

Recorder



**Adventist Health Docs
Perform Volunteer
Cleft Palate Repair** **28**

Your Best

PATHWAY to HEALTH

Phoenix Mega Clinic

December 25-27, 2017

3,500 Volunteers Needed

Dentists, Dental Hygienists & Assistants, Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Nurses
Surgeons, Doctors of All Specialties, Hair Stylists and Non-medical Volunteers



Give the gift of health to thousands on Christmas!

**Information & Volunteer Registration at
PathwaytoHealthVolunteer.org**



Scan for video

Your Best Pathway to Health is a humanitarian service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in partnership for the Phoenix mega clinic with the Arizona Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Be Still and Know

One morning recently, in our devotional time together, Audrey and I focused on the gentle invitational command of God: "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth'" (Psalm 46:10).

Several things jump out at me from the first part of this text.

First, we need to calm ourselves and sit at the feet of Jesus, in quietude. We must listen to His spirit address our weakness and fill us with power from on high, as He did the man possessed with a demon. Luke 8:35: "And the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid" (NIV).

He had received much from God and, at the moment of that realization, he just wanted to be in the presence of the One who had delivered him from his madness. (Could it be that sitting in Jesus' presence is a place where we have our right mind restored?)

Mary also "sat at the feet of Jesus" listening to what He said, and when her sister, Martha, who was perhaps the "hostess with the 'mostest,'" asked Jesus to tell Mary to assist her in preparing the food, Jesus not only declined to do so but defended her by saying Mary had chosen the better part, and He wouldn't take it from her (Luke 8:39-42).

Sitting quietly and meditating on who God is as revealed in the Scriptures is powerful. It is an inexhaustible practice because we as humans are finite and God is infinite and beyond our ability to comprehend. Of course, as we yield to the powerful presence of God, there are an infinite number of possibilities with Him. He strengthens us for unrelenting spiritual warfare against sin, self and Satan's attempt to manipulate our brokenness.

Secondly, we are to know that He is God and we are not. We cannot save ourselves. Only God can do that. Focusing on God in stillness is a pathway to recognizing His forgiveness and empowerment. Of course, there is much more than being forgiven and being empowered to overcome sin.

It seems to be a challenge to just sit still in an age of constant movement and distraction. The hustle and bustle of 21st century life is challenging enough in itself, but we often add to that by constantly staring into the screens on our digital devices. It seems that even when we sit down, our brains are "racing" on our smartphones, pads and computers. We rush from one email or text to the next. And then there are the games that overcharge our brains and prevent a true "stilling" of ourselves.

Would it be good to just turn off all the devices or enter a room without anything but a copy of the Bible to read and meditate the "old school" way, without the aid of technology?

Ellen White once wrote: "An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusements, in money-making, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this

maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. 'Be still, and know that I am God'" (*The Signs of the Times*, p. 2396).

Again she says: They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, and the burdened heart will be lightened and encouraged" (*The Signs of the Times*, p. 2396)

Our Lord Jesus wants us to stop and focus on Him. Seriously. Everyday. Throughout the day.

It is not, as one advertisement used to say, "the pause that refreshes." We need to linger, and spend serious time in His Spiritual presence.

Spending time in private worship, in personal devotion is a necessity for the Christian who seeks to, as the apostle Peter wrote: "... to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen" (2 Peter 3:18, NIV).

Grace and knowledge may seem to be an odd combination, an interesting pairing. But apparently Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as he reminisced while writing to his flock, thought it not odd, but essential for us to "grow in grace." Growing in grace "is not merely God's mercy and willingness to forgive; it is an active, energizing, transforming power to save" (*SDA Bible Commentary*, v. 6, p. 504).

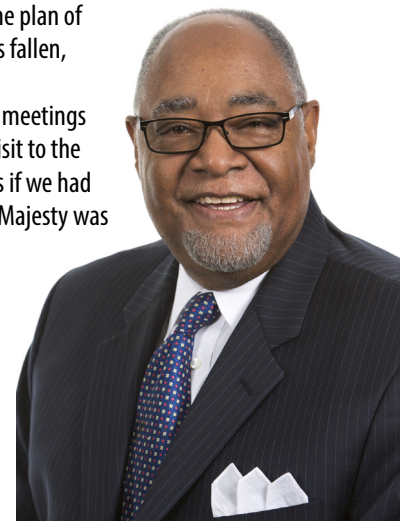
Not only does spending time alone with God grant us an abounding appropriation of 'grace-power,' but also a working knowledge, a relational knowing, of who God is, and this is made clearer to us in the personage of Jesus the Christ. As we look at Him, study His principles and imitate His actions in soul surrender, we come into a continually expanding "data base" of who He is.

God does not want us to have only information about Him — He is inviting us into a relationship, a friendship that has no comparison in this world. Just think, the God of the universe, the Universal Creator, Designer and Implementer of the plan of salvation, seeks an audience with us, His fallen, earth-bound children.

Recently, Audrey and I returned from meetings in London, England. In recounting our visit to the world-renowned city, someone asked us if we had met the Queen. We responded that Her Majesty was not available to receive us.

However, the King of Eternity always has time for us, if we would just be still and know that He is God. Wholehearted seeking Him is always rewarded with the blessing of finding Him.

Ricardo Graham, D.Min.





ABOUT THE COVER

Plastic surgeon Steven Herber (and reconstructive surgeon Martin Paukert, not pictured) volunteered to repair Precious's cleft palate.



PACIFIC UNION **Recorder**

Publisher

Ray Tetz — ray@puconline.org

Editor / Layout

Alicia Adams — alicia@puconline.org

Printing

Pacific Press Publishing Association
www.pacificpress.com

The Recorder is a monthly publication reaching approximately 76,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

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

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENTS

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

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

Central California 559-347-3000
Cindy Chamberlin — cchamberlin@cccsda.org

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

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

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

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

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

Pacific Union College 707-965-6202
Larissa Church — pr@puc.edu

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

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

Postal Regs: The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 117, Number 8, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and is published monthly. Editorial office is at 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361: 805-497-9457. Periodical postage paid at Thousand Oaks, CA, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: No charge to Pacific Union Adventist church members; \$15 per year in U.S.; \$20 foreign (U.S. funds); single copy, \$2. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Circulation Department, Pacific Union Recorder, Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359.

CONTENTS

- 28 Adventist Health
- 29-32 Advertising
- 22 Arizona
- 12-13 Central California
- 14 Hawaii
- 23 La Sierra University
- 24-25 Loma Linda
- 15-18 Newsletters
- 19 Nevada-Utah
- 8-9 Northern California
- 26-27 Pacific Union College
- 10-11 Southeastern California
- 20-21 Southern California
- 6-7 Union Feature

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

SUNSETS

	8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25
Alturas	8:14	8:05	7:55	7:44
Angwin	8:15	8:07	7:58	7:48
Calexico	7:36	7:29	7:22	7:13
Chico	8:15	8:06	7:57	7:47
Eureka	8:27	8:18	8:08	7:57
Fresno	8:01	7:53	7:44	7:35
Hilo	6:55	6:51	6:46	6:40
Honolulu	7:07	7:03	6:58	6:52
Las Vegas	7:41	7:33	7:25	7:16
Lodi	8:09	8:01	7:52	7:42
Loma Linda	7:45	7:38	7:35	7:26
Los Angeles	7:50	7:43	7:39	7:30
Moab	8:23	8:14	8:05	7:55
Oakland	8:12	8:04	7:58	7:46
Phoenix	7:23	7:16	7:08	7:00
Reno	8:07	7:58	7:49	7:38
Riverside	7:46	7:39	7:31	7:22
Sacramento	8:11	8:03	7:54	7:44
Salt Lake City	8:37	8:28	8:19	8:08
San Diego	7:42	7:36	7:28	7:20
San Francisco	8:13	8:05	7:56	7:47
San Jose	8:10	8:02	7:53	7:44
Tucson	7:17	7:10	7:02	6:54

Six Students Baptized at Holbrook Indian School

On Friday, May 19, faculty, staff, friends, and family of Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School gathered to witness the baptisms of six students and two professions of faith.

The majority of students attending HIS are not Christians. Many come from secular homes, others practice traditional Native American ceremonies, and a few even combine Christian and traditional beliefs.

Native Americans generally distrust the Christian religion, because the injustices done to indigenous people throughout North America were done largely in the name of Christianity. Sadly, American Indians see greed, prejudice, and broken promises as hallmarks of the Christian faith.

Decisions for baptism are often met with disdain and disapproval. A few years ago, a student's father walked out of the church during his baptism. He later told his son that being baptized was the most foolish thing he'd ever done. More recently, a student's mother forbade him to be baptized. The student is grappling with the difficult choice of dishonoring his mother or following Jesus.

When students decide to be baptized, some see them as traitors or, at best, misguided. Chief Joseph the Younger, one of the most famous historical American Indians, said: "I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. Looking Glass is dead. Toohoolhoolzote is dead. The old men are all dead. It is the young men who say, 'Yes' or 'No.' He who led the young men [Olikut] is dead. It is cold, and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are — perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children, and see

how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever."

Chief Joseph was born in the Willowa Valley in what is now northeastern Oregon in 1840. He was given the name Hin-mah-too-yah-lat-kekt, or Thunder Rolling Down the Mountain, but was widely known as Joseph, or Joseph the Younger, because his father had taken the Christian name Joseph when he was baptized at the Lapwai mission by Henry Spalding in 1838.

Joseph the Elder was one of the first Nez Percé converts to Christianity and an active supporter of the tribe's longstanding peace with the United States government. In 1855, he even helped Washington's territorial governor set up a Nez Percé reservation that stretched from Oregon into Idaho. But in 1863, following a gold rush into Nez Percé territory, the federal government took back almost six million acres of this land, restricting the Nez Percé to a reservation in Idaho that was only one tenth its prior size. Feeling betrayed, Joseph the Elder denounced the United States, destroyed his American flag and his Bible, and refused to move his band from the Willowa Valley or sign the treaty that would make the new reservation boundaries official.

In his last years, Joseph the Younger spoke eloquently against the injustice of United States policy toward his people and held out the hope that America's promise of freedom and equality might one day be fulfilled for Native Americans. He died in 1904, still in exile from his homeland, "of a broken heart," according to his doctor. (See "New Perspectives on THE WEST" at pbs.org.)

One of the first Christian boarding schools in North America had the motto: "Kill the Indian. Save the Man." That history stigmatizes schools like Holbrook among Native people. "It is a miracle we have any students at all," says Diana Fish, director of development at HIS. "And the fact that students are choosing to be baptized is amazing evidence of the Holy Spirit working among our students. We praise God for these young people, who choose to follow Him, even in the face of many trials and hardships."



HIS students, left to right: Logan Ohmsatte, freshman; Marklynn Whitehair, sophomore; Shawnewa Dahozy, freshman; Johanna Puente, sophomore; Decovan Uqualla, sophomore; Michael Tachine, junior; Sheldon Nez, senior; Skyler Nez, junior.

Diana Fish

Why Mission Matters: Scott Reiner

In the July issue of the *Recorder*, we sat down with Pacific Union President Ricardo Graham to get his thoughts on the mission of the Pacific Union Conference. This month, Adventist Health CEO Scott Reiner explains how mission affects Adventist Health, a Pacific Union-based organization.

What does “mission” mean to you?

Mission is the organization’s reason for existence. Our identity provides meaning and purpose in the work we do every day.

What is the mission statement for your organization?

“Living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.”

Does your organization also have separate vision, purpose or values statements?

Our vision is to “transform the health experience of our communities by improving health, enhancing interactions, and making care more accessible.” Our values are integrity, compassion, respect, and excellence.

There is a concern that the realities of managing the business of healthcare will be a distraction from the mission of healthcare. The challenge is ... integrating core business with mission so they are not at odds with one another.

Adventist Health’s mission and vision are strongest when understood together. Together they inspire both internal and external audiences. Our vision statement is the destination, while our mission statement is how we get there. Our mission speaks to a sacred calling. This is more than a job. It is an extension of Jesus’ healing ministry. As we live His love through the work we do, those we serve experience who God is and are inspired to health, wholeness and hope.

Who are the stakeholders in your organization, both internal and external?

Associates (employees), physicians, patients, the communities we serve, business partners, and our sponsor (the Seventh-day Adventist Church).

How does the mission of Adventist Health relate to, and differ from, the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Adventist Health does not see the missions as different from one another, but complementary. When you view them together, you get a depiction of Jesus’ earthly ministry: “Seeking first to fill the people’s needs, He then invited them to follow Him.” As we live our mission, lives and communities are transformed. It is then that people’s minds and hearts are open to know more of Him and His saving grace.

How do we ensure that there is excellence in execution of our mission-driven activities?

Adventist Health has put together a Mission Integration Team and is investing in a Mission Integration Model that is currently being rolled out across our organization. We are also working to ensure alignment of mission understanding and culture.

“Our mission speaks to a sacred calling. This is more than a job. It is an extension of Jesus’ healing ministry. As we live His love through the work we do, those we serve experience who God is and are inspired to health, wholeness and hope.”

How does mission really drive what your organization does on a day-to-day basis?

Adventist Health believes that day-to-day operations are how we live mission. The beauty of mission-driven healthcare work is that the core business *is* mission. We drive mission by being authentic about who we are and why we are here. Mission is at the core of all we do and who we are. In everything, we ask, “How does this support our mission?”

What weaknesses or challenges do you see impacting the pursuit of the mission?

The healthcare landscape is constantly shifting which requires us to be flexible and responsive. Our challenge is twofold. First, we must ensure our margins remain strong to support our ever-expanding mission. Second, there is an ever-present concern that the realities of managing the *business* of healthcare will be a distraction from the *mission* of healthcare. We recognize that a successful organization needs both. The challenge isn’t balancing mission and core business; it is integrating core business with mission so they are not at odds with one another.

How does your organization measure the outcomes/impact of its mission? In other words, how do you know whether or not you’re effective?

Transformed people and communities are the most important measure of success. Right now, we are working on a “mission integration scorecard” that will include a wide number of metrics. These measurements will include things like: community impact and perception measures, culture, spiritual environment, employee engagement and patient experience surveys.

If an initiative is determined to be both low impact and low profitability, is there a mechanism to phase it out?

Adventist Health is currently working on being more intentional about this process. When mission and margin are perceived as being different, it makes this process very difficult. In the past, we have sustained significant financial losses because of negative mission impact concerns. Today, we recognize that the effectiveness of core business is directly tied with our ability to live mission. As a result, we have and will continue to make tough decisions if we feel it is the best thing for the community and the overall mission of our organization. Our mission of service and faith is not completely unique to us, and will need partners in healthcare to continue being successful.



Teacher Rachel Nordyke Fights Fires, Literally

In a time when superheroes have grabbed the imagination of popular culture, someone should tell the story of Rachel Nordyke — mild-mannered elementary school teacher who fights fires and saves lives in her “spare” time.

Now on summer break, Nordyke teaches kindergarten and lower grades at Echo Ridge Christian School in Nevada City. When she’s not teaching, Nordyke is a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician for the Ophir Hill Fire Protection District. In 2015, she won that district’s Firefighter of the Year award, as well as the Top Responder award for running the most calls. (She lived at the fire station that summer.)

Nordyke studied at Southern Adventist University, earning her teaching credential and a master’s degree in inclusive education. She was there when a terrible fire burned part of the women’s residence hall. Afterward, Nordyke struggled with her feelings, and a friend suggested that taking a first responder class might make her feel empowered. She ended up earning Tennessee’s first responder certification at a fire station near the university. When she moved back to California — where she grew up — she earned its first responder certification, as well as an EMT certification.

In her role as firefighter, Nordyke responds to vehicle accidents, structural fires, and wild fires. Last summer, she was proud to fight a fire that threatened her home congregation, the Grass Valley church. “I’m not protecting a random community,” she said. “I’m protecting my students and my community.”

Nordyke’s students. “She makes their unit on fire safety special by using personal experience and her training to illustrate the principles.”

Five years ago, Teaching Principal Sara Filippis decided to hire a kindergarten teacher to help the school grow. It was already late July. “I was stressing out, and I prayed about it,” she said. When she interviewed Nordyke, she knew she had found the right person for the job — and she has been proven right. “She puts her heart and her soul into what she is doing here,” said Filippis.

Julie Lorenz



Rachel Nordyke (far right), with teacher's aide Bernice Meier, takes students on a visit to her fire station.



Standing with Echo Ridge Christian School Principal Sara Filippis, Rachel Nordyke wears a fun headband during school spirit week.



Students in Nordyke's class enjoy her creative lessons.

For Nordyke, the most important aspects of her volunteer work are public education, fire prevention, and kids' programs. “I’m adamant about kids knowing what to do and what not to do,” she said. “I know what it’s like to be standing outside a house on fire and parents tell me their kids are inside.”

When she talks about safety, her students realize they are hearing from an expert. “The kids love that teacher Rachel is also a firefighter,” said Crissy Hodgson, mother of two of

Super School Growth

During recent years, Echo Ridge Christian School has undergone a surge in growth — a heroic tale in itself for a school that is more than 80 years old.

Just before Principal Sara Filippis’s arrival five years ago, only nine students were enrolled at the end of the school year. She learned that the school needed 18 students by the end of the upcoming school year in order to stay open.

Knowing they needed a kindergarten in order to grow, she hired Rachel Nordyke. Then Filippis, Nordyke, and school supporters worked hard to reach out to their community. By the end of that school year, 23 students were enrolled. And over the next few years, more kept coming. “The school has continued to grow, and the children are thriving,” said parent Crissy Hodgson.

Filippis is especially thankful to local church members for their support. “Their focus is mission. They are the ones that came in and said, ‘We want to see this school grow,’” she said. “They’re working together with Echo Ridge to provide our community with Adventist education.”

Oakland Market Street Vietnamese Church Group Builds Strong Community Relationships

Thanks to the work of the Oakland Market Street Vietnamese church group, meaningful friendships are forming between Adventists and members of the local Vietnamese community in the East Bay. Thanks to these relationships, three people have been baptized, and many more are being introduced to the gospel and invited to attend church.

About two years ago, Pastor Long Thatcher (whose Vietnamese name is Hanh Long Thach) founded the East Bay Adventist Vietnamese Language School. He and his team offer free classes to help people learn English, prepare for the United States citizenship test, and study the Bible. "We want our congregation not only to be a place of worship, but also an education center and a community center," said Thatcher.

Every Sunday, volunteers conduct classes in a rented room at the Vietnamese Community Center of the East Bay. Between 18 and 30 people attend "English Made Easy" in the morning and a citizenship test preparation class in the afternoon.

"I like to help my community in Oakland," said Dai Hien Nguyen, a volunteer teacher. Nguyen says that his students are motivated to learn English so they can speak to their children and grandchildren, and can pass the citizenship test. So far, the students' efforts have paid off. More than 10 people have passed their citizenship exam, which includes questions about U.S. history and government.

Between the two classes, students are invited to enjoy lunch and attend a Bible class. Most people stay for the entire time, which is why the Bible study is held in the middle of the day.

"Our objective is to bring as many Vietnamese people as possible into a saving relationship with Jesus and to prepare for His Second Coming," said Thatcher.

On Wednesdays, Thatcher and other team members return to the community center to conduct Bible studies, give practice citizenship tests, and offer counsel. The team sometimes takes students on friendship-building trips to surrounding areas, such as the Golden Gate Bridge and Monterey Bay. They also invite people to help with an ongoing project, led by church member Huoi Luong, which serves food to the hungry in a nearby park. "I am pleased to help the homeless," said Luong.

The Market Street Vietnamese church group also tries to make connections by celebrating



Pastor Long Thatcher leads the East Bay Adventist Vietnamese Language School.



A wide variety of ages attend English, citizenship, and Bible classes at the school.



Women work together at the school.



Huoi Luong helps a student during a citizenship class.

members of the local Asian community who are making a difference in people's lives. For example, during a recent Sabbath morning worship service, the group honored a retiring high school teacher who was a pioneer in establishing English classes for Vietnamese adults in the Bay Area.

Del Dunavant, NCC Evangelism/Church Growth director, appreciates that Thatcher and his church members are striving to follow Jesus' method of evangelism. "For true success, we're admonished to mingle with people, minister to their needs, and then invite them to Christ," said Dunavant, whose department has allocated money for this project. "In our secular, post-modern world, we meet people's needs so we can earn the right to be heard."

Julie Lorenz

SECC Welcomes Inland Empire Indonesian Church

Members of the Inland Empire Indonesian church witnessed the reward of their dedication and sacrifice on Sabbath, April 8. During the worship service, the Southeastern California Conference officially welcomed the congregation to its sisterhood of churches.

"We're so excited about it," said Charles Manullang, ministry coordinator at the church. "The whole church came together and worked together and prepared everything well. We prayed a lot for this to happen. God answered our prayer."

Kloster Sihotang, church clerk, agreed. "All the members of the congregation felt happy and blessed to witness the long-awaited celebration become reality," he said.

The occasion was many years in the making. In early 1998, a group of Adventists began meeting together as the Indonesian church group of the Inland Empire. Not long afterward, they asked Manullang to serve their group. Several months later, they purchased a building on D Street in San Bernardino, which they remodeled to serve as their church.

By 2006, the group had grown to 200 members. They sold their church and purchased one from another denomination — located on 4.3 acres on Sterling Avenue in San Bernardino — where they still worship today. Later, Manullang returned to Indonesia to study, and Edison Hutauruk led the group for a number of years. At the end of 2014, Manullang returned. On Jan. 24, 2015, the group officially became a company.

The congregation then decided that they wanted to finish paying for their property, and many families loaned the church money, interest-free. "We were in unity and of one accord," said Bliherth Sihotang, head elder. "It was amazing — a miracle from God."

The church is now focusing on ways to reach the local Indonesian community. Most Sabbaths, the services are conducted in the Indonesian language, with English translation as necessary. Once a month, the



Jaender Hutauruk, head deacon, participates during the Inland Empire Indonesian church inauguration on April 8.



Sandra Roberts, conference president, provides an encouraging message during the church service. Albert Waworundeng, right, translates.



Leaders of the church and conference stand before the newly unveiled plaque celebrating the church's new sisterhood in the conference. From left to right: Jaendar Hutauruk, head deacon; Kloster Sihotang, church secretary; Charles Manullang, ministry coordinator; Sandra Roberts, conference president; Jonathan Park, conference executive secretary; Verlon Strauss, conference treasurer; Bliherth Sihotang, elder; Elizer Sacay, conference vice president for Asian/Pacific Ministries; Togar Siahaan, elder.

church youth lead the service in English. The congregation reaches out to its community in a variety of ways, including an active Pathfinder club, Vacation Bible School, youth revival meetings, and more.

Overseas mission work is also a priority. This year and last, the church took evangelistic teams to Indonesia, and 59 people were baptized as a result of their endeavors.

"We want not only to reach out around San Bernardino, we want to help people in our home country," Manullang said.

The Indonesian church of the Inland Empire is doing its part to finish God's work. "They are very cordial and cooperative. Their spirit and energy encouraged me to be supportive in whatever way I could," said Elizer Sacay, SECC vice president of Asian/Pacific Ministries. "This church has a bright future toward growth as God is made supreme and respect to each other is present."

Julie Lorenz

Six Small Schools Gather for Athletic Day

More than 170 K-8 students from six small schools gathered on the turf field at La Sierra University May 25 for a day filled with interactive games, relay races, and friendly sports during SECC's small school athletic day.

"I'm really glad we came this year," said Kimberly Matthews, teaching principal at Valley Adventist Christian School. Matthews' 27 students, grades two to eight, were divided up with students of five other schools from El Cajon, Hemet, Murrieta, Needles, and Victor Valley. Each group then rotated to each activity.

PHOTOS BY JESSICA ANZAI



Students enjoy free time after lunch to play with toys and sports equipment that they might not have in their schools.



Doug Mace, game organizer, thanks parents and teachers for bringing their students before explaining the last game of the day.

"My favorite thing was the bubble soccer ball!" said Olivia Suttle, a third-grade Valley Adventist Christian School student, in reference to the inflatable human soccer ball game.

Fourth-grader Jazmin Arriola from Needles SDA School agreed.

"Jazmin loves soccer and a lot of sports," said Laticia Arriola, Jazmin's mom. "Today she's having fun, her feelings aren't getting hurt, and I can see the joy exuding from her and her classmates."

Other games included a scooter relay, egg toss, hopper ball races, tug-o-war, noodle games, skateboard rides, and more.

"We're returning to the art of play," said Doug Mace, associate pastor for junior high ministries at Loma Linda University church. "Nowadays, phones and electronics have pulled kids out of the ball fields and parks and onto the couch. When children play these active games, they don't have time for their phone — they're laughing and having a good time."

Mace organized the games and provided all the materials for the activities. Twelve high school students from La Sierra Academy volunteered to coach each activity station.



Relay races and games are divided up by grades, not schools, during the small school athletic day on May 25 at La Sierra University.

"At the end of the day, everyone got popsicles," said Stephen Zurek, associate superintendent of the Office of Education and the one in charge of the event. "It was amazing to see students from different schools sitting, talking, and visiting together. That's what this day was about — to celebrate the importance of having fun."

Zurek also said that he received positive feedback from principals, teachers, parents, and students. He plans on having a similar event next year. He mentioned that it is important that smaller schools get together to interact and get to know one another.

"We, as a small school, love this opportunity to come together with other schools," said Norma Howard, teaching principal at Needles SDA School. "Our students can meet other kids out there who know and love Jesus."

Jessica Anzai



Many of the students enjoy the "bubble ball" game the best. One person latches onto the straps in the center of the ball as team members roll it as quickly as possible into a field goal.



A student power jumps during the hopper ball relay race on the way back to his team.

Central Congregations Plant Churches

Church planting: The phrase conjures up scenes of mature, beautiful, churches on quiet, shady streets. A newly born church plant attracts much attention, love, and excitement throughout the conference. They also challenge the developing and established churches to expand their own vision and growth.

“Church plants start because of multiple reasons, including entering new areas where there is no Seventh-day Adventist presence, a church outgrowing its facilities, and changes in demographics,” explains Pierre Steenberg, Central California’s evangelism director, whose department approves start-up funding for such projects.

Patterson Discover Life Company

Patterson, Calif., is a bedroom community of the East Bay area, located off Interstate 5,

just 40 miles north of Los Banos, Calif. The Ceres (Calif.) church, under the leadership of the former pastor, Anil Kanda, decided Patterson needed an Adventist presence. In 2012, after prayerful study and planning, a church plant was started. Today, a Seventh-day Adventist Company exists in Patterson. The company meets in a rented facility while raising money to purchase property for a permanent house of worship.



Time spent together outside of church is vital in making The Ark more than a church.



Ark in the Park – VBX includes a Bible study, games and snacks.

Churches Reaching Out to Serve and Save

Lisa Manzanares has been a CROSS (Churches Reaching Out to Serve and Save) Trainer serving in Patterson for a few years. As she visited and shared the Bible within the community, she recounted an Indian woman with a Hindu background. The woman had studied the Bible, but Christ’s centrality in Scripture was not clear to her. Manzanares prayed much about this and finally brought the book *The Desire Of Ages* to her. She asked her friend to read the chapter that described Jesus’ crucifixion and sacrifice for

sinners. About a week later, she returned to the home. The woman met Manzanares at the door with tears. She asked, “Did Jesus really do that just for me?” Her struggle was over and she accepted Christ as her Savior and Lord.

The Ark Community Company

In Visalia, former pastor Chad Stewart and his staff began a church plant only a few miles from the established church in November 2012. When the time was right, he called for volunteers from the Visalia church to work for God in the plant, known as “The Ark.”

One member who had always sat on the back row decided to jump in and help. She became a greeter, got involved in the new believers’ class, and now experiences joy as new families visit and attend. It changed her life. The Ark has grown to more than 75 attendees and was recently upgraded to company status. Though lay led, it is fully engaged with the community and looks for further growth as the church serves the members and nearby areas.

Church planting is an endeavor requiring faith, hard work, and a sense of mission. It is also a strategic matter. It requires individuals, families, and leaders to study personnel, finances, demographics, and strategic issues to ensure that God’s command to “Go!” is executed in an effective manner.

George C. Johnson



Youth often lead the praise team.

Introducing Central California Conference's New Website

CentralCaliforniaAdventist.org

A redesigned web experience with you in mind.



CentralCaliforniaAdventist.org

Now compatible with your mobile devices

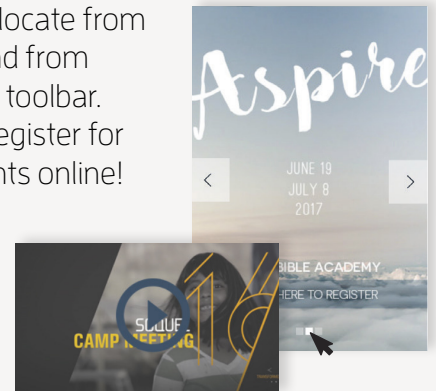


New Online Giving

With the click of a button you can now give online with one-time or recurring donations (including tithe) to your local church.

Events, Photos, and Videos

Current and future conference events are easy to locate from the home page, and from each department's toolbar. For the first time, register for all conference events online! Archived photos and videos can be accessed by clicking the media menu button.



Conference Ministries

Each ministry upholds the strategic plan of the Central California Conference. These pages outline each ministry's responsibility, introduce you to the team, and allow you to contact the director and the department staff.



Contact Us

Not sure which department can address your question, comment, or concern? "Contact Us" allows for your email to be internally directed to the most appropriate person.



Community Stories Inspire Kailua Church Members

On May 24-27, the Kailua church embarked on a four-part series entitled “This is My Story.” This event emphasized the transforming power of story telling. Each night’s program featured storytelling in song, drama, film, and testimony. At the close of each session, Pastor Sam Leonor, La Sierra University chaplain, shared a story of Jesus, inviting the audience to see and accept Jesus in their own story.

The church invited people from the local community to come and tell their stories to the congregation. This was an evangelistic endeavor — with a twist. “We often expect people outside of our church to come and listen to us, but when was the last time the church listened to them?” explained Jesse Seibel, Kailua church pastor. “We said, ‘Please come and tell us a story we need to hear.’”

“Auntie Twinkle” shared with the congregation how she became homeless and an addict 13 years ago. Now she ministers to the Hawaii homeless community, even as she remains homeless herself. She shared how her parents, both ministers, never gave up on her. While she was going through difficult times, they prayed for her and gave her a Bible with “Evangelist” inscribed on the cover. Twinkle challenged the audience and their perception of the homeless. “The homeless in Hawaii are not a problem,” she shared. “We are a solution. God has given me a dream that if we can overcome our challenges

here, people from all around the world will come and ask us how they can do it, too.”

Mele Kalama-Kingma shared the story of her grandmother’s faith in Jesus as a kumu, or teacher, who taught Hawaiian language, dance, and cultural practices to her family and community. Mele shared that while many Hawaiians still hold to a polytheistic world view, her grandmother and her family had a firm belief in the One Creator God. She shared how her family had written songs that were embedded in Hawaiian community that praised the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Mele then performed a hula to a song written by her grandmother’s sister entitled “Ke Alaula, The Dawning,” telling the experience of the Holy Spirit coming to transform the life of a believer.

Lina shared her family’s story of overcoming homelessness with the help of community groups and churches. Two years ago, her husband’s leg was amputated due to complications from diabetes. When he was released from the hospital, they had nowhere to go, so they lived in their Honda Civic for six months. Relatives cared for their children. Lina was told to apply for help with Family Promise, a local non-profit that partners with churches to provide shelter, job placement, financial management, and other life skills training. As a result, Lina and her family moved into an apartment of their own six months ago. She thanked Kailua church for believing in people like her. “When people like you believe in me, it reminds me to believe in myself,” Lina said.

Church members also participated in the storytelling. Musicians introduced congregational songs with a personal testimony of why a song was meaningful to them. Others shared songs they had composed and what inspired them to write it. The Christian Theater Team dramatized three episodes of Jesus’ ministry, set in modern day life.

Ron Sauder shared a testimony of how, 25 years ago, many of his friends were deceived by a cult. While he and most others rejected the unloving and unbiblical teachings, some of his friends were led to their death. Still, he believes



Mele Kalama-Kingma shares song in hula written by her grandmother’s sister, expressing the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

that God has called him to reach out to those who are still alive.

Sabbath morning, the church gathered to witness the story of four people making a full commitment to Jesus in baptism. Kenny Rider and Kanika Ung had been dating for a couple years. Kenny had an Adventist background, and Kanika was raised with a Buddhist worldview. This past February, Kanika felt God prompting her to give her life over to Him. Kenny and Kanika were baptized together and are engaged to be married in August.

Jeremy and Chaniel Willis started coming to Kailua church a couple years ago when their daughter, Sunshine, was baptized. Through Pathfinders, the school, and the church’s efforts, Jeremy and Chaniel decided that God worthy of their lives and that Kailua is a church they want to serve with.

Plans are underway for another story series featuring a prison chaplain, a professional surfer, a beach lifeguard, and more. Many guests were surprised that a church wanted to hear from them, and they asked to be invited to future events.

Jesse Seibel



Left to right: Kenny Rider, Kanika Ung, Chaniel and Jeremy Willis commit their lives to Christ as Pastor Jesse Seibel (middle) asks God to continue the transformation that has already begun.

Nevada-Utah Adventurers Family Camp a Success

Nevada-Utah Conference recently completed its first Adventurers Family Camp. Since the Pathfinders will be participating in a union-wide camporee this year, the conference decided to focus more locally on the Adventurers this summer. The camp was open to all families with Adventurer-aged children (pre-K through fourth grade). Approximately 24 families attended the camp at Deer Haven Campground in the mountains of central Utah.

The goal for the weekend was to showcase Adventurer ministries, and camp activities were designed to help empower parents as their children's evangelists. For example, Sabbath afternoon, there were activity buckets filled with a fun selection of activities. Families could choose which activities they felt best

suit them. Small groups of families used the activities as springboards for teaching and learning Christian values.

One activity provided small bags for the children to pick up nature items during a walk with their families. After the walk, they sat along the trail and, using the items in their bags, each family shared Bible stories. One child found a snakeskin, which sparked a discussion about Satan. Another used a rock to talk about the man who built his house on the rock.

Pastor Mario Alvarado, the weekend's featured speaker, is currently attending Andrews University, specializing in children's ministry. His messages were fun for the kids and contained inspiration for parents on their unique role in their children's Christian growth. Sara Grindstaff, one of NUC's Teen Leaders

in Training, led song service at worship. She taught the children new songs, which they sang through the remainder of camp.

During Sabbath lunch, a nearby forest fire forced the evacuation of the hotel where Alvarado and other conference officials were staying. They were not able to return for their belongings until Sunday. Fortunately, the wind blew away from the camp, so the campers were not endangered. After the camp ended and everyone was headed safely home, the fire flared up again, forcing the closure of several roads and camps.

The conference plans to offer Adventurer Family Camp every year.

Iso Vernon

PHOTOS BY CARLOS CAMACHO



Sabbath afternoon, a large forest fire threatened the camp, but was kept at bay by opposing winds until after all the campers departed on Sunday.



Pastor Mario Alvarado involves campers in a demonstration about God's greatness.



Iso Vernon, Clubs Ministries coordinator, shares the bucket activity with Adventurers from the Reno-Sparks Hispanic church.



Sara Grindstaff leads music.



A group of Adventurers from the Camino a Cristo church in Las Vegas sing a song for special music.

Free Health Clinic Gives a Patient Her Smile

Over the course of two days, 385 volunteers converged to offer hope and healing to the San Fernando Valley. The Southern California Conference West Region partnered with Adventist Medical Evangelism Network to offer free health services, including dental, vision, medical, laboratory tests, ultrasound, dermatology, haircuts, lifestyle counseling, and more, on the campus of San Fernando Valley Academy in Northridge, Calif.

Clinic co-director J.R. Cahatol, R.N., Glendale Filipino church, works as a home health case manager in the San Fernando Valley community. "I was motivated to organize and hold this clinic because of a quote I read from *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 62: 'We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work,'" Cahatol shared. "I wanted churches and church members to be involved in more outreach that focuses on the needs of the community. I saw that this was a great opportunity for everyone to join in and experience it." Lily Cirstiou, R.N., also co-coordinated.



In the dental department, 157 total patients were treated; services included cleanings, root canals, and extractions.

to bless the community," Cahatol continued. "It showed me that when we link together for a common goal, we could be capable of blessing so many people in San Fernando."

That blessing proved to be more than potential. Volunteer Rachel Minor, Valley Crossroads church, spoke with a patient named Erlinda who was especially grateful for the dental services she received. "Because of this clinic, I can smile, and my treatment was free," Minor recalled Erlinda telling her. "It's nothing but God." She was just extremely thankful, which helped other people who heard her feel more encouraged that what the AMEN clinic was doing was beneficial and that it would help them."

Erlinda continued to share her personal testimony with Minor. "She [Erlinda] went through so much, and it was incredible to see God's hand in her life," Minor said. Erlinda had become a Christian, and then found this health clinic offered by the Adventist church.

Minor recalled her encounters with Erlinda and other patients, reflecting on the mission of the event. "The AMEN clinic was really doing the Lord's work," she asserted. "It was really helping people to see the big picture and how Christ wants to heal them."

There are many ways to reach souls for Christ; meeting needs through clinics like this is one. "I just want people to see that we shouldn't be afraid to do things that are outside of our comfort zone," Cahatol mentioned. "We should continue to challenge ourselves, trying different ways of doing ministry to reach people."

PHOTOS BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG



The vision department saw 221 patients who had their vision examined and chose frames for prescription glasses, as necessary.



More than 100 patients received general medical care throughout the event.

The clinic served 474 total patients, and volunteers represented 10 local Adventist churches. "I experienced the most blessing from seeing volunteers from the different churches come together to use their God-given skills



As patients finished up their services in the lifestyle counseling department, they were welcome to take free literature and resources on health.

Lauren Armstrong

Adventist Talk Show Host Focuses on News Issues and Helping the Disadvantaged

The Harry Bey USA Show" on Saturdays at 8 p.m. on KABC AM 790, hosted by Adventist Harry Bey, currently airs in 50 countries, 50 states, and worldwide to the military. With consistently high ratings, the station plans to syndicate the show in September so it can be aired at different times in different time zones. Bey plans to use syndication profits he receives as owner of the show to increase the help he has been giving to the disadvantaged in the Los Angeles area.

Bey is also a colorful American patriot. Some days, he wears what he refers to as "Old Glory" colors — red, white, and blue flashing bowties, caps, shirts, jackets, pants, and sneakers. A seasoned broadcaster, he has hosted more than 600 weekly shows of varying lengths since he began his career. His guests and listeners are as diverse in their politics as they are in their Christian faiths. "They're all my brothers and sisters in Christ," Bey affirmed, "regardless of how they worship."

Each week, Bey acknowledges Jesus as the Creator and Pilot of his show, which focuses on hard-hitting, at times controversial, news issues. At the end of every program, he also

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HARRY BEY



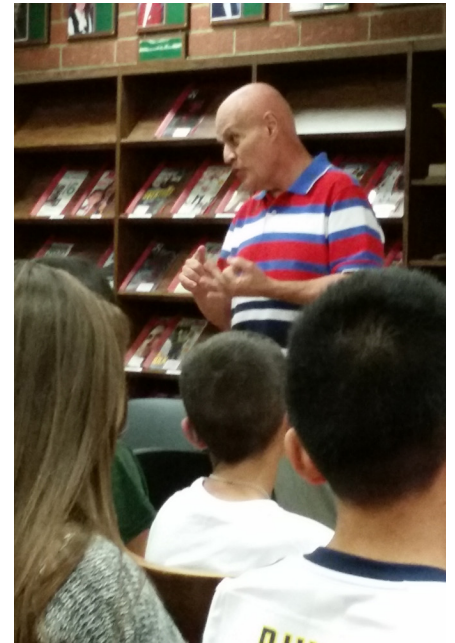
Harry Bey, a talk-show radio host, talks to people in high positions, but he also helps and encourages homeless and impoverished people on a regular basis.

affirms the men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces. His program has garnered numerous awards and recognition from politicians and other local leaders from Los Angeles city and county and around the U.S.

Bey has worked for decades with people who tend to be considered the "underbelly" of society and who may also be considered a menace, on Skid Row and throughout L.A. County. "The people I try to help, and for whom I pray, are indigent people, veterans, homeless, suicidal, depressed, domestic violence victims, victims of violent crimes," Bey explained. "They are from all walks of life and have deeply rooted emotional problems and lethal addictions." Bey daily gives many of them practical, caring counsel.

David Brainerd is a homeless man Bey has befriended and helped. "Harry is very outspoken," Brainerd said. "It is a credit to America that he is allowed to speak on the radio, given his strong stands on faith and political issues."

"Harry is a listener," added Fran Schultz. "He helps people. I was very despondent; I am a cancer survivor. He was praying on air, and I called in and he said a prayer for me. 'God brought you to it, and He's going to bring you



For decades, Bey has been making presentations at the Vida gang intervention programs in various Southern California communities.

through it," he told me. Harry typifies what it means to be a Christian."

Movses Djanbatian, D.O., owner of Brand Optometry in Glendale, is a frequent partner in Bey's efforts to help people in need. "Harry is an interesting person," he said. "He's very passionate and selfless; he loves to help the poor, to the point that he forgets to take care of himself." Bey admits that he has not taken a vacation in 50 years. "I love what I do," he said.

At the end of every show, Bey reaches out to those who are hurting. In a positive, constructive, godly way, he urges them to get the help they need to overcome negative behavior patterns so they can again become responsible, productive members of society.

"My mom and Pastor Larry Caviness, the late president of the Southern California Conference, had huge impacts on my life," he noted.

Betty Cooney



Bey was invited to be the first Caucasian Santa Claus in the Watts community's Nickerson Gardens Christmas party for children.

Record Numbers Served at Third Annual Arizona Sonshine



Optometrists did eye exams and provided free glasses for those in need.



Hundreds of volunteers registered 871 guests.

Arizona Sonshine got off to a running start, literally, as 50 participants hit the streets of Prescott Valley on Sunday, June 11, at the first-ever Arizona Sonshine 5K Fun Run & Walk. Prescott Valley Mayor Harvey Skoog was present to begin the race. He shared with Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes how much he appreciated partnering with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in bringing free health care to the residents of Prescott Valley and beyond. People traveled from other cities and states — as far as 400 miles — to receive free medical services.

This year, Arizona Sonshine drew record-breaking numbers of patients. More people were in line before the doors opened on Thursday than were served in the two days of the 2016 event combined. A total of 871 people, more than twice the number that were served in 2016, received over 7,000 different services valued at \$600,000!

Services included medical, dental, vision, massage, physical therapy, x-rays, immunizations, health screenings, chaplaincy, mental health, wellness coaching, legal services, childcare, transportation, and portraits. More than 2,300 meals were served. The Cottonwood church provided breakfast for the people in line each morning, and lunch was served to attendees and volunteers both days.

“A middle-aged woman came to us badly in need of dentures,” recalls hospitality volunteer Patsi Beaven. “She had lived almost half of her life with only three teeth in her mouth. After having these teeth extracted, the dentist crafted a pair of dentures. As the woman watched the new teeth being inserted into her mouth for the first time, a huge grin spread across her face. And then she started crying. All of the other volunteers began to cry as well. It was a very touching moment!”

Organizer Steve Salsberry is already looking forward to the 2018 event, scheduled for June 14-15. “We are especially in need of dentists,” he says. “Eighty-five percent of the people who come to Arizona Sonshine are in need of some kind of dental work. The Arizona Sonshine board has stepped out in faith for 2018 by ordering 40

dental stations for next year’s event. This year it was truly heart-breaking to turn away several hundred people because we just could not serve them.”

Arizona Sonshine is also going international with a free health event in Bicol, Philippines, June 26 to July 10, 2018. Health professionals and volunteers are needed in medical, dental, and vision. The estimated \$2,000 cost will cover transportation, food and lodging. For more info about the Philippines trip, contact Bob or Carol Lawson, 928-254-8354, 928-593-0474, ralawson74@hotmail.com.

To learn more about Arizona Sonshine, visit www.arizonasonshine.com or call 928-636-1884.

Michelle Ritzer



Prescott Valley Mayor Harvey Skoog launched the Arizona Sonshine 5K Run & Walk, which attracted 50 participants.



Dental needs were the greatest at Arizona Sonshine. Hundreds received free dental work, including x-rays, fillings, extractions, and dentures.

Daughter, Father Celebrate Gift of Life at Father's Day Graduation

It was a potentially life-altering decision, but for Megan Malingkas there was no alternative — she would do whatever it took to help her father regain his health and lead a good life.

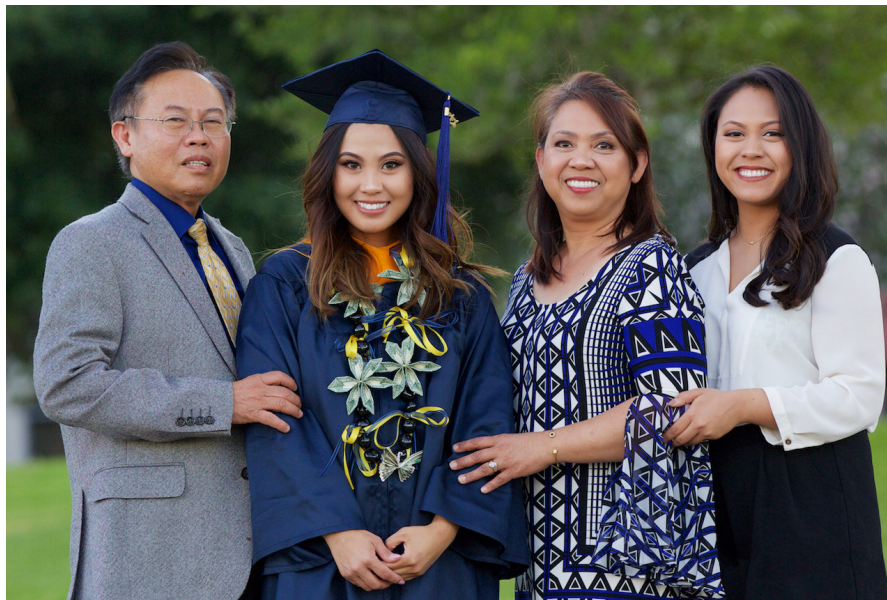
During Christmas break this school year, the La Sierra University senior health sciences major underwent surgery at Scripps Green Hospital in San Diego during which one of Megan's healthy kidneys was removed and transplanted into her father, Moody Malingkas, who had been diagnosed with end-stage renal kidney failure a year earlier. He endured daily dialysis for four months leading up to the surgery. Without the donation of Megan's healthy kidney, the hours-long treatments could continue indefinitely.

Doctors confirmed Megan as a transplant match for her father in May 2016 after Megan, her two sisters, Maureen and Mona, and other family members were screened as potential donors. Following a delay due to a bout of worsening health for Moody, surgery was performed on Jan. 3 this year. Two months later Moody's kidney functions had returned to normal.

On June 18, the Malingkas family celebrated Moody's renewed health and Megan's unselfish gift to her father as they gathered at La Sierra University's Founders' Green to observe both Megan's graduation and Father's Day, which fell on graduation Sunday this year.

The journey began when Moody was diagnosed with kidney failure in early 2016. The family worked with two hospitals in their search for a kidney donor — Scripps Green and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Moody was placed on a five- to seven-year waiting list without guarantee of a donation. Megan researched everything she could on his condition and discovered that without a kidney transplant, her father would be tethered to a dialysis machine several hours a day for the rest of his life.

"My sisters and I knew that this was not the life we wanted for our dad. We wanted him to be able to hang out with us at night and not be stuck to a machine at home," she said.



Megan Malingkas, center, with her father, Moody, mother, Vicky, and sister, Mona, far right, during La Sierra University's graduation weekend.

"Both of my parents actually told us not to do this and that they didn't want [us to donate] one of our kidneys just in case something happened to us in the future," Megan said. "My blood was tested probably 15 times in the span of two months, but I knew that it would all be worth it. The idea of not donating my kidney never crossed my mind."

For the Malingkas family, their arduous ordeal has challenged and strengthened their long-standing faith as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

"When I got this disease, I brought it up to the church," said Moody, who is an elder at the Victorville church. "The elders, the pastors, they were all praying for me. I was thinking maybe God didn't listen to me, but I can see the process. God heard my prayer. When things happened, they happened quickly. Everybody was so happy when they learned the prayer was answered."

"This was a big decision, and I couldn't have done it without my faith," added Megan, who attends Crosswalk church in Redlands. "I knew that if it was in His [God's] will, He would make it happen. If I wasn't meant to do this, He would

let me know. Throughout the whole process, I looked to Him."

The day after graduation, Megan began her career with a first job at Kaiser Permanente Riverside in the administration department. In July, she traveled for three weeks with her sister, Mona, a recent Loma Linda University nursing school graduate, and her boyfriend, Taylor Scharffenberg, who played basketball for La Sierra's Golden Eagles from 2010-2013. The trio went to Moody's homeland of Indonesia where they visited Malingkas family relatives, and also toured Japan and Thailand. The trip was a graduation gift from the elder Malingkas's.

Megan also expressed gratitude for the support she received from her La Sierra University colleagues in the accounts and loans office where she worked and in other departments, and from professors and friends who helped in various ways. "Many people sent loving and thoughtful texts and prayers for me before and after my surgery just to tell me they were thinking of me and my family. It was some of the best things to wake up to," she said.

Darla Martin Tucker

Ceremony Empowers First Graduates of San Manuel Gateway College as 'Community Faculty'

At the site of what was a desolate patch of dirt less than three years ago, 34 students graduated from San Manuel Gateway College on June 7 — the first class to receive a Loma Linda University education in the city limits of San Bernardino. Twelve students received medical assistant certificates, and 22 received certification as community health workers.

The college was established to give young people in San Bernardino and the Inland Empire a future beyond high school that also empowers them to serve their under-served communities.

Classes for the medical assistant program began in September 2016, just two months after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of its facility, Loma Linda University Health – San Bernardino, which is also home to affordable healthcare provider SAC Health System.

Additionally, in February, the Community Health Worker/Promotores Academy — a partnership between Loma Linda University and El Sol Neighborhood Education Center — moved its home to San Manuel Gateway College, leading to the combined graduation ceremony.

Commencement speaker Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health, noted that San Manuel Gateway College was built without a blueprint, from scratch, in a world that had never used this educational model before.

A Training Ground Like No Other

The unique didactic environment at the San Bernardino campus brings together San Manuel Gateway College entry-level learners with Loma Linda University graduate students and medical residents all training together to gain clinical skills through the SAC clinic — “the laboratory that makes this place go,” said Hart.

Joining in a long line of officials eager to shake each graduating medical assistant or community health worker's hand were Tribal

Secretary Ken Ramirez, Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena and Treasurer Sabrina Le Roy from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Without the Tribe, the college may not have come to fruition. They gave \$10 million to Loma Linda University Health to help bring San Manuel Gateway College into existence. Additional indispensable partners and dreamers in the project include San Bernardino City Unified School District and the city of San Bernardino.

But the evening's most celebrated stars were the future community health workers and medical assistants.

Neery Velazquez, one of the medical assistant graduates, said that the “Gateway” part of the college's name aptly describes the way it helps them: opening a passage to opportunities they couldn't have encountered any other way.

Filling a Gap

Many of the students' experiences include growing up in tough areas. Hart said that life has given them scars they will carry with them. “But scars also strengthen a person,” he told them. “And you all bring strength to what you are doing.”

Their life experience gives them the ability to connect with patients from diverse, low-income backgrounds. The graduates can fill a gap in the healthcare continuum that the sick too often fall through, Hart said.

One of the newly minted community faculty members is Ron Oden, a former mayor of Palm Springs, who received his community health worker certification in order to better equip him for his retirement personal mission: training other community health workers through the



Medical assistant graduate Edilma Ramirez presents a carnation and hug to one of her supporters.

PHOTOS BY ANSEL OLIVER



The pioneering first class of San Manuel Gateway College in San Bernardino cheers as Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health, pronounces them alumni of Loma Linda University.

Desert Highland Gateway Estates Health and Wellness Committee, which exists to enhance opportunity for members of that historically black, underserved community in the Coachella Valley.

Oden and his 33 fellow graduates acknowledged members of their families and communities who supported them throughout their training. During the ceremony, the graduates presented yellow carnations, as well as hugs and loving words, to their friends and family in the audience.

Holding one of those carnations was Jaime Velasco, husband of community health worker graduate Adriana Valero. Watching the culmination of her effort, he said, "I actually felt something that I never felt before. . . . It brought tears to my eyes."

Emotions Spill Out

Ramirez and Valbuena, along with Arwyn Wild, M.A., executive director of the college, acknowledged the emotion of the evening. "What uplifts me is the fortitude and tenacity

of these students," Wild said. "To see and hear them talk about their dreams is so encouraging."

Ramirez and Valbuena helped usher the dream of the college into existence, seeing it grow from a concept to a construction project to this first graduation.

Ramirez recalled, "We started this dream with the community in mind, to offer an educational component like no other. Teaming up with Loma Linda University has helped us to do that. To see the graduates finish their program today was exciting. The safety net that we're trying to build in San Bernardino starts with the young people."

Valbuena described looking into the eyes of each graduate as she shook their hands.

"They were very, very happy, but also serious about their achievements and futures," she said. "It was so nice to share that moment with them."

Many of the graduates said the evening was a beginning, not an ending. All 22 community health workers are staying on at San Manuel Gateway College to gain additional specialization, and the medical assistants

expressed plans to gain working experience and take prerequisite courses for further education to become nurses or physical therapists or anything they want.

"We know that this is just the start," Wild said. "They can do so much more."

Concluding his commencement address, Hart charged the students: "Now you are health professionals, and let me tell you: we need help — big time. . . . We need to stand shoulder to shoulder, all of us together, to provide that help. So thank you. Congratulations."

What's Next for SMGC?

Plans are fast growing for the college's expansion. Starting this fall are at least two new medical certification programs: nursing assistant and pharmacy technician, as well as the second cohort of medical assistant students. A surgical tech program will begin in January 2018, and the college's Community Health Worker/Promotores Academy will continue to expand.

Heather Reif Snyder

Pacific Union College Introduces the 2017 Maxwell Scholars

Pacific Union College proudly announces the 2017 recipients of the Maxwell Scholarship, the college's most prestigious scholarship. Incoming freshmen Bethany Erb, Victoria Gabardi, Alex Nelson, Emma Tyner, and Justin Youn were selected as the newest Maxwell Scholars, joining a group of 35 students awarded since the establishment of the scholarship in 2010.

Named after the late Dr. Malcolm and Eileen Maxwell, the beloved former president and first lady of PUC, the Maxwell Scholarship is awarded to five high school seniors in recognition of their academic achievement, outstanding leadership experience, and commitment to Christian service in all areas of their lives, both in and out of the classroom.

Nancy Lecourt, vice president and academic dean, was personally involved in the selection process and is looking forward to the contributions the Maxwell Scholars will make on the PUC campus. "The Maxwell Scholars Program is the most prestigious of the scholarships we offer," she notes. "Recipients are not only outstanding students; they are

expected to distinguish themselves as leaders in many facets of student life. Many have gone on to exceptional careers in business, human services, ministry, the arts, education, and numerous other fields."

As Maxwell Scholars, the students will receive full tuition for four years valued at approximately \$112,000. Each of the recipients is anticipated to be a full-time PUC student beginning the fall of 2017.

Bethany Erb

Bethany Erb of Mount Horeb, Wis., is a multi-faceted student who spent her years at Mount Horeb High School involved with leadership, several musical ensembles, and community service. She co-founded Mount Horeb High School's first non-denominational Bible study group focused on worshipping God while attending a public campus. Erb participated in a plethora of other community service projects and was heavily involved with her local church in various capacities, and also served as cradle roll director for the Wisconsin camp meeting for several summers. She received the Silver Cord Award for accumulating more than 140 hours of community service while in high school, and was the national finalist in the 2015 C-SPAN video documentary competition. Following graduation, Erb spent three months as a student missionary in Tanzania teaching English and piano before going on to Australia to work as an intern for ARISE for Life, where she served in multiple roles; most notably as part of an international team to plant a worship center in Newcastle.



Victoria Gabardi

Victoria Gabardi

Hailing from Grand Junction, Colo., Victoria Gabardi has made a lasting impression at Palisade High School, where she has been involved with varsity sports, the leadership council, and many other exemplary extracurricular activities. She has served as the secretary of Help Light the Night, a student-based organization bringing solar lights to needy families in India, Ethiopia, and Haiti and co-founded Little Treasures, Inc., which provides activity boxes for children in the hospital. Gabardi was part of the leadership council that



Bethany Erb

The Maxwell Scholarship is awarded to five high school seniors in recognition of their academic achievement, outstanding leadership experience, and commitment to Christian service in all areas of their lives, both in and out of the classroom.

organizes Live About the Influence, a week-long event to help reduce drug use, discourage bullying, and encourage safe driving habits. She also volunteered for a summer at John McConnell Math & Science Center, helping teach elementary students. She has accumulated 230 volunteer hours at St. Mary's Hospital, and currently volunteers on the surgical floor. Gabardi has been heavily involved with her local church as an Adventure Club leader, teaching the Little Lambs group twice a month. Additionally, she is an accomplished cellist who has performed with the Palisade Symphony Orchestra, Palisade Chamber Orchestra, and the Colorado Mesa University Celltheamo Group.



Alex Nelson

Alex Nelson

A senior at Mesa Grande Academy, Alex Nelson from Redlands, Calif., is a dedicated leader committed to improving the lives of people across the globe. He has held multiple class officer positions and has been a National Honor Society member all four years of high school. Nelson has participated in several mission trips to Haiti and one mission trip to the Dominican Republic, where he lived for five years while his father worked as the medical director of a non-profit hospital. An accomplished athlete, he has been a member of the Redlands Interscholastic Cycling Organization as well as on MGA's cross country team for several years, in addition to being a

Cyclery USA Junior Road Racing team member. Nelson also enjoys running, and has run the LA Marathon, finishing in under three hours, and recently ran the Boston Marathon. Notably, in 2016 he finished 2nd overall in the Lake Tahoe Triathlon Half Ironman competition.

Emma Tyner

Emma Tyner of Angwin, Calif., has spent her time at Pacific Union College Preparatory School heavily involved in student government and community service. Throughout high school, she held various positions within the school's Student Association, including executive vice president and chair of student senate, spiritual vice president, as well as being the student representative on the school board. Tyner also participated in multiple mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Belize. She has earned more than 200 hours of community service, many of which were with Youth With a Mission, helping pass out care packages to the homeless in San Francisco. Tyner was selected for a summer fellowship position to serve as a Human Voicebank Initiative Ambassador, which is an effort to gather speech recordings from people of all ages around the world. Currently, Tyner works as a lab teaching assistant at Pacific Union College for college-level chemistry classes and tutors for the subject at the school's Teaching and Learning Center.



Emma Tyner



Justin Youn

Justin Youn

A senior at El Camino High School, Justin Youn of Oceanside, Calif., is ranked second in his graduating class and has been recognized as a CollegeBoard AP Scholar. He has played varsity tennis all four years of high school and was selected to the San Diego Union-Tribune's All Academic Team for Boy's Varsity Tennis. Youn has been involved with multiple extracurricular clubs, including the Politics Club and Red Cross Club, and has been involved in many outreach events, such as beach and park cleanups and feeding the homeless at a local shelter, and participated in a mission trip to Mexico. He has served as president and vice president for Student Adventist Leadership Training (SALT), which plans events and leadership training for seven Adventist churches in Southern California, and as a church youth council and Vacation Bible School leader for several years. Youn also spent one summer as a Youth Rush student literature evangelist, and as a Palomar Medical Center Pathmaker intern assisting in caring for patients on the hospital's oncology floor.

Each year, PUC awards over \$40 million in financial aid to approximately 1,500 students, including over \$189,000 to sophomores, juniors, and seniors through alumni scholarships and endowments. Learn more about the college's scholarship opportunities at puc.edu/scholarships or call the student financial services office at 800-862-7080, option 1.

Larissa Church

Dr. Steven Herber gives Precious a teddy bear, which was made with love at Adventist Health's annual Mission Day.



Precious Smiles Again

Precious Wilson, a 6-year-old girl from the small Pacific island of Pohnpei, was born with a cleft palate and lip, a common birth defect that occurs when the tissue that makes up the roof of the mouth or lip doesn't fuse together.

Martin Paukert, M.D., a reconstructive surgeon at Adventist Health St. Helena, and Steven Herber, M.D., plastic surgeon and president and CEO of the hospital, offered to perform the cleft and lip palate repair surgery for free.

This condition affects one in every 700 live births worldwide, according to a study conducted by World Health Organization (WHO, 2011) and one in 940 births in the U.S., ranking it the second most common birth defect. Left untreated, children can experience issues with their speech, hearing, eating and drinking and it often can lead to frequent colds, fluid in the ears, sore throats and problems with the tonsils and adenoids. This is in addition to other psychological issues associated with looking

different, which ultimately can lead to low confidence and self-esteem.

"It felt great to personally be able to help Precious with the surgery she needed," says Herber. "It's amazing what we can do when we all work together. Providing her with access to the surgery will change her life. I am so proud to be part of something that will make such a huge difference for her and her family for many years to come."

Agreeing to perform surgery was the easy part. Coordinating the details and covering the costs of travel was challenging. It involved many individuals at Adventist Health St. Helena, Mahi International, a non-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life for people in the Pacific Islands, and North Hills Children's Church, whose members worked tirelessly to raise money to pay for travel expenses for Precious and her mother.

"I am happy and thankful for what Dr. Herber and Adventist Health St. Helena have done for my daughter," says Eveleen Wilson, mother of

Precious. "Our family has been praying for a new smile for her for years."

Precious's surgery was successful. She woke up to her mother holding her hand. Her father, Constantino Wilson, Skyped her from Pohnpei. His first words to her were "keh masamwahu" which means, "You look beautiful." Precious was excited to hear those words and to get home to show her friends and family her new smile. But most of all, she was excited to get back to school so she can graduate from kindergarten with her class.

Adventist Health St. Helena is committed to providing surgery and specialty care for individuals who may not otherwise have access to health care by continuing to work with organizations such as Mahi International and others, such as Operation Access, an organization that brings together volunteer surgical care to local people in need.

Haley Wesley

CALENDARS

Arizona

FREEDOM FROM SMOKING (Aug. 7-Sept. 18) Mondays, 7 p.m. Desert Cove church, 12400 W. Desert Cove Rd. El Mirage, Ariz.

PHOENIX RAW FOOD POTLUCK (Aug. 12 & 26) 5:30 p.m. Natural Grocers, 13802 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. Bring a ready-to-eat gluten-free dish to feed 8-10 people. Recipes appreciated.

Northern California

VALLEY ASAM ALBION Mendocino Coast Cabin Weekend (Aug. 25-27) Albion Field Station. Valley Adventist Single Adult Ministries invites all singles and their families. Speaker: Liz Dolwig. Music: Pastor Mike and Deborah Sullen. \$105 per person. Info: Elota, 209-747-5366.

FEJA NCC CAMP MEETING (Sept. 1-4) Leoni Meadows. For Spanish-speaking young people, ages 14-35. Info: Andre, 209-451-6981.

ADVENTURER/PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP Convention (Sept. 8-10) Leoni Meadows. Info: Adventurers, 925-603-5082 or Pathfinders, 925-603-5080.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING (Sept. 10) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. NCC Headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Speaker: Charlene Sargent, director of Pacific Union Adventist Community Services Disaster Response. Learn how you can be ready to help others. Free; no registration needed. Info: NCC ACS Department, 925-603-5072.

SACRAMENTO CENTRAL Homecoming (Sept. 30) 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 6045 Camellia Avenue. 130th anniversary celebration and homecoming event. Guest speaker, Doug Batchelor. Lots of music. Lunch included. RSVP requested. Info: 916-717-6626 or 130Years@saccentral.org.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL KOINONIA (Nov. 3-5) Leoni Meadows. Speaker: Shantel Smith, Pacific Union College associate chaplain. Prayer walks and fitness training sessions: Dr. Tanzy Chandler, physical therapist/professional trainer. Registration opens Aug. 1. Open to ALL women, 18 and over. Info: www.womenskoinonia.com.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVANGELISM Summit (Sept. 15-16) Life Adventist church of Berkeley,

3 minutes of news information & inspiration!

ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

FRIDAYS ON FACEBOOK & PUCONLINE.ORG/AGP

2236 Parker Street. Join the discussion on creative ministry! Info: nccsda.com/youthsummit.

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

BE A PUC PIONEER this Fall! It's not too late to apply for the 2017-2018 school year. Financial aid is also available. Visit puc.edu/admissions to learn more and submit your application today.

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

KOREAN CAMP MEETING (July 30-Aug. 6) PUC hosts the annual assembly for Korean Adventist congregations on the west coast on its Napa Valley destination campus. Info: 707-965-7362.

PUBLICATION WORKSHOP (Sept. 5-7) Academies learn how to make the most of their publications through writing, photography, graphic design, and film courses taught by college educators and industry professionals. Info: publicationworkshop.puc.edu.

ANGWIN TO ANGWISH (Oct. 15) Registration now open! Trail run offering Family Run (4k), 10K, and half-marathon courses on PUC trails. Benefits PUC's Service-Learning Program. Info: angwintoangwish.com.

PUC NOW (Online) Stay connected with Pacific Union College by signing

up for our email newsletter. Info: puc.edu/puc-now.

Southeastern California

LLUC CAMP MEETING (Aug. 5-Sept. 2) Opens w/Heritage Singers concert (8/5) 7 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Speakers: Randy Roberts, Celeste Holbrook.

WE ARE UNO (Aug. 18-20) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon

Rd., Mountain Center. Hispanic youth camp for ages 16-30. A multi-generational experience. Info: Ariel Torres, arieldtt@yahoo.com.

ORDINATION SERVICE for Rochelle Webster (Aug. 19) 4 p.m., Redlands church, 520 Brookside Ave., Redlands.

BIG BEAR VALLEY CAMP MEETING (Aug. 25, 7 p.m.; Aug. 26, 8:30 a.m.) Big Bear Valley church, 349 E North Shore Dr., Big Bear City. Speaker, Elizabeth Talbot from Jesus 101. Info: bigbearadventist@outlook.com.

GRADO
CONSTRUCTION INC.

Adventist-Owned and Operated
www.gradoconstruction.com • (530) 344-1200

HAYWARD SPANISH CHURCH

From this ... to this!

Planning a new build or remodel of your church or school? Purchasing land and need complete development services? Need consulting services through the construction process?

LET US HELP!

At Grado, we strive to be the best value, full service, Design Build Construction Company in the Pacific Union. We offer many services to meet our clients' needs. We can keep your project on time and, most importantly, on budget. Plan well before you start! **Luke 14:28**

"Grado Construction certainly went above and beyond for the Hayward Spanish SDA Church. Their extra efforts and generosity made doing business with Grado a great experience."

Salvador Alvarado, head elder

California State Contractors License #940940

CLASSIFIED

At Your Service

RELOCATING? APEX MOVING & Storage has a National Account Contract with the GC for your moving needs! Take advantage of a volume-rated discount. Be assured you are moving with one of the best! Call Marcy at 800-766-1902. Visit us at www.apexmoving.com/adventist.

SDA REAL ESTATE BROKER available to help you find homes in small towns, country homes with acreage, and undeveloped land in beautiful Northeast Washington. Experienced with all facets of country living including home building, organic gardening, orcharding, and off grid living. 509-936-3112. www.ruralpropertiesbyrob.com, Robm@Windermere.com.

THE CLERGY MOVE CENTER at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is The Way To Move from one state to another! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Quality is inherent. Contact one of our dedicated Move Counselors today for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800-248-8313. Or learn more about us at www.stevensworldwide.com/sda.

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800-634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

WEB DESIGN! Skyrocket your business with an exceptional modern website. Our Oregon Adventist agency specializes in giving you instant credibility using our strong internet marketing background and conversion-friendly design skills. View our work at DiscoverPeppermint.com. Serving clients worldwide. Call Kama: 541-903-1180.

WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER. For 75 years, we have taught people to live healthy, avoid disease and maintain youthful energy or helped healing diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression, anxiety and many more. Invest in health call 800-634-9355 or visit www.wildwoodhealth.com.

Bulletin Board

ADVENTIST BOOKS: Looking for NEW Adventist titles to encourage and grow your daily walk? Visit us at www.TEACHServices.com. For USED Adventist books visit www.LNFBooks.com. AUTHORS: If you're interested in having your book published, call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! AMEN free clinic (Oct. 17-20) Ukiah, Calif. Need dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, physicians, ophthalmologists/optometrists, registration, hospitality, communication and general help. Info: ukiahda.com - click on AMEN medical clinic or call 707-695-0432.

Employment

M.D. & MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONERS wanted for our growing mental health clinic. Located in Northern Calif. where there are beautiful outdoor escapes that would be ideal for an adventurous soul. Our company is family oriented, offers competitive benefits package, and flexible schedules. If interested, please call 530-226-7419 and ask for Rachael.

MISSION MINDED RESORT MANAGER desired for Resort on Kadavu Island in Fiji. Eco Resort supports Volunteer Health Professionals and Mission trips. Salary is profit/sharing based. www.tiliva-resort.com. Contact Steve@tiliva-resort.com.

PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC AND WELLNESS Practice in Auburn California has three openings: Psychiatrist or Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Professional Relations Coordinator, and Psychiatric Technician. Beautiful Minds Medical, Inc. focuses on wholeness accessible to anyone desiring personal growth and mental health. Our practice is expanding to meet the growing mental health needs of our community. Please visit our website, www.beautifulmindsmedical.com or contact us at 530-889-8780, ask for Gary.

PROFESSOR (Assistant/Associate/Full), Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a New Testament professor who will excel in teaching graduate and undergraduate students, services, research, and denominational leadership. Ph.D. or equivalent. Please email a cover letter, CV, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. David Larson (dlarson@llu.edu).

PSYCHIATRIST OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, Ph.D. needed for Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California.

Competitive pay and benefits. Call Dr. Randall Steffens at: 615-604-0142.

PUC IS SEEKING full time positions in our Nursing Department. Looking for Professors in the areas of Adult Clinical Focus, Adult Clinical Focus-Leadership/Preceptorship, and Obstetric or Children Clinical Focus. Preference is for Master's degree in Nursing, current California RN License, and a minimum of 1 year teaching experience desired. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

PUC IS SEEKING full time positions in our Psychology Department. Looking for Professors in the areas of Development Emphasis, Clinical & Counseling Emphasis, and Research Emphasis with Preference for Cognitive and Physiological Psychology. Preference is for Doctorate degree, experience in undergraduate teaching desired. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

SANIKU EAST-WEST Language School seeks to fill the positions of full-time elementary school teacher and full-time Principal/Manager. These positions require fluency of the Japanese language. Ideal candidates should be committed educators who are experienced working within the Adventist educational organization. Our school teaches K-9 using school textbooks that are written in the Japanese language and provided by the Japanese Government. We have 3 campuses in the South of Los Angeles with over 200 students. Classes are taught twice a week from 3:40 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. If interested, please contact: tozai@sanikutozai.org.

Events

10 DAYS OF PRAYER returns Jan. 10-20, 2018, with the theme "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more info and to sign up your church, visit www.tendaysofprayer.org.

UCHEE PINES Alumni Reunion and Retreat - Sept. 17-23. Visit ucleepines.org for details, or call 877-UCHEEPINES.

For Sale

HEALTH MINISTRY COORDINATORS and Personal Ministry Directors, beautiful inexpensive witnessing supplies: magazines, brochures, tracts and books. Free catalog and sample.

Call 800-777-2848 or visit us at www.familyheritagebooks.com.

REMNANT PUBLICATIONS has the perfect Study Bible, which will enhance personal devotions for both adults and children. We can also provide you with sharing books, pocketbooks and DVD's to help you reach your community with the gospel. Visit your ABC, or remnantpublications.com or call 800-423-1319 for a free catalog.

Missing Members

VICTORVILLE. 16070 Lorene Dr., Victorville, CA 92395 or call 760-245-3620; email vvsvdchurch@gmail.com. com: Alicia Alford, Derek Alford, Camille Allen, Charlene Anderson, Bryan Ash, Mona Auxier, Kimberly J. Beavers, Java Beck, Julia E. Benson, Polly Berseeth, Georgia Biggie, Willis Bolden, Jane Brackett, Paul Robert Brauhman, Greg Bray, Carol Ann Brown, Angela Bush, Tommy Cadger, Dora Cardona, Heidi Carter, Donn Carter, Pam Carter, Myrtle Castleman, Mary Ellen Cenicerros, Gilda Chiella, Angelina D. Colon, Sandra Conley, Carol Cook, Michael S. Cook, Joseph Dannaway, Debbie Davisson, James Deloach, Maria Driscoll, Joe Ernst, Roxanne Freck, Dixi Galvez, Jean Griffith, Ronald Guda, Valerie Hackman, Mardi Hampton, Barbara Hartig, John Hartig, Chad Harzke, Patrice Harke, Christine Hickman, Lee J. Hill, Rex Howard, Tara Howard, Brandy Hunt, Gary Jesness.

Real Estate

COUNTRY LIVING with all utilities, off-grid possibilities, 24.04 acres forest/fruit trees, 42'x48' shop, large garage, 2 Tuff office/garden storage sheds, pump house, furnished 40' 5th wheel trailer, washer/dryer, fire place, covered 40' timber-tech deck with lovely view. SDA church & school within 10 miles. Boating/swimming reservoir nearby. Azalea, Ore. 541-670-0395.

OFF-GRID, 3,000 SQ. FT., 3-bedrm, 2.5-bath home, 1G acres. Incredible, awesome view overlooking river-bordering U.S.F.S. & Glacier National Park, Mt. Home has gravity feed spring H2O, attached garage and carport, sundeck. Guest home/solarium with solar panels, inverter/charger and battery pack, generator, welder, storage buildings (dozer, tractor, trailers, equipment, tools, etc.). \$975,500, owner finance (50% max). 770-548-4319.

SMALL CUSTOM COTTAGE in peaceful rural setting in southern Klamath County, Oregon. Nearly 40

acres in small pine grove on largely level land. Off the grid, wired for generator power. New. \$194,900. Phone 541-783-3788.

Reunions

WELCOME HOME WEEKEND, Oct. 20-22 for the Victorville church in celebration of 50 years at the 16070 Lorene Drive, Victorville, Calif., location. All former members, pastors, teachers and friends are invited. Sabbath fellowship lunch. Infi: 760-245-3620, vvsdachurch@gmail.com.

Vacation Opportunities

ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley, 3ABN's Pastor C.A. Murray and Friends. Two trips this fall 2017 (Nov. 12-20) \$2,995; (Nov. 19-27) \$2,995. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles. Other departure cities available. Call Jennifer at 602-788-8864.

MAUI VACATION CONDO in Kihei. Relaxing & Affordable. Only a 3-minute walk to the beach! 1-bdrm w/king bed. Clean, comfortable, well-maintained. Sleeps 4. Fully-furnished kitchen, washer/dryer & more! FREE

parking, Wi-Fi, & calls to U.S./Canada. Friendly Kihei SDA church nearby. Visit us at: www.vrbo.com/62799. Email: mauivista1125@gmail.com or call Mark, 909-800-9841.

OCEANFRONT MAUI 10th floor studio condo for rent with full kitchen. Sleeps four. \$145-\$160 night plus tax and \$100 cleaning fee. Wonderful whale watching from lanai in season. Nonsmokers only. To view property, go to VRBO #213797 or www.mauimcneilus.com. Email: denmarge@frontiernet.net or call Marge McNeilus, 507-374-6747.

SUNRIVER, CENTRAL OREGON. Four-bedroom vacation home on the North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens one bunk set, hot tub, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log fireplace, BBQ, W/D, bikes, all resort amenities, sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets. For rates, photos and reservations call: 541-279-9553, or email schultz@crestviewcable.com.

TWO, 5 OR 7 BEDROOMS fully furnished home for rent, 2 miles from PUC on 20 acres near Las Posadas state park, vineyard views from every room. LR, DR, FR, fireplace, baby grand piano, BBQ, deck. \$500-\$2500/week. Call Valerie 415-497-5678 or nvroger@mac.com.

AT REST

BENNETHUM, LOIS – b. Oct. 13, 1930, Exeter, Calif.; d. May 9, 2017, Yuba City, Calif. Survivors: son, Steven; daughters, Karen, Deborah; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

BOEPPLE, ERMA IDA – Oct. 17, 1923, McClusky, N.D.; d. May 25, 2017, Fallon, Nev. Survivors: daughters, Mavis Lawrence, Connie Lackie; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

BROWN, SANDI FAYE – b. Jan. 4, 1951, Santa Cruz, Calif.; d. April 23, 2017, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: son, Erick; daughters, Heidi Beardsley, Emily, Heather Neufeld; two grandchildren; sisters, Joan Fuller, Janet Mallory.

CAO, DIETLINDE (DIETA) – b. April 11, 1941, Lodz, Poland; d. June 4, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: husband, Jeffrey; sons, Chris, Kurt; four grandchildren.

FORD, ANITA ALICE (CAVAGNARO) – b. Nov. 10, 1931, Berkeley, Calif.; d. April 30, 2017, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: husband, Herbert; daughters, Jana Aagaard, Cindy Evans, Alyssa Ford Morel; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Taught at Paulin Center for the Creative Arts at Pacific Union College.

GALE, ALICE (NAVARRO) – b. Dec. 27, 1930, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Aug. 26, 2016, Moreno Valley, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Victoria Soto Green, Debra Gale Aleksic, four grandchildren; sister, Irene Juarez. Volunteered several years at San Gabriel Elementary and served as Home & School president.

HOOPER, HARRIET U. (SCHWENDER) – b. May 21, 1922, Bridgeport, Neb.; d. June 5, 2017; Glendale, Calif. Survivors: sons, Jim, Dan; daughter, Jan Hooper Lind; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

LOVDAHL, MILDRED – b. May 10, 1929, Binger, Okla.; d. Dec. 31, 2016, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: son, Wade Allen; brother, Herbert Freeman.

MIZE, CLAYTON – b. Sept. 25, 1925, Colton, Calif.; d. May 31, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ruth; son, Arthur; two grandchildren.

NESS, ELIZABETH "BETTY" – b. Dec. 16, 1929, Frederick, Md.; d. June 10, 2017, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: son, Douglas; daughter, Nancy; two grandchildren.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is accepted as a service to Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the Pacific Union. The Recorder management reserves the right to refuse any advertisement, especially ads not related to the needs and practices of the Church membership. Acceptance of any advertising shall be considered a matter of accommodation and not a matter of right, nor shall it be construed to constitute approval of the product or service advertised.

Payment — Payment in advance must accompany all classified advertisements or they will not be published. Display ads for known advertisers will be billed. To pay by credit card, please call 805-413-7280.

How to Submit Advertising — Classified ads must be sent with payment to the Recorder office (commdept@puonline.org). Display ads should be arranged with the editor (alicia@puonline.org).

Classified Rates — \$70 for 50 words; 75 cents each additional word.

Display Rates (Full Color Only) — Back cover, \$4,150; full page, \$3,750; 1/2-pg., \$2,220; 1/4-pg., \$1,190; 1/8-pg., \$600; \$155 per column inch.

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

2017 Deadlines — These are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

September: August 1
October: August 29
November: September 26
December: October 31
January: November 27
February: January 4

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.

Welcome Home to...

SILVERADO ORCHARDS RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Affordable, All-Inclusive Monthly Rent
No Lease, Buy-ins or Add-ons

- Three Nutritious Meals Every Day
- Delicious, Fresh Salad Bar • Vegetarian or Clean Meat Options
- Activities & Excursions • Housekeeping • Transportation
- Health & Wellness Program • Hope Channel, LLBN and 3ABN
- Beauty Salon • Guest Rooms • And Much More...

“We’re all about Family!”



SILVERADO ORCHARDS
RETIREMENT LIVING

Family Owned Since 1978

(707) 963-3688
www.SilveradoOrchards.com
601 Pope Street, St. Helena, CA 94574



MARANATHA
VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL



MISSION: MARANATHA!

A weekend of missions, music,
and inspiration

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2017

Trinity Life Center | 5225 Hillsdale Blvd | Sacramento, CA



Musical guests:

King's Herald, from Brazil
Jarrod McNaughton

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Sabbath, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ADMISSION IS FREE | Register at www.maranatha.org/convention

August 2017

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The Greatest Invitation

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me, I will by no means cast out!”

— JOHN 6:37 NKJV



Ed Keyes
President

Have you ever received an invitation to an event you really wanted to attend? I'm sure you have — we all have. I have received invitations to graduations of all types from Kindergarten through Graduate School. It's always cool to see the pictures on the invitations and to know you are one of the people they would consider a good enough friend to invite to their special event.

It's an even greater honor to be invited to a wedding. I have had the privilege of performing over 100 weddings in my ministerial career. To be asked to unite a couple in this special way is always fun, but just to be invited is a great honor.

I have also been invited to those kinds of events where you have to have your name on a list to get in. Most of those types of events make me uneasy. I guess I'm too laidback for those fancy gatherings. However, the greatest invitations anyone (everyone) could ever receive comes from not the master of ceremonies, but from the Master of the Universe Himself — Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 11, Jesus invites us to come to Him so we might have rest from the burdens of life we

carry around every day. He tells us He is willing to help us carry those heavy loads.

In Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, and Luke 9:23 Jesus gives the invitation to be His truly committed followers by telling us to take up our cross and follow Him.

Several times in the gospels we see Jesus giving the invitation for children to come to Him. In fact, in one place He told His disciples not to forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

But in my humble opinion the greatest invitation is the one in John 6:37. *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me, I will by no means cast out!”*

What a promise! He invites us into His presence and will never cast us out! The only way we could miss out on the celebration is to walk away from Him, because He will not let us go. What a promise! What a Savior! What an Awesome God!

Ed Keyes



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.



My Dream for Arizona Advance

- An Additional 1%!

By Reggie Leach

9 have a dream for the Arizona Conference — a simple formula that could revolutionize our ability to serve God with every member giving just 1% extra!

Truly, our members have been faithful in giving over the years. Tithe has increased an average of 3.5% over the past five years. In that time, every year has seen an increase. In 2015 tithe was up 7.86%.

In 2016 tithe increased 3.75% for a new record total of \$12,691,883.

In addition to tithing, there are several other areas of giving that need your support: Church Budget, Arizona Advance, and World Missions.

From the Conference perspective, the challenge is this: from 2010 through 2014, Arizona Advance Offerings remained relatively flat. The \$130,926 we received in 2014 was actually a bit less than the \$136,568 received four years earlier in



Camp Yavapines benefits!

2010. However, in 2015 Arizona Advance increased by 8.1% up to \$140,592. In 2016, we had another gain of over 16%. Praise God!

Back to my dream. We believe we are poised to experience a truly amazing MAJOR BOOST in 2017!

Let's assume the \$12,691,883 is a true 10% tithe returned by our membership. (In reality, only about 40-50% tithe.)

The Conference Tithe and Offerings envelope suggests giving 1-2% for Arizona Advance. **How would giving even just 1% to Arizona Advance offerings impact our ministries in Arizona?**

We would have had \$1,269,188 in Arizona Advance Offerings for 2016. That's an increase of more than \$1,100,000.

Our Evangelism Budget could increase to \$559,594. This translates to potentially 500-600 additional baptisms every year!

It would mean an extra benefit for Camp Yavapines — \$167,878. Our camp is facing major Capital Projects: sewer line replacement, swimming pool repair,

and purchasing new mattresses. This could enhance programming at Camp Yavapines while saving \$167,000 in the Tithe Budget.

It would greatly benefit Christian Education in the amount of \$223,838. This could give schools about \$10,000 extra per teacher.

Thunderbird Adventist Academy would see an additional \$167,000 for TAA operations. These extra dollars would greatly reduce the stress on our fund-raising goals.

All four areas supported by Arizona Advance are Evangelistic. Camp Yavapines is our most efficient and effective form of Youth Evangelism. Last summer 84 young people were baptized at camp, and many more gave their lives to Jesus.

Elementary Education is Arizona Educational Evangelism. Our children are educated in Christ-centered classrooms, integrating Christ into every part of the curriculum.



Education benefits!



TAA is also Educational Evangelism. Students educated in Adventist schools are four times more likely to stay in and connected to the Church.

My dream — every member giving 1% to Arizona Advance! That’s an increase of

more than \$1,100,000.

This would not cause “heavy lifting” by any one individual, or a few major donors. And it would significantly reduce some of the stress on several areas of ministry.

We encourage everyone to continue being faithful in their tithing — but also to be generous in offerings to the Local Church Budget, World Missions, and also Arizona Advance.

Pastor Sergio Moreira **Ordained**

By Phil Draper

Pastor Sergio Eduardo Rosa Moreira was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Arizona Conference Camp Meeting at Camp Yavapines in Prescott, Ariz., on June 16, 2017.

Moreira was born and raised in the city of Goiania in Brazil by very loving and caring parents. His mother and father had been recently baptized when he was born, so they provided a warm environment filled with that “first love” for Jesus.

Since very early in his life, Moreira saw from a close perspective what it meant to serve the Lord through watching his parents working as literature evangelists during a period in their lives, and two close uncles serving God as ministers.

In his baptism, at the early age of eight, Moreira had already read some of the main publications and bulkier volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy, certainly the result of his parent’s encouragement and dedication.

A product of Adventist education himself, Moreira has great respect and gratitude for our schools and seeks to support and encourage our Adventist students and teachers whenever he can.

Since high school, and also during his college years, Moreira was always involved with music ministry and traveled all over Brazil singing with different quartets,



President Ed Keyes congratulates Sergio and Amanda Moreira.

choirs, and groups.

Sergio attended UNASP — our SDA College of Sao Paulo, Brazil, for his undergraduate degree. There he met Amanda, who had just come from Portugal to get her bachelor’s in Education at UNASP. They have enjoyed years of singing and ministering together, and have now been married for ten years. In December of 2005 he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Theology and a second bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. He accepted his first call to work at Brasilia’s Central Church district (at the capital of Brazil) as a youth pastor. This was a unique opportunity in Moreira’s life to serve a beautiful congregation of youth and young adults.

In 2010 Sergio and Amanda came

to Southern Adventist University (SAU) to start his master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. The years at SAU were also filled with ministry. They ministered voluntarily to a Brazilian church on campus. They also helped start a men’s singing group called Proclaim vocal ministry and a choir, both at the Collegedale Community Church.

In 2013, after graduating with his masters from SAU, Moreira was praying about either going into counseling full-time or if he should come back to ministry. The Lord had His way and Sergio and Amanda accepted a call to work at the Chandler Brazilian Church in Arizona.

In 2015 Moreira became the pastor of the Sierra Vista church district, with three churches, one group, and one beautiful, brand-new SDA School.

The Lord has immensely blessed Sergio and Amanda and they feel nothing but gratitude for working for God in the Arizona Conference.

The verse that motivates Moreira’s ministry is: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit — fruit that will last...” John 15:16.

Clearview Church Focus

By Ann Vitorovich

Primarily a retiree congregation, the Clearview Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted its second very successful baby shower for the Choices Pregnancy Center which is located in Glendale, Ariz. A nonprofit, independently run Christian program, the Center provides comprehensive pregnancy services free of charge to families in crisis — teens and adults who are facing an unexpected or unwanted pregnancy or whose lives have been affected by abortion.

Compassionate services offered include practical training, information, support, and counseling, to enable clients to make informed decisions. Attendance at classes earns points which they can use to “purchase” baby things in the Center’s beautiful boutique.

This outreach for Choices Pregnancy Center started several years ago and continues annually at the Peoria-Sun Cities Seventh-day Adventist Church. Last year it was adopted by Clearview Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first time.

A letter of invitation from Pastor Murrell Tull was delivered personally to five nearby churches by Telma Bearden, who was in charge of the shower, and Kathryn Ryan, head of Clearview’s Community Services Outreach Committee. Two ladies from two non-Adventist churches happily joined the fellowship.

Among the gifts were scores of crocheted baby blankets made by

Clearview and Peoria members. Lorraine Robbins, Director of the Center, explained the Center’s mission and showed a video of a few of their cases.

Overwhelmed by the extent of the response, Robbins commented to one of the members, “Other churches support our work in various ways, but not anything like Peoria and Clearview Churches!”

Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes Visits Clearview

A special program was planned when Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes stood in the pulpit of the Clearview church on a recent Sabbath morning. He preached a wonderful sermon entitled “An Indestructible Church.”

A new stained-glass window that can be moved whenever there is a baptism was newly installed. This window as well as six side sanctuary windows were given by Dottie and Mel Jackson, members of the church.

Clearview Truth-seekers Pathfinders shared the love of Jesus with the congregation under the leadership of



Director Lorraine Robbins



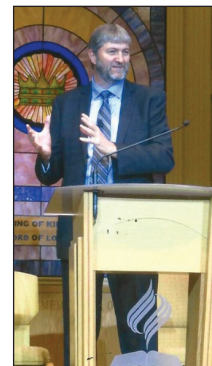
There were 40 in all, plus four men including Pastor Tull who opened with prayer. Telma Bearden introducing Lorraine Robbins.

Pathfinder Director, Lynne Fisher, and sang “This Is My Father’s World.” The Pathfinders Club began the year with seven members and has now grown to ten members.

The church choir under the direction of Noreen Nelson sang “I Have Fixed My Mind on Another Time” featuring Rob Carr, soloist.

The Flute Trio presented, “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us,” featuring Thomas Fisher, Lynne Fisher, and Cherie Sawyer.

The Clearview congregation continues to grow and flourish with its focus on winning the world with Jesus’ love to grow the family of God.



HO'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

PAGE 2 | Help us extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the Hawaii Conference Seventh-day Adventist education team. From teachers to admins, each has a vital role.

PAGE 3 | Summer camp has been a roaring success, exceeding our goal of growing by 20 percent. Pray that the children and staff we cared for will receive a special blessing from God.

PAGE 4 | Did you ever perform a music recital? Who do you think benefitted most from that experience — the audience, or you? Our lives should be a recital for God's glory.

The Lei of Freedom

Over the years living here in Hawaii, I have received more leis than I could possibly count. It's such a wonderful experience to be on the receiving end of such a special expression of aloha. The lei is beautiful, bright, and colorful, and many have a delicious, intoxicating fragrance.

I don't like to throw the leis away. The aloha which was expressed when placed on my shoulders is too meaningful. I decided I can pass on this expression of aloha by taking each lei to Punchbowl Crater and placing it on a grave. Punchbowl is where you will find the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, and it is a memorial to honor the men and women who gave their lives in serving our country.

Because I didn't personally know anyone buried at Punchbowl, I began to do some research and discovered Henry Oliver Hansen (Dec. 14, 1919 – March 1, 1945). Henry was a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant killed in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. He was a member of the combat patrol that climbed, captured,

and helped raise the first of two U.S. flags on top of Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945. Hansen was killed in action on Iwo Jima just seven days later. He was born in Somerville, Mass., with one sister and three brothers and graduated from Somerville High School in 1938 before joining the Marine Corps (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Oliver_Hansen).

I have no idea how many times I have stood at the foot of Henry's grave over the past 11 years. There are times I've been on my hands

and knees to clean it and leave a lei. This little practice has left a profound impact on my life. It's a humbling opportunity to express how deeply grateful I am for the sacrifice made on my behalf.

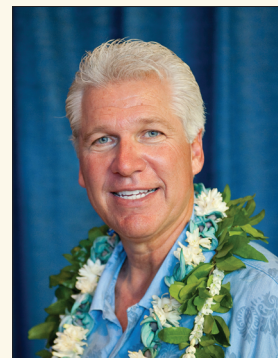
Henry paid the ultimate price in giving his life for the freedoms I now enjoy.

I think about what his family sacrificed, and I think about what I have experienced in life that he never did. No marriage for him. No raising children or the joy of grandchildren. No, instead he gave his life to ensure I could experience all those wonders. And so I think of Henry, and then I look across the beautiful lawns filled with graves and whisper a prayer of gratitude to God for the men and women who gave so much. And I recommit my life to be lived to the fullest, trying to make a difference for others.

July 4, a grand and glorious celebration of freedom, is past now. I can't help but reflect on the profound and poignant words of Jesus when He exclaimed, "If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed" (John 8:36). That is the ultimate freedom, and Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we can experience this freedom, which will last through eternity.

The next time you receive a lei, perhaps you too might make your way to a grave. Pass on the aloha, and be grateful for the freedoms we enjoy each day.

Aloha in Him, *Ralph S. Watts III*



Ralph S. Watts III,
*Hawaii Conference
President*



Welcome to the Team

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

New members join the Adventist education team in the Hawaii Conference. Please join me extending a warm aloha to the newest ministers of education.

D'MARIAE BANKS is the new Bible teacher and chaplain at Hawaii Mission Academy. He is an excellent educator, deeply convicted about helping lead young people to know and love Jesus. D'Mariae is purposeful in facilitating thinking in his students and is trained and experienced in teaching Encounter, the NAD's new Bible curriculum. By providing a rich and safe learning environment, D'Mariae challenges his students to excel above and beyond and not just settle for what is easiest. His conviction to help student reach and achieve is encouraging. As the Bible teacher and chaplain, D'Mariae will teach Bible classes and a ministry class, and he will be in charge of mentoring the student spiritual leaders on campus.

MEGAN ELMENDORF is the incoming history and mission coordinator at Hawaiian Mission Academy. She spent the last seven years as a social studies and language arts teacher and missions coordinator in Taiwan, and the previous five years working in the mental health field. Megan has diverse work experience in domestic and foreign settings and is enthusiastic and innovative in her teaching approaches. She enjoys helping students develop to their fullest potentials and is passionate about learning, exploring the world, experiencing new cultures and places, and helping others learn to love learning and exploring. Megan appreciates challenges and is looking forward to finding creative solutions for her students. Her passion for mission work is amazing, and we are looking forward to her sharing this love with her students.

JOEY FERRO joins the team at Mauna Loa School as the grades 2-4 teacher. As a graduate of the Pre-service Education for Teachers of Minorities program, a cohort sponsored by the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and Kamehameha Schools, Joey has an solid foundation for working with children of various backgrounds. For the past 16 years, she homeschooled her two daughters and occasionally substitute teach and work in the office at Mauna Loa School. With her daughters now in college, Joey has accepted the call to teach full time. She is familiar with the program and families at MLS, so she will hit the ground running. Joey hopes to inspire her students to be passionate about learning — academically, emotionally, socially, and above all spiritually. She wants to be a light for Jesus to her students, their families, and the community.

KINSEY MATHEWS is the newest member of the Adventist Mālama Elementary School family. Kinsey was born and raised in Ceres, Calif., where she attended Central Valley Christian Academy. Both of Kinsey's parents are teachers, so clearly teaching is in her blood. She discovered a passion for teaching when she became a swim instructor seven years ago. That desire to teach solidified after spending a year as a task force worker at HMA Ka Lama Iki. Kinsey graduated from Pacific Union College with degrees in liberal studies and graphic design. She is excited to be teaching at AMES this year and we are excited to welcome her back to Hawaii.

ROBYN MORDENO is the incoming business manager at Hawaiian Mission Academy. She is bringing with her more than 20 years of financial management experience in non-government organizations around the world, including ADRA, where she served as vice president of finance. Robyn has worked in a number of field offices around the world, including Thailand, Somalia, Albania, Azerbaijan and Vietnam. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, with concentrations in accounting and management from Southern Adventist University and a master's in international development, concentration in food security from Andrews University. As business manager, Robyn will be responsible for Hawaiian Mission Academy's finance management, including overseeing budgeting, accounting and reporting.

TEVITA TAMEIFUNA is joining the administrative team at Hawaiian Mission Academy, coming in as the school's new vice-principal and registrar. Tevita is a third generation Adventist born in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Tevita left Tonga for higher education in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Riverside, Calif. He has extensive experience in teaching and administration, having worked nine years in Nevada, 14 years in California, two years in Taiwan, and five years in Oklahoma. Tevita is married to the Moli, and has four college-age kids: Junior, Nia, Josh, and John. He is excited to move to Hawaiian Mission Academy.

MATT TELLER is excited to bring math to life for the students at Hawaiian Mission Academy. Matt was born in Iowa, and grew up in North and South Dakota. He is a big fan of sports and loves acrobatics, gymnastics, basketball, hiking and camping. Matt and Mayda, his wife, are excited about church evangelism. Matt has an associate's degree in engineering and bachelor's degree mathematics from Union College. He enjoys leading students into a relationship with God through reasoning and by the pre-established harmony of mathematics and nature. He was voted teacher of the year in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference in 2013.

SUM



SUMMER CAMP GOES FOR 20/20 GOAL

BY ERIK VANDENBURGH

Camp Waianae is in full swing on Oahu! Adventurer Camp has doubled in size from last year, which means we are well on our way to reaching our 20/20 vision! Our goal is to grow 20 percent by 2020.

We have also received more generous donations to cover the camp fees for homeless children, growing from one camper to more than 10 this year. In addition, offering \$100 camp for kids from neighboring islands has allowed more campers to fly in and enjoy all the wonderful activities at Waianae.

“I learned about God, and to not love the thing, love the giver,” said one camper. “My favorite part was going to the beach!”

Another says he likes worship at night and getting to make

new friends. Campers have also enjoyed the Aloha Games, including pool games, scavenger hunts, and a color run with a slip-n-slide!

“Heaven breaks through at Waianae,” says Nic Delima, visiting pastor from Kona.

It’s been wonderful to see the growth in our campers over the week, and we can’t wait to see what God has in store for the future!





RECITALS FOR DAD

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, HAWAII CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

I grew up in a family where music was emphasized; for me, it was violin, trumpet, and piano. For my three brothers, the list included cello and trombone.

My parents were missionaries in South America during my childhood, and it was not unusual for my father to travel for two- or three-week stints. Preparing for his return was a central event in our lives. We practiced during his absence and held a family recital for him when he returned. It was a big deal.

Dad was our recital guest of honor and I, in my young years, thought that our musical recitals were for his benefit. Silly me! Recitals, I now realize, benefit performers far more than they do audiences. I did not understand this as a child.

God invites His children to have “recitals” for Him; some “recitals” are called Sabbath school and worship services. God is the Guest of Honor, and we are the performers. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 4:9 (NIV): “We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings.” Another word for spectacle is theatre or public show. God’s people, in other words, perform and are on display, not only to humans, but also to heavenly beings.

So, who do you believe benefits more from our Sabbath school, worship service or other ministry “recitals?” God, or us? A fundamental purpose of worship is to bring us closer to God. God is the audience, so who are the performers? Pastors, as I see it, are to be prompters with congregations serving as the actors.

Worship, of course, is more than what happens on Sabbath mornings. For example, two women at work were admiring a bag of clothes when one of them said: “This would be a nice worship dress.” This led them to talk about Sabbath being a day of worship, and the second person expressed and interest in worshipping God on the biblical Sabbath.

On another occasion, a Seventh-day Adventist was giving away free soil one Friday afternoon. One person wanted to return for more the next day. The Sabbath-keeping brother responded that he would be unavailable because Saturday is a day of worship. Giving away dirt led to a new friend and a Bible study.

Our English word worship comes from worth + ship. Worship means giving value with “ship” being a reflection of its quality. Worship, then, is the quality of valuing God. Many words are used in the Bible in



describing acts of worship. They include bowing or falling down, awe, service, ministering, singing and supplication. None of these words is passive or sounds boring; each is physical, active and with forethought.

So how are our “recitals” for God? Are they a big deal to us? Or just one more thing crammed into our busy schedules? Worship is for our benefit. That’s how we grow.

God’s people will be worshipping Him throughout eternity; He will be our Guest of Honor. Let’s give Him our best.

Kingdom MATTERS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

We Have This Hope

by *Jim Pedersen*

*President
Northern California Conference*

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

401 Taylor Boulevard • P.O. Box 23165
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

(925) 685-4300 • Fax (888) 635-6934

www.nccsda.com • info@nccsda.com

www.facebook.com/NorCalAdventistsinAction

President, Jim Pedersen

Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson

Treasurer, John Rasmussen

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 4 • August 2017



Recently, my wife and I noticed some problems with the sidewalk in front of our house. Each day as the temperature rose, the cement would begin to buckle. Then as the evening came on, the uneven pitch of the sidewalk would diminish but not go away completely. Between mid-day and night, the sidewalk height would vary by several inches.

We suspected that the roots of the tree in the median strip (between the sidewalk and the road) might have something to do with the problem. So I called the city maintenance department. Ultimately, after a few contacts, the “right” person told me that they’d send someone out to look over the situation. I was glad to hear, that since our entire street is designated for repaving anyway, this sidewalk repair would cost me nothing!

Soon the sidewalk and curb were marked with multiple colors of spray paint, indicating where various utilities were located, and where the boundaries of the repair needed to be. Then we waited for the work to be done. A week passed. Two weeks passed. Some A-frame warning barriers were dropped off, ready to be put to use. Then one day we came home to discover that the sidewalk had been removed. We thought the new cement would be poured quickly – but it

wasn’t. We waited another week, then more. Every day we looked for the work to continue. Just as I was beginning to think it would never happen, we came home to find the new sidewalk.

As Christians, we live with hope for what has been promised that’s yet-to-come. We live with the expectation that Jesus is coming again soon. We live with the anticipation that the eternity that God has wanted for us from the very beginning will soon be a reality.

“**WAIT PATIENTLY FOR
THE LORD. BE BRAVE
AND COURAGEOUS.
YES, WAIT PATIENTLY
FOR THE LORD.**”

Throughout Scripture, we’re told to watch and wait with patience and eager anticipation.

“Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord” (Psalm 27:14, *New Living Translation*).

“Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him” (Psalm 62:5, *NLT*).

“For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are” (Romans 8:19, *NLT*).

Sometimes we wonder if Jesus’ coming will ever take place. But what He has promised WILL take place. The signs point to it. God’s Word clearly assures us of the glory and grandeur of that day. In the meantime, we wait ... patiently, eagerly – and soon Jesus WILL come. I can’t wait!

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.

2



VBS

*If it's summer ...
it's time for
Vacation Bible School!*

Throughout the Northern California Conference, churches are presenting VBS programs. Stories, games, snacks, and friends all contribute to the excitement. But there's more going on at VBS than wholesome fun.

It's also intentional evangelism. "People will come to VBS that won't come to church. They may not hear about Jesus in any other way," said Orangevale church Pastor Jon Cicle. This summer his church hosted 93 kids, more than half of whom were community members. "Our VBS serves as a vehicle to introduce people to the question: who are Seventh-day Adventists?"

Pastor José Díaz agrees. His congregation at the St. Helena Spanish church hosted about 30 kids at their VBS. The majority of them came from community families. "This is what the church is supposed to be doing," he said. "This is mission—reaching out to the kids of the community, getting to know them, building relationships with them."

Community parents notice the positive effects of VBS and want to contribute. At the Antioch church last year, a mother brought her two kids for the first time. This summer, she returned as a VBS volunteer. "We're planting seeds in the hearts of the children," said the church's VBS director Lydia Paredes. "As the parents come in, we're hoping they feel welcomed and want to explore our church."

Alice Merrill, NCC associate director for children's/family/Adventurer ministries, encourages church members to invest in this popular form of child outreach. "When your church makes its evangelism plans for next year, don't forget VBS!" she said.

We asked NCC pastors to send us photos of their church's VBS program. Check out the fun times! (Some Vacation Bible Schools took place after we went to press, and we're sorry we couldn't include them.)

Churches featured:

- 1. Oakland Elmhurst,
- 2. Grass Valley, 3. Pleasant Hill,
- 4. Napa Community,
- 5. Orangevale, 6. Lodi Fairmont,
- 7. Sonoma,
- 8. Antioch, 9. Yountville Signs Memorial,
- 10. St. Helena Spanish,
- 11. Middletown,
- 12. Tracy, 13. Placerville,
- 14. Ignite Camp Meeting,
- 15. Gracepoint,
- 16. Pacific Union College,
- 17. Novato Horeb Haitian.

3



8



9





The Key to Certainty *in an* Uncertain Economy

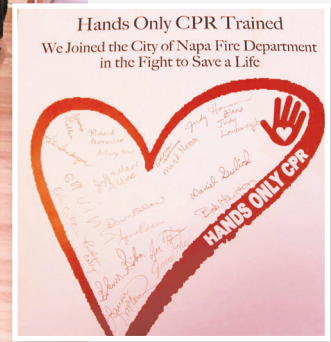
If you are like many people, you have seen the value of your investments fluctuate with the markets. You might be wondering if there is a way to find true security for you and your loved ones. The good news is that with a **charitable gift annuity's** fixed payments, you or a loved one can find the peace of mind that you are looking for.

Contact us or visit our website to learn more about how to create certainty with a charitable gift annuity!



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE
PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES
www.SDALegacy.org • (888) 434-4622

Copyright © 2015 Crescendo Interactive, Inc. Used by permission.



ALL PHOTOS BY ALAN LAUBOROUGH

(Top Left) The Napa Community church hosts a class for about 30 people who want to learn hands-only CPR. (Top Right) A sign displays the attendees' signatures.

The Napa Community Church Hosts a CPR Class

In late spring, about 30 members of the Napa Community church attended a hands-only CPR course taught by the paramedics from Napa Fire Department's Engine 4.

Hands-only is a CPR method without mouth-to-mouth rescue breaths. "We were surprised to learn that the respiratory part of the training that I have had in past years has been eliminated," said church member Jeff Allee, who attended the class with his wife, Mary.

The American Heart Association has determined through studies and evaluation that hands-only CPR is as beneficial, if not more so, as traditional CPR within the first 10 minutes of sudden death due to cardiac arrest.

The key is that CPR has to be performed by someone immediately or there is realistically no chance of survival.

The church members learned how to perform the life-saving action during the hour-long class held in the church's Fireside Room. After hearing instructions and viewing a couple of videos, the church members took turns doing the compressions on rescue mannequins with guidance from the fire personnel. The goal was to have the "clicker" inside the mannequin's chest cavity click with each compression. After everyone had



performed CPR a couple of times and felt comfortable with the procedure, a review was completed by the fire personnel.

Those who attended the class appreciated their instructors. "I enjoyed the Napa firefighters/EMTs bringing a touch of humor at the start of the class to relax all of us students," said church member Judy Lauborough. "I am thankful they came to teach us on a Sunday morning and remind us again that we all need to be ready to help others in distress."

By Alan Lauborough



(Above) Jessica Cullen watches while Erin Cullen practices what she's learned. (Inset) An instructor gives a demonstration of hands-only CPR.

Upcoming Events
 Visit www.nccsda.com for a complete list of future events.

**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
 EVANGELISM SUMMIT
 September 15-16, 2017**
 Life Adventist Church of Berkeley

**LOCAL CHURCH ELDERS' TRAINING
 SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**
 Fairfield Community Seventh-day Adventist Church
 (1101 E. Tabor Ave.)
 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Lunch will be provided.)

OCTOBER 20-22, 2017
 NCC Youth Ministries
 RETREAT

Nevada-Utah Views

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



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

August 2017

NUC Works on Strategic Plan

On June 8-11, 2017, the Executive Committee of the Nevada-Utah Conference held its Executive Committee Retreat. One of the primary concerns for the Nevada-Utah Conference has been that they needed a strategic plan in order to create a vision of how best to do God's work as a unified body of believers, and to intentionally begin the process of planning for the future of the Conference. The retreat was designed as a strategic planning session. During the weekend, it was quickly discovered that the Executive Committee has a heart for the expansion of the work of God.

The facilitator for the session was Dr. José Rojas, the president of Momentum and an international leader in the SDA Church for many years. He knows and understands the character of the Adventist Church. His experience gave him the ability to challenge the committee to go beyond mediocre to strive for excellence and to envision what excellence in the NUC should look like. "The 'shared vision for mission' process involves the whole leadership team in developing a common vision together," Rojas said. "As a shared vision is identified, a mission rises to the surface and becomes clear."

A great deal of time was spent developing a vision for mission. In the end, a preliminary mission and vision were established in the form of the acronym T.E.A.M. - Transforming Evangelism And Ministry. Some of the goals T.E.A.M. aims to accomplish are encouraging 5000 church members to bring at least one person to Jesus by 2022, plant 20 new congregations, engage 50% of Conference youth in church leadership and ministry, expand Adventist school enrollment, and overall helping churches create a safe, welcoming environment for new members and community members alike. Leon Brown, president of the Nevada-Utah Conference, sees God's plan for the Conference as one of growth. "What needs to happen is for the work of evangelism to shift from the ministers alone to the church members as well," he said. "Training the members to change the model of how evangelism is done, to the way the apostles did it, to the way Jesus did it."

The Executive Committee intends to fine tune the T.E.A.M. proposal with the input of Conference members, pastors, and educators during town hall meeting sessions. "The future of the church will not be accomplished as the solo efforts of a few church leaders," said Brown. "But as a team."



*by Elder Leon Brown,
NUC President*



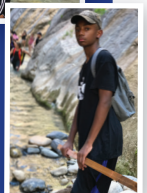
*José Rojas facilitates
a training/brain
storming session on
developing a mission
for the NUC.*



*Sherri Hannon and Brenda Goodwin, NUC
Executive Committee members.*

SNAPSHOTS FROM AROUND OUR CONFERENCE

The Living Water Pathfinders and church family participated in a camping adventure and retreat at Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort from June 22-25, 2017. Sabbath Worship included music and singing, prayer, biblical story skits by Pathfinders of various age groups, and a sermon from Isaiah 6:1-8. After the services, the campers enjoyed a trip into Zion National Park. They experienced the beauty of God's creation.



Sparks Church

Engages Community

by Jordan Greene

The Sparks Seventh-day Adventist Church has been very forward in pioneering a ministry of service in the Reno, Nevada area. Led by Pastor Omar Palmer, they have made a conscious effort this year to engage in “practical evangelism”. Rather than allocating their evangelism budget to meetings or a speaker, the Sparks church has chosen to direct those funds into reaching out to their community in some big and creative ways.

“We must show Jesus’ love in action, not just in a sermon.”

On May 6, the Sparks church held a Law Enforcement Honors Ceremony to acknowledge the work of law enforcement officers in the cities of Reno and Sparks, and the Washoe County Sheriff’s Department during law enforcement week. As well as giving out special awards to officers, the church family implemented an “Adopt-a-

Car” program, where church members would be given a police squad car number to add to their prayer list. “This is a special night for me, and many in this room,” said Chief of Police for the Sparks Police Department Brian Allen. “You have invited us into your church, not because of a national

tragedy...but simply to say ‘thank you.’”

The following month the church held a community birthday party. Families were invited to Oppio Park to share in an afternoon of games, food, and fun. Kids were able to win prizes and eat a delicious birthday cake, while looking at the big, red firetruck brought by the Sparks Fire Department. One of the community parents commented, “We have been waiting and hoping for something like this; a place where our kids can play safely.” Many of those who attended the birthday party also attended the church’s VBS program, which focused on the C.R.E.A.T.I.O.N. Health program.

This coming August, the church plans to implement a “Back-to-School” giveaway for all those in the community who need school supplies, clothes, and other essentials. With all their efforts, the city of Sparks has contacted the church to see what they can do to further spread their positive influence in the community. Palmer said that he hopes the church will continue to do bigger and better things to help spread God’s message to the city of Sparks. “We must show Jesus’ love in action, not just in a sermon.”



Pastor Omar Palmer and Assistant Chaplaincy Director of the NAD pose together at the Law Enforcement Award Ceremony.



(Above Left) A group of children try to break open a piñata at the community birthday party. (Below Left) Children enjoy the Sparks Fire Department’s fire engine.



The Red Cliffs and Cedar City church members continue to work on plans to reach their community.

Utah Churches Evangelize Together

The churches of Cedar City and Red Cliffs (in St. George), though few in members, have developed an effective system of evangelizing in a unique environment. About 60% of the Utah population belongs to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but as local church elder Lisa Arter believes, that's no reason to stop evangelizing. "You still have 40%" she said. "They need evangelism...there's work to be done! Additionally, our LDS brethren are in need of those able to answer their questions about Bible truths."

When the district churches' pastor returned to the seminary to continue his education, members were able to step in and preach to one another. About half of the members are Spanish speaking, so the churches make audio translations available or invite college students from nearby universities to be translators. When it comes to the needs of its members, no length is too far to go. Recently, the Cedar City congregation added a baptistery. Many of the members helped with their connections in building and wiring, and a family even drove from St. George to assist with installing drywall. After its completion, the new baptistery hosted five baptisms in the first month.

Working together, the churches host an annual camp meeting in the local mountains, welcoming attendees from Nevada, Utah, Arizona, California, and Colorado. This past year, Red Cliffs realized its dream to purchase their own church. Members from both churches attend one another's workbees and help with building and remodeling. Both churches have paid off their mortgages and are planning dedication ceremonies; an amazing accomplishment for having fewer than 200 members total. It is evident that the members are open-hearted and dedicated to the work of the Lord.

Evangelistic opportunities abound where some may think they are lacking. Both Cedar City and Red Cliffs participate in partnership with other community churches to help provide for those in need. Whether it's donating clothes to the homeless or sending supplies to the victims of fire damage, the Utah churches are ready to share their time, possessions, and witness about their friend, Jesus. "We are blessed by the local church environment" said Hans and Jennifer Christensen, members of Red Cliffs, "which nurtures members' spiritual gifts, allowing them to be used to their full extent."

God is accomplishing great things in this little corner of the world. "We retired here 15 years ago from Simi Valley, CA, looking for a country lifestyle," said Donald and Helen Myres, the head deacon and treasurer of the Cedar City church. "When we first came, there was only a branch Sabbath School, meeting in the back of a coffee shop on Main Street. From there, we progressed to a church company able to rent facilities from a Sunday church, and now have our own Adventist church that is paid for. God has blessed us."

*by Lisa Arter
with Jordan Greene*



Cedar City church members work on a new baptistery.

SNAPSHOTS FROM AROUND OUR CONFERENCE

The Las Vegas Fil-Am church held their 2nd quarter baptism at Willow Beach in Arizona on Sabbath, May 27, 2017. Praying behind the three baptismal candidates is Pastor G.H. Gucilar. The ladies getting baptized, from left to right, were Garlyn Batidor Davis; Teresa Cundangan Li and Shellah Laput Sabo.



Provo Church's Community Services

Work on Disaster Preparedness

by Linda Walton

The Provo, Utah Adventist Community Service (ACS) hosted a central and southern Utah disaster drill in late June where members of the American Red Cross (ARC) practiced setting up a shelter in the Provo church's Adventist Community Center (PACC), which can sleep about 150 people. The Center can also be used for a triage center for medical needs, a command center for emergency workers, or a warehouse for supplies. It is conveniently situated next to Station #5, Provo City Fire, Paramedic and Police station.

Provo's ACS group assisted the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). This national and local group assists the American Red Cross (ARC) and government agencies in the event of a disaster. Executive Director for the ARC's Central and Southern Utah branch Amber Savage said she truly appreciated PACC's willingness to offer their facilities. "They are one

The Provo church's community services works with a variety of community organizations, like the American Red Cross.

of the American Red Cross' primary shelters of application. We can use them for training exercises, drills, and storage of food and other equipment. We are very glad that we can utilize the facility. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

PACC has agreements with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), ARC, the State of Utah, Utah County, and Provo City for cooperation in the event of a disaster. Supplies are kept on site for first aid, basic needs, and the ARC stores their sleeping cots also. All SDA members are encouraged to keep their 72 hour kits in their vehicles so that, in the event of a disaster while on-site, they will have their own prescriptions, clothing, etc., according to Chaplain Linda P. Walton, Provo ACS director.

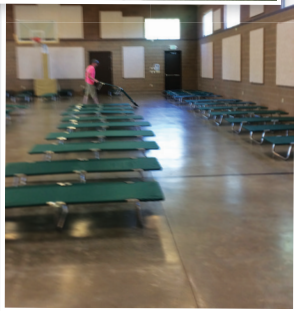
Routine ARC first aid training and on site drills are scheduled. The last drill was on a Sabbath, during the 11 a.m. worship service, when the congregation discussed what they would do if there was a fire, an earthquake, a medical emergency, or if someone with a weapon threatened the group.

"Each incident requires different action and we wanted to communicate with the entire congregation about what to do," Walton said.

In an effort to get more community congregations involved in the disaster preparation, the Utah Valley Interfaith Association is also suggesting two drills annually and two meetings for clergy to receive triage training for spiritual/mental health crises. In the event of a disaster, for instance a shooting on a college campus, clergy can be deployed to assist on-campus counselors with those impacted.

"More events require more effort to prepare in advance to help those around us," Walton said.

The PACC is also routinely used by about 700 people every week for classes and events: Sunday church groups, home school programs, children's gymnastics, summer reading programs, a children's music class, the Community Action program, ARC first aid training and blood draws, Utah Valley Symphony rehearsals, a hand bell choir, and Pathfinders.



REGIONAL MINISTRIES CONVOCATION

Faith REDEFINED

SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2017



Featuring Speaker
Debleaire Snell

Abundant Life SDA Church
1720 J Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Friday 7 p.m.
Sabbath
Morning Manna 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Noon Worship 12:10 p.m. • Lunch
Afternoon Prevention 3 p.m.
Evening Concert 5 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT 702-647-2627

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 THE POWER OF PRAYER AND A LEADER

Raquel Bravo was one of two eighth-graders in the one-room Adventist school in Needles. She joined her teacher and principal, Norma Howard, along with the 11 other students in the classroom, in praying that God would bring them more students.

They prayed specifically for two things: for the Holy Spirit to lead children to their school who wanted to learn about God; and for the future students to be good citizens.

Raquel approached Norma one day in February and asked if they could add a new prayer request: more classmates in the seventh- and eighth-grades. Norma agreed, and they began to add that specific request to their prayers.

The following Monday morning, two eighth-graders and one seventh-grader enrolled into the school. The next week, Norma saw a woman with

children walking towards the school. She wanted to enroll her four children. Later that day, two more children were enrolled in the school.

By the end of the year, 25 students attended the one-room school. In June, five eighth-graders graduated from Needles SDA School.

Norma has been intentional in connecting her students with the church they share a campus with. Wednesdays are delightful days for the students. After school is over for the day, she provides activities and cooks supper for them. Afterwards, they walk over to the church for prayer meeting. The students lead out in music, read scripture, and participate in the Bible study.

In 2014, Norma received the well-deserved Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alumni Awards Foundation. I am deeply grateful for her ministry in our conference territory.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY DONDULEY

Norma Howard, left, stands with her students and the SECC education department at Needles SDA School on Feb. 1.

In Southeastern California Conference, we are focused on the priorities of engaging our next generations in evangelizing in new and creative ways. As we reach into our communities, educate for lifelong faithfulness and success, and equip members of every age, let's look to this story in Needles, at the edge of our conference territory, as an example of someone working with a mission mindset in both a church and a school setting to expand the kingdom of God.

Norma represents hundreds of teachers, principals, and pastors in our conference who continually pour into the lives of children in their community and give them opportunities to connect with the church. She represents the leaders who begin their work on their knees, persistent in prayer.

AUGUST

EQUIP

Take a day this month to prayerfully focus on how you can best contribute to your church and community as you live out your calling as a member of the body of Christ. Pray for spiritual discernment as you explore your God-given gifts and talents, and commit to using them to participate in expanding the kingdom of God. As we seek to equip members for ministry in SECC, please pray for opportunities to learn, grow, and be mentored in the areas you sense God would like to use you. God will use all of us!

A SYSTEM OF SUPPORT, PART 2

THERE'S SOMETHING BIGGER THAN US

As we continue discussing finances and giving, let's look at two commonly-asked questions that reflect some of today's concerns about how we should return our tithes.

• *If our own congregation is doing great things for the community with more immediate, measurable results, would it be smarter to keep our tithe dollars at the local level?*

• *What if our congregation has no need for the assistance conference offices provide for church administration, programming or evangelism? Is it smart investing to allow a part of our tithe to go toward resources we're not even using?*

It's important to note that these types of questions are often asked out of love for the church and fellow human beings, to whom we are charged to lend a

helping hand (Isaiah 58:7; Romans 12:13).

In light of these concerns, however, we must consider what happens if tithe *isn't* paid, or if it is "re-routed" locally.

"While it would be nice to keep the full amount of tithe given by the local church, I've found that tithing faithfully can serve as an antidote for self-centeredness," said Dave Peckham, pastor of Valley Center church. "It acknowledges there is something bigger than us."

"Sadly, many view tithing as giving to a bottomless pit," Peckham continued. "Sometimes we can lose

"LOOKING AT OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY, IT'S CLEAR THAT SHARING RESOURCES BOTH REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY IS WHAT HAS ALLOWED US TO GROW."

sight of what our shared dollars can do."

Additionally, when looking at our church's history, it's clear that "sharing resources both regionally and globally is what has allowed us to grow," said Ernest Furness, conference ministerial director. "Directing tithe elsewhere, whether keeping it at the local level or giving it to another ministry instead, hurts the conference as a whole. It affects the smaller churches in the conference that depend on those resources."

And what are these resources the conference offers to churches? In addition to supporting all our pastors and schools, several important services for churches are funded by tithe, such as legal support,

programming assistance for Vacation Bible School, Pathfinders and other ministries, evangelism, and more.

Whether or not we completely agree with the current system, we can't forget that what we enjoy now is the result of reliance on a model that has allowed us to share resources. To refuse to return our tithes is to deny smaller congregations the same opportunities enjoyed by larger churches.

But the concern for our church's collective stewardship is noted. There are no claims that we have a perfect system, though we can ask ourselves as members if we are willing

to be a part of positive change and growth. This happens through open and honest communication with the church and among ourselves.

Similar to how we contact our state representative if we have concerns about methods, budgets, enforcement, etc., we are even more freely encouraged to dialogue with our pastors, conference officers and other leaders, sharing our ideas and convictions. "We are not to create undercurrents but to approach our church leadership, asking them to look at the issues we care about," added Peckham. Stopping our giving does not cause our concerns to be addressed.

The next article will cover the numerous ways we can make our voices heard by becoming involved in discussions with church leadership. By staying in the conversation, we can be advocates for our local churches.

We're in this together, because that's the way we grow.

By Amy Prindle

ESCONDIDO CHURCH CONGREGATION EMBRACES YOUTH IN DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION WORK

Members of the Escondido church have long believed in intentional discipleship of their youth and young adults. When the conference rolled out its new Growing Young initiative, based on the book by the same title by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin, the church staff all got a copy and started reading.

“Our church has really been open to getting our youth involved,” said Mario C. Perez, associate pastor at Escondido church. “Our leaders took the Growing Young assessment so they could see where they were.”

Since the conference started the Growing Young initiative, Perez and Steve Blue, senior pastor, have begun offering Bible studies to the middle school students at their church.

“Everything centers on food,” Perez said. “The kids pick a food they want, like ice cream, and we take them out.”

In these informal settings, the students are able to ask the pastors whatever questions they would like. The food-centered Bible studies have been a hit with the middle school students.

After starting the Bible studies, the pastors planned a weekend mission trip to Los Angeles with the students. This trip, while short, served to introduce them to mission trips for the first time in hopes they will engage in others as they get older.

The students did a prayer tour



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY STEVE BLUE

Middle school students from Escondido church gather before their mission trip to Los Angeles May 5-7.

through some of LA’s poorest districts and fed homeless people on Sabbath afternoon, praying with people they met. They also volunteered at a food bank and sorted donations. Near the end of the trip they visited a home for low-income elderly people, where they brought the residents gifts and played bingo with them.

“The goal was to get the kids out of their comfort zone and engage them in cross-generational relationships,” Perez said.

On June 3, the Escondido members reaped the rewards of the work they put into the Growing Young initiative when the students from the mission trip planned the entire church service and eight of them were baptized.

“It’s a blessing being in a congregation that’s very supportive of our young people,” Perez said. “Not only financially, but also getting them involved.”

All the students who were baptized received a special gift from the pastors and their peers: personalized Bibles in which their friends had taken

the time to go through and underline all their favorite Bible verses. Now when the students read their Bibles for themselves, they will be

reminded how much they are loved not only by Jesus—but by their church family as well.

By Suzanne Oscari

UPCOMING EVENTS

Loma Linda University Church Camp Meeting

(Aug. 5 – Sept. 2) Morning: 9 and 11:45 a.m.; afternoons: 7 p.m. except on Aug. 19, 5 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Hear Randy Roberts, senior pastor, speak every Sabbath in August and the first Sabbath in September. The series is titled “The Song: relational wisdom from the hottest book in the Bible.” Celeste Holbrook, sexual health educator, will speak Sunday, Aug. 13. The Heritage Singers will present their concert at 7 p.m. on Aug. 5 for the start of an amazing camp meeting. Info: 909-558-4570.

We are Uno

(Aug. 18-20) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. Hispanic youth camp for ages 16-30. This is for the first, second, and third Hispanic generations where they can understand that they can be a part of church, their community, and Christ. Info and registration: Ariel Torres, arieldtt@yahoo.com.

Ordination Service for Rochelle Webster

(Aug. 19) 4 p.m., Redlands church, 520 Brookside Ave., Redlands. Webster is currently the associate pastor for Redlands church. Info: 909-793-6337.

Big Bear Valley Camp Meeting

(Aug. 25, 7 p.m.; Aug. 26, 8:30 a.m.) Big Bear Valley church, 349 E North Shore Dr., Big Bear City. Come and hear Elizabeth Talbot, speaker/director of Jesus 101, speak during this year’s Big Bear Valley church camp meeting. Info: bigbearadventist@outlook.com.



(Left) The Escondido mission team speaks about their recent mission trip to Los Angeles and how they saw Jesus during the church service on June 3. (Right) Brady Roberts, eighth grade, left, is one of the eight students baptized by Mario C. Perez, associate pastor at Escondido church, right, during the church service on June 3.

MENTONE CHURCH FUNDS MISSION TRIP WHILE PROVIDING MUSIC EDUCATION

The Mentone church hosted its fourth annual music camp from June 12 to 17, bringing in 82 campers between the ages of 4 and 16.

"I had a dream to start a church music camp over four years ago," said Julie Bowes, the church's special events music coordinator. But it was the enthusiasm of a 13-year-old friend that encouraged Bowes to organize the first Mentone Music Camp in 2014, and the camp's popularity that motivated her and her husband, Rodney, to continue hosting the annual event.

"My primary goals were and are to offer affordable music-learning opportunities for all and to show Adventist youth, in particular, how excellent music can be used for ministry and God's glory," Bowes said.

During the week, students played in orchestras. They were divided into



(Left) Students write their own music during the week, perform it for others, and learn how to improve their skillset in composition theory class. (Middle) A student learns how to play the flute during music camp at Mentone church June 12-17. (Right) Cello was one of the many options students had to choose from during the Mentone "petting zoo" on May 8. The event was so students could choose which instruments they wanted for camp the next month.

groups based on their instrument and skill level for workshops and various music classes. The music focused on hymns and hymn arrangements, but also included classical works from Bach, Vivaldi, and Handel. While the camp was heavily group oriented, the variation of group sizes, from workshops with all 82 participants to classes with only four students, catered to all comfort levels and allowed students to try new things.

Sophia Barnard, 11, and Miriam Barnard, 9, have looked forward to music camp each year since they first attended in 2015. This year, the sisters both decided to play the harp and the cello, instruments neither of them had ever played before.

"I think my favorite part was when I played in the orchestra, because I got to play with lots of other people," Miriam said.

"I liked orchestra and playing in the morning when they had all the people playing up front, but I usually don't like playing in so many groups," Sophia explained. Instead, she preferred one of the smaller group classes.

"Composition theory was fun because you could listen to music other people wrote, and you could write your own music. I've never done that before."

Although Sophia and Miriam will need to wait until 2018 to attend the next Mentone music camp, the Boweses are not finished with their music ministry for the summer.

After using camp attendance fees to cover immediate costs, such as food and materials, the profits went towards an annual mission trip fund. This year, the Boweses will spend two weeks in August working with church pianists and offering preventive health-education training to people in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

By Juliette Lee



(Above) The music selections for Mentone's music camp were focused on hymns and hymn arrangements, but also included classical works. (Left) Students perform on Sabbath, June 17, after a week of music lessons playing their instrument of choice.

PHOTOS BY LORI ERMESHAR

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

AUGUST 2017

KEEPING *intouch*

IN THIS ISSUE

*Care Enough:
First Regional
Mental Health
Seminar*



*South Bay Junior
Academy Makes
a Difference in
Costa Rica*



*Public Affairs and
Religious Liberty
Events Coming
in September!*



What is Social Justice?



By John H. Cress

Let Us Not Give Up

MEETING TOGETHER!

Modern technology provides many benefits. Productivity is increasing at an astonishing rate. Information can be exchanged in unprecedented ways. Face-to-face conversations can be shared with people on the other side of the country. Sermons and worship services can be live-streamed right into our homes.

In this increasingly technologically rich world, it is even more tempting to neglect “gathering together” as Christians to worship, learn, and be challenged by one another. The words of the book of Hebrews are more relevant today than when they were written: “*not giving up meeting together, as some*

are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25

Nothing can substitute being together. There is power in hearing God’s Word preached in person alongside other believers. Our faith is fueled by hearing the Word of God in community. Being together reinforces and strengthens resolve. Assembly nurtures and encourages us toward discipleship. The gathered church

You will be inspired and encouraged to live a full life of health, hope, and happiness.

underscores our unity. It reminds us that there are many of us with the same theology, practice, mission, and message.

It’s been more than 16 years since the Southern California Conference family last gathered together for a convocation. Facebook, Skype, iPhones, and Twitter didn’t even

exist yet! All this changes on September 23, 2017, because on that Sabbath, at the Greek Theatre, we will spend a day of fellowship together.

The theme of our convocation is “ALIVE, a Journey to Health & Hope.” You will be inspired and encouraged to live a full life of health, hope, and happiness. This gathering is not just for you and your family. Your neighbors and



Leslie N. Pollard
Ph.D., M.Div., D.Min., MBA



Karl Haffner
Ph.D., M.Div., MBA



Neil Nedley
M.D.



Nerida McKibben
MBChB



H. Schubert Palmer
M.D.

cont. on page 2

friends will also find positive, Christ-centered messages that encourage them to take steps toward a healthy, hope-filled life. So, bring them along, too.

Crucial messages on an abundant life in Jesus grounded in health and hope will be presented by our anchor speakers: Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., M.Div., D.Min., MBA, president of Oakwood University, and Karl Haffner, Ph.D.,

M.Div., MBA, senior pastor of the Kettering Adventist Church and mission strategist for Kettering Health Network. Lifestyle presentations by Nerida McKibben, MBChB, host/co-producer of *Go Healthy for Good* on Hope Channel; H. Schubert Palmer, M.D.; and Neil Nedley, M.D., will round out our understanding of diet, offer hope for beating depression, and much more.

When you fill the day with testimonies, two choirs (a mass convocation choir and a children's choir), and times of prayer and praise, this is an event you can't fully experience through technology. You must be there. To learn more about Southern California Conference's upcoming convocation, "ALIVE, a Journey to Health & Hope," visit <http://www.aliveconvocation2017.org>.

CARE ENOUGH: *First Regional Mental Health Seminar*

By Noel Brathwaite and Deidre McAlpin

2017 is an ambitious year for the Greater Los Angeles Region Health Network (GHN). The focus areas are nutrition, physical activity, mental health, and health ministries leadership training. The practical application is this: The region's 17 churches have committed to collectively lose 2,017 pounds in 2017.

In May, the GHN sponsored the first regional mental health seminar to support GHN's 2017 focus on mental health. The theme was "Care Enough: Healthy Outcomes on Emotional and Mental Health." Presenters represented several partnering organizations, including Drs. Carlos Fayard (LLU School of Medicine), Rhonda Williams (Private Practice Psychiatry), Gloria Morrow (Cal State Fullerton), and Jennifer Shepherd-Payne (Azusa Pacific University). In addition, Harold Turner (National Alliance on Mental Illness/NAMI), Adrienne Cedro-Hament (L.A. County Mental Health Commission) and Felipe Ocampo, a Health Neighborhood and

Faith-based Liaison for the L.A. County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), also participated.

Emphasis was on exploring the role of the church in mental health awareness and in mental ill-health prevention and management. Approximately 40% of the time, it was noted, when people with mental illnesses turn to an entity outside of the mental health system, they turn to the church first. Many churches have no plans for assistance; some clergy rarely preach about mental illness to their congregations and are unsure how to corporately respond when called upon.

This seminar was intended as a start in filling such a gap. Topics included:

- "There is no health without mental health: What can the church do?"
- "Bridges of Hope."
- "Lessons learned on starting a mental health ministry for Black Churches."
- "How the LACDMH is engaging the clergy communities."
- "What about resources?"

These presentations offered real tips and tools that could make a difference in starting and sustaining an evidence-based and best-practices program aimed at successful transformative outcomes.

The impact of this seminar was almost immediate. About 30 minutes after it ended, a call was made to the GHN requesting assistance in finding Section 8 housing for a mentally challenged person; and some wanted to be added to the database for notification of follow-up events. "God is good," said Noel Brathwaite. "He has asked us to be available for His outpouring and to be used as vessels to those in need. Following His lead, we will be amazed at what a caring church can do, the transformation that can occur, and how the broken can be restored and become His disciples."



Attendees fellowship and participate in practical presentations.

Photo by Noel Brathwaite

South Bay Junior Academy MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN COSTA RICA

By Jonathan Fox and Lauren Armstrong

Every year, South Bay Junior Academy (SBJA) students go on a mission trip. This past school year, they visited the town of Brasilito, Costa Rica, to awaken a passion to live a life of service, to build international and intercultural goodwill, and to develop a desire to learn. They spent the mornings playing sports, doing crafts, and practicing English with kids in the local school. In the afternoons, they purchased supplies for and worked with families in the community as they improved their living conditions. Evenings were spent helping adults practice conversational English in a nearby town.

Every morning, the group ate breakfast at a restaurant across the



Fox met Comanche on an earlier trip to Brasilito with another school. This time, SBJA helped him build a covered patio to keep out the sun and rain. "It was meaningful to connect with him again," Fox noted. "Working side by side with his family and neighbors, playing with their children, and eating new fruits and foods together was a beautiful and rich experience."

street from the school, and they were served by a young woman named Yubelca. She told them she recalled a visit from another group who had come and done something similar for the community when she was in first grade. "She

expressed how it had made a large impact on her life, helping her learn to connect and play with adults when her father was not a part of her life," Jonathan Fox, SBJA grades 6-8 teacher, recalled.

After a week of service in Brasilito, the group took a couple of days to explore the nature and biodiversity of Costa Rica. They drove to the Tenorio Volcano area and hiked through the lush cloud forest to Rio Celeste, a beautiful river and waterfall. They also spent a day in the Arenal volcano area, hiking in the jungles, shopping in the town of La Fortuna, and enjoying hot springs heated by geothermal activity. "We saw monkeys, sloths, snakes, butterflies, and a toucan!" Fox reported.

"The most beautiful aspects of this trip were the relationships that we were able to develop with individuals in the community," said Fox. "We didn't just give out stuff; we spent time with people, we learned from them, and maybe they learned from us."



Yubelca served the group breakfast every morning. "The day we left Brasilito, she gave us each a personal thank you note and a chocolate," Fox recalled. "She didn't speak English, so she had stayed up the night before looking up English phrases on the internet to be able to make the notes."



Yesenia is the cook at the school, and she worked at the school three years ago when Fox visited. "I was surprised to see a picture she still has of herself with members of the previous group," Fox said.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Events Coming in September!



By James G. Lee, Jr.
Public Affairs Religious Liberty
director

Sept. 9 and 10 will be a special weekend in Southern California Conference. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Social Justice Sabbath, Sept. 9

News media and public interest are increasingly focusing on social justice issues that are impacting the general public. These public issues are impacting the Adventist church as well, particularly in the area of Religious Liberty. We urge readers to plan to attend, and listen and learn throughout this very special Sabbath.

Four Speakers at Four Locations for Sabbath morning Worship Services:

Normandie Ave. church, 12420 S. Normandie Ave., L.A. 90044

- **Ganoune Diop**, Ph.D., director, General Conference Religious Liberty & Public Affairs Dept. – *First time in Southern California Conference!*

Vallejo Drive church, 300 Vallejo Dr., Glendale 91206

- **Alan J. Reinach**, Esq., executive director, Pacific Union Church State Council

Community Adventist Fellowship

464 E. Walnut St., Suite 211, Pasadena 91101

- **Dennis Seaton**, Director of Government Relations, Pacific Union Church State Council

Glendale Spanish church, 901 E. Broadway, Glendale 91205

- **Danny Rodela**, NARLA West board member

4:00 P.M. Social Justice & The Adventist Church in Southern California in 2017

Central Filipino Church

777 Colorado Blvd., Los Angeles 90041

Presenters:

Ganoune Diop, Ph.D. – Current Global PARL Issues

Alan J. Reinach, Esq. – School Vouchers Revisited

James G. Lee, Jr., SCC Public Affairs Religious Liberty director – Repealing the Johnson Amendment?!

Dennis Seaton – How Do Adventist Churches and Members Get Involved with Religious Liberty Issues?
Following a Q&A session, light refreshments will be served.



Sunday, Sept. 10

From at least the 1600's to 1886, when the Statue of Liberty beckoned immigrants — many of them undocumented — to our country, America has been the destination for immigrants from all over the world. As a result, the cultural fabric of the U.S. today is richly diverse.

Why do we train our churches to help undocumented immigrants

today? Our rationale is not to help people circumvent the law; it is service; to serve others as Christ served. In Matthew 25, He tells us to minister, “unto the least of these, my brethren.” People who have come to this country from, in many cases, unimaginable oppression, are in need. They are in our midst, in our churches and communities. As Christians, our calling today is to help where help is needed.

If your church would like to get involved in this ministry to help immigrants in your community or your congregation, please be sure to sign up to participate in the immigration training planned for Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Compton Community church.

Complete Legal Immigration Training – 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (lunch included) Location: Compton Community church 1226 W. Compton Blvd., Compton 90220.

Topics:

- **Know Your Rights**
- **Family-Based Immigration**
- **DACA** (*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*)
- **DAPA** (*Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents*)
- **U-Visa** (*A nonimmigrant visa set aside for victims of crimes.*)
- **VAWA** (*Violence Against Women Act*)
- **Legal Resources and Handouts**

If you plan to attend, please email or call to confirm your attendance (plus the names of anyone who will come with you) **before Sept. 6.**

Contact: Barbara Hart at 818-546-8405; bhart@sccsda.org; or Betty Cooney at 818-516-6508 (cell); bcooney@sccsda.org

Please note that, in the interest of safety, only documented participants can take the training. Those who take the training will then train those who do not attend.