

PACIFIC UNION

JANUARY 2018

Recorder

STEM EDUCATION

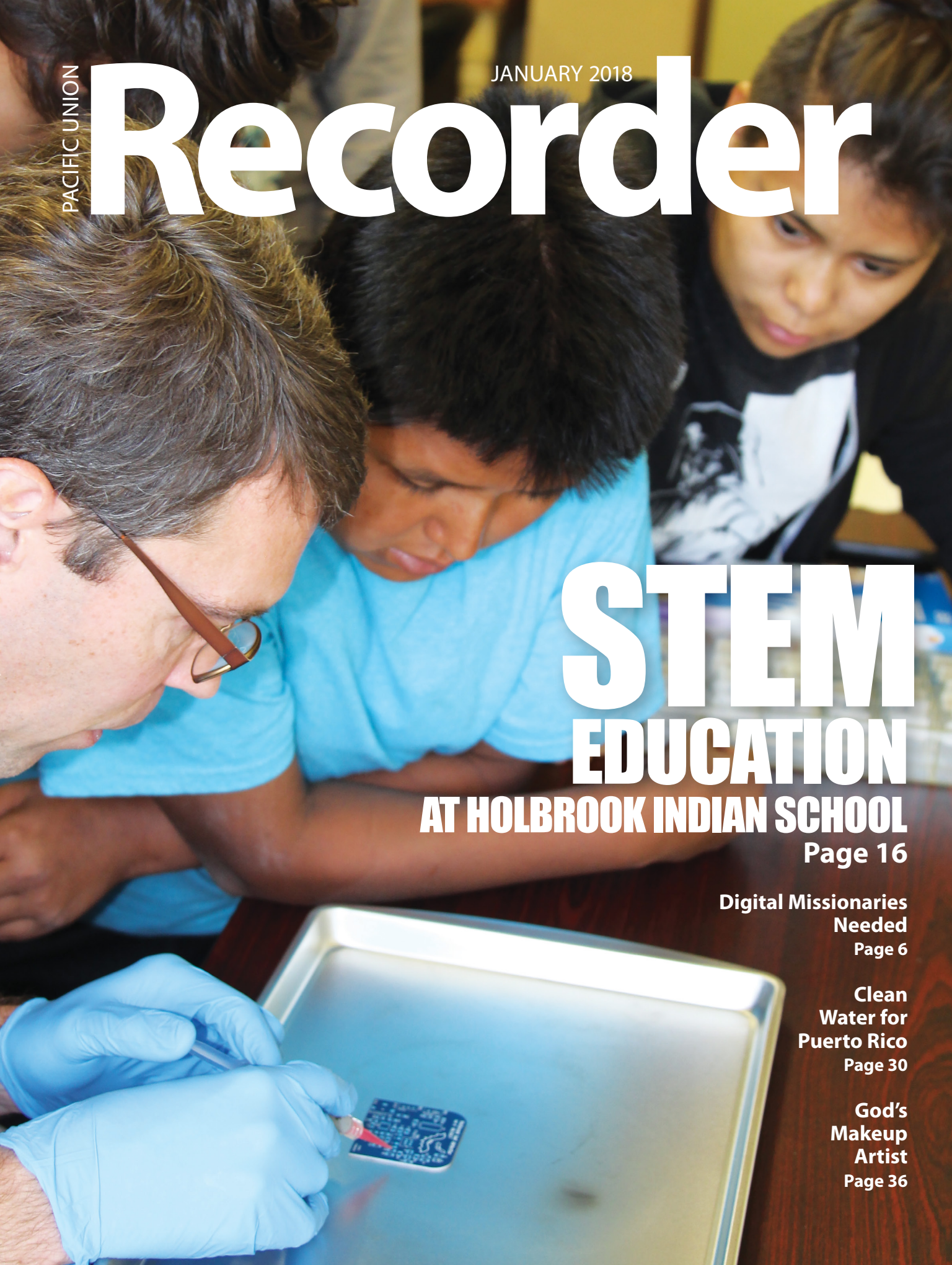
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PACIFIC UNION **Recorder**

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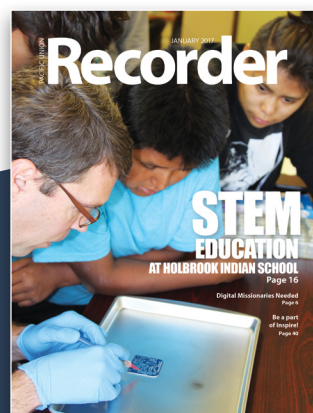
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ABOUT THE COVER



Dr. Mark Haun demonstrates his soldering technique while Holbrook Indian School students Corwin, Naracaho, and Jovannah intently observe. Haun and a group of mission-minded educators and engineers from Green Lake church near Seattle, Wash., brought STEM education to Holbrook as a mission trip in September, 2017.

PHOTO: DIANA FISH



BY RICARDO GRAHAM



It Will Be

What You Make It ...

The year 2017 has come to a close, while the new year, full of promise, is here.

Unstoppable. The march of time is unrelenting and sure. While we don't know everything that will transpire in the next 12 months, we can—in many ways—shape our future.

To be sure, I am not talking about controlling time or events. Many of the events that confront us are outside of our control. While we cannot determine what comes our way or what actions intersect our lives, we can choose and predetermine our response.

To let anyone but God “pull our strings” should be non-negotiable. We, through the use of our own decisions, affect much of our future. For example, I cannot determine what will be said to me in any context. I can, however,

decide that I will reflect the ideal of Christianity and not some “generic” brand of the faith, but the “full-leaded” version that I think is present in the Adventist presentation of Christianity.

“Easier said than done,” you may say, but that is exactly what Christ calls us to do and what His Spirit empowers us to do—if we are willing. This guiding principle for 2018 has been summarized in a variety of ways through the years.

• “What happens is not as important as how you react to what happens.” - Ellen Glasgow, author

• "Life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it." - Charles R. Swindoll, pastor and author

• "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV). – Paul, an apostle of Jesus

• "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12, NIV). – Jesus, Son of God

Jesus explained this last statement even further when He summarized all the law and prophets in Matthew 22:37-40: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (NIV).

So, you say, "Okay, preacher, it is easy for you to tell us the **what**; now tell us **how**?"

I'm glad you asked! I think the answer to "**how**?" is an open secret that another ancient wise man told us millennia ago. It is a timeless, eternal truth for humanity to remember. Solomon wrote, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7, KJV). Solomon, who received his wisdom from the Lord and from gathering truths from many sources, made it plain. What we allow to dwell in our minds directs the course of our lives: it prepares our tomorrows today.

The philosopher Ralph Waldo

The philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "A man is what he thinks about all day long."

Emerson said, "A man is what he thinks about all day long." Ask yourself: "Who or what takes most of my daily thoughts? Who or what is hanging as a painting or tapestry in the background of my mind?"

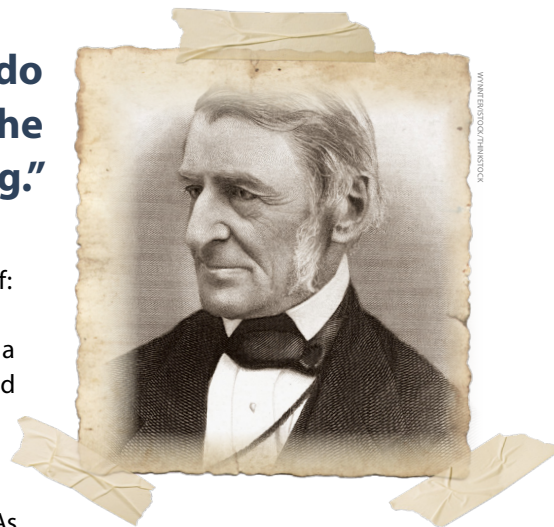
We would do well to fill our minds with thoughts of Jesus, our One and True Exemplar that walked in this life. As He is allowed to occupy our conscious thoughts, He will—through the indwelling of His Spirit—shape us after Himself.

Isn't that what Paul meant when he said the following? "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, KJV).

By continuously looking and surrendering to Him and focusing on His pristine principles, we can have what He intends for us to have, in a successive manner, now and tomorrow.

I think that if we looked at every other human being in the light of the following verse, we would, perhaps, have a different response to what comes our way through others. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40, NIV).

Just today, I had a conversation with an acquaintance who said that the great self-denial required of those who seek to completely follow Christ into discipleship includes not responding out of our sense of self that is often wounded when our ideas and our opinions are rejected by others. He suggested to me that when we are ready to reply with a hasty word of revenge or retaliation, we are not



operating in the Spirit of Christ, but in the flesh of fallen humanity. I agree with him.

Jesus calls us higher. He calls us to reach that Great Goal expressed by Ellen White: "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached" (*Education*, p. 18).

It is imperative that we allow Jesus to change our thinking pattern so that we can reflect His thinking, being, and doing. I believe that spending time with God is one avenue to this end. As we enter into 2018, I want to spend more time with Jesus so He can shape my thinking, being, and doing to be a reflection of Him. Spending a "thoughtful hour with God" (Jesus) can be the beginning of a new mindfulness and a new level of spiritual living for me and for you.

With the full understanding that God is in control, and that we do not affect our salvation by what we do, or leave undone, spending time with God the Son in prayer, reading His inspired documents, and focusing on Him are ways of putting ourselves in alignment with His great purposes for men and women, even in this present age.

The New Year, then, will be largely what we make it. Let's be proactive in doing what we can to make it happen for His glory.

Digital Missionaries

BY FAITH HOYT

Needed

There is a new mission field waiting for the church. No long flights necessary, and the destination doesn't require learning how to sleep in a mosquito-repelling hammock. As the title of this article suggests, this isn't a reference to the traditional mission field, but the digital one—accessible from your home computer. The new mission field is the internet.



Of the seven billion people in the world, 3.8 billion used the World Wide Web in 2017. Of that amount, two billion used Facebook. This social media platform now represents the largest country in the world. It also



SAULO MOHANA | UNSPLASH

represents an enormous opportunity for the church. According to digital strategist Jason Caston, "Ninety percent of customers trust a peer recommendation on social media." Take what Caston says and apply it to the way you communicate about your own faith community. When we share news of what is happening at our church on social media, our unchurched friends are likely to trust that the church service, music program, disaster response training, or cooking class will be a good experience. Through these invitations, we have

an opportunity to share the gospel using our sphere of influence on social media, but people won't act upon just one post. In the marketing world, there is an old adage about "the rule of seven." A person typically needs to see a message seven times before he or she takes action. Consider that adage next time your church plans an event. Be thoughtful about how many times your message is getting shared and via how many different channels. Churches that consistently update their social media provide content for members to share. When members share those posts, they give their friends another opportunity to see that invitation and, ultimately, act on it.

According to digital strategist Jason Caston, "Ninety percent of customers trust a peer recommendation on social media."

Unfortunately, church Facebook pages have long been used to post information only for their internal audience: church members. Jamie Domm, digital strategist for the North American Division, is challenging that practice and encouraging churches to use their social media to reach beyond their own members and build relationships with the rest of the online community.

One solution she suggests is Facebook ads. "I don't think people realize how powerful Facebook ads can be for churches," said Domm. "The ability to reach very specific individuals

in your town is unprecedented. We must begin to wield this tool to connect with people that need to learn about Jesus."

By doing something as simple as live streaming weekly sermons on Facebook, churches can give those online another chance to hear the gospel. "We can use social media to share the gospel, inform the community of events, get

"The ability to reach very specific individuals in your town is unprecedented. We must begin to wield this tool to connect with people that need to learn about Jesus."

our members involved, and build relationships," Domm said. Platforms such as Facebook are an incredible tool for sharing the Good News, but that message needs to be spread with the help of church members. Ellen White wrote, "Let every worker in the Master's vineyard, study, plan, devise methods, to reach the people where they are. We must do something out of the common course of things (*Evangelism*, p. 122)."

Facebook seems to fit that bill. However, in order to reach the multitude, the Church needs your help. Start by following your local church's Facebook page. Stay updated on church events so that you can share invites with your personal network. Use social media to start building relationships with the community around you. These simple steps can make a profound impact on the digital footprint we leave as a Church. The world needs more digital missionaries, and if ever there was a time to volunteer, the time is now.

NAD digital strategist Jamie Domm speaks at the 2017 Adventist Society of Communicators Convention in Portland, Ore.



PIETER DAMSTEEGT



sources_for_further_reading



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San Bernardino Community and Loma Linda Chinese Churches *Collaborate on a Health Clinic*

BY SARAH MCDUGAL

More than 700 patients were treated at a free health clinic when the Loma Linda Chinese and the San Bernardino Community churches partnered together to serve the San Bernardino community on Nov. 10 and 12.

Members at the Loma Linda Chinese church wanted to provide free health care to their community, but they did not know where to start. “We’ve hosted a lot of free health screenings over the years,” said Kazar Ackerman, associate pastor. “But this time we wanted to do more than just diagnosing. We hoped to impact the community by actually treating health issues. We also wanted to be free to share the gospel while doing so.”

Over lunch one day, Ackerman discovered that Jerrold Thompson Sr., pastor at the San Bernardino Community church, was working on a similar idea. The two chatted about their shared vision, discussed venue possibilities, and agreed to combine efforts for a large-scale community clinic on the campus of the San Bernardino Community church. Eventually, Yen Ang, event coordinator, asked the Adventist

Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) to provide medical and dental professionals.

People of two different cultures—African American and Chinese—worked together through challenges to organize the clinic. Ackerman and Thompson noticed a spirit of unity from the volunteers to put cultural differences aside, see each other as God sees them, and successfully organize the clinic.

More than 400 volunteers from both congregations and the community collaborated for a wide variety of treatments, including: medical, dental, and vision care; legal services; mental health services; physical therapy; chaplaincy; and lifestyle and nutrition education. Providers from the county and private

organizations gave free support and services at the clinic.

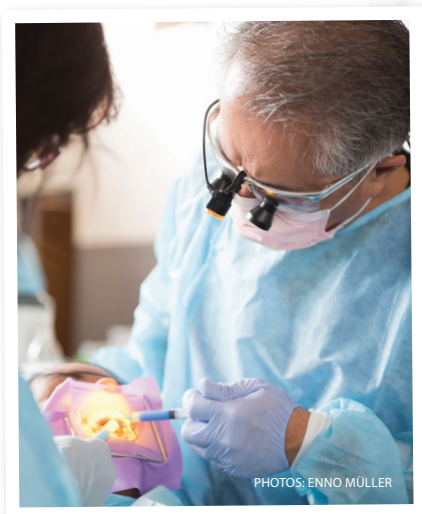
According to Ackerman, this event connected organizers to many other churches and organizations that became involved in the free clinic, and now the opportunity for more health clinics and community services will be available in the future. Leaders are also discussing how to host similar activities more frequently as a result of the overwhelmingly positive experience.

“I believe this collaborative model should be integrated across North America,” Thompson said. “Pastors of all ethnicities and backgrounds should share their mutual service visions and partner together to benefit their communities and build up the kingdom of heaven.”

To watch a video of the November community health clinic, visit bit.ly/SbllcAMEN.

Read more about AMEN at www.amensda.org.

(Left) One of many volunteer dentists provides free services to San Bernardino community members. (Below) A volunteer prays with a San Bernardino community member as he waits at the health clinic.



PHOTOS: ENNO MÜLLER



San Diego Central Church

BY BRENDA BOYD

Finds Strength in Diverse Ministry

When the mission team members came home to the San Diego Central church from their two-week medical mission trip to the Philippines in September, they informed their church board about the Canbantog church in the central Philippines.



(Left) Tae Im, a family physician and member of the San Diego Central church, poses with the 2017 mission trip team in the Philippines. (Below) Onlookers stand among the leftovers of the Canbantog church in the Philippines. It was completely leveled during the July 6, 2017, magnitude 6.5 earthquake.

More than \$1,680 was raised in one night—from \$1 taste-sample sales.

“A Foretaste of Heaven”

The small church was located on the slopes of a mountain near the epicenter of a magnitude 6.5 earthquake on July 6. “It was completely leveled,” reported Tae Im, mission trip leader.

“The team witnessed the results of the devastation on the faces of the Canbantog church members,” said Hwi Kim, San Diego Central church pastor.

When the mission team told their church family about the need for a new Canbantog church, the San Diego Central church members decided to join forces to raise \$10,000 to rebuild the church, located near Ormac City. “All of our members have rallied around this project,” Kim said.

To launch the fundraising initiative, the fellowship and deaconess ministries combined efforts to plan an International Food Festival and Cultural Night, at which the diverse cultures of the church members were celebrated.

is the tagline for the six-year-old San Diego Central church, a relatively new church in central San Diego County, with members representing more than a dozen nationalities. Since the merger of the former Poway church, North County Filipino Ministry, Growing Vine Ministry, and San Diego Korean church in November, 2011, the church members have united their strengths, visions, and ministries to reach far and wide to spread the good news of Jesus.

Besides an annual mission trip to the Philippines, church members also travel to Haiti each year to provide medical clinics in multiple locations, taking vision, dental, and medical care to the country. The church also supports regular visits to two orphanages in Tecate, Mexico; food baskets for local families at Thanksgiving and Christmas; and a free weekly acupuncture ministry on Sabbath afternoons.

“This church is a merger between English, Filipino, and Korean languages,” Kim said. “Many have sat back to watch to see if it could be done. It has not always been easy, but we feel it is what the Lord has wanted for our church.”

“Even though challenges have come because of our multicultural congregation, we have always worked through them with communication, prayer, respect, and unified service,” said head elder Janice Hensel.





La Sierra Spanish Church Continues its Tradition of

Supporting Christian Education

BY JESSICA ANZAI PERMAUL

Steve Green, Christian singer and musician, performed at the La Sierra Spanish church on Nov. 11, with more than 450 people in attendance from the community and surrounding churches. This concert was a fundraiser for students to start or continue their Adventist education. It was not the first time the church's education department organized an event to benefit Adventist education. The La Sierra Spanish church congregation has been raising money for students for more than 25 years.

"I believe in the value of a Christian education," said Veronica Mendez, coordinator of the Steve Green concert. "Growing up, I didn't have the opportunity to attend Adventist schools. I want to help, and I believe our kids need to have our Christian foundation."

The concert catered to both Spanish and English audiences, as Green is bilingual and grew up in Argentina. Choir members joined him from the ALSAD (Loma Linda Spanish), Azure Hills, Crosswalk, La

Sierra Spanish, La Sierra University, and Riverside Spanish churches.

Events such as the Steve Green concert attract music lovers from other denominations as well, serving as a platform for bringing the community together. Members from Baptist, Pentecostal, and nondenominational congregations attended, some even coming from San Bernardino and Moreno Valley.

Church members usually host two big events per year. Their other major fundraiser is their annual Nations Festival. The full-house event happens every October and features a flag parade in the church's gymnasium, with international food—made by church members—for sale. There are smaller fundraisers throughout the year as well, such as garage sales. All of the profit from these events goes toward Adventist education. In addition, there is ongoing support from donors.

Steve Green performs during his concert at the La Sierra Spanish church on Nov. 11. All proceeds went to Adventist education.

"With the cost of education being as high as it is, our families need as much support from the church family as possible in order to make education possible, and the La Sierra Spanish church has done a good job of modeling that over the years," said Don Dudley, Southeastern California Conference superintendent of schools.

La Sierra Spanish church leaders and members plan to continue conducting these events in hope of supporting even more students in the upcoming 2018-2019 school year.



PHOTOS: EMMANUEL GOMEZ

SECC Planned Giving and Trust Services Honors Veterans

BY REYNA ESCOBAR

In honor of Veterans Day, employees in the Southeastern California Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services Department invited veterans into the office on Nov. 13 for a special event as a way to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

Worship started with the entrance of the color guard from the University of California, Riverside, and culminated with Lieutenant Commander Adrienne Benton sharing a powerful message. Based on Psalm 23, Benton emphasized that no one is ever alone, for God leads the way and walks with them, and His goodness follows them always.

SECC employees and veterans Mario Perez, Rudy Carrillo, and



Left to right: David Kegebein, Rudy Carrillo, Bud Minton, Russ Nelson, Moe De Leon, Ron Warren, Norman Powell, Raul Hernandez, Ken Jones, Adrienne Benton, and Kenneth Limbrick attend the Veterans Day event at the SECC office.

David Kegebein were among those who were honored. Invited guests included Ken Jones and Norman Powell, who served as part of Operation Whitecoat, a biodefense medical research program carried out

from the mid-1950s to the 1970s.

“This event was a good tribute to those who have served and are serving, and a way to honor those who’ve paid the ultimate price for our freedom,” said Perez, assistant to the president.

SECC Recognizes Nate Furness’s Call to Ministry

BY ENNO MÜLLER

On Sabbath afternoon October 7, Southeastern California Conference officials recognized the call to ministry of Nate Furness. His ordination service took place at the Costa Mesa church, where he was serving as lead pastor.

Between completing college and becoming a pastor, Furness worked as a teacher. He spent a year in Texas and then transitioned to Laguna Niguel Junior Academy, where he taught for five years.

Although he had always wanted to serve as a minister, only later did the opportunity present itself for a transition. “From a young age, I knew I wanted to be a pastor,” said Furness. “I admired my father and the work he did for the Church—in particular how he loved the people.”

Furness enjoys creating spaces that demonstrate the love of Jesus. With his churches he tries to establish communities that love all

people without discrimination. Furness sees ministry as a privilege, as he is often invited into the private moments of people’s lives. “As I journey with people through those moments, I often witness answers to prayers and amazing moments of reconciliation,” he said. “I feel blessed to see firsthand how God works in communities.”

Shortly after his ordination, Furness accepted a call to pastor the Napa Community church, which is part of the Northern California Conference. Along with his wife, Jennie, and their two boys, Alex and Anders, he enjoys sharing the love of Jesus in his new community.



(Above) After the ordination service, Nate Furness poses for a picture with his family and parents. From left to right: Anders, Nate, Alex, Jennie, Edith, and Ernie Furness. (Right) During his ordination service, Nate Furness shares how God led him to become a pastor.



SCC Celebrations *Express Gratitude to Veterans*

BY BETTY COONEY



SFVA Child Development Center Director Alma Wesley listens as a veteran explains the symbols on his Air Force cap.

the Bar' came to mind. Yes, we need to raise the bar

Pasadena church Pathfinders presented the colors. Fred Knopper, NAD producer-director of Marketing for Media, presented "The Faith of Desmond Doss," an inspirational message highlighting Doss's heroism during World War II. Doss, an Adventist medic who saved the lives of more than 75 fellow soldiers, was the first noncombatant to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Highlights of the service also included guests Gabe Videla, executive producer of the documentary film "The Conscientious Objector" and associate producer of "Hacksaw Ridge," a Hollywood production about Doss's story. Videla introduced Bill Mechanic, producer of "Hacksaw Ridge."

"What I loved was that Desmond was perhaps the most unique hero I'd ever heard of," said Mechanic, "a man of such strong conviction and faith that he went to extraordinary lengths to be able to fight for his country, and that he had such a strong sense of humanity he refused to kill."

The day ended with a screening of "Hacksaw Ridge."

SFVA Hosts Veterans Day Celebration

In November, San Fernando Valley Academy (SFVA) Child Development Center held a service honoring local veterans. "I feel very strongly that we should go back to basics and instill, in the lives and minds of our children, gratitude, reverence, respect, and civil manners to help them have success in life," said Alma Wesley, the center's director. "Hence came the idea to invite veterans to school for a Veterans Day celebration."

For honorees, Wesley contacted retired Lt. Col. Ed Reynolds, Jr., U.S. Air Force, director of the "Wings Over Wendy's" organization. Five servicemen responded to an invitation from Reynolds, along with members of the Devonshire Marine Corps, who volunteered to do a pull-up exercise presentation. Lt. Col. Jim McMichael, USAF, spoke to the assembly. The program featured presenting of the colors and "Freedom," a musical presentation by the SFVA band.

"At this point," added Wesley, "the theme 'Raising

in education, civics, morals, and ethics! We need every child to be respectful of the men and women who paid the price to give us freedom to be free."

SCC Veterans Sabbath

James G. Lee, Jr., SCC Community Services director; Betty Cooney, then acting SCC Communication director; and Roger Rustad, Director of Spiritual Care for Sonoran Winds Hospice, collaborated on a Veterans Sabbath in November. Held at Community Adventist Fellowship in Pasadena, more than 40 veterans received certificates of appreciation and personalized dog tags. NAD Western Region Assistant Director of Chaplain Ministries Ivan Omana presented a special challenge coin to each veteran.

To lead off the morning service,

(Right) Army Ranger Robert Gregory shares information about the Title 38 Benefit Program for veterans — information that many had not known before. (Far Right) Pathfinder Noah Recalde salutes during "The Missing Man's Table and Honor Ceremony," honoring men and women who gave their lives for their country.



Overwhelming Need

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

Motivates a Church to Act

“I thought, ‘We’ve gotta do something more,’” Pastor Branden Stoltz remembered, referring to the Hollywood community’s greater welfare needs. The Hollywood church had started a shower ministry in 2013, opening the church three days each week to offer showers to their neighbors on the street. The shower ministry has since served hundreds of people—for no other reason than to meet the need.

Two years later, Stoltz had a conversation with Yeshara Acosta, Glendale City church member who was a soon-to-be social work graduate of California State University, Los Angeles. They discussed the needs in their community and the opportunity the church had, since 75-100 people were coming on a weekly basis for showers. “Don’t you know social workers have to do an internship before graduation? And they’re practically free!” Acosta said in jest. Stoltz was interested, and Acosta pursued a partnership with Cal State L.A. so she could complete her internship with the church that summer.

But that was only the beginning. Hermila Melero, director of field education at Cal State L.A.’s School of Social Work, saw the potential for a fruitful partnership from the start. “It was a good opportunity for us and our interns because of the practice and access to the population,” she said. “We both had something to offer.”

During the first year of a three-year commitment, interns Amalia Barajas and Jerilee Galindo “really had the experience of developing a program from nothing,” Stoltz said. Throughout 10 months, they helped two people pursue housing, one of whom they

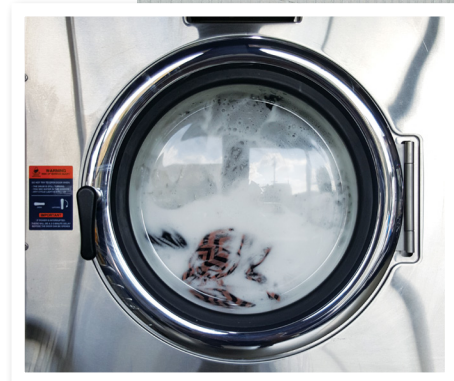
helped get into housing—after going through the housing process from start to finish. “For that to have happened in the course of a school year, that’s a pretty big deal,” noted Andrew Pyles-Froemming, Hollywood church director of administration. “Generally, the turnaround to get into housing is quite long.”

This year’s interns, Esperansa Perez and Yvette Bustamante, will offer classes for the community on job training, anger management, financial empowerment, and more. They will also provide a workshop to empower church members and leaders, teaching lay people how to help homeless people they meet.

“I hope the community knows our church cares about the community,” Stoltz said, “and that we are trying to address the same problems they see, but in a constructive, long-term, ‘teach-a-person-to-fish’ kind of way.”

(Right) One of this year’s interns, Yvette Bustamante, works at the Hollywood church reception desk, searching for housing for a client. (Inset) The church runs multiple loads of laundry per day to clean towels used for showers.

Stoltz encourages other churches to consider the opportunities such a program could afford. The only costs to the church are the time investment and a field supervisor to check in weekly. “As a pastor, I’m constantly encountering need that is sometimes so overwhelming,” said Stoltz. “To have professionals who have the heart and skill set to meet those needs is awesome!”



PHOTOS: ANDREW PYLES-FROEMMING

Women Experience an Encounter With God at Retreat

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD?

Last fall, more than 100 women set out to discover the answer to that question at Camp Cedar Falls at the 37th annual Southern California Conference Women's Ministries fall retreat.

Dimple Fields, SCC Women's Ministries liaison, remembered the instance that inspired the retreat's theme. During a meeting, Sunland-Tujunga church Pastor Mabel Duncan was praying over the submitted prayer requests and the upcoming retreat. She had prayed "that each person would have an encounter with Him," Fields recalled. "After that prayer, I said, 'Praise God for Pastor Mabel Duncan. We just got our theme for the retreat!'"

SCC Women's Ministries Director Beverley Martin kicked off the retreat on Friday evening. Sabbath morning, Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, director and associate director of NAD Family Ministries, dealt with the topic of abuse. NAD Women's Ministries Director Carla Baker spoke for the Sabbath worship service. Pacific Union Conference Women's Ministries Director Dorothy Means closed out the retreat on Sunday. "The speakers

Women at the retreat share which church they represent.

each brought their unique perspective on encountering God, having Him as part of our day-to-day life, and encountering Him in a relationship," said Martin.

In addition to the presenters, the retreat offered women further opportunities to connect. "The prayer ministry was awesome," Fields said. Prayer counselors hosted stations for specific prayer requests, including family, finances, and a deeper walk with God. Morning prayer walks also gave the women the opportunity to greet the day with singing and praise for the Lord.

"The morning devotionals were definitely the highlight for me," said Sarah Grover, Lancaster church associate pastor. After singing together and hearing a short devotional shared by Grover, the women claimed Bible promises for one another. "Walking up there in the early morning hours, there was a sense of peace and renewal I had



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY COURTESY OF DIMPLE FIELDS

Prayer counselors pray with women at the station for the home.



been seeking that weekend. It was beautiful, and the time went by too quickly," said Grover.

Every aspect of the retreat was focused on allowing women to have an encounter with God—the messages, the prayer time, the songs, the fellowship, and more. "They didn't leave the retreat the way they came," noted Fields.

Much planning preceded this event. Still, it was ultimately the work of God's Spirit that left the women transformed. "You can do the planning, but when God shows up and honors your work, it's really awesome," Martin said. "The women came hungry, and the Lord did not disappoint them."

Save the date for next year's retreat: Oct. 5-7, 2018, at Camp Cedar Falls.

Left to right, Speakers and organizers—Claudio Consuegra, Pamela Consuegra, Dimple Fields, Carla Baker, Beverley Martin, and Dorothy Means—gather during the retreat.



Sam Del Pozo Ordained *to the Gospel Ministry*

BY BETTY COONEY

Sam Del Pozo was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sabbath, Sept. 30, at the Hollywood Spanish church. He currently serves as pastor of the Culver City Spanish and Hawthorne Spanish churches in Los Angeles.

Del Pozo is the oldest of three sons of a pastor, Luis Del Pozo, and his wife, Esther, of Peru. Del Pozo, his brother Benjamin, and their parents are all currently in ministry in the Southern California Conference.

A theology major at River Plate Adventist University in Argentina and the University of the Peruvian Union, Del Pozo graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology in 1985. He went on to complete two master's degrees: one in educational administration at the University of the Peruvian Union and one in theology at Andrews University.

In 2008, Del Pozo concluded doctoral studies in university administration at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Since coming to the Southern California Conference, Del Pozo served for three years as an adjunct instructor in higher education pedagogy in the La Sierra University School of Education.

Del Pozo and his wife, Magaly Soto,

who was born in Puerto Rico, are the parents of a daughter, Mireya Isabel.

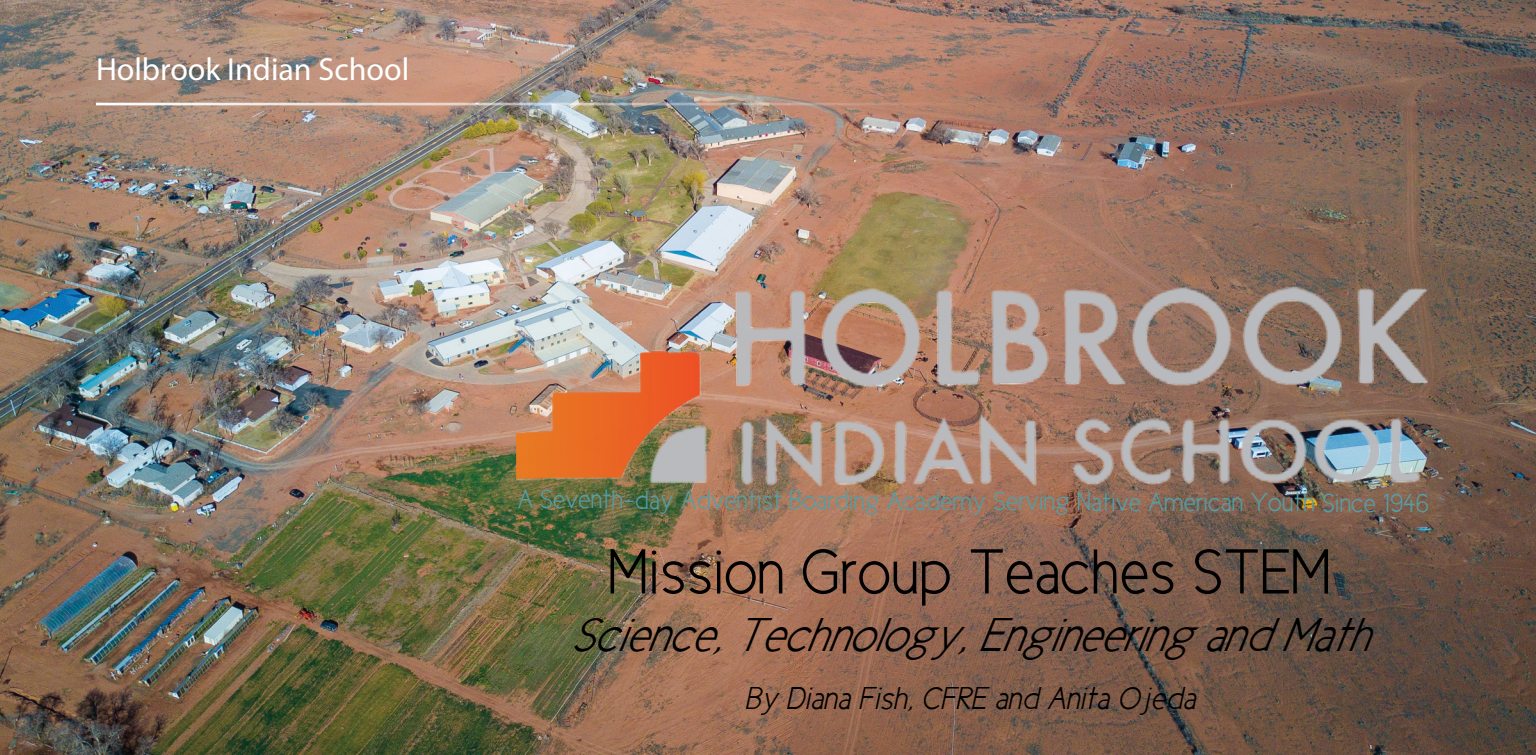
In December 2011, Del Pozo received a call to serve as an associate pastor in the San Fernando Spanish church and, subsequently, in the Hollywood Spanish church. Since 2014, he has been pastoring the Culver City Spanish and Hawthorne Spanish churches. In 2015, Del Pozo was selected to chair the Spanish translation team for the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

"Of all my pastoral tasks," said Del Pozo, "the number one task that I am most passionate about is bringing souls to the foot of the cross. My happiest Sabbath is when someone decides to give his or her life for Christ, especially if that person is a youth."



(Above) "Hopefully, in my family life and my ministry, my commitment to lift up Jesus and Him alone will shine as my most important goal in life," said Del Pozo, in response to SCC President Velino Salazar's call to ministry. **(Right)** Elders lay hands on Sam Del Pozo, as he and his wife, Magaly, are in prayer.





HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

A Seventh-day Adventist Boarding Academy Serving Native American Youth Since 1946

Mission Group Teaches STEM *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*

By Diana Fish, CFRE and Anita Ojeda

Aerial photograph of Holbrook Indian school. (Alden Ho)

STEM is an educational program developed to prepare primary and secondary students for college and graduate study in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In addition to subject-specific learning, STEM aims to foster inquiring minds, logical reasoning, and collaboration skills.

A mission minded group of educators and engineers from Green Lake Seventh-day Adventist church near Seattle, Washington, brought STEM education to Holbrook Indian School for a very different kind of mission trip.

STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Mathematics, and encompasses a vast array of subjects that fall into each of those terms.

While it is almost impossible to list every discipline, some common STEM areas include: aerospace engineering, astrophysics, astronomy, biochemistry, biomechanics,

chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, mathematical biology, nanotechnology, neurobiology, nuclear physics, physics, and robotics, among many, many others.

As evidenced by the multitude of disciplines, it's clear that STEM fields affect virtually every component of our everyday lives.

Students from Chinle Adventist Elementary School (CAES) joined HIS students for the event.

Educators break STEM down into seven standards of practice (or skill sets)(Cont'd inside.)



HIS and CAES students work together to build a robot while HIS science teacher, Mrs. Mahinay and STEM mission trip volunteer, Cheryl Vyhmeister assess their progress.



(Cont'd from front page.)

for educating students:

- Learn and apply content
- Integrate content
- Interpret and communicate information
- Engage in inquiry
- Engage in logical reasoning
- Collaborate as a team
- Apply technology appropriately

Members of the mission trip team include:

Cheryl Vyhmeister—MA in Education in Curriculum and Instruction

Alwin Vyhmeister—Microsoft employee (electrical engineer)

Brian McGarth—Boeing employee (aerospace engineer)

Suzanne McGarth—Boeing employee (aerospace engineer)

Dr. Mark Haun—Ph.D in electrical engineering. Independent consultant.

Jane Kapush—retired Microsoft employee—helped around campus with her gardening skills and got to know the students.

The mission trip came about as a result of a skype conversation with their Sabbath School class a year prior to the mission trip.

On Thursday and Friday the group taught three different classes—a math class that had students learning all about Pi, an aerospace class where they designed a structure that could withstand high winds as well as paper airplanes, and an introduction to 3-D design and augmented reality.

After taking the classes, students signed up for classes on Sunday, where they could learn about rockets, dive into Lego robotics and circuit boards, learn how to assemble and solder a bat-detecting ultrasound device designed by Mark Haun, or design a 3-D colony on Mars using Sketch Up and augmented reality.

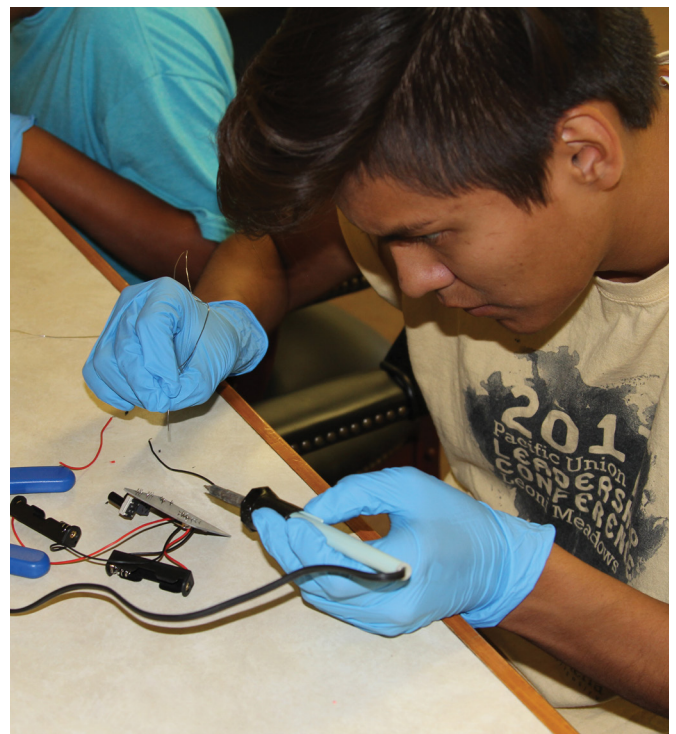
Some students also signed up for a chemistry in the kitchen class where they learned that the same ingredients that propelled their bottle rockets 40 feet into the air worked better than eggs at making a cake rise.

Mark's hobbies include looking for bats and astronomy. He designed and ordered the parts from China for the electrical circuits of the ultrasound bat detectors that the students worked on. He also set up the school's telescope and gave everyone a chance to look at Saturn as well as the moon on Friday night after vespers.

Alwin brought along a prototype of an augmented reality headset (the headset wasn't available to the public until late October). He and Cheryl taught students how to use Sketch Up, a computer program for designing in 3-D.



Mark Haun demonstrates his soldering technique while Corwin, Naracaho and Jovannah intently observe.



Corwin works diligently on the electrical circuits of his ultrasound bat detector.



Student Feedback:

“I didn’t know learning could be this much fun.”

“My favorite activity was the water propelled bottle rockets. One landed on the roof of the gym, and another came with-in inches of Danny’s head!”

“It’s hard to pick a favorite, but if I have to choose one, I guess I’d say designing the 3-D Mars Colony was what I liked most.”

“I thought you had to be a nerd to like science and math but I really liked the STEM classes. I guess that makes me a nerd.”

“The best part of the Chemistry in the Kitchen class was getting to eat the brownies we made.”

“I always loved building with Legos. Getting to use them to make a robot was awesome.”

“Working on the circuit board for the bat detector was challenging. It didn’t take much to mess it up”

“The augmented reality headset was so real that I felt like I could reach out and touch what I was looking at. I felt like I was going to fall and it made me feel a little sick.”

“When do we get to do STEM Days again?”

“Meeting the mission trip team made me think about my career options.”



Top: Fawn, Charles and Johanna building rockets. Middle: Adrian setting off his rocket. Bottom: Just moments before a rocket came with-in inches of Danny’s (pictured left) head.





It's never too early for STEM education. Above: Kallie, Mya, Josiah, Katelynn, Rayshawna and Tessa show off their towers designed to withstand strong winds. Right: Katelynn and Rayshawna observe their volcano experiment.



From STEM to STEAM

Some proponents of STEM believe we need to add Art + Design to the equation — to transform STEM into STEAM.

STEM + Art = STEAM

The objectives of the STEAM movement are to:

- transform research policy to place Art + Design at the center of STEM
- encourage integration of Art + Design in K–20 education
- influence employers to hire artists and designers to drive innovation



Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is a 1st through 12th-grade boarding academy operated by the Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church. HIS also manages a 1st through 8th-grade day-school on the Navajo reservation in Chinle, AZ. Eighty percent of funding comes from individuals who have a desire to support Native American ministries and Christian education. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities they serve. Thank you for your support!

HOLBROOK
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Seventh-day Adventist

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TAA Senior *Receives Private Pilot License*

BY PHIL DRAPER

From his earliest years, Robbie Hakes was completely enamored with any toy that flew. “His favorite was a wooden whirligig—then later, a remote-control helicopter,” his mom recalled. “At the beach, while the family enjoyed the sun and surf, he was lying on the beach towel, watching the airplanes, naming each and the type.”



When Robbie’s dad accepted a call to pastor in the Arizona Conference, a family move was discussed. Relocating seemed painful to the seventh grade boy, as he contemplated leaving behind best buddies and a life of freedom exploring acres of woods behind his backyard in western North Carolina.

Robbie’s dad tried to warm his son to the move with the fact that their new home would be in the flight pattern for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). Robbie would not only be able to identify an aircraft by sight, but by sound as well. Plus, there was the promise of a pool in his new backyard and flight training through Adventist World Aviation (AWA) at Thunderbird Adventist Academy (TAA). Within a few months, the pool lost its popularity, but the flight program continued to motivate Robbie.

Throughout his academy years, Robbie’s excitement for flight



Examiner Dan Gimbel congratulates Robbie Hakes on receiving his private pilot’s license.

intensified. During his freshman year, his flight instructor took him up a few times, complimenting his natural aptitude and enthusiasm, but encouraging his parents to wait. Robbie was a bit young to hit the program full bore.

Though unable to build flight time, the determined flight student doubled down, studying hard in ground school and keeping his overall GPA high. During his sophomore year, the flight program undertook some leadership changes, delaying the training process.

However, by his junior year he was ready and finally at an age when he could take the written examination and start air time in earnest. “A happier teenager you could not

locate!” said his mom.

Around Thanksgiving of his junior year, his instructor dubbed him ready to take his written exam—which he passed!

The next year was spent working long hours at two jobs, earning money to fly. With these funds and the assistance of scholarships through AWA and TAA, as well as help from grandparents and parents, Robbie kept accumulating hours and experience.

In October of 2017, the long-coveted license was finally in his hands. Now a senior, Robbie was awarded his wings and first stripe during a TAA chapel amongst cheers from his peers.

Robbie’s parents are enthusiastic for his successes. “The aviation department at Thunderbird Adventist Academy with Adventist World Aviation has given our son a priceless gift—not just a career,” they said. “Robbie now knows the value of hard work, patience, effort, and that dreams really can come true through prayer and teamwork.”

AWA Flight Director Dina Simmons was also proud of his accomplishments. “Robbie is a great example of what this program is



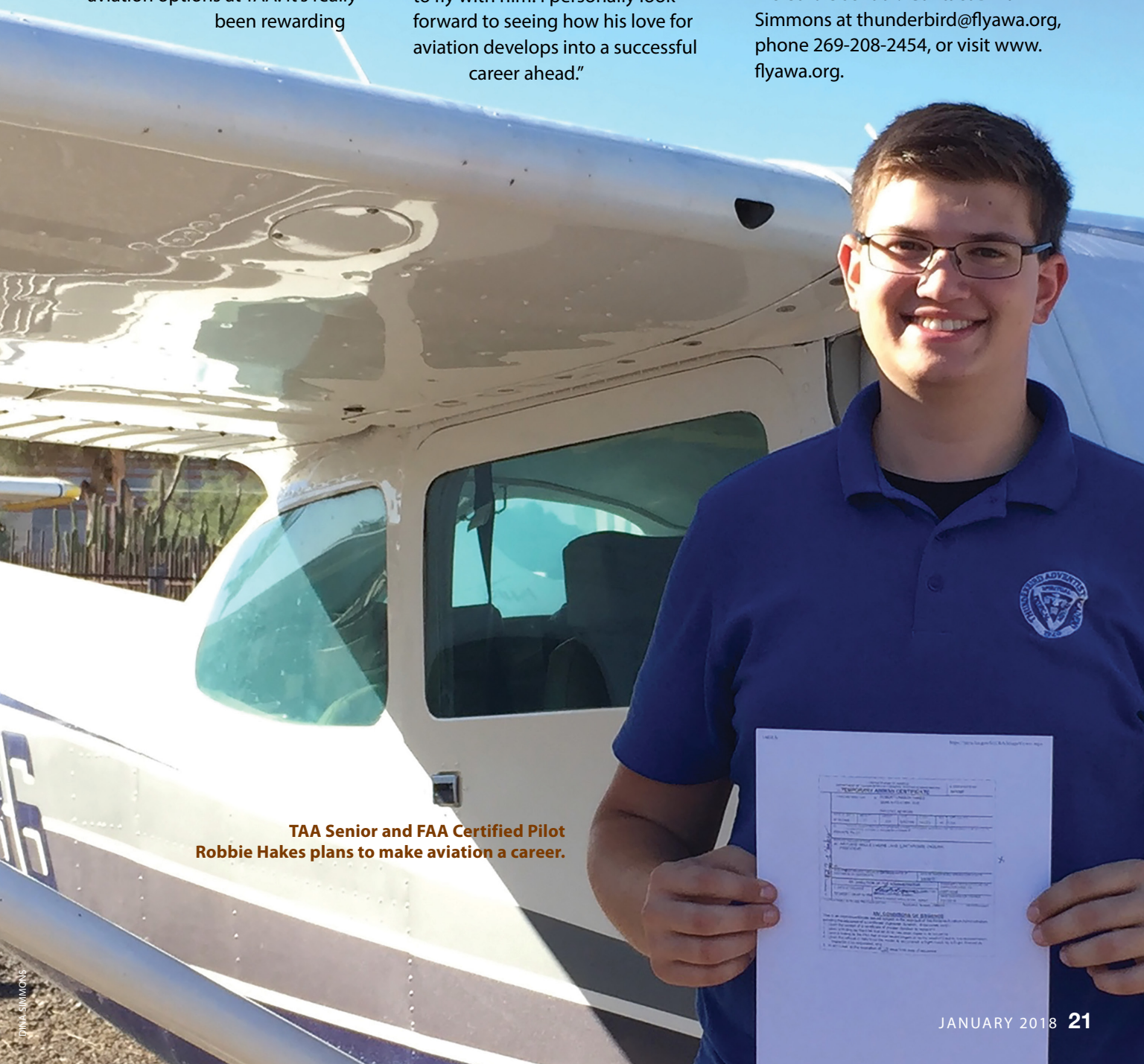
Robbie Hakes after his first solo flight, at the wheel of the Cessna aircraft used to earn his private pilot's license.

about," she said. "There is wonderful potential here, and opportunities are available to the young people who choose to participate in our aviation options at TAA. It's really been rewarding

we want to see in a young Christian professional. He was a witness to that on his FAA license test, and Robbie's examiner expressed: 'It was a privilege to fly with him.' I personally look forward to seeing how his love for aviation develops into a successful career ahead."

Simmons invites other academy-age students to be inspired by Robbie's accomplishments. "We are excited about restoring the aviation program at Thunderbird, where students can explore aviation and get a solid start early in flying," she said. "Some of them may follow their dreams and become mission pilots in various parts of the world."

Interested in aviation at an incredible school? Contact Dina Simmons at thunderbird@flyawa.org, phone 269-208-2454, or visit www.flyawa.org.



TAA Senior and FAA Certified Pilot Robbie Hakes plans to make aviation a career.

Hearts of Service: *PUC's Summer*

Pacific Union College Student Association President Megan Weems spent her summer a little differently than the average college student. With others from the PUC family, she embarked on a nearly 30-hour trek to Maasai Mara, Kenya, to serve the community there. Here is Megan's story.



(Above) Physician Jonathan Wheeler examines a patient at one of the clinics hosted with African Missions Services. (Below) While on safari in the Maasai Mara, the PUC team captures photos of animals in their natural habitat.

Our team was comprised of 15 people. We had two doctors, one nurse, one professor, and 11 other people, all whom had hearts for service. We left on a Monday afternoon to embark on a long journey from small-town Angwin, Calif., to the middle of the Maasai Mara in Kenya. It took one 15½-hour flight to Dubai, a six-hour flight to Nairobi, and then an eight-hour safari car ride from

Nairobi to reach the Maasai Mara, our final destination.

We arrived on a Friday, and the next day we went to a Maasai Adventist church. On Sabbath afternoon and Sunday, we went on a safari around the Maasai Mara, with beautiful views and a plethora of animals.

After resting up for a few

days, the group prepared for the week to come. We divided into a bush clinic team, a Vacation Bible School team, and a painting/construction crew. Our group was small, but we were all very driven and excited to be doing our part to help the Maasai community.

We set up five bush clinics during our time in Maasai Mara. The bush clinics consisted of a team of doctors, spouses Jonathan Wheeler and Julie Perry Wheeler; nurse Francis Aho; and recent PUC nursing graduate Elizabeth Shown. Each day they packed their lunches, put on their scrubs, piled into a safari truck, and drove to a surrounding village in need of medical attention. They offered basic medical checkups, eye checkups, a pharmacy, a triage station, and lots of prayer for



(Right) At the end of the first day of VBS, returning missionaries Kelly (Brazil, nine months), Cristina (Brazil, nine months), and Megan (Fiji, nine months) smile with the kids.



2017 Mission

each Maasai native seen. On a typical day, the bush clinic team would see as many as 70 people.

Upon arrival, our VBS team first met with the headmaster of the Olosonin Primary School. We discovered the school had over 700 students enrolled and only eight teachers overseeing them. Each morning our program began with a song service led by recent PUC grad Kelly Siegel and myself. Following song service, Leroy Peterson, adjunct professor of music at PUC, would tell a Bible story, complete with puppets and various musical instruments. Each day the program closed with arts and crafts, which allowed each child the opportunity to create something he/she could take home. Toward the end of the week, the children were excitedly awaiting our arrival at the beginning of each day. At the end of our weeklong program, the children showed their thanks by treating us to a traditional Maasai tribal dance, grabbing our hands and making us

join in.

After spending the mornings with the children, we painted the staff quarters of the first all-girls high school in Maasai.

Each afternoon we teamed up with a Maasai native, Fabio Maia, the service and missions coordinator at the college, along with five other PUC students. Our crew scraped, primed, and painted the walls. Once school let out, the students would come and dance, sing, and play alongside us as we worked. A great memory for me will always be the Maasai children teaching us Swahili songs, as we taught them English.

Our group was extremely fortunate to have amazing hosts. The Aho family are the owners of Mara West (accommodation) and

(Below) The PUC team and local construction workers join together to prime, paint, and finish the new faculty housing for the only all-girls high school in the area.



(Above) Curious students charge a truck to see what is happening, as donated water filters are distributed to community schools on the Maasai Mara. Each filter will provide 70,000 gallons of clean water.

(Left) A primary school student enjoys the Vacation Bible School program.



African Missions Services. They run their own community clinic and led our bush clinics. We were blessed to be able to serve the community in the capacity we did and then come back to safe and comfortable accommodations. The Maasai Mara area is blessed to have them, and we are blessed to know them.

This trip is something each of us will never forget, and it will stay with us throughout our lives. The PUC missions office strives to create lasting relationships around the world and hopes to return to Maasai Mara soon. The PUC family is expanding from Angwin throughout the world, from Brazil to Fiji and beyond. Now we have just added more beautiful souls, the people of the Maasai Mara.



Hawaii Conference Celebrates Ordinations

BY JESSE SEIBEL

On Dec. 9, the Hawaii Conference celebrated the ordinations of Sinapi “Mustard” N. Pa`o and Nicholas De Lima. Church members and pastors from across the state, along with honored guests, gathered at the Samoan-Tokelau church on Oahu for the ordination service.



Administrators and pastors lift up the newly ordained pastoral couples in prayer.

gave an appeal to those who heard the call of the Holy Spirit to minister, and Pa`o answered, enrolling in Fulton Theological College in Fiji. In 2003, newly married

mentors suggested that he first enter pastoral ministry and gain experience in the field. God led De Lima back to California, where he worked as an associate pastor, interim senior pastor, and district pastor. He later decided to take a hiatus from pastoral ministry and pursue graduate studies. He felt the Lord calling him back to ministry in 2014, when he accepted a call to pastor the Kona district on the Big Island. He and his wife, Ana, have four children: Diana, Ana Dulce, Debora, and Kyllian.

Sinapi “Mustard” N. Pa`o was raised in an Adventist home in American Samoa. Still, as a young adult he drifted from God. One day his parents shared that as a young married couple they had been unable to have children. They promised God that if He gave them a child, they would dedicate him to the Lord to be a minister. When he was born, they gave him the name Sinapi, which means “Mustard Seed,” because God had blessed them even when they had little faith.

to Juliette, he returned to Samoa to pastor a two-church district. Soon Pa`o began a television ministry that connected his passion for evangelism with modern technology. In 2012, he completed his Master of Divinity and was called by the Hawaii Conference to the Samoa-Tokelau church.

H. Nicholas De Lima was born and raised in Glendale, Calif., and at age 19 he moved to Brazil.

De Lima first felt the call to ministry in 1997. During his undergraduate studies, he felt the Lord calling him to teach. One of his academic

During the ordination service, Hawaii Conference President Ralph Watts III gave a homily challenging De Lima and Pa`o to remember that their call is always based on God’s grace and not their achievement or capabilities. “I am so proud of Pa`o and De Lima,” said Watts. “Our churches and conference are blessed to have these pastors and their families ministering to us.”

A few months later an evangelist



Hawaii Conference pastors and guest pastors join newly ordained pastoral couples, Sinapi “Mustard” and Julie Pa`o and Nick and Ana De Lima.

Adventist Health Castle

BY JASMIN RODRIGUEZ

Receives 2017 Baldrige National Quality Award

Adventist Health Castle is Hawaii's first health care organization to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, as announced by United States Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

The U.S. Congress created the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program and the award in 1987 to identify and recognize the country's most innovative organizations, and then disseminate and share best-practice performance strategies. The goal is nationwide advancements in innovations and quality. Adventist Health Castle was one of five organizations able to meet the Baldrige Program's standards and receive the 2017 award.

This year, the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program received 24 applications. The applicants were evaluated rigorously in seven areas defined by the Baldrige Excellence Framework: leadership; strategy; customers; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce; operations; and results.

"This year's honorees demonstrate clearly that organizations of all kinds can achieve sustainable high performance," said Robert Fangmeyer, director of the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. "The missions for

these organizations are dramatically different, but they share a laser focus on doing the right things for their customers, employees, and communities using the Baldrige framework. The payoff is great operational and business results."

Adventist Health Castle was one of 14 selected for a site visit in September—and one of four in the healthcare category. About 8-10 examiners spend about 150 hours each in the final stage of the award process, assessing each of the finalist's strengths and opportunities for improvement and documenting their findings. Then a panel of judges recommends the organizations selected for the award.

"As an organization, we are focused on the total well-being of our patients, which extends well beyond health and wellness programs."

"We are beyond thrilled to receive this prestigious award. This award honors the collective effort of our leadership, associates, physicians, volunteers, and partners who have for years pursued excellence in delivering quality care to our communities," said Kathy Raethel, president and CEO of Adventist Health Castle. "As an organization, we are focused on the total well-being of our patients, which extends well beyond health and wellness programs. Being selected for this award validates our efforts but also encourages us to extend our efforts even further as the needs of our community continue to evolve."



Loma Linda University Health Will Host 7th *“Plant-foods for the health”*

The seventh International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition, globally recognized as the world’s premier scientific congress on the effects of vegetarian and other plant-based diets, is set to convene for three days in February to showcase recent advances from basic science, epidemiology, and clinical trials in vegetarian nutrition from around the planet.

The congress, which is hosted by Loma Linda University’s School of Public Health, is expected to draw more than 700 scientists, physicians, and nutritionists, who will share the latest ways to incorporate plant-based nutrition into everyday life. It will begin on Feb. 26, 2018.

Held every five years, the congress is the only time when the world’s leading scientists and scholars versed in the study of plant-based diets gather to unveil research findings and raise provocative ideas. The previous congress, held in 2013, drew nearly 900 people from more than 40 countries.

“We’re pleased to be hosting the seventh International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition, which will provide a forum for a review of all the best research, concepts, and applications of vegetarian dietary practices for preventing diseases

and promoting health,” said the event’s chair Joan Sabaté, director of the Center for Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyle and Disease Prevention.

Sabaté said the theme for this year’s congress—“Plant-foods for the health of people, populations and the planet”—signals a significant shift in both scope and awareness from previous years. He cites recent studies as examples of the often-unexpected ways that plant-based nutrition benefits the health of the ecological environment.

According to Sabaté, when the congress first started 35 years ago, vegetarian nutrition was ignored, unknown, or rejected by most health professionals. But as the general population has increasingly embraced plant-based diets, the congress has become recognized as the global leader in educating health professionals about how

to advise and treat their vegetarian clients, as well as staying current on the scientific literature.

The event will feature an expanded culinary demonstration by chefs who specialize in healthy, delicious vegetarian cuisine. The chefs will incorporate theoretical discussions about the health benefits of plant-based foods into their demonstrations.

The congress is accredited for more than 20 hours of continuing education units (CEU) and continuing medical education (CME).

The public is invited to a vegetarian food fair and a series of free lectures, which will be held the Sunday before the congress begins.

For more information, including registration and information from previous congresses, visit www.VegetarianCongress.org, email StaffDevelopment@llu.edu, or call 909-558-3500.

The congress has become recognized as the global leader in educating health professionals about how to advise and treat their vegetarian clients, as well as staying current on the scientific literature.

International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition

of people, populations and the planet”

BY JAMES PONDER AND GENESIS GONZALEZ

Joan Sabaté, MD, DrPH, is director of the Center for Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyle and Disease Prevention at Loma Linda University's School of Public Health and chair of the seventh International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition.



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LOMA LINDA
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School of Public Health

Business School's New High-tech Labs

Energize Student Experience

BY DARLA MARTIN TUCKER

La Sierra University's Zapara School of Business is helping students engage in real-world financial decision-making and entrepreneurship with two high-tech labs that opened this school year.

The Finance Lab, which utilizes StockTrak stock market simulation software, and the Innovation Lab, which offers industrial-grade MarkForged 3D printers, are designed to influence individual thinking, analysis, and creativity with faculty serving as guides and resources for students.

The Finance Lab and its accompanying Investor Club were developed last summer. StockTrak is a state-of-the-art stock market educational simulation and real-time trading platform that allows students to participate in financial management and investing activities

including trading stocks, options, futures, bonds, and mutual funds from more than 50 global exchanges.

The lab's ZSB Investor Club, open to La Sierra students, employees, and alumni, will manage the growth of a \$100,000 portfolio for the business school, with a future portfolio potential of \$250,000 to invest. Club members will learn trading strategies for their own education and independent trading activities. Neither the Investment Club nor any of its leadership or members will provide any direct stock trading advice to anyone.

"The Finance Lab provides students with a great hands-on experience of how capital markets function," said Vice President of Financial Administration David Geriguis. "Even faculty and staff may benefit from educational opportunities offered in this lab as they

think about retirement investment strategies. La Sierra University is blessed to have such [a] facility."

The Innovation Lab is outfitted with 3D printers and iMac computers. The lab provides four MarkForged Onyx 3D prototype printers and one MarkTwo 3D printer, which is capable of printing industrial-grade parts with high temperature fiberglass as well as kevlar, regular fiberglass, and carbon fiber. The systems come with MarkForged browser-based 3D printing software. These industrial-grade printers can make any sort of 3D prototype part and are cloud-managed. They are used by such powerhouse organizations as Google, Amazon, Ford, and NASA.

"We want to provide the environment for students to think, to challenge themselves, be innovative, be creative, get excited about their discipline, and change the world," said business school Dean John Thomas.



NATAN VIGNA

(Above) La Sierra University Vice President of Financial Administration David Geriguis, left, and Associate Vice President of Financial Administration Pamela Crispens view the new Finance Lab at La Sierra's Zapara School of Business on Sept. 27.

(Right) Zapara School of Business student and Troesh Team coordinator Jonathan Thomas, right, shows Tom Zapara how a 3D printing system works during the Innovation Lab's grand opening. The business school is named for Tom and his wife, Vi Zapara.



NCC Adventists Send *Lifesaving Water*

BY JULIE LORENZ

In September, Hurricane Maria slammed into Puerto Rico, which was still recovering from Hurricane Irma two weeks earlier. In addition to the destruction of life and property, people lost access to clean water. Many have been forced to drink unsafe water from rivers, streams, and cisterns, and the contaminated water brings illness and death.

Northern California Conference church members have raised money to send 21 high-volume water filters to Puerto Rico, where they are operating in a number of church-affiliated locations—Antillean Adventist University, Bella Vista Hospital, several academies and churches—as well as in community locations. Each system can filter enough water to support up to 1,000 people.

Organizers of the project, titled “Clean Water for Puerto Rico,” hope to raise enough money to purchase a total of 25–30 filters. It costs about \$700 to purchase and ship each filter and the parts it requires.

The Idea

In the aftermath of the hurricanes, Pleasant Hill Hispanic American company member Carlos Gomez grew concerned when he learned about the water situation and wondered what he could do to make a difference. Some people were shipping personal water filtration systems to the island, but those can only filter a small amount of water at a time.

He remembered a man named Dean Rutherford, whom he had worked with years before. Rutherford had shown Gomez pictures of a water filter he had invented and described how it was helping people in remote

areas of Peru. While Rutherford was on a trip to that country, the elders of a village had told him about the health problems their community was having due to contaminated water. He then spent three years of research and work creating the Condor Filter, a portable and efficient water purification system that does not rely on electricity or gravity.

Gomez called Rutherford and asked about the system. He learned that each Condor Filter can purify five gallons of water per minute, removing up to 99.999 percent of bacteria. The system takes less than an hour to assemble and is easy to use and maintain. (For more about the Condor and other filters, visit aguamunda.com.)

God Opens Doors

After learning about the filter, Gomez contacted fellow church member Shani Emmanuel, who has family in Puerto Rico. They decided to work together to raise money to purchase and ship the filters, but they needed a partner on the island

A student at Antillean Adventist University fills a water bottle.



to spread awareness and facilitate the filters’ distribution and set-up. Emmanuel contacted long-time family friend, Efraín Velázquez, president of the Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary. He said that he would be happy to help by scouting locations and supervising the work.

Along the way, the organizers considered other options for water filtration—taking into account price, effectiveness, and efficiency. “God kept moving us back to the original idea,” said Gomez. “He started opening doors for us.”

Initially, Velázquez requested six

(Background) Condor Filter inventor Dean Rutherford and Efraín Velázquez, president of the Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary, prepare to distribute water filters. (Right) A woman drinks a cup of freshly filtered water at a women’s shelter in Puerto Rico.



Filters to Puerto Rico

filters. Rutherford flew to Puerto Rico at his own expense and met Velázquez. They trained assembly teams to set up the filters and to instruct local citizens how to use and maintain them.

While on the island, Rutherford witnessed the great need. "What I saw in Puerto Rico, no one deserves. ... our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico are suffering from a lack of the most basic needs: food, water, electricity, jobs, and compassion. We have to communicate that they are a part of us, that we are willing to support them and stand with them until they can again stand on their own."

Velázquez said his goal is to place filters in areas that benefit the most people. "We spread them geographically—in order to provide a wider net," he said. He recently moved a filter from one area, where it wasn't being utilized, to a nearby bakery. Although the owner had been selling bottled water, he was happy to provide free water to his community by housing the filter. "Now it is at the crossroads for a number of communities in an area where its use will be maximized," said Velázquez.

Organizers continue to learn about new needs. "We keep identifying people that need a filter—especially in the remote communities," said Emmanuel.

Ongoing Blessing

When an area no longer needs a water filter, the Condor Filter will be donated to help people in the nearby countries of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Each filter can last about 10 years if properly maintained. "Many people will be blessed by this," said Velázquez.

The organizers hope that their efforts will alleviate physical suffering, as well as help Puerto Ricans know that they aren't forgotten. "People are not just thirsty for physical water right now," said Velázquez. "People are working really hard; they have been drained. Seeing empathy



(Left) In Puerto Rico Alex Trinidad, left, answers the call to set up a water filter at Luis Matos' house, where people were collecting water that flows down from the mountain behind his house. (Right) The owners of El Gallo de Oro sell bottled water, but they gladly allowed a filter to be placed in their store so that people could get water for free.

is very meaningful to people."

Those working on the Clean Water for Puerto Rico project also hope to point people to Christ. "We want to be able to help provide safe, drinkable water," said Emmanuel. "At the same time, we want to present them with Jesus, who is the Person who gives that living water."

You can help!

"Through these times of catastrophic despair, God connects us through a network of compassion in the effort," said Gomez. "We continue to connect with a lot of people through phone calls, emails, social media, and church announcements to assist with the basic need of clean water."

You can help bring life-saving water to 1,000 people! Find out more about this project and make a donation: www.youcaring.com/CleanWater4PR, or make a check payable to HAAC (which is the Spanish acronym for the Pleasant Hill Hispanic American company). Write "Clean Water for Puerto Rico" on the subject line, and mail it to HAAC, P.O. Box 23682, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-0682.

In addition to the destruction of life and property during these hurricanes, people lost access to clean water.



Paradise Adventist Academy Students “Love Paradise” BY WALLY SCHMIDT

More than 90 students from Paradise Adventist Academy (PAA) and about 15 adults from the academy and Paradise church joined forces with nearly 100 other community volunteers to clean up and beautify the town of Paradise on a Friday last fall.

Under the banner “Love Paradise,” groups of volunteers raked leaves, pulled weeds, clipped grass and shrubs, picked up trash, and painted benches along the bike trail and in parks. A large team of volunteers planted more than 1,200 daffodil bulbs in about an hour.

Each team included several students and at least one adult. “The kids in my group were amazed at how grateful community people were as they walked by,” said PAA parent Aloma Hughes, one of the team leaders. “One of the kids in my group said they couldn’t believe the impact that our three hours of service had on passersby.”

PAA alumnus Jonathan Pierson said he enjoyed working with the community. “Two total strangers joined my group as we were planting daffodil bulbs,” he said. “After spending the day together cleaning up Paradise, our group left as new friends. One of them was the town clerk of Paradise. I’m so grateful I got to meet and work with such wonderful people.”

Paradise church Associate Pastor Garrison Chaffee and church members Anita Lee and Karen Pierson started the Love Paradise program in 2016, as a result of a church leadership brainstorming session. Love Paradise is affiliated with Love Our Cities, a faith-based program of community involvement. It dovetails with the “Arlan Hudson Make a Difference Day,” which has taken place in Paradise since 1992 and celebrates a beloved community volunteer. The synergy between the two programs has drawn support from local sponsors, including Adventist Health Feather River Hospital and many others.

Town Manager Lauren Gill noted that many of the projects undertaken by the volunteers could not be done by town personnel. “Some are on private

property,” she said. “[Love Paradise and Make a Difference Day show] great pride in the community and gratefulness for the efforts of so many people. I love doing it, and we get so much positive reinforcement. It’s definitely a win-win, and it’s a great opportunity for the kids to participate,” said Gill.

One of PAA’s goals is helping students develop a service-oriented lifestyle. “According to Jesus, those who serve others are the ones who are greatest in His eyes,” said Principal Monte Nystrom. “We give our students opportunities to engage in community service, so they will value that kind of greatness.”

The students are learning the lessons well. “I have seen more community mindedness from some of the older students, and an awareness of actions today resulting in beauty in our town tomorrow!” said Chaffee.



(Above) Emily Kitto and Morgan Wilson, both PAA students, paint the concrete benches along the Paradise Memorial Trailway. (Right) PAA students Stacy Wisener and Katy Roach, along with alumnus Jonathan Pierson, plant daffodil bulbs.



NCC Asian/Pacific Convocation

Highlights Unity

BY JULIE LORENZ

Music was an appropriate metaphor for the sixth annual Northern California Conference Asian/Pacific Convocation. This year's theme was "One Voice: An Afternoon of Asian/Pacific Praise." About 500 people attended the Sabbath afternoon event, held at the Antioch church last fall.

At past convocations, the "Music Fest" was the most popular feature, so instead of inviting a speaker this year, the organizers decided to devote almost the entire program to musical praise. "Music is the universal language, and we believed we could draw more people if we focused on music," said NCC Asian/Pacific Ministries Coordinator James Lim. The plan succeeded. "We had more participation and more attendance, including people coming for the first

time," he said.

Seventeen Asian/Pacific churches, companies, and groups from around the conference provided music through voices and instruments. The familiarity of the Christian tunes required no translation. "We recognized the music from the hymnal, even if we didn't understand the words," said Alameda East Bay Chinese church Pastor Larry Chu.

"My favorite part was seeing the unity of diversity," said Ulises Mataafa, pastor of the Sacramento Samoan/Citrus Heights district. "The different languages and expressions of the same gospel that we share were so special. It was a very moving experience for me to be there."

The afternoon reminded East Bay Fil-Am/Stockton Fil-Am district Pastor Emmanuel Panugao of Galatians 3:28.

"Indeed, salvation is for everyone!" he said.

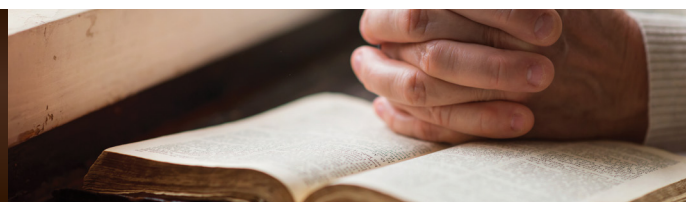
Besides the music, other highlights included the recognition of new believers who recently joined the Church through baptism or profession of faith. Also, short videos from a variety of Asian/Pacific congregations reported on their many creative and effective outreach efforts over the past year. After the program, attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by the Stockton Cambodian congregation.

The convocation not only emphasized unity among the Asian/Pacific churches, but also within the greater Church. "The Asian/Pacific church family sometimes feels left out from the mainstream Adventist community," said Lim. "We want them to know that they are not alone. They are part of our NCC Adventist family—with the same goal and same purpose as Adventists in North America."

Many congregations participated in the program, including Stockton Cambodian (left), Sacramento Hmong (middle), and Sacramento Indonesian (right).



PHOTOS: LONG THATCHER



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Ogden Church Opens Its Doors to Homeless Families

BY CYNTHIA MENDOZA

After months of prayer, planning, and countless volunteer hours from congregations of various faiths—including the Ogden church—homeless families in need will be able to obtain the support and resources they need to become financially stable.

Eleven churches have joined together to work with Family Promise of Ogden, a non-profit coalition of local congregations of various faiths committed to helping families with children move from homelessness to independence. For its part, the Ogden church houses homeless families for one week per month.

The Ogden church had a strong desire to be supportive of Family Promise, but with existing programs, such as a small school and food pantry, the church's volunteers were already at their limit. What the church did have, however, was a little-used 3,000-square-foot building—called the Youth Activity Center—on the campus of Deamude Adventist Christian School. "We really didn't have the manpower to facilitate the program because of our previous commitments, but we did have a building," said Ogden church



Volunteers donate time and materials to renovate the Youth Activity Center.

Pastor Ryan Hablitzel. "By working with other faith groups, we were able to see this ministry become a reality for our church."

The church had already begun slowly renovating the building, but it was a difficult undertaking with meager budget and limited manpower. After the decision was made to work with Family Promise,

contractors and builders donated materials and many hours of their time to renovate the Center.

During the day, the homeless families stay at a day center in an unused city fire station, where they can take showers, do laundry, and receive assistance in finding employment. At night, they stay at different Family Promise church buildings. "Countless scripture in all faith traditions speaks to the core concepts of Family Promise: caring for those in need, sacrifice, sharing with others. Your work serving homeless families illustrates your faith," wrote Raquel Da Silva, executive

director for Family Promise of Ogden, to participating congregations.

For the Ogden church, the experience has been a rewarding one of living out the gospel in a meaningful way. "This is the crux of the gospel, to bear one another's burdens," said church elder Max Shurtliff, who oversaw some of the renovations at the Youth Activity Center. "We have a common goal of reaching out and helping families that are down and out. This is Christ in action."

Hablitzel appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with others on a worthy endeavor. "The partnership has really broken down barriers and presented the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a very positive light to the community," said Hablitzel. "Watching so many people in the community come together and work with our church on this project was extremely exciting."

(Left) The Ogden church hosts a thank you dinner for the contractors and builders who donated their time and resources to renovate the Youth Activity Center, which now houses families in need through Family Promise of Ogden. (Below) The Ogden church used the Youth Activity Center for Pathfinders, Adventurers, and other youth activities.



Together, Onward by Faith. Nevada-Utah Conference Will Convene 34th Constituency Session

BY CARLOS CAMACHO

God has granted the Nevada-Utah Conference more than 136 years of existence, and next year the 34th Constituency Session of the Nevada-Utah Conference will be convened at the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel on May 6, 2018.

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Nevada-Utah Conference state that a constituency session should be called every four years to review the work, report the progress made, report the state of the finances, and restructure the work toward the implementation of “checks and balances” to continue moving forward until Jesus returns. For such a meeting to be conducted, every entity within the Nevada-Utah Conference sends a specific number of delegates to represent the membership of the conference, which numbers more than 10,500.

The three executive officers—president, executive secretary, and treasurer—who have been previously evaluated by the nominating committee,

chaired by the Pacific Union Conference president, are either recommended for re-election by a vote of the delegates, or new names are presented to the delegates in session. Two ethnic coordinators (Hispanic and Regional) are also up for re-election at this meeting.

At this particular session, the delegates will also be voting on the merger of the Association to the Conference, as presented by the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, chaired by the executive secretary. All assets were held under the Association, but two legal entities are no longer necessary. The Nevada-Utah Conference is one of the last conferences within the Pacific Union to make this necessary move which will protect the conference legally.

Since the day it was formed, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been governed by the people. This Church looks to members for decision-making, and church members are ultimately the highest authority within the Seventh-day Adventist organization. This authority is delegated to a standing Executive Committee that is nominated and voted by the people. All officers, directors, and pastors serve under the direction of this Executive Committee in between sessions. The conference functions under specific legal rules and regulations dictated by its Constitution and Bylaws. This legally binding document is the blueprint for conducting business as an organization. The Executive Committee is informed and directed by this document.



In May of 2018, the 34th Constituency Session of the Nevada-Utah Conference will convene at the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel.

God's Makeup Artist

BY MALLORY SCHRAMM WITH CINDY R. CHAMBERLIN

It's been said time and time again that the Lord works in mysterious ways and that there's no talent He can't use to reach His people. But what if your talents aren't singing or playing the piano, or aren't necessarily "churchy"?

Her training was in makeup, hair, and nails—and she found herself wondering, "How could God possibly use a makeup artist?" Candy Castillo, a new member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, had her first encounter with Adventism through a family of a former acquaintance. One day, a friend's mother commented to Castillo that she reminded her of the story of Ruth. Together, they sat down and read through the Bible story. Castillo said this encounter was the initial spark that drew her interest to the church. She began attending an Adventist church in Edmonds, Wash.

and fell in love with it. The Book of Job particularly resonated with her. "Job was just such a character of unflinching faith. [He] always had faith, no matter what Satan threw at him," said Castillo.

Castillo exemplified such faith in her move back to California, and she began attending the Visalia church alone. But just as Job was blessed, so was Castillo. She met her now-husband, and within a few months of marriage, the two began attending church together. Then Castillo began Bible studies. After meeting with several Bible workers, she eventually connected with Noemi Gallego,

Central California Conference (CCC) Bible worker. Gallego studied with Castillo, Castillo's sister, and her mother. Later, Gallego's husband began studies with Castillo's brother-in-law, as well.

Castillo was licensed in cosmetology at the time, and she began asking how she could use her gift to beautify more than people, but to glorify God. She spoke to Gallego about this. At the same time, the CCC communication department was searching for a makeup artist for their 10-day televised broadcast at Soquel Camp Meeting. Sue Schramm, CCC camp



Jose Rojas, president of MOVEMENTUM and popular speaker, pauses to pray with Candy and Daniel Castillo.

SERGIO CANO

Makeup artist Candy Castillo prepares Nathan Renner, pastor of the Immanuel Company and Discover Life Adventist Church, before taking the stage at Soquel Camp Meeting.

meeting production coordinator and administrative assistant, was put in charge of the search. But, where to go and where to search? Schramm was on the phone with Gallego one day and felt impressed to ask her if she could do makeup. Gallego said she could not, but she had the perfect person in mind; that person was Castillo.

With her kit in hand, Castillo headed to Soquel Camp Meeting 2015—but now it was God’s kit. According to Castillo, she did little more than dust a bit of face powder onto the individuals that came to her chair in the green room (area for people preparing to go on the platform). But while speakers were in her chair, and amidst gel and hairspray, a symbiotic relationship developed in which presenters felt relaxed and confident as they prepared to take the platform, while through their conversations they were ministering to Castillo, as well.

As Soquel Camp Meeting continued to raise the bar of excellence for what an internationally televised camp meeting looks like, the green room experience—including makeup necessary for television lighting—became crucial. “As a seasoned makeup artist, Candy brought both professionalism

and a lighthearted attitude to a potentially stressful environment. Her ministry has tremendously increased the effectiveness of Soquel’s global broadcast and webcast,” said Costin Jordache, former CCC vice president for communication and now communication director for the *Adventist Review*.

“Her ministry has tremendously increased the effectiveness of Soquel’s global broadcast and webcast.”

Through Castillo’s involvement with camp meeting and the people she meets each year who challenge her to grow spiritually, that fire for the Lord that has been ignited within her has spread throughout her family. Her husband, sister, brother-in-law, and mother have all since been baptized, and her niece is attending Bible studies. Castillo has become a camp meeting and live event constant for CCC production teams. Her powder, hairspray, brushes, and foundations now hold a place in God’s makeup kit.



During their first year at camp meeting as a married couple in 2015, Candy and Daniel Castillo meet Taj Pacleb (left), conference evangelist when Daniel began studying for baptism.

SUE SCHRAMM

VALERIE HUNTER/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM



Six FAA Students Choose Baptism

BY ANGELA ALEGRE AND CHRISTIANA KERBS

after Week of Worship

Two Fresno Adventist Academy juniors describe their thoughts and emotions as their classmates respond to the Holy Spirit and are baptized.

Pastor Eddy Perez, Central California Conference (CCC) evangelist, helped change the lives of six students here at Fresno Adventist Academy (FAA) during our Week of Worship. He shared his testimony, which inspired a lot of us teens. He was real with us and even we—yes, we young people—could sense the Holy Spirit filling the room each time he spoke.

On the final day of our Week of Worship, Perez made an altar call for all those who wanted to commit their lives through baptism, or who wanted to be rebaptized. Five high school students responded to the altar call and made their way to the front. As they stood in front of us all, we couldn't help but be deeply moved. To all of us, they were either friends, relatives, or classmates, and witnessing this important decision was more than we could have ever asked for to culminate such a powerful worship week.

After this response, prayer was focused on the soon-to-be-baptized. In every class, at least one prayer request

was for them. They decided to make their commitment during the upcoming weekend of the annual Fresno Football Tournament.

During Friday night vespers, we sat there anxiously waiting for our friends to devote their lives to Christ, one by one. We began the baptisms praising Jesus with songs of worship, coming together as one, and letting the music fill our spirits. Eventually, we settled down with a message from Yoane Sanchez, pastor of the Fresno Remnant church, which became an introduction to the baptism.

The time had finally come for our friends to publicly announce their commitment to Christ, and each one of us focused our attention on the front of the stage. As each student took a turn sharing his or her testimony and then submerging into the water, a flood of emotions filled the room. Almost all of the parents had tears in their eyes as they watched their children make very important decisions. Afterward, families joyfully

hugged their children with the love of Christ.

The most touching moment was the baptism of 10-year-old Daniel Perez, Pastor Perez's son, who also chose to be a member of Christ's body. The love and pride that Perez had for his son was a perfect representation of what God feels for us, and when he picked Daniel up in the tank and embraced him, it seemed there was not a dry eye in the auditorium.

At the end of the baptisms, Pastor Perez chose to make a final appeal to all of the schools attending the tournament. It was a bold move considering the peer pressure and embarrassment teens often feel when publicly proclaiming their love for Christ. But due to the Holy Spirit permeating the atmosphere, as many as a dozen students from different schools felt their hearts tug at them, and they made their way to the front. These students, who were complete strangers, held onto one another,

supporting each other as though they were one family.

We welcomed the Sabbath with prayer and praise. The faces of those who were baptized represented ones of thanksgiving and joy. That night, we were all a part of God's family, holding each other closely with smiles on our faces.



PHOTOS: SERGIO CANO

(Above) With the help of Evangelist Eddy Perez, Marissa Gainey, senior, emerges from the baptismal tank. (Left) Students from various Adventist schools answer Evangelist Eddy Perez's appeal for Christ.

Despite Destructive Fire, The Oildale Church Holds Evangelistic Series

BY CINDY R. CHAMBERLIN

The Oildale church allowed God to turn a disaster into an opportunity to advance His Kingdom.

On Tuesday, Sept. 26, the Oildale church mysteriously caught fire. The fire was the fifth in a series of fires within the boundaries of Oildale, Calif., and sprang up just three days prior to the church's scheduled Landmarks of Prophecy evangelistic series.

The fire broke out around 2 p.m. First responders contained it and left the scene at approximately 6:45 p.m. the same day. Fires were simultaneously going nearby; structures across the street and two doors down were also on fire.

The entire sanctuary was destroyed. Other areas damaged were the baptistry, back rooms behind the pulpit, an adjacent room, and the foyer (due to water damage). There were no injuries. No one was in the church at the time of the incident.

Rather than become discouraged or cancel the series, the Oildale congregation decided instead to use the news coverage as a platform for sharing their mission as Adventist Christians. Central California Conference's Area Five community churches lifted the congregation in prayer. Sister churches provided needed resources for the church to stay active—including a grand piano.



Other faith-based groups responded as well. One non-denominational church donated several thousand dollars' worth of pews, along with \$500, saying that God impressed them to help. A Lutheran man contacted the church, told them how heavy his heart was to see the sanctuary in ruins, and donated a Wurlitzer organ. A nearby Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offered their church building for temporary use.

Local church leaders rented a tent and made a makeshift staging area, complete with banners and other showcasing. Others brought in folding chairs. The fire gave members a new sense of purpose for their meetings and excitement filled the air on opening night. "The devil is going to have to do a lot more to stop us than

The fire damaged the Oildale church sanctuary and several other rooms.

this," said one member, grinning from ear to ear.

In fact, the crisis seemed to cause people to want to be there even more. At the start of the series, the tent was filled, and attendance increased each day thereafter. "We certainly had more people come because of the free publicity from Fox, ABC, the *Bakersfield Californian*, and more," said Oildale church pastor Joshua Mura. But other trials soon followed. Strong winds threatened to blow the meeting tent away. "It was as if Satan was clearly angry," said Mura. "We experienced great adversity, but God was still in control."

The meetings brought to fruition over 30 decisions for Christ, six baptisms, and four people preparing for baptism. "Our spirits are high, and we are rejoicing in the power of Jesus Christ!" said Mura. "May the Lord strengthen His people to finish this great work, so we can all go home, never to war anymore."

See news coverage of the event here: <http://bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/kern-county-fire-crews-battle-fifth-fire-in-oildale>.

Media coverage of the fire helped publicize the tent meetings, which were a success, with crowds growing each night.

PHOTOS: JOSH MURA

CALENDAR

Central California Conference

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@cccda.org or text 903-594-8868.

Life Hope Centers (Jan. 14) for the Ceres/Modesto community at 1633 Central Ave., Ceres, Calif. Volunteers are 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.

Women's Retreat (Jan. 26-28) at Tenaya Lodge with Dr. Janice Browne and Carolann DeLeón. Register at CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com/womans-ministries or 559-642-2396.

Hispanic Convocations, Feb. 3 in Modesto and Feb. 10 in Bakersfield. For more information, call 559-347-3144.

Life Hope Centers (Feb. 11) for the Sonora community at 40 N. Forest Rd., Sonora, Calif. Volunteers are 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.

Northern California Conference

Church Clerk Orientation & Training (Jan. 28) 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. NCC Office, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Church clerk responsibilities, eAdventist training, news, advanced clerk training. Bring your own laptop or iPad. Contact conference clerk if you don't have a login. Pastors welcome. RSVP. Info and

registration: clerk@nccsda.com, 925-603-5037.

Junior/Senior Leadership Training (Jan. 31-Feb. 2) Leoni Meadows. For those assisting at the Freshman/Sophomore Retreat, Feb. 2-4. \$95. Info: NCC Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

Freshman/Sophomore Retreat (Feb. 2-4) Leoni Meadows. "Dauntless," small group Bible study, games, fellowship, great food. \$85. Info: NCC Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

Turning Points: Keeping Balance in an Unbalanced World (Feb. 9-10) Lodi Academy, 1230 South Central Avenue. A conference for all women! Speaker Melody Darrow, associate/youth pastor Mountain View church in Las Vegas. Women's ministry certification, breakout speakers, program for youth. \$40 includes Friday dinner, Sabbath lunch. Info and registration: www.nccsda.com/turningpoints.

Pacific Union College

Be a Pioneer. PUC is still accepting applications for spring and fall quarters 2018. Learn more about our 70+ programs. It's free to apply and scholarships are still available. Info: Admissions, 800-862-7080 or puc.edu/admissions.

Colloquy Speaker Series: Dr. Terrence Roberts (Feb. 1) 10 a.m., PUC Church. Congressional Gold Medalist Terrence Roberts, one of the iconic Little Rock Nine, speaks for Black History Month. Info: colloquy@puc.edu.

2018 Lecture of the Percy and John Christian Civil Rights Conference Center featuring Dr. Terrence Roberts (Feb. 3) 4:00 p.m., Pacific Union College. Dr. Roberts, Congressional Gold Medalist and a member of the iconic Little Rock Nine, presents the

annual lecture. Info: 707-965-7500 or alumni@puc.edu.

Jaime Jorge Concert (Feb. 3) 5:00 p.m., PUC Church. Acclaimed violinist Jamie Jorge performs a free concert of favorite hymns and contemporary praise songs. Info: 707-965-6201.

Transfiguration—a site inspired study—Julia Crane (Runs through Feb. 10) Rasmussen Art Gallery. This show will feature photo images of the burn area in Napa and changes over time. Info: 707-965-7362.

College Days (Feb. 11-13). Prospective students are invited to experience life at PUC. Includes meeting professors, sitting in on classes, and touring the campus. Registration required. Info: 707-965-6336.

PUC Visual Arts Faculty Show (Feb. 17), Opening Reception 7:00 p.m., Rasmussen Art Gallery. Runs through March 17. Info: 707-965-7362.

Hans Hielscher Organ Recital (Feb. 24) 4:00 p.m., PUC Church. German musician performs on the Rieger organ. Info: 707-965-6201.

Academy Choral Festival (Feb. 24) 8 p.m., Paulin Hall. Over 100 Northern California high schoolers perform a special Sabbath afternoon concert. Info: music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

Math/Science Workshop (Feb. 25). Annual college math and science experience for academy students. For information, email biology@puc.edu.

Southeastern California Conference

What Solomon Teaches Us About Sex (Jan. 6) 10:50 a.m.; 1:30-3 p.m., Corona church, 2550 S. Main St., Corona. Presenter, Celeste Holbrook,

Ph.D., sexual health consultant and educator. There will be an anonymous Q&A at the end. Free children's program provided. Info: 951-737-5953.

Equipped to Serve, Jan. 20, 3-7 p.m., Mt. Rubidoux church, 5320 Victoria Ave. Riverside; Jan. 27, 3-7 p.m., San Diego Academy, 2800 East 4th St., San Diego. All local church ministry leaders will get new ideas and be inspired. Info and registration: www.facebook.com/seccadventist.

Ignite Leadership Conference (Jan. 28) 9 a.m.-5 p.m., SECC, 11330 Riverwalk Pkwy, Riverside. "Fuel for ministry and fire for your soul." This is a lay leadership conference that trains pastors and leaders for effective ministry. Guest speaker is Will Mancini. Info and registration: www.ignitesecc.org.

Southern California Conference

UNITE Praise Night in the Valley (Jan. 6). All are welcome; programming tailored toward junior high and high school students. Guest speaker: Pastor Woun Kim of the First Baptist Church of L.A. 4 p.m. Valley United Korean church, 15711 San Fernando Mission Blvd, Granada Hills 91344. Free; RSVP through Facebook @vallyunite. Info: 907-306-6491.

ONE House Leadership Summit (Jan. 7). Training and networking for youth and young adult leaders. Save the date! 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Temple City church, 9664 Broadway, Temple City 91780. Info: www.onehousesocal.com, 818-546-8437, or on Facebook @onehousesocal.

NEWSTART Health Seminar (Jan. 13) will focus on the eight laws of natural health and has added health-related features. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lighthouse Adventist church of San Pedro, 580 West 6th Street, San Pedro 90731. Info: 310-850-6003.

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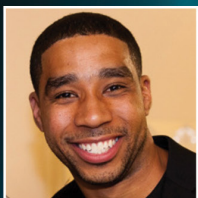
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Adventist Books: Looking for NEW Adventist titles to encourage and grow your daily walk? Visit us at www.TEACHServices.com. For USED Adventist books visit www.LNFBooks.com. AUTHORS: If you're interested in having your book published, call 800-367-1844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

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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.

Employment

Barber wanted. The well-known Glendale, Calif., community staple, Ernie's Barber Shop, seeks a new barber. We are looking for an SDA, hard-working, friendly barber with an upbeat personality and great work ethic to fill one of our chairs. Contact Zach Lind, 818-297-9226.

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OB-GYN and Pediatrician needed for Adventist owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay. Call Dr. Randall Steffens at 615-604-0142.

Pacific Union College is seeking full-time positions in our Facilities Management Department. Looking for positions of Tradesman Supervisor-Painter and Tradesman 1-Carpenter. Preference is for training and applied experience in trade areas of general painting and carpentry. For Painter, experience in color/finish/application/etc. For Carpenter, experience in cabinet making/floor coverings/installation/etc. For both, able to be team player, handle multiple projects. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

Pacific Union College is seeking an Associate VP of Finance. Responsibilities include strategic financial planning/leadership, financial/operational budgets, and working with chief leadership to develop and implement financial goals/investments. Preference is for bachelor's in Business/Accounting, CPA or master's degree in Business Administration, 3-5 years experience in management role, higher education experience. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

Pacific Union College is seeking a Controller. Responsibilities include leadership and supervision over the accuracy and productivity of day-to-day financial activities, collaboration on annual budgeting, provision of

Advertising

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

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

How to Submit Advertising

Classified ads must be sent with payment to the Recorder office (commdept@puconline.org). Display ads should be arranged with the editor (ads@puconline.org).

Classified Rates

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

Display Rates (Full Color Only)

Back cover, \$4,150; full page, \$3,750; 1/2-pg., \$2,220; 1/4-pg., \$1,190; 1/8-pg., \$600; \$155 per column inch.

Information

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

March due date: January 30

April Due date: February 28

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.

financial analysis tools/metrics, oversight of the operations in the accounting department, including strategic thinking for department goals and objectives. Preference is bachelor's degree in Accounting or related field. CPA license preferred, as well as minimum of five years experience and supervisory responsibilities. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

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 Street, Keene TX 76059 or lauej@swau.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University seeks a full-time Systematic Theology faculty member for 2018-2019. Ph.D. preferred; master's degree considered. Successful candidates will have teaching and pastoral experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, arosenal@swau.edu.

The Education and Psychology Department at Southwestern Adventist University invites applications for a full-time faculty position. Preferred candidates will hold a doctorate in Educational Psychology or Secondary Education and have university teaching experience. Master's degree considered. Must have or be able to obtain a Texas teaching credential. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Donna Berkner, dberkner@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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will continue to be a blessing all year. For a free sample call 800-777-2848 or visit www.FamilyHeritageBooks.com.

Reunions

Kingsway College California Chapter Reunion (Feb. 24) 1 p.m. at Alto Camino Mobile Estates Clubhouse, 25526 Redlands Blvd, Loma Linda, Calif. 92354. Contact Person: Beverly Reeves, 951-845-1515.

Loma Linda Academy Alumni Weekend (April 13-14). Honor classes '03 and '08. Special honored 50-year class of '68. For more details on your class reunion plans or weekend activities, visit www.lla.org/alumni, email alumni@lla.org, or call 909-796-0161 ext. 3316.

Save the date for San Diego Academy's 2018 Alumni Weekend (March 2-3) Welcoming all classes and honoring classes: '48, '58, '68, '78, '88, '93, '98, '08, and '13.

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Vacation Opportunities

Adventist Tours. Israel (June 3-12); German Reformation/WWII (July 1-11); British Reformation (July 11-21); Bethlehem to Rome (including Revelation's 7 churches) (June 2-19, 2019); Ellen White in Europe (June 20-30, 2019); Africa Safari & Service (July 18-26, 2019). \$1990+/person. Contact tabghatours@gmail.com or Facebook.com/TabghaTours for full info.

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AT REST

Allgood, Mattie Lou "Pat" (Kidwell) – b. Sept. 21, 1933, Porterville, Calif.; d. June 23,

2017, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Beth Hutson.

Arnold, Frances (Klingbeil) – b. Feb. 20, 1934, Berkeley, Calif.; d. Nov. 4, 2017, Vallejo, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Kathleen, Shauna; brother, Rich; one grandchild; one great-grandchild.

Austin, Raymond A. – b. May 20, 1944, Loma Linda, Calif.; d.

Aug. 18, 2017, Lakeport, Calif. Survivors: sons, Raymond, Caleb; two grandchildren.

Barlow, Otella Navola (Nieman) – b. March 27, 1937, Long Beach, Calif.; d. Nov. 20, 2017, Greeley Hill, Calif. Survivors: husband, Glenn; sons, Greg, Scott; daughters, Kristi Evans, Karin Morton; 11 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

January 2017 *Sunset* Calendar

City	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
Alturas	4:46	4:53	5:01	5:10
Angwin	5:02	5:09	5:16	5:24
Bakersfield	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:17
Calexico	4:50	4:55	5:02	5:08
Chico	4:56	5:03	5:11	5:19
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:46	4:52	4:59	5:06
Eureka	5:02	5:09	5:17	5:26
Four Corners [E]	5:13	5:20	5:27	5:34
Fresno	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:17
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:28	5:34	5:41	5:48
Half Dome	4:53	4:59	5:06	5:14
Hilo	5:55	6:00	6:04	6:09
Holbrook	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:43
Honolulu	6:03	6:08	6:12	6:17
Joshua Tree	4:49	4:55	5:02	5:09
Lake Tahoe	4:51	4:58	5:05	5:13
Las Vegas	4:40	4:46	4:53	5:00
Lodi-Stockton	4:59	5:05	5:13	5:20
Loma Linda	4:53	4:59	5:06	5:13
Los Angeles	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:17
McDermitt [N]	4:39	4:46	4:54	5:03
Moab	5:11	5:17	5:25	5:32
Monterey Bay	5:05	5:12	5:19	5:26
Monument Valley	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:40
Mt. Lassen	4:54	5:01	5:09	5:17
Mt. Whitney	4:50	4:56	5:03	5:11
Nogales [S]	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:53
Oakland	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:25
Paradise	4:55	5:02	5:10	5:18
Phoenix	5:34	5:40	5:46	5:53
Provo	5:14	5:21	5:29	5:37
Puuwai, Ni'ihau [W]	5:57	6:01	6:06	6:10
Reno	4:49	4:56	5:03	5:11
Riverside	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:13
Sacramento	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:20
Salt Lake City	5:14	5:21	5:28	5:37
San Diego	4:56	5:02	5:08	5:15
San Francisco	5:04	5:11	5:18	5:26
San Jose	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:24
Santa Rosa	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:25
Sunset Beach	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:17
Thousand Oaks	4:59	5:05	5:12	5:19
Tucson	5:32	5:38	5:44	5:51

[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



Busch, Marilyn M. – b. Nov. 21, 1941, Palo Alto, Calif.; d. Oct. 6, 2017, Sacramento, Calif. Survivor: husband, Ed.

Bush, Emmett – b. March 9, 1935, Vernon, Ala.; d. Sept. 27, 2017, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nellie; daughters, Debra Jordan, Sheri Darrough; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Cisneros, Antonio – b. May 5, 1965, Michoacan, Mexico; d. Aug. 18, 2017, Denair, Calif.

Cochran, Geraldine A. (Baumbach) – b. Dec. 5, 1923, Spokane, Wash.; d. Nov. 30, 2017, Concord, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Peggy Cochran-Voegele; sister, Genevieve Tonge-Keszler; three grandsons; one great-grandchild.

Fernando, Evelyn Mariano – b. March 4, 1969, Laua-an, Antique, Philippines; d. Nov. 15, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Ranjan; sons, Primo, Leo; daughter, Yzza; brother, Ervie.

Gregory, Ronald C. – b. Dec. 24, 1919, Hanford, Calif.; d. Nov. 18, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Kenneth; daughters, Donna Thorpe, Carolyn Scheller, Kathryn Farrar; nine grandchildren;

seven great-grandchildren.

Grove, Cheryl – b. June 23, 1948, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Oct. 26, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Gayle; son, Paul; brothers, Neil Cordis, David Cordis.

Henry, Lois Margarette (Stump) – b. Sept. 24, 1921, Phoenix, Ariz.; d. Oct. 29, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Weiland, Bryan, Richard, Douglas; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

Holm, Ruth Sanders – b. March 11, 1916, Unknown; d. March 12, 2017, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: husband, Vernon; sons, Don, John; sister, Mary Schander; eight grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

Ito, Miyori Jean – b. Nov. 26, 1924, Mountain View, Calif.; d. Sept. 3, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Randy; daughters, Michi, Lorna, Bonnie; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Lifelong bookkeeper for Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Jacobson, William A. – b. July 2, 1931, Hagerman, N.M.; d. Oct. 26, 2017, Apple Valley, Calif. Survivors: sons, Arthur, Bradford, Carlton; daughter, Dawn Venn; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Mathison, Wellington – b. Aug. 1, 1934, Wallingford, Ky.; d. Nov. 27, 2017, Carson City, Nev. Survivors: wife, Frances; son, Jeff; daughter, Brenda Foley.

Moon, Edward T. – b. Aug. 22, 1934, Corning, Calif.; d. July 2, 2017, Madera, Calif. Survivors: wife, Irene; daughters, Janet Ola, Jeanene MacLean, Laura Moon, Kathleen Koehlmoos; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Pryor, Helen Elaine – b. Nov. 4, 1930, Middlesex, Penn.; d. Oct. 29, 2017, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: son, Kris; daughter, Cherie Massey; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Rodeback, Dorothea May – b. May 17, 1944, Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia; d. July 10, 2017, Highland, Calif. Survivors: brothers, Clarence Sormin, Edwin Sormin; sisters, Alice Keyer, Beatrice Galloway, Florence Ban. Member of Loma Linda University church choir.

Simpson, Sharon M. (Santos) – b. April 5, 1943, Napa, Calif.; d. Nov. 23, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Todd, Kirk; daughter, Charlene; three grandchildren.

Stanley, Kathleen (Adams) – b. April 22, 1942, Oakland,

Calif.; d. March 12, 2017, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: husband, Robert; son, Robert; daughter, Nicole Leach; four grandchildren.

Stewart, Dorothy R. (Grant) – b. Feb. 9, 1920, Jefferson City, Mo.; d. Nov. 5, 2017, Napa, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Judy; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Vigil, Richard Theodore – b. July 10, 1930, Walsenburg, Colo.; d. Nov. 6, 2017, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Rhonda Becker, Pat Allaire, Sharon Wallington; 9 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

Weeks, Douglas Alan – b. 1952, Takoma Park, Md.; d. Oct. 16, 2017, Portland, Ore. Survivors: wife, Richelle Malott; daughters, Elizabeth, Katherine; brother, John; sisters, Carolyn, Donna. Served as a professor and pathologist at LLU School of Medicine.

Wheeler, Gordon A. – b. July 1, 1933, Deer Park, Calif.; d. Oct. 29, 2017, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: wife, Elle; son, Jonathan; daughter, Elisabeth; three grandchildren. Served as a radiologist at St. Helena Hospital for more than 30 years.



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