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A Time *for Gratitude*

BY TED BENSON, PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE TREASURER

This time of year we often think about gifts—the ones we share with others and the ones that are shared with us.

One of the gifts I am most thankful for is the diversity of our membership. We have large churches and small churches, large conferences and small conferences. We represent dozens and dozens of cultures—and the gospel is proclaimed in the churches of the Pacific Union in more than 160 languages every single week.

I am grateful that God has given each of us the sacred opportunity to share in telling the story of the gospel, without reference to race, gender, age, status, or any other way that might divide and group us. We are a people with undivided hearts, and the diversity of our lives and situations is a powerful witness to our singular commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful this year for the compassionate spirit of our membership. As disasters of unprecedented scale and scope have swept across our country, our members have responded with generosity and caring. When wildfires destroyed so many homes and communities in Northern California—including an entire academy lost in a few hours—the outpouring of support was heartfelt and immediate. I am grateful that our union has been able to respond with

financial

resources to be of aid in these situations.

I am thankful for all of our students and the dedicated teachers who serve our schools. In partnership with donors who want to see their resources used in a powerful way to assist our schools, it was a thrill for us to distribute over 650 education scholarships for our elementary, academy, and college students—amounting to more than \$512,000. Resources are also provided for the unique ministry at Holbrook Indian School.

Our Creative Evangelism funds come from the modest interest we charge on loans to churches and schools, and yet the Lord seems to make them go a long way each year. This year, in addition to many smaller church projects, we had the special opportunity to make a large single grant to the Southeastern California Conference for pastors seeking to grow the young adult ministries in local churches. This is work for which I am particularly thankful.

And, on a personal

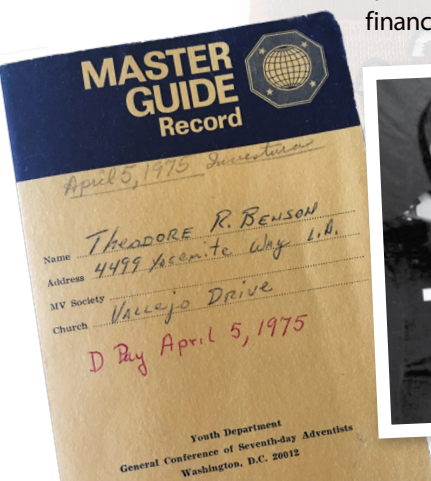


note, I am grateful for Pathfinders, the distinctive ministry to young people that has always thrived in our union. I've been involved in Pathfinder ministries for more than 55 years, as a Pathfinder and in many leadership roles. As we witnessed 74 baptisms at our recent Pacific Union Camporee, my heart was soaring with joy, and I know that our Pathfinder leaders across this union share my thankfulness and appreciation for the ministry of Pathfinders.

These are among the gifts I cherish the most during this holiday season. As we look to 2018, my heart is filled with gratitude for how God has blessed us during this past year. I am confident that we will have many ways to serve Him and to be blessed by Him in 2018.



Pacific Union and Northern California Conference Youth Director Eddie Heinrich (left) and Southeastern California Conference Youth Director Rudy Carrillo (middle) present Pacific Union Treasurer Ted Benson with an award of appreciation for his support of Pathfinding at the recent Union-wide camporee in October 2017. As a Pathfinder, Ted attended the "Mt. Whitney Camporee" in Lone Pine, California, in 1960, and he has been active in leadership roles since the 1970s.



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD;
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

— PSALM 107:1

December 30 is the last Sabbath of 2017

Remember the life transforming
work of God's church in your
yearend-giving.



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ABOUT THE COVER



Dee Ross, a Redwood Adventist Academy alumnus, staff member, and parent looks through the school's ashes. Ross found a keepsake pig that used to sit on her desk, the only personal thing belonging to her that survived the fire.

PHOTO: STEPHANIE LEAL

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Communities Rally Together AFTER DEVASTATING FIRES

BY JULIE LORENZ & STEPHANIE LEAL

Californians have grown accustomed to wildfires, but nothing prepared them for the infernos that consumed the state in October. Over the course of several weeks, 21 major fires burned almost 250,000 acres, taking the lives of more than 40 people and forcing more than 100,000 to evacuate their homes.

Adventists in the Northern California Conference were not spared the destruction. The NCC has not been informed of any church members who died in the fires, but a number of church members lost their homes and everything they had. “We mourn with those who lost their loved ones,” said NCC President Jim Pedersen. “And we want to do everything we can to comfort, support, and help people reeling from their losses.”

A Personal Loss

Two church members severely impacted by fire are Jim and Carolyn Oliver. The couple, who serve as NCC’s disaster response team, lost their home in Calaveras County to the Point Fire. “We are going to have to rebuild everything and have to

start all over from scratch. It’s a bit overwhelming,” said Jim.

Early in the morning of Oct. 9, the Olivers got a call to help feed the firemen at their local fire station. Carolyn is a volunteer fire chaplain, and she and Jim spend a lot of time supporting the firefighters. They thought their house was safe, but one hour later, it was gone. Jim didn’t realize what had happened, and so he headed back to his house to collect his pets and other important items. He was stopped by the firefighters. Jim’s voice shakes when talking about losing everything, including their beloved pets. “When you are in the midst of a storm, you pray to God and row for the shore,” he said. “But we will rebuild.”

Both the Olivers have been moved by the huge outpouring of love and support from their local community.

Friends and strangers alike have reached out to them in generosity, with one stranger

offering them a temporary home.

They are now using the experience to witness to others. “God is good. People are coming to us, and we are telling them we are Seventh-day Adventists and what’s great about being Adventist,” said Jim. “I’m hoping the Holy Spirit will use this in a way to bring people closer to God because His coming has GOT to be soon.”

RAA Campus Destroyed

Redwood Adventist Academy, located in Santa Rosa, was another casualty. The Tubbs Fire destroyed the entire campus. In the early morning hours of Oct. 9, Principal Angie Weems learned about the fire that was heading toward Santa Rosa, and she decided there was too much uncertainty to hold classes for her almost 130 students. It’s likely that none of the kids would have been able to get to the school anyway. The roads were closed due to the swift moving fire. “I’m so thankful,” she said. “If

we’d had to think about getting kids out of there, that would have been tragic.”

The news of the school’s destruction spread through social



(Left) Redwood Adventist Academy sophomore Alyssa Garcia points to the remains of what used to be her school locker. (Above) The recent wildfires destroyed six structures on the RAA campus, including the gymnasium.



media and word of mouth to shocked teachers, parents, students, and alumni. "It just hit me really hard," said sophomore Diego Velis. "I've spent so many hours at the school and have so many memories."

Founded in 1931, and at its current location since the 1970s, RAA has played a large role in the local Adventist community. "Some families have had generations attend here—grandparents, parents, and children," said Weems. "There are lots of different emotions now."

The close-knit school community is supporting each other in their loss. "We have so many people that care about us, it's just overwhelming," said Jessie Michel, grades 7/8 teacher. "It's sad, but at least we're not alone—we're in this together."

The school's administrative assistant Dee Ross was especially moved by seeing the school in ashes.

A former RAA student, she is also the parent of an RAA 10th grader.

"It saddens me to know that our familiar walls are gone, but I know that the relationships that have been made within those walls will last a lifetime," she said. "I look forward to being a part of creating

our new campus and the relationships that will continue to be molded and shaped within our new walls."

Temporary School Solutions

Less than two weeks after the fire, the students began classes at their new temporary school locations. The academy students

(with their teachers) are meeting on the campus of Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. The elementary students are meeting at the Santa Rosa church. Students from Pacific Union College and Rio Lindo, along with church members, helped clear out and set up rooms in the church for the students. "The school is utilizing every single room on the church campus," said church administrative assistant Jon Reynolds. "It's a lot noisier here. They have a lot of energy; it's a lot of fun!"

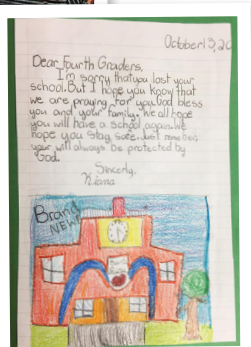
The kids are happy to be back in their routines. "It's good because people helped us have a place at the church so we could be with our friends and learn, and so we didn't have to go to a different school," said Eliana Mendez, a sixth grader.

Overwhelming Support and Help

Word quickly spread of RAA's campus destruction and the school received messages from all over the United States asking how they could help. A Facebook post showing pictures of the school reached more than 250,000 people and was shared over 2,000 times.

RAA published a list of school supplies, and the response has been surpassing expectations. So far, the school has received textbooks, classroom supplies, sports items, and even biology dissection tools and hand bells!

Nearby Adventist schools have showed their support in various ways. Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy sold haystacks. Orangevale SDA School donated 10 percent of their earnings from



Donations pour in to Redwood Adventist Academy, including (from top to bottom) meals from Pacific Union College/PUC Preparatory School, supplies from Arcata McKinleyville/Eureka churches, backpacks from nine schools in Central and Southern California, cards from Glendale Adventist Elementary School, school materials from La Sierra University, and pencil boxes and more from Earl Warren Elementary School.

FIRES BY THE NUMBERS

At the time of printing

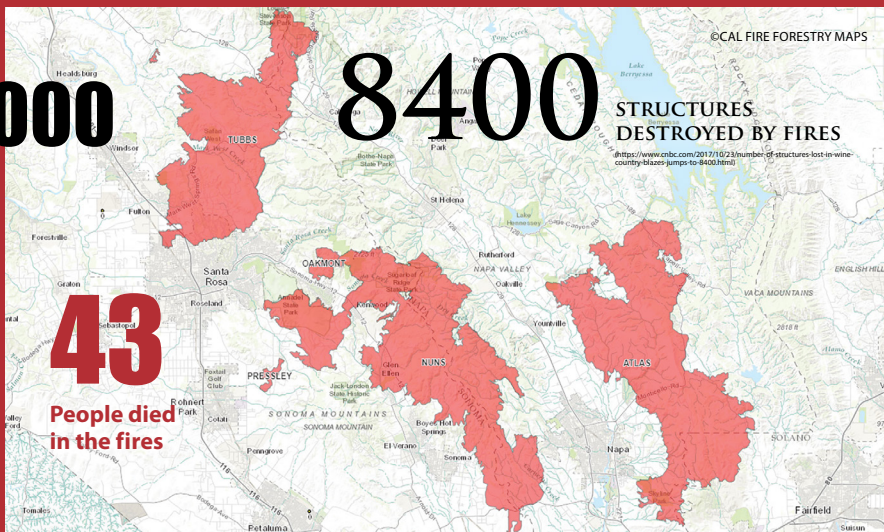
21 Separate wildfires burning in October 2017 in California

100,000

8400

STRUCTURES DESTROYED BY FIRES

(https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/23/number-of-structures-lost-to-wine-country-blazes-jumps-to-8400.html)



486

People who had to evacuate their homes

THE HIGHEST AIR SCORE REACHED IN PARTS OF NAPA.

AIR QUALITY IS "VERY UNHEALTHY" WHEN THE INDEX REACHES 201. THE SMOKE FROM THE FIRES LED TO THE WORST AIR POLLUTION ON RECORD FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

43

People died in the fires

17

Highest number of NCC schools closed due to the fires or bad air quality

RAA students from five families who lost homes in the fires

8

245,000

ACRES BURNED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

(https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/23/number-of-structures-lost-in-wine-country-blazes-jumps-to-8400.html)

255,200

PEOPLE WHO VIEWED THE FIRST BURNED SCHOOL PHOTOS. THE PHOTOS WERE SHARED 2002 TIMES.

127

RAA students now meeting in two new locations

Line items donated off RAA's school supply list

478

their fall festival. Galt Adventist Christian School held a yard sale. A number of NCC churches also delivered supplies and encouraging messages.

Schools from farther away also contributed. Glendale Adventist Elementary School sent a book full of students' letters and drawings, as well as boxes of school supplies. First graders from La Sierra Elementary sent cards and stuffed animals, "reading buddies." La Sierra Academy sent a trailer-full of supplies.

Help also came from outside the Adventist community. Roseville church member Doris Sterling, a teacher at Sacramento's Earl Warren Elementary School, did her student teaching at RAA years ago. When she shared what had happened with her public school students, they told her they wanted to help. "After class, one student walked up to me

Kaitlyn Mulindwa's daughter Kate stands by the RAA logo earlier this school year.



Reflections by an RAA parent BY KAITLYN MULINDWA

I began my career 14 years ago with Adventist Health. I knew nothing about the faith or teachings, but I stayed 10 years because of the amazing people and care. Then I realized that WAS the faith and teachings in motion.

My daughter attended an Adventist preschool, and there she excelled in her lessons and her love for God. She learned to live and love gracefully. Then I realized THAT was the faith and teachings.

At an Adventist school, she has made more than friends—she's made family and has created lasting friendships.

Her amazing campus was

lost in the Tubbs Fire, and they then started in a new makeshift campus. They shared space with evacuees who had lost their homes, sat in borrowed desks, read from books donated by other Adventist schools from across the state, and met for "recess" in the sanctuary. Her teachers worked tirelessly because they understood the need for normalcy and the companionship of their peers during this time.

There, in just one day, she learned to praise in the dark times and give thanks in the light. She learned what it is to give shelter to those in need and humbly accept help. She has been and will continue to be surrounded by those who know the importance of service and strength. That night, at bedtime, she asked to pray for her classmates, teachers, and community, and I realized she's LIVING the faith and teachings.

What's Up with What's Up Farm?



Before the Tubbs Fire, about 1,000 people a week benefited from the food produced by RAA's What's

Up Farm. Then, the fire destroyed all the farm's infrastructure—greenhouses, a farm stand, irrigation systems, fencing, tools, and more. In addition, the fire interrupted the school's agricultural program, where kids learned how to grow their own food for school lunches and cooking classes.

However, Joby Oft, farm and program manager, sees the need

to begin again not as an obstacle but as an occasion for improvement. "It's an opportunity to start from scratch to create a program that's exactly as it should be," he said.

Oft is still teaching the RAA kids at their new location in the Santa Rosa church. The focus is now "urban farming." Plans are in the works for a vertical garden in a courtyard, and Oft will be giving lessons on hydroponic growing. "On the days I'm not teaching, I'm on the farm cleaning up the mess and getting things planted," he said.

He intends to hand sow low-input crops, such as wheat and barley, for the next growing season. "We want to show the community

that we're still here and we want to be part of the re-growth process with them," he said.

Watch a short film about the farm and make a donation: www.gofundme.com/whatsupfarm. Get up-to-date news: www.facebook.com/whatsupfarm.



Joby Oft, who teaches agriculture at RAA, examines plants after the fire.

and said he wanted to make the first donation," said Sterling. The boy reached deep into his backpack and pulled out 17 cents. It was all he had. "Our students often don't have much or fancy things, but they have huge hearts," she said. Her class went on to donate 36 pencil boxes with pencils, colored pencils/markers, glue sticks, pens, erasers, scissors—each with a personal note.

"I am often moved to tears by the way God is providing for us

all through the body of Christ and community members outside our church and school family," said Linda Severs, grades 5/6 teacher.

Moving Forward

It will take a long time to rebuild homes and school buildings. In the interim, the collective help of supportive church members from around the Pacific Union Conference and North American Division continues to bring hope, with each

donation making a difference in the lives of those impacted by these fires.

A special fund has been set up to help members who lost their homes, and to support recovery efforts

in burned areas. Pacific Union Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Coordinator Charlene Sargent has been working with emergency managers in California to determine how ACS can continue to assist those that have been affected. You can help these efforts by donating at

www.nccsda.com/AidForFireVictims

And if you would like to help Redwood Adventist Academy's efforts, visit

www.purecharity.com/Redwood-Adventist-Academy

The property was insured, but there will be other costs as this school and its families try to recover. Help them continue to be a light to their students and community.

Meanwhile the RAA students are thinking about the future, rather than dwelling on the past. "I'm looking forward to a new school," said seventh grader Joshua Nielson. "It could be good to get a new start."



MOUNTAIN VIEW CHURCH

A Seventh-day Adventist Community of Faith

LAS VEGAS IN NEED
WANT TO TALK NEED PRAYER ?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU
8 AM TO 8 PM

Following the shooting, Mountain View church members prayed with individuals from the community in the sanctuary.

Reflections from a Las Vegas Church Member

BY BRENTON HENDERSON

As my wife and I turned on the news the night of Oct. 1, we witnessed one of the most heinous events in world history. Immediately following, we got to work. My wife and I own a mental health clinic, and two of our clinicians were dispatched to local hospitals to help the victims of the shooting. We opened our doors for free counseling with our therapists and the use of our transporters to get people to and from the hospital.

One of our deacons shared about a young man who had just completed giving a Bible study and was about to go home when he heard the shooting. His initial reaction was to speed away, but he felt the Holy Spirit guiding him in the opposite direction back to ground zero. Obeying this command, the young man could see injured victims and began fearlessly transporting them to the hospital for the rest of the night.

Until we see our Savior face to face, remember: He will keep you in perfect peace if you keep your mind stayed on Him (Isa. 26:3).

Las Vegas Adventists REACH OUT TO HURTING

Community

At 10:05 p.m. on Oct. 1, 2017, 10 minutes of gunfire rained down on concert goers near the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, taking 58 lives and wounding hundreds. Those 10 minutes were followed by intense heartache throughout the Las Vegas community and the entire nation.

In the first few days following the incident, Nevada-Utah Conference President Leon Brown worked with Las Vegas pastors, NUC Adventist Community Services Director Jerry Waggoner, and NUC Youth Director Darriel Hoy to determine the most effective way to serve. NUC pastors and members jumped in and were able to help in many different ways.



Adventist church members sang hymns and prayed with locals and tourists who gathered around a memorial for the victims of the shooting set up on the center divider of Las Vegas Boulevard.

Helping the Community

For the first several days of that week, Las Vegas pastors invited the community to use their sanctuaries

Chaplain Recovering After Las Vegas Car Accident

BY FAITH HOYT

While taking food to Las Vegas police officers following the Mandalay Bay shooting, Pastor Angel Heredia was T-boned in an intersection on Oct 2. Heredia was taken to a local hospital where over 70 victims from the shooting were receiving treatment. After doctors took x-rays, Heredia was released to recover at home. His body was swollen and he sustained injury to several lumbar spinal discs. "The doctors say that he was protected, because the vehicle that hit him should have caused a lot more damage," said Heredia's wife, Alexa.

The police chaplain was on his way to deliver sandwiches to the officers at Spring Valley area

command when a Range Rover hit him, totaling his car. Though still in recovery, he is back ministering to the police officers in Las Vegas. Heredia and his wife are grateful for the encouragement of their community.

"Alexa and I are truly grateful for church family, friends, police officers, and fire fighters!" Heredia said. "There are no words to express how blessed we are to have all of you in our lives. God is good."

NUC President Leon Brown and Executive Secretary Carlos Camacho visit Angel Heredia in his home following his car accident.



FAITH HOYT

In line to donate blood, Patricia Rupisan (center) stands with Rayer Souza (left) and Lucy Landeros (right), local church members and Salvation Army volunteers, who came to the blood drive to pass out food.



PATRICIA RUPISAN

Randriamialison. "The people were in need of someone to talk to, someone with whom they could share their burden," Randriamialison said. "They talked, we listened, and then we offered to pray with them."

Pastors also checked in on students of Abundant Life Christian Academy and Las Vegas Junior Academy to see how they were handling news of the shooting. Hoy visited LVJA students on Tuesday, Oct. 3, to help them process what happened. "I asked the students how they felt," she said. "There were a wide range of

emotions, such as fear, sadness, and anger."

Hoy encouraged students to voice their feelings, and talked about ways to offer comfort to the families affected. "Pastor Hoy successfully created an open discussion with our older students about the tragedy, and encouraged them that God is still in control in the midst of pain," said Chandra Castaneda, 7th and 8th grade teacher at LVJA.

The pastors weren't alone in their efforts. Working alongside them were many church members from the area. "The Adventist community rose to the need in a powerful way to assist those hurting," said BJ Boles, senior pastor of the Mountain View Church. "Members visited

as places of prayer. On Wednesday night, Oct. 4, the Paradise church held a prayer vigil in its sanctuary.

Those who were trained in counseling volunteered their time in the area's hospitals, including Paradise church Senior Pastor Peter Neri and Associate Pastor Neat



NUC President Leon Brown speaks at the Breath of Life Revival in Las Vegas, which began just a week after the Mandalay Bay shooting. The fall revival focused on the hope of Jesus, and more than 90 people were baptized.

driving them to the hospital in her van or bringing them water and blankets.

Some churches bought food for the first responders.

Hurricane Maria. Though he was unable to continue with relief efforts after his accident, police officers expressed their appreciation of his encouragement. "My officers are struggling with the horrors we witnessed, and Angel is always there to provide support," said Police Sergeant Andrew Hee, who has worked with Heredia during this first year of his chaplaincy.

emergency rooms, gave blood, and went down to the site to pray and be with those grieving."

Right after the shooting, several church members transported victims to safety. One of them was Sarai Duenas, Mountain View church member, who helped about 150 people by either

Mountain View church members purchased 80 sandwiches to bring to police officers. As Associate Pastor Angel Heredia was transporting the food, he was in a car accident: T-boned in an intersection. (See box on p. 10.)

Heredia serves as a police chaplain and counseled officers following

Planning for the Future

Right after the shooting, Hoy reached out to staff at Mandalay Bay to see how local pastors could help, and she learned that the resort needed certified crisis counselors to work with the victims and staff. "When we learned



Left: Perla Rodriguez, Right: Dina Mojica

Friends Share the Gospel Just Before the Las Vegas Shooting

For Dina Mojica, Bible worker for the Paradise church, the evening of Oct. 1 started with

a plan to distribute literature.

She and her friends Susana Pantaleón, Torre Fuerte church member, and Jasper

could," Iturriaga said.

Grateful for the exception, they parked and made their way to the middle of the strip. For about an hour, they distributed 200 tracts—one on the topic of health and the other titled, "Where Is God When I Am Suffering?" They left around 9 p.m.

An hour later, they learned a gunman was shooting people just yards from where they had been standing. The three friends believe they experienced God's protective hand. "If we would have taken longer to find parking, we might have been there during the shooting," Mojica said.

They realized that God had given them an opening to share the gospel with those that evening who might not have survived. "He gives us opportunities to share with others every day," Mojica said. "And we need to be willing to share with them because it might be their last chance to hear the good news."



Perla Rodriguez passes out GLOW tracks on the Las Vegas strip.

Iturriaga, Christian filmmaker, decided to hand out GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts on the Las Vegas strip.

As they pulled into a parking lot near the strip, a police officer approached their car. "The police officer told us we weren't allowed unless we had a permit, but then he changed his mind and said we





FAITH HOYT

Jerry Waggoner, NUC Adventist Community Services director, assessing the situation on the Las Vegas strip two days after the shooting at Mandalay Bay. Waggoner spent several days in Las Vegas coordinating with the American Red Cross and VOAD to get local Adventist churches more involved in community disaster response.

the entities involved in disaster response, including Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the American Red Cross. “The churches did an amazing job at meeting the needs of the locals,” Waggoner said. “Our next step is networking with the community in order to be involved to a greater degree in disaster response. Communication is critical, as is training.”

Las Vegas continues to process the fallout of that terrible night. “The wounds are still healing,” said Brown, “but we hope our efforts brought some comfort to those in the wake of this horrible tragedy. We are continuing to keep our community in our prayers and look for more ways to help.”

of the hotel’s stipulation, we realized that our pastors, who may not have this certification, would have greater access for helping victims of disasters in the future if we had this certification. That is now what we are working to achieve,” Brown said.

Waggoner has contacted the North American Division to see about getting pastors the right counseling credentialing. He has also been working to improve networking by strengthening lines of communication between Las Vegas churches and

How is the Church Helping Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria, and California Wildfires Efforts?



When disaster strikes in the United States, North American Division Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (NAD ACS DR) is often asked to manage a multi-agency warehouse to receive, organize, and distribute supplies to aid the victims. Frequently, an experienced team will be in charge of the warehouse, and teams and volunteers from other conferences will come in to be trained and gain experience.

A team from the Texas Conference managed a warehouse in San Antonio to help people

affected by Hurricane Harvey. A team from the South Central Conference in the Southern Union is currently managing a warehouse in Jacksonville, Fla., to help those in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who were impacted by Hurricane Maria.

In Northern California, ACS DR Coordinator Charlene Sargent spent most of two weeks in an emergency operations center in Sonoma County, where the most destruction occurred during the recent fires. “ACS DR is revising and implementing their volunteer and donations management plan. Efforts are now transitioning to recovery,” she said.

NAD ACS DR is currently investigating long-term recovery options for Northern California fire survivors. “Many of our universities, schools, and churches have contacted us, asking how they might help in other ways outside of warehousing,” said W. Derrick Lea, NAD ACS associate director and DR director. “Our job is to figure out how this might look, and we are working to develop ways we might work to assist those affected.”

Adventist Health Honors Physicians' Commitment to Healing

BY SANDRA MEYERS

Seventeen physicians were honored with a Physician of the Year Mission Award, given at the 11th annual Adventist Health Clinical Summit on Sept. 11. The Mission Awards are given to Adventist Health doctors who are examples of the health provider's mission of living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope.

One of the honorees was Adventist Health Bakersfield physician John Dickey, who serves as the medical director for his hospitalist group. Dickey manages a team of nurses, a nurse practitioner, and another physician to manage the care of people who have been hospitalized and are now returning to the community. "Dr. Dickey is a good role model for our team and inspires others to take on new challenges and roles," said physician Ronald Reynoso. He described Dickey as an excellent physician and an "incredible, selfless human being."

Also included in the group of honorees was physician Kimberly Fordham, who provides primary and obstetric care to residents of Clearlake, Calif. Fordham described medicine as a calling, albeit a challenging one at

times. She told of counseling a meth-addicted mother who just had her sixth newborn taken by Child Protective Services. "It's an honor to be a part of people's lives and to be allowed to help them get over the hurdles of life," she said. Currently, Fordham and one of her previous patients—a former addict, now a nurse working with Fordham—are launching Tule House, a residential treatment program for addicted mothers. "She believes in their potential, like she believed in mine," said the nurse.

The Physician of the Year Mission Awards are just one aspect of Adventist Health's annual Clinical Summit, which brings physician leaders together from all around the healthcare system. The two days are focused on transforming patient care for the future.

Our Awardees

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY
BY HOSPITAL NAME

Paula Dhanda, M.D.

Physician of the Year Award Alumni Recognition

John Phillip Dickey, M.D.

Adventist Health Bakersfield

Marc Shlachter, M.D.

Adventist Health Castle

Kimberly Fordham, M.D.

Adventist Health Clear Lake

Gregory Lang, M.D.

Adventist Health Feather River

Michele Cosgrove, M.D.

Adventist Health Glendale

Boris Reznik, M.D.

Adventist Health Hanford

Andrea McCullough, M.D.

Adventist Health Howard Memorial

Nagui Sorour, M.D.

Adventist Health Lodi Memorial

Rogelio Fernandez, M.D.

Adventist Health Reedley

Thomas Schilling, M.D.

Adventist Health Selma

Henry Tung Tang, D.O.

Adventist Health Simi Valley

Donald Westbie, M.D.

Adventist Health Sonora

Mark Potter, M.D.

Adventist Health St. Helena

Charlie Evans, M.D.

Adventist Health Ukiah Valley

Leroy A. Reese, M.D.

Adventist Health White Memorial

Murlan Grise, D.O.

Adventist Medical Center Portland

John Bohlman, M.D.

Tillamook Regional Medical Center



SCC Family Unites as One in Christ *at Alive Convocation*

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

What does it mean to be fully *alive*? What steps can one take to pursue a life of health and hope?

This September, the Southern California Conference family explored these questions through the theme of its first conference-wide convocation in more than 16 years: “Alive: A Journey to Health & Hope.” Church members and leaders from throughout the SCC gathered at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles, which a sponsor helped make possible.

Oakwood University President Leslie Pollard presented the morning devotional titled “Delivering Critical Care,” examining what it means to deliver the highest level of care possible to the people Jesus has called us to serve. Karl Haffner, Kettering church senior pastor and Kettering Health Network mission strategist, spoke in the afternoon, sharing four vital behaviors of health, hope, and happiness, found in 1 Thessalonians 5.

The day-long program also featured health messages from three

speakers. Nerida McKibben, host/co-producer of Hope Channel’s *Go Healthy for Good*, affirmed the importance of a healthy lifestyle and offered tips for a longer, healthier life. Schubert Palmer, cardiology section chief at Adventist Health White Memorial, told attendees that God’s ultimate purpose in giving the health message was to help His children connect to Him. Weimar Institute President Neil Nedley offered the audience 10 commandments of emotional intelligence and hope for improving it.

Two mass choirs were assembled just for the event — Ricky Ferrando, Central Spanish church choir director and pianist, directed a children’s choir with 30 members; and Fred Settle, Valley Crossroads church music coordinator, directed a multicultural adult mass choir with more than 150 voices. Royal Harrison, Greater Los Angeles Region director, and Connie Jeffery, trust services officer, served as emcees to ensure a smooth flow throughout the day.

Mt. Rubidoux church Senior Pastor Michael Kelly II gave the message for the evening program. The program also focused on “The Art of Faith,” with a panel of young professionals who discussed the intersection of faith and their career.

Many attendees commented about the impact of one specific appeal during the day. After the adult choir had sung their final song, “Make Us One,” SCC President Velino A. Salazar made an unexpected, Spirit-led appeal. “This song is what we as Christians are all about as children of God,” Salazar said. “We need to become one *in Christ*,” he said emphatically. “We are pleased that we are different, but we don’t have to live in those differences.” Inviting the choir to sing the song one more time, he gave attendees a task — find someone different, give that person a hug, and say, “I’m glad that you and I are different, but we are one in Christ.”

Visit <https://scc.adventist.org/aliveconvocation> for a photo gallery and more info.



(Left) Attendees get up to hug one another and affirm their unity in Christ as the choir sings “Make Us One,” following Salazar’s appeal. (Below) Singer/songwriter Melissa Polinar; author, motivational speaker, and singer Lydia Elle; and NBC executive producer Jared Kiemeney share their experiences integrating faith with their careers as part of a panel moderated by Diana Escobar, Temple City Spanish church member, and Rahshan Wall, Greater Los Angeles Region youth coordinator.



Vietnamese School of Evangelism

Welcomes Inaugural Class of Lay Leaders

BY CYNTHIA NGUYEN

There are two million Vietnamese people living in the United States, yet there are only 17 Vietnamese congregations and three full-time pastors. For every 2,000 Vietnamese in the U.S., there is only one Adventist. “How can we reach all these people?” thought El Monte Vietnamese church Pastor Vinh Nguyen.

Vietnamese people from throughout the country came together for the inauguration of the Vietnamese School of Evangelism this fall at the El Monte Vietnamese church. Many across North America and Vietnam watched on live stream.

Nguyen shared a burden that God placed on his heart. “I feel the call of God to shift from pastoring to training,” he said. “When a pastor retires, what happens to the next generation? Will the Vietnamese churches go downhill because there is no leader?”

“Some people call the new building recently built on the El Monte church property a community center or multi-purpose room, but I call it a ‘mission center,’” Nguyen continued. “Everyone is here because someone was trained to share the gospel with



Pastor José Cortes (right) gives the main address, encouraging the students to remember that God loves them and they are to share that love with others. Pastor Vinh Nguyen (left) translates.

you. Now we need to finish the work. God expects us to think big and reach every Vietnamese person in the world!”

The school will be conducted in person at the beginning of every quarter and via a virtual classroom twice a week for the remainder of the quarter. The full school course will be three and a half years, the same amount of time that Jesus trained his disciples. Courses will

include practical theology, health, and character development.

At the inauguration, José Cortes Jr., North American Division associate director of evangelism, gave the main address. He shared two foundational points for every gospel worker to remember. The first was God loves you. “God knows all our imperfections, yet He still loves us,” he said. The second point was to love others. “People loved Jesus because Jesus loved people!” Cortes said.

John H. Cress, Southern California Conference executive secretary, gave the charge to the school’s first class of students. His words were inspired by the book, *Sit, Walk, Stand* by Watchman Nee. “‘Sit’ means to be secure in Jesus; rest in your salvation,” Cress explained. “‘Walk’ for we are His workmanship. ‘Stand’

and be strong, for the enemy will try to defeat you.”

SCC Executive Secretary John H. Cress introduces the 30 students of the inaugural class and delivers a challenge to them, as Pastor Vinh Nguyen (left) translates.



ALL PHOTOS: HIEN B. TRAN

Loma Linda Academy Children's Center Receives Best Preschool Award

BY KATIE MILLER

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE



Loma Linda Academy Children's Center was recognized as Best Preschool during *The Press-Enterprise's* 22nd annual Best of Inland Empire Readers' Choice Awards at the Riverside Convention Center on Sept. 7.

The Children's Center won the public's vote in the Inland Empire Hometown Favorites North category. Each year beginning in May, a 1.5-month-long online and newspaper ballot voting session is conducted to determine the public's favorites in the Inland Empire. This year, readers cast almost 65,000 votes in 153 categories. *The Press-Enterprise* then celebrated the winners during a 90-minute dinner and awards ceremony.

Julie Majestic, Children's Center director, celebrated her team's achievement. "I am proud of our program and each person that



contributes their talents to make the Center a success," she said.

Currently, 166 infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children are enrolled at the Center. "To be listed as the best preschool in our area is a real honor," said Doug Herrmann, LLA headmaster. "We are proud of the work being done here by our faculty."

Children have many opportunities for learning in small group settings with the help of qualified teachers who guide them in developmentally appropriate practices that place the children's needs first. The curriculum—"High Scope," "Zoo Phonics," and "Creation Kids"—is used to lead children through hands-on exploration in the

(Far Left) Eric Morgan, director of communications for *The Press-Enterprise*, emcees the Best of Inland Empire awards ceremony, attended by about 300 business professionals, city leaders, and educators in Riverside. (Left) Doug Herrmann, headmaster of Loma Linda Academy, accepts the Best Preschool award from *The Press-Enterprise* on Sept. 7.

areas of art, music, literacy, language, math, and science. In addition, physical and social development are integrated into all areas of learning.

Parent Tashana Lewis especially appreciates the staff. "The teachers are very caring and passionate about their jobs," she said. "The director is also very caring and always makes time for us as parents." Lewis went on to say that in a time of financial need, the director worked with her family to ensure that her daughter could remain enrolled at the Center.

Jason Oei, parent and former Center board member, sums up the feelings of many. "We have been thrilled with the care that our children have received at the Children's Center," he said. "They have the most caring staff who have demonstrated God's love to them."



(Left) Teachers pose with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in front of the Loma Linda Academy Children's Center. (Above) Julie Majestic, Loma Linda Academy Children's Center director, shows off the Best Preschool award.



PHOTOS: SCOTT GUPPILL

El Cajon Church Seminar Addresses Parent/Adult Child Relationships BY MANUEL VITUG

What can be done to improve a strained relationship between parents and adult children? Linda Dermody, of the El Cajon church, has a burden for people struggling with this situation. After she contacted the Southeastern California Conference, the conference Family and Children's Ministries arranged for Antonius Brandon—child/adolescent, adult assessment, and psychotherapy clinical neuropsychologist—to present a workshop titled “Repairing

Relationships with Adult Children” in late January.

About 50 people from five different churches attended. Brandon discussed causes of family relational strains such as generational, cultural, and philosophical differences. The positive feedback from the group resulted in a request for a follow-up workshop, which took place in September during the El Cajon church's camp meeting.

Antonius Brandon speaks about forgiveness during the relationship workshop at the El Cajon church.

This second workshop dealt with forgiveness. Brandon described a number of benefits that result from forgiveness. “You'll find an increasing meaning in suffering, have a renewed purpose in life, and end up becoming a better person when you forgive,” he said.



MANUEL VITUG

Crosswalk Celebrates 14 Years with CW14 Block Party BY TIMOTHY GILLESPIE

Crosswalk church members celebrated 14 years in their community with a worship concert and block party on Oct. 14.

Following a message by Timothy Gillespie, senior pastor, the worship team ended with praise in music. Afterward, more than 750 locals and church members enjoyed live music, food vendors, a climbing wall, a dunk tank, and games, organized by Chelsea Mensink, Crosswalk's new children's

Volunteers sell corn dogs at this year's CW14 block party on Oct. 14 at the Crosswalk church in Redlands.

ministry coordinator.

Crosswalk church has a mission to

“#lovewell,” and this event was an outpouring of that mission. The church mailed 4,000 fliers throughout the local area, and a digital billboard off of Interstate 10 invited everyone to attend.

“One of our core values is to make sure we are listening to the community and hearing that they need their church experience to be authentic to their lives,” said Christianne Duarte, office administrator at the church. “These events and services are responses to those conversations.”



JIM MARTIKO

Community Service Retreat Focuses on Disaster Response and Serving Others

BY MYRTLE “DEBBIE” WHITE

headed by George King, vice president for SECC Black Ministries and ACS director, and Myrtle “Debbie” White, ACS coordinator.

During the weekend, 46 participants took

a Disaster Response Certification course, taught by Charlene Sargent, Pacific Union Conference Disaster Response coordinator.

Also at the retreat, Maitland DiPinto, North American Division Partners in Mission coordinator,

introduced the program, “God's Closet,” which is coming to the conference. The program provides children's clothes for people in need and offers a way for church members to meet community members. “God's Closet is an innovative method of serving communities in Christ's name,” DiPinto said.

Those who attended the retreat expressed their appreciation for the various presentations. “I enjoyed it all,” said one attendee. “The spiritual devotions, the Sabbath school, and overall fellowship.”



Charlene Sargent, Pacific Union Conference Disaster Response coordinator, trains volunteers on what to do and how to help others when a natural disaster hits.

More than 90 Adventist Community Services Federation officers, leaders, volunteers, and their family members gathered in October for the SECC's annual community service retreat at Pine Springs Ranch. The event was

CLIFF WELLS

PUC *Offers Exciting* New Scholarship Opportunities

BY LARISSA CHURCH

Pacific Union College is proud to announce two new scholarship opportunities available to students entering in the fall of 2018: the STEM Scholarship* and the Campus Impact Scholarship. Recognizing the financial difficulties families face when planning for college, PUC has strengthened its commitment to make an Adventist liberal arts education accessible and affordable to all admitted students.

PUC's new STEM Scholarship recognizes first-time freshmen who have obtained a strong understanding of and competence in advanced mathematics and science during high school. Recipients must have completed three years of college preparatory laboratory courses (biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy & physiology) and three years of college preparatory math courses (intermediate/advanced algebra, pre-calculus, calculus, geometry, statistics) to receive the \$1,000 renewable award. (Please see scholarship guidelines for specific requirements and details: puc.edu/scholarships.)

The Campus Impact Scholarship is a \$1,000 renewable scholarship available to students who are invited to participate in PUC's orchestra, wind ensemble, iCantori, or octet, or are selected for specific roles in campus ministries or CONNECT outreach. These

awards are renewable upon continued participation in the specific programs.

In addition, amounts for many existing scholarships have been increased, including the President's and Dean's Scholarships for both transfer and first-year students. These scholarships are automatically received by qualifying incoming students, based upon GPA and/or test scores.

Other scholarship changes include transfer student eligibility for the Legacy Scholarship, a renewable \$1,500 scholarship awarded to students with a parent or legal guardian who attended a minimum of two years or graduated from PUC.

The qualifications for the Mostert Christian Leader Scholarship have changed, as well. The scholarship now awards a maximum of \$2,000 to incoming freshmen who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their schools, churches, or communities

during their junior and/or senior years of high school. This includes student association officers, junior and senior class officers, and athletic team captains. The award applies to freshman year only.

"Making college affordable has never been more important. As a parent of two college-bound daughters, I personally understand the financial challenges families are facing," said Jennifer Tyner, vice president of enrollment management and marketing. "PUC is working very hard to make an Adventist college education possible and creating more opportunities for students to succeed in their professional goals."

Last year, PUC awarded students over \$40 million in financial aid. To learn more about all of PUC's scholarship opportunities and application criteria, and to apply, visit puc.edu/scholarships or call 800-862-7080, option 1.

*STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

PUC provides students with all the advantages of a larger university but with the benefits of a small college focused on the undergraduate experience and in an atmosphere of Christian community.

Newsletters

Newsletters

Newsletters

Newsletters

The Webster Cousins

Are Women Passionate about Ministry

BY NATALIE ROMERO

Raewyn Orlich, Deirdre Solomon, and Rochelle Webster have a lot in common. Not only did sisters Raewyn and Deirdre, along with cousin Rochelle, attend La Sierra University—all three are now pastors, serving in the Southeastern California Conference.

Orlich, who serves as senior pastor of the Victorville church, felt drawn to ministry during her final year of high school. Though at first hesitant, after searching Scripture she knew it was the right vocation for her. She studied for a year at Andrews University before transferring to La Sierra. “I like to say that Andrews gave me roots, and La Sierra gave me wings,” said Orlich. “My professors here were so supportive of my calling to ministry. They saw my gender not as a liability, but as an asset. I brought something unique, something necessary, to ministry that would only be complete when both women and men share the gospel together.”

Since 2013, Solomon has served as associate pastor at the Arlington church. Like her sister, she also heard the Lord calling her during high school and struggled with the decision. “I borrowed an encyclopedia of women in the Bible from Raewyn (who was studying at the seminary at the time) and went through a study on my own, reading each biblical story of women leaders, prophets, heroines, and disciples,” said Solomon. “It was clear to me that God called women to lead His people in very public and spiritual positions.”

Webster, who holds three degrees



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROCHELLE WEBSTER

Left to right, Rochelle Webster, Deirdre Solomon, and Raewyn Orlich serve as pastors in the Southeastern California Conference.

from La Sierra, is the newest addition to the group of ordained pastors in her family. She was first presented with the opportunity for ministry in 2007, but felt the same hesitation as her cousins had. “Did the church really want me, with all the ways in which I felt different from what a ‘normal pastor’ looked like?” she wondered. “I ended up following the still, small, yet insistent voice I felt.” She spent two years as a youth pastor in Australia, and six years ago became the family ministry pastor for the Redlands

church. She was ordained on Aug. 19. Her paternal grandfather, Eric Webster, is also an ordained minister in South Africa. Her father, John Webster, is a minister and former dean of La Sierra’s H.M.S. Richards Divinity School.

Orlich believes that other young women who feel called to serve shouldn’t let their fears stop them. “Do what God has called you to do and don’t worry about the politics,” she advises. And as for being part of a family of pastors? “It is special to share in this work together,” she said.

“I brought something unique, something necessary, to ministry that would only be complete when both women and men share the gospel together.”

Native American Ministries Make Progress

in Chinle, Kinlichee, and Window Rock

BY PHIL DRAPER

“Great progress is being made with the Native work in Arizona,” said Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes. “For many years, it was a challenge. But today new life is evident in our Native work, and we’re seeing church growth and baptisms! Deep gratitude goes to Assistant to the President for Native American Ministries Dale Wolcott who is instrumental in making this happen.”

Chinle is at the cultural and geographic heart of the 27,000-square-mile Navajo Reservation. There has been Adventist work there since the 1970s, including a one-room elementary school, which is a campus of Holbrook Indian School located 100 miles south of Chinle.

Five years ago, the school was closed. It reopened for the 2012-13 school year with three students. This year enrollment is at 17 students, the maximum allowed without increasing staff. The school has one teacher, a

part-time bus driver/hot lunch cook/janitor, plus a part-time volunteer instructional aide.

Four years ago, the Chinle church was closed. It reopened in March 2014 and currently has an average weekly attendance of 25-30. Most of the current attendees made decisions for Jesus and the Sabbath in public evangelistic series. The physical plant had deteriorated over the years, but thanks to many mission groups and outside donors, buildings are now functional. They are utilized seven days a week for various ministry and worship activities.

Alcohol and drug abuse

(especially methamphetamines) are a huge problem for the Navajo Nation. An addiction recovery ministry has become the centerpiece of outreach. Two resident volunteer missionaries, Don Krimmer and Traci Walden, lead Bible-based 12-step groups known as “J.A.” (Jesus And Me or Jesus Anonymous) four evenings each week. In addition, Walden has started a weekly Al-Anon support group for people with loved ones in addiction.

The church hosts the community Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous chapters for their weekly meetings.



(Above) Pastor Dale and Nancy Wolcott (right) congratulate newly baptized members of the Chinle church.

(Right) Pastor Dale Wolcott baptizes Bryson and Raberta Parrish in Spirit Lake.



Newlyweds Orlando and Hannah Hernandez are Bible workers at Kinlichee.



ALL PHOTOS: PHIL DRAPER



(Left) Newly baptized and married Chinle members Bryson and Raberta Parrish are sharing their faith with their extended family. (Above) Students at Chinle Adventist Elementary attended Bryson and Raberta Parrish's wedding while their teacher, Rebecca Heinrich, provided piano music.

People can come to the Adventist church for addiction recovery meetings six days a week. Many come almost every day. Average attendance is 20-30, sometimes as high as 50 at a meeting. Several have been baptized as a result of this ministry. The community now knows the Seventh-day Adventist Church as "the Recovery Church."

Bryson Parrish knows this first-hand. "Since I gave everything to God, my life has completely changed," he said. "I'm clean and sober, I'm married, I'm baptized. I'm getting my GED and then I can get a job. I spend as much time as I can at church. It's the people at this church that showed God to me."

Kinlichee is a rural community about 45 miles southeast of Chinle. The Kinlichee church was built in the mid-1990s by mission groups with help from local people, especially Emilio and Rose Gomez, who have been and continue to be the backbone of the church.

Almost everyone in the small congregation is bilingual, with their first language being Navajo. Weekly prayer meetings include reading and comparing passages in both languages. The preaching service is conducted in the Navajo language at least twice a month. Sabbath attendance can range from five

to 20. Navajo Pastor Charlie Whitehorse held meetings in the summer of 2016 with several baptisms.

Recently Orlando and Hannah Hernandez came to be resident missionaries at Kinlichee. Hernandez is a graduate of the SALT (Soul-winning And Leadership Training) program at Southern Adventist University and is a part-time Arizona Conference employee, funded by generous friends of the Native work. He and his wife are beginning to work with young people in the area and plan to begin a children's Sabbath school. Hernandez will also do some Bible work at Window Rock. "This is a mission field and Jesus is coming soon," said Hernandez. "We're excited God has called us to help prepare Navajo people for His return."



Emilio and Rose Gomez are the backbone of the work in Kinlichee.

Window Rock, the tribal capital, is a substantial community of perhaps 12,000 people near the southeast edge of the Reservation. Whitehorse organized an active group there in the late 1990s with support from the Gomez family and others. Later the group dwindled, and eventually the mobile building they were using was sold to another denomination. However, the Arizona Conference retained a three-

acre parcel of deeded land in a prime location.

In 2016, two non-Native families who work at the local hospital restarted weekly worship services. They currently are meeting on the church property in the old "Trail of Hope" mobile chapel, which had been parked at Monument Valley and was mostly unused for a number of years. Krimmer recently began a weekly "J.A." 12-step support group in the Trail of Hope trailer. Plans are underway to install utilities on the property by the spring of 2018.

Members distribute literature once or twice a month at the local flea market. They also hold health fairs in a local chapter house with excellent community response. This has resulted in several weekly home Bible studies, with one baptism so far.

Evangelist Wyatt Allen from Amazing Facts—who worked in Chinle the last two summers—will hold a tent evangelistic meeting on the property in July 2018. Plans are being made to build a church and/or multipurpose ministry center not later than the summer of 2019.

"God has blessed us with an amazing team of dedicated people, both Native and non-Native, here in the Navajo heartland who are dedicated to letting God use us together to hasten Jesus' coming," said Wolcott.

God's Men:

Chosen for Action

BY SERGIO CANO

Originally commissioned as an instrument of war, the aircraft carrier USS Hornet hosted the Central California Conference (CCC) 2017 Men's Convention, in partnership with the Pacific Union Conference (PUC), in Alameda, Calif., Sept. 29–Oct. 1, with over 400 men in attendance.

The USS Hornet, commissioned in 1943, played a major role in launching multiple aerial assaults against Axis powers during World War II, as well as in the war in Vietnam, earning the ship 11 awards and decorations. One of those assaults is the well-known Doolittle Raid. The vessel also holds significance in history as it served as the recovery vessel for the first moon-landing mission, Apollo 11, on July 24, 1969. President Richard Nixon was on board the Hornet to welcome the astronauts back to earth.

"What better place than aboard the USS Hornet, where pivotal points in history were made to bring our

men who have been 'Chosen for Action,' and provide them the tools to realize their God-given destinies and to live their lives the way the Divine designed for them to live," says Steve Horton, CCC vice president for ministries.

This year's theme, "Chosen for Action," drew men from all over to experience

Michael Harris closes out the day with an uplifting concert.

what it was like to live on the ship as a mid-20th-century sailor. The men slept in large berthing compartments, where the bunks were stacked three high and, in some cabins, slept up to 72 men. Every morning of the

weekend, the men were awakened by the sound of the military bugle wake-up call, "Reveille."

Four keynote speakers inspired attendees: Dr. Pierre Steenberg, CCC ministerial director; José Rojas,



Band of Brethren presents praise and worship music during the "Chosen for Action" Men's Convention.



Over 400 men from around the Pacific Union Conference gather aboard the USS Hornet.

in the anointing of those requesting it. "I didn't know what I was going up for," said Fernando Ruiz, ordained elder in Watsonville. "I felt so inadequate and unworthy to be the one to anoint someone else, but God truly blessed and anointed me in the very act of doing this for another."

"This was not just an event, but the beginning of a more developed men's ministry," says Horton. "It is our desire that men's ministry begin to take on a new emphasis in the local church, conference, union, and the world church."



ALL PHOTOS: SERGIO CANO

well-known Adventist speaker; Dr. Marc Woodson, Northern California Conference executive secretary; and Dr. Arlene Taylor, brain health specialist. Speakers shared practical leadership principles from a position of love and strength, to be applied both in the home as well as in the church. "Men have a unique ministry that must be advanced in order to realize a healthy home and church," says Horton.

Sabbath's schedule was packed with testimonies from each of the four speakers and also included tours of the ship, where attendees got a firsthand look into the lives of the sailors who once risked their lives on that very vessel. The day ended with a concert by recording artist Michael Harris. "God has

really blessed me to be able to be part of this life-changing event," says Johnny Mendoza, member of the Watsonville (Calif.) Church. "Soldiers once launched into the field of battle from this place, and now once more, soldiers for God are being released from here."

The convention ended with an anointing service. All ordained deacons, elders, and ministers were called up to participate



(Right) José Rojas anoints a convention attendee. (Far Right) Men decide to be soldiers for God after Rojas' appeal.

"This was not just an event, but the beginning of a more developed men's ministry."



Aircraft carrier USS Hornet hosted the 2017 Men's Convention "Chosen for Action."

A Vision

BY LARRY BECKER

Vision 2020

The Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow

INNOVATIVE LEARNING, GROUNDBREAKING

The foundational pedestals are in place—all 126 of them. Each one was designed and built to support a new 16-story adult hospital and nine-story addition to Children’s Hospital at Loma Linda University Health. Beginning in spring 2018, the skyline of Loma Linda will undergo a dramatic, permanent change.

There’s an urgency to completing these facilities. California law mandates stringent seismic safety regulations for acute care hospital buildings, which must be met by the year 2020. Facilities not meeting the requirements face closure. Confronting this monumental challenge, Loma Linda University Health stepped forward in faith, placing new hospitals as a cornerstone for Vision 2020—The

Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow.

After considering options, Loma Linda University Health leaders concluded that retrofitting the institution’s iconic cloverleaf tower, in use since 1967, would not be the best approach. Instead, new construction provided an opportunity to rethink how health care is delivered in a hospital setting in the 21st century.

The 126 pedestals play a key role in meeting the new state seismic requirements. The array will operate as “friction pendulum isolators,” designed to slide up to 84 inches horizontally during an earthquake without the building itself moving. The pedestals are also the platform for a hospital facility that allows for expansion of key adult services—such as the Level 1 Trauma Center,

the Emergency Department, and the International Heart Institute—and nearly doubles the size of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

“There is no question this building will be the foundation of another significant expansion of the Loma Linda story,” said Richard Hart, Loma Linda University Health president. “But the building itself will support the people and events that happen inside. Students will learn new skills, residents will perfect their specialties, faculty will push the boundaries of science, and thousands of patients will be blessed with a special kind of care.”

Loma Linda University Health’s mission statement commits its people to continue the teaching and healing ministry



DENNIS E. PARK

MIRGAO/ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK



Is Coming into Focus

is transforming lives through

DISCOVERIES, AND ADVANCEMENTS IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

of Jesus Christ. The hospital facilities are central to fulfilling many healing objectives. But the mission statement's teaching emphasis is a large part of why the hospital exists. It is the teaching laboratory for students studying medicine, nursing, many allied health professions, pharmacy, behavioral health specialties, and chaplaincy.

Vision 2020 is vital to ensuring Loma Linda University remains a place where students can learn about its unique brand of health care. Affordability, helping put this education within reach for promising and mission-minded future healthcare workers, remains a high priority.

Recently, Loma Linda University's School of Nursing personnel received a call from an estate trustee. They heard the story of how an estate holder was impressed with the warm, professional care provided by Loma

Linda University Medical Center nurses more than 40 years ago. She wanted to contribute support for future nurses. The trustee indicated a gift of \$1 million was coming to the school. When school representatives met with the trustee to learn more of the story, they learned of a second estate gift of \$500,000, making a total bequest of \$1.5 million. This bequest—a nearly 12 percent increase in scholarship funds for the school—will allow 16-24 nursing students annually to benefit from this endowment.

People with abundant hearts for students have established 25 new scholarship funds during Vision 2020. Combined with the 108 endowments in place before the campaign, Loma Linda University now has 133 scholarship funds available to provide students with vital financial support.

"Education is the best thing you can give a person," Loma Linda University alumnus Don Hall said. Over the years many people have benefited from Hall's belief in education. After earning a Doctor of Public

Health in Preventive Care, Hall launched Wellsorce, a company offering computerized health analysis programs. Corporations use these programs to help their employees improve their health.

Hall wanted to shine a light on the Adventist Health Study, which is gaining interest in the research community as the study matures. He and his wife, Trish, funded an endowed chair for the School of Public Health—the Don and Trish Hall Research Professorship. These funds will support this important research effort. The Hall Professorship is one of eight endowed chairs/professorships established during Vision 2020, bringing Loma Linda University's total number of endowed chairs to 32.

"We are grateful to all who have supported the campaign," said Rachelle Bussell, senior vice president for advancement. "Community friends and university alumni who believe in our mission have played key roles in our progress. But we know we still have much work to do."

Three web cameras provide the latest pictures of the hospital construction. View them at lluhschool2020.org and scroll to the "view live construction feed" button.



ANSEL OLIVER

Vision 2020 is vital to ensuring Loma Linda University remains a place where students can learn about its unique brand of health care.

Patience, Kindness—and a Love of Football— *Make a Difference in a Child's Life*

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

The schools of the Hawaii Conference—one academy, eight elementary, and four preschools—want to introduce students to an all-powerful Jesus and His plan for their lives. Sometimes it takes an unconventional approach to reach a student's heart with the good news.

Four years ago, Teejay arrived belatedly in first grade at Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki. The transition was not easy for him—or his new school. He struggled with the structure of the day, getting along with others, and obeying the rules. His beleaguered teacher made numerous calls to the principal's office. Some days it seemed Teejay was spending more time in the office than in his own classroom.

One day, the usual call came in to the principal: "Please come and get Teejay. He's out of control!" The principal went to the classroom and escorted Teejay to the office, where he headed straight to his familiar seat. Waiting for him to calm down, the principal went to her desk while silently praying for God's intervention. Within seconds, she heard humming—Teejay was humming "Jesus Loves Me." Tears filled the principal's eyes; she knew that the words of the song must be running through his head.

After talking with Teejay, the adults designated a safe place in the classroom for him to go to whenever he felt like he was about to have a meltdown. It was important for him to know that the school was on his side.

As Teejay became more comfortable, he began to share aspects of his life, especially his love for football. Before long, he told the principal how much he loved a certain football team. He was able to reel off a remarkable number of statistics about his team. Also a football fan, the principal shared her favorite team and its statistics. As fans do, they began to tease each other about whose team would beat

whose. The principal began to pray with Teejay when they talked about football games.

Fast forward four years: The principal (now superintendent) was walking outside when she heard a little voice call out her name. There was Teejay. He sadly told her: "I'm moving to Missouri in two days!" She told him they could use FaceTime to chat after the games.

Recently, Teejay's mom texted from Missouri: "Teejay had his parent-teacher conference and we are so proud of him. He has come a long way from when he first started. Is in control of his challenging moments and we are extremely thankful for the impact Adventist education has had on him ... and our family. Thank you!"

Stories like Teejay's are not uncommon in Adventist education. Every school year, committed educators take the opportunity to see past the chaos and build up the child instead. They use whatever they can—even a love of football—to reach hearts for Jesus.

"We are extremely thankful for the impact Adventist education has had on him ... and our family. Thank you!"



NAD Welcomes *more than 600 guests* to Grand Opening of New Headquarters

BY NAD COMMUNICATION
DEPARTMENT

On Oct. 26, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America (NAD) welcomed more than 600 guests to the grand opening celebration at its new headquarters in Columbia, Maryland.

"This is our home ... we are delighted you are here," said NAD President Daniel R. Jackson. "This building does not stand for human progress, for human ingenuity. It stands to serve the purposes of the almighty God."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the main entrance of the headquarters. It included a prayer by former NAD President Don C. Schneider and a presentation of the state flag from the Maryland Secretary of State John Wobensmith.

(Right) President Dan Jackson, Secretary G. Alexander Bryant, and other officials participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. (Below) An aerial view of the new North American Division headquarters in Columbia, Maryland.

Once the ribbon was cut, the crowd streamed through the lobby to the building's main auditorium and overflow room.

Warm Welcome

Jackson then welcomed the congregation to the dedication portion of the event. Highlights of the program included remarks by Columbia Union Conference President Dave Weigley, an invocation by NAD Treasurer G. Thomas Evans, a special recognition segment by

NAD Secretary G. Alexander Bryant, and dedicatory remarks by Jackson.

Pastor and recording artist Wintley Phipps sang "Amazing Grace," and groups from several Adventist academies provided music. Guests viewed three video presentations, including a greeting and prayer from General Conference President Ted N.C. Wilson, a historical perspective with NAD timeline, and a pictorial perspective of the building's renovation process.



Before Artur Stele, a general vice president of the General Conference, offered the dedication prayer, the NAD officers led the congregation in a litany of Scriptural passages.

Honored guests included former NAD Presidents Charles E. Bradford and Schneider; former NAD Treasurers George H. Crumley and Juan R. Prestol-Puesán (now GC treasurer); Scott McClure, son of former NAD President Alfred C. McClure; and Bonita Rodriguez, daughter of former NAD Secretary Robert L. Dale.

Community Connection

A late afternoon reception featured a welcome by Orlan Johnson, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the NAD; remarks by Maryland

Congressman John Sarbanes and Baltimore County Executive Kevin B. Kamenetz; and a message read by a representative for Sheila Jackson Lee, an Adventist and U.S. congresswoman from Texas.

During the evening, Sarbanes shared his engagement with Adventist entities. "When I was a lawyer I represented a number of [Adventist] health care organizations across [the country]," said Sarbanes, whose district includes both the church's world headquarters in Silver Spring and the new NAD headquarters.

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church makes a huge impression on people because of the extent to which it connects with whichever

community it resides in," Sarbanes said. "This is going to be no exception. You can already tell there's a sense of connection with the Howard County community. It's a great match — Columbia is a very diverse place, a lot of different perspectives, a lot of wonderful people, and I think that reflects who the Seventh-day Adventist Church is as well."

Pleased with the Adventist representation in Maryland through the health care system and NAD employees, Kamenetz echoed Sarbanes' comments. "The church is helping people grow and improving their lives — who wouldn't want you as a neighbor?" he said. "It's great to have you here."

Young Adults represent Pacific Union at Division year-end meetings

Pacific Union Conference President Ricardo Graham (left) and NCC President Jim Pedersen (right) talk with UC Berkeley Student Bryan Nashed, PUC SA President Megan Weems, and La Sierra University SA President Rajesh Inparaj at NAD year-end meetings.



CALENDAR

Central California

Life Hope Centers (Dec. 3) for the Bakersfield community at 4201 Wilson Rd., Bakersfield, Calif. Volunteers needed for this free, one-day event. The more dentists, medical professionals, and optometrists that volunteer, the more community members can be served. Sign up at LifeHopeCentersCentral.com.

Singles New Year's Retreat

(Dec. 29-Jan. 1) Join CCC ASAM for an a la carte weekend of fun, including games, activities, and a baking contest. For more information: singles@cccgsda.org or text 903-594-8868.

La Sierra University

La Sierra University's 70th Annual Candlelight Concert (Dec. 1) 7:30 p.m. and (Dec. 2) 4 p.m. at the La Sierra University Church. Enjoy a holiday tradition of performances by La Sierra's vocal and instrumental ensembles and soloists. Info: 951-785-2036, music@lasierra.edu, or music-events.lasierra.edu/2017-2018-concert-events.

La Sierra University's Big

Band (Dec. 7) 7 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. \$15 general admission. Info: 951-785-2036, music@lasierra.edu, or music-events.lasierra.edu/2017-2018-concert-events.

Brandstater Gallery (Jan. 16-Feb. 8). Curator Camilla Taylor brings "The Illusion of Control" exhibit to La Sierra University. Opening reception (Jan. 28) 6-8 p.m. Admission is free. Info: 951-785-2170.

Northern California

Live Walk Through Nativity (Dec. 1-2) 6-8 p.m. Oroville church, 1180 Robinson St., Oroville (corner of 2nd and Robinson). Live animals to pet and Christmas carols to sing. Info: www.oroillesdachurch.org or 530-712-5388.

Heritage Singers Concert

(Dec. 2) 5 p.m. Lodi English Oaks church, 1260 W. Century Blvd, Lodi. Info: church office, 209-369-1021.

Singles Christmas Party

(Dec. 2) 7 p.m., Golden Oaks Village Hall, 1210 W. Century Blvd., Lodi. For all singles and their families. White elephant gift exchange, games, prizes, music, potluck of hors d'oeuvres, ugly Christmas sweater contest. Free. Come early for Heritage Singers concert! (See ad above.) Info: Mary Dybdahl, 209-471-9395.

Local Church Treasurer

Training (Dec. 3) 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. NCC Office, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Topics will include Jewel Software training and church treasurer duties. Lunch will be served. Info and RSVP: 888-434-4622, ext. 209, or sherry.starr@nccgsda.com.

Instituto Laico Adventista de California

(Dec. 17) 9 a.m. Pacific Union College. Info: Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

Southern California

"The Journey to Bethlehem" (Dec. 1-3) 6:30-9 p.m. San Gabriel Academy campus. Free. Musical program following the guided journey through Bethlehem, featuring live animals and more than 50,000 lights. For a glimpse of what The Journey to Bethlehem is like, visit https://youtu.be/Fyoj_XEBBbU. Info: www.thejourneytobethlehem.org.

Intensive* Health Ministry Training

(Dec. 3) SCC office. For health professionals, Health Ministry directors, pastors, and others. Check-in at 8 a.m., training 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Presenter: Lorayne Barton, M.D., MPH, Pacific Union Health Ministry Director. CEUs available. Certificates of Completion awarded. Fee: \$45. Info: Betty Cooney at 818-516-6508.

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Come to Black Hills School of Massage & in 6 months graduate from the only Adventist massage program eligible for state licensure. Watch our student video at <http://bit.ly/2xtUnTt> & visit us at www.bhhec.org/school-of-massage. Join us (Jan. 8) and be part of this life-changing experience! Call Al Trace at 423-710-4873.

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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.

Canvasback Missions needs three vehicles to transport volunteers and supplies as well as pull a food trailer delivering healthy produce and meals on the island of Majuro. Your tax-deductible donation of a running or non-running vehicle can help us share the love of God through health and healing! 800-793-7245, info@canvasback.org.

Canvasback Missions is looking for a part-time Development Director

to help with their nonprofit work bringing specialty medical care to the islands of Micronesia. The position is responsible for Canvasback's fundraising, including the major gifts program, annual fund, planned giving, special events, and capital campaigns. For more information visit www.canvasback.org/jobs.

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Employment

Secrets Unsealed is seeking a F/T Accounting Manager to join our 501C3 ministry in Fresno, Calif. See position details at <http://www.secretsunsealed.org/employment>.

Southwestern Adventist University is seeking an online adjunct professor/s to teach part-time courses in newly organized Senior Living Management Certificate program through the Department of Business. Submit cover letter and current CV/resume to denise.rivera@swau.edu. Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference given with prior teaching experience.

Southwestern Adventist University is looking for a

full-time English professor with a Ph.D. Candidates with a degree in any literature or writing specialty will be considered. Send a CV to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, Chair, Department of English, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest St., Keene TX 76059 or lauej@swau.edu.

Events

April 5-8, 2018 — ROSARIO SINGLES RETREAT in Anacortes, Wash., with keynote speaker Marvin Wray. Experience a spiritual, social, and fun time. Registration opens March 1, 2018. Join the retreat email list: WashingtonASAM@gmail.com.

For Sale

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Missing Members

Midvale Park Church, 2071 W. Drexel Rd, Tucson, AZ 85746; Myrna Peterson, church clerk: Phone 520- 428-7220; Email: myrnaptrsn@cox.net. Gladly Faith Abcede, Delores E Attwood, Regina Austin, Skyler Austin, Trail Austin, Susana Avalos, Martin Balderrama, Nicholas Baumann, Jr., Pat Beams, Tiffany Beams, Anthony M. Bencomo, Ariana Bencomo, Nicholas Bencomo, David Brandt, Terry Brasswell, William Bruce, Deborah Caniglia, Eli Caniglia, DeWayne Charles, Darla Cloud, Patrick Cloud, Nancy K Coletti, Amber Crawford, Stefanie Cruz, Anisha Daniel, Melanie C Davis, Thomas Dowell, David Pross Dowidat, Carmi Downs, Kaleb Emerson, Santiana Emerson, Norma Etchart, Randy Etchart, Fabien C Figueroa, Genee Figueroa, Jesus Figueroa, Jr., Rolando J. Figueroa, Virginia Figueroa, Faith Ford, Harold

Ford, Casandra Franklin, Daniel Franklin, Sergio Gamez, Suzanne Gamez, Alberto Garcia, Caresse A Garcia, Jonathan Garcia, Joseph Garcia, Lupita Garcia, Maria Garcia, Martha Gomez, Rosemarie Gonzalez, Jerrod Gregory, Dathon Helsel, Betty Hodgson, Charles Hoffman, Regina Hoffman, Alan Hoogasian, Rachel Paul Kapusi, Adam Kubly, Jason Kubly, John Leffew, Joann Linson, Michael J. Lisciandra, Astrid Lovette, John May, Jeri McCubbin, Benjamin Meeker, Donna Miller, Bonnie (BK) Murth, Ethan Olson, Levi Olson, Alena Oman, Marie Oman, Raymond Oman, David Pierce, Cynthia Pulsifer, David Pulsifer, Beatrice Rachal, Jennifer Rachal, Sarah Rachal, Jeremy Ramirez, Jesus Rangel, Virginia Rangel, Naomi Ruth Reddoch, Amanda Nicole Reed, Christine Reed, Rose S. Reed, Samantha Rose Reed, Amber Reyes, Brent Richard, Shane Richard, Ivonne U.



IMPACT PACIFIC

Special Offering: December 30, 2017

The Impact Pacific Offerings are used to respond to opportunities for mission in three areas:

Native Peoples

Projects that directly benefit ministries working with Native Americans and Native Hawaiians.

Mission in Context

Projects that address specific local needs.

Providential Opportunities

Projects that go beyond or outside the scope of existing ministries.

This offering will be collected in churches throughout the Pacific Union on December 30, 2017.

"We can do no less than to show our gratitude for His immeasurable love to us while we were sinners unworthy of His grace, by having a deep interest and unselfish love for those who are our brethren and who are less fortunate than ourselves."

—ELLEN G. WHITE, TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH, VOL. 3, P. 511



Rocha, Diana Rogers, Ronald Rose, Elijah Ross, Stellisa Rufenacht, Olivia Samaniego, Maria Sandoval, Michael Sandoval, Crystal Segura, Erika Segura, Lucy Serna, Jay Sharp, Joey Sharp, Paul Shirkey, Darla Smeltkop, Amy Smith, Karrie Jo Spear, Matthew Paul Steck, Cassidy Stevens, Justin Stevens, Nicole Stevens, Athena Stone, Maria Elena Taylor, Carol Thomas, Christopher Thomas, Barbara Topal, Barbara Tucker, Francisco Urias, Juan Urias, Silvia Urias, Meleena Valez, Martin Vega, Robert Williams, Sylvia Winham, Patricia Woods, Eardean Wright, Edwin C Wright, Autumn Rose Yeager, Charles Yeager, Haileigh Christelayna Yeager, Jacob Yeager, Loretta Yeager, Sarah Nicole Yeager, John Young, Kathy Young.

Orosi church: Contact: DeeDee Bindernagel, church clerk, 24043 Clayton Ave. Orange Cove, Calif. 93646 or call/text 559-696-1363 or e-mail everylightshining@att.net. Alvin Aguilar, Melissa Barrera, Hortencia Castillo, Chris Cervantes, Monica Drummond, Dennis Dy, Andres Garcia, Tim Harland, Deblina Haruo, Rosa Hiracheta, Denise Irby, Paul Ky, George Magarfir David Mazanales, Jacob Mazanales, Nancy Manzanales, Debra Martinelli, Michael Martinez, Roger Owens, Daniel Patton, Ben Quema, Fe Quema, Carmen Caroline Quezada, Efrain Ramirez, Ray Reese, Marcia Scott, Don Shelton, Evelyn Simmons, Susan Smith, Brent Treichel, Lemuel Uyeg, Sandra Villazana.

Real Estate
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Reunions
La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend (April 27-28) Honor Classes: 3 and 8. Welcome Reception Fri., 7 p.m. LSA Library. Sab. services: registration 9 a.m.; Homecoming Service, 10 a.m. LSA Gym. Potluck, campus tours, reunions, varsity basketball. Info: JNelson@lsak12.com; www.lsak12.com; alumni office 951-351-1445 x244.

Vacation Opportunities
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AT REST

Ames, David – b. May 14, 1936, Gilroy, Calif.; d. October 8, 2017, Hollister, Calif. Survivors: wife, Irene; sons, Steven, Michael, Gerald; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Baerg, Alice (Johnson) – b. Jan. 2, 1926, Inglewood, Calif.; d. July 17, 2017, Dinuba, Calif. Survivors: son, Craig; daughter, Denise McEowen; ten grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

Benson, Barbara Arline (Booth) – b. April 30, 1946, Seattle, Wash.; d. May 21, 2017, Fremont, Calif. Survivors: husband, Frank; son, Mike; daughters, Maignon, Shelly, Jyl; brothers, Wayne, Jimmy, Keith, John; sisters, Mary, Tammy; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

Bowen, Joyce (Roberts) – b. Aug. 8, 1933, Sherwood, Ore.; d. Aug. 13, 2017, Portland, Ore. Survivors: husband, Bob; daughters, Debbie, Colleen Smith, Lisa Jennings; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Castro, Jose (Joe) – b. June 15, 1934, Yuma, Ariz.; d. August 6, 2017, Jamestown, Calif. Survivors: wife, Vina; son, Dan Johannes; daughters, Becky Morrison, Kristi Fisher, Melanie Hankins; seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

Cisneros, Antonio – b. May 5, 1965, Michoacan, Mexico; d. Aug. 18, 2017, Denair, Calif. There were no survivors.

Covert, June – b. June 19, 1918, Battle Creek, Mich.; d. July 30, 2017, Napa, Calif.

Dare, Richard Everett – b. Jan. 15, 1938, Walkerton, Ind.; d. Dec. 14, 2016, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: mother of children, Kathalene Resendez; sons, Matthew, Richard, Mark; daughter, Julie Baldwin; brothers, Bill, Jerry.

Dudar, Peter Donovan – b. July 7, 1923, Two Hills, Alberta, Canada; d. Jan. 22, 2016, Sun City, Calif. Survivors: wife, Rosamond; sons, Peter Jr., Gary, Brian; two grandchildren.

Eberle, Dolores – Feb. 9, 1920, Bertrand, Neb.; d. July 25, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Clyde, Greg; daughter, Patty.

Feltman, David James – b. Dec. 11, 1951, Defiance, Ohio; d. July 29, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: brothers, John, Don.

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.

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

2018 Deadlines
 These are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.
 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 departments in those organizations. If you have a news story/idea, calendar announcement, etc., please contact your local communication department. See page 4 for contact information. Want tips for writing for us? See www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news.

Fox, Willis Mason – b. June 19, 1931, Nashville, Tenn.; d. Oct. 26, 2017, Yucaipa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Frieda; daughters, Pamela Hirschhorn, Cheryl White; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren. Professor at LLU School of Dentistry for 22 years.

Grant, John C. - b. May 10, 1928, Savannah, Ga.; d. Sept. 30, 2017, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joyce (Markham); daughter-in-law, Sabrina; three grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

Hardy, Luella – b. Dec. 14, 1920, Yorktown Heights, N.Y.; d. June 17, 2017, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: son, David; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

Hill, Ronald Derek – b. May 27, 1926, Booneville, Miss.; d. Aug. 16, 2017, Riverside, Calif. Survivor: son, Ronald.

Jacobson, James – b. Jan. 1, 1935, Hagerman, N. M.; d. Sept. 10, 2017, Phoenix, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Beverly; daughters, Tina Stacy, Shelli Foster; five grandchildren. Served the youth at the Westminster church, Westminster, Calif.

Jones, David Walter, Sr. – b. March 14, 1938, Detroit, Mich.; d. Sept. 21, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, David II, Daniel; daughters, Karmyn, Karen Thomas; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Jacqueline Channer. Served as pastor in Michigan and as a teacher in Indio, California, area.

Kemper, Paul William – b. Aug. 30, 1920, Aberdeen, S.D.; d. Aug. 30, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: son, Ed; daughters, Brenda Purdy, Gwen Forrester; six grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. He served as a departmental secretary in Panama, Cuba, and the

Dominican Republic; as pastor in South Dakota, Kansas, and Napa, Calif.; helped establish and build the Fairfield church.

Loye, Patricia – b. July 1, 1929, Glendale, Calif.; d. Oct. 10, 2017, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: son, James; daughters, Katherine, Susan; grandchildren.

Magie, Allan R. – b. July 21, 1936, Umatilla, Fla.; d. Sept. 23, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Lori; sons, Michael, Gregory; daughter, Michelle Patterson; stepdaughters, Kris Wellborn, Kathryn Sanders; six grandchildren. Helped establish Mountain View College in Mindanao, Philippines, and taught at LLU School of Public Health.

McCall, Clark B. – b. May 15, 1933, Covina, Calif.; d. Oct. 27, 2017, Medford, Ore. Survivors: wife, Ailene; sons, Jim, Tim, Stephen; daughters, Marilyn, Robin; ten grandchildren and

three great-grandchildren. McCall served in Central for over 40 years as pastor in Taft, Shafter, Bakersfield, Sanger, Fresno, Delano, Pixley, Kerman, Caruthers, Exeter, Campbell, Los Gatos, Cambrian Park, and Oakdale prior to retiring in 2005. There will be a memorial service on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Kerman Seventh-day Adventist Church. All are welcome to attend.

McFeeters, Paul – b. Jan. 7, 1923, Valley Center, Calif.; d. Oct. 27, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Gary; daughter, Sharon Mackin; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Menus-Galvin, Frances – b. July 30, 1938, Hollister, Calif.; d. July 5, 2017, Morgan Hill, Calif. Survivors: John Galvin; son, Randy Nixon; daughters, Rebecka Larios, Lori Valdez; nine grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

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Mulder, Miriam – b. Sept. 18, 1923, Ogden, Utah; d. Sept. 20, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif.

Odell, Donald Elmer - b. Jan. 9, 1922, Monroe, Wash.; d. Oct. 15, 2016, Rialto, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Karen L. Clements; son, Laurence E. Odell; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

Racine, Verlaine – b. Nov. 24, 1940, Pontiac, Mich.; d. Oct. 5, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: husband, Bud; son, Michael; daughter, Maria Deane; brothers, Daniel Wilson, Norman Wilson; sisters, Janice Dennis, Glenna Evilsizer, Mary Breakie, Delores Drumm.

Razzouk, Mona – b. Nov. 14, 1929, Afestik, Lebanon; d. Sept. 29, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: sons, Naji, Nabil, Akram, Anees; daughter, Najwa Madina; 12 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren.

Rich, Emita Eva – b. May 25, 1931, Marianao, Havana, Cuba; d. April 30, 2017, Oceanside, Calif. Survivors: husband, Ellis.

Schooley, Eva Lou – b. Sept. 12, 1928, Corry, Pa., d. June 12, 2017, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: husband, Paul; son, Bruce; daughter, Susan Shull; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren. Faithfully supported her husband, Paul during his 56 years of ministry.

Surls, Julia – b. Feb. 17, 1929, Kilo, Hawaii; d. July 14, 2017, Banning, Calif. Survivors: husband, Earl; one grandchild. Worked at White Memorial Hospital as a cook for 40 years, 1954-1994.

Swatek, William – b. Jan. 10, 1920, St. Louis, Mo.; d. Oct. 13, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Pam Singleton; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sisters, Margaret Robinson, Jean Oleson.

Weaver, William Henry (Buck), Jr. – b. April 27, 1921, Wylam, Ala.; d. March 31, 2017, Vista, Calif. Survivors: wife, Maria.

Williams, Judith – b. Jan. 28, 1954, Mobile, Ala.; d. Sept. 7, 2017, Live Oak, Calif. Survivors: son, Creighton; daughters, Denise, Tandra Lane; brothers, Bobby Bowen, David Bowen; sister, Connie Weeks; seven grandchildren.

Wilson, Jim Ed – b. Nov. 29, 1940, Dallas, Ore.; d. July 10, 2017, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: sisters, Wanda Swanlund, Cauleen Soper.

December 2017

Sunset Calendar

City	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29
Alturas	4:33	4:32	4:33	4:36	4:41
Angwin	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57
Bakersfield	4:44	4:43	4:45	4:47	4:52
Calexico	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:41	4:45
Chico	4:43	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:52
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:32	4:32	4:33	4:36	4:40
Eureka	4:49	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:58
Four Corners [E]	5:00	5:00	5:01	5:04	5:08
Fresno	4:43	4:43	4:44	4:47	4:52
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:14	5:14	5:15	5:18	5:22
Half Dome	4:40	4:39	4:40	4:43	4:47
Hilo	5:40	5:42	5:44	5:47	5:51
Holbrook	5:09	5:09	5:10	5:13	5:17
Honolulu	5:48	5:50	5:52	5:55	5:59
Joshua Tree	4:35	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43
Lake Tahoe	4:38	4:38	4:39	4:41	4:46
Las Vegas	4:25	4:26	4:27	4:30	4:35
Lodi-Stockton	4:45	4:45	4:46	4:49	4:54
Loma Linda	4:39	4:39	4:41	4:44	4:49
Los Angeles	4:43	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:53
McDermitt [N]	4:20	4:19	4:20	4:22	4:27
Moab	4:57	4:57	4:58	5:01	5:06
Monterey Bay	4:52	4:52	4:53	4:56	5:00
Monument Valley	5:04	5:03	5:05	5:07	5:12
Mt. Lassen	4:43	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:50
Mt. Whitney	4:37	4:36	4:38	4:40	4:45
Nogales [S]	5:21	5:21	5:22	5:25	5:29
Oakland	4:50	4:50	4:51	4:54	4:58
Paradise	4:43	4:42	4:43	4:45	4:50
Phoenix	5:20	5:20	5:22	5:25	5:30
Provo	5:01	5:00	5:01	5:04	5:08
Puuwai, Ni'ihau [W]	5:42	5:43	5:46	5:49	5:52
Reno	4:35	4:36	4:36	4:39	4:44
Riverside	4:40	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:50
Sacramento	4:45	4:44	4:46	4:49	4:54
Salt Lake City	5:01	5:00	5:01	5:03	5:09
San Diego	4:42	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:52
San Francisco	4:50	4:50	4:52	4:54	4:59
San Jose	4:50	4:50	4:51	4:54	4:58
Santa Rosa	4:50	4:50	4:51	4:54	4:58
Sunset Beach	4:44	4:44	4:45	4:48	4:52
Thousand Oaks	4:46	4:46	4:47	4:50	4:54
Tucson	5:19	5:19	5:20	5:23	5:27

[N]=Northernmost [S]=Southernmost [E]=Easternmost [W]=Westernmost point in the Pacific Union

"So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God." Hebrews 4:9

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

Arizona Conference

Adobe Adventist Christian School
Cochise County Adventist Christian School
Desert Valley Christian School
Glenview Adventist Academy
Maricopa Village Christian School
Prescott Adventist Christian School
Saguaro Hills Adventist Christian School
Thunderbird Adventist Academy
Thunderbird Christian Elementary School
Verde Valley Adventist School
Yuma Adventist Christian School

Central California Conference

Armona Union Academy
Bakersfield Adventist Academy
Central Valley Christian Academy
Chowchilla Adventist Elementary School
Dinuba Junior Academy
Foothill Adventist Elementary School
Fresno Adventist Academy
Hollister Adventist Christian School
Los Banos Adventist Elementary School
Miramonte Adventist Elementary School
Monterey Bay Academy
Mother Lode Adventist Jr. Academy
Mountain View Academy
Oakhurst Adventist Christian School
Peninsula Adventist School
San Francisco Adventist School
Sierra View Junior Academy
Templeton Hills Adventist School
Valley View Junior Academy
VHM Christian School
West Valley Christian School

Hawaii Conference

Adventist Malama Elementary School
Hawaiian Mission Academy (9-12)
Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki
Hawaiian Mission Academy-Windward
Campus
Kahili Adventist School
Kohala Mission School
Kona Adventist Christian School
Maui Adventist School
Mauna Loa School

Nevada-Utah Conference

Abundant Life Christian Academy
Bishop Seventh-day Adventist Elementary
School
Deamude Adventist Christian School
Fallon SDA Elementary School
Las Vegas Junior Academy
Monument Valley SDA Mission School
Riverview Christian Academy
Summit Christian Academy
Susanville Adventist Christian School

Northern California Conference

Adventist Christian Elementary School of
Red Bluff
Adventist Christian School of Willits
Adventist Christian School of Yuba City
Bayside SDA Christian School
Chico Oaks Adventist School
Clearlake SDA Christian School
Crescent City SDA School
Echo Ridge SDA Elementary School
El Dorado Adventist School
Feather River Adventist School
Foothills Elementary School
Fortuna Junior Academy
Galt Adventist Christian School
Hilltop Christian School
Humboldt Bay Christian School
Lodi Academy
Lodi Adventist Elementary School
Magalia Adventist School
Manteca Adventist Christian School
Middletown Adventist School
Napa Christian Campus of Education
Orangevale SDA School
Pacific Union College Elementary School
Pacific Union College Preparatory School
Paradise Adventist Academy
Pine Hills Adventist Academy
Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy
Redding Adventist Academy
Redwood Adventist Academy
Rio Lindo Adventist Academy
Sacramento Adventist Academy
Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School
Ukiah Junior Academy
Vacaville Adventist School
Westlake SDA School
Yreka Adventist Christian School

Southeastern California Conference

Calexico Mission School
Desert Adventist School
El Cajon SDA Christian School
Escondido Adventist Academy
Hemet Adventist Christian School
Laguna Niguel Junior Academy
La Sierra Academy
Loma Linda Academy
Mesa Grande Academy
Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian
School
Needles SDA School
Oceanside Adventist Elementary School
Orangetown Academy
Redlands Adventist Academy
San Antonio Christian School
San Diego Academy
Valley Adventist Christian School
Victor Valley SDA School

Southern California Conference

Adventist Christian School
Adventist Union School
Antelope Valley Adventist School
Conejo Adventist Elementary School
East Valley Adventist School
Glendale Adventist Academy
Linda Vista Adventist Elementary
School
Los Angeles Adventist Academy
Newbury Park Adventist Academy
San Fernando Valley Academy
San Gabriel Academy
Simi Valley Adventist School
South Bay Junior Academy
West Covina Hills Adventist School
White Memorial Adventist School

Pacific Union Conference Operated School

Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist
Indian School

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Southern California
Hawaii
Nevada-Utah
Pacific Union
La Sierra University
Pacific Union College

gpts | Gift Planning & Trust Services

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



Looking Ahead

GOD'S PURPOSES IN THE NEW YEAR

A message from Sister Ellen G. White, Elmshaven, California, January 4, 1902

The old year, with its burden of record, has passed into eternity, and the new year has begun. Let us gather up the treasures of the past year,—our remembrances of God's goodness and mercy,—and carry them with us into the new year. Let us brighten the future by the thought of past blessings.

....

"Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." To be justified means to be pardoned. To those whom God justifies He imputes Christ's righteousness; for the Saviour has taken away their sins. They stand before the throne of God justified and accepted. They have crucified self, and Christ abides in their hearts.

My brethren and sisters, during this new year let there be among you no accusing. This is the work of the enemy. If he can lead professing Christians to accuse and condemn, he is served as he desires to be. Let no one, by yielding to feelings of envy, weaken the hands of his brother, so that the work entrusted to him is marred.

Be very careful how you carry reports. Often what

you tell to others, though seeming to you to be truth, is misrepresentation. Thus false conclusions are formed. Thread after thread of misrepresentation is woven into the web, until the pattern is spoiled. Oh, how many hearts are grieved and wounded because of statements made by those who do not really know that what they report is true! How much pain is caused by cruel handling of reputation! The course of those who utter the slander would be just as dark if represented as they represent the course of the one whom they are accusing.

I ask you to study the eighteenth chapter of Matthew and the thirteenth chapter of first Corinthians. Pray earnestly for grace, and then prepare your hearts to receive the answer to your prayer.

....

Often, when the Lord works upon a certain man's mind to do certain things for the advancement of His work, another man thinks that he can see defects in his fellow-worker's efforts. Let him keep to his own work. The Lord, who sees the end from the beginning, will fulfil His purposes. He will unite with the one to whom He has entrusted His work, and will bring about its accomplishment. He knows just what is needed.

Christ is the great Master-worker. We are laborers together with Him. He has a right to give each one his work. And let each one be sure to do the work given him. He who neglects his definite work for the work that some one else has in charge is out of place. Thus time is lost, confidence abused and shaken, and the work hindered. When we learn to attend closely to our own work, the Lord will help us, and all parts of His cause will move in harmony.



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
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PACIFIC UNION
CONFERENCE



December 2017

Arizona NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

"The Mind of Christ"



Ed Keyes
President

Jherefore, if *there* is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be *done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

— Philippians 2:1-8

This text comes to us from the heart of Paul's teaching on what it means to be truly converted. It is also written in poetic language — a poem to the greatness of Christ.

The word MIND is used in a lot of different ways:

- He's playing mind games with me.
- She's got a mind of her own.
- His mind is set, don't try to change it.
- Never mind!
- She can't be in her right mind!

- He is of the mindset...

Webster's definition of "mind" is "the part of an individual that feels, perceives, and especially reasons."

Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks in his heart (mind) so is he."

There is a story of a man who jumped into a boxcar trying to get a free ride to another town. As it turns out, he got into a refrigerator car and got locked in by mistake. Sadly, when the workers came to unload the car he was found dead. They also found a note that he had left behind for anyone who would eventually find him. It simply said, "I'm dying, freezing to death in this refrigerator car. At least I know how I'm going to die, most people don't even know that."

Sad story, but what makes it even sadder is that he really didn't have to die. The cooling system on that car was broken, it could only get the car down to about 51 degrees, warm enough for anyone to survive a half-day trip. This man simply willed himself to death. His mind told him he was dying — so he died.

The mind is powerful, my friends, so use it for good. Better yet, just take on the mind of Christ and it will naturally desire to do good.

Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."



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.



What Creates Health and Well-being?



By Arizona Conference Health Ministries Director Dr. Dan Wright

This column is dedicated to expanding and reinforcing our ideas about what creates and sustains health and well-being. The term health, for our purpose and as defined by the World Health Organization, is much more than merely the absence of sickness and ailments, but more fully refers to the state of all-round physical, social and mental well-being of a person. The merits or advantages of having good health can hardly be exaggerated. By contrast, the term disease reaches beyond the immediate mental images of colds or cancer to include deficiencies in a person's physical, social and mental well-being.

What is now well understood is the fact that the underlying cause of disease we experience is to a large degree due to the lifestyle choices we make each day. Fortunately your body often has remarkable capacity to begin healing itself if you give it a chance to do so. This healing capacity of the body through lifestyle interventions was thought impossible by the medical community 40 years ago. Science is now helping to redefine for the medical community what is possible and what the body can do to heal itself if given a chance. Interestingly, the Adventist community has had access to understanding the body's healing capacity through Ellen G. White's writings published over 100 years ago.

The four pillars of lifestyle interventions for optimum health are whole food plant based diet (WFPBD), stress management,

moderate exercise and psychosocial support (love and intimacy). Dr. Dean Ornish characterizes these pillars as "Eat well, move more, love more, stress less."

Many people have a difficult time believing such changes can make a difference, or that there is such a direct correlation between diet and lifestyle and disease development or vibrant health. Developing an understanding and a vision of the good that can be immediately experienced by attention to each of the elements is vital. It does not happen by chance or drift. It is likely that lack of knowledge in the community (including the physician community) of what is required to create and sustain health and well-being is a far greater contributor to our general state of ill health than lack of discipline in the pursuit of health.

We have learned from well-designed peer reviewed scientific articles that lifestyle changes (LSC) can prevent and actually reverse coronary artery disease, significantly decrease the development and progression of prostate cancer, dramatically increase the up-regulation of gene expression in over 500 beneficial genes in just three months as well as down-regulating onco (cancer promoting) genes involved in breast, prostate and colon cancer.

LSC can also reverse type II diabetes. Half of all Americans have either type II diabetes (12-14%) or prediabetes (approx. 40%). Additionally, LSC are better than drugs such as Metformin for preventing and treating diabetes.

LSC which includes walking for ½ hour a day for three months has been shown to cause so many new brain cells to grow that it actually increased the size of people's brains. Their brains got bigger. That seemed crazy until it was proven.

LSC, including adoption of a whole food plant based diet has been shown to result in a 75% decrease in total mortality, 400% decrease in cancer risk, 500% decrease in type II diabetes as well as reducing the risk of Alzheimer's disease by 60%. Think on that last sentence for a moment. If any drug company could come close to developing a drug with a fraction of the benefits just stated, it would be the best-selling multibillion dollar drug in the history of the drug industry.

Development of love, trust and intimacy also have powerful impact on our health. A study of 1,400 men and women with severe coronary artery stenosis in one vessel demonstrated that after five years, those who were unmarried and did not have a close confidant were more than three times as likely to have died (15% vs 50%).

In women with metastatic breast cancer who had a supportive environment who met once a week to talk about their feelings in a safe place for a period of one year, when followed over five years, lived twice as long as those who did not.

These facts on the impact of love, trust and intimacy are particularly relevant to





followers of Jesus and our church/faith community as they highlight the sacred opportunity we all have both individually and collectively to help people when they are suffering and to use that as a doorway to help them transform their lives.

Ellen White contributed to the conversation 112 years ago in The Ministry of Healing with the following statement: *“We cannot be too often reminded that health does not depend on chance... Too little attention is generally given to the*

preservation of health. It is far better to prevent disease than to know how to treat it when contracted. It is the duty of every person, for his own sake, and for the sake of humanity, to inform himself in regard to the laws of life and conscientiously to obey them. All need to become acquainted with that most wonderful of all organisms, the human body. They should understand the functions of the various organs and the dependence of one upon another for the healthy action of all. They should

study the influence of the mind upon the body, and of the body upon the mind, and the laws by which they are governed.”

Subsequent columns will look in more depth at each of the four pillars deepening our understanding of the role each plays in creating health and well-being as well as developing practical strategies for adopting healthy lifestyle choices.

She will Rise

by Sarah Sykora and Jessie Giambra

She Will Rise, an amazing weekend centered around shared love for Jesus, brought 27 young women and teen girls together at the Arizona Women’s Retreat on October 13-15, 2017.

She Will Rise highlighted testimonies from Giselle Ortiz and Keersten DeWitt, local young adult women who are pursuing God through dedicated service. Leslie Yotziry led the group through intimate prayer experiences which helped attendees internalize and reflect on the themes of overcoming and perseverance brought up by the speakers.

Brittney Cortez helped the guests open up by taking them through fun group activities. Attendees contemplated



the humble, simple, and meaningful connections between the stories of Esther and Mary to their experiences with God. These women from the Bible were young, vulnerable, and brave in the midst of the challenges they faced. Prompted by discussion questions, girls shared amongst each other the value of being

chosen by God to arise and shine, and dialogued about how these words of life shape their daily walk as young women.

The diversity in age and ethnic heritage of the AZ Young Women’s Experience (AZYWE) makes gatherings especially rich and full of insight and revelation of the things of God. Giselle and Leslie came

cont. on next page



with the leadership team from Holbrook Indian School. Imma, Nadia, and Alliance offered special music from the Ubumwe congregation. Others represented churches and communities from all over the state. Learning from each other and participating in this shared calling of rising to serve is what makes this sisterhood a vital part of abundant life in Jesus.

YWE is passionate about integrating and being inclusive of all young women, as well as bridging the gaps between generations. Blessings of coming together with the annual Arizona Women's Ministry retreat multiplied, as attendees of both programs were able to come together for Sabbath afternoon activities such as learning to play the ukulele, worship and praise through Hula, hiking in nature, lei making, and learning foot massage.

Sabbath blessings continued with a Luau banquet and program in which all were able to participate through sharing what they learned. The weekend culminated in a final message united with the adult women and an optional ride on the Camp Yavapines zipline.

Inspiring testimonies shared between sisters are what inspire the

AZYWE to continue bringing young women together. The interactive and engaging design of the programs encourages girls to interact with each other, share in prayer, conversation, and deep spiritual thought.

As a result, these young women have grown in their relationships with God. The community that is AZYWE welcomes all teen girls, young adult women, and mentors to join in conversation, sharing experiences, and building the kingdom of heaven.

AZYWE is supported by AZSDAYOUTH and Arizona Women's Ministry. Thank

you to our donors, coordinators, and contributors for making all of this possible. Visit the website for more information, to stay connected, and learn how you can be involved. azyyoungwe.com



Photography by Gabrielle Oase

CENTRAL Acts

NEWSLETTER FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

December 2017

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

3 | Clerk and Treasurer Training

8–10 | Young Adult Retreat

29–Jan 1 | Single's Ministry Retreat at CCC Office.

JANUARY

26–28 | Hispanic Marriage Retreat in Fresno.

26–28 | Women's Retreat at Tenaya Lodge.

INSIDE

- 1 The Path of a Pathfinder
- 2–3 President's Message
Heart Trouble
- 2 Did You Know?
- 4 Evangelism Update

The Path of a Pathfinder

By Sue Schramm

More than 4,000 pathfinders and their leaders converged together at Lake Skinner in Winchester, Calif. to participate in the Pacific Union Conference Pathfinder Camporee, themed “One Way – Jesus!” on Oct 4–8, 2017.

Sixteen clubs from the Central California Conference attended along with clubs from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah. Each conference shared the responsibilities of putting on the event; to make it memorable for each participant. Activities included camping/survival skills, leadership training, community pride and involvement, outreach activities, and honors training in nearly 40 classes.

Meschach Soli, associate pastor of Beaumont (Calif.) Seventh-day Adventist Church was the keynote speaker for the Camporee. Each evening, Soli captivated the audience with recounts of his own troubled youth and path to redemption. His desire was to connect with each person in the crowd and give them a snapshot of God's love.

One of the Pathfinders in that crowd of several thousand was José Carrillo.

One could say that Carrillo's journey began on a Native American reservation when he

and his autistic brother were taken from their mother, who was heavily involved with illegal drugs. The boys were placed in the care of their Aunt Veronica. Proving to be a handful due to the instability of their early years, they were now in a much better environment.

It was at the age of 10 when Carrillo was introduced to his Great Aunt Maria Millan — a member and Pathfinder director of the Lindsay Hispanic Adventist Church. Immediately upon being introduced, Millan was eager to get Carrillo involved with the

Continued on page 4 >



José Carrillo at the 2017 Camporee

Did you know?

In 1948 Pathfinders began. Central California Conference Youth Director, Henry Bergh wrote the song for the new Pathfinder Club program. The song is still used as the Pathfinder song today.

In 1859, Merritt Kellogg (youngest brother of John Harvey and Will Kellogg) was the first Seventh-day Adventist to settle in California near San Francisco.

In 1873, Moses J. Church sat at a camp meeting in Yountville, Calif. Church was an engineer overseeing the digging of a 13-mile irrigation canal from the Kings River to a wheat-growing venture in Fresno. (The endeavor would be the start of the massive irrigation system that would make the San Joaquin Valley one of the most fertile regions in the world.)



Ramiro Cano
President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Heart Trouble

WHILE JESUS SAT with His disciples on the Mount of Olives, they inquired about the signs of the last days. In His response, Jesus shared the following:

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth,” (Luke 21:25, 26).

Jesus foretold that there would be distress, perplexity, uncertainty, confusion, instability and men’s hearts failing them for fear.

We have witnessed the devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean in quick succession. Fires in California have completely devastated communities and displaced thousands. We have witnessed the horrific killings in Las Vegas, an attack in New York, and a gunman in a church in Texas. Additionally, nations threatening war, developing nuclear weapons with accompanying threats to use them, and as a result ... FEAR grips the hearts of the masses.

One of the most dreaded diseases in the world today is what we call "heart trouble." Every day 1,679 people die of heart disease in the United States.

The heart is a wonderful creation. It beats an average of 75 beats per minute, 40 million times a year, 2 1/2 billion times for a person age 70. It pumps enough blood (650,000 gallons a year) to fill more than 82 tank cars with 8,000 gallons each. It is a wonderful human organ, designed by a loving God.

In the midst of their anxiety and doubt, Jesus says, "Trust in me, I'm telling you the truth."

When Jesus speaks in Scripture about heart failings, He is not talking about physical heart trouble. He is referring to spiritual illness. He is talking about a troubled heart, a burdened heart, and a sorrowful heart. This kind of heart trouble seems common today, and no visits to the doctor can keep it away; good health cannot prevent it. The only cure for it is found in Jesus!

Fast forward from the scene at the Mount of Olives. Jesus was in the upper room with His disciples (John 13). He had just finished washing their feet. Then Jesus announces that one of them would betray Him that night (v21). He then announces that Peter would deny Him three times (v38). He also reveals that He is leaving, and that where He is going they could not follow Him now (v36).

What Jesus shared disturbed and agitated His disciples. Jesus has just told them that Judas was going to betray Him, Peter was going to deny Him, He will be leaving, and that He will die shortly.

Because of the shocking nature of Jesus' words, the disciples were at loss. They had been thrown into disorder. They were confused, agitated, alarmed, and they were anxious. Their hearts were failing them. What were they going to do? What is going to happen when Jesus is gone? They were in a crisis!

How about you? Are you perplexed, are you confused, agitated, anxious, doubtful, burdened? Are you in crisis?

Jesus sensed they were beginning to have HEART FAILURE, HEART TROUBLE because of fear. So, Jesus responds to the crisis, He responds to the need of the hour — here is how — He says in John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

Jesus is directly addressing the problem of spiritual heart failure, failure that comes from fear. And the solution is trust, and faith. “Do you believe in God? Do you trust God? Believe also in Me. Trust Me.”

What we have here are words of assurance from Jesus — words to calm a troubled heart that is agitated over the present and the future. These are words to assure us of the reality of Heaven. We are to trust Jesus in this matter, and if we do, our heart troubles will subside.

In the midst of their anxiety and doubt, Jesus says, “Trust in me, I'm telling you the truth.”

Jesus is coming back. The scriptures tell us it will be a visible coming, it will be an audible one, and He will come in the clouds. The glorious coming of Jesus Christ is what we have been waiting for. It is this hope that heals troubled and failing hearts.

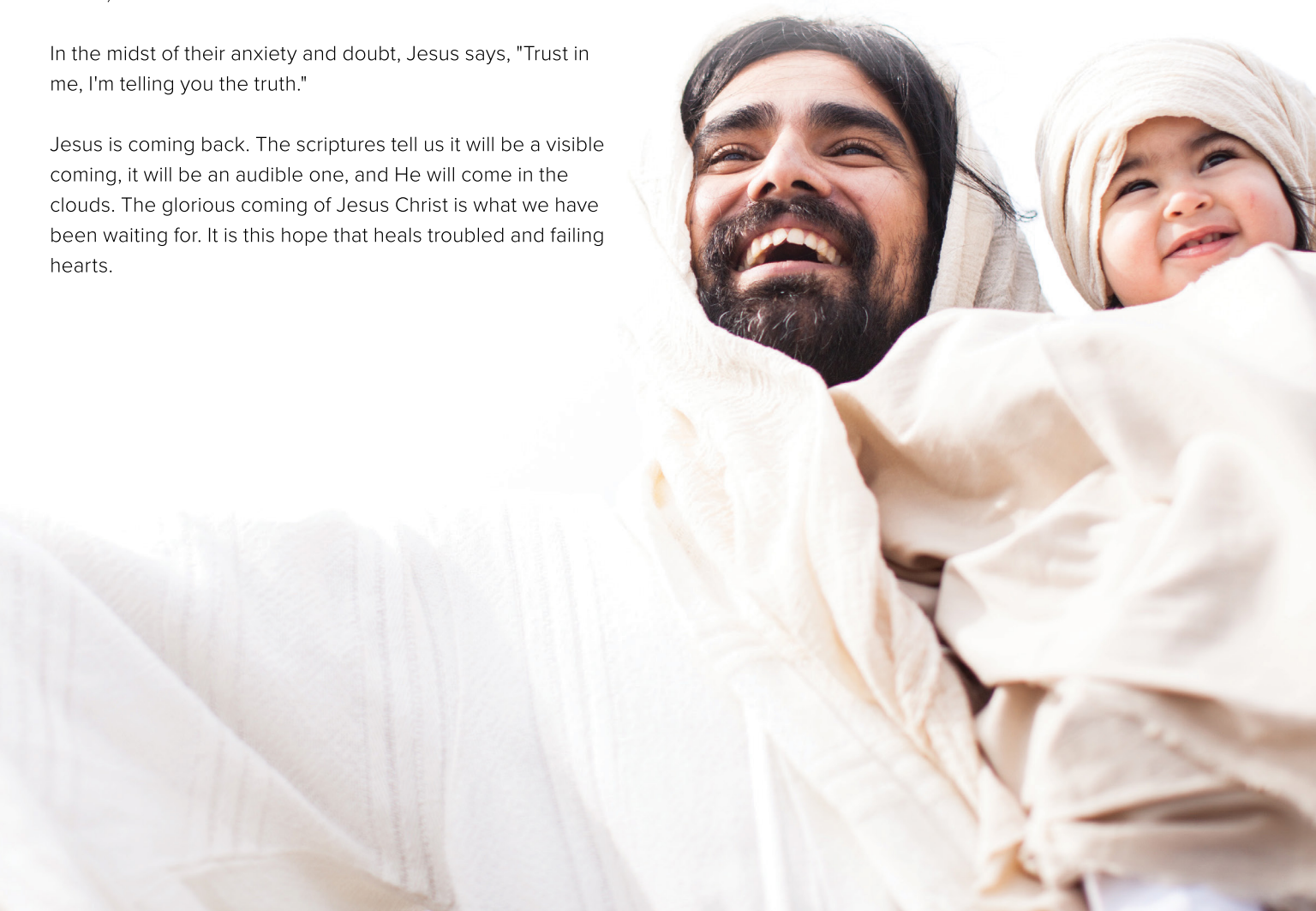
Therefore: LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED about the past — because he has promised to forgive every sin if we only come to Him.

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED about the present — because He promised, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5).

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED about the future — because He has promised “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Mat. 28:20).

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED about eternity — because He declared, “In My Father's house are many mansions ... I got to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also.” ■

Raniso





< Continued from page 1

Seventh-day Adventist Church. She decided to take him and his brother to Soquel Camp Meeting. Carrillo was not happy to go as he cried all the way to the camp, and while there, refused to participate.

“Yeah! Who is God, anyways?” Millan recalls Carrillo asking. Millan then had another idea, “maybe he should join the Pathfinder Club at church!” Through a lot of challenges and prayers, Carrillo reluctantly began attending the Pathfinder meetings and eventually fell in love with them. He is now very active in the club and is currently earning many honors, learning new skills and most importantly, learning about how to be a Pathfinder for God.

This October, Millan, Carrillo, and the rest of the 16-member club traveled to Lake Skinner with the support of their church. For most, the Camporee was just another

fun experience. For Carrillo, it was transformational. One evening, he responded to Soli’s invitation to put God first in his life. Today, he wants to study for baptism, and even though his Aunt Veronica is from another faith, she is encouraging him to study.

“God still controls what we can’t even imagine! Carrillo

is finally realizing that he can be much more,” says Millan happily. “Being a part of Pathfinders is empowering him to know that he is a smart person, and that he has things he can teach others.”

Camporee would not be complete with out baptisms, on Sabbath afternoon, 71 were baptized.

CCC Pathfinder Director Norma Villarreal agrees. “Being part of Pathfinders is more than just being in a club—it’s being part of a big Christian family and provides an opportunity for young peoples’ lives to be transformed.”

Carrillo is one of those young people. ■

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“AND I, IF I BE LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH,
WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME.” JOHN 12:32, KJV

The Central California Conference evangelism fund has reached

\$614,369.49

Our goal is \$1 Million

Darkness is not fought with darkness; it is fought with light. Giving to evangelism spreads light in our Conference and dispels the darkness. Let's light up our Conference together.

To give today, mark your offering envelop for evangelism or give online at <https://goo.gl/m6euJ3>.

HO'IKE

VISIONS OF PARADISE

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

PAGE 2 | Rather than more "stuff," how about giving the gift of experience this Christmas? A week of fun at Camp Waianae is just the ticket for the young person in your life.

PAGE 3 | The holiday season is upon us, and our Hawaii Conference Schools have worked hard to prepare inspirational Christmas programs for you. Don't miss out!

PAGE 4 | Your testimony is the most powerful story you can tell for Christ. What if we held one another accountable for sharing our journey along the Narrow Way?

We Are the Pathfinders!

Some of my fondest and happiest memories of growing up in Singapore revolved around being part of an active Pathfinder club. It was a time and place to earn honors (specific skills and knowledge), make new friends, and learn about Jesus. In fact, it was a very safe place in a very unsafe world where godly youth leaders shared life lessons that lasted a lifetime. Pathfinders was very influential in my own life, and it is so gratifying to know that it continues to be such a positive influence in the lives of thousands of young people.

The Pathfinder Pledge and Law is an important part of the Pathfinder tradition. Each year, members learn and choose to abide by the requirements of the Pathfinder Pledge and Law for the sole purpose of growing closer to their fellow children of God and to their Creator.

By the grace of God, I will be pure, and kind, and true. I will keep the Pathfinder Law. I will be a servant of God and a friend to man.

*The Law is for me to:
Keep the morning watch
Do my honest part
Care for my body,
Keep a level eye
Be courteous and obedient
Walk softly in the sanctuary,
Keep a song in my heart,
Go on God's errand.*

In October, I had the privilege of participating in the Pacific Union Pathfinder Camporee with over 4,000 Pathfinders from across the union. As president, I was proud to know we had more than 100 Pathfinders there representing the Hawaiian Islands. I was so proud of our directors, leaders, and clubs who were able to participate. For Hawaii to participate in something so massive was a real honor. I want every church in Hawaii to have an active Pathfinder club.

I was also very proud of Erik Vandenberg who, along with other youth directors in our union, did a terrific job in organizing such an

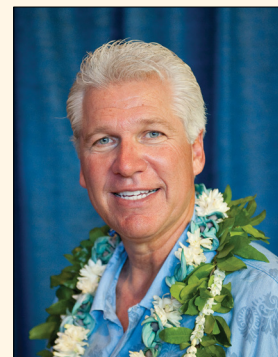
amazing event. Complementing the inspirational speakers were opportunities for jumping into thrilling activities, earning honors, trading pins, and gobbling up delicious food.

The theme for the Camporee was "One Way Jesus." A compass in the middle of the logo served as a reminder that Jesus is the One and only true north Who will be your guide for life. But without question, the most exciting moment was watching more than 70 young people give their hearts and lives to Jesus publicly through baptism. Thrilling! It made me want to break out in singing the Pathfinder song:

*Oh, we are the Pathfinders strong,
The servants of God are we.
Faithful as we march along,
In kindness, truth, and purity
A Message to tell to the world,
A truth that will set us free!
King Jesus the Savior's coming back
For you, and me!*

Regardless of whether you are a Pathfinder or not, the message and mission in that song is for all of us. We have a message, we have a truth, and we believe King Jesus our Savior IS coming back soon!

With Aloha, *Ralph S. Watts III*



RALPH S. WATTS III,
PRESIDENT

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR ETERNITY

BY ERIK VANDENBURGH, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Although there's no snow on the ground here in Hawaii, we know Christmas is almost here. Many are thinking about what they could purchase for the special young people in their life. Let us help make that challenge simple — give the gift of summer camp at beautiful Camp Waianae where young people come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior!

Jesus tells us in Mark 10:14 to bring the children to Him and do not hinder them. We want to help all our youth — including your special young person — come to Jesus. We want to let them know that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. At Camp Waianae, each young person will be given the opportunity to know and accept Jesus as his or her Friend and Savior.

Not only is Camp Waianae a great gift idea, but you will also receive a \$40 discount if you register before January 14. Plus, if your camper needs to fly over from a neighboring

island, we will give them a special discount to reduce the cost because of the airfare. What a deal!

Please consider giving the gift of an exciting, unforgettable, life-changing trip to Camp Waianae next summer where campers will make new friends, have fun, and get to know Jesus better.

Our excellent, well-trained staff will make certain your camper receives top-notch care and has the best week of his or her life.

If you're an empty nester, perhaps you could

sponsor someone else's child. Camp is a great evangelistic tool for reaching relatives, co-workers, kids from VBS — and even the noisy kid next door.

Let's partner this summer to reach our kids for Christ.

To register for Camp Waianae, visit Hawaiisdayouth.org.

Dates	Camp	Ages
June 24-29	Adventure Camp	6-9
July 1-6	Junior Camp	10-13
July 8-13	Teen Camp	14-17

PHOTOS BY HOLLIE MACOMBER PHOTOGRAPHY





'TIS THE SEASON

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced.” Matthew 2:10

Tis the season to share the birth of Jesus Christ. You are invited to join the students of #808AdventistEducation in celebrating the greatest gift ever given.

Nov. 30 – Mauna Loa School and Mauna Loa Preschool

Dec. 2 – Maui Adventist Pre-elementary School

Dec. 9 – Hawaiian Mission Academy

Dec. 9 – Kona Adventist Christian School

Dec. 12 – Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki

Dec. 14 – Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus

Dec. 17 – Adventist Malama Elementary &
Malama Na Keiki O’ Waianae

Dec. 19 – Maui Adventist School

Dec. 21 – Kahili Adventist School and Kahili Adventist Preschool



Dear Brothers and Sisters, I must confess...

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The book *Light Bearers: A History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church* has been sitting unread on one of my bookshelves for many years. Several months ago, I dusted it off and read this fascinating and well-documented treatise.

The authors, historians Richard Schwarz and Floyd Greenleaf, brought to light many facts about early Seventh-day Adventist congregations. They mentioned, for example, that there was a special Sabbath service once every three months when area churches would convene — much like our yearly convocations here in Hawaii. An itinerant pastor or conference official might be present at these special meetings.

While we all enjoy the singing, preaching, and fellowship at our own convocations, early Adventists had an additional element called “social meetings.” Everyone was expected to give a personal testimony in a social meeting; it was, in essence, a verbal account regarding one’s spiritual state.

You and I might be tempted to skip such a meeting! But those who were unable to attend were expected to give their testimony by letter. “Failure to attend or send a letter,” write church historians Schwarz and Greenleaf, “was generally assumed to indicate spiritual problems. This alerted local church officers to visit and encourage the wavering member” (p. 152).

Early Seventh-day Adventists took spiri-

tual accountability seriously. Their “social meetings” were times when the biblical words “confess your faults one to another” were literally played out. You and I might find disclosing personal sins intimidating and invasive. Yet, such a practice, no doubt, leads to spiritual growth. So what might a personal testimony letter say? Perhaps it sounded something like this:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

God has been very good to me, and I thank Him for His mercies. I enjoy my daily worship, prayer time, and Bible reading. I had the privilege last week of sharing my faith with my neighbors in a Bible study. I rejoice that God has given me the victory over eating flesh foods.

God, however, has convicted me of other intemperate habits in my life: My weakness is still in the area of appetite. I am praying that God will give me victory. I continue praying for the fruit of the Spirit. I confess that I am, at times, too hasty and impatient with others. I find fault and have been harsh with others while excusing my own faults. I have determined to overcome my evil ways by God’s grace. I pray daily, asking God to guard my heart and tongue.

I regularly pray for each of you, and I long for a fuller indwelling of the Holy Spirit in my life. Sincerely, your brother in Christ.



Imagine what would occur if spiritual accountability were expected from each of us! All of us are accountable to someone — an employee gives an account to a supervisor; students report to teachers; teachers, in turn, answer to principals. Children come before their parents and spouses to one another. Accountability is a part of our lives. Except, it seems, in our spiritual lives. Most of us today figure that it’s no one’s business how we conduct our lives; but that’s not how it has always been.

No suggestion is being made that we should replicate the “social meetings” of the 1800s. Yet, I wonder, what would it be like if you and I were willing to practice spiritual accountability? We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, aren’t we?

Kingdom MATTERS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

There's a Song in the Air

by **Jim Pedersen**

President
Northern California Conference

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VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 6 • December 2017



Listening to Christmas music is one of the things I eagerly anticipate every year. I usually make it a practice to “hold out” until November 1, but then it’s pretty much non-stop Christmas music through the next two months! The melodies and the messages of the music fill me with joy and remind me of the beauties of our Savior.

Of course, Christmas albums don’t get produced a week or two before the holidays. They actually need to be recorded months in advance – often during the heat of the summer. I’ve heard that during these summer “Christmas sessions,” the artists and musicians sometimes try to get into the holiday spirit by hanging tinsel around the studio or even putting up a Christmas tree!

We usually don’t play Christmas music in the summer. If we did, we’d probably get some strange looks and rude comments from family and friends! But I would suggest that the message of Christmas should be a year-round focus. The story of Jesus—and His mission to earth—shouldn’t be compartmentalized into just a few segments of His life and ministry that get a special focus one or two times a year.

“But when the right time came,

God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children. And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, ‘Abba, Father.’ Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are His child, God has made you His heir” (Galatians 4:4-7, *New Living Translation*).

The truth is that on a *silent night* so long ago, *angels from the realms of glory on a midnight clear* sang about the newborn King who was born away in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem. And while that message was of importance to *three kings* from a land far away, that reality is something that we are all urged to *go tell it on the mountain* or wherever we happen to be. That message is truly one that brings *joy to the world* because our Savior, the *Messiah*, has come! Yes, *there’s a song in the air*, and it’s all about Jesus who *dist leave His throne* to come here. Because He came on that *o holy night*, *I know that my Redeemer liveth*, and together we can shout a grand *hallelujah* any time of the year!

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.

We ♥ Redwood
-NCC Youth

Thank you,

NCC Family!

The Northern California Conference family supported Redwood Adventist Academy during a time of loss, sadness, and discouragement. Churches, schools, and individuals gave money, supplies, time, effort, encouragement, and prayers to lift up the RAA community and help its members begin the process of recovery. And the support is still coming!

Here are just a few pictures of the MANY generous people throughout our conference who stepped up to support RAA. We wish we could include all the NCC Adventists in Action who helped—as well as the numerous people from outside our conference and church community!



Church and school communities from across the United States, along with many individual members, donated online. In October, the first check of \$40,000 from the Pure Charity donation website was delivered to RAA.



We are the Pathfinders strong ...

Northern California Conference Youth Director Eddie Heinrich serves as the volunteer youth director for the Pacific Union Conference. He sat down to talk about the recent union Pathfinder camporee at Lake Skinner, attended by nearly 5,000 people.



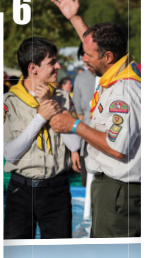
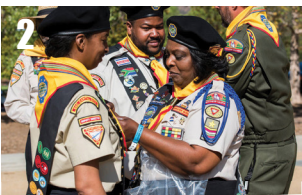
Why have a union camporee? It's actually a revived tradition. Five years ago, we had the first union camporee in 25 years. Our kids need to meet and fellowship with other Adventist kids, so they realize: "Wow, I'm not alone. There are other people who think like I do, believe like I do, and follow Jesus." It's so important that we give them this experience.

Several people who were initially skeptical of this camporee told me afterward: "We had no idea this would have such a large impact on our kids."

Can you describe the process of organizing a camporee for the whole union? The conference youth directors throughout the union worked on the planning for five years—most intensely for the past two. We had a hard time finding a location. When you're trying to plan for thousands of people, there are not many campsites that can take you. It was a group effort, and we all worked together on everything.

What was the best part of the camporee for you? More than 500 kids came forward to give their lives to Jesus, to request baptism, or to recommit their lives to Him.

About 450 Pathfinders and staff from 31 Northern California Conference clubs attended, including: 1. Hezekiah Brazelton, Capitol City Chargers; 2. New Master Guide Kellie Angus (left), Capitol City Chargers; 3. Evan Lee and Jason Sopha, Paradise Prayer Warriors; 4. NCC Pathfinders at an evening meeting; 5. Michael Bylard, Antioch Hilltop Messengers; 6. Jack Chambers, Redding Rangers; 7. Shane Baron, Paradise Prayer Warriors and Simoné Karn, Sacramento Central Pathfinders; 8. NCC Pathfinders on Sabbath.



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Create Your Legacy With An IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

If you are 70½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to support ministry. Making an IRA charitable rollover gift to NCC or an NCC church or school will lower the income and taxes from your IRA required minimum distributions. Please call or visit our website at SDALegacy.org to learn about the benefits of making an IRA charitable rollover gift this year.



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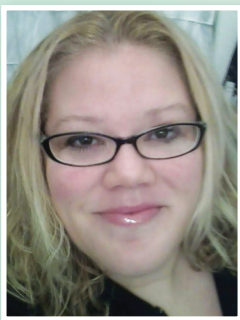
Turning Points

Keeping Balance In An Unbalanced World

A Conference for ALL Women

Friday, February 9, 2018
4-9 p.m.

Sabbath, February 10, 2018
8 a.m.-5 p.m.



Keynote Speaker
Melody Darrow, MDiv, MS,
Associate/Youth Pastor
Mountain View SDA Church in Las Vegas, NV



Women's Ministry Certification
Carla Baker
Director, Women's Ministries, North American Division

Dorothy Means
Pacific Union Conference, Women's Ministries

Breakout Speakers
Julieta Whiteside • Bible Journaling

Maricia Ditgen and Vesteria Stilson
Using Technology and Social Media for God's Glory

Karen White
Inside the Heart of an Impeccable Woman

Milinda Skau and Arlene Hendriks
Trauma into Treasures

Charmaine Vierra • *Fit, Faithful & Forgiven*

Panel Discussion
"Finding Balance in an Unbalanced World"

Musicians
Kelly Mowrer & Music Team

Youth Track
Keynote Speaker
Loretta Spivey
"Knowing Your Worth, Finding your Purpose"

Speaker
Maricia Ditgen
Daddy Issues



Mary Jo Lauderdale
"New Ventures for the Widows of the Congo"
Northern California Conference
Women's Ministries Coordinator

Lodi Adventist Academy
1230 S. Central Avenue • Lodi, CA 95240

Cost: \$40 (includes Friday dinner & Sabbath lunch)

Nevada-Utah Views

Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521
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*Focused on Jesus,
we witness to the world!*

December 2017

Members of God's Family

My first real recollections of Christmas as a child are memories that continue to fill me with joy. We were not rich, but my parents made sure that each year my sisters and I had a great experience. As a result, my wife and I have committed to making sure that the holiday season is special for our family. It is a time to gather together and remember what God did for us in the last year.

As 2017 comes to a close, let us pause and reflect on what God has done for our NUC family. Despite any challenges we may have faced, I look around our conference and see so many blessings.

We're blessed with nine elementary schools and 57 churches. We are a community of faith with over 10,000 members. What an incredible network we have! The Lord has blessed us with a team of pastors and staff who are doing great work, and additional team members who have been a tremendous help to us.

This October, after a very tragic shooting event, I marveled as I observed the Las Vegas churches and leaders working together to accomplish two things. First, they ministered to those in need. Secondly, they came together for one goal: "the advancement of the Kingdom of God."

I am convinced that God can do marvelous things through us when we work together. There is a synergy that will accompany our work when we, as one family, commit our hearts and lives to God and allow Him to use us to finish the work he began over two thousand years ago.

In the book *The Story of Redemption*, Ellen White

writes, "...I saw the lovely Jesus...He then made known to the angelic host...that He had been pleading with His Father, and had offered to give His life a ransom, to take the sentence of death upon Himself" (page 42).

Three times Jesus went in to His Father to plead His case, she says. Sinners needed a redeemer and Jesus willingly volunteered.

Whenever I hear the Christmas story, I am always heartened by the fact that Jesus voluntarily gave us this precious gift. His life for ours. The birth of the Christ child was perfectly planned and orchestrated for our redemption. All heaven worked together to save us. Everyone was needed in order to make the plan of salvation come together. In the same way, I personally believe that each and every one of us will be needed to complete this work as members of the family of God.

I love this time of the year because I love family. I love the fact that God in His infinite wisdom chose to reflect His love to us by sending us His Son, Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Nevada-Utah family, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



*by Elder Leon Brown,
NUC President*

*"On behalf of
the Nevada-
Utah family,
I wish you a
very merry
Christmas
and a
wonderful
New Year."*



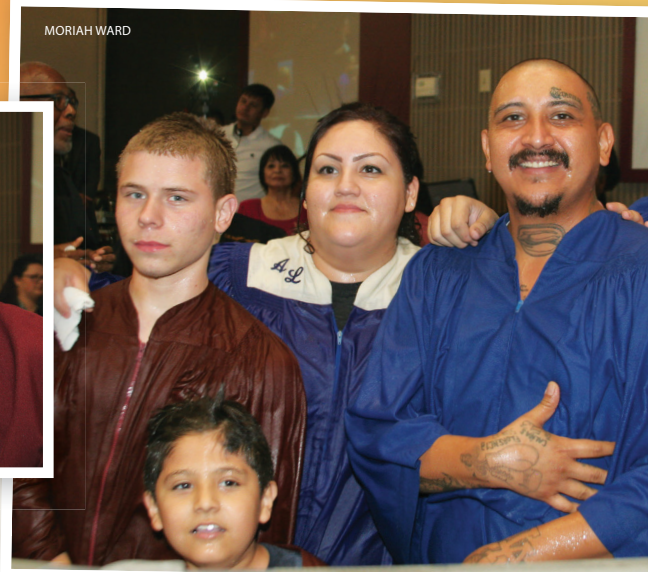
CARLOS CAMACHO

Leon Brown meets with fellow Conference officers and Las Vegas area pastors to discuss ways to help after the shooting outside the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

Las Vegas Pastor Neat Randriamialison (on the left) was one of the eight pastors who baptized revival attendees on Sabbath, October



21. Randriamialison now serves as the pastor of the Breath of Life church that was planted directly following the revival.



More than 90 Baptized at Las Vegas Revival

by Faith Hoyt

Breath of Life (BOL) ministries came to Las Vegas in October with a fall revival series titled “The Time is Now.” The meetings, led by BOL Director Dr. Carlton Byrd, drew hundreds to hear messages about Biblical principles and the love of Jesus.

and Casino in Las Vegas. “I saw this as a great opportunity to offer hope and healing through the Word of God,” Byrd said.

In the month prior to the revival, a team of six Bible workers from Alabama, New Jersey, and New York worked to share news of the meetings.

“We went out into the community and invited them to the revival,” said Chad Dickens, Bible worker for Las Vegas. “A lot of people were open. The harvest is ripe here.”

The Bible workers passed out Bible guides from both BOL and Real Truth.

Following the meetings, more than 90 attendees gave their heart to the Lord and were baptized.

On Sabbath morning, Oct. 21, Wayne O’Bannon, pastor from the Centennial Hills SDA Church, helped move a large swimming pool into place for the morning and evening baptisms. On Sabbath morning, five pastors began



JUN PAR

Hundreds gathered for the Breath of Life revival meetings, which ran from October 8 to October 21 in Las Vegas. The meetings included programs for children ages 3 to 12.

of the revival was to share the matchless love of Jesus with others, coupled with presenting relevant principles for times in which we live,” said Byrd. “Because God is Alpha and Omega, He knew that the revival meetings would need to take place for such a time as this.”

The meetings began just a week after the shooting outside the Mandalay Bay Resort

“The goal



JUN PAR

Four Las Vegas pastors pose with some of those who were just baptized on Sabbath, Oct. 21.

NUC President Leon Brown (left) stands with Breath of Life Ministries Director Carlton Byrd at the Las Vegas fall revival in October.





Pastor Oneil Madden (left) and Pastor Alex Ramirez (right) baptize some of the more than 90 new members during the Breath of Life Revival in Las Vegas.

baptizing the revival attendees, but soon three more pastors joined them in order to accommodate the long line of baptismal candidates.

“We soon realized that we needed more pastors in the water,” said Las Vegas Pastor Neat Randriamialison.

In addition, the revival concluded with five baby dedications and a wedding.

Following the meeting, BOL’s 17th church was planted in Las Vegas. Randriamialison was made pastor of this new church.

“Seeing those people being baptized that

Sabbath was confirmation that God is in this ministry,” said Randriamialison. “I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us.”



MORISH WARD

The special guest singer for the Breath of Life revival was Grammy award winner Sandi Patty.



Enriched Education at MVMS

At Monument Valley Mission School, community is important, and so is trying new things. While planning education enrichment, the school decided to try something new and combine field trips with Deamude Adventist Christian School in Ogden, Utah.

On a snowy day in February, students from MVMS rode the FrontRunner, a commuter rail train, to their destination. Once in Ogden, the two schools visited Clarks Planetarium to learn about the

planets, and Loveland Aquarium, where they saw ocean creatures.

In May, it was time for the schools to join together again. This time, DACS made their way to the Navajo reservation in Monument Valley. “The students were instantly awe inspired by the rocks,” Del Jean Murray-Dickens, head teacher at DACS, said. “What a contrast from the city they know.” During the two days the schools visited together, students explored a local slot canyon, experienced track and field day on a large sand dune, ate authentic Navajo food, and

by Wendy Harris

“It was too short! We need a full week and a Sabbath together!”

Monument Valley



SDA Mission School

ALL PHOTOS: WENDY HARRIS



(Far Left) Local pottery expert Greg Holiday teaches MVMS students about the art of pottery. Students practiced molding clay, sanding it smooth and painting it using a yucca leaf. (Left) Jerry Harris speaks to students from MVMS and DACS before starting track and field day at a large sand dune in Monument Valley, Utah.

Local pottery experts Ellen Holiday (right) and Greg Holiday (far right) teach students at MVMS how to form clay.



Church schools come to life with such educationally enriching experiences, and when they interact with other schools!

took a hayride to a local arch formation. The students played, sang, learned, and worshiped together. When one student was asked about the field trip she said, "It was too short! We need a full week and a Sabbath together!"

Faculty expressed excitement with how well the visits went. "At first we thought it might not work out, because we were so far apart—seven hours to be exact," Mrs. Harris said. "Then we realized that the benefits far outweigh the long drive." The benefits included learning how to be a guest and a host, learning about how others live, and making lifelong friends.

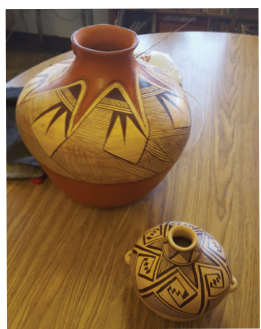
Following the joint field trips, MVMS enjoyed additional education enrichment in the form of pottery lessons. Local pottery experts Greg and Ellen Holiday have been making traditional pottery and baskets to sell to tourists. Recently, they came to MVMS to teach students in this art. The students learned how to mold clay, sand it smooth and paint it using a yucca leaf. Several students were asked what they enjoyed most about learning pottery, one of

them said, "Molding the bowls into shape." Another responded with, "Everything!" Faculty at the school are grateful to the Holidays for volunteering their time to show the students an ancient craft and inspire them with the possibility of making that a future livelihood.

Pottery lessons aren't the only hands-on activity students are enjoying. Last spring, through a generous donation, MVMS was able to purchase a glow light table, seed, and grow "bags" so students could grow their very own plants. One of the students mentioned that they like getting to see the plants grow, because they have never seen a plant grow before. Another said, "The best part was the flower that blossomed!"

Church schools come to life with such educationally enriching experiences, and when they interact with other schools! They also come to life with the support and encouragement of their church family. In these areas, Monument Valley Mission School has been very blessed.

Sample pottery brought in by Greg and Ellen Holiday to show students of MVMS.



Jerry Harris, fifth through eighth grade teacher, shows MVMS students how to plant seeds.

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 INSPIRED BY HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas season is filled with familiar carols, school programs, family and church gatherings and reflection on the hope we cling to as we proclaim the good news of Emmanuel. Perhaps these words from a prayer written by Rebecca Barlow Jordan will resonate with you as they do with me.

"Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our Christmas stockings. ... Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, 'Be afraid!' We need your peace, Jesus.

"... Your name is still called 'Wonderful,' 'Counselor,' 'The Mighty God,' 'The Everlasting Father,' and 'The Prince of Peace.' As Your children, we cry out for a fresh filling, and a new awareness of Who You are. We choose by faith to make the 'good news of great joy' a reality in our own lives, so others can see us as lighted trees of life, pointing to You this Christmas. We know one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that You are Lord. And we also know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You.

"You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. ..."

And God is still our hope. As I reflect on this year and the work that has

been collectively accomplished in our conference, for the sake of the kingdom of God, this scripture comes to mind.

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ," (1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3, NIV).

Together we shared hope to thousands this past year. Let me focus on just a few examples that represent the scope of all that happened in our conference:

- SECC members and community service volunteers donated clothes, cleaning supplies, and money to help "stuff" the Texas Conference moving truck parked at our conference office. These donations assisted our sister conference in their disaster relief to their communities following Hurricane Harvey.

- More than 750 children and youth attended Pine Springs Ranch Summer

Camp, where young adult staff poured into their lives and shared Jesus with them.

- Hispanic churches throughout our conference have focused on small group ministry for discipleship, and now there are over 220 small groups meeting in homes, inviting neighbors and friends to join them. More than 50 people were baptized in San Diego as a result of meetings born out of these small groups.

- This summer, 22 high school and young adult Loma Linda Korean church members traveled to Bolivia to provide medical care, to teach a Vacation Bible School, and to assist with a construction project with a local church.

- More than 3,900 students are attending SECC schools this year where teachers encourage academic excellence and are contagiously sharing their love for Jesus.

Thank you, members of Southeastern California Conference, for the work that is produced by your faith, the labor that is prompted by your love, and the endurance to keep going that is inspired by the hope we share this season.



EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM: THINKING GLOBALLY

Throughout this year we've focused on the general financial framework of the Adventist Church and how it affects us locally. But amid all the numbers, charts, and lists, it's important to remember that all this is for one purpose only—to expand the kingdom of God, both locally and globally. This is why our Church was established and why it continues.

Expanding God's kingdom has been a longtime focus of this conference. We aspire to be like the yeast and the mustard seed Jesus talked about in Luke 13. What's more, our own conference is a highly-populated mission field with ample opportunity for this kind of ministry.

But let's not forget that we are part of a worldwide Church that ministers to those even in the most remote

corners of the earth. Our tithes, along with our offerings, support several global endeavors such as Adventist Mission, Adventist World Radio, Religious Liberty, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and more. Additionally, over 11 percent of

“Through our tithing system, we are able as a conference, as a division, and as a worldwide Church to help economically disadvantaged communities to fully participate in the mission of the Church, which is to expand His kingdom.”

the General Conference operating fund goes directly to benefit missionaries serving in high-need areas. Most of these missionaries, currently 214, are from the North American Division.

“Through our tithing system, we are able as a conference, as a division, and as a worldwide Church

to help economically disadvantaged communities to fully participate in the mission of the Church, which is to expand His kingdom,” said Sandra Roberts, SECC president. “And often, it's not only struggling churches, but even countries we end up helping.”

We've seen the news. Natural disasters, persecution, extreme poverty, civil wars—these are immediate concerns that span the globe. Yet we belong to a worldwide movement that ultimately seeks to relieve suffering and welcome the downtrodden into God's kingdom.

It's true, no earthly system is perfect—especially when money is involved. But God indeed promises us that He will “open the windows of heaven” (Malachi 3:10) in response to our giving. Let's take Him at His word.

By Amy Prindle



REMEMBERING LESTER EARL ORTNER

Lester Earl Ortner was born on Oct. 27, 1925, in Hinsdale, Illinois. He met Betty Winget when he was in eighth grade, she in fifth. During World War II, Lester worked on a hospital train as a Private First Class Orderly. He and Betty married on June 30, 1946 and went to Pacific Union College, where he graduated with a theology degree.

Lester and Betty worked together for many years for the Adventist Church. In 1969, Lester

worked as the Sabbath school director for SECC, with Betty joining him at the conference in 1971 as secretary and then coordinator of child evangelism. He retired in 1991, only to become associate pastor at Arden Hills church for 17 more years.

Lester passed away on April 13, 2017, in Riverside at age 91. He was loved very much and will be missed by all his friends and family.

MEN'S RETREAT FOCUSES ON DEEP TOPICS

An SECC Men's Ministry retreat allowed open conversation in a safe space Oct. 13-15 at Camp Cedar Falls. Men from all walks of life asked questions, gave advice, and discussed deep topics in groups at Man Cave, a speaker-facilitated event.

"Concerns about life, how to deal with finances, substance abuse, a relationship gone bad—those things are like a white elephant taboo topic at a church setting," said Herbert Williams, director of men's ministry at Valley Fellowship church. "These men had questions. They wanted to engage. This event was where they could come together and talk about those topics and more."

Speakers had short presentations explaining topics relating to the theme "A Man and His Traps" to six to eight groups. Then everyone discussed it at their table.

"We think that everything will be OK if we have control, significance, and comfort," said Juan Stricklan, member of Valley Fellowship church. "These three things are lies—gaining these do not mean your life will be good. A way to help remove these things is developing relationships with other men and having prayer networks to share the struggles in our lives."

Delroy Brooks, pastor at Fontanta-Juniper Avenue church, opened on Friday night and discussed how temptations and selfish behaviors stem from an idol

problem, keeping a man from living a life of true passion and purpose. Going below the surface and understanding what's going on in the heart that's driving that behavior is the start.

Kelby McCottry, pastor at Valley Fellowship church, talked Sabbath morning on empty promises.

"Problems are like plants," McCottry said. "You need to get to the roots to prevent them from popping up again."

Carl Irby, from Banning church, continued the topic for the worship service and specifically dealt with deeper promises and "secret sins." In the afternoon, a Q&A session opened up for the men to ask questions and for anyone in the room to answer.

"We did not want questions brushed off," Williams said. "Anything that they wanted to talk about and discuss was open. No topic was too heavy or too deep for discussion."

That evening, Gianluca Gibbons, a motivational speaker and mentor, talked about three tips on giving up control, and encouraged giving the problem to God. The weekend event ended on Sunday after George King, vice president of Black ministries, encouraged the men to be accountable to a friend or support group.

"We can keep each other in check with small men's groups and come together to support each other," said Eric Penick, men's ministry director. Penick said this event helped connect with other churches and



Men at table groups discuss each topic presented on "A Man and His Traps" during the Oct. 13-15 men's ministry retreat.

hopes that men will start going to small groups in their areas. To speak with Penick about starting a small men's group or getting involved with men's ministry, email him at epenick@seccsda.org.

by Jessica Anzai Permaul

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blue Christmas Service (Dec. 8) 7 p.m., Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. This service honors those who have lost a loved one and is a time to support those that mourn and grieve during the holiday season. Info: 909-825-8611.

Christmas Cantata (Dec. 9) 11 a.m., Moreno Hills church, 52873 Alessandro Boulevard, Moreno Valley. Listen to the children's choir sing "The Tale of the Drowsy Shepherd." Info: 909-799-3527.

Seeing Jesus Through Muslim Eyes (Dec. 9) 2 p.m., Garden Grove church, 12702 9th St., Garden Grove. This seminar will equip attendees for reaching out to Muslims, the historical setting and perspectives of Islam, Muslim's understanding of Seventh-day Adventists, testimonies, and Q&A time. Info: 714-534-1987.

Christmas Concert, A Christmas Alleluia (Dec. 16) 9 and 11:30 a.m., Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. Enjoy listening to the adult and children choirs along with the orchestra and brass ensemble for a musical extravaganza. All are enjoyed to a meal after second service. Info: 909-825-8611.

Christmas Cantata (Dec. 23) 11 a.m., Moreno Hills church, 52873 Alessandro Boulevard, Moreno Valley. Listen to the church choir sing "Shine on Us." Info: 909-799-3527.



About 75 men gathered on Saturday for a Q&A session before the evening meeting during the three-day event.



(Left) More than 250 people filled the sanctuary and overflow room on Oct. 21 to reunite old and new members at Victorville church.



Left to right: Robert Grady, pastor at Victorville 50 years ago, and his wife, Carrol Grady, stand reunited with Richard Loderstedt. Loderstedt taught for 20 years at the old Victor Valley school as well as the present Crestview Drive location, built in 1984.

VICTORVILLE MEMBERS CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN CURRENT LOCATION

A church known as home to many held more than 250 people on Oct. 21 to celebrate Victorville church's 50th anniversary in its current location. A youth vespers was conducted Friday night. A Sabbath school panel, award presentations, special music, and testimonies filled the sanctuary all day Sabbath with current and former members and pastors.

"Over and over, we saw rejoicing as people came 'home,'" said Ricki Ricketts, chair of the 50th anniversary planning committee. "Over and over, we heard, 'This is what it must be like when Jesus comes and we have the grand reunion.'"

Former pastors and members attended the "welcome home" event, some driving eight hours to be there, some flying from Arizona, Washington, and a family even flying

from Maryland.

Key leaders of the church 50 years ago also attended. The church was organized on Dec. 11, 1928, and slowly outgrew its building during the next 30 years. Robert (Bob) Grady was pastoring there when the current church was completed in October 1967. During his time there, Grady encouraged the congregation to band together to pay off the debt that had accrued during the three years it took to build the church. When some members questioned when he was going to stop talking about money, Grady showed holes in his clothes and said, "My wife and I promised we wouldn't buy new clothes until the church was paid for."

Motivation to pay off the debt spread, and former stay-at-home wives and mothers started jobs and gave all their income to help pay. On April 6, 1968, the church held a special

dedication service as a completely debt-free sanctuary.

During the 50th anniversary celebration, Grady shared his testimony about how all the members worked together to set a legacy for the

ministry being done there today. One couple, Al and June Castellucci, still attend Victorville church and are the longest current members there—since 1959.

During the main service, a representative for Jay Obernolte, from the 33rd State Assembly district, presented a wooden plaque congratulating Victorville for 50 years in its location and thanked and acknowledged the community service work for God's Lighthouse, a clothing, food, and service ministry within the church.

"We're working on being a welcoming, intergenerational family church that cares," said Raewyn Orlich, senior pastor at Victorville. "We're here to help people of all ages and backgrounds know Jesus better, encourage one another without judgement, and reach out to our community, especially to young families and those hurting because of addiction or homelessness."

Orlich and Ricketts agree this will not be the last reunion.

"People were so happy to see each other again, we are planning on smaller reunion events in the future," Ricketts said.

By Jessica Anzai Permaul

January Rodgers (left) sings praise during Victorville's 50th anniversary in its current location.



PHOTOS BY ROY PANTUNG

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Conference Priorities • Enno Müller, Editor

DECEMBER 2017

KEEPING *intouch*



Royal Harrison
GLAR Region Director

Remembering the MISSION

During the past year, I consciously began reflecting on the mission of the church, asking myself: What is the primary mission of the church, and has our mission changed over the years? I have often reminded people in my sermons that this is not our home, that we are only pilgrims passing through, and yet, no matter how many times I say it or preach it, many of my members continue living as if this is their home. Jesus once said, "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world." And He went on to pray to His Father, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it" (John 15:19, 17:15,16).

Jesus understood this world was not His home and even prayed that it would not become ours either. Jesus kept His eyes on the mission and did not allow Himself to be distracted by the things of this world. When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that nothing deterred Him from fulfilling the purpose for which He had come. Jesus did not come to overthrow the

Roman government, that was not His mission; Jesus did not come that He might establish His Kingdom on earth, that was not His mission. Jesus' primary purpose for coming was not even to defeat the enemy, though He did that on every turn, but that was not His primary mission; Jesus says about Himself, "[f]or the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). That was His mission! And I believe that is still the primary mission and calling of the church. If seeking and saving the lost are primary and central to the mission of the church and the purpose for which we exist, then we must evaluate and assess and ask the question, "How are we doing?" How are we doing in *seeking* the lost, how are we doing in *saving* the lost, how are we doing in *reaching* the lost? If our response is that we're not doing very well, then perhaps one of the contributing factors may be that we have allowed ourselves to become distracted and comfortable in our present home.

It was Jesus who, in calling the first members of His faith community, the disciples, invited them to become fishers of people (Mark 1:16-18). By calling fishermen and inviting them to

fish for humans, Christ used language that was common to His hearers in His day. He made reference to an activity that fishermen engaged in regularly, and by doing so, created a sense of the community that was to come. Fishing in Jesus's day wasn't done with a rod and reel; therefore, those who heard Jesus' call to "be fishers of men" would have concluded that Jesus was talking about fishing with a net. The key to the fishermen's success in Jesus' day wasn't in the technical details of tides and weather patterns, but it was in the strength of their fishing nets. Therefore, the disciples spent an enormous amount of time on shore mending and repairing their nets rather than on the sea. Because if their nets were strong, anything and everything that got caught in it would not be able to escape; if their nets were weak, they stood a chance of losing all they caught.

If I may use that as a metaphor for how we do church, the net would symbolize building, establishing, seeking, and nurturing relationships with people, both those who are and those who are not-yet in the church. When we remember that saving the lost

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is our primary mission, we will spend more time developing, nurturing, and establishing those relationships, just as the fishermen spent an enormous

amount of time repairing and mending their nets. By remembering that this is not our home and that our primary mission is reaching the not-yet saved, it

will help us, like Jesus, to stay clear of distractions and to focus on the mission for which we have been called.

In Transition (Voted November 9, 2017)

New Employees **Donovan Childs**

Associate Pastor, University church, as of Oct. 15, 2017.

Dileanny Jimenez

Jr. Accountant, SCC Office, as of Oct. 9, 2017.

Paul Soon Tae Kim

Pastor, L.A. Central Korean church, as of Sept. 1, 2017.

David E. Merino

Pastor, Long Beach Freeman & La Amistad Spanish churches, as of Sept. 16, 2017.

Marco Topete

Assistant Coordinator, SCC Literature Ministries, as of Sept. 5, 2017.

Changes Within the Conference

Lucy Benitez

From Admin. Secretary, Hispanic Region & Secretary, Resource Center, to Admin. Secretary, Office of Executive Secretary, as of Sept. 11, 2017.

Jose Alejandro Diaz

From Pastor, El Camino a Cristo, to Pastor, El Camino a Cristo & San Gabriel Valley Spanish churches, as of Nov. 1, 2017.

Jesus Flores

From APC, La Voz-Sylmar, to Pastor, La Puente & El Monte Spanish churches, as of Nov. 1, 2017.

Maria Flores

From Assistant Treasurer, Newbury Park Academy, to Assistant Business Manager, Newbury Park Academy, as of Oct. 12, 2017.

Sandra Foldvary

From Cashier, SCC-ABC, to Manager ABC, as of Oct. 1, 2017.

Gloria Huerta

From Department Secretary, SCC Human Resources, to Administrative Secretary, Hispanic Region & Receptionist, SCC Office, as of Nov. 1, 2017.

Leaving Conference **Employment**

Doo Pyo Hong

Pastor, L.A. Central Korean church, as of Aug. 31, 2017.

Andrew Jaewook Huh

From Associate Pastor, Glendale Korean church, as of Aug. 31, 2017.

Arnaldo Mercado

Teacher, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2017.

Daniel Priest

Treasurer, Newbury Park Academy, as of Sept. 8, 2017.

Jerryl Pridgett

Teacher, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, as of June 30, 2017.

Benjamin Supit

Treasurer, San Fernando Valley Academy, as of Sept. 27, 2017.

PASADENA MISSIONARIES *Baptize 640 in the Philippines*

By Lauren Armstrong

Members of the Pasadena church took three mission trips to the Philippines this year, in which a total of 31 missionaries served. A few joined the Pasadena group from other churches.

The first trip was to Tarlac, Cebu and Bacolod Cities, where the missionaries conducted revival meetings. The second group went to Tarlac to join the first team before heading out to Puerto Princesa, Palawan Philippines to visit the feeding program that Pasadena church supported since 2009. This weekly feeding program benefited more than 1,700 school children, including Muslims enrolled in seven public schools.

The last trip included an evangelistic series in Gingoog City that led to 640 baptisms! This team also held four medical rallies and health education lectures. Other activities during these trips included medical dental rallies,



A local health volunteer teaches a health education lecture in the medical mission of Gingoog City, Philippines, a day before the evangelistic series launched.

evangelistic meetings, Revelation seminars, and healthy living seminars. Adventist personnel from the local hospital assisted with medical services.

The third trip was made possible in part by Mr. and Mrs. Rolly Kindom, who donated \$38,000 to finance the seven satellite churches. These churches engaged in the ground preparation, small-group intentional Bible studies for five months before the launching of the evangelistic series, and supplying medicines for the four medical outreach programs in Gingoog City.

Pastor Edgar Lloren (second from right) leads the pastors in prayer over 228 baptismal candidates in Gingoog City, Philippines.

Photos provided by Edgar Lloren



“For me, the mission trip experience was a revival of the gift that God had given me,” said Pastor Lloren. “I wanted to launch such a program in the church so that more church members would be exposed to the realities of the third world where people are hungry for the Word of God, to see them surrender and make decisions to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and receive baptism. It was a life-changing experience. I will do it again if God allows.”

INTRODUCING NEW AVAS PRINCIPAL *and Glendale ABC Manager*

By Lauren Armstrong

Antelope Valley Adventist School Welcomes Alina Mitchell as School Principal

Alina Mitchell, M.A., the new principal of the Antelope Valley Adventist School (AVAS), was called into the Adventist school system after working as the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Enrichment Program Coordinator at Morehouse School of Medicine. She was the lead supervisor in a year-round enrichment program for fourth to eighth graders, exposing them to the healthcare professions. She holds a bachelor's degree in English/professional writing with a minor in business management from Oakwood University and a master's degree in secondary education and

English from the University of Alabama Huntsville.

Mitchell has a genuine love and passion for empowering young people through the extraordinary opportunities enrichment programs offer and plans to implement them at AVAS. While working as a teacher at Berean Christian Junior Academy in the South Atlantic Conference, she founded the Enrichment through Science, Mathematics, Athletics, and Research Training (ESMART) Academy and SCUBA Diving Club. Her approach to education is one that breeds innovation and caters to the 21st century learner. Mitchell's vision focuses on spiritual growth, STEAM enrichment, and academic



excellence.

"Christian education is one of the most important tools the church has to bring children and their families closer to God," she says. "Our unique design of integrating Biblical principles with our academics will prepare our students for life here on this earth and eternity."

Sandra Foldvary Steps Into Glendale ABC Manager Position

Sandra Foldvary has worked at the Glendale Christian Books and Veggie Foods store (ABC) for more than eight years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Accounting from Montemorelos University. She worked at the North Mexican Union of Seventh-day Adventists for 20 years immediately prior to joining the Glendale ABC team. Effective October 1, she became the new Glendale ABC manager. Foldvary knows God's guidance has led her to serve in this position. "The best place we can work



is the place where God wants us to be," she commented.

Christian books changed her family members' lives; her grandparents joined the church after receiving Christian literature from colporteurs. "I am committed to this ministry, and I

believe in the power of the written word," she noted emphatically. "If these books change the life of one person, it will be enough. That's our mission."

Foldvary keeps sharing copies of "Steps to Christ" in her office to share

with visitors, and the staff pray together every morning. "We pray that the people who come in will find more than just what they're looking for, but also something else: hope," she said.

"My dream for the store is that it will be a lighthouse in the Greater Los Angeles area," Foldvary said. "First, I want the store to serve the churches, and then be a lighthouse to the community."

In the October newsletter insert, the article recounting the story of the shooting at North Park Elementary School incorrectly identified the child who was killed as Jonathan Smith. His name was Jonathan Martinez. We regret the error.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Community Services Update

By James G. Lee, Jr.
Vice President

Jan. 13, 2018, Community Day in South Central Los Angeles to Focus on Health

SCC Community Services/Health Ministry leaders are planning a major community outreach event with community leaders and the **Power of Love (POL) Community Church** in south central L.A. on Jan. 13, the Sabbath of Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. Bishop Edward R. Turner, co-founder of Community Day with the L.A. Sheriff's Dept., was excited that Adventists were involved with Pathway to Health. He has invited James G. Lee, Jr., and the Southern California Conference to participate in the planning of the 2018 Community Day and to provide health outreach for that event. A screening van from Adventist Health Glendale will come with diabetes and cardiovascular surveys; Adventist Health White Memorial will conduct cholesterol and triglyceride testing. The LLU School of Dentistry van will offer screening and referral to a local, low-cost clinic. Other health screening and resources will be made available as well.

The event is expected to draw 3,000-5,000 community residents. Pastors and others who want to volunteer, please call Barbara Hart, 818-546-8405; health professionals, please call or text Betty Cooney, 818-516-6508.

"Since about 2003, we have participated in Community Day activities," noted Lee, Community Services director. "It's a wonderful opportunity to help those who need help and to let the community know that Adventists care. This is the first time the Community Day leadership has invited us to provide a minister to deliver the sermon at the morning's brunch. Community and church leaders in the area attend this event. We have asked Pastor Eugene Hamilton, **Compton Community church**, to speak at the brunch."

New and used clothing will be distributed on Community Day. To contribute, please bring clean, folded items to the offices of Barbara Hart or Pastor Lee at the SCC office. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Hart, 818-546-8405.



News from the Regions

West Region

The **Hollywood church** celebrated its 55th anniversary of being at its current location (1711 N. Van Ness Ave., Hollywood 90028) on

Sept. 30. The church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding in the early fall of 2018. The congregation is continuing its ministry to the homeless in their area by making showers in the church available three days each week. Cal State University social work interns help with counseling and other needs. Housing for one individual has already been secured, after nearly a year of processing.



Greg Hoenes
Director

Hispanic Region

About 40 SCC Spanish churches hosted evangelistic meetings in November. During Holy Week (Eastertime) in 2018, all 53 Spanish churches in the Hispanic Region will conduct evangelistic meetings, featuring evangelists from Latin America and the U.S. Thank you for praying for those who attended these special meetings.



Luis Peña, Hispanic
Region director

Asian-Pacific Region

Mongolians are the newest ethnic group ministry in Southern California Conference. We are pleased to welcome our Mongolian brothers and sisters! This small group is led by Dulamsuren Mandakh, a young woman who is currently studying for her master's degree in counseling at La Sierra University. She and her husband are ministering in Koreatown where they live, offering English as a Second Language classes to Mongolians in their apartment complex. Dulamsuren (known to friends as "Oca") said they are also offering ESL classes in the **Olympic Korean church**, where they currently attend. "Education is one of the effective ways to reach our people," said Oca. She and her husband are planning other educational options, as funds are available. An immediate need of the group is for a donated van or car to help with bringing Mongolians to church and classes. "We take two buses or use Lyft or Uber, but it's expensive, and takes time," she explained.



Samuel Lee,
Director