moab	8:37	8:41	8:44	8:45	8:45
Oakland	8:26	8:30	8:33	8:34	8:34
Phoenix	7:34	7:37	7:40	7:41	7:41
Reno	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:30	8:30
Riverside	7:56	8:00	8:02	8:04	8:04
Sacramento	8:25	8:29	8:32	8:33	8:33
Salt Lake City	8:54	8:58	9:01	9:02	9:02
San Diego	7:52	7:56	7:58	8:00	8:00
San Francisco	8:27	8:31	8:34	8:35	8:35
San Jose	8:23	8:27	8:30	8:31	8:31
Tucson	7:26	7:29	7:32	7:33	7:34



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Events

GYC WEST Presents its 11th annual conference "Reflect: the Daily Experience" (June 22-24) Pine Hills Academy, Auburn, Calif. Speakers: Zach Page, Andrew & Heidi Carpenter, Sean Nebblett. Info and register: GYCwest.com.

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AT REST

ADAMS, JOHN — b. Oct. 31, 1931, Omaha, Neb.; d. April 21, 2017, Redding, Calif. Survivors: wife, Charlene; son, Ken; daughter, Lori Jackson; four grandchildren; sister, Jan Davey.

ANDERSON, LILLIAN ALETTE — b. March 22, 1939, San Francisco, Calif.; d. Feb. 15, 2017, Ridgefield, Wash. Survivors: son, Alfred Alan; daughter, Susan Joan Erich; five grandchildren.

BASSHAM, JAMES WILLIAM "BILL" — b. Aug. 1, 1926; Figure Five, Ark.; d. March 29, 2017, Prescott, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Margie; sons, Kenneth, Larry, Bill; daughter, Suzi Vernon; one grandson; sister, Reba Rowsel. Served as a pastor in the Arizona Conference.

BURGESSON, DONALD — b. July 4, 1928, Bemidji, Minn.; d. April 16, 2017, Mesa, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Lu; son, Doug; daughter, Nancy Chadwick; 10 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild.

BURGESS, TREVA (GRAVES) — b. June 28, 1929, Winthrop, Maine; d. April 13, 2017, Desert Hot Springs, Calif. Survivors: husband, Robert; son, Marlowe; daughter, Beth Miracle; five grandchildren. Served in numerous places, including the Northern California Conference office, and as secretary and professor in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, South Korea, China.

CALVIN, RIAZ — b. Aug. 14, 1926, Chuhechardh, Pakistan; d. April 9, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Monica; sons, Edward, Ernest; daughters, Evenly, Ella; three grandchildren. Served the church in Karachi, Pakistan, and at St. Helena Hospital.

COUNTER, WILLIAM "BILL" — b. April 13, 1928, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. March 15, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nina; daughter, Nancie Davenport; stepson, Steven Cody; stepdaughter, Patricia Bianchi; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sisters, Ardyce Schuler, Alyce Andrew.

CUMMINGS, THOMAS JOHN — Dec. 24, 1924, Berrien Springs, Mich.; d. March 18, 2017, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife, Melva; sons, John, Scott; daughters, Lou Anne, Sharon Streifling, Pamela Bietz; stepson, Ed Wright; stepdaughter, Linda Becker; 21 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

FURGASON, VERNON R. — b. Nov. 29, 1929, Waterloo, Iowa; d.

Aug. 5, 2016, Mountain View, Calif. Survivors: wife, Shirley; daughters, Janis Montgomery, Laurie Weis, Holly Markoff; seven grandchildren; two great-grandsons; sister, Dorothy Bascom.

GANE, WINSOME LILLIAN (BARON) — b. Nov. 25, 1927, Wahroonga, New South Wales, Australia; d. April 23, 2017, Loveland, Colo. Survivors: husband, Erwin; sons, Roy, Calvin; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

GREGORY, ALICE LEAH (CRAB-TREE) — b. Nov. 20, 1914, Cheyenne County, Kan.; d. Feb. 1, 2017, Lincoln, Neb. Survivors: sons, Dwight, Kenny, Dick; daughter, Eunice; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; six great-great grandchildren.

HEDGES, EUDORA MAY (GIL-LESPIE) — b. April 6, 1924, Napa, Calif.; d. Feb. 18, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Judy, Linda Toy; brother, Lorin Gillespie.

KUHL, PENNY CHARLESE (PEEBLES) — b. March 10, 1943, Meridian, Miss.; d. March 21, 2017, Woodland, Calif. Survivors: husband, Keith; daughter, Rachelle Kohnen; stepsons, Steve, Glenn, Ken; four grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

LARSON, DARREL — b. Feb. 1, 1942, Santa Maria, Calif.; d. March 9, 2017, Orcutt, Calif. Survivors: wife, Janet; son, Brett; daughter, Stephanie; and three grandchildren.

LEGG, JOY B. (FOGG) — b. June 27, 1923, Athens, Ga.; d. March 28, 2017, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: sons, Bill, Tom; daughters, Ann Gable, Diane Hensley, Debbie Marcuson, Cindy Wall; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

MARTINEZ, ROSENDO — b. Nov. 6, 1952, Porterville, Calif.; d. March 17, 2017, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Debra; son, Tony; daughter, Consuelo; nine grandchildren.

MEYER, GWYNDOLIN V. — b. Nov. 21, 1919, Chicago, Ill.; d. April 3, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: son, Larry; daughters, Donna Voth, Elyne Strauss; nine grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren. Served as a central supply technician at Hinsdale Hospital for 10 years before retiring.

MUNDALL, STANLEY L. — b. Sept. 7, 1934, Phoenix, Ariz.; d. March 2, 2017, Harrah, Okla. Survivors: son, Lester; daughter, Lynn Young; three step-children; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three siblings. Served

as a physician (cardiology) at White Memorial and Glendale Adventist Hospitals.

O'NEAL, THEODORE — b. Oct. 14, 1943, Tobago, Trinidad; d. Feb. 7, 2017, San Jose, Calif. Survivors: wife, Noriel; son, Theodore Jr.

PETERSEN, LUCILE — b. June 26, 1926, La Paz, Bolivia; d. March 17, 2017, Santa Maria, Calif. Survivors: son, Jack Leer; daughter, Sandra (Leer) Wright; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

PLUMB, M. LUCILLE (SCHMIDT) — b. July 30, 1919, Kief, N.D.; d. March 25, 2017, Carmichael, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Ilene Silva, Kathy; four grandchildren; sisters, Alberta Ballard, Elvina Spaulding.

QUATTLEBAUM, FRANCES — b. June 26, 1924, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. April 18, 2017, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: son, Gregg; stepson, Phil; stepdaughter, Melita Cramlet, Linda Harbour, Sue Mann; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

SHAKESPEARE, PAUL — b. July 28, 1925, Port of Spain, Trinidad; d. March 20, 2017, Lindsay, Calif. Survivors: wife, Bonnie Lue; sons, Berwyn, Edward, David; daughter, Lori.

SHERMAN, RALPH MCKINLEY JR. — b. June 29, 1921, San Diego, Calif.; d. March 31, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Connie Lewis, Terry Winn, Jackie Savory, Gerry Wood; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

TRESENITTER, ETHELMA (NICKEL) — b. July 15, 1935, Lincoln, Neb.; d. Feb. 6, 2017, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: son, Matt; daughter, Faye Davis; two grandchildren; brother, Henry "Buster" Nickel; sister, Judith Sather. Drove the school bus for the Adventist school in Visalia; worked as a nurse.

TRUITT, BLANCHE NORMA JOYCE — b. Jan. 2, 1923, Wilmington, Del.; d. March 21, 2017, Turlock, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Ardeth Mattison, Barbara Holm; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

VON SCHILTZ, SUZANNE — b. Oct. 19, 1947, Dallas, Texas; d. March 7, 2017, Prescott, Ariz. Survivors: mother, Nancy Shuett; brother, Scott Shuett; daughter, Nova Simon; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

WANG, JOHN S. — Oct. 26, 1934, Nanjing, China; d. Oct. 6, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty; sons, Samuel, Steven; daughters, Waylene Wang Swensen, Marilene Wang Watson; nine grandchildren.

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July: May 30
 August: June 22
 September: August 1
 October: August 29
 November: September 26
 December: October 31

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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June 2017

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

“15 out of 32,072”



Ed Keyes
President

“15 out of 32,072” is a strange title for a newsletter article. I remember using this title in one of the Bible classes I taught at Garden State Academy in New Jersey. Can you guess what it means? If you answered 15 is the number of verses written by God’s own hand; and the 32,072 is the number of verses in the Bible, well — good guess!

Amazing as it may seem, the only thing in the Bible too sacred to let a prophet or gospel writer tell in their own words as God’s spokesperson was the Ten Commandments. In recent years God’s Top Ten have come under attack. If you were to study what other churches taught about the Ten Commandments 100 or more years ago, you would find total agreement — the law of God was to stand forever. Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals, and every other religion taught that the moral law of God would never be done away with, and that was an appropriate teaching because it is biblical.

I have a theory as to why many churches started going away from this biblical teaching. The first Christian theologians who taught the law was done away with are found early in the 20th Century. I believe many of them were struggling with harmonizing the teaching of keeping the Commandments with the teaching that the Sabbath had been changed. So, they found a verse or two that could be twisted around to sound like the law was done away with. Therefore, there was no longer any need to keep the Sabbath.

I feel badly for my brethren who teach this for they are missing out on the greatest joy known to mankind, second only to the joy of salvation in Jesus. Let’s look at one of the many joys that the Bible promises will happen to the person who, by the grace of God, keeps God’s Law.

Freedom! You will never really experience freedom until you let the Holy Spirit work in you to keep the Law of God. In Exodus 20, God contrasts the Law He is giving with the bondage the people of Israel experienced in Egypt.

In James 1, God calls the Ten Commandments “The Law of Liberty.” Some ask how can that be? Isn’t His Law very restrictive? Not if you love Him. Jesus says in John 14, “If you love Me you will keep my Commandments.”

If you love someone, it is a joy to serve them. It doesn’t make you feel restricted, but free. The Ten Commandments give me great freedom. It’s like that speed limit sign you see when you drive down I-8, I-10, or I-17. If you’re like me, it bothers you because you want to go faster than what it allows; however, if you’re like my wife, it doesn’t bother you at all because you are happy with what is posted. You realize the law is there to protect you and the others who will be traveling down that same road. There is true freedom in God’s Law of love.



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.



To Your Health



By Dr. Dan Wright

It is an honor to be asked to contribute to the Arizona Conference health department as the Volunteer Health Director, following in the footsteps of Dr. Pedro Martinez. I am excited for the opportunity to contribute to the Conference-wide conversation on matters of health.

As a short introduction, I am a beneficiary of the SDA educational system from the first grade through a doctoral degree. My doctorate was conferred at Loma Linda University School of Medicine as well as my post doctorate fellowship training in vascular and interventional radiology. I have been practicing since 1992 and have been living in Phoenix for the last 22 years.

My interest in nutrition and wellness developed out of necessity when a sudden significant health event was experienced within our nuclear family. After managing the emergent needs, there was presented the opportunity and requirement to learn how to optimize existing health and to prevent disease progression through avenues that we had control over, primarily diet and lifestyle. It was during this continuing journey for a deeper understanding of what creates and sustains health in the context of a very personal need, that our family developed a knowledge base and subsequently an interest in conveying what we learned.

What was a bit surprising was that much of what I learned on this journey, I had never been taught during my medical training even though the medical school where I trained was affiliated with active research in the field of health and nutrition. I did receive training in





individual nutrients but not in holistic nutrition, defined as the use of nutrition to prevent, treat or reverse chronic disease.

According to a recent survey published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in 2014, only a quarter of medical schools offer a single course in nutrition, down from 37% thirty years ago. Equally remarkable is an article published in the Journal of the American College of Nursing in 2008 surveying graduating physicians, documenting that six out of seven felt inadequately trained to counsel patients about their diets. This stands in stark contrast to other surveys showing that the public considers doctors to be “very credible” sources of nutrition information.

The scientific literature is full of articles in peer reviewed journals documenting that most deaths in the United States are preventable and are related to what we eat. Our diet is the number one cause of premature death and the number one cause of disability (think heart disease, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, cancer to name a few). One might assume then that diet and its relationship to disease and health must be the number one thing taught in medical school. That assumption would be wrong.

The truth is the clear majority of training physicians receive is in the care

of a disease once acquired and not in maintenance of health prior to disease development. At this time in history the disease care industry is very mature. However, the health care industry is currently in its infancy as evidenced by the only fairly recent development and accreditation of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, which is dedicated to preventative medicine and health maintenance. The varied reasons for this imbalanced evolution of care are interesting but beyond the scope of this current article.

The objective of this column, moving forward, is to provide a window into and to broaden our understanding of the most current information on matters of health and wellness, as well as where the reliable resources for this information reside. We aim to clarify what science verifies as a healthy diet and lifestyle and how the choices we make contribute to progression of health or progression of disease.

You will likely be surprised at how often these truths conflict with “conventional wisdom.” As short articles with limited space can only touch the surface of significant health topics, resources for additional learning will be provided at the end of each article for those who have a deeper interest in the topics under discussion.

You will discover that those who



take advantage of the deeper learning opportunities will find very quickly that, with few exceptions, their fund of knowledge on health and wellbeing will be more advanced than the physician to whom they entrust their care.

We look forward to addressing common nutritional myths and replacing them with scientifically verified truths. Knowledge of the truth and a vision of what can be achieved are key to the adoption of healthful patterns in diet and lifestyle.

Please join us on what I believe will be a fun and enlightening series of articles on what you can do to create and maintain physical and mental health and well-being.

Camelback Church Launches “Stephen Ministries”

By Terri Babcock

In Acts chapter 6, the Bible author provides an interesting insight into early Christian church life. You’ve heard the story: the original twelve apostles realize they need a better strategy to care for the growing numbers of Greek and Hebrew converts. In short, the apostles are getting worn out. They require more time to focus on ‘prayer and the ministry of the Word.’

Many pastors today find themselves in a similar situation; simply more needs in their flock than they can possibly meet — even if they are blessed enough to have an assistant, let alone a staff of twelve!

As the body of believers, we are intended to “...minister to one another” (1 Peter 4:10), but we often feel inadequate. We’re afraid we could get involved in situations that require professional intervention. We are concerned that, once involved in a caring relationship with someone, we will be unable to properly manage its boundaries.

Frankly, we sometimes act as if personal tragedy is contagious. Whatever the reasons, in a typical congregation the result is that the care-giving burden still rests largely on the pastoral staff.

The Phoenix Camelback Church recently made the decision that, for the long-term health of our church family, we must begin addressing and removing these barriers to serving one another. Yes, we have an active ministry addressing the practical needs of our elderly and homebound members — the “hands and feet of Jesus.” But what about otherwise independent people who just need a reliable and trustworthy listener for a while, someone to walk with them through a particularly difficult situation, a neutral party who can support them spiritually and emotionally until they feel stronger?

Our pastoral staff is ready and willing to be among the ‘first responders’ in a crisis, but as time passes the pastor should be able to entrust those precious souls to someone else for on-going care; therefore, freeing the pastor to be available for others.

Camelback is launching

Stephen Ministries, carefully designed to extend pastoral care in this way. The Stephen Ministries program provides over fifty hours of bible-based, situation-specific instruction and practice. Volunteers agree to serve for at least two years, and are prayerfully assigned to one care receiver at a time, whom they typically meet once per week for about an hour. Stephen Ministers agree to participate in supervised meetings twice a month, during which they are trained to confidentially give feedback to (and receive feedback from) others in the Ministry. The purpose of the supervised gathering is to ensure that each volunteer is maintaining healthy boundaries with their care receiver, and to connect them with trained Stephen Leaders who can assist in special situations.

Initial response from the congregation is exciting; approximately twenty people began the training in May, and we expect to train another group shortly thereafter. The Holy Spirit is moving...please pray for us as we embark on this new adventure with Christ!



Upcoming Events

JUNE

10-11 | Life Hope Centers Free Clinic at Soquel Conf. Center.

18 | Summer Camp at Camp Wawona Begins.

18 | Teen Bible Academy at Camp Wawona Begins.

JULY

7-8 | Prayer Weekend at Soquel.

13-22 | Camp Meeting at Soquel.

Theme: Windows of Hope

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Fresno Adventist Academy Wins Service Award

Fresno Adventist Academy (FAA) has won the 49th annual Hands Across the Valley's Organization of the Year Award. The award represents one out of 95 outstanding nominations considered by the nonprofit, which recognizes excellence in service throughout California's Central Valley.

"It was an honor to serve as the hands and feet of Christ and to have our efforts recognized as a result," said Randall Creitz, FAA history teacher and head of the school's mission outreach. "God worked through our efforts." Under Creitz's leadership, the school sends out over 60 students for multiple service projects each week.

FAA has a rich history of volunteerism, including volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, caring for pets at an animal shelter, working with Habitat for Humanity, and aiding the Salvation Army. FAA strives to better local neighborhoods and has utilized their organic farm to donate produce to over 300 homes. Beyond these community partnerships, FAA offers annual mission trips.

"The heart of FAA, from administration to teachers to students, has shown depth of commitment to making a

difference. It has only grown stronger over 120 years of service and gains more momentum creating lifelong servant leaders in our community," said leaders of the Fresno's Community Food Bank, in their nomination of the school. "As a group, the classes display teamwork, compassion, and strong work ethics as they address diverse community issues."

Presentation of the award was at a luncheon on April 26 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Clovis, Calif. ■

By Cindy Chamberlin



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Passion of Christ

Digging Deeper

How is your Passion of Christ barometer?

How is your love for the souls needing to hear of His love, mercy and grace?

How are we hastening His soon return?

May God bless you and give you the courage to daily live and experience the Passion of Christ.



Ramiro Cano
President

The Passion of Christ has often been depicted in movies, books, videos, posters, etc., as the cruel, physical pain and sacrifice of every step taken and what awaited Him there at Calvary. But is that really the Passion of Christ?

Some will even go on pilgrimages that will somehow mimic the act and pain experienced by Christ, expecting a blessing as a result. For example, the stairs called Scala Sancta in Rome. It is said that these stairs were transferred from Jerusalem to Rome and were thought to be the stairs that Jesus climbed as he made His way to Pilate. Many will climb these stairs in pain on their knees hoping for a blessing when they reach the top.

Is there really a Passion of Christ? I say yes. It is not in the one usually depicted, but in the passion displayed in the love for souls expressed at the cross. So the Passion of Christ is really the Passion for souls—the Passion to see you and I redeemed by His own blood.

The cross gives a glimpse of the marvelous love of Christ. It lays bare the springs of infinite love and compassion for every human being.

Yes, every step taken toward Calvary was a step of sorrow, pain, sacrifice and disappointment in that He came and His own did not know or recognize Him—all motivated by His eternal love.

So the pilgrimage one is to take is to the cross; to contemplate the depths of love that assumed the debt owed by you and I because of our sin; to see the matchless width and height of mercy expressed on that wooden cross; to internalize that the reason for such a choice was the eternal Passion for the lost, for you and for me.

Every day you and I have an opportunity to live and experience that same Passion, by the way we seek to share the Good News of salvation to those around us. After all, we are called by His name: Christians, and as such we should share that Passion.

Perhaps simply giving out a GLOW tract, being a helping hand to those in need, knocking on a door to pray with your neighbor, giving a Bible study, helping in a church evangelistic series, participating in a medical missionary event, assisting with the funding necessary to facilitate evangelism... and so much more.

When you think about it, the Seventh-day Adventist Church exists to daily express the Passion of Christ in every community. That Passion is actuated by the tangible evangelistic activity of every member.

The annual camp meeting in Soquel is a perfect example of that Passion of Christ being exercised in the evangelism offering. That sacred fund is gathered through the pledges of thousands of donors who prayerfully step out in faith every year. The Lord has affirmed that fund through the many testimonies and miracles.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Thank you Lord Jesus for the passionate partners in this conference who are actively expressing the deep Passion of Christ...bless each one with your affirming hand...Amen!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ramiro".

New Hollister School Continues 93-year Legacy



Principal Barbara Thompson participating in the ribbon cutting

A spirit of excitement, accomplishment – and gratitude – pervaded the scene as people gathered in Hollister, in late April, for the grand-opening ceremony celebrating the brand new Hollister Seventh-day Adventist Christian School. Many in the crowd of approximately 100, including neighbors and community members, had experienced firsthand the multiple miracles leading up to this special event. This building is more than a school – it’s a memorial to God.

The event occurred just two weeks shy of a year since the official groundbreaking ceremony last May – an amazing feat considering the heavy rainfall during the winter months. Hollister School Principal-Teacher Barbara Thompson joyfully cut the

wide red ribbon, assisted by Central California Conference President Ramiro Cano and Conference Vice President for Education Ken Bullington. Hollister Seventh-day Adventist Church's new pastor, Vernon Herholdt, provided the keynote address, and Mike Sulen who served as interim pastor prior to Herholdt, was in attendance.

Remarkably, the church school has been a continual presence in the Hollister community for 93 years – the first school was organized in 1923, and many students from the

community have enrolled over the years. The new rural location, approximately four miles from the church, is situated on eight and a half acres. With double the space over that of the old building, the church board anticipates future enrollment increases – 36 students are currently enrolled.

“The \$5 million project moved so smoothly because God was in control,” explained Shirley Babiencko, treasurer of the Hollister Church, and creator of a special photo blog chronicling the building process on the school website. “We experienced miracle after miracle as God led every step of the way, and guided us in cost savings throughout. We were also blessed with

continued on page 4>>

Central California Conference Prayer Ministries

PRAYER PARTNERS WEEKEND *at Soquel*

July 7-8, 2017

RSVP REQUIRED

If you plan on attending, you may bring your RV and leave it for Camp Meeting at no charge. Donations are encouraged.

For sleeping accommodations:
Pat Curtis 559-642-2396
For other questions: Joyce Mulligan 559-696-3692



MBA students packing books to be placed in the new Hollister school library

<<continued from page 3

an amazing building contractor who executed the entire process in a timely and highly-organized fashion.”

Thompson, who has been with the school for six years, sees “every hurdle as an opportunity for God to show up.” She recalled how she, in faith, set the schedule ahead of time and charged toward it. “Without the church and school, families and community members who rolled up their sleeves to help, we wouldn’t have made it though the whirlwind moving week right before the Sunday ceremony,” said Thompson.

Among the volunteers were 60 energetic students from Monterey Bay Academy who arrived “ready to roll.” Thompson is also grateful for the many donations from community organizations, including tables, and 100 beautifully upholstered, comfortable chairs, which now fill the chapel assembly area.

“This school is truly a lighthouse for the community,” Thompson said. “From the Scripture graffiti composed by church and school family members, now hidden but not forgotten, beneath the drywall inside every room, to the slogan embedded on an outside wall visible to visitors, ‘Enter to learn, depart to serve,’ we now have a beautiful school where God is glorified, and where children can see Jesus.”

The project continues as workers landscape the grounds and develop a state-of-the-art multi-use playground. There are plans to grow the regular school curriculum to include how-to classes in caring for a fruit orchard, growing vegetable gardens, and small animal husbandry. Thompson would also love to see a gym and multipurpose room on the grounds someday – “there’s no dream too big for God,” she enthused. ■

By Nancy L. Reynolds

EDITOR

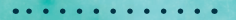
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HO'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

JUNE 2017 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

PAGE 2 | Do you know a 2017 graduate? Check this list. Oh, the places they'll go!

PAGE 3 | We're always on the lookout for a good deal, right? Check page 3 for a Neighbor Island Special on summer camp!

PAGE 4 | Did you know that you need to trim the wicks of candles periodically to keep them burning clean and bright? Our spiritual walk is like that, too.

20/20 VISION — PART 2

Did you realize that one of the most popular surgeries in the world today is laser eye surgery? It's relatively safe, relatively affordable, and relatively effective. I've never had this surgery, but I have a hunch as to why so many do. People want their sight restored. They want 20/20 vision!

I suggest we all should strive for 20/20 vision. Perhaps you remember in the last issue of Ho'ike, the emphasis was on the Hawaii Conference 20/20 Vision. The Bible is absolutely clear when it proclaims: "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Our vision is to grow the Adventist impact by 20 percent by the year 2020.

This would include growth in all areas in Hawaii. For example, when tithe grows by 20 percent, it will dramatically and exponentially expand and impact mission opportunities. This 20/20 Vision includes growth in our schools, churches, camps, baptisms, literature ministries and young people's commitments for Christ.

As I travel throughout these beautiful islands, I am constantly reminded of how God is blessing as we work toward this lofty goal. Here are three recent examples:

In April, I met with the Kihei church on Maui. They want to build a new facility on a large piece of property, which would allow them to have greater



impact on reaching their community. For years, they have been renting facilities for worship. Having their own building would provide many more opportunities to reach Kihei for Christ.

The Honolulu Korean church pastor shared how there had been several people baptized at the end of a recent series of meetings. It was thrilling to hear Pastor Ko describe the baptisms.

At our last Hawaiian Mission Academy board meeting, it was reported that five students had committed their lives to Christ and were preparing for baptism.

These examples are just a small sample and example of what God is already doing with this 20/20 Vision. The Apostle Paul said: "All glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and



in Jesus Christ through all generations forever and ever" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Did you catch that? "Infinitely more than we might ask or think" is about growing God's kingdom and about the impact of the gospel in our own

lives and our communities. Will you join us in prayer? Pray for God's direction, leading, and power as we continue to commit to Hawaii's 20/20 Vision.

Aloha in Christ,

Ralph S. Watts III





Congratulations Class of 2017

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

The Hawaii Conference congratulates the Class of 2017. May the Lord bless this milestone and the journey ahead. Always remember Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Hawaiian Mission Academy

Symantha Forbes
Kolden Kawakami
Juna Kawasumi
Reid Kim
Robert McOwen
Sophia Morgan
Elijah Motoyama
Joshua Motoyama
Maekyla Pajardo
Annie Polinski
Luca Proebstel
Justin Ra
Daniel Saldevar
Xina Sanchez
Elviz Sandoval
Svetlana Sheindlin
Jun Shin
Dylan Siok
Allan Sison
Chris Usami
Ruoxin Wang
Dwayne "DJ" Woo
Hanbyeol Yang
Hiroumi Yoshida

Adventist Malama Elementary School

Halimeda Suiso
Hinano Tehotu

Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki

Sage Akina-Garrigus
Andrew Asai
Dreton Bourne
Chloe Bryant
Jhewelz Cook
Sophia Cretu
Brooklyn Divers
Cheriann Glab
Tyler Kam
Hitoki Kidahashi
Maranatha LamYuen
Zelma Leonardo
Reyn Masaki
China Moriya
Madison Nelson
Jenelle Oana
Soterio Pao
Nica Ramirez
Shellie Saffery
Nyllah Safotu

Tyler Sheindlin
Daven Timmons
Daiki Wada
Donald Wyand
Aoi Yamada

Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus

Kennedi Espiritu
Blaise Kendall
Carson Miller
Macana Suvichai

Kona Adventist Christian School

Daniel Domingo

Maui Adventist School

Eric Rivera
Jerico San Agustin
Jharrell Sim

Mauna Loa School

Magie Freitas
Josiah Kumpel
Nolan Machado
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CAMP WAI'ANAЕ



WICK TRIMMING

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, HAWAII CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

My wife and I pulled out our kerosene hurricane lamp some time ago. It soon produced light along with a lot of smoke. We knew we had a problem, so we extinguished the flame and trimmed the wick. It was a simple solution. If only our spiritual lives were this easy.

Perhaps you have seen it: people learn about God and, with fervor, commit their lives to Him, promising to serve Him forever. This devotion lasts for a while but, eventually, the “fire” cools down — or even goes out. This may even be your experience.

Jesus said: “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). He also told the multitude listening to Him that they are the light of the world (Matt 5:14). Jesus was connecting the light in the sanctuary lampstand to Himself — and then to you and me.

I can grasp Jesus being the light of the world; but how can we, His followers, be light? I suggest you and I are wicks. Wicks and candlelight, after all, are often considered one and the same. Wicks are not technically light and neither are they fuel; they are mere instruments for flames, only noticed, perhaps, in the absence of candlelight.

Trimming the wicks on the lampstand was a daily priestly duty in the Old Testament. Charred wicks produce soot and smoke and fail to provide good or adequate light. Perhaps there are spiritual lessons to be learned from daily pruning. How might our relationship with God, for example, be characterized? Is our flame clean and bright or mostly smoke and soot?

Many have shared with me how their walk with the Lord was once ablaze. And then they flamed out. Disappointments and distractions led to disenchantments. Old or new habits then smothered Bible study and reduced prayer lives to ashes. The glow they once had in the Lord was left smoldering — choked by ungodly desires.

Frayed or ragged wicks can represent past experiences with God; but they are insufficient for today or tomorrow. God’s leadings in the past are important and should be treasured; but relying on yesteryear’s relationship with God will provide a black and smoky residue, at best. Untrimmed wicks, in short, obscure God’s flame.

Jesus spoke strong words of warning to the nominal church of Ephesus: “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back



to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches” (Revelation 2:4-5, NLT). It seems clear that God wants either trimmed wicks or no lampstand at all.

Trimming wicks was a daily work in the sanctuary. Today, this work involves repentance from sin. My prayer for you and me is, “Lord, cut out of my life anything that is diminishing love for You.”

Kingdom MATTERS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Let Freedom Ring!

by **Jim Pedersen**

*President
Northern California Conference*

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 3 • June 2017



If you happen to travel to Philadelphia, you may be interested to know that a new museum recently opened there - the Museum of the American Revolution. Philadelphia is certainly an appropriate place for it to be located. The events that took place in that city more than 200 years ago were the foundation for the United States of America. The museum displays numerous artifacts that date back to those days, including part of the tent that George Washington lived in during the Revolutionary War.

Advertisements and newscasts featuring the museum use some pretty sweeping phrases to describe it. The museum celebrates “the most important event in our history” and “everyone should come and see this museum!” I certainly agree that it’s essential for citizens to understand and appreciate the events that culminated in the Declaration of Independence, the war that followed, and freedom from England. A museum to remember those days is long overdue.

However, hearing the descriptions for this new museum has caused me to reflect on the greater scope of the world’s timeline and what I believe to be “the most important event in our history.” Of course, I’m referring to the events that took place in and around Jerusalem more than 2,000 years ago. What Jesus did through His life, death,

and resurrection was not just for one group of people. He offered freedom to anyone, anywhere, any time. His sacrifice truly was the “shot heard round the world.”

Freedom – eternal freedom from sin – is clearly dependent on the work of Jesus. “[T]he Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ” (Galatians 3:22, *New Living Translation*). We are free, as we put our faith and trust in Jesus. But freedom in Christ also comes with responsibility. “For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers

***“Freedom – eternal
freedom from sin – is
clearly dependent on the
work of Jesus.”***

and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love” (Galatians 5:13, *New Living Translation*).

It’s easy to take for granted what took place on our behalf, whether 200 or 2,000 years ago. None of us was there, but we live with the positive results. I’m grateful to live in this country and for all the benefits we enjoy, even if it’s not all perfect. But I’m even more thankful to live in the realm of God’s grace, found in Jesus Christ, with the freedom to live God’s love through me – and to know that what began at Calvary will soon be celebrated in its glorious reality throughout the ages of eternity. Praise God for that freedom!

Peace.

The Kingdom Matters newsletter is stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Northern California Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter for its constituents in the Recorder every other month.

NCC Churches Celebrate a Golden Anniversary, a Faithful Queen, and 20,000 Meals

Foretaste of Heaven" was the theme for the 50th anniversary reunion of the Hayfork church in April. Seventy-two former members and their families joined present members to worship and fellowship together throughout the weekend. John Lomacang,

PHOTOS: CONCORD CHURCH



Hayfork church charter members and their children gather together.

3ABN world evangelism director—who worked in the Hayfork/Weaverville area years ago—was the speaker for the church service and presented a musical program on Sabbath evening. "Those in attendance voiced that they were very blessed and encouraged to be faithful as we approach the heavenly homecoming," said Pastor Steven Brownell.

The day before Easter, about 300 people attended



PHOTOS: CONCORD CHURCH

The Concord International church kids present "Esther-Ordinary Faith."

the Concord International church to see a children's musical play titled "Esther-Ordinary Faith," directed by church member Keila Pratley. This is the fourth time the children of the church have presented a play, which usually takes six months of preparation. "We had a big group of people

from the community, family, and friends who don't usually come to church," said Pastor Pedro Trinidad. "This is one of our best outreach activities."



Church members and guests celebrate the Hayfork church's 50th anniversary.

On April 29, Pleasant Hill church members, Pathfinders, and children prepared 20,000 meals for hungry kids. More than 200 volunteers gathered in the Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy gym, where the nonprofit organization Kids Against Hunger had set up assembly

lines. The volunteers filled bags with measures of rice, crushed soy, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamin and mineral powder. When cooked, the contents of each bag will provide a malnourished child with a nutritionally rich and easily digested meal. After weighing and sealing every bag, the volunteers packed them in boxes for shipment. "I was overwhelmed to see how the community came together to serve," said Youth Pastor Miguel Verazas.



PHOTOS: BRENDA BRANDY



(Top) From left to right: Victoria Bishara, Kaylani Dalida, and Jaren Vitangcol work together at the Kids Against Hunger event. (Bottom) Volunteers measure ingredients for the individual meal bags.

Happy 100th Birthday, Clara King!



PHOTO: ROY FOLLENTE

Clara King celebrates her 100th birthday on April 29 at the Grass Valley church.

Born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, on April 29, 1917, Clara Neuman King celebrated her birthday at the Grass Valley church exactly 100 years later.

As a first grader, young Clara rode her pony to and from school every day. She was baptized at age 15 and has been a faithful and active Adventist her whole life. In 1935, she married Rupert King.

In the 1960s Clara organized her local church to make homemade cookies and pack them in popcorn-filled coffee cans—along with personal notes—for the American soldiers in Vietnam. Her

church received an award from the United States government for the project, which she named "Operation Cookie."

For many years, King served as a Bible worker in Oregon and at the Grass Valley church, and hundreds of people were baptized because of her efforts. She also served as the first female elder of the John Day church in Oregon.

The mother of four children, Clara has eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great grandchildren.

Know someone you'd like to see in our profile space? Send details to info@nccsda.com with their names, and why you are nominating them for the Recorder.

From Fires to Floods: the Lakeport Church Steps Up

During a crisis, the Lakeport church takes action! It's had a lot of practice—during two terrible fire seasons in 2015 and 2016, and during a severe flood this year.

In February, the city of Lakeport suffered from its worst flooding in decades. The run-off from huge winter storms caused Clear Lake to overflow its banks, and many residents lost their homes or were forced to evacuate them for safety.

"Many people's houses—some of them mobile homes from the 1960s—were destroyed, and they will never be able to go back," said Lakeport church Pastor Randy Brehms.

Working with other churches in the Lake Ministerial Organization, the Lakeport church had already been hosting a warming center five nights a week for the area's homeless population, and volunteers were feeding the guests two meals a day. During the flood, the Red Cross came on board to make it a 24/7, three-meal-a-day operation. At one point, 140 people were living and eating at the church, and 88 stayed for about a month and a half. "The Red Cross people said how much they appreciated working with us," said Brehms. "It was a team effort."

During the last few years, the Lakeport church has sheltered numerous guests who have lost their homes or been evacuated due to fires. The church housed and fed people during the Clayton fire in 2016, as well as the Jerusalem, Rocky, and Valley Fires in 2015. Last year, they also took in those who lost their homes during a local fire in Lakeport.

The church is well known in the community for its willingness to serve and its collaboration with other churches and the Red Cross. "The regard of the community for the Lakeport church is unbelievable," said Brehms.

After visiting the church's warming center in March, Tina Scott, who serves on the Lake County Board of Supervisors, wrote on Facebook: "We have amazing people in our community willing to give up their time, energy and money for no reason other than it is the right thing to do."

A guest rests on a cot provided by the Red Cross at the Lakeport church.



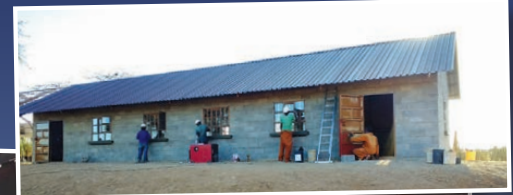
Clear Lake floods the city of Lakeport, forcing mandatory evacuations in a number of neighborhoods.



PHOTOS RANDY BREHMS



Leaving a LEGACY



This dormitory for the orphan students at the Adventist Primary School in Isiolo, Kenya was made possible in large part by a planned gift from one of our Northern California Conference members who loved participating in mission trips.

That was her passion for ministry. What's yours?



If you would like information or assistance in transforming your Passion into a Plan, we're here to help. Contact us at GiftPlan@nccsda.com or 888-434-4622.

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Adventist Book Centers Upcoming Events

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER

Sacramento Sunday

June 4, 2017

10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Don't miss this great SPRING SALE on your favorite Christian books, inspirational gifts, and veggie food (with food samples!) at your Sacramento Adventist Book Center.

CAMP MEETING SPECIALS July 15- August 15, 2017

Available at both the Pleasant Hill and Sacramento stores!

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Vegetarian Burger Institutional	\$161.80	\$137.64	\$13.49	\$11.47	Redi-Burger	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35
Chili	\$53.88	\$45.79	\$4.49	\$3.81	Linketts	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35
Chili Institutional	\$129.48	\$110.06	\$10.79	\$9.18	Linketts Institutional	\$128.94	\$109.60	\$21.49	\$18.27
Choplets	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.29	\$5.34	Big Franks	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35
Saucettes	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.29	\$5.34	Big Franks Low Fat	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35
Vegetable Skallops	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.29	\$5.34	Big Franks Institutional	\$128.94	\$109.60	\$21.49	\$18.27
Vegetable Skallops Institutional	\$161.80	\$137.64	\$13.49	\$11.47	Little Links	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35
Diced Chik	\$64.68	\$54.98	\$5.39	\$4.58	Fried Chik'n with Gravy	\$64.68	\$54.98	\$5.39	\$4.58
FriChik	\$64.68	\$54.98	\$5.39	\$4.48	Taco Filling	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35
FriChik Low Fat	\$64.68	\$54.98	\$5.39	\$4.58	Taco Filling Institutional	\$161.80	\$137.64	\$13.49	\$11.47
FriChik Institutional	\$161.80	\$137.64	\$13.49	\$11.47	5 Bean Chili	\$53.88	\$45.79	\$4.49	\$3.81
Prime Stakes	\$64.68	\$54.98	\$5.39	\$4.58	5 Bean Chili Institutional	\$129.48	\$110.06	\$10.79	\$9.18
Prime Stakes Institutional	\$161.80	\$137.64	\$13.49	\$11.47	Sloppy Joe	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35
Vegetable Steaks	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35					
Veja Links	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35	Loma Linda/Worthington Frozen				
Veja Links Low Fat	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35	Small Turkey Roll	\$115.96	\$98.57	\$28.99	\$24.65
Super-Links	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35	Chicken Roll	\$115.96	\$98.57	\$28.99	\$24.65
Tender Rounds	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35	Corned Beef Roll	\$123.56	\$98.57	\$30.89	\$24.64
Swiss Stake w/ Gravy	\$64.68	\$54.98	\$5.39	\$4.58	Wham Roll	\$123.56	\$98.57	\$30.39	\$24.64
Swiss Stake w/ Gravy Institutional	\$137.69	\$119.99	\$12.59	\$10.99	Dinner Roast	\$92.94	\$79.00	\$15.49	\$13.17
Vege-Burger	\$75.48	\$64.15	\$6.49	\$5.35	FriPats	\$65.88	\$55.99	\$5.49	\$4.67

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SALE

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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*Focused on Jesus,
we witness to the world!*

June 2017

Exploring the Wonderful Ministries In Our Territory

Greetings! I would first like to update you on the Pathfinder Bible Experience during the months of March and April.

I need to begin this article with a correction. Last time, I stated that the Elko Gold Pathfinder Club (Elko church in Elko, NV) won the right to represent the Nevada-Utah Conference in the Regional Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) competition. However, what I didn't realize was that we were also being represented by the Emmanuel Generacion Escongida and the Emmanuel Dios Con Nosotros, both from the Maranatha SDA Church in Las Vegas, NV. We were also represented by the Zion Pathfinder club, from the Centennial Hills SDA Church in Las Vegas, NV.

As I watched these young people answer those difficult Bible questions, I could not help but be very impressed.

Three of our teams - Elko Gold, Emmanuel Generacion Escongida, and Emmanuel Dios Con Nosotros Pathfinder clubs - won the right to represent the Nevada-Utah Conference in the division-level PBE competition on April 22, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois.

The North American Division *NewsPoints*, dated May 4, 2017, reports that "...500 Pathfinders on 79 teams met...for the sixth annual NAD Division testing event. Of the teams that participated in the NAD event, 53

scored 90 percent or higher, earning first place."

I am pleased to report to you that the Elko Gold Pathfinder Club, from the Elko SDA Church, was one of the first place teams at the end of the testing.

The NAD also reported that there were "approximately 10,000 Pathfinders participating in the PBE testing at the initial area level." This season, the young people were tasked with learning passages from the "Pauline Epistles."

We want to congratulate the Elko Gold Pathfinder Club for this amazing accomplishment. We also want to thank the very committed parents who assisted those amazing young people. I also want to thank Pastor Mario Navarro and the entire Elko church family who



*by Elder Leon Brown,
NUC President*

THE PHOTOS INCLUDED WITH THIS ARTICLE FEATURE JUST SOME OF THE EVENTS ATTENDED BY NUC PRESIDENT LEON BROWN AND HIGHLIGHT MINISTRIES AND EVENTS.

**Continued on
the next page**



Elko Gold Pathfinders went on to be one of the teams finishing first in the division-wide PBE competition.



"I know that being a Pathfinder has had a real impact on my life."



We are proud of all of our Pathfinders who took part in the PBE competition, at the local, then union, and finally division levels. Picture above: the Elko Gold, Emmanuel Dios Con Nosotros, Emmanuel Generacion Escogida, and Zion Pathfinders.



(Below) The North American Division held the 2017 division-wide HR conference & secretariat council in April in Las Vegas. The event included meetings and panel discussions.



OTHER EVENTS FROM AROUND OUR CONFERENCE:
(Above and Right) The spiritual retreat of the Las Vegas area men's ministry took place on the Colorado River March 17-19, 2017. Hispanic churches with their men's ministry directors organized the event and more than 90 men attended. The invited preacher was Pastor Alex Ramirez, with the theme "Men of value," and attendees learned to be men after the heart of God as David was.

stood behind their team.

A gracious thank you is in order for the Emmanuel Generacion Escongida and the Emmanuel Dios Con Nosotros teams, from the Maranatha SDA Church in Las Vegas, NV, as well. During the union-wide competition, I observed the commitment, love, and support the Maranatha members and parents had for their team. Maranatha loves their extraordinary young people, and it shows. Thank you Pastor Benjamin Carballo and your team for supporting your Pathfinders.

We also want to thank all of our local and conference-wide Pathfinder teams and their leaders. This includes all of our young people, parents, and supporters for your loyalty and encouragement of the Nevada-Utah Conference Pathfinder clubs.

I was a Pathfinder many years ago, and I know that being a Pathfinder has had a real impact on my life. I was chosen to preach my very first sermon for Pathfinder Day when I was about 14 years old. I was so nervous that I couldn't stop my shaking knees. Since then, God has used that experience and many others like it to help build me into the man He desired me to be.

The North American Division *NewsPoints*, article dated May 4, 2017, reminded me of a very important point that sometimes gets lost in our discussions about

our Pathfinder clubs. It stated the following:

"We are continuing to develop ways to connect the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) with the broader church life, Bible study, and revival, reformation and repentance," says Gene Clapp, the NAD Pathfinder Bible Experience coordinator. "The PBE program is changing lives. Not only are the Pathfinders and parents reading and memorizing the Bible, they are also learning the application — and both young and older lives are being transformed because of spending time with God!"

Praise God for our ministry to our children, youth, and young adults. Consider starting or supporting your local Pathfinder Club today.

Let's turn our attention now to another of our ministry encounters in March. During the week of March 6-10, 2017, a team from the NUC office, along with our conference attorney, Jon Daggett, visited Monument Valley. This was a three-day trip. Our first meeting was planned with the Goulding corporate officers and their attorney to understand and begin to address some of the long overdue needs and concerns that we had just become aware of.

The officers and our education superintendent then visited the mission school to observe in person the wonderful work that Wendy and Jerry Harris are doing. Next, the

"Praise God for our ministry to our children, youth, and young adults. Consider starting or supporting your local Pathfinder Club today."

Continued on the last page



(Left) Elder Joel Meyer leads the group to the edge of the vista. (Above) The view from the top of the vista.

Continued from the previous page

Members visited with church leadership, met with members and listened to their concerns. We met with the church board, followed by a substantive meeting with the members in a town hall format.

We were given a tour of an 140 acres parcel of land that the mission owns. Approximately 100 acres resides on the top of a vista and 40 acres spans the lower elevation below the vista.

This property is away from the current mission sight. We drove on dirt roads, unmarked desert trails, and over rocky terrain to get to the top of the vista. Standing on the top of that vista was awe-inspiring. From our cursory review however, the complex geographic and cultural challenges surrounding the use of the land present very real and possible insurmountable challenges. We want to thank Elder Joel Meyers for the tour.

Needless to say it was a very busy three days. We were exhausted at the end of the trip. There are real concerns that need to be addressed in Monument Valley. We are also keenly aware that there are no simple answers. But, by the grace of God, we are going to prayerfully and carefully move forward. As God leads, we will follow.

As a first step in beginning to minister to the needs of Monument Valley, the Conference Executive Committee has approved the formation of a Monument Valley Mission Board. This board is comprised of representatives from our Navajo members chosen by the church during the town hall meeting. It also includes church leadership, mission and mission school representatives, a union representative, and leaders from the

“The issues at Monument Valley are complex and challenging. However, we believe that they can be resolved. It will take bold and decisive steps to protect, enhance, and continue the work that began so many years ago.”

NUC conference office.

The first meeting of the Monument Valley Mission Board will be held within a couple of months as we are able to coordinate schedules.

We take this work very seriously. And, we understand that doing nothing isn't an option. We care deeply for the men, women, and children on the reservation. We have a mission yielded in our own backyard. We have a grand opportunity to continue to make a difference.

We also have a real opportunity to make a difference on the entire reservation, not just in Monument Valley. Solving these problems is going to take the combined effort of the Nevada-Utah Conference, the Pacific Union Conference, as well as all the surrounding conferences and unions in this region.

As we listen to and talk to those who remember the beginning of the Monument Valley Mission, it is becoming clearer and clearer to our team that we have gone away from our initial mission and vision.

The issues at Monument Valley are complex and challenging. However, we believe that they can be resolved. It will take bold and decisive steps to protect, enhance, and continue the work that began so many years ago.

Please pray for us as we carefully and prayerfully begin to address the challenges of Monument Valley in a real way. God has placed a burden on our hearts for the Navajo people. We are not going to shy away from doing the work of God in Monument Valley because it is hard work. But we are going to need your prayers and your support.

-Leon Brown, NUC President

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

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

Southeastern California Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

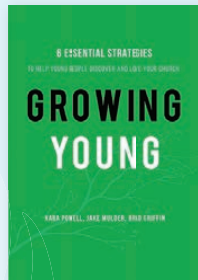


A COMPASS FOR OUR FUTURE NEXT STEPS

In the April edition of *Conference Priorities*, I shared the four new strategic priorities that we as a conference have adopted through a collaborative and prayerful dialogue with you, our church

members. Our strategic initiative, “A Compass for Our Future,” has four priorities with action steps in each: Engage, Evangelize, Educate, and Equip.

I would like to share with you some initial steps we are taking to move forward. This will be an ongoing and



dynamic process for our conference as we keep praying, evaluating what we have done, seeking input, and gathering ideas to take next steps.

Jonathan Park, executive secretary, speaks to pastors during the “Growing Young” Learning Lab on March 22.



PHOTO BY ENNO MÜLLER

ENGAGE

In order to engage our youth and young adults and develop them into our next leaders, we started with prayer. April was designated as the month to pray throughout our conference for our youth and young adults. We ask for continued prayer for them.

- We are working with all our churches on a “growing young” initiative. The term “growing young” comes from

Meshach Soli, associate pastor at Beaumont church, speaks to a group of public high school students at Propel on April 21-23 at Mile High Pines Camp.

the title of a recently published book that helps churches find ways to engage young people. This initiative includes assessments, an educational component, and a financial incentive for churches that participate.

The conference, along with the support of the Pacific Union, has committed a half million dollars to changing the culture of our churches to be more youth oriented. These funds will directly impact youth and young adult ministries in our local churches.

• We established a database of all the youth ministry professionals and volunteers. Additionally, we have been in dialogue with every pastor whose church has no youth leader and are developing plans with them to provide resources and expertise in youth and young adult ministries.

• Along with the database, we are working with every

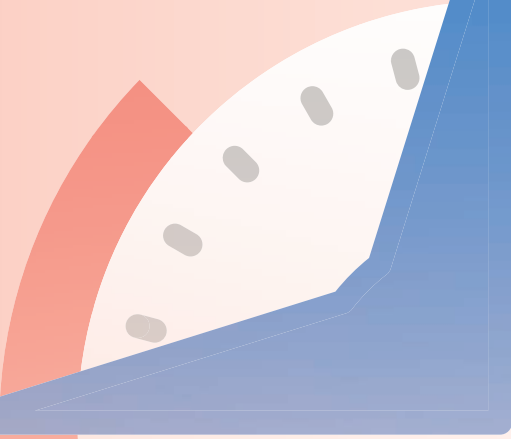
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PHOTO BY ROY RAINTUNG

EDUCATE

Take a day this month to prayerfully focus on Adventist education in our territory. Pray that school leaders can engage, evangelize, and educate more effectively. Pray also for the students in our schools, that they open their hearts and minds in helping others and be witnesses for Jesus. These children and young adults are or soon will be leaders—so we must do our part and encourage them in a positive manner.



church to integrate youth and young adults into every aspect of church life and leadership. The goal is to “turn the keys” of a church over to the younger generation as we mentor them.

Another objective is to communicate more clearly and directly with pastors, leaders, church members, youth, and young adults. The youth department has developed a new website (seccyouth.com) and the conference is more engaged in social media and e-newsletters, so that stories and resources are communicated more efficiently throughout our territory.

- The youth department will continue to sponsor and host events in order to create community between youth and young adults. Propel, an event for students in public high school, took place earlier this year at Mile High Pines Camp with over 100 students. Last winter, the conference’s young adult committee, led by the youth department, organized a retreat to the Grand Canyon. Radius, an event for young adults and singles, took place in the spring and fostered relationships through an all-day event



PHOTO BY ENNO MÜLLER



PHOTO BY ENNO MÜLLER

Workshops, training events, and mentoring church leaders in their respective ministry are just some of the ways we are working together to expand the kingdom of God.

of workshops and socializing.

- We have also identified churches that are near public high school, college, and university campuses. These churches will be coached on how to minister to their respective campus.

EVANGELIZE

Part of our conference mission statement is to “expand the kingdom of God.” We take that very seriously and want to share the good news that we have received with people all around us.

- In the May Recorder, we asked our readers to pray for ways our churches and schools can reach deep into their community to connect with and serve them. We also asked you to pray for our conference evangelists and the various meetings held throughout our conference territory.

- We encourage our pastors to emphasize to all members their call to live a life of mission.

- Every church has been provided demographics data and is encouraged to study the area around them in order to understand the needs in their community. We are also looking at our conference territory to see where population densities exist and how that correlates with our churches. This enables us to find gaps in churches and identify ideal locations for future church plants. During recent pastors meetings, we invited city officials to speak to us and to answer the question, “What do you wish churches would do in

your community?” We encouraged churches to assess spiritual gifts, human resources, and passions and expertise within their congregations, and then match those with the many needs of the surrounding community. Natural Church Development and other tools are available to churches for assessments.

- We encourage all of our churches to have a plan for evangelism and community outreach for the year with at least one major time of emphasis annually. Over \$850,000 will be distributed this year to churches to assist them and help fund evangelistic and outreach projects.

- We are collecting and gathering stories about how churches are reaching out to their communities. These stories allow us to learn from each other and share successful creative ministry ideas.

- Evangelize 2017 is a community outreach summit for lay members and pastors that will take place on September 30. This event will bring church members and pastors together to share and learn from each other to find ways to impact the communities.

EDUCATE

During this month, June, we are asking every member to pray for our schools for the impact they have every day on students and parents. We ask that you also pray for our educators and staff.

- We are looking for ways to strengthen church and school participation and partnership.

Rusty Bailey, mayor of Riverside, talks with pastors in March about what churches can do to help improve the community.



For the 2017-18 school year, a new enrollment incentive plan will encourage schools to increase their enrollment.

This means we are meeting with pastors that belong to the schools constituency churches as well as with the school administration. We will talk about how we can collaborate more effectively and how schools can benefit churches as well as how churches can best help schools.

- We have created a “think tank” that will dream about the future and prayerfully plan how we can make our education system more effective in mission and structure with an increased affordability. For the 2017-18 school year, an enrollment incentive plan has been developed that will encourage schools to increase their enrollment and benefit the local church overall.

- During the 2016-17 school year, the Office of Education piloted a curriculum coach program at Mesa Grande Adventist Academy. This program helps teachers with curriculum development, implementation, and delivery. Amy Cornwall, conference curriculum coach, has already seen impressive results in both teachers and students.

- We are committed to see Adventist Education succeed, so the conference has allocated over \$650,000 to help with the enrollment incentive as well as with the curriculum coach process.

- We are identifying younger educators who show leadership potential and are mentoring them,



Amy Cornwall started the curriculum coach program that was piloted in our conference for the 2016-17 school year.

and encouraging them to engage in graduate education for leadership to help grow future leaders.

EQUIP

We invite you to pray during the month of July for clarity in how you might live out your calling as you serve your church and community.

- Each conference department director is planning workshops, evaluating ministry resources, and working to mentor church leaders in their respective areas of ministry.

- We are collecting stories about what ministries ideas and events work. We are working on a platform for sharing these stories so that everyone can learn from these best practices and ministry ideas. The intent is that church leaders and ministry leaders will be able to connect and collaborate with each other.

- We are in the planning process of two conference-wide training events that will take place in January 2018. One will take place in the San Diego area, and the other one will take place in the Inland Empire. These events will be an opportunity for

all church ministry leaders to gather and learn. There will be inspirational speakers, workshops matching their responsibilities, and abundant resources available.

CONCLUSION

These are some action steps that we are currently working on. Every quarter we will be adding to these as we complete some and continue to gain additional ideas. I look forward to the future with great anticipation



In April, church treasurers gather for an annual workshop at the conference office.

as we follow Jesus together and intentionally work on these four strategic priorities. I welcome feedback and suggestions from you as this work belongs to all of us here in Southeastern California Conference. I urge you to fix your eyes on Jesus and move forward, following in His footsteps, and being attentive to the Spirit's leading.

*By Sandra Roberts,
SECC President*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Operation Whitecoat Documentary

(June 10) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. During the Cold War, more than 2,300 Seventh-day Adventists volunteered to serve their country by participating in U. S. Army medical experiments focused on developing defensive medical countermeasures against the Soviet Union's bio-warfare capabilities. Info and trailer: www.operationwhitecoatmovie.com.

Mentone Music Camp (June 12-17)

Mentone church, 1230 Olivine St., Mentone. This year's music camp is geared for children ages 4-18 to discover and learn how to play a new instrument or zone in on already learned skills. Info: www.mentonechurch.org/music 2017, Rodney Bowes, rodjulie@gmail.com.

Sizzling Summer Kick Off (June 16)

3-9 p.m. 100 Ocean Blvd, Coronado. Join in on the fun at this year's beach vespers hosted by the SECC youth department. This event is for all ages, so bring your beach ball and your sunscreen! Food is provided. Info: Liz Adams, 951-509-2260, ladams@seccsda.org.

Cactusville Vacation Bible Xperience

(June 19-23) 6-8:30 p.m., Hemet church, 27025 Girard St., Hemet. Cactusville VBX where kids are called to follow Jesus is coming to Hemet! There will be a VBX graduation during the church service on June 24 at 10:45 a.m. Info: Nancy Chadwick, nancychadwick77@yahoo.com.

A SYSTEM OF SUPPORT: YOUR TITHE DOLLARS AT WORK

When solidifying our church structure, Ellen White upheld the primary purpose of tithe funds to “be brought into His treasury ... to sustain gospel laborers in their work,” (CS 93.2) ... “The tithe should go to those who labor in word and doctrine, be they men or women” (MS 149, 1899). We still model this today, as the largest allocation of tithe employs and equips our pastors, enabling them to directly empower us as disciples.

Our pastors are to be servant leaders and a direct link between us and the “storehouse,” or the governing body that manages our resources—whether human, information, or monetary.

As tithe-paying members, then, what can we expect from our pastors?

Raewyn Orlich, senior pastor of the Victorville church, sees the pastoral role as a 4-fold ministry:

- **Administration:** Pastors are trained to care for practical needs of a church—communication and coordination with staff, members, meetings, major projects, and crucial decisions.
- **Preaching and Teaching:** We see our pastors up front on Sabbath, but we rarely see the preparation during the week—hours of study, planning, and prayer about how each biblical principle applies to our lives.

There are also baptismal studies,

Bible studies, and involvement with an area’s church school.

- **Pastoral Care:** When a church member struggles with illness or difficult life transitions, pastors are available for counsel and support. Pastors also equip their elders to respond in this manner.

- **Coaching:** Pastors are essentially coaches for their associates, elders, ministry leaders, and church members. Since it’s a pastor’s job to empower members for individual ministry, this mentorship role is crucial.

Additionally, Kelby McCottry, senior pastor of Valley Fellowship church in Rialto, likens the pastoral role to “jumper cables.”

“Pastors are a connector to the Ultimate Power Source when someone needs a jump. Through prayer, study, and personable outreach, we use our resources to provide that spark.”

To consistently provide this type of leadership, pastors participate in tithe-funded continuing education, workers’ meetings, counseling, and various training and support programs.

Bearing One Another’s Burdens

To strengthen all congregations in SECC this system of support extends even further, ensuring the same benefits of leadership are available to all.

“SECC has every type of Adventist church you can think of,” shares Ernest Furness, ministerial director. “Affluent to low-income, big to small, rural to urban, liberal to conservative, young to old—all working together for

the betterment of His kingdom. So we support one another through a shared fund, distributed evenly to pastors so they can serve in a variety of ways to directly meet the needs of their particular congregation.”

A pastor’s compensation is not figured by amount of tithe returned by the congregation. Pastors are paid based on experience and cost of living as part of a mutually supportive system, allowing churches with lower income or membership to receive the same caliber of pastoral leadership. Therefore a portion of tithe from higher-income churches helps provide for congregations unable to yield such numbers. Our individual returning of tithe helps all our churches shoulder the collective load of complete ministry.

By Amy Prindle



One of the pastor’s roles in the church includes helping a church member when they are going through a difficult situation in their life. If there is something you need advice about, you can talk to a pastor for counsel and support.

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

11330 Pierce Street • Riverside, CA 92505-3303 • 951.509.2200 • www.seccadventist.org
Sandra Roberts, President • Jonathan Park, Secretary • Verlon Strauss, Treasurer
Conference Priorities • Enno Müller, Editor

JUNE 2017

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

A Knock on a Door Results in an Answer to Prayer



Celebration Honors Birthday of a Centenarian Church Elder



Social Justice and the Public Affairs Religious Liberty Department



What is Social Justice?



Samuel Lee, director
Asian Pacific Region

One Man's Passionate Commitment HELPS A COMMUNITY AND SERVES A CONGREGATION

A few months ago, I met a passionate lay church member and local church elder, Dr. Yong Kim. Elder Kim is a dentist who has been serving and laboring for a vibrant congregation group, Good Neighbor Korean Fellowship, to be born right in the center of Koreatown, Los Angeles. His story is so impressive that we could not help but respect him and be attracted to his life of service and sacrifice for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Elder Kim is currently practicing at a dental clinic in Greater Los Angeles Koreatown. As a dentist, he realized that there are many who are in poverty. Dental insurance premiums are so expensive that many people do not get treatment as they expected. He has served during more than 70 mission trips and helped many homeless people. In time, though, he began to have a burden specifically for the Korean community. For that reason, eight years ago, he opened the Free Clinic Center.

Soon, he realized that the people needed more than dental work — they

needed to come to know their Savior Jesus Christ. He hired a Protestant pastor who could pray and teach them. As therapy, prayer and counsel were combined, more and more patients came in with great joy.

Four years ago, he rented an office next to the clinic and began to worship on Sabbath. Most Protestant patients actively participated in Saturday worship service and sought their church on Sunday. A group of people who were addicted to drugs and alcohol, plus homeless people gathered under one roof; the center was open to all.

Elder Kim then hired Pastor Michael Lee (Moon Suk Lee), who was formerly a Presbyterian Pastor with Seventh-day Adventist roots. Pastor Lee was helping people with their emotional problems as well as their addiction issues, especially when it came to court issues. Elder Kim and Pastor Lee had one thing in common — their passion to help people and show the love of Christ.

Elder Kim enrolled Pastor Lee Moon Suk at the Los Angeles Korean

Adventist University. Pastor Lee Moon Suk, an English-speaking Pastor, did not hesitate to start studying. After finishing several semesters, with the help of his wife's interpretation, he restored his theological Seventh-day Adventist position and became good at Korean sermons.

Pastor Lee and Elder Kim again started to organize the Sabbath service according to the Adventist church rules and continued to present and persuade the truth of Sabbath. In 2016, the Olympic Korean church (led by Pastor Hwang Soon Hwa) decided to help the grow grow by establishing the Good Neighbor Church as a branch of the Olympic Korean church as mother church.

Last November, the Olympic Korean church invited Pastor Hong Myeong Gwan to hold a prophecy seminar. In December, 15 people were baptized at Deacon No Chun Sil's swimming pool. Pastor Lee was also rebaptized.

The Olympic Korean church brought

cont. on page 2

together the Good Neighbor fellowship in 2017, with seven more baptisms in March. They are growing together in a solid way through inspiring praise, a Word-centered worship, volunteer service.

Elder Kim is currently investing most of his income in the Free Clinic Center and Good Neighbor church. The Good Neighborhood Service Center (the Clinic Center) has recently become fully compliant with government regulations and is awaiting nonprofit approval. The

service center has a dream of bringing in many doctors and experts in the future to grow the free neighborhood clinic into a hospital that treats people of any denomination.

This congregation's vibrancy and growth has been amazing to see. It's not easy to plant a church in downtown Koreatown, but through the long-term commitment of one lay person, it became a reality. It had been a journey of more than eight years, but he did

not give up. This type of commitment represents one's character. When we look at our lives, I pray we will find that our greatest commitment is to Jesus Christ our Lord.

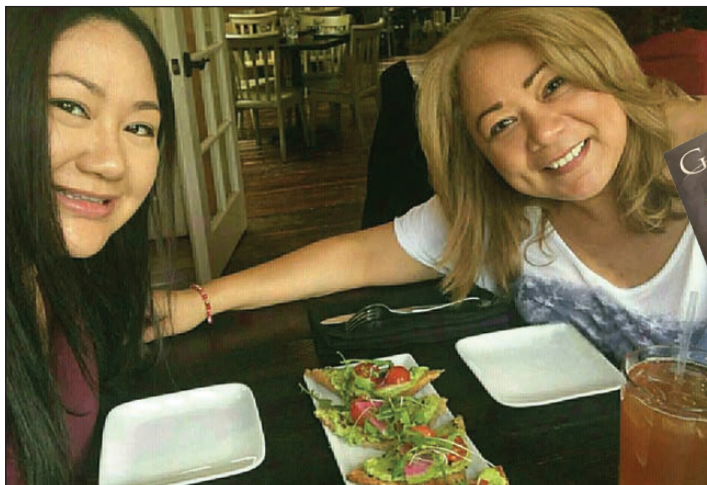
Samuel Lee, director
Asian Pacific Region
Department

A KNOCK ON A DOOR

Results in an Answer to Prayer

By David Fernandez

Marlene Dizon is a member of the Central Filipino church in Los Angeles. Her three-year-old niece invited her to go GLOWing on Feb. 11. Although she was reluctant to go, Dizon couldn't refuse the fun of going with her cute niece. While knocking on doors, she could see the interest and curiosity of the community in the literature.



(l. to r.) Marlene Dizon enjoys lunch with new friend Gina Riegos.
Photo by Marlene Dizon

At her last door, Gina Riegos answered. Dizon gave her some GLOW tracts. "What are these?" Riegos asked.

"It's Christian literature," responded Dizon.

"What church are you from? Where are you guys located?" Riegos excitedly asked.

"I'm from the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Dizon answered, with a smile.

"You know, to tell you the truth," said Riegos, in awe, "I had just prayed this morning that God would lead me to the right church!"

Dizon felt chills when she heard

this! Later on in the conversation, She felt impressed to ask Riegos if she was interested in having Bible study lessons. "Yes!" Riegos quickly answered.

Although Dizon was planning to have a friend give the Bible studies, plans changed and the Bible study was left in her hands to follow up. The day came for their first Bible study — Friday, February 17. Though it was a very windy, rainy day, Dizon prayerfully went to give the first Bible study she personally had ever given in her life.

Several miraculous things happened that day, and prayers were answered. God provided for their needs and kept them safe in the storm! Both ladies thoroughly



enjoyed the study. "This experience was a testimony of how God answers prayers," said Dizon. "He shows you that He is with you when you go GLOWing."

Dizon's new friend Gina Riegos has been faithfully attending Sabbath services since their first encounter with GLOW and Dizon.

From a simple desire to give a positive answer to a young child to go out in the neighborhood with GLOW tracts, and a decision to follow through with giving Bible studies, a prayer was answered and a new life direction taken. Readers who wish to see how God answers prayers in their own lives and neighborhoods, please call 818-546-8435 to learn how to acquire GLOW tracts for their own experiments in faith by knocking on doors.

Celebration Honors Birthday OF A CENTENARIAN CHURCH ELDER

By Lauren Armstrong

Julian Benjamin, an elder and deacon at the All Nations church, celebrated his 100th birthday this spring, surrounded by friends and family. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 17, 1917, he lived in Virginia and New York City before finding his way to California, where he has lived in the San Gabriel Valley for more than 70 years. He and his late wife, Ellouise, were faithful members of the Ivy Avenue church, before it became the All Nations church.

Julian and Ellouise married in 1953 and were blessed with two children (Renee and Julian, Jr.), three grandchildren (Julian III, Jason and Janelle) and six great-grandchildren (Asia, India, Dominique, Cerulean, Violet and Dulce ... with a seventh on the way)!

“My dad has a great memory for dates and for Bible texts,” said his daughter Renee Benjamin. “He loves history and loved reading the Bible and Ellen White’s books prior to his stroke.



Friends and family gathered for a family photo on Benjamin’s birthday.

He still enjoys having the Bible and his Sabbath School lesson read to him each day.”

In his earlier years, Benjamin greatly enjoyed going door to door to witness and share about Jesus. He purchased Bible tracts (in bulk) and copies of *Steps to Christ* from the Adventist Book Center in Glendale to give to the people he met.

Benjamin also greatly valued Christian education, evidenced by the great sacrifices he made to ensure that both of his children had the opportunity to receive Adventist education from elementary school through college. As a result, both

of his children received their college degrees from Loma Linda University—La Sierra Campus. Benjamin and Ellouise showed their continued commitment to Christian education by subsidizing the Adventist school tuition of their grandchildren and great-grandchild.

“During his long and productive lifetime, he has demonstrated in countless ways his dedication to God and concern for the welfare of others and has earned the respect and affection of all who know him,” Renee said.

Benjamin’s faithfulness has surely inspired many. At his 100th birthday party, his youngest great granddaughter placed a crown on his head as a reminder to everyone of the heavenly crown all hope to one day receive. This was especially fitting, as her great grandfather’s favorite Bible text is Revelation 2:10, “Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life.”

In Transition

(Voted Feb. 4; Apr 13, 2017)

New Employees

Gustavo Cruz

Pastor, Ebenezer Span./Silver Lake Span. churches as of 3/1/17.

Michael J. Stevenson

Pastor, Santa Clarita church, starting 4/1/17.

Changes Within the Conference

Morris Barnes

From Pastor, Bethel church; to Pastor, Antelope Valley church, as of 2/11/17.

Albert Frederico

From Interim Pastor, Rolling Hills church; to Pastor, Rolling Hills church, as of 2/11/17.

Franklin Grant

From APC, Pico Rivera Bilingual church/Ebenezer church; to Pastor, West Hollywood/Pico Rivera Bilingual churches; as of 3/1/17.

John Jenson

From Pastor, South Bay/Hawthorne churches; to Pastor, South Bay/Hawthorne churches, as of 3/1/17.

Moise Isaac

From Pastor, Compton Community church; to Pastor, Bethel church, as of 4/1/17.

Rogelio Paquini

From Pastor, Adonai Span. church; to Pastor, West Covina Hills church, as of 4/1/17; voted 4/13/17.

Stewart Walker

From Pastor, Antelope Valley church; to Pastor, Hidden Treasures Co., as of 4/1/17.

Leaving the Conference

(Voted Feb. 4, 2017)

Maria Ovando-Gibson

From Associate Pastor, Hawthorne church, as of 1/31/17.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE *Public Affairs Religious Liberty Department*



By James G. Lee, Jr.

Our hope is to expand the ministry of the Religious Liberty Department beyond Sabbath work issues and Union dues. Religious Liberty has a much broader perspective and scope than is commonly thought. Ideally, it should balance social justice with the mission of the church.

In the months ahead, we will be working to ensure that the department will be addressing social justice issues in the communities in which we worship and serve.

Our goal is to get into the community and pursue the depth of ministry to which Ellen White referred in her writings; we would be helping the community and the community would respond positively.

In church, when we see each other, our fellowship must go beyond saying "Happy Sabbath." We must show compassion, kindness and caring. Our Religious Liberty/Public Affairs ministry must mean meeting the people and mingling them where they are, as Jesus did (MH 143). Christ won people's confidence as he ministered to their needs, as He showed them that He cared about them. He went to where they were; He didn't wait for them to come to Him.

We are getting more involved with the agenda of the community. When people are hurting in the community, we need to be there to support them. In cities where there are lots of police shootings, we need to partner with the



community and the police department, and help to bring about reconciliation and healing.

Unfortunately, as Adventists, we too often become focused internally, on our beliefs and practices, our activities. These are all good, but they are not our main mission. When we have focused inwardly, community people have recognized this. "You Adventists want us to join your church; you are not concerned about being part of our community," some have said. We need to turn our gaze upward and outward, seeing and meeting with, and ministering to, the people just as Jesus did.

Please be praying and considering how you and your church can become more involved in the community.

Because social justice issues involve a complex, comprehensive range of community challenges, the conference Public Affairs Religious Liberty Department will join forces with Adventist Community Services, the Communication Department and the Health and Temperance Ministry to plan ways to respond to social justice-related needs in the community.



To help emphasize this expanded direction, we are planning an abbreviated "Justice Weekend" on Sept. 9 and 10, 2017. (Venue to be determined.) This day will help foster awareness of some of the many community issues in which we as a church can get involved. The following are just a few of the issues that

will be discussed and resourced on this special weekend:

- **Social Justice and Domestic Violence**
- **Social Justice and Religious Discrimination**
- **Social Justice and Human Trafficking**
- **Social Justice and Community Engagement**
- **Social Justice and Economic Empowerment**
- **Social Justice and Diversity**
- **Social Justice and Health**
- **Social Justice and Immigration**
(An issue for which we initially have provided training, on May 21, 2017.) ... and much more!

It is time for us to live out our faith by participating more fully in our communities. "*The greatest tragedy of [any] period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.*" – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let us not be silent!

James G. Lee, Jr., director
Public Affairs Religious Liberty
Adventist Community Services

Betty Cooney, Communication director
Chair, Health Response Steering
Committee