

Recorder



Living
God's Love

Divine
Certainties

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Living God's Love

By Ricardo Graham

If there were one word that could epitomize the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, I believe that word would be “love.”

Not the sentimental type that makes us nostalgic for the good old days, or the sensual type that is presented in popular media, but the genuine, altruistic, unselfish version that led Jesus to sacrifice Himself on Calvary: *agape*.

The God-honoring, people-focused version. This love is the hallmark of Christianity as found in John 13:35: If we love others, everyone will know that we are true disciples—followers—of Christ.

In fact, Jesus Himself tells us that all things written by the prophets and teachers before Him were based on godly *agape* love. The basis of true Christianity is love.

This principle is enshrined in Seventh-day Adventism, a genuine presentation of the Christian faith.

Though Adventists number over 20 million worldwide, have membership in North America of more than 1 million, and count about 235,000 in the Pacific Union territory (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah), our strength and identity are not in the numbers. And while we are perhaps the most culturally and ethnically diverse worshipping community in the United States, we do not claim that fact as our primary mark of identification or distinction.

In the ideal, we are people who love God and have accepted the call of Jesus to follow Him in a holistic lifestyle that reflects the values of God.

We do not proclaim perfection; rather, we endeavor to allow the perfecting love of God to permeate within our ranks.

Our faith is rooted in a clear understanding of the Bible, which we accept as the authoritative word of God.

As disciples of Christ, we have a desire to be His witnesses, telling others the good news that comprises the gospel—centered in the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary and how He conquered death by rising from the grave. We also seek to remind people of what Jesus is doing now in the heavenly sanctuary.

Being an Adventist Christian brings meaning to life. Paramount among this meaning is that we are expecting Jesus to keep His promise to come again.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are

many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1-3, KJV).

Jesus promises that He will return, literally and bodily, to receive His disciples into a place He has prepared for them. What a hope-inspiring, faith-building promise. Though the fulfillment of this promise is delayed in the thinking of some, we cling to it because God cannot lie. (See 1 Samuel 15:2; Titus 1:2.)

A Seventh-day Adventist has experienced the Sabbath rest of God. This weekly cessation of secular activities—which ushers in a peaceful, deep focus on God in both personal and corporate worship—commemorates the creative work of God as recorded in the Bible. The Sabbath offers a time of meditation, fellowship, and communion with the Lord of Creation and His disciples. This worship time is many things to many people, but primarily it is God’s day that He has asked His disciples to keep holy.

At its best, being an Adventist Christian makes life meaningful by connecting us to God and other people, particularly in service. That includes service to ourselves by caring for the bodies that God has given us.

Many Adventists are involved in outreach ministries, following the example of Jesus by performing acts of compassion, mercy, and kindness. Many Adventists experience the soul-liberating joy of giving to others through missionary work around the world and in the Pacific Union territory.

Adventists also give financially to areas of need around the world, going virtually through their generosity to support the work of those on the ground. That old saying is true: “You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”

Our love for Jesus causes us to respond with love for all humanity, because He died and has risen again to reach every single one of us. Adventists give because He gave and continues to give. This, among many other attributes, brings meaning to our lives.

Living God’s love by returning tokens of love to Him and loving other people in disinterested benevolence are among the reasons that we are disciples. Though we are imperfect, yet we strive to follow Jesus and experience the uplifting power of His love.



Divine Certainties in a Puzzling World

By Bradford C. Newton

Do you love puzzles? The beautiful picture on the box beckons to you with the promise of creating with 2,000 little pieces a replica of the original. Ahead of you are hours of satisfaction and frustration while slumped over the jumble of colors and shapes. Slowly you form the frame. Along the way isolated elements clump inside open spaces within that perimeter. And then the successful conclusion arrives when, with triumphant joy, you gently insert that final puzzle piece into the remaining open space. From the chaos of patterned cardboard fragments comes beauty.

Something amazing happens to your soul and spirit when you comprehend that we are more than random carbon molecules in a muddled universe. It's finding the puzzle piece you never knew was lost yet can't imagine living without again. There is joy, relief, curiosity for knowing more,

and a yearning to share what you've discovered with another person. At last, here is the frame into which you can assemble the puzzle pieces and find the beautiful picture of God's reality so soon to come.

As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian I am gratefully seeking to live this experience day by day. But on the road of my journey I've had conversations with believers, faith-strugglers, and the not-too-sure-anymore. I know it is easy to lose the meaningful worldview picture that God provides. At times we need reminders of the wonderful meaning that a faith-directed life can bring amidst the struggles and challenges of the daily grind. Although there are many particular affirmations of Biblical teachings that Seventh-day Adventists embrace, I find that the life puzzle fits together in a winsome and meaningful way when framed within the following five divine certainties.

Purpose and meaning to life is grounded in our choice to recognize the Bible as the Word of God. With so many competing voices for our attention and allegiance, there remains an authority for orienting our lives that millions across the ages have found as worthy of our confidence. Whether it's the poetry, prose, and stories of the Old Testament, the teachings of the Gospels and Epistles, the Ten Commandments, or the prophecies, the Bible is the guidebook for Seventh-day Adventists Christians.

Purpose and meaning to life is rooted in our embracing Jesus as both eternally God and forevermore a human being. He is our all-sufficient Savior from first to last. In this knowledge we gratefully accept His righteousness as our own through faith in His life and death for us. His example of love and service form the basis for all our individual and collective activities. The ultimate victory of Jesus in the



cosmic great controversy regarding the character of God provides hope amidst the troubles of our time. In the final analysis, we are Christians for whom Jesus Christ is the organizing power and principle of everything we are, say, and do. “For in Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28, NLT).

Purpose and meaning to life is a daily experience of knowing that God loves us and has a plan for every individual. Every care that burdens us touches the heart of our Heavenly Father. Each day-to-day trial and challenge, joy and success, are guided by the hand of God to ultimately bring us home to Him. Jeremiah 29:11-12 reminds us, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope’” (NLT).

Purpose and meaning to life come by knowing that God cares about the quality of life of every person. Seventh-day Adventists believe

that our Creator cares about every aspect of how we live. Not to catch us making mistakes! Rather, as our Great Designer He knows how we optimally function. The way we live, eat, speak, think, treat each other, and care for the world around us impacts our happiness both now and for eternity. Hence Paul writes, “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT).

Purpose and meaning to life come with the knowledge that the God of the Universe desires to spend personal time with us. It’s a humbling and joyous realization that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit desire an individually tailored relationship with us. From the first breath to that final moment of our lives, God is there and longs to be close to us. That’s why we pray, worship together, and spend time studying His Word—all in order to experience more of that

personal connection. The Psalmist exclaims with joy, “How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!” (Psalm 139:17, NLT).

Within the frame of these five divine certainties are many more pieces of the puzzle for discerning God’s direction and ultimate fulfillment of His plan for Earth. As we continue to explore the greater spectrum of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs found in Scripture, we will grow to cherish the joy and hope for living today as well as find an abiding confidence in God’s great future. Here is a comprehensive focus on God’s true character and His plan for each of us that millions have found compelling and life changing. I am one of those people. Together we look for that day when the fulfillment of the journey will come as the final puzzle piece falls into place. Jesus will come and we will see Him face to face.

The Horizon is Marked

By Ted Benson

The book of Job asks why bad things happen. And some really bad things have happened to Job.

Not only is Job despondent and bewildered by the staggering calamities that have befallen him, he is plagued by “friends” that offer smug explanations for his plight. They point out that he must have done something pretty awful for all these bad things to be happening. Eventually he gets around to defending his integrity, but first Job speaks eloquently about the might and majesty of God.

In the middle of this rather lengthy discourse about who God is and how powerful He is, Job declares: “He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters for a boundary between light and darkness” (Job 26:10, NIV).

What does it mean to mark out the horizon?

Many of us in the Pacific Union live near the ocean, and we have the opportunity to experience one of life’s most beautiful and satisfying experiences: we can watch the sun set over the ocean, fading into the horizon. I love looking out over the ocean, watching the waves crash onto the beach, seeing the light play on the water. But best of all is the sun setting in the west, sinking into the ocean.

From our perspective here on Earth, it really does seem as if the sun “goes down” as it disappears from view—even though it’s actually the Earth’s rotation that makes it look that way.

Job is not making a scientific statement in this verse; he’s talking about what he has seen. And among the things he’s seen, including the tragedies that have befallen him, is the steadfast, unflinching rising and setting of the sun—and a distant horizon that stretches like a boundary line between the day and the night, between light and darkness.

Job asserts that God Himself has fixed that boundary and it cannot be altered. There is light and there is darkness, and they are separated by a line that God has drawn. We can see this boundary every day, where the sun rises and sets, at the horizon where they come together.

Job knows that even if everything seems to be turned upside down, threatened, even destroyed, the horizon will still be there, unchanged and certain. And in that certainty is his hope.

The story of Job is difficult. It asks us to believe something that is almost impossible to believe: that someone will continue to trust in God in spite of the worst imaginable circumstances. How can he continue to believe?

In answer, Job points to the horizon—the one thing that has not changed for him or for anyone, anywhere, ever. Job knows there is “a boundary between light and darkness.” Darkness will come with the night, but light will return with the sun. And God has marked the boundary between them. Regardless of what happens to Job, the horizon will be there, never wavering. His hope is even more certain than his suffering.

Every day we face circumstances that test our faith and challenge our beliefs. Bad things happen, and we usually don’t know why. We see things that are difficult to understand—natural disasters, wars, violence, problems that seem unsolvable.

But we can also see the horizon. We can watch the sunset, feel the darkness close in around us, without fear—because we know the light will return in the morning. The darkness knows its boundaries. And we have faith that our Creator, who drew the boundary between darkness and light, watches over His children. He holds us in His hand and has forever fixed the horizon between light and darkness.



By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,—God’s thought made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, “I have declared unto them Thy name,” —“merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,” —“that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe. God’s wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which “angels desire to look,” and it will be their study throughout endless ages. Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that

God With Us Ellen G. White

the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which “seeketh not her own” has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto.

In the beginning, God was revealed in all the works of creation. It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field.... It was He that filled the

earth with beauty, and the air with song. And upon all things in earth, and air, and sky, He wrote the message of the Father’s love....

Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence.... No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life. There is no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass, but has its ministry. Every tree and shrub and leaf pours forth that element of life without which neither man nor animal could live; and man and animal, in turn, minister to the life of tree and shrub and leaf. The flowers breathe fragrance and unfold their beauty in blessing to the world. The sun sheds its light to gladden a thousand worlds. The ocean, itself the source of all our springs and fountains, receives the streams



from every land, but takes to give. The mists ascending from its bosom fall in showers to water the earth, that it may bring forth and bud....

But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give.... So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.
—*Desire of Ages*, pp. 19–21



Sabbath: Sunset or Sonrise?

BY JORGE SORIA

When the sun sets on Friday evening, what are you thinking about? All you haven't managed to get done during the week? Which Sabbath rules you need to keep? How Friday sunset always meant you had to stop doing what you wanted when you were a kid? Or maybe nothing at all?

Does the day seem to you to be more about restrictions than freedom?

How can you make the best use of the Sabbath hours?

True Rest

One word: Rest. Since the beginning, back at Creation, the emphasis has been on rest. Jesus rested in the tomb on Sabbath. The invitation is that there remains a Sabbath rest.

Not rest as in inactivity or sleeping, but rest as a time to put down the tools of life and think about what all this means: who we are, the world around us. Restorative rest.

It is a time to reflect on the *value* of Sabbath rest. Yes, it is a time when you cease work. That brings an obvious benefit, confirmed by multiple studies. But it is more than that. Sabbath rest is not idleness; it is an intensity of appreciation, an expression of thanks for the benefit the Sabbath brings.

The call is to *remember* the Sabbath day. Not in a sense of observing a requirement, but remembering all that Sabbath means and how it calls us back to a recognition of who we are and to the God we call Friend.

Positive, not Negative

So the Sabbath changes from a time of what we can't do to a time of what we *can* do! Jesus in His dramatic statement on the Sabbath said, "The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:28, NIV). What did He mean by that? At its fundamental level, it means that the Sabbath belongs to Him. It is His day, and He chooses to spend it with us. The Sabbath is an invitation from Jesus to meet with Him.

Immediately we see that the Sabbath is an active aspect in our lives and that it is positive, not negative. It's a time of reflection, of deepening personal commitment, and of looking for the well-being of others.

That's why Jesus took time on numerous occasions to rescue the Sabbath from the burdens that had been placed on it. He argued with the legalists who objected to His healing on the Sabbath—those people who in their narrow-mindedness would rather people went on suffering than experience God's glorious gift of healing. He pointed out that righteousness wasn't about keeping all the burdensome Sabbath regulations; rather, it meant entering into a love relationship with the Creator of the Sabbath. He pointed out the hypocrisy of pulling an ox out of a ditch on the Sabbath but refusing to pull a human being out of the ditch of sin.

Celebrate!

Most of all, Jesus wanted His hearers to celebrate with Him, the Lord of the Sabbath. Like Isaiah, He wanted them to call the Sabbath a delight. It was not to be a time of drudgery and gloom, but a bright day of happiness in the presence of our loving Lord.

And it is a time to be with family and friends and help all those around. It is home time in the presence of the God who made us and remakes us. It points us back to the God who was, to the present God with us, and to the future God who is to come.

Ultimately, the arrival of the Sabbath is not sunset, with the fading of the light, but the coming of the Lord of the Sabbath—Sonrise! For the Sabbath is also "like a lamp shining in a dark place until the Day dawns and the light of the morning star shines in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19, GNT).

That's where we confidently place our trust—in Jesus Christ the Son, the morning star who is our hope and our confidence. The Sabbath is a weekly reminder of all that, as we are bathed in heaven's light, reassured by our Savior, accepting God's gift of Himself to us.

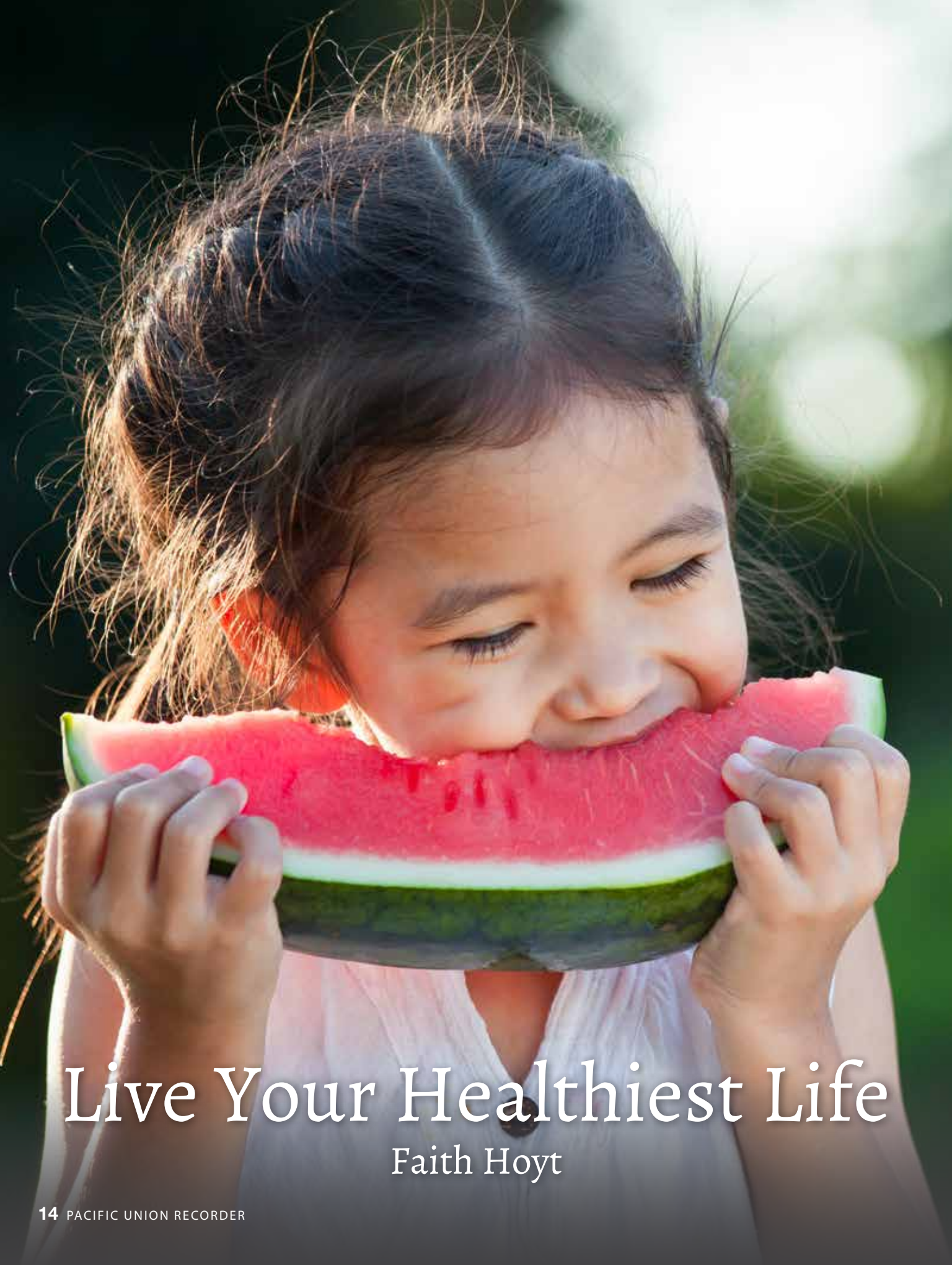
Each and every Sabbath we can look forward to God's presence with us now and for eternity. In the words of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, our vision is of

The sabbaths of Eternity,
One sabbath deep and wide—
A light upon the shining sea—
The Bridegroom with his bride!"

The Sabbath day means so much to me—it changed my life and impacted my decision to surrender completely to Jesus Christ. Long ago on a Friday evening, I told my mom that this would be the last Friday night and Saturday in which I would participate in the track and field finals for the state in Los Angeles. I felt the call from the God of the Sabbath. I did not accept the scholarships to play football at Stanford or USC. Jesus helped and blessed me as I made the decision to keep the Sabbath holy and to rest with Him in this day.

Sabbath is a special day for me, the essence of my religious life. Each seventh day is a sacred time that comes to me, and I feel that God is embracing me. This period of 24 hours is an antitype of eternity, because eternity is time. It is a special day to remember—not to work like the other six days, but to celebrate His creation and our salvation.

The state of my soul during the Sabbath day is to rest with my God, with my Jesus, my Lord. And so it is that every Friday, when the sun begins to disappear, I am reminded to stop running from the duties of the day and come to my knees before the Savior of the Sabbath.



Live Your Healthiest Life

Faith Hoyt

The phrase “Live your best life” is a reminder to live each day to the fullest.

Apply it to any area of life, such as your health, and the statement brings up a question. In what ways are you living your best life? Your healthiest life?

All of us have our own health challenges. Various factors, whether due to genetics or environment, mean that each one of us has a personal picture of what good health looks like. The great news is we can all live healthier lives.

The next seven paragraphs describe seven remarkably simple things that we can incorporate into each day to help us live our best lives. These simple steps can be summed up in one word: ANSWERS.

“A” for air.

Take a deep breath and feel your lungs expand with air. It feels good, right? Thankfully, we don’t need to consciously remember to breathe. However, we do need to be conscious of taking deep breaths to completely fill our lungs; we also must be mindful of air quality. When we take a deep breath of fresh air, our brain receives the benefit of this extra oxygen. (Did you know the brain needs more oxygen than muscles do?) When our bodies have plenty of oxygen, we are better able to burn the food we eat. Give your body and your brain the benefit of time outside in clean, fresh air.

“N” for nutrition.

Air is fuel for our bodies, and so is food. Like any type of fuel, the better the quality, the better we perform. Fresh foods that are natural and unprocessed are best. A plant-based diet not only provides the nutrients needed for healthy bodies, this diet also reduces the risk of certain diseases. Healthy foods, and good modera-

tion of them, improve the function of our whole being.

“S” for sunlight.

Our bodies, like so much of creation, were designed to need sunlight. The sun provides much more than daylight. When we spend time in the sun, it helps our bodies produce vitamin D, which in turn helps us absorb calcium for stronger bones. Sunshine also boosts our immune system. The body needs sunlight, and so do the spaces we live in. Of course, we must be careful, because too much sun can be dangerous. Nonetheless, it’s important to find time for sunshine.

“W” for water.

You can’t go more than a few days without it. Water is vital for healthy organ function, blood circulation, blood pressure, and so much more. Water can decrease risk of both heart attacks and headaches, improve digestive health, and help with weight loss. Remembering to drink enough water each day can be challenging. However, try pushing yourself over the course of a day to drink the water you need and you will notice the difference.

“E” for exercise.

Muscles need activity. They need to stretch and move. And sometimes muscles need to be pushed to the limits of what they are capable of to experience growth. The opposite of growth is decay, and unfortunately that is the result of inactivity. Do you need relief from stress? Exercise will help. What are some other benefits of regular exercise? Improvement to natural sleep, lower cholesterol, reduced depression, improved blood circulation, strengthened heart, and on and on. In short, it pays to be active.

“R” for rest.

Though we need exercise, we

also need time to recuperate. Resting allows the body and the brain to recover from activity. When we don’t rest our bodies, we burn out. When we do rest, we also improve our mood, lower blood pressure, and boost the immune system (among many other things). The idea of rest goes beyond eight hours of sleep every night. Seventh-day Adventists believe that God gave human beings the Sabbath, the seventh day on the calendar, as a day to experience a different kind of rest.

“S” for Spirit.

There is more to health than the physical aspects. We are spiritual beings who need connectivity to each other, and especially to God. We are designed to be happiest when we experience peace, trust, and gratitude. Our spiritual lives have a significant impact on how we live; it is important to grow in this area of our lives too. We grow spiritually when we better understand God, and one way we can do this is through reading the Bible. The Bible tells us that God created the universe to exist in perfect harmony and that sin introduced disease to the natural world as well as to the hearts of man. When we understand God’s plan of restoration for the world, this knowledge gives us hope. Connecting on a daily basis to a loving Heavenly Father, who gives us His strength in exchange for our stresses, gives us peace and joy.

As promised, these steps to your healthiest life are remarkably simple. Will you give ANSWERS a try?

These concepts summarize thoughts from Adventist author Ellen G. White, who wrote: “Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 127).



Creation Care in the Ruthless World of Environmental Carelessness

By Zdravko Plantak

I was struck by this remark of Ludwig Feuerbach: “Nature, the world, has no value, no interest for Christians. The Christian thinks only of himself and the salvation of his soul.”¹ How different from another quotation that I encountered recently in a course I had the privilege to teach regarding Creation Care and Sustainable Living:

“As one recent college graduate observed, ‘It seems that my generation is really looking for something to live for. Many devote their lives to drinking, romance, video games, or whatever the latest obsession is—only to be consistently disappointed at the end of the day. We claim that we have something worth living (even dying) for here: we believe in a God who created this world, loves it, and call us to take care of it; and the world today is in a mess.’ Might not creating a sustainable society be a worthy goal for a nation, as well as for individuals?”² As well as for the international global community? As well as for the church?

We have been entrusted to care for the earth, and here are some of the reasons why we should do so. Each one of these reasons could be separately unpacked in the course of several articles. It would do us some good if we started thinking about the concept of creation care and sustainable living—for many reasons that are biblical and that are calling for our attention in this relatively new century that is in a serious environmental crisis. So, why should we care?

Because God Cares

God not only created the earth and every inhabitant, He also sustains it with His love and power. God is sovereign over His creation, and that includes the earth and everything in it that belongs to Him. The opening verse of the Bible tells us, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This indicates that the heavens and the earth and everything that is in between—all things—came to be as result of God’s creative Word and energizing Spirit. Everything that exists has been formed by God. As the Gospel writer tells us, “through [Jesus]

all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:3, NIV). This includes both the regions of the cosmos (days 1–3) and their various inhabitants (days 4–6). “The Scriptures begin with effortless, joyous calling forth of creation by a sovereign Creator who enters into a relationship of intimacy with his creatures.”³ It was good, indeed very good, a judgment given by God the Creator that connotes beauty and peace.

It seems clear to a Bible student that, first, our care for creation is predicated on the reason that God created it, that God owns it and is sovereign over it. “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1, NIV). Furthermore, “the heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1) and, according to Psalm 148, the sun, moon, stars, water, mountains, hills, vegetation, animals, birds, and sea creatures all praise the Lord. God cares for creation (Job 38 and 39) and through Jesus sustains the entire creation day by day and moment by moment: “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word” (Hebrews 1:3, NIV). Without Jesus all would fall into chaos, “for in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16–17, NIV).

To such creation care by our God, the environment responds. It gives glory to God. It sings and delights in God’s love for it:

“You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.
You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.
The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;

the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing” (Psalm 65:9-13, NIV).

When we realize how much God cares for the earth and all its animate and inanimate inhabitants, we cannot purposefully destroy it or even hurt it. If we did, we would be directly hurting our Creator, who delights in the worship, shouts of praise, and joyful noise of the meadows and the grasslands. As Bouma-Prediger points out, “from the environmental perspective, by caring for the non-human created order we are also worshipping God by allowing it to give glory to God as he intended it to.... And of course, the converse is true: if we neglect, abuse, and despoil it we are not only damaging something that is precious to God but also preventing the created order from reflecting God’s glory fully.”⁴

Because We are a Part of the Earth

Secondly, we care because we are cognizant that we are really a part of that same creation, moreover the same ground. The substance that we humans were created from is the very soil that the earth is made of, and upon our death we return back to the same dust. The opening chapters of the Bible teach us about the commonalities human beings and the rest of the creation share. In Genesis 2:7 the same word is used to describe how animals, birds, and humans were “formed” from the dust of the earth. (See also 1 Corinthians 15:47.) Humans and animals were created on the very same day. Humanity also shares the same food given to the animals (Genesis 1:29-30), and the same breath of life is given to all the new creatures alike (Genesis 1:30; 2:7; 6:17; Psalm 104:29). The most extraordinary words in Psalm 104 describe how humans and animals have the same needs and how God provides abundantly for all creatures. “To care for creation is therefore to care for a system of which we are a part and upon which we utterly depend.”⁵

In a very fetching phrase, Larry Rasmussen plays on that theme by saying that “The ‘createds’ are all ‘relateds.’”⁶

Because, with God, We Care for our Neighbor

Thirdly, we care for our environment because, with God, we care for our neighbor.

Because Sabbath Teaching Compels Us to Care for the World

The idea of the land resting (“unploughed and unused”) on the seventh year focuses on concern for the poor, the slave, and the underdog. But it also goes beyond mere human rights to protect and preserve the environment, because God cares about the Earth to the point of destroying those who destroy the Earth (Revelation). If we truly observe the Sabbath, we cannot remain satisfied with only our own redemption, restoration, and liberation. We must show concern for our neighbor, spiritually and physically, and a true love towards the non-human created order. The Sabbath provides adequate opportunity for this.

Because of the Redemption and Eschatological Implications

Christians would do well to repent from the way they have thought at times about their responsibilities towards God’s creation and to pray this prayer of Walter Rauschenbusch:

O, God, we thank you for the universe, our great home; for its vastness and its riches, and for the manifoldness of the life which teems upon it and of which we are a part. We praise you for the arching sky and for the blessed winds, for the driving clouds, and the constellations on high. We praise you for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills, for the trees, and for the grass under our feet.

We thank you for our senses by which we can see the splendor of the morning and hear the jubilant songs of love, and smell the breath of springtime.... Grant us, we pray you, a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty, and save our souls from being so steeped in care or so darkened by passion that we pass heedless and unseeing when even the thorn-bush by the wayside is aflame with the glory of God.⁷

¹Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity* (New York: Harper & Row, 1957), p. 287.

²Nick Spencer, Robert White, and Virginia Vroblesky, *Christianity, Climate Change and Sustainable Living* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2009), p. 219.

³Richard Middleton and Brian Walsh, *Truth is Stranger Than It Used to Be* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995), p. 153.

⁴Steven Bouma-Prediger, *For the Beauty of the Earth: A Christian Vision for Creation Care* (Grand Rapids: MI, Baker Academic, 2001), p. 95.

⁵Spencer, White, and Vroblesky, p. 86.

⁶Larry Rasmussen, *Earth Community Earth Ethics* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1996), p. 262.

⁷Walter Rauschenbusch, cited in *The Communion of the Saints: Prayers of the Famous*, Horton Davis, editor (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1990).

Family Matters

By Dilys Brooks

The human race is made up of billions of people who all come from or belong to a family. I have often heard and agreed with the statement, “You can choose your friends, but you can’t choose your family.” That thought sums up the mixed emotions we have when we think about our families. Perhaps you have had moments filled with frustration, anger, or deep hurt because of family. At other times you no doubt have been filled with love, joy, peace, and contentment after spending time with them.

We do not get to cast a vote on our biological forebears. It all begins and ends with our Creator. Family is His idea. Scripture tells us that in the Garden of Eden humanity was created for community (Genesis 2:23-24). The entrance of sin into the world did not negate the divine decision; however, from then on family relationships would be impacted by joy and sorrow, service and selfishness, love and anger, hope and fear, loyalty and disloyalty.

Our Scriptures are replete with examples in both the Old and New Testament of familial relationships that reflect the fact that we don’t choose our families. Despite our first parents’ missteps, it is through the family that we see God’s desire for humanity manifested. Within the familial interactions, we learn how to love unconditionally and bear each other’s burdens. Our relatives help us learn to share, sacrifice, and put the needs of others before our own.

At this time in the earth’s history, humanity is incredibly connected due to the accessibility and availability of electronic devices and the internet. However, often because of these same devices, we are also more isolated and disconnected from those with whom we are “doing life,” whether they are our families of origin or the families we have created through our friendships.



We can learn through the Scriptures how to love and live with one another. There is comfort to be found in Ecclesiastes 1:9: “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun” (NIV).

Whether nuclear, extended, single-parent, reconstituted, or childless, the modern family is filled with a complex set of characters. Each individual connected to us through each of our multifaceted genealogies brings us back to our heavenly Creator. He made humanity and said it was very good. He demonstrated this belief through the incarnation of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, who belonged to a blended family in Galilee. Jesus came to show us the Father and reconnect humanity with Him through His sacrificial death. Jesus taught and modeled for us that we are to love God and each other.

Our families are not liabilities; they are blessings. Desmond Tutu, cleric and theologian, has been quoted as saying, “You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, as you are to them.” When we can see our family members—even the difficult, hurtful ones—as gifts from God, we may learn in time to express gratitude for each of them. This takes time, forgiveness, acceptance, understanding, patience, and unconditional love. While we may continue to be frustrated at times with our families, let us keep looking to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance on how to love one another.

Breaking the Cycle at Holbrook Indian School

Céleste Perrino-Walker

Jovannah Poor Bear was desperate to escape the life of poverty and abuse she knew on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation, one of the poorest reservations in the United States. She was part of the Crazy Horse Clan of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux), one of the seven sub-tribes of the Lakota people who make up the Great Sioux Nation along with the Dakota and Nakota. The level of poverty she experienced was unimaginable to most people.

Beginning at the age of 8, she endured sexual abuse for years. One of her step-dads molested her for two years, and Jovannah was afraid that her mother would be mad at her for not saying anything or for pretending to be asleep when it happened.

When an older cousin raped her, Jovannah tried to make

him stop. "You're hurting me!" she told him.

"I'm getting you ready to be an adult," the cousin said.

Being an adult hurts, Jovannah reasoned. In her mind, that hurt was just something you had to deal with. It was something that simply happened, and it would happen all through your life. People would hurt you. They would use your body for themselves for the rest of your life. That was the way things would be, and you just had to deal with it.

But at the age of 14 she heard about Holbrook Indian School (HIS), a boarding school for Native American youth, grades one through twelve. The goal of HIS, Jovannah learned, was to support students on the path of healing and restoration. Holbrook's goal was to heal these students and help them claim their identity, their

culture, and their faith.

She found a ride in the back of a pickup truck and made the long journey to Holbrook, Arizona. Holbrook quickly became her sanctuary. It was the first time in her life she could remember not being afraid to go to sleep at night.

While at Holbrook, Jovannah was inspired to go to college, but to do so she had to get good grades. She was getting As in all of her classes except Bible. Someone suggested that she join a Bible study group to help bring up her grade. But Jovannah had no interest in the Christian religion. In fact, she had been taught to hate it. For her, as for many Native Americans, Christianity was something to distrust. Most of the damage done to indigenous people throughout North America had been done in the name of Christianity.



“Holbrook became Jovannah’s sanctuary. It was the first time in her life she could remember not being afraid to go to sleep at night.”



She thought she could fake her way through, but as she learned about Jesus, her heart began to change. “I rejected Christianity for what I thought it stood for and accepted it for what I learned it truly stood for,” she said when she was baptized at HIS.

Jovannah went on to Union College to earn her degree in Education. While at Union she met and married Zak Adams. She knew she wanted to work with native communities and that HIS was the place she wanted to do it because it was a safe place. Together they

returned to Holbrook, where Jovannah became vice principal and Zak a teacher.

Through the use of programs such as the NEW (Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness) You Health Initiative, HIS seeks to minister to the whole person by teaching students how to improve every dimension of their lives.

Breaking the cycle, as Jovannah points out, isn’t a clean cut; it’s a process. She still struggles with the painful memories of her past but talks openly with the girls she ministers to in hopes of

encouraging them to receive the help and healing being offered at Holbrook. Every time she courageously shares her journey from darkness into light, she slices the fabric a little deeper, helping to separate what is from what should be and introducing her students not only to the light but also to the Light of the World.

This story is part of a collection from a book of modern mission stories under the title Blessed Are They, to be published by Pacific Press in 2019.



On September 18, 2010, I left my sunny SoCal home and began the 8-hour trek to Pacific Union College. On June 18, 2017, I walked across the stage as an official graduate. My time here has been a combination of both the best and the most challenging years of my life. As a brand new graduate of PUC, I will take this opportunity to offer some advice to you as a student, a prospective student, an interested reader, or the only person I'm sure will be reading this, my mom.

Be a "Yes" Man/Woman

PUC presented me with an abundance of opportunities to get involved with student life and develop my leadership skills. When I first came here, I didn't know how to get involved or if I even really wanted to. When professors and fellow students asked me if I wanted to help with different events or hold leadership positions, I would hesitantly say yes—and then I never looked back. Each opportunity pushed me to get out of my shell. Say "yes." Get involved. Whether you get a job in a department, become an officer for one of the many clubs on campus, or even run for an elected position in the Student Association or Senate, you will thank yourself later.

Break Bread with Friends

Pacific Union College is located in one of the culinary capitals of the world, which means there are plenty of great places besides the Dining Commons to ease your "hangry." You can build your own sandwich at Giugni's

Deli, sip a delicious milkshake from Gott's Roadside, or share a bomb.com margherita pizza from Tra Vigne. However, because most of us are on a college student budget, we also get to cook our own meals with friends once in a while. Sometimes this means slurping ramen while sitting on the floor in your room at 3 a.m., while your roommate is up playing video games. Sometimes you channel your inner Gordon Ramsay and potluck with friends on Sabbath afternoon. Some of the best memories I have at PUC involve mixing ingredients over a stove and around a table, sharing a meal with my friends.

Family is the Most Important Thing

If college is your first time away from home, you may experience one of two things. Option one: This may be the happiest time of your life, because you are now a full-fledged adult and realize you never needed your mom and dad anyway and they were only holding you back from your true potential as an independent, self-sufficient human being. Or option two (and this is the category I fell into): you may feel a little sad, maybe even a little alone. This is probably not due to the fact you are actually alone. It's more that you miss your parents and the people you left back home. Let me assure you, there is nothing wrong with this. Yes, you can still be an adult and be homesick.

Hands down, my favorite part of my PUC experience was what

I discovered when I felt most alone: The PUC family. This family took me from crying alone in my dorm room on my first birthday away from home to countless occasions of laughing until I cried. During my time here, the family has been through a lot of great times as well as a few very difficult times. We have laughed together, struggled through finals together, and mourned losses together. At PUC, I met people I can be real with, people I can cry with, people I love. So if you are nervous about leaving home, don't worry—you're coming to another one.

Trust God's Timing and His Plan

There are times in your academic career when you are going to be unsure. You are going to doubt yourself, you are going to stress, and you might even want to switch your major. That's okay. You will also probably experience some form of failure. That's okay, too. I have found that PUC gave me a good balance of success and disappointment, which I also thank God for. Though things didn't always go my way, though I didn't always get the grade I wanted,

and though I doubted myself and even doubted God, I am stronger because of it.

There you have it: My "two cents" about a world-class experience at Pacific Union College. If you are a current student, enjoy it while it lasts. The end comes faster than expected. If you are a potential student, get ready for a life-changing academic experience and to be part of a new family. If you are my mom and you're crying while reading this, I love you, and thanks to you and Dad for giving me the experience of a lifetime.

Juan Hidalgo graduated from Pacific Union College in 2018 with degrees in psychology, Spanish, and both a BSN and A.S. in nursing. As a student, he served as a student senator, SOL Club president, chief student ambassador, and was senior class president for the 2017-18 school year. Currently, he serves as a residence hall dean on the PUC campus.

For more information about PUC and to get your application started, visit puc.edu, or call 800-862-7080.

Make Yourself at Home at PUC

By Juan Hidalgo 3rd

If one thing terrifies us more than death, it is life when we have lost hope. Viktor Frankl, a distinguished psychiatrist who survived the Nazi concentration camps, remembers a fellow prisoner who told him about a strange dream. A voice in the dream said the war would be over on March 30, 1945. Frankl's friend was convinced that the voice would be right, but as the day drew near it seemed very unlikely. On March 29 his friend suddenly became ill; on the 30th he became delirious and lost consciousness. By the next day he was dead of typhus.¹

But the ultimate cause of his friend's death, Frankl believes, was disappointment, which lowered his body's resistance to typhus. Nothing is so unbearable as seeing our dreams reduced to nightmares. When hope leaves, so does the vitality of life.

Adventists belong to a community whose life centers on the blessed hope of the second coming (Titus 2:13). We Adventists have hope in us, in our bones, our hearts. When we are young we learn memory verses of hope: "Let not your heart be troubled," we say. Jesus is preparing a place for us; He will come again (John 14:1-3).

All of this has made Adventists a people of hope in the second coming. We are delivered from the raw hopelessness of the man in the concentration camp. Instead, our whole life focuses on expectation. How should this blessed hope influence our way of living and shape the church?

It should be noted that there is a wrong sort of hope, reflected by the Greek philosopher Plato, who made a sharp division between things eternal and things earthly. He saw the eternal realm as real and the worldly realm as a poor imitation. When this view becomes mixed with the Christian hope of the second coming, our earthly life is seen as of doubtful worth, a mere shadow of reality.

Given this view, our main business is to seek entrance to heaven by keeping the commandments, winning converts, and keeping aloof from the evil world. Heaven is the only place we can find the existence for which we were intended.

This kind of hope reminds me of one of my brothers, who returned from Army basic training

with stories of how drill sergeants had made life miserable. Not long after training began, a cynical response came into vogue in the barracks. When you were asked if your feet hurt or if you could tolerate the hollering another day, "It doesn't matter" became the stock answer. While a joke of sorts, it was more than that. Basic training was seen as a meaningless existence where one could not escape the drill sergeants, so nothing mattered except the hope that someday it would be over.

This concept has influenced to some degree the way we think: This world is Satan's kingdom; heaven is our true home. While the idea does have Biblical roots, it is easily distorted. If we are not careful, we fall into a mode of thinking that is more Greek than Biblical.

Another way of understanding the blessed hope may be found through the Creation story: "So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:27-28, KJV).

These verses teach that we are made in God's image, that in some important sense our nature reflects His nature. If God has made us in His own image, then to a lesser but still important degree, we too are responsible for what we will become. By our own decisions we have a hand in shaping our lives and destinies.

God is the Creator of the world. This says something important about us also: we have a creative responsibility to be involved in making things. God did not put all the finishing touches on His creation; He left some of that to us. His world is still developing, and we are to have a part in shaping it. For example, God might have named the animals Himself, but He left that to Adam (Genesis 2:19-20).

There are many other parts of creation that God has left to us. He might have built all the buildings and bridges, but He did not. He might have written all the poetry and composed all the music, but He did not. He might have devised all

The Creation Story Illuminates our Understanding of the Second Coming

By Charles Scriven

the systems of government and finance. But He did none of these things. He made us His co-creators.

I have always been influenced by the idea that my business was not so much to take *this* world seriously as to take the *next* one seriously. But when I look at my hope in the light of these insights from Genesis, I see the matter differently.

The former hope is a passive hope: The world is falling apart, things are getting worse, and I must await the second coming before anything will get better. But this passive hope cannot be harmonized with Genesis, whose message is that we are God's co-creators, that we must help God by making the world productive and beautiful. Being an Adventist means active participation in the world.

Such involvement does not mean that we have abandoned the blessed hope. We do not believe that human effort can rescue the world completely from its crushing problems and bring about the fulfillment of God's kingdom. But we believe that, as stewards of God's creation, we are to be faithful as we wait for Christ's return.

This concept can revolutionize our attitudes in many ways. It saves us from the boot-camp pessimism that my brother experienced. The enhancement of life becomes a real possibility. "From first to last...Christianity is...hope, forward looking and forward moving, and therefore also revolutionizing and transforming the present."² The Adventist hope, rightly interpreted, is hope

for today as well as for tomorrow, hope for the present world as well as for the world to come.

This hope also gives us a positive, healthy attitude toward our vocations. It is not just winning souls that pleases God (though this does please Him immensely); it is also creativity on the construction site, before a court of justice, in the artist's studio. Every job that makes our world better is a sacred calling.

The blessed hope, when interpreted in the light of the Creation story, revolutionizes our notion of the church and its mission. "The church's mission, then, is to participate in God's own mission."³ Genesis teaches that God's mission is creation—creation of a world in which people may enjoy an abundant life. Participation with God in the making of this world makes the family of the blessed hope faithful to its God. This alone gives credibility to our vision of a day when a single "pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation."⁴

¹Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1962), pp. 74, 75.

²Jurgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope* (New York: Harper & Row, 1967), p. 16.

³Gottfried Oosterwal, *Mission Possible* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1972), p. 69.

⁴Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1911), p. 678.

Charles Scriven was assistant professor in the theology department of Walla Walla College in College Place, Washington, when this article appeared in the May 31, 1984, *Adventist Review*.

Why I am a Seventh-day Adventist Teacher

By Warren S. Ashworth, Ph.D.

My perspective on human history with its play and counter-play of human events, the studied conclusions I have come to, everything I teach, everything I am and do, has been impacted by my heavenly perspective—my sense of being a pilgrim here, with a future that is literally out of this world.

Our otherworld perspective puts us out of sync with much in the world around us. It skews every aspect of our lives toward heaven.

We as Seventh-day Adventists hold it to be the bedrock of our belief system. If Jesus is not the living, returning, triumphant Lord, then there is no hope for us as sinners—and the anticipation of an eternity without pain or death, the prospect of being able to grasp the secrets of the universe and continue learning forever are only a cruel illusion, and we are the worst of deceivers to teach our students and church members to look forward to spending eternity with Him.

But the same Jesus who inspired the sobering yet reassuring words “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10, RSV) was declared by the angels at His ascension to be coming again in the same way the disciples saw Him go—literally and visibly. So by faith in the truth of His promise, we declare that “going home” is a reality about to be realized.

I have learned some lessons in my years of college teaching that are worth mentioning:



It's Wise to Be Humble

I have learned that it is wise to be humble because there are so many answers I don't have. While I try to foster in my students a longing for heaven, it is also true that "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard...the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9, NKJV). No one can fully describe it. And while I try to both foster honest inquiry and offer reasoned and plausible answers, I am continually conscious of the need for humility since I, too, am a seeker for truth. I remind my students often of Ellen White's assurance that "No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation.... We should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart" (*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 35).

The Blessing of Gratitude

I have also learned that it's an enormous blessing to maintain an attitude of gratitude. Every day, every situation has positives and negatives.

When I think of the next world, I am filled with joy. While the present situation is filled with cruelty and global chaos, the Bible assures me that God is still in control and will one day resolve the problems and take us home. So I try to encourage my students, by my example, to choose to dwell on the positive.

God's Biddings are Enabling

I've discovered that God's biddings are always enabling. He does not call us to follow Him then abandon us to make it on our own. He has promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). What an enormous source of encouragement and strength in a lonely and perplexing world! He is not only the Author, but also the Finisher of my faith (Hebrews 12:2, KJV). He will complete the good work He has begun in us.

The Gift of Prayer

I continue to discover the wonderful gift of prayer—prayers of

praise as well as of intercession. While some may say that prayer only changes the one praying, the great men and women of the Bible often prayed on behalf of others.

Hypocrisy Wounds the Heart of God

I've also come to realize that hypocrisy is the sin that most wounds the heart of God. My students have a right to see in me, in every time, place, and circumstance, a faithful reflection of Christ. To do otherwise is to run the certain risk of hearing the Lord say to me one day, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:23). I keep in mind Jesus' warning that if I am duplicitous—professing one thing but teaching or living another—I would be better off having a millstone tied around my neck and being thrown into the depths of the sea (Matthew 18:6). I ask God to keep my profession and my practice in harmony.

Don't Offend a Weaker Brother

I have also found that, for me, the



most compelling counsel for Christian living is Paul's admonition to do nothing that might offend a "weaker brother" (1 Corinthians 8:9-13). When I think of the uncertain, trusting, and less-prepared young people who each year come under my influence, it strengthens my commitment to be faithful because I want them to go home to heaven with me.

What a privilege and responsibility is that of born-again Seventh-day Adventist faculty members to let biblical principles and our other-world perspective inform everything we do—from the choice of books we require students to read, to the teaching of history in the framework of the great controversy being fought, to the teaching of science informed not only by the field evidence but also by the Word of God, to urging a lifestyle in harmony with biblical ideals.

However, knowledge without wisdom is a dangerous thing. It can lead to aberrant, even abhorrent behavior. Solomon declared that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). I like to think of wisdom as that God-given ability to rightly use knowledge. I often remind my students that the higher people go in their education, the more time they should spend in God's Word and maintaining a living relationship with Christ, or they will inevitably lose their spiritual equilibrium and be incapable of rightly applying their acquired knowledge.

"The first object of education," as defined by Ellen White, "is to direct our minds to His own revelation of

Knowledge without wisdom is a dangerous thing. It can lead to aberrant, even abhorrent behavior. I like to think of wisdom as that God-given ability to rightly use knowledge.

Himself" (*Education*, p. 16). And since God's greatest revelation of Himself is to be found in the Bible, she declares a few sentences later, "The Holy Scriptures are the perfect standard of truth, and as such should be given the highest place in education" (p. 17).

But therein lies an exquisitely delicate challenge. How are we to help our students to become "thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought" (*Education*, p. 17), while at the same time consciously seeking to develop in them a deepening faith in God and His revealed Word?

I doubt that any teacher in our schools has ever set out to undermine the faith of a student, yet I have known several young people who have lost their faith in both God and the church as a result of their perception of things taught in the classroom. Thus, as Ellen White admonishes us, we must foster in the students an investigation of truth "for themselves" because the alternative, she warns, is that "they will become superficial in their life and acquirements" (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 33).

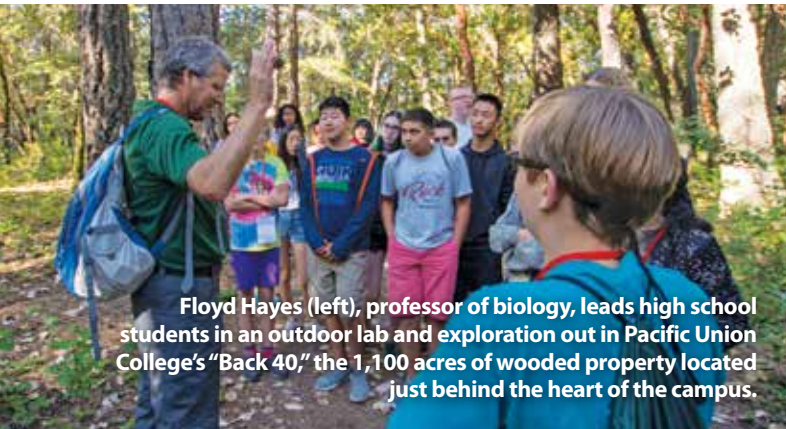
Adventist values and beliefs must be lifted off the written page and transplanted into the students'

hearts. That requires the most delicate surgery. A well-organized administration with a clear vision of what we ought to be about is vital to our educational enterprise. A well-trained and committed staff is critical as well. However, the role of the faculty is, it seems to me, the most indispensable in performing the actual "operation." God has entrusted to us as teachers the ongoing challenge of building religious conviction while we also open students' minds up to growth. Then those explorations will ultimately lead the students to be like the wise man of Christ's Sermon on the Mount who, when the rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, did not lose his house because it "had its foundation on the rock" (Matthew 7:24-25).

What I teach must parallel what I am. I must believe it heart and soul in order to effectively communicate it. To help lay a "foundation on the rock" that will successfully sustain the superstructure of intellectual inquiry, I must be a caring, loving teacher whose ministry is heartfelt and genuine, both in and out of the classroom.

We find truth not only in the fine points of our theology but in the quality of our relationships. Relationships, not only facts and reasons, are the key to reality.

This article originally appeared in *Journal of Adventist Education*, October/November 2003.



Floyd Hayes (left), professor of biology, leads high school students in an outdoor lab and exploration out in Pacific Union College's "Back 40," the 1,100 acres of wooded property located just behind the heart of the campus.

Pacific Union College Connects with Students of All Ages

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

Pacific Union College's commitment to education translates not only into high-level academics but also into identifying and creating ways to connect with students of all ages. PUC faculty believe it is an honor to mentor and guide young people who are changing the world. Here are just some of the opportunities PUC provides for pre-college students as they prepare for their futures.

Math & Science Workshop - This annual event for high school seniors bases its driving concept on Psalm 89:11: "The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it" (NIV). The one-day event introduces students to the basics of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and recommends ways for them to maximize their own math and science achievements in college. The students spend the majority of their day conducting laboratory experiments in biology, physics, engineering, math, and chemistry, guided by both PUC faculty members and college student teaching assistants. *More information:* awyrick@puc.edu, (707) 965-6635

Music Fest - High school students studying voice, piano, strings, and wind instruments participate in music festivals on the PUC campus. Instrument and voice festivals are held in alternating years. After practicing on their own at home for several weeks, the young musicians come together for three days of intense rehearsal. Their hard work culminates in a special concert in the community. Occasionally, guest artists are invited to instruct and conduct the students



Milbert Mariano, professor of graphic design, works with an academy student during PUC's 2018 Publication Workshop.

during the festival. *More information:* music@puc.edu, (707) 965-6201

Publication Workshop - During this multi-day event on the PUC campus, high school newspaper, yearbook, and video yearbook staff members choose several of nearly 50 different seminar classes offering targeted, in-depth training to hone their publication skills. Specialized tracks include design, photography, writing, video journalism, editing, and leadership. Students learn how to utilize industry standard software, such as Adobe Photoshop and Final Cut Pro, while receiving helpful tips and tricks from students and

professionals in each field. *More information:* publicationworkshop.puc.edu

PacificQuest - Gifted students in middle school get the opportunity to explore college-level courses, both in the lab and in PUC's forest. They also experience PUC life through a variety of events, including stargazing trips to PUC's Young Observatory; a talent show showcasing their skills in improv, poetry, comedy, and music; competitive quiz bowls; a pool party; and a service-learning experience where they make treats to distribute to people across campus. *More information (limited to 24 highest-qualifying students):* puc.edu/pacificquest, pacificquest@puc.edu

SPARK - SPARK (Science Presentations And Research for Kids) is a program that sends small groups of PUC students into schools to give age-appropriate demonstrations and explanations of various aspects of science. SPARK is supported and sponsored by the chairs of the PUC biology and chemistry departments, who help the students coordinate with local schools and oversee their demonstrations. *More information:* lykwon@puc.edu, jkung@puc.edu

Page All Nations church Pastor James Crosby supervises as kids pick green beans in the church's community garden.



Community Garden and Day Camp

Win Friends in the Navajo Nation

BY PHIL DRAPER

Members of the Page All Nations church, led by Pastor James Crosby, believe that getting to know people and helping to meet their needs are the best ways to introduce them to Jesus. This summer the church helped its neighbors by inviting them to its community garden and hosting a day camp for kids.

“The Page outreach is proving again that ‘Christ’s method alone’ brings true success,” said Dale Wolcott, assistant to the president for Native American ministries in the Arizona Conference.



Arizona Conference Assistant to the President for Native American ministries Dale Wolcott, with his wife Nancy, is thankful for the ministry that the Page All Nations church is doing.

The community garden has served as a helpful bridge to the neighborhood. “Our garden is bearing lots of vegetables and has been visited by various community members who come to pick veggies,” said Crosby. “The garden has continued to be a positive source of comments and questions from many people in the community.”

People of all ages enjoyed the garden this summer, including the kids who attended the eight-week day camp. From June 4 through July 26, the program attracted up to 11 children daily. In addition to receiving help with math and reading, the kids went hiking and swimming. They also participated in community service at the local food bank and soup kitchen. One day they baked

making a difference. “After this summer we are convinced more than ever that the children are the future of the work here,” said Crosby. “Some of the children started attending Sabbath school. During day camp and at its conclusion, we had requests for a church school!”

Friendship evangelism takes time, but it makes the gospel relevant and relatable. “We are grateful for the

Children attending day camp at the Page All Nations church prepare cards for police officers and firefighters.

“THE GARDEN HAS CONTINUED TO BE A POSITIVE SOURCE OF COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM MANY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.”

cookies, made cards, and delivered them to local police officers and firefighters.

The church’s outreach to community kids is

Thirteenth Sabbath offering, which enabled us to plant a church in Page, Arizona, on the western edge of the Navajo Indian Reservation,” said Wolcott. “The Crosby family has manifested a true missionary spirit in their commitment to long-term, cross-cultural ministry with the Navajo people.”



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Growth Spurt Yields Discipleship, Outreach, and Unity

BY CINDY R. CHAMBERLIN WITH CONTRIBUTORS

On Friday and Sabbath, Aug. 24 and 25, Central California Conference (CCC) church members from throughout the Bay Area gathered at the San Jose Central church for Growth Spurt, a discipleship training and united outreach initiative, which brought members together for a spiritual smorgasbord.

The event represented volunteers and ministries from over a dozen area churches working together toward common goals. More than 60 people attended on Friday night, followed by 150 on Sabbath afternoon. "It was a blessing to see how people enjoyed the various churches coming together to share God's love in the world!" said Sandi Colón, initiative coordinator and Sunnyvale church discipleship pastor.

Colón recruited leadership from the surrounding



area, including Dennis Tello, Cambrian Park and Los Gatos churches pastor; Eddy Perez, CCC evangelist; Edwin Mendoza, San Jose Central and Santa Clara Hispanic churches pastor; Ivor Meyers, Campbell church pastor; Hyun Bang, leader of Friday Night Live (a young adult vespers ministry); and Janet Abbey, leader of Fight the Hate (a youth and young adult ministry and advocacy group). These leaders offered a menu of breakout sessions, worship, and open-mic testimonies.

The breakout session focusing on outreach was a partnership with Kids Against Hunger, a humanitarian group that arranges food-packing events. Approximately 90 people packed over 15,000 meals that will be used to fight hunger. Participants moved through an assembly line, adding ingredients to make packs of food containing rice, protein, and vegetables. These meals will be given out by local churches in community outreach, as well as sent for disaster relief in Hawaii.

Fight the Hate mobilized a task force of volunteers from more than 16 churches to host the food-packing room. "Fight the Hate, which serves as the outreach arm of Growth Spurt, is excited to partner in this discipleship ministry to help provide more opportunities for young people across the Bay Area to experience Christianity in a relevant and meaningful way, as they serve together as the hands and feet of Jesus," said Abbey.

A task force of volunteers from more than 16 churches prepared 15,000 meals to fight hunger among children.



Volunteers box up some of the 15,000 meals that were packed during a Growth Spurt breakout session in partnership with Kids Against Hunger

The Sunnyvale church sponsored the outreach, fronting the food costs. Donations were collected throughout the weekend, allowing all attendees to support the service project.

"There's something irresistible when young and old come together to grow and serve. That's Growth Spurt," said Perez. "The eagerness of our youth desiring to be meaningfully involved and the intentional approach to mobilizing and equipping the church for service has the potential of radically revolutionizing our church experience."

"I really enjoyed being a part of Kids Against Hunger," said Aimee Penaloza, a young adult from the Mountain View Central church. "It's exciting to be a part of something that will have such a huge impact here in America and in other parts of the world."

"It was a really awesome way to spend the Sabbath," echoed Mari Avila, a young adult from the San Jose Spanish church.

This is the second time Growth Spurt has hosted such a spiritual feast, and it's an effort the area pastors plan on coordinating three times a year. "The driving force behind Growth Spurt is a passion to be one, as Christ prayed in John 17, and to fulfill our calling to be and make disciples in the world," said Colón.

Honolulu Japanese Church Receives *Blue Zones Approved Status*

BY JACQUELINE CHAN MEE-LEE

Honolulu Japanese church members have discovered the best way to adopt a healthy lifestyle: make the healthy choice the easy choice! In mid-June, after six months of effort, the church was awarded a Blue Zones Approved Status certificate.

Many people know about Dan Buettner's book, *The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer From the People Who've Lived the Longest*. Buettner studied the populations in the world where the largest number of centenarians are thriving: Ikaria, Greece; Okinawa, Japan; Ogliastra Region, Sardinia; Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica; and Loma Linda, California. Buettner wanted to share what he discovered about healthy living—not just with individuals but also with those who shape environments, policies, and social networks.

Thus the Blue Zones Project was launched in communities throughout the United States. The project works with organizations to create environments that make it easier for people to choose a healthy lifestyle. For instance, city planners design streets that are safe and convenient for pedestrians and cyclists. Supermarkets display fruit and healthy products in the checkout lanes. Schools develop gardens where students can grow their own produce for school lunches.

Worksites make it easier for

employees to take part in health-related activities by providing secure bicycle storage, showers, and changing facilities. Restaurants provide more plant-based and healthy menu items. Faith-based groups organize activities that promote relationships, as well as including more plant-based foods at potlucks and fundraisers.

The Blue Zones Project recognizes the importance of a supportive environment, of belonging, and of having purpose in life, and encourages all organizations to

Honolulu Japanese Church Walking Moai Group pause for a photo.





(Top Left) Molly Mamaril, Blue Zone Engagement lead for the community, presents a Purpose Workshop. (Top Right) Dr. Andy Iizuka leads the Japanese Church Walking Moai at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden Lake. (Right) The group used posters to invite members to join the 10-week walking moai group, with their shirts coming from the Blue Zone Project.



promote activities that encourage these traits.

The Hawaii Medical Service Association brought the Blue Zones Project to Hawaii and provided personnel and some funding to assist local leaders to get Blue Zones practices successfully launched. One of the Oahu areas that successfully bid for Blue Zones status was the joint Manoa, Makiki, McCully, Moiliili (4Ms) community. It was natural that an Adventist church in this area—the Honolulu Japanese church—would be invited to join the project.

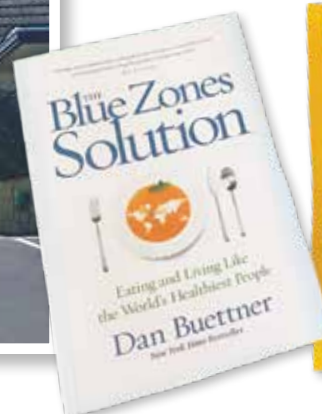
The church worked with Blue

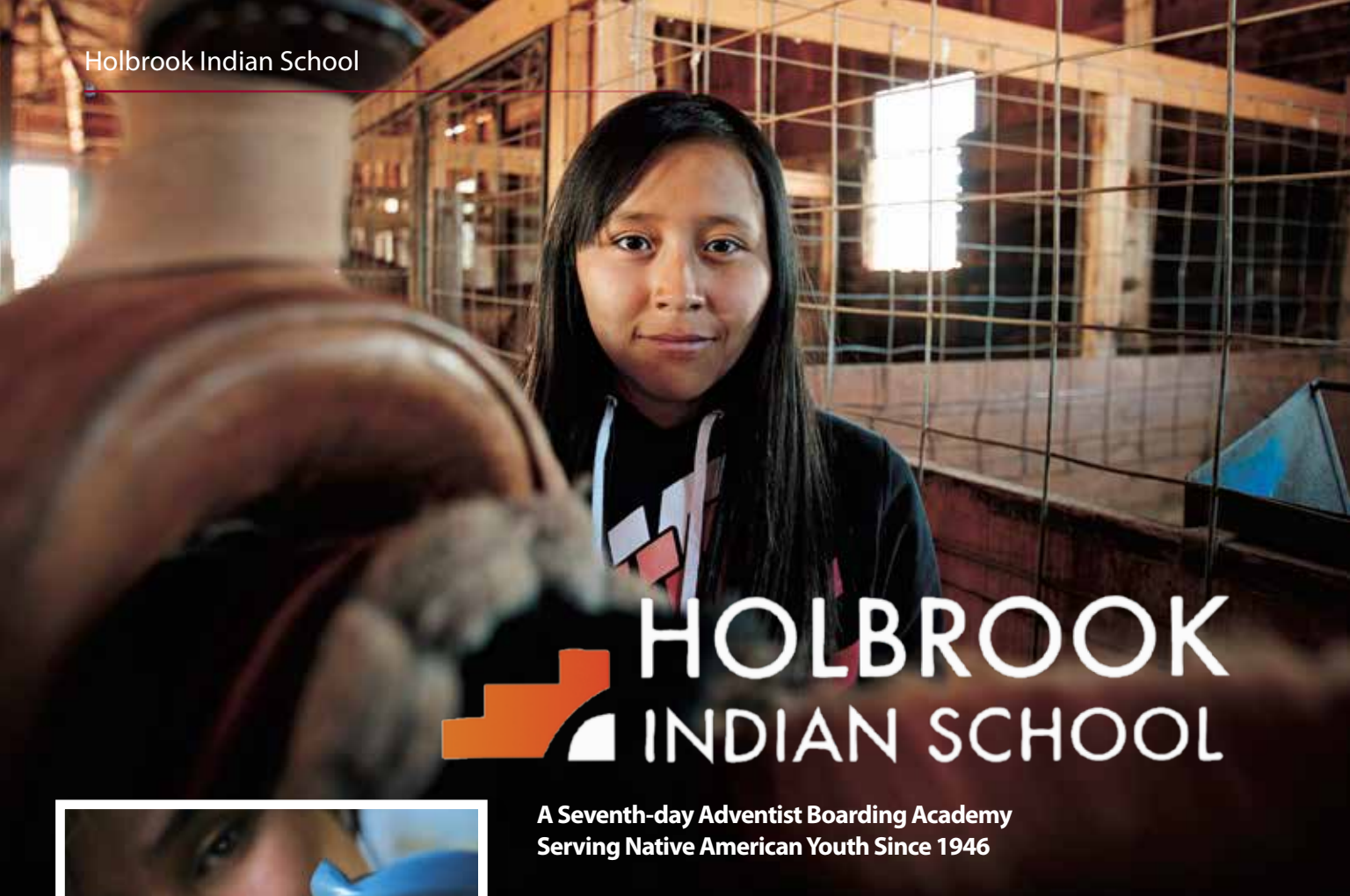
Zones representative Molly Mamaril to fulfill the requirements for the certificate. One condition was that at least 30 per cent of church members must sign a pledge to do activities that would increase the likelihood of healthier choices, such as adopting a dog or leaving comfortable shoes by the front door as a reminder to exercise. Other conditions included attending a plant-based cooking class, completing a Power of Purpose Workshop, and actively participating in their church. Church members viewed

a Blue Zones presentation explaining the rationale behind the suggestions.

The congregation's affiliation with the Blue Zones Project has already opened doors for members of the community to attend the church's cooking schools, visit during the worship service, and join in the church's community outreach programs.

(Left) The sign outside the Honolulu Japanese church congratulates the members on being an approved Blue Zones Project. (Below) The Blue Zones Project offers health-oriented lectures and materials.





HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

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



Holbrook Indian School Connects Students with Their Creator

BY DIANA FISH

Holbrook Indian School (HIS) changes lives! On the reservation, Native Americans live in a nation within a nation. There is a constant dissonance between the identities and value systems of the two nations. In the Native American world:

- studies report that one in three women has been raped or has suffered sexual abuse. (Most cases go unreported.)
- almost half the population never graduates from high school.
- only eight out of 100 have college degrees.

• more than 50 percent live at or below the poverty line.

• 40 percent of those who die by suicide are between the ages of 15 and 24.

• young adults, ages 18 to 24, have higher rates of suicide than the general population.

It is no wonder that children and youth come to HIS with unimaginable challenges. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, and trust and abandonment issues seem to be the norm. At home, some students don't have electricity or running water. Learning and

functioning in an academic setting with these kinds of challenges presents a unique challenge of its own.

Through the NEW (Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness) You Health Initiative, HIS seeks to minister to the whole person by teaching students how to improve every dimension of their lives through four pillars called MAPS. This acronym stands for mental health, academic achievement, physical health, and spiritual growth—each a fundamental component of a student's environment and education with specific, practical applications.



The NEW You Health Initiative empowers HIS children and youth to establish healthy habits for a lifetime.

Mental Health

Onsite Christian clinical counseling and trauma therapy help treat PTSD and other crises found among HIS students due to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; alcohol and drug addiction; domestic violence; and abandonment. Licensed clinical counselors host boys' and girls' groups where students are taught specific life skills and practical ways to apply Scripture to daily life. Group therapy for grief and loss is available to help students process the many deaths they experience. In addition, faculty and staff members mentor individual students who request to have a mentor or those that the counselors determine need a little extra attention.

Academic Achievement

In addition to an accredited education, HIS provides students

with innovative learning experiences such as horsemanship and outdoor school, where students spend a full week learning at national and state parks.

Through the Transition program, students receive assistance in the college and scholarship application processes. The program is designed to ensure success following graduation. Students have the option of staying at the school and attending community college, while working part time, or attending a college or university of their choice. HIS is proud to have Gates Millennium Scholars among its alumni.

Above all, HIS teachers foster a desire to learn and grow by inspiring students to dream big about their futures.

Physical Health

In addition to regular physical education classes, students engage in activities ranging from team sports to hiking, biking, swimming, and playing games like dodgeball, frisbee golf, and capture the flag. On weekends, the kids go camping, trail hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Twice a year, the school schedules special recreation days, so students can go bowling, ice skating, or skiing.


These activities help students understand the benefits of being

physically active. Besides having fun, the young people are improving their health and developing understanding and respect for others.

HIS provides health education through family life and consumer science classes. In the Garden-to-Plate program, students grow gardens and harvest produce during classes and through the student work program on HIS farm. The food they grow and harvest is then served to them at meals in the cafeteria.

Spiritual Growth

Faculty and staff want the kids to understand the good news of God's love for them. During Bible classes, group and individual Bible studies, worship services, religious programs, activities in nature, and opportunities for community service, they learn more about Jesus and how to be His disciples. They also receive spiritual guidance through chaplaincy and faculty families.

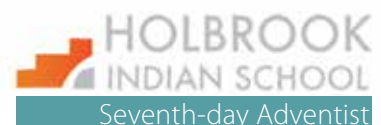
At Holbrook Indian School, it's all about connecting students with the Creator! 

HIS is accredited by the National Council for Private Schools, North American Division Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Inc. To learn more about HIS, visit HolbrookIndianSchool.org.



Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is a first-through twelfth-grade boarding academy operated by the Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. HIS also manages a first-through eighth-grade day school on the Navajo reservation in Chinle, Arizona. 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.



DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Love All, Serve All; Help Ever, Hurt Never

BY CYNTHIA SCHEIDEMAN-MILLER



The town of Clearlake lies nestled between Clear Lake and the Franciscan Assemblage hills in Northern California. The area has a high percentage of people that are low income; 10 percent have diabetes.¹ According to a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, another 26 percent have prediabetes, which means many of them will develop diabetes in the next five years.² There are endocrinology services in Clearlake, but the need is bigger than the local services can absorb. It is not surprising that there was a waiting list of 40 people in Clearlake needing the services of a diabetes specialist.

Nilem Patel, MD, an endocrinologist based at Adventist Health White Memorial, agreed to start seeing patients as part of the Adventist Health Virtual Care Network. This network uses interactive video conferencing to link providers like Patel to rural communities that need their specialty services. With virtual visits, the patient goes to a local clinic to see a far-away physician.

Patel quickly realized that many of the patients she saw via Virtual Care had to skip meals or

were unable to afford the healthy foods they needed to help control their diabetes. Patel used an online service to donate non-perishable food for the clinic to give to her high-need patients. The idea caught on, and other clinic staff donated both perishable and non-perishable food items, as well as plastic bags for the people to carry food home on the days of their virtual visits.

Generosity has long been part of the Adventist Health Clear Lake culture. “We have had an associate-funded food voucher system for years, and we make sure patients know the location of the food banks in Lake County,” said Yvette Jenkins, program manager of the Adventist Health Clear Lake LiveWell Clinic. “This is the first time that we have had food to send home with patients so they have food for that day.”

What do the patients think about all this? “The patients and the staff here love Dr. Patel,” said Jenkins. “They know she is not just going through the motions, and she takes a lot of time to explain things during their visits. The food pantry is above and beyond the visits. It really shows how much she cares about her patients.”

Even though she is physically far away, Patel improves the lives of people she serves in Lake County. The motto on her email signature exemplifies her attitude of caring:
*Love All, Serve All
Help Ever, Hurt Never.*



¹<http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/atlas/countyrank/atlas.html> (accessed July 19, 2018).

²<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/majority-california-adults-have-prediabetes-or-diabetes> (accessed July 19, 2018).

New La Sierra Transfer Agreements Speed Students toward Careers

BY DARLA MARTIN TUCKER

La Sierra University has taken significant steps to help students transition into higher degree programs.

Rochelle Berardini's situation was chaotic last school year. The La Sierra University pre-nursing student needed to take extra classes to qualify for financial aid and could only hope that some units would be accepted by the nursing school she wanted to attend.

Her anxieties morphed into relief when she discovered that—due to a new preferred admissions agreement established between La Sierra University and the Loma Linda University School of Nursing—she had met most of the requirements for March enrollment into the nursing bachelor's degree program.

"Immediately my LLU application process was sped up," said the Riverside resident. "Not only was my application process much quicker, but the required classes for the preferred admissions process were cheaper to take at La Sierra University than LLU and beneficial throughout my first quarter at LLU. The preferred admissions process came at the perfect time."

The preferred admissions agreement that benefitted Berardini took effect in 2017 following La Sierra's development of a curriculum for its pre-nursing students that meets prerequisite and transfer requirements for the LLU School of Nursing's bachelor's program. It was a precursor to several other similar agreements the university entered into this year that are designed to smooth transition into higher degree programs for different groups of students.

This summer, La Sierra University also addressed the needs of community college students in California who are aiming for a bachelor's degree. On July 25, the university announced its participation in a memorandum of understanding between the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities—an umbrella organization—and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to implement the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) program. The arrangement smooths community college students' entrance into four-year degree programs as juniors without the need to repeat lower division classes.

Under the agreement, La Sierra will guarantee admission for students who graduate from a California community college with an Associate in Arts for Transfer or an Associate in Science for Transfer and who meet La Sierra application criteria into the university's ADT pathways.

La Sierra is accepting 19 different

ADT programs into 44 bachelor's degree programs. For example, a student with an Associate in Science for Transfer in kinesiology can seamlessly move into La Sierra's Bachelor of Science degree program in exercise science.

For fall ADT program enrollees who engage in full-time study and meet all class and grade point average requirements, graduation from La Sierra University is guaranteed in two years. Due to class scheduling, ADT transfer students who start at other times during the school year may need to take classes beyond the two-year time frame.

"We have long wanted to develop clear pathways between students who complete university preparation coursework at community colleges and La Sierra University," said La Sierra University Provost Joy Fehr. "Through the Associate Degree for Transfer initiative, we look forward to joining our local and state-wide higher education partners in strengthening educational opportunities for students and in making a positive difference in students' lives, their families' lives, and their communities."

For further information on La Sierra's ADT transfer program, visit admissions.lasierra.edu/transfer. To learn more about La Sierra University's pre-nursing program with Loma Linda University, visit lasierra.edu/nursing.



Rochelle Berardini enjoys studying in the Loma Linda University School of Nursing after seamlessly transferring from the La Sierra University pre-nursing program through a preferred admissions agreement.

U.S. News & World Report Names Loma Linda University Medical Center Among Best in the Riverside and San Bernardino Metro Area

Medical Center also recognized as “high performing” in seven other areas.

BY SHEANN BRANDON

Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) has been recognized as a Best Hospital for 2018-19 by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Ranked as the number one hospital in the Riverside and San Bernardino metro area, LLUMC was also nationally ranked in gynecology and recognized as “high performing” in seven other areas.

The annual rankings, released in August, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or common elective procedures.

“The *U.S. News* recognition is a testament to our entire team, who every day live out our mission of extending the teaching and healing

ministry of Jesus Christ through providing the highest quality care to our patients,” said Kerry Heinrich, CEO of LLUMC. “More importantly, I believe the communities we serve will feel incredible pride in these honors as well. Families across the Inland Empire and from around the world have trusted Loma Linda University Medical Center to be ready when their need is the greatest.”

Four of LLUMC’s specialties were recognized as high performing: gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, and urology.

Three common procedures and conditions treated were also ranked high performing: abdominal aortic

aneurysm repair, congestive heart failure, and colon cancer surgery.

For the 2018-19 rankings, *U.S. News* evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 25 specialties, procedures, and conditions. A total of 158 hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty. In rankings by state and metro area, *U.S. News* recognized hospitals as high performing across multiple areas of care.

In most areas of care, the *U.S. News* Best Hospitals methodologies are based largely or entirely on objective measures, such as risk-adjusted survival and readmission rates, volume, patient experience, patient safety, and quality of nursing, among other care-related indicators.





School of Medicine Student Selected for NIH Medical Research Scholars Program

Jonathan Sackett is the first student from Loma Linda University to participate.

BY GENESIS GONZALEZ

Jonathan Sackett, a fourth-year medical student at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, was selected out of 115 applicants to participate in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Medical Research Scholars Program for the 2018-2019 academic year. Sackett is the first student at Loma Linda University to participate in the prestigious program held at NIH's intramural campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

The year-long research program is open to medical, dental, and veterinary students across the country interested in basic, clinical, and translational research. This year the program accepted 37 students, including 34 medical, two dental, and one veterinary student. Each student is closely mentored by an NIH investigator who will provide guidance on the student's specific research project.

"I knew I wanted to be a part of this program prior to going to medical school," Sackett said. He previously worked at the NIH in its

neurology department, where his passion for research grew.

Sackett will focus his research on prostate cancer, specifically looking at how MRI imagining can help identify the cancer prior to a biopsy. "The goal is to increase the detection rate of prostate cancer and discern which cancers are more aggressive," he said. According to Sackett, biopsies can occasionally miss cancer on their own, but with MRI guidance they do much better.

Marcelo Vazquez, MD, PhD, associate professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, has worked closely with Sackett through his educational journey and was not surprised to learn of his accomplishment. "It is extremely rare to have the opportunity to meet and enjoy the presence of a student with an unmatched intellectual brilliance, insatiable curiosity, artistic skills, passion for science, and drive for success," Vazquez said. "His participation in this prestigious program will allow him to continue

to expand his scientific knowledge and horizons, but also it will enrich the program with his participation."

As a child, Sackett enjoyed science and always imagined himself as a scientist one day. When he learned he was accepted into the NIH program, it was a dream come true. "I want to have a positive impact on people and on science," he said. Sackett said he knows this opportunity will give him the guidance and mentorship to find the right fit in his healthcare career.

Sackett is originally from Kettering, Ohio. His father, who graduated with a master's degree from Loma Linda University, works as a healthcare administrator, and his mother works as a nurse.

He will return to Loma Linda University in fall 2019 to complete his fourth year. Sackett said he is currently hoping to pursue a career in radiation oncology. "No matter where I end up, I will carry love for patient care and passion for research," he said.

Church in Silver Springs, Nevada, Opens God's Closet Ministry

BY FAITH HOYT



Community members select items during the God's Closet clothing giveaway at the Silver Springs church. For a one-dollar registration fee, which helps to cover the church's expenses for the day, families can fill several grocery bags with children's clothes.

(From left to right) Cyndie Reynolds, Toni Lindeman, and Jan Hensley, members of the Silver Springs church, stand for a quick picture before welcoming community members to the church's first God's Closet event.



A church in Northern Nevada launched a project this summer that is impacting families throughout its community. Looking to meet a need in the lives of those around them, the Silver Springs church opened its own chapter of God's Closet to provide free children's clothing to families. Since opening in July, they've provided clothes to over 110 families and have plans to give to many more.

God's Closet, a ministry of Adventist Community Services, operates in 42 churches across the North American Division. Silver Springs is currently the only church operating a God's Closet in the Nevada-Utah Conference.

"This ministry is important because people can see that we are meeting their needs," said Jerry Waggoner, director of Adventist Community Services for the NUC. "I am really happy to see this ministry get started in our conference." Waggoner and his wife, Debra, who serves as the

associate ACS director, oversee the operation of the Reno Center of Influence and plan to support churches who open God's Closet chapters in the NUC with donations from the center.

The congregation first made the decision to open a God's Closet over a year ago, at which time they began organizing their chapter and collecting clothing donations. With the help of both church and community members, as well as a consignment store in Reno, members bought and collected enough clothing to host their first giveaway in July. The church estimates that around 1,000 community members walked through their fellowship hall during their grand opening clothing giveaway.

"It's amazing to me because we are such a little church, and yet we were able to reach out to this many people in our community," said Andy Barbour, church member and God's Closet volunteer.

The church, comprised of 36 members, rallied together to make the event happen. "I've been really blessed by how the whole church came together for this," said Cyndie Reynolds, church member and director for the Silver Springs chapter of God's Closet. "When I saw the people coming and receiving the clothes, it was a wonderful feeling. I felt we were reaching people and doing God's work."

According to Merryll Moore, the founder of God's Closet, this ministry makes a true impact when both community and church members work together to support it. "Even more so than impacting a community, this kind of ministry impacts the church," she said. "It brings members together as a team to be the hands and feet of Christ."

Seeing what can be accomplished as a community of believers, the Silver Springs congregation looks forward to seeing how they can continue to serve those around them.



Over forty members of the Mountain View church line up to carry flags representing over 50 countries during a Parade of Nations designed to celebrate cultural diversity.

Las Vegas Church Hosts Parade of Nations

BY FAITH HOYT

On a bright Sabbath morning this summer, members of the Mountain View church in Las Vegas gathered at the Las Vegas Junior Academy gymnasium to participate in the congregation's Parade of Nations. Forming a line, the church members carried flags representing over 50 countries to the sidewalk in front of their church to celebrate cultural diversity with those who drove by. For both the community and church members alike, the parade was a reminder that differences give people much to celebrate.

"It was such a wonderful thing to see the flags of the world flying with their vibrant colors," said BJ Boles, senior pastor. "I was excited to see how excited the community was. Cars were honking their horns in support, and people were smiling ear to ear as they passed the church and saw all the flags flying."

Many church members wore the traditional clothing of their nation of origin. Included in the

represented countries were American Samoa, British Guyana, China, Colombia, Haiti, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sudan, and Tanzania.

"It was a fantastic experience that reminded me of my first year at Mountain View when I was 13 years old," said church member Matthew Thomas. "The Trailblazers Pathfinder club, in their full dress uniforms, entered the sanctuary with flags held high."

The parade concluded in the church, where members placed their flags at the front of the sanctuary. Praise music followed, which included a number of spirited songs.

"I am super excited to belong to a church that accepts all world



The praise team members (and the country each represents) include Dacyl Galicia-Silveira, Mexico; Jummy Abiodun, Nigeria; Rebecca Palitang, Philippines; Rose Sarfo, Ghana; Elmo LaPorte, Puerto Rico; Jennifer Abordo, Philippines; Kocharyan Sarah, Armenia; and Muhayimana Clement, Rwanda.



Westin Boles and his mother Julia, in full dress Pathfinder uniform, lead the Parade of Nations.

flags," said Rudy Fernandez, church member. "[This is] visionary and all-racially inclusive pastoral leadership promoting a self-sacrificing Christ available to the whole human race."

In a world that seems more and more divided, this church is celebrating diversity and reminding themselves that regardless of culture or nation of origin, they are one people under God.

"I am honored and privileged to work in a church that encourages and cultivates such diversity," said Melody Darrow, associate pastor. "The Parade of Nations was a powerful visualization of the vibrant cultures that make up the tapestry of Mountain View church. I believe that the more diverse our demographic, the closer we get to manifesting the true spirit of church family and what it was intended to be."

Northern California Conference church members want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities. Here are two recent examples of Adventists in action!

Sacramento Samoan Church Hosts Neighborhood Day Camp

BY RUTH UNUTOA

When Sacramento Samoan church members discovered that many of their neighbors had a specific need, they stepped up to help in a very practical way.

Working parents in Sacramento's Oak Park neighborhood wonder what to do with their kids during the summer school break. Residents of the local homeless shelter don't have many options for their restless children on long, hot days. Several years ago, when church members conducted a survey of their neighborhood, they discovered the number one need was for free childcare in the summer.

For the past three years, the church has conducted Safe Haven summer day camp for kids ages 5-11. Staffed by volunteers, the camp offers an interactive and engaging program four days a week. Kids enjoy art, music, planting gardens, nature, Bible stories, field trips, and much more. The church provides breakfast and lunch every day.

More than 40 day campers participate each summer. Although



Campers and staff members plant gardens in grow boxes.

some church kids attend, the majority of the children are from the community, including 10-15 from a local homeless shelter.

"Most of these kids are learning and hearing about Jesus for the first time," said Eunite Mataafa, church member and pastor's spouse. "They enjoy singing church songs, memorizing memory verses, and hearing stories from the Bible."

Directed by Angelique Foster, and assisted by Eseta Neemia, the volunteer team works in the kitchen, transports kids, teaches Bible lessons and songs, and makes sure everyone

stays safe and has fun. The youth of the church serve as volunteer junior staff, assisting with classes, outdoor activities, and more.

For two years church members paid for all the camp expenses, but this year the program received a grant from the Pacific Union Conference.

Each summer, volunteers greet returning campers from previous years, as well as new children who have moved into the community. The kids are eager to learn about God and participate in the daily program. Some of the families have visited the church during the year.

"This program has enabled the parents of the community to go look for jobs or go to work with peace of mind, knowing their kids are in a safe place and there was no cost to them," said Mataafa. "The parents really appreciate the program."

So do the kids! "I like the program because they are caring and help us learn about God," said Amara King, age 7, who has attended the program for several years.

"I like that it helps build character, and at the end most of the kids behave better than they did when they came here," said 10-year-old Neriah Foster. "It's just really inspirational."

Children sing a song they learned at the Sacramento Samoan church's Safe Haven summer day camp.



PHOTOS: EUNITE MATAAFA

Palo Cedro Church Members Sift through the Ashes to Help Fire Survivors

BY ROY STEPHENS



As the Carr fire was blazing through Shasta and Trinity counties this summer, Palo Cedro church members Roy and Mary Stephens signed up to volunteer with a Christian relief organization, along with their relatives Dan and Margaret Van Zant. They were later joined by fellow church members Anita Chavez and Kathy Krick. Together they spent days sifting through the ashes of people's homes looking for items that had survived the flames. Here is Roy's account:

Our first assignment began on Monday morning. Before entering each property, our team met the homeowner. Our leader would take the person aside and ask about specific items he

or she hoped to recover and a general area where the team might find them. Once that was accomplished, our team gathered in a circle with the owner and prayed. We would suit up in protective gear and search for three or four hours. Then we would give the owner a Bible signed by each volunteer, pray with him or her, and move to a new location.

This process was repeated daily. Sometimes the homeowners would work side by side with us. Other times they were emotionally drained or physically unable to help and simply watched as we searched. We approached them in kindness, encouraged them to share their stories, hugged them when appropriate, and cried with them as they

attempted to cope with their loss.

It has been said that "one's treasure takes many forms." We found that to be true as owners submitted a variety of requests for lost items. The most unusual was for two urns containing the ashes of the homeowner's deceased pets. The most common request was for coins, rings, or other meaningful jewelry. On our second day a military "dog tag" was found that had belonged to the deceased husband of the homeowner, and it brought her great joy.

On another site I found an undamaged ceramic chess set buried deep in the ashes. The homeowner said she had personally made the set for her son, who loved chess. After his untimely death, she planned to give the set to her grandson, who had learned to play the game at his father's side.

On still another site, I found a metal object about the size of a ping pong ball attached to a keychain. Curious about its significance, I handed it to the homeowner. His first words were "the find of the day!" He went on to explain that the brass object was cast from a nose impression of a beloved Labrador retriever that had passed away. He said his wife considered this to be one of her prized possessions, and she would be ecstatic to have it.

With each meaningful discovery, the dirt, dust, and heat we experienced became less of an issue because the joy of service to others made it all worthwhile. Today's worldly mindset misconstrues the word "service" to mean "serve us." When disasters strike, we as Christians are given unique opportunities to get it right.

A woman who lost her home holds a ring that the volunteers found in the ashes and (below) receives from Roy Stephens a Bible that the volunteers signed.



Vacation Bible Xperience

Succeeds and Grows

BY GREG RUMSEY

VBS now has a cousin called VBX. A dynamic new approach to the traditional Vacation Bible School—largely conceived in the Southeastern California Conference—is transforming VBS into the Vacation Bible Xperience in many Adventist churches across the North American Division.

The focus of VBX is “not on a school classroom but more on experiential learning,” said Manny Vitug, SECC associate youth director for family and children’s ministries. For example, in the 2018 version of VBX, “Sea of Miracles,” children enter a simulated Galilean village, where they make perfume and dye wool, among other activities. More than 40 churches in the conference have adopted VBX, according to Vitug.

The Adventist Church has been actively involved in the 120-year VBS tradition in America. However, doctrinal differences have sometimes caused problems when using materials from other Christian producers, which is one reason for

Maria Campos, VBX director at the Paradise Valley Spanish church, shares a story during the program.

the new VBX series. “We are proud that VBX is not only exciting for the kids but also theologically sound,” said Beverly Maravilla, associate pastor for children’s and family ministries at the La Sierra University church and one of the writers for the “Sea of Miracles” program.

In July, her church’s VBX program, staffed by more than 175 volunteers and attended by about 300 children, replicated a seaside village in Jesus’ day. For the “winepress” or grape-smashing station, Maravilla found that expanding water pearls could be used to simulate grapes, giving children



safe objects to step on in a wading pool. Plenty of laughter punctuated the activity, which was followed with drinks of real grape juice.

Another writer for this VBX was Deirdre Solomon, associate pastor for youth at Arlington church, which was the beta test site for VBX. That church served as a training site, as well, for an NAD workshop last January.



Giani Mendoza, volunteer at the La Sierra Spanish church, leads kids in song.



In 2016 a team of children’s pastors in the conference created a test program called “Kidsville,” explained Vitug, also one of the VBX writers. Children attending VBX visit multiple stations featuring Bible stories, prayer, hands-on activities, games, and preschool. “In ‘Kidsville’ they set up little tents for a mountain-top prayer experience,” Vitug said, with each child going into his or her own tent to quietly read or draw.

Each year a new curriculum is developed in the VBX series for the NAD Children’s Ministries department. The NAD owns rights



Gilbert Del Vecchio, associate pastor at Corona church, prepares to blow the trumpet to call the VBX travelers back.

Music is a major element of VBX, engaging children in songs with motions. Roy Rantung, an SECC pastor who oversaw the music component in 2018, said his team sought to make it “much more than just a holy warm-up” for the kids. “The goal is not just to sing words of truth, but to model the truth of the words we sing,” Rantung said in a video on the VBX website: www.adventistvbx.org.

Whether through music, interactive exercises, relevant prayer, or story time, VBX aims to stimulate interest and retain students through the program. “This is not the week when we say ‘shhh’ in church,” said Maravilla. She recalled one parent who came up to her after this summer’s closing program on Friday evening and reported that their child was crying because he couldn’t “come back tomorrow.”

The tagline for “Sea of Miracles” is “Where kids get caught by Jesus’ love.” It seems to be working at VBX—an innovative cousin in the VBS family.

to the content, according to Liz Jeanniton, a resource development team member at AdventSource in Nebraska, which distributes the material.

Thus far, churches and Adventist Book Centers throughout North America have purchased about 2,000 kits of the two programs created by SECC: “Kidsville” and “Sea of Miracles,” reported Bradley Senecal, accountant at AdventSource. Some 87 percent of those have gone to churches and stores outside of California.

Several churches are using a Spanish version of VBX. Plans are being made to translate the series into other languages.





A student solves an equation at Math Academy.



Tlaloc Castaineda (right) smiles with students in his class.

Spanish American Church and Math Academy Program Add Up to a Successful Outreach

BY CONNIE JEFFERY

In July, the Spanish American church in East Los Angeles held its second annual Math Academy tutoring program. "We had great success last year," said Mario Melendez, Spanish American church community services director. "We are the only program of this kind in the community, and 35 children from grades 1-9 attended this summer. Twenty of the 35 kids were from the community."

The program is sponsored by the Brighton Foundation, which pays for the cost of the tutors. Seven tutors were supported by the program this year—all of them college students or graduates of a four-year university. An additional nine high school students volunteered. "I'm so glad I can help them. I love math!" said Angel Orduño, grades 8-9 tutor.

Excitement and the love of learning were in the air as the Sabbath school classrooms were transformed into math labs, with erasable mini whiteboards for the individual students and giant whiteboards for the students to work out problems as a group. "I'm learning to convert fractions into decimals," said Jesenia, an eighth grader from White Memorial Adventist School.

The fifth and sixth grade class studied pre-algebra under the expert

tutelage of Tlaloc Castaineda, a high school senior. "What I like best is that I get to spend time with the kids," he said. "It helps me review math and try new things. It's helping me evolve as a person."

The busy first grade class shouted out answers as they clustered around their tutors at round tables. "They keep us young," said Jonathan Melendez, one of their tutors.

The classes were held Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Morning devotional time, healthy snacks, outdoor play time, and delicious hot lunches served to the students were a few of the highlights of the program. "Kids enjoyed coming to the Math Academy daily because we offered games, prizes, food, recreation activities, and singing mixed in with math learning skills," said Melendez.



Jesenia works out a math problem.

On Sabbath, July 28, a special graduation ceremony was held for the graduates of the Math Academy. "Twenty-five of the 35 kids showed up for the graduation and brought their parents," Melendez said. "They sang two songs for church, and after the sermon, students, tutors, volunteers, and parents enjoyed a delicious potluck!"

Smart tutors + eager students + committed volunteers + happy parents = a successful outreach for the Spanish American church!

Working for His Soon Return: University Church Celebrates 110 Years

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

On Aug. 8-12, members and friends of the Southern California Conference's University church in Los Angeles recognized the congregation's 110th anniversary. "It was a time of celebration, beginning on Wednesday evening and concluding with a wonderful concert on Sabbath evening," said Royal Harrison, Greater Los Angeles Region director. "There was powerful preaching, inspiring music, and testimonies from the past that reminded everyone of how good God has been to His people."

On Sabbath, 450 attendees gathered for worship. The divine service featured a message from Israel Olaore, Glendale Adventist Academy principal. The weekend was filled with music by Inspiration, a University church reunion group and the church's mass choir.



(From left) Lawrence Dorsey, Sr., University church senior pastor; Israel Olaore, Glendale Adventist Academy principal; Marqueece Dawson-Harris, District 8 councilmember; David Taylor, former University church pastor; Virgil Childs, director of Pacific Union Conference Regional Ministries; and Donovan Childs, University youth and young adults pastor, display a Recognition of Service Award presented to the church from the City of Los Angeles.

Closing out the celebration, members enjoyed a family picnic on Sunday.

"The highlight of the event was when, after the vespers concert, the entire congregation held hands and sang 'Side by Side,'" recalled Pastor Lawrence Dorsey, Sr., senior pastor.

University is known as the "mother church" since the following churches sprang from its evangelistic efforts: 54th Street, Normandie, Ephesus, Compton, Smyrna, Berean, L.A. Central, and Miramonte. The Furlong church (the original name of the University church) was established on August 8, 1908, in Los Angeles with 28 believers, becoming "the first Black Seventh-day Adventist church west of Ohio."

Dorsey recalls the church's longstanding community focus, saying, "It has been a pioneer in bringing innovative self-help programs to our neighbors." These programs include the Knowledge College, HVAC technician classes, and a food bank, among others.

"Though the church has gone through many changes and challenges, it continues to thrive and remain relevant

in the community," Harrison noted. "Under the present leadership of Pastor Lawrence Dorsey, Sr. and Pastor Donovan Childs, the church is continuing to grow and develop new ministries that, by God's grace, will sustain them for another 100 years."

Harrison expressed thanks to the faithful members of the church. "The members are the ones to be applauded and celebrated," he observed. "It is their faithfulness, their commitment, their sacrifice, their devotion, their prayers, and their trust in God that have made the University church the church that it is today, so on behalf of the Greater Los Angeles Region and the Southern California Conference, we say with all of our hearts a sincere THANK YOU!"

There is no question that God's Word has shaped the history of the University church. "Today, University's diverse congregation continues to work, watch, and worship as we pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we apply our theme for the 110th anniversary, 'Working for His Soon Return,' to our daily lives," Dorsey said.



The University church mass choir, made up of current and former church members, sings on Sabbath morning.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY CHURCH - LOS ANGELES ON FACEBOOK

CALENDAR

**Arizona Conference
Enlight! Sabbath School
& Children's Ministries
Weekend** (Oct. 5-6). Fri., 7 p.m.,
thru Sab., 5 p.m. Meals free.
Guest speakers: Curtis Hall,
author, Hit the Mark; Norma
Rocio Rojas, NAD Children's
Ministries. Arizona Conference
Office, 13405 N. Scottsdale
Road, Scottsdale. Registration
deadline: Sept. 20. Info:
Kingsley O. Palmer, 480-991-
6777 ext. 112.

30th AZ Women's Retreat
(Oct. 12-14). Camp Yavapines.
Featuring Dorothy Means, PUC
Women's Ministry director.
Info: azsdawomen@gmail.com
or 602-561-1634.

**A Weekend with Dr. Tim
Jennings** (Oct. 19-20).
Camelback Church, 5902 E.
Camelback Rd., Phoenix. Dr.

Jennings has authored four
books on the heart and brain.
Info: Mark Sulger, 520-445-
9929.

**Radical Discipleship
Weekend Retreat for New
Believers** (Oct. 26-28). Camp
Yavapines, Prescott, Arizona.
Keynote, Dr. Joseph Kidder,
Andrews University. Guest
musicians, Cyiza Music
Ministry. Workshops and
activities. Registration, \$130
(2 nights lodging, 5 meals,
and activities). Register:
arzcsecretary.adventistfaith.
org. Info: Carolina Flores, 480-
991-6777 ext. 127.

**Central California
Conference
Men's Retreat** (Oct. 19-
21). Join us at the Soquel
Conference Center for featured
speakers Dr. Pierre Steenberg
and Jonathan McCottry. Info:
ministries@cccsda.org or 559-
347-3144.

**THE EDGE: Youth Prayer
Conference** (Oct. 25-28).
Bakersfield Adventist
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Pastor Andrew Uyeyama.
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registration required: www.
cccsdayouth.org/#/prayer-
conference-20.

**La Sierra University
LSU Chamber recital** (Oct.
7), 7 p.m. Featuring noted
pianist Julio Elizalde, with
violinist Kristin Lee, violinist
Jason Uyeyama, violist Ben
Ulery, and cellist Eric Byers.
Works by Sergei Prokofiev
and Johannes Brahms. Hole
Memorial Auditorium. General
admission \$15. Info: 951-785-
2036 or music@lasierra.edu.

**Duo orchestras LSU &
Symphony Irvine** (Oct.
27), 7 p.m. Under La Sierra
orchestral studies director
Dean Anderson, a performance
of Gustav Holst's "The Planets."
The concert will be held at Hole
Memorial Auditorium. General
admission \$15. Info: 951-785-
2036 or music@lasierra.edu.

**Near Eastern Archaeology's
10th Annual Archaeology
Discovery Weekend
celebrates 50 years in Jordan**
(Nov. 10 & 11). Events will
include archaeology lectures,
a kids' dig, hands-on activities,
Jordanian banquet, and
more. Info: visit lasierra.edu/
archaeology, call 951-785-
2632, or email archaeology@
lasierra.edu.

**Northern California
Conference
Northern California's
Christian Women's
Retreat** (Oct. 5-7, 12-14).
Leoni Meadows. Speaker:
Dixil Rodriguez, Adventist
Review columnist. Info:
ourchristianladies.com.

Concurso Bíblico (Oct. 13).
St. Helena Spanish church,
957 Brown Street, St. Helena.
FEJA activity. Ages 15-20:
1 and 2 Timothy in English;
ages 21-35: Daniel in Spanish.
Info: Hispanic Ministries
Department, 925-603-5092.

Church Elder Training (Oct.
14). 9 a.m. to noon. Fairfield
Community church, 1101
East Tabor Avenue, Fairfield.
Three classes presented by
NCC pastors: elder visitation,
elders and evangelism, elders
as local leaders. Bring your
Bible, notepad, and pen.
Lunch provided for those
elders who register. Info and
RSVP: NCC Church Growth
Department, 925-603-5089,
EldersTraining@nccsda.com.

**Marriage Encounter
Weekend** (Oct. 19-21).
Contact Rob & Debbie Purvis
for information and to reserve
your spot to experience your
private weekend. Info: 916-
599-5560 or purvis4@comcast.
net.

**Instituto Laico Adventista
de California** (Oct. 21). Pacific
Union College. "Lay preacher"
cycle. This month's speaker:
Professor Ismael Castillo,
rector of Montemorelos
University. All preachers or
aspiring preachers are
invited! Next scheduled
class: Nov. 18. Info: Hispanic
Ministries Department, 925-
603-5092.

Torneo Deportivo (Oct. 21).
Lodi Academy gymnasium,
1230 South Central
Avenue, Lodi. FEJA activity.
Info: Hispanic Ministries
Department, 925-603-5092.

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NCC Asian/Pacific

Convocation (Oct. 27). 3:30 p.m. Antioch church, 2200 Country Hills Drive, Antioch. Inspiration, music, fellowship. Info: NCC Asian/Pacific Ministries Department, 925-603-5094.

Church Treasurer Training

(Oct. 28). 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Anderson church, 2769 Balls Ferry Road, Anderson. Bring your laptop computer. Lunch provided. RSVP. Info: NCC Treasurer's Office, 888-434-4622, ext. 209.

Women's Koinonia Retreat

(Nov. 16-18). Murieta Inn & Spa, Rancho Murieta. "Uniquely Redesigned." Speaker Dr. Hyveth Williams. Share in the joy of the Lord and relax at this luxury hotel. Registration fee: \$260, includes five specialty vegetarian meals, inspirational messages, small groups, great music, more. Registration: www.womenskoinonia.com. Info: 707-739-6626.

Pacific Union College

PUC College Days (Oct. 14-16 and Nov. 4-6). High school students experience classes and college events at PUC. Advance registration required. Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080 or puc.edu/admissions/visit.

Resonance, oil on canvas,

Carla Crawford (Oct. 13). 7 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Rasmussen Art Gallery. Show runs through Nov. 4. Info: 707-965-6303.

Pioneer Invitational Women's Volleyball Tournament

(Oct. 11-13). PUC welcomes academy girls' volleyball teams from the Central and Northern California conferences. Open Saturday night to general public; welcome to watch games and matches. Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080.

Fall Festival (Nov. 4). 4 p.m.,

Pacific Auditorium. PUC's student clubs host a variety of

booths and exhibitions at this annual autumn celebration for the whole family.

PUC Now (Online). Stay connected with Pacific Union College by signing up for our email newsletter. Info: www.puc.edu/puc-now

Notice of Upcoming PUC Board of Trustee Meeting

Dates: October 1, 2018; December 3, 2018; February 11, 2019; and May 9, 2019.

Southern California Conference

Free Plant-Based Cooking School

(Oct. 2-23) 7-9 p.m. Four consecutive Tuesday nights. Recipes, cooking demonstrations, food samples, lectures, door prizes. South Bay church, 401 S. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach 90277. Register at www.SouthBayChurch.net. Info: 310-214-3123.

SCC Women's Ministries

Retreat (Oct. 5-7). Theme for the 38th annual retreat is "Identity Theft." Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 CA-38, Angelus Oaks 92305. Info: Dr. Beverley Martin, 661-810-9350 or Dimple Fields, 323-336-3919.

Second Saturday Series

Concert (Oct. 13). 5 p.m. Featuring Madalyn Parnas Moller, violin; Juliette Herlin, cello, and Rosa Li, piano. Includes music by Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Admission is by free-will offering. A reception will follow. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-244-7241.

Operation ReachBack

"Protest and Progress" Weekend (Oct. 20-21). All day Sabbath at Mt. Rubidoux church, ending with 6:30 p.m. honorees program. Golf tournament Sunday at the

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818.730.5094

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SCC-GLAR Region Director

Pacific Palms Resort. Info and registration: reachbackgolf.com. 3 p.m. honorees game event, 3:30 p.m. awards luncheon. \$65 per person. Info: 951-317-5656.

Second Saturday Series Concert (Nov. 10) 5 p.m. Featuring Kemp Smeal, organ. Admission is by free-will offering. A reception will follow. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-244-7241.

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conversion-friendly design skills. View our work at DiscoverPeppermint.com. Serving clients worldwide. Call Kama: 541-903-1180.

Bulletin Board

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

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

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application from inmates who are aware this is a ministry. Share Christ's love and wishes to deal with inmates. Be a pen friend through this 40-year-old ministry. To join, call Don or Yvonne at 260-387-7423, or email sdapm@someonecares.org.

Reunions

Alumni weekend for Spanish-American Seminary and Sandia View Academy (Oct. 11-13) Corrales, NM. Honor classes '03 and '08. Theme, "Almost Home." Speaker, David Martinez, '81. Festivities begin Thursday, dinner and karaoke in the SVCS gym, 6 p.m. Balloon Fiesta and weekend activities. Info: sandiaviewacademyalumni.org or email your questions to SVARocks@gmail.com.

Real Estate

Secluded 155-acre ranch near Redding, Calif. Solar, spring water, orchard, creek, pond, shop. Main house has 3Bd/3Br; 1,300 sq. ft.; second home. \$750,000. Call Shirley Deyle, 530-339-2012.

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Sunriver, Central Oregon. Four-bedroom vacation home

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

AT REST

Ahlberg, Virgil Roger – b. Nov. 20, 1952, Madison, Tenn.; d. July 25, 2018, Upper Lake, Calif. Survivors: wife, Martha; daughters, Rebecca Jimenez, Laura Nommik; one grandchild; mother, Virginia; sister, Mary Ann McPheeters.

Bailey, Anna Marie (Wikoff) – b. Aug. 30, 1925, Beattie, Kan.; d. July 11, 2018, Long Beach, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Denise Medford, Marina Trachy; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Bietz, Dalton C. – b. Nov. 24, 1929, Lodi, Calif.; d. July 8, 2018, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: wife, Pat; son, Jay; daughter, Jan Trujillo; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Breitag, Merle R. – b. March 29, 1931, Tacoma, Wash.; d. July 31, 2018, Exeter, Calif. Survivors: wife, Doris; sons, Daniel, David; daughters, Fernetta, Eloyce; 10 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren. Served as an employee of Pacific Press Publishing Association.

Brown, Melea Ann (Spencer) – b. April 22, 1974, Albert Lea, Minn.; d. June 6, 2018, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: husband, Brad; son, Jaron; daughter, Alina; parents, Bernard and Valerie Spencer.

Carlsen, Barbaralee (Harlan) – b. Jan. 17, 1926, Marysville,

Calif.; d. April 5, 2018, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: husband, Ralph. Served as organist and pianist for the Quiet Hour in Oakland, Calif.

Duckett, Victor Warren – b. May 15, 1925, Eureka, Calif.; d. March 27, 2018, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: sons, Mark, Brian; daughters, Gail Becka, Janiece Adams; nine grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren.

Franks, Shirley Ann (Woodward) – b. Oct. 10, 1938, Phoenix, Ariz.; d. May 26, 2018, Shingletown, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Kathy Simpson, Mary Lynn Angulo; brothers, Mike Woodward, Pat Woodward; sisters, Sharon Wollman, Sandy Gadbois, Shauna Postma; two grandchildren. Worked as a payroll specialist for Loma Linda University.

Gauthier, Curry Joseph – b.

Nov. 5, 1949, Cottonport, La.; d. July 24, 2018, Martinez, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sixta; sons, David, Jimmy, Joshua; five grandchildren; parents, Lucian and Betty.

Hand, Maxine E. (Brown) – b. April 16, 1939, Northville, Mich.; d. June 20, 2018, Napa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Mike, Mark; daughter, Laurie McCord; seven grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild.

Hardcastle, Howard Owen – b. Feb. 10, 1928, Roswell, N.M. d. June 21, 2018, Napa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Fred, Rodney; daughter, Rosemary Collins; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. Served as an academy English and Spanish teacher and principal, and as professor of English and associate dean at Pacific Union College.

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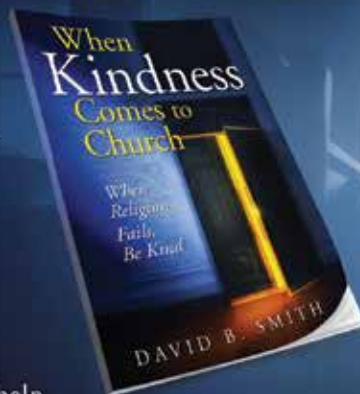
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Information

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

2018 Deadlines

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

December: October 30

January: November 29

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 conference communication department. See the masthead for contact information. Want tips for writing for us? See www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news.

Hunt, Walter Lynn – b. July 16, 1931, Niles, Mich.; d. April 5, 2018, Turlock, Calif. Survivors: son, Dean; daughters, Laura Ruiz, Ruth McLeod; 12 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren.

Hutchinson, Malcolm (Mike) E. – b. Dec. 2, 1926, Pembroke, N.H.; d. Aug. 19, 2018, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: wife, Rachel; sons, Everett, Malcolm Jr.; daughters, Dianne Pollard, Gwendolyn, Connie Goodchild, Charlene Hopkins; stepson, Eric Simpson; stepdaughters, Debra Blodgett, Kimberly Simpson, Sandra Loton; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Lindgren, Forrest – b. Sept. 29, 1941, Vancouver, B.C., Canada;

d. July 31, 2018, Sacramento, Calif. Survivors: wife, Judi; sons, Brent, Erik; five grandchildren.

Perez, Richard – b. Dec. 10, 1956, Santa Maria, Calif.; d. Feb. 25, 2018, Santa Barbara, Calif. Survivors: wife, Roxanne; seven grandchildren.

Riffle, Mary Carolyn (Epperson) – b. May 13, 1933, Riverton, Iowa; d. May 24, 2018, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Claudia Grant; three grandchildren.

Robison, Mary Lucille (Miller) – b. Dec. 23, 1925, Santa Barbara, Calif.; d. March 12, 2018, Red Bluff, Calif. Survivors: husband, John; five children; 15 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren.

Ryan, Donald W. – b. Jan. 23, 1947, Lincoln, Neb.; d. Aug. 22, 2018, Apple Valley, Calif. Survivors: son, David; brother, John; sister, Patti Ryan O'Connell.

Shumaker, Chester Ross – b. Sept. 25, 1935, Monroe, Mich.; d. Aug. 14, 2018, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife, Eleanor; daughters, Cheryl Andersen, Debbie Widmer; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Served in the publishing department in Michigan, Greater New York, Iowa, Southeastern California; as associate evangelist in the Carolina Conference; as pastor in the Carolina and Northern California conferences.

Thomas, Elaine G. (Johnson) – b. June 29, 1924, Elm Creek, Neb.; d. Aug. 30, 2018, Alhambra, Calif. Survivors: son, Larry; daughter, Renee Barlow; one grandchild. Along with her sister Irene Martinson, Elaine conducted Week of Prayer services at various elementary schools in the Southern California Conference.

Watts, Henry Madison – b. March 21, 1936, Colony, Okla.; d. July 17, 2018, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jackie; sons, Brian, Brett; daughters, Karen Veeh, Saron Parisi; brothers, Richard, Arthur; sister, Joyce Scribner; eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren.

Wilmot, Richard, W. – b. Nov. 15, 1924, Des Moines, Iowa; d. Aug. 12, 2018, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Naomi; brother, James; sons, Rick, Steve; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters, Shirley Warner, Jean Gregerson. Served in Navy; as business manager at Maplewood Academy; treasurer Nile Union; asst. treasurer, Middle East Division; and treasurer of South Dakota, Minnesota, Idaho, and Canadian Union Conferences, the East Africa Division, and ADRA.

October 2018 *Sunset* Calendar

| City | Oct. 5 | Oct. 12 | Oct. 19 | Oct. 26 |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Alturas | 6:35 | 6:23 | 6:13 | 6:03 |
| Angwin | 6:44 | 6:34 | 6:24 | 6:15 |
| Bakersfield | 6:32 | 6:23 | 6:14 | 6:06 |
| Calexico | 6:20 | 6:11 | 6:03 | 5:55 |
| Chico | 6:41 | 6:30 | 6:20 | 6:11 |
| Death Valley (Furnace Ck) | 6:23 | 6:13 | 6:04 | 5:56 |
| Eureka | 6:50 | 6:39 | 6:28 | 6:18 |
| Four Corners [E] | 6:51 | 6:42 | 6:32 | 6:24 |
| Fresno | 6:34 | 6:25 | 6:15 | 6:07 |
| Grand Canyon (South Rim) | 6:11 | 6:01 | 5:52 | 5:44 |
| Half Dome | 6:33 | 6:23 | 6:13 | 6:04 |
| Hilo | 6:04 | 5:59 | 5:54 | 5:49 |
| Holbrook | 5:58 | 5:48 | 5:40 | 5:32 |
| Honolulu | 6:14 | 6:08 | 6:02 | 5:58 |
| Joshua Tree | 6:22 | 6:13 | 6:04 | 5:57 |
| Lake Tahoe | 6:34 | 6:23 | 6:13 | 6:04 |
| Las Vegas | 6:16 | 6:07 | 5:58 | 5:49 |
| Lodi-Stockton | 6:40 | 6:29 | 6:20 | 6:11 |
| Loma Linda | 6:26 | 6:17 | 6:08 | 6:01 |
| Los Angeles | 6:30 | 6:21 | 6:13 | 6:05 |
| McDermitt [N] | 6:23 | 6:12 | 6:01 | 5:51 |
| Moab | 6:51 | 6:41 | 6:31 | 6:22 |
| Monterey Bay | 6:43 | 6:33 | 6:24 | 6:15 |
| Mt. Whitney | 6:29 | 6:19 | 6:10 | 6:01 |
| Napa | 6:44 | 6:33 | 6:24 | 6:15 |
| Nogales [S] | 7:07 | 7:00 | 6:54 | 6:48 |
| Oakland | 6:43 | 6:33 | 6:24 | 6:15 |
| Paradise, CA | 6:42 | 6:31 | 6:21 | 6:11 |
| Phoenix | 6:05 | 5:56 | 5:48 | 5:40 |
| Provo | 7:02 | 6:51 | 6:40 | 6:31 |
| Puuwai, Ni'ihau [W] | 6:21 | 6:15 | 6:09 | 6:04 |
| Reno | 6:33 | 6:22 | 6:12 | 6:03 |
| Riverside | 6:26 | 6:17 | 6:09 | 6:01 |
| Sacramento | 6:40 | 6:30 | 6:20 | 6:11 |
| Salt Lake City | 7:00 | 6:49 | 6:39 | 6:29 |
| San Diego | 6:26 | 6:17 | 6:09 | 6:02 |
| San Francisco | 6:45 | 6:34 | 6:25 | 6:16 |
| San Jose | 6:42 | 6:32 | 6:23 | 6:14 |
| Santa Rosa | 8:16 | 8:08 | 7:59 | 7:49 |
| Sunset Beach | 6:44 | 6:34 | 6:24 | 6:16 |
| Thousand Oaks | 7:52 | 7:45 | 7:37 | 7:28 |
| Tucson | 6:01 | 5:53 | 5:45 | 5:37 |

[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



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ARIZONA WORKSHOP

Nov. 5 Thunderbird Adventist Academy*

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA WORKSHOPS

Oct. 1 Mountain View Academy
 Oct. 15 Central Valley Christian Academy
 Oct. 16 Armona Union Academy
 Oct. 17 Bakersfield Adventist Academy
 Oct. 18 Fresno Adventist Academy
 Oct. 27 Monterey Bay Academy*

HAWAII WORKSHOP

Nov. 13 Hawaiian Mission Academy*

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKSHOPS

Oct. 2 Pine Hills Adventist Academy
 Oct. 3 Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy
 Oct. 10 El Dorado Adventist School
 Oct. 22 Napa Christian Campus of Education
 Oct. 23 PUC Preparatory School
 Oct. 24 Lodi Academy
 Oct. 25 Paradise Adventist Academy
 Nov. 1 Sacramento Adventist Academy
 Nov. 17 Rio Lindo Adventist Academy*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WORKSHOPS

Oct. 8 Redlands Adventist Academy*
 Oct. 23 Glendale Adventist Academy
 Oct. 24 San Fernando Valley Academy*
 Oct. 25 Newbury Park Adventist Academy*
 Nov. 1 Escondido Adventist Academy*
 Nov. 1 La Sierra Academy**
 Nov. 13 San Gabriel Academy*
 Nov. 15 Loma Linda Academy*
 Nov. 15 Orangewood Adventist Academy*
 Nov. 26 Mesa Grande Academy
 Nov. 27 San Diego Academy
 Nov. 29 Calexico Mission School**

* Starts at 6:30 p.m. | ** Starts at 6:00 p.m.

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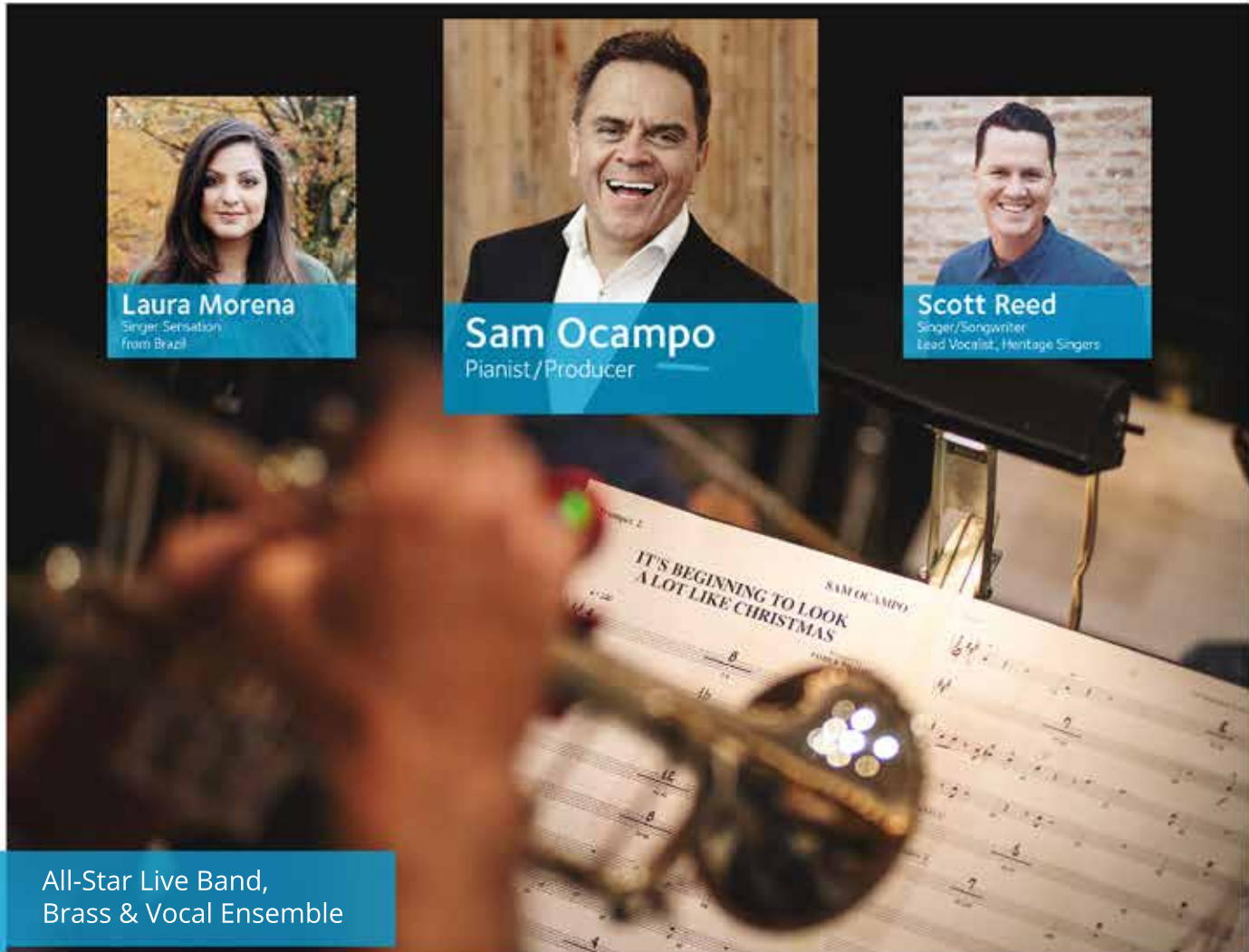
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