

Recorder

A photograph of a woman wearing a blue headscarf and a blue and white garment, holding a baby wrapped in white swaddling clothes. The woman is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The background is dark and textured, possibly straw or hay.

God-with-us:
Immanuel!

The Gift of Peace

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Recorder

What's inside

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The Portraits of Christmas series on pages 7, 9, and 12 are an opportunity for you or your young ones (anyone with a few crayons!) to participate in the joy and wonder of Christmas through creating your own colorful stained-glass style pictures.

The art was used with permission from Dover Publications, Inc., and it's available online: <http://store.doverpublications.com/048643527x.html>



Paradise Burned

BY RICARDO GRAHAM

An unparalleled, devastating, catastrophic event has struck our state of California, which houses four of the seven local conferences in the Pacific Union Conference territory. Fires in both northern and southern California have left a trail of ruin and destruction.

In northern California, the worst fire to ever blaze through the state has left the town of Paradise obliterated. I am sure that you have seen photos of the Camp Fire and the town's inhabitants fleeing for their lives.

News reports state that on November 8 the Camp Fire destroyed 7,100 houses in eight hours. As of this writing, 63 people are reported dead and 631 people are still missing. Thousands of people have lost everything in their torched homes.

And our Seventh-day Adventist family has not been spared. The Paradise Adventist church has been completely destroyed—burned to the ground. Pastors and members have lost their homes to the fire. Adventist Health Feather River Hospital has been damaged.

People we have known for years, our friends and fellow church members, have been left homeless. This firestorm has been unmerciful and indiscriminate.

As humans, we wonder what caused this. We look for something we can hold responsible; we want to blame someone. Mother Nature seems to be an apparent culprit, but that is just an indirect way of blaming God. While God certainly could have started it or prevented it, for many reasons I am not convinced that He did.

We are grief stricken by this but not without hope.

We are not insensitive to this monumental loss. The Pacific Union staff grieves with the victims of the Camp Fire. However, we grieve with hope—the hope that is central to Christianity. The hope that we have in Jesus.

David wrote these words: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me” (Psalm 23:4, KJV). The survivors of this Camp Fire have certainly been through the valley of the shadow of death. And they have experienced the deliverance of God's presence.

We claim these inspired words of His reality as our own today in view of the loss of property and life during these fires.

Talk, it is said, is cheap. Talk is easy. Real faith is demanding. It demands us to move forward even while we are surrounded by tragedies and challenges to which we see no solution or resolution.

The Paradise Adventist church has these words emblazoned across its webpage as I write this: #ParadiseStrong. The staff has already moved into action to somehow resume the continuation of their ministry. They know that the real Church is not a building. It is the people gathered together in ministry. God bless all those affected by this fire.

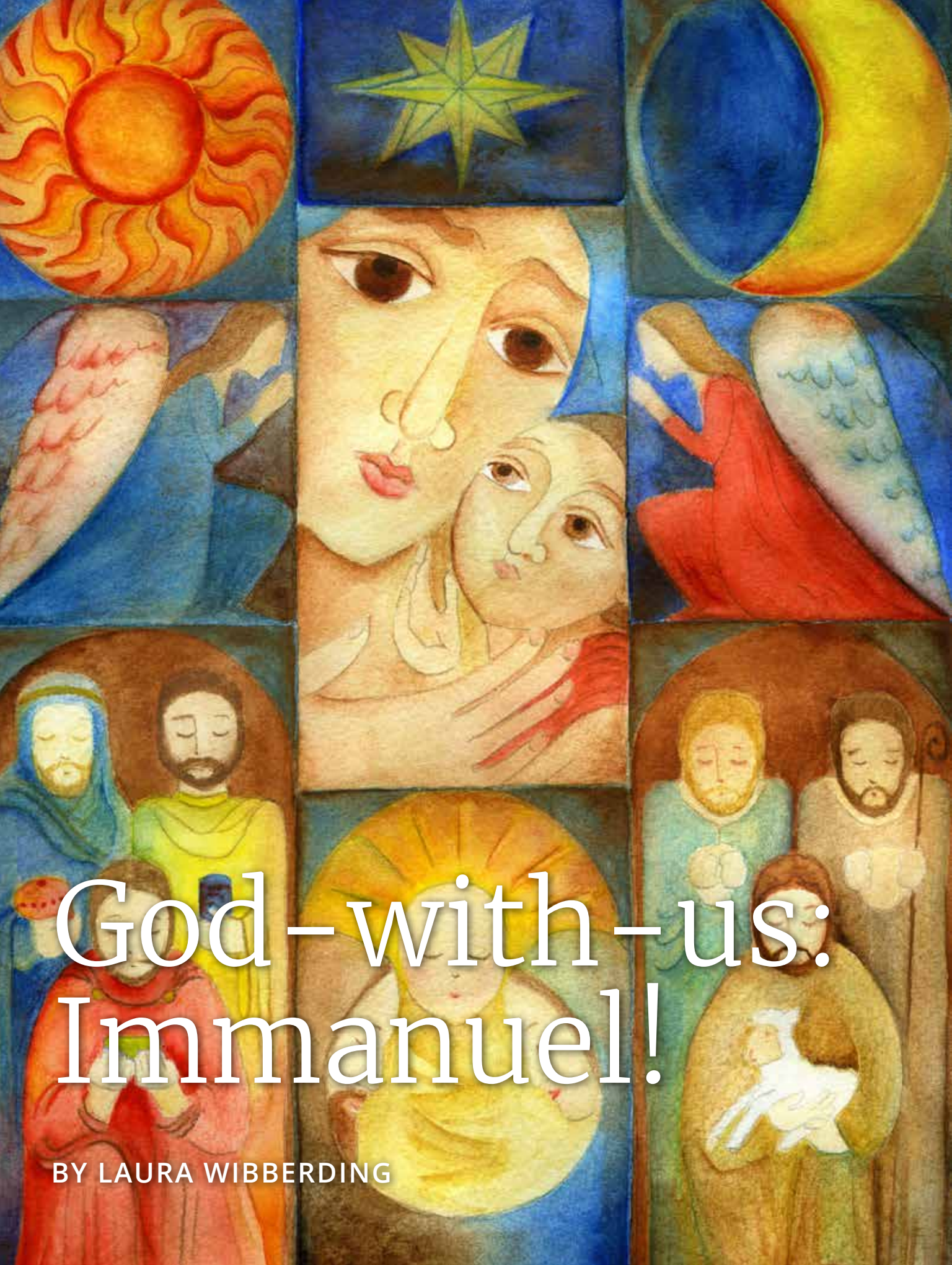
We who have put our eternal trust in the Lord are able to take courage even in horrific times. As Psalm 130:7 states: “O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is mercy. And with Him is abundant redemption” (NKJV).

Somehow, in His own way, the Lord will redeem this situation. Keep hope alive.

We'll continue to pray for our friends, family, and colleagues in ministry in Paradise.

Sending a check helps, too.

Ricardo Graham is the president of the Pacific Union Conference.



God-with-us: Immanuel!

BY LAURA WIBBERDING

The trouble with Christmas is that it's about a baby. It might have been simpler if God-with-us had shown up as a lion, á la C.S. Lewis, or a lamb. Instead, the lights and carols and presents of Christmas revolve around one of the most complicated creatures in our world.

There is no contradiction so poignant as a baby. As humans go, they're small and powerless. And yet bringing home a baby, especially a first baby, is akin to dropping a bomb on one's house and life. I remember it well. I remember how my sleep-deprived brain struggled to accept a job without even 8-hour shift breaks for sleep. I remember the whirlwind of baby things scattered through the house. I remember the nearly metaphysical change in my reality.

Babies are small and wonderful and terrifying, all wrapped into one. They're fragile enough to slip away in the night and powerful enough to turn the world upside down. Why did God-with-us come as a baby? Probably because a baby is the perfect image of faith—and therefore of Christmas.

Christmas is a contradiction. In a manger, in the cloth strips in which His impoverished parents wrapped Him, is the answer to every human need. He is salvation, the extinguishing of all of our pain. And yet His infant cries are swallowed in the vast night around Him. The world hasn't changed. His parents are still poor, and Rome is crushing His people every moment that He sleeps. The kingdom of God has come to earth, but the earth looks the same.

This is Immanuel, God with us. The baby is both the promise and the fulfillment. He is the whole picture, and yet it can't be seen. His miracles are only a shadow, His crucifixion and

resurrection a microcosm, and His newborn church is a poor reflection of it. The world is redeemed, and yet it's still burning.

This is Christmas. The people who live in darkness have seen a great light. But the darkness is still here. We wander in the smoke of our suffering and clutch this faith to our chests. It's a little thing—as small as a baby—but it's tangible. It's God with us. God came into our world to die for our sins. But He also came to hold our hands in the darkness, to tell us we don't have to face it alone.

So we put up lights in the face of winter. We hold candles and sing songs. We push cheer into the dark spaces and dare to gather our relatives into the same room. It's a contradiction, which is what every act of faith amounts to.

I believe in Christmas. Not because a Hallmark movie tossed a dusting of snow over life's problems, but because God is with us. And I'm glad He chose to come as a baby, because there is no better expression of what it means to have someone and also be waiting for them.

I don't know what's in your holiday season, and I don't know what you've had to carry this year. Maybe you're hanging the mistletoe, and maybe you're still trying to see through the smoke. But I know the answer is Immanuel. The gift is small enough to hold in your arms and big enough to save you. Whatever your circumstance, I pray you will celebrate this season as an act of faith. Because the good news is better than it looks. Because small things grow. Because God is with us.

Merry Christmas.

Laura Ochs Wibberding has an MA in Christian history (because she loves stories) and is an adjunct teacher at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif.



The Gift of Peace

BY JORGE P. SORIA

The Christmas carol “Silent Night” is sung around the world, in many languages. Over the years, the song’s message continues to win hearts, even in unexpected places at unexpected times.

In 1966, at the beginning of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Nien Cheng was arrested and imprisoned in Shanghai for nearly seven years. Cheng had not committed any crime; she was accused of being an enemy of the state because of her association with foreigners, especially British business executives.

In her biography, *Life and Death in Shanghai*, Cheng describes how, on Christmas Eve, her spirit was strengthened and her hopes renewed by an unexpected performance of “Silent Night.”

“While I was waiting in the bitter cold, suddenly, from somewhere upstairs, I heard a young soprano voice singing, at first tentatively and then boldly, the Chinese version of ‘Silent Night.’ The prison walls resounded with her song as her clear and melodious voice floated in and out of

the dark corridors. I was enraptured and deeply moved as I listened to her. I knew from the way she rendered the song that she was a professional singer who had incurred the displeasure of the Maoists. No concert I had attended at Christmas in any year meant more to me than that moment when I sat in my icy cell listening to ‘Silent Night’ sung by another prisoner whom I could not see.”¹

What is so uplifting about the song “Silent Night” is that it repeats the good news that the angels sang from the hills of Bethlehem: “Christ the Savior is born.” And what is so comforting is how, as it lulls Baby Jesus to sleep, it also reassures us that we too can “sleep in heavenly peace.”

My wife and I had the opportunity to travel through those hills of Bethlehem. We were overwhelmed with emotion to be in the place where the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14, KJV).

The peace they sang of is not the political peace that politicians promise to each other. Although more than 8,000 peace

¹Nien Cheng, *Life and Death in Shanghai* (New York: Penguin Books, 1988), p. 172.

treaties have been signed, we understand that they have also been broken. The world is in search of peace. The human heart wants that security, so we continue to pray for peace.

True peace will never be found in a man, woman, philosopher, king, or governor. True peace is the peace of Christ, which is the result of the reconciliation of God with His people. When speaking with His disciples, Jesus emphasized that His peace is not what humans offer. The peace that this earth gives relies on repression or threat. Our Lord declares, "My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives" (John 14:27, NIV).

It is the gift of peace that comes through our Lord Jesus Christ that gives us security, unity, and contentment. Only reconciliation with God will provide the peace that you and I are longing for. When we give our lives to Jesus, the first gift He gives us is peace. Peace offers a new life. Peace contributes to a new outlook. It opens the door of hope and allows us to see and experience new horizons. And most importantly of all, peace provides us with the assurance of salvation.

The peace that the world offers is merely the absence of conflict. However, the true peace that Jesus is offering you is serenity in the midst of conflict, in the midst of your suffering, in the midst of your pain. The peace of Christ is not a simple absence of problems. True peace is the fullness of living.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "There is no path to peace. Peace is the path." We can say with confidence that Christ is that path—He is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and He assures us, "I am the way" (John 14:6). The Prince of Peace provides true, secure, and everlasting peace.

Remember then, that He lived for you. He died for you. He was resurrected for you. And soon, He will come for you. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ, so this is the gospel of peace.

Therefore, this Christmas, while we are with our families, friends, and neighbors, we can experience peace with God. Peace with the family. Peace with

the church. And peace with the community.

Let us recognize the Child in the manger, "the dawn of redeeming grace," as the Prince of true peace—real, lasting, heavenly peace. And may each of our nights be a "Silent Night" as we put our trust in the "Son of God, love's pure light."

Jorge P. Soria is vice president of the Pacific Union Conference.



PORTRAITS OF CHRISTMAS

"Heaven and earth are no wider apart today than when shepherds listened to the angels' song. Humanity is still as much the object of heaven's solicitude as when common men of common occupations met angels at noonday, and talked with the heavenly messengers in the vineyards and the fields."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 48



PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Pacific Southwest

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...



BY RAY TETZ

I love stories. I love hearing them, reading them, collecting them, remembering them, telling them again and again. I love the way stories get past our defenses and let us listen to big issues. I love how stories can be so simple and yet so insightful and important. I love how stories soften up our intellectual rigidity and get through to our emotions.

I loved it when my grandpa told me stories of long ago and far away. I love to listen to the stories my children tell me of all the things they are doing and learning. I love to recount my own stories to my family at the end of the day—rehearsing (and re-experiencing) the events that shape the way I think, work, and live.

Through stories we are able to organize our experiences and ideas. We get to determine the heroes and the villains. We get a sense of what's important, who's really in charge. We learn to recognize details and moments that are significant and have special meaning. Stories help us make sense of the world around us by helping us recognize patterns and trends. Stories help us see another person's point of view by letting us see and imagine the significant events in someone else's life.

We like to see the way the elements come together in the particular circumstances of a story, and we try to figure out the importance of their interaction. Is this a clue or a red herring? Our brains rush ahead to fill in the blanks—to guess who someone is, what they are up to, where they come from, and why (or if) they are important. A clever turn of phrase or a vivid description sets our imaginations off and running.

We like to see our own lives as great stories that have characters, context, conflicts, and intricate details about when things happen and where we were at key moments. We like to organize our lives into sequences of meaning, with one event leading to another in linked moments of value and importance. Stories help us imagine the possibilities; they help us to think and plan ahead.

I love the story of numbers and how the first computing machine—our

hands and fingers—gave us the foundation of our arithmetic.

I love the story of letters and how the alphabet was born—how pictures gave way to symbols that gave way to an organized way of communicating ideas through shapes we now call letters.

I love the story of Galileo, struggling to tell the world that we were not the center of the universe after all. I love the story of Gutenberg, and how a torrent of learning and information was unleashed with the creation of his printing press. He made our libraries of storybooks possible.

But mostly, and firstly, I love the story of Christmas. It is possibly the first story I ever really heard and learned; from my youngest days I considered it my most special story—precious to me in a unique and unforgettable way.

And now it's Christmas again. In my imagination I can see the prophet Isaiah writing furiously to get the whole message down. The most amazing message. The most wonderful prophecy. The news that was so good it just had to be true.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign," he wrote. "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel!" (Isaiah 7:14, NIV). Matthew 1:23 quotes this prophecy and adds the explanation of the name: "Immanuel, (which means, "God with us)."

God with us. Imagine that! God with us.

Moses saw God once, at least he saw His back. God tucked him safely in a rock, and, in His glory, passed before him. It was an incredible moment in human history: Moses was allowed to see God and lived to tell about it!

And yet, the promise of Isaiah was that God would actually live with us. What could be more amazing! Through Jesus we behold the glory of God without being destroyed, and in fact we are made whole. Through Jesus we know God's love, God's presence, God's grace.

While Moses was once hidden in a rock so that he could behold God, now it is God who hides Himself—hides Himself in humanity, as a tiny baby. God comes to us as Immanuel, God with us, and we can hear, see, touch, and be touched by His love. Touched by God. Touched by Christmas.

It's the story of a man and a woman and a journey. A story of a baby being born in really tough circumstances. It's got animals and shepherds and alien beings called angels singing out a message in a language no one can truly understand. It's got simple shepherds (with funny beards) and exotic royalty (with funny beards). It's got people who are in trouble—no money, no place to stay,

no one willing to give them a hand—and then, suddenly, like the angels appearing in the sky, in a place called Bethlehem, the birth of a baby who gives hope, a child named Jesus, Immanuel, God with us.

It's the first story I ever really loved. And still do.

Ray Tetz is the director of the Communication and Community Engagement Department of the Pacific Union Conference.



PORTRAITS OF CHRISTMAS

"We marvel at the Saviour's sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall. Human pride and self-sufficiency stand rebuked in His presence. Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 48



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A night sky filled with stars, with a prominent bright star in the upper center. The lower portion of the image shows the dark silhouette of a tree against a lighter, hazy background.

His First Coming

BY VELINO SALAZAR

As Adventists, we like to talk about the Advent. By that we mean of course the Second Advent. We're looking for Jesus' second coming.

But what about the first? For without the first coming of Jesus, the second coming doesn't make any sense!

Many Christians celebrate the season of Advent before Christmas. Yes, we know that December 25 was probably not the date of Jesus' birth. Yes, we know that the Christmas holiday has pagan associations. Yes, we know that Christmas is heavily commercialized.

But... does that mean we should not spend time thinking about the birth of our Lord? If you're not going to celebrate Christmas, then you need to find another time of the year to think about the first coming of Jesus, the Word made flesh, God with us—Immanuel.

Around the world you see many different Christmas traditions. Nativity scenes are common. In Mexico before Christmas there's the celebration of "Las Posadas," in which children re-

enact the nativity story in a procession, with Mary and Joseph looking for room in an inn. In many countries the visit of the Magi is celebrated after Christmas as the Day of the Kings. And there are many other traditions—some good, some not so good.

But my point is that we need to remember. We need to think about what it really means for God to come to this world as a baby and to live among us. While we may not identify with everything the world calls Christmas, we can certainly identify with Christ!

Instead of looking at Matthew and Luke's account of the birth of Jesus, I'd like to take us to the beginning of John's gospel:

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become

children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:9-14, NIV).

Let’s look carefully through this.

1. The Word who took on human flesh is “the true light that gives light to everyone.” Without Jesus there is no light for anyone. Just as the sun provides light that enables physical life on this earth, so Jesus is the light that enables spiritual life. Without Jesus we are in the dark.

2. “He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.” Jesus is God, and since God is present everywhere, Jesus has always been in the world. But in this story He is in the world in a very special way—as a baby, born to Mary, in an ordinary village with no special benefits. And He is Creator! The world was made through Him! The active agent in creation! Can you get your minds around that? The Creator comes to be a part of His Creation! Then comes the tragedy—the world doesn’t recognize Him. The Creator God comes, and nobody knows Him!

3. When you come home, you expect to be welcomed. But “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.” His own special people turned Him away. They didn’t want Jesus because He wasn’t the kind of God they believed in. The message of Jesus’ coming should remind us that we can do the same thing—we too can refuse to

accept Jesus because He’s not the kind of God we want.

4. However, the gift to those who did welcome Him and want Him is simply amazing! “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” Born of God! Isn’t that incredible? We become God’s children once again—true children who trust in their Heavenly Father. What does that mean? That we have God as our Father right now and for all eternity!

5. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” Here is the most amazing thing about the first coming: that God, the Eternal Word, would take human flesh and live here with us. In the original language it actually says that God came and “pitched His tent” with us—His tent among our tents! He was willing to leave His heavenly palace and come and live in a rough tent here on Planet Earth. What great humility!

6. Then John writes, “We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John as a witness testifies that he and the others saw His glory. And we can do so too—for the message of the first coming is that even though God veiled His glory when He came to earth, it could still be seen. There are so many indications of Jesus’ divinity that we too can believe He is God! We also can say we have seen His glory, the One who is full of grace and truth.

So what do we conclude? That God really did come to earth to save us, to heal us, to show us what God is truly like. That this is what we are meant to be

thinking about. That like the shepherds and the wise men, we should be kneeling in worship at the feet of this little baby, for He is God and He is our salvation!

In the context of Christmas traditions, let me share a little story from Mexico. It's about the poinsettia plant that you see everywhere this time of year. The poinsettia originally came from Mexico. And of course there's a legend about how it was associated with Christmas.

In brief, two young children, brother and sister, loved the story of the birth of Jesus. They saw the nativity scene being set up in their village. Their friends, other children, brought little gifts to add to the scene. But the brother and sister were very poor; they had nothing to bring and were very sad.

One day as they went to look at the nativity scene again, they decided they couldn't go empty-handed. So they picked some weeds from the side of the road that they thought could be used as decorations. The other children laughed at their gift. But then something amazing happened. On Christmas day, when everyone was there, the "weeds" opened and the poinsettia flowers bloomed. Bright red stars to celebrate the Savior's birth.

Of course, that's just a legend. But there's a truth within it that we shouldn't miss. It's that we can bring to Jesus what we have, all we have. It may seem like weeds from the roadside to some. But to God it's something He can use for His glory. God can use you for His glory!

So during this season please take this time to think and reflect on what the first coming really means. How Jesus showed us God's true nature. How that little baby grew up and lived among us, demonstrating God's truth. How He died at our hands but then came back to life—and He lives forever! And how He is going to return, his second coming, to take us home.

Yet for the moment, also remember His words, "I am with you always, even unto the end

of the world" (Matthew 28:20, KJV).

May He be in your heart always.

Velino Salazar is the president of the Southern California Conference.



PORTRAITS OF CHRISTMAS

The light of God is ever shining amid the darkness of heathenism. As these magi studied the starry heavens, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, they beheld the glory of the Creator. Seeking clearer knowledge, they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures. In their own land were treasured prophetic writings that predicted the coming of a divine teacher."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 59



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The Love of God. How Manifested.

This article by E. G. White appeared in the Australian Union Conference Recorder on June 2, 1900.

T rue love is not merely a sentiment or an emotion. It is a living principle, a principle that is manifest in action. True love, wherever it exists, will control the life. Thus it is with the love of God. "God is love;" and in all His works, in all His dealings with mankind, His character is revealed.

God manifested His love in the work of creation. When the earth was created, it was holy and beautiful. God pronounced it "very good." Every flower, every shrub, every tree, answered the purpose of its Creator. Everything upon which the eye rested was lovely, and filled the mind with thoughts of the love of God. Every sound was music, in perfect harmony with the voice of God.

The things of nature, upon which we look today, give us but a faint conception of Eden's beauty and glory; yet the natural world, with unmistakable voice, proclaims the love of God. Even now "the earth is full of the goodness of the

Lord." It still reveals the working of the great Master-Artist. It declares that One omnipotent in power, great in goodness and mercy, has created all things....

In redemption God has revealed His love in sacrifice, a sacrifice so broad and deep and high that it is immeasurable. "God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

When Adam's sin plunged the race into hopeless misery, God might have cut Himself loose from fallen beings. He might have treated them as sinners deserve to be treated. He might have commanded the angels of heaven to pour out upon our world the vials of His wrath. He might have removed this dark blot from His universe. But He did not do this. Instead of banishing them from His presence, He came still nearer to the fallen race....

God has manifested His love to men by making them partners with Himself in the work of salvation. All

to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the Gospel. "We are labourers together with God," called to represent Him as ambassadors of love. We are to co-operate with the work of the delegates of heaven. And to us is committed a work which even the angels cannot do. Man must be the channel to communicate with man.

Through the ministrations of angels God sends light to His people, and through His people the light is to be given to the world. Man is to be connected with his fellow-men, and as God's instrumentality work in their behalf.

To us, in a sense that angels cannot know, it is given to unite with God in His travail for the salvation of humanity. To us it is given to swell the tide of His joy, and to bring honour and praise to His exalted name.

In creation and in redemption, by gift and sacrifice and service, God has manifested His love to us. And He invites us to show our love for Him.

Report on the North American Division Executive Committee Year-End Meeting, and Response by the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee

Editors

In November of each year, following the Annual Council of the General Conference, the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the North America Division Executive Committee comes together for what is called the “NAD Year-End Meeting.” This meeting provides an opportunity to receive reports from the officers and the various departments of the church, discuss new strategies, and conduct the business of the church. This year, the meeting was held in the offices of the North American Division in Columbia, Md. It ended on Wednesday afternoon, November 7, 2018.

Included in those who attend this meeting and serve on the NAD Executive Committee from the Pacific Union Conference are our union officers and ethnic coordinators, the officers of our seven conferences, presidents of our institutions of higher education and healthcare organizations, and several laypersons and pastors.

It was anticipated going into this Year End Meeting that there would be significant discussion of what has been called the “compliance document” that was voted by the Annual Council of the General Conference in October. This document had been firmly and faithfully resisted by our union officers and many others throughout the North American Division and the world church; however, it was approved by the Annual Council.

Following the Annual Council, the North American Division issued a statement expressing their continuing opposition to the compliance document that stated, “We believe that this voted document, which outlines a system of governance to address church entities perceived not in compliance with church policy, does not follow the biblical values proclaimed by the Protestant reformers and the founders

of the Adventist Church. This document, as voted, has made centralized power possible, and seeks to create a hierarchical system of governance.”

Elder Dan Jackson, President of the North American Division, began the formal business of the general sessions with an insightful analysis of the challenges facing the church in North America and a stirring call to a renewed focus on mission. He outlined five key challenges that our church must address if we are to succeed in our mission:

- Failure to place our mission as our top priority
- Disenchantment potential—all age groups
- The inability to financially fuel our mission
- Potential of decreasing funds
- Pluralism inside and outside the church

This inspiring framework for renewing and expanding the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church across North America was matched in purpose and tone by the Sabbath morning sermon from Elder Alexander Bryant, the executive secretary of the North American Division. Elder Bryant spoke to the cause of justice and fairness that is at the heart of the discussion of fully including women in ministry when he said, “Jesus stood up for those who could not stand up for themselves. God asked us, God requires us, God looks for us to use the influence of our position, the power of our position, whatever He has given us, to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. That’s why men, men, I’m talking to men. We have a marginalized group among us. They do not have voices in the same places we have voices. God requires us to stand up and be their voice.”

These important presentations, combined with early discussions among the delegates, set the stage for the business meeting on Sunday when the compliance document was set to be discussed. It was decided that a writing committee would be established that would develop recommendations for the body to consider. This committee convened after listening to the floor debate on the topic.

Once the writing committee was impaneled, the conversation on the floor of the Year-End Meeting turned to the financial reports and the concern that the North American Division is not at parity with the other world divisions in the percentage of tithe that goes from the NAD for the support of the work of the General Conference.

After extensive discussion—during which numerous perspectives were expressed—the following amended recommendation was presented: “To recommend the NAD Administration to discuss with the General Conference the issue of financial parity, with parity to be accomplished in two to three years.” The vote was 121 to 90, and the recommendation passed.

Immediately following this vote, Elder Jackson made a powerful and passionate statement about his own concerns and opinions about the compliance document, the questions surrounding women’s ordination that precipitated the discussion originally, and the attitude of the North American Division officers going forward. During this statement Jackson said, “Let us determine by God’s grace that we will work to support our women, that we will work—and this is painful—in harmony with the brethren because that is part of our role. The brethren around the world have said no, so the onus is on us to demonstrate that our wom-

en are spiritual women of God serving Him, building ministry for Him, and we will not pull back. We are not going to quit hiring women pastors. If you feel we're going to or you're going to kick up a fuss about it, too bad. We will not stop; furthermore, we will continue to agitate for the ordination of women to the gospel ministry."

The statement by Elder Jackson was very candid and personal. It has been released by the North American Division on video and can be found at <https://vimeo.com/299127842>.

Elder Jackson's statement was made at the end of the work day on Monday. On Tuesday, the delegates returned and discussed the recommended response to the GC compliance document, which had been developed by the writing committee and distributed to delegates on Monday evening. After rigorous discussion, the document was voted 176 to 48. The following recommendations to the General Conference are included in this document:

Requests for Action

1. We respectfully request, in light of Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17 and in harmony with the call for unity in the body of Christ in Fundamental Belief No. 14, that the General Conference Executive Committee at its 2019 Annual Council rescind the action approving the document.

2. We respectfully request that the 2019 Annual Council revise any policies that enable majority fields to dictate the management of non-doctrinal, non-biblical issues to minority fields (1 Cor 12:26) and create policies that protect the interests of minority fields.

3. We respectfully request that an item be placed on the 2020 General Conference Session agenda calling for a statement by the world church that: (1) affirms our shared respect for the richness and variety of the multiple cultures and practices in which we minister; and (2) empowers ministry that is sensitive to the local context (Acts 15; 1 Cor 9:19-23).

While there were additional reports and discussion, this concluded the formal conversations and recommendations on the items of the greatest

interest considered by the 2018 NAD Year-End Meeting.

The focus then shifted to the Executive Committee of each of the nine unions in the North American Division, who are responsible for the mission and ministry in their respective fields. Each of the unions have now met to review the recommendations to the General Conference made by the NAD Year-End Meeting. Their distributed task is to discuss how the actions of the Annual Council and the NAD Year-End Meeting will be implemented in their union.

In the Pacific Union, our Executive Committee convened on Thursday, November 15, 2018. The meeting had been scheduled for the Westlake Village offices, but the proximity to the Woolsey Fire that was still burning in the area prompted the officers to move the meeting to La Sierra University, in Riverside, Calif.

Elder Alex Bryant, Executive Secretary of the North American Division was a guest at this meeting, during which there was candid and thoughtful discussion of the actions that had been taken by the Annual Council, and particularly of the actions taken by our colleagues from around the North American Division who are members of this body.

The Executive Committee discussed briefly the issue of tithe parity, which had been discussed at length at the NAD Year-End Meeting, and voted "that we communicate with the NAD officers that as changes in tithe towards parity is achieved, the tithe going back to the Division will be totally remitted to the conferences through the Union." This simple statement signals the intent of the Executive Committee that the issue of tithe parity is particularly significant to the efforts to strengthen and maximize the ministry of local churches. While the action itself is short and straightforward, the task of strengthening local ministry is primary and all-encompassing, requiring the expenditure of every resource to be evaluated in the context of ministry effectiveness.

The Executive Committee also discussed the compliance document and issued a statement that both affirmed and challenged the statement that had been made by the North American Division Executive Committee.

Statement in response to the NAD Year-End Meeting statement

The mission of the church is universal, while the ministry of the church is local. The Pacific Union Conference leadership and Executive Committee affirm and renew our devotion to the unique ministry that Christ has given us. We remain stalwart in support of our churches, schools, conferences, and all of our workers. We are resolved in our continued commitment to ordain women and men equally.

We strongly affirm and adopt the action of the NAD Executive Committee of Nov. 6, 2018, regarding the General Conference's action, "Regard for and Practice of General Conference Session and General Conference Executive Committee Actions." We express our appreciation to the NAD leadership and delegates to the NAD Year-End meeting for their attentiveness and commitment to these issues.

We echo the North American Division leadership in stating that this newly devised and approved "compliance process" does not follow the biblical values proclaimed by the Protestant reformers and the founders of the Adventist Church.

The Pacific Union Conference will continue to support the implementation of General Conference Working Policy B 95, which sets forward our long-settled practice for the resolution of conflict, and we call on our conferences and institutions to act in accordance with this policy.

Voted by the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee
November 15, 2018

It is the shared mission of the churches, schools, hospitals, institutions, conferences, and union to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of the return of Jesus Christ to the more than 55 million people who live in the territories of the Pacific Union. Please pray for all of our members, workers, and ministries, and for God's guidance and blessings on the work of the Adventist church here in the Pacific Southwest.

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."

—1 Chronicles 16:24

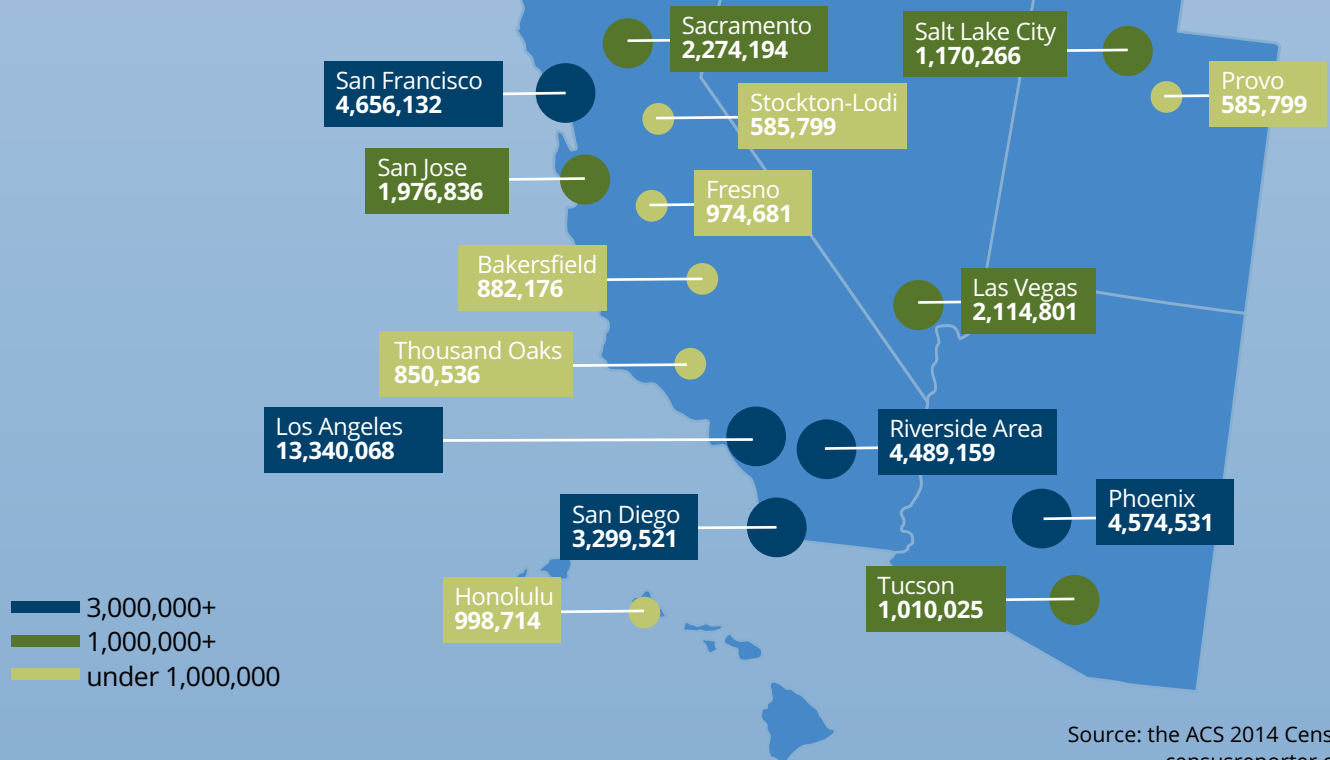
Impact Pacific Offering: December 29, 2018 Missions Right Here at Home

The Pacific Union Conference includes 16 of the leading metropolitan areas in the United States. Many of our members and churches are in these large population centers and must confront the unique challenges of carrying the gospel to the complex and diverse groups who make up these great cities.

God has also gifted us with unique opportunities for service and mission throughout our territory. The work at Calexico Mission School, Holbrook Indian School, and with Native American Ministries are some of the important and distinctive opportunities for ministry among native populations here in the Pacific Southwest.

Total Population of Major Cities in the Pacific Union

The Pacific Union region boasts 16 of the largest metropolitan cities in the United States. Here is a look at the people who live there.



Source: the ACS 2014 Census
censusreporter.org

The Impact Pacific offerings are used to respond to opportunities for mission unique to the Pacific Union.

The offerings are used exclusively within the local conference for mission opportunities in these three areas:

Providential Opportunities—Projects that are initiated because of an extraordinary opportunity for impacting the communities we serve that go beyond the scope of existing ministries, often in urban environments.

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

Mission in Context—Projects that are anchored in responding to specific local needs, particularly Refugee and Immigrant Ministries.

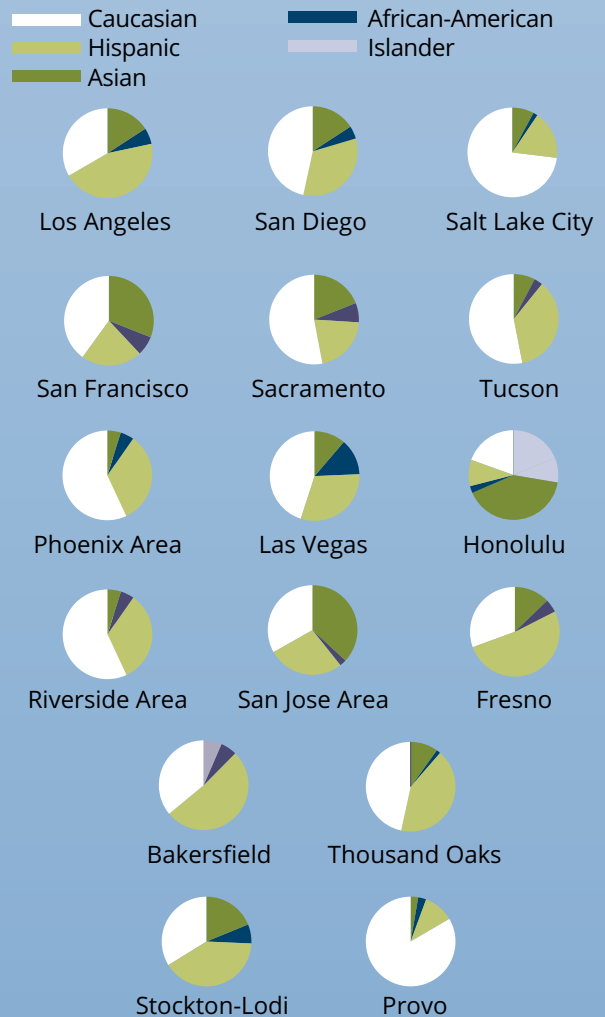
Nearly 55 million people live in the five states that comprise the Pacific Union: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah. The Impact Pacific Offering on December 29, 2018, is an important way for us to reach out in unique ministries that will help us reach our neighbors, colleagues, and friends—right here at home. *To maximize effectiveness, all Impact Pacific offerings are used within the individual conferences where the funds are received.*

“There are many from whom hope has departed. Bring back the sunshine to them. Many have lost their courage. Speak to them words of cheer. Pray for them. There are those who need the bread of life. Read to them from the word of God. Upon many is a soul sickness which no earthly balm can reach nor physician heal. Pray for these souls, bring them to Jesus.... From no sect, rank, or class of people is the light shining from heaven's throne to be excluded.”

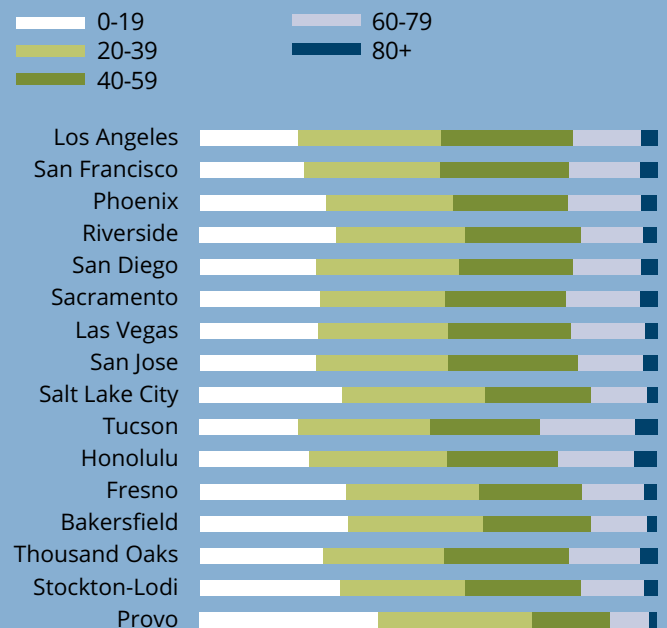
—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 418

Impact Pacific Offering.
December 29, 2018.
Collected in churches
throughout the Pacific Union.

Ethnicity Breakdown of Major Cities in the Pacific Union



Age Breakdown of Major Cities in the Pacific Union



Camp Fire Devastates Paradise Community, but Faith and Love Remain

BY JULIE LORENZ

Editor's note: As this article is being written, the most devastating fire in California history—the Camp Fire—is still burning, affecting Paradise and its surrounding communities. Because the story is still developing, some information may change between the time of writing and publication.

After igniting early Thursday morning, Nov. 8, the Camp Fire roared through Paradise and its surrounding communities.

The Paradise church was destroyed. Paradise Adventist Academy (PAA) lost its facilities for kindergarten through fourth grade, as well as the industrial shop in the basement of its gym. While the rest of the school is still standing, it's unknown what repairs will be required for the gym and other buildings.

All three Paradise church pastors lost their homes to the fire, as did the pastor of the Magalia Upper Ridge church and the pastor of the Orland/Willows district. The fire also destroyed the homes of most of the school's staff. Many members of local Adventist churches lost their homes, but it is unknown how many. A number of people from local area churches are still missing.

The Paradise church office has moved into the Chico church facility, and the two congregations plan to worship together for the foreseeable future. The goal is for the 169 students from PAA to attend school at the Chico church and/or

Chico Oaks Adventist School after Thanksgiving break. Bill Keresoma, NCC superintendent of schools, plans to bring in a team of counselors. "We are committed to the PAA family, and we'll do everything we can to support the staff and students," he said.

In the midst of loss, church members are stepping up to help each other and the wider community. "It's awesome to see the support and love for one another that people are demonstrating," said Assistant to the NCC President Ed Fergusson, who is serving as the point person for the conference's response to this fire.

"We Press On"

Paradise church Associate Pastor Dan Martella and his wife, Linda, didn't learn the fate of their home until Sabbath afternoon. The news was bad. "We had great hopes, but it didn't happen," he said.

The day the fire started, the Martellas were able to pack some family pictures, important papers, and a few other things before they evacuated. Now they will be starting over, along with so many others. "We can't wrap our minds around it ... to

know the vast majority of the town was destroyed," said Martella.

He and the rest of the church community are holding on to their faith. As Martella was driving to worship at the Chico church that first Sabbath, "the thing that kept coming to me was the song 'In Jesus' Name We Press On,'" he said.

"In a Foreign Land"

Chico church Associate Pastor Jonny Hayasaka, his wife Julia, and church members have been working to help people locate temporary housing. A number of Adventists have welcomed people to their homes and their properties.

Last Sabbath, Hayasaka and Paradise church Lead Pastor Steve Hamilton spoke to the joint congregation at the Chico church. "We sang songs of worship through tears,



PHOTOS: BETH JOHNSON



(Left) The Camp Fire destroys the Paradise church (before and after). (Above) The Feather River Adventist School opens its gym after the fire to provide items to evacuees.



PHOTO: NANCY HAMILTON



The air quality in Northern California quickly becomes unhealthy in many areas, especially those closest to the fire.



Paradise church members worship with Chico church members on the Sabbath after the fire started.

Donations from several churches made it to Chico church the first Sabbath after the fire and were available after church for victims who lost their homes.

and even though we all know we are in a foreign land right now, there was a slice of heaven in our community—and togetherness,” said Beth Johnston, Chico church elder.

Afterward, members of the Grass Valley church served a hot meal to everyone, and the Chico church invited evacuees to select what they needed from tables of donated items.

“Doing What We Can Do”

The next week, fire survivors found clothes, furniture, portable cots, and more in the Feather River

Adventist School gym. Volunteers from the school community and the Gridley and Oroville churches worked together, along with a number of evacuees who helped in appreciation for what they had received.

“Yesterday, we had some people come in who were very bewildered, almost numb,” said Brownsville/Dobbins/Gridley district Pastor Robert Fisher. Finding things they needed brought them some relief. “We’re not trying to do anything big,” said Fisher. “We’re just trying to do what we can do.”

Ways to Help:

At this time, local Adventist relief efforts do not need donations of clothing, toiletries, or other physical goods. They also do not need volunteer help right now. *Here’s how you can help:*

1. You can donate to the Chico church’s “Local Disaster Relief” fund. www.adventistgiving.org/#/org/ANPID6/envelope/start
2. You can send a gift card

for a store or a gas station to the Chico SDA Church, 1877 Hooker Oak Avenue, Chico, CA 95926-1738.

3. You can donate to the NCC “Disaster Relief” fund. There are several ways to give:

- Donate online by visiting www.nccsda.com.
- Text NCCSDA to 77977.
- Mark “NCC Disaster Relief” on your tithe envelope.

A list of specific items needed for PAA will soon be compiled. Watch for news about this in the near future.

“Overwhelmed with the Love of Jesus”

By Maureen Mayden Wisener, parent of PAA student/volleyball player

On Saturday night, Nov. 10, the Paradise Adventist Academy Cougars girls’ volleyball team traveled to Auburn to play Forest Lake Christian High School (FLCHS) in the quarterfinals for their division. When we arrived, we were overwhelmed with the love of Jesus by these amazing people, now friends!

The FLCHS community donated money so no one had to pay the gate fee required by the league; gave the girls socks, knee pads, shorts, and jerseys personalized with “Paradise” and each girl’s own number; gave each girl an envelope with \$300 in gift cards and a gift bag with a pillow, blanket, toiletries, and more; donated more than \$16,000 to PAA; provided free food at the snack bar and a meal for all the families after the game; escorted all of us to a room full of donations (clothes, toiletries, backpacks, etc.) and told us to “shop.”

Supporters came from various Sacramento Adventist schools and churches. A bus of people came from Pacific Union College to cheer, and they presented flowers to each team member.

FLCHS won 3-1. Our girls played hard. We certainly are proud of them. We are overwhelmed. Thank you is simply not enough to express the gratitude we feel.



Oak & Acorn Publishing
 Books available through Amazon.com
 Available soon through AdventSource

Now available on Amazon

Authentic Adventism
 by William G. Johnsson



Books by Reinder Bruinsma

In All Humility:
 Saying No to Last Generation Theology
 Con toda humildad:
 Decir No a la Teología de la Última Generación

Book by Gilbert Valentine

The Struggle for the Prophetic Heritage

Books by George Knight

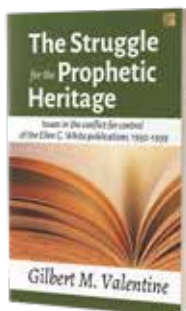
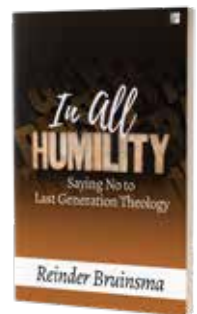
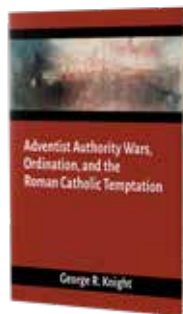
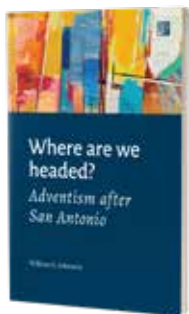
Adventist Authority Wars
 Guerras adventistas sobre la autoridad

Books by William G. Johnsson

Where Are We Headed? Adventism after San Antonio
 ¿Hacia dónde vamos? El adventismo después de San Antonio

Books in Spanish

Justicia y conciencia —Unity Conference 2017
 Rumbo a la excelencia —Adventist education revue
 Casados pero contentos —Married yet happy
 by Alfonso Valenzuela



Care and Courage:

All in a Hard Day's Work for the Associates of Adventist Health

At Adventist Health, one of the largest nonprofit healthcare providers in the western United States, the mission to inspire health, wholeness, and hope is more than just advertising—it is a constant call to service.



Sometimes that commitment is tested by forces that demand action above and beyond the norm.

On the morning of November 8, 2018, about 90 miles north of Sacramento in Butte County, Calif., the Camp Fire, a wildfire that would grow to be the deadliest and most destructive in state history, sprang to life. With strong winds and dry conditions to speed its growth, the fire reached

the town of Paradise in a matter of hours. For most of Paradise's residents, there was no time to evacuate.

The associates of Adventist Health Feather River, located in the city of Paradise, knew the stakes were high. There was no doubt that the hospital would suffer damage along with most of the community. As the fire came into sight, with their patients in danger, hospital associates leapt into action.

With no time to prepare proper transportation, associates began to move patients out to personal vehicles. A few at a time, they drove the patients to safety via the only remaining means of exit: directly through the heart of the fire that was now surrounding them.

It was never clear whether they would make it out alive. At times, the fire burned so hot around them that the cars' metal body panels began to warp and wrinkle. Patients held hospital gowns over their mouths as makeshift breathing masks and used pillows to insulate them from the glass windows that quickly grew too hot to touch. In the end, through these valiant efforts, every last patient of Adventist Health Feather River was taken to safety.

Adventist Health is a company firmly rooted in its guiding faith, a set of principles that extend beyond the boundaries of normal care. For the associates of Adventist Health Feather River, it took both abiding faith and an enormous dedication to the duty of helping those most in need of their care. For these brave people, the call to service goes beyond working hours or even job description; it is a mission, in the truest sense of the word.



Adventist Health Saves Lives in Armenia

BY ALINA DOUMANIAN

For the fourth year, Adventist Health Glendale and Adventist Health White Memorial partnered with Armenia Fund for Compassion in Action—Mission Armenia to go on a medical mission trip delivering critical care, life-saving surgeries, and medical expertise. This year's mission, from Sept. 22 to Oct. 5, was made possible by the generous support of donors, including Hacop and Hilda Baghdassarian and their family.

Men, women, and children seeking treatment filled hallways at Noyemberyan Hospital and Stepanakert Republican Medical Center. Among them was a 48-year-old man with a brain aneurysm. Without emergency treatment, his life was in jeopardy. Alice Issai, president of Adventist Health Glendale and one of 60 volunteers on the mission trip, recalled that moment. "He thought his only option was flying to St. Petersburg, Russia," she said. "It felt like a miracle when we could help him."

Dr. Mikayel Grigoryan, Armenian-born interventional neurologist at Adventist Health Glendale, worked side by side with local doctors to mentor them and save the patient. "We worked as a team to carry out our hospital's mission of living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope ... for Armenia," said Issai.

The Meaning of Mission Work

The group of volunteers saw the mission trip as an opportunity to provide sustainable care. They also believe it is their duty for the Armenian diaspora to create a better Armenia and help Armenians overcome challenges they have endured as a nation. "We helped

develop the foundation of health care for future security and growth," said Dr. Arby Nahapetian, regional medical officer, Adventist Health Southern California. "To create sustainability, we educated and trained local physicians and nurses, so they can provide the same care in exponential numbers."

"We Made a Difference"

One older man was diagnosed with a severe heart condition. His only chance to survive was open heart surgery in Yerevan—a five-hour drive from Artsakh, where he lived. The cost was a devastating \$30,000. "We removed the burden

from him," Issai said. Adventist Health Glendale and the Health Ministry of Karabakh covered the cost. "We made a difference in a life, and that's what matters," she said.

The number of people helped was impressive for a mission trip this size. The volunteer team performed 270 procedures and major surgeries—a wide variety ranging from total knee replacements and hysterectomies to life-saving catheterization lab cases in cardiology, neurology, and electrophysiology. Another 2,240 visits and consultations were provided to primary care, oncology, gynecology, and pediatric patients at the two

Mission volunteers at the Hacop and Hilda Baghdassarian Community Center in Krasni.





Cardiologist and electrophysiologist Arby Nahapetian (right) completes first pacemaker implant.



Vascular and general surgeon Simon Keushkerian (right).

Gratitude and Hope

Gratitude came with tears, hugs, and hospitality. A meeting with Arsen Torosyan, health minister of Armenia, started an important conversation about improving health

family in Krasni, where a community center was made possible by the generosity of Hacop and Hilda Baghdassarian.

Looking back on her experience in Armenia, Yi Shen, a nurse at Adventist Health Glendale, reflected, "I realized how much we have available to us in the U.S. and how much we overlook. I've come back to work and learned to treat the emotional and spiritual needs of a patient. Mission work changes the lives of patients. In return, the lives of health care providers are changed forever."

hospitals and in the surrounding villages, where free prescriptions were also distributed. The team truly accomplished its mission!

Every patient came with a story, and the concerns were critical. "Women's health issues are heart-wrenching," said Ramella Markarian, Adventist Health Glendale business development executive.

Dr. Laurence Spencer-Smith, Adventist Health White Memorial obstetrician/gynecologist, performed numerous surgeries that changed lives. "With his healing hands he ended the suffering of women with uterine and bladder prolapses and disabling gynecologic disorders, which are easily treated in the U.S.," Markarian said.

care. The opportunity to meet with dignitaries speaks volumes about their gratitude toward the missionaries, according to Nahapetian.

The mission concluded with patient visits in the villages of Harav, Shushi, and Krasni in Artsakh. A seamless process for treatment included a triage area, primary care physician consults, education, and medication for the villagers. A special tribute was paid to the Baghdassarian



Nurse Karine Khachatryan provides health education to nurses.

Page All Nations Church *Receives Community Beautification Award*

BY STEVEN LAW · LAKE POWELL CHRONICLE, OCT. 2, 2018 · REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

The southeast corner of South Lake Powell Boulevard and Coppermine Road used to be one of the worst eyesores in Page, Ariz. It was covered with weeds that would occasionally get knocked down by the property owners, which just knocked their seeds loose allowing them to grow back even thicker and more virulently than before.

But over the last couple years, the weeds have disappeared, and trees, a vegetable and flower garden, and a shade and picnic area have sprung up in their place, making it one of the most-improved areas in Page.

One of the many people in town to notice and appreciate the changes was Page City Councilman Levi Tappan, who awarded Pastor James Crosby and the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church a Certificate of Property Beautification at last Wednesday's regular city council meeting.

Crosby and his wife, Nancy, arrived in Page in Sept. 2014 and immediately set out to improve the site. They first turned their attention to the building where they hold their services and meetings.

"It needed some pretty serious attention," said Nancy.

Crosby and his family spent the majority of the first two years improving the church building and, after improving it to a much better state, turned their energies to the property's exterior a year ago.

Crosby said they got a lot of help from volunteers, friends and family.

They began by erecting a wall around the property's perimeter. This summer they cleared a space near



(Above) Page City Councilman Levi Tappan awards Pastor James Crosby and the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church a Certificate of Property Beautification. (Right) Pastor James Crosby and his wife, Nancy, began ministry in Page, Ariz. in Sept. 2014.

their house and created a picnic area with a shade structure and pavers. Crosby and his father, both of whom are carpenters, built half a dozen picnic tables.

"It's a great space," said Crosby. "We use it for fellowship meals, or times when we want to gather together outside."

Throughout 2017 and this spring, they planted an orchard with a variety of fruit and nut trees, and a garden with corn, asparagus, green beans, kale, peppers, squash, zucchini and herbs flourishing in grow beds. Flowers growing in hanging baskets bloom throughout the garden as well.

"We mostly have the flowers because they look nice," said Nancy. "They do well in the desert heat and the wind."

The Crosbys say they really enjoy their garden.

"The garden is meant to be educational," said Crosby. School groups, church groups visit, and the kids get to experience first-hand what it takes to plant a seed, water it, weed it and harvest it.

As they move forward, they want to open the garden up to more people in Page who, in return for time spent planting, weeding and watering the garden, will be allowed to harvest the vegetables.

Combined Mediums: *Using Film and Music to Share God's Grace*

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

Art has always been a refuge for me. It's how I relieve stress." Christina Allen, senior film and music double major, has always been a vocalist. Everyone on her dad's side of the family sings, and music has always been a part of her life.

"Music is cathartic," she says. "When you're stressed over everything, you can hammer away at the piano or sing to your heart's content and get that stress out. Music brings peace."

Despite her passion for music, she never intended to study it, and she began her college career as a film major. But when a music faculty member heard her singing, they encouraged her to add it as a second major and join PUC's ensembles, which she did.

"I don't regret it at all," she says firmly. "Both film and music have come together nicely for me."

Her interest in creative expression made the combination of these art forms a natural one for Allen. She has found that being part of two different art programs has allowed her to gain different perspectives

toward a common goal.

"In film I learned theoretical and technical concepts for production, such as lighting, sound, scripting, casting, location scouting, and more," she explains. "In music, I was cultivated, growing as an artist by leaps and bounds, gaining insights into theory, creation, and performance of classical and modern music. I'm excited about what I'll be able to do with this experience and training."

Her heart's desire is to produce theater. Allen's background in music, combined with her ability to write scripts, light a set, and direct, will provide a solid foundation for achieving her goals. But it's not just about her.

"There's a theme in everything I've produced," Allen points out. "It all highlights God's grace, His love, and how important it is to know



PHOTO COURTESY:
CHRISTINA ALLEN

Christina Allen, senior music and film major, performs in PUC's Paulin Hall with Vox Pro Musica.

that there's a God who loves you."

As a Christian, Allen feels she carries a duty and responsibility to be salt and light to the world. Admitting it sounds clichéd, she wholeheartedly believes it as truth and has committed to sharing her creative abilities and living her life in a way that benefits and blesses others.

"In a world with so much confusion, I want to be part of something speaking peace," she says. "In the stories I tell, in the songs I sing, I feel there is a Christian responsibility to spread that message. In everything I do, I try to represent God to the world, so hopefully someone can receive inspiration and God gets the increase."

Come hear Christina and her fellow musicians in their annual Christmas concert in the PUC church, Friday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 8, at 4 p.m. Admission is free.



Christina Allen, PUC senior, finds solace, healing, and peace in music, while also pursuing a career in film.



Allen has found a way to combine her two biggest passions for a future in musical theater that spreads the love of God.

Selma Marches for Jesus

BY SUE SCHRAMM

Members from many Selma churches join together to March for Jesus, walking through the streets of the city to pray, praise, and worship Jesus. (Inset) A March for Jesus participant stops along the route to pray with a community member.



On Sabbath, Sept. 22, people in Selma, Calif., found the streets blocked off surrounding the Selma Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Valley Life Community Church just across the street, and many others. Why? It was the fourth annual "March for Jesus."

The community of 24 churches within the city had been invited to join together to glorify God's name and celebrate His goodness, and over half of the assorted denominational churches came together to march. Over 1,000 people flooded the streets to promote unity within the

community; prayer, praise, and worship for Jesus was the unanimous goal. They walked a two-mile course, lifting up every business and home passed along the way.

"It was a beautiful thing to see Adventists alongside so many others, bathing each other with prayer, asking God to bless the city," said Zeke Nichols, then pastor of the Selma church.

Along the route, residents stood in front of their homes watching marchers. "As we were passing, one lady marched right up to someone and asked if they were in need of prayer. They accepted," said Tammy Real Lawly, an attendee of the Selma church. "It was a beautiful thing to witness."

As marchers arrived back at Valley Life for a block party, people continued to pray, hold hands, and praise Jesus. Public service agencies provided information booths, children splashed in a water play area, and everyone received lunch and food giveaways. "Even more people came for the block party following the march," said Nichols. "Food,



PHOTO BY TODD PAGE



Local car club, Cruising for Jesus, was on hand at the block party to share about His transformative power.

lunch, water, literature, toys, resources, activities—everything was offered free, to respect the Sabbath.”

March for Jesus began in 2015 as a desire to bring everyone together, united in Christ Jesus in collaboration with the community, the churches, the City of Selma, the Reserved Officer Training Corp (ROTC), the police department, and businesses throughout Selma.

Lawley has participated in the march since it began, along with her parents, husband, son, and sister’s

family. She noticed the diversity of marchers and said she believed it was a sign of things to come. “It was such an awesome opportunity to march for Jesus and be able to do it with all kinds of people, all walks of life. There were nothing but smiles, praises, and goodwill toward each other,” Lawley said. “It was the way it should be—the way it could be when Jesus is Lord of your life. Our country is so divided, but while marching for Jesus, we were all united regardless of our skin color, nationality, or cultural background.”

Central California Conference *Announces New Leadership Transition*

BY CINDY CHAMBERLIN

Central California Conference (CCC) administration and the CCC Executive Committee recently voted to appoint Antonio Huerta, current CCC Hispanic ministries director, to serve as vice president for ministries, effective April 1, 2019. This appointment was voted following the announcement by Steve Horton, current CCC vice president for ministries, that he will retire from his longtime ministry in the CCC, effective April 1. Huerta has accepted the appointment of this executive officer position, which may include some structural changes.

Horton holds a Master of Divinity from the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University, a Master of Public Health from Loma Linda University, and a Bachelor of Arts in theology from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University). Upon his retirement, he will have worked a total of 41 years and eight months in the CCC. He has served in his current role since 2003.

“Dr. Horton’s contributions to the

Lord’s vineyard here in Central California have been vast and transformational,” said Ramiro Cano, CCC president. “Those contributions have left imprints that will remain long after his retirement. Eternity will give ample evidence of how those imprints were used to lead many hearts to the very throne of the Omnipotent. We thank him for his faithful service.”

Horton will be most remembered for his work and strategic implementation of Life Hope Centers at CCC and also his annual coordination of the CCC men’s retreats, along with his other administrative duties. A special recognition and appreciation for Horton’s service will be given at CCC’s annual Soquel Camp Meeting in July.

In his new role, Huerta’s main function will be to provide support for local CCC congregations and departmental directors by developing



and coordinating plans and programs for the accomplishment of the CCC mission. Huerta holds a Doctor of Ministry from the SDA Theological

Seminary at Andrews University, a Master of Divinity from Andrews University, and a Bachelor of Arts from La Sierra University. He has been the CCC Hispanic ministries director since 2015. Prior to that he was the senior pastor at the Fresno Hispanic church for 10 years. Huerta and his wife, Leticia, have two grown children, Jaziel and Yarimel.

“God has and continues to affirm Dr. Huerta’s service here in Central,” said Cano. “This comes with very tangible confirmations of the rich bestowal of heaven’s Spirit-led leadership and contributions. We look forward to his expanding influence with this providential appointment.”

Kahului Church Celebrates Christmas with the Community

BY TWINKLE PEREIRA

In the past, the annual Christmas concert at Kahului church was performed during the Sabbath worship service. However, last year the church decided to bring the choir, the congregation, and the community together to “Celebrate! The Joy and Wonder of Christmas.” The program was held in the evening, with the hope that this would create a more convenient opportunity for the community to celebrate the season and join in the fellowship of music.

The response was gratifying—more than 300 people filled the church. Those who had worked so hard to create something special were overjoyed by the attendance, which included many family members of Maui Adventist Preschool students.

The choir invited the preschoolers to open the concert by performing the Christmas songs they had learned, and the children were a huge hit with the audience. There were also carols strummed on the ukelele and a saxophone solo. Then the 30-member choir performed the musical, with narration between the songs.

Following the concert, the audience was invited to partake in a delightful array of refreshments that had been prepared by church members.

The choir also took the concert to the patients at Kula Hospital long-term care facility. After the performance the patients sang Christmas carols with the choir. The experience filled both the choir members and the patients with gratitude.

On December 15, 2018, Kahului church will hold their annual Christmas concert, this year titled “Forever God is

(Below) Twinkle Pereira directs the congregation in Christmas carols. (Inset) Marceliza Luwalhati, assistant choir director, with daughter Natalie, enjoys Christmas confections at one of the delicious refreshment tables served by Margaret Kaplan.





With Us." This year the Keiki (Children's) Choir will be joining in. The choir has been preparing since August, faithfully attending practices to prepare for sharing in this ministry of music. One piece in particular has captured their imagination—"He Started the Whole World Singing." It is sure to remain in the hearts of everyone who attends.

Once again the church will be festively decorated with Christmas wreaths twinkling as the choir raises their voices in songs that will inspire unity and celebration in the blessed message of hope and peace found in the truth that "Forever God is with us."

FOREVER
God is With Us
FINDING OUR WAY HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

December 15, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Refreshments to follow

Kahului SDA Church
261 S. Puunene Avenue, Kahului

Hawaii Conference *Welcomes New Treasurer*

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON

Douglas (Doug) Reeves joins the Hawaii Conference administrative team as the new treasurer.

Reeves served as treasurer of the Nevada-Utah Conference from 2014-2018, business manager of Monterey Bay Academy from 2012-2014, and auditor for the General Conference from 1986-2012.

"He brings with him experience and expertise from years of faithful service to God," said Hawaii Conference President Ralph S. Watts III. "I believe Doug will help keep us focused on how we can effectively and efficiently

advance God's mission in Hawaii."

Reeves has a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Walla Walla University (formerly Walla Walla College), with a concentration in accounting. He is a certified public accountant licensed in Texas.

A native of Pendleton, Ore., Reeves is married to Cheryl, and they have four children: Doug Jr., Sheila, Lisa, and Sharon.

"The Hawaii Conference is grateful and blessed to welcome Doug as our new treasurer," said Watts. "With aloha we welcome Doug and the Reeves ohana."





HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

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



Outdoor School: *Zion National Park*

BY ALYSSA WILLIAMS

“Let him behold the glorious scenes painted by the great Master Artist upon the shifting canvas of the heavens, let him become acquainted with the wonders of earth and sea, let him watch the unfolding mysteries of the changing seasons, and, in all His works, learn of the Creator” (Ellen G. White, Education, p. 100).

God can be found in every leaf that falls, every winding river and canyon. His creation is our schoolroom. Every subject can be found in the natural world: there is math in astronomy, science in the river’s ecosystem, art in the various forms of the landscape. That is why at Holbrook Indian School (HIS), we make it a tradition to have Outdoor School every year.

In past years, Outdoor School has been held at an array of places; for instance, Colorado’s Rocky Mountain National Park, Utah’s Kodachrome Basin, and San Diego for urban learning and oceanography. This past September, our 8th- through 12th-grade students loaded up the bus before dawn to head to Zion National Park in Utah. The six-hour drive through the desert led to a road winding down into the majestic canyon. Our students were excited about camping at the base of the park and all the adventures that awaited them.

Since Outdoor School is a mere



“Nature is God’s way of expressing how much He loves us” (Laqueta, 10th grade).

Zion National Park Learning Objectives

Human History:

- List two facts about the early inhabitants of the Zion area.
- Demonstrate respect for archeological sites.

Sand Dunes/Pictographs:

- Describe how sand dunes are created.
- Explain what it takes to drive a vehicle in the sand.
- Demonstrate mental and physical ability to hike sand dunes.

Mountain Biking:

- Learn the lifelong physical, mental, and relational benefits of biking.
- Learn the critical components of a bicycle and how to maintain them.
- Learn body movement on a bike to navigate all types of terrain.

The Narrows Hike:

- Brave the Narrows.
- Learn how to avoid a flash flood.
- Learn about hypothermia and heat exhaustion.

Canyoneering:

- List three safety rules of rock climbing.
- Demonstrate the importance of trust.
- Explain how rock climbing helps our mental wholeness.

Painting:

- Evaluate a landscape scene and mix paint accordingly for use in painting.
- Evaluate perspective, angles, and light of an outdoor scene.
- Demonstrate care for the environment by disposing of materials properly.

Edible plants:

- List reasons for preparedness and acquiring knowledge.
- List nutritional and body needs.
- State how plants show the Creator's care for us.

Navajo Culture:

- Define Ho'zho'.
- List two lessons of Navajo culture.
- Identify why culture is important.

Math on a Hike:

- Identify the math on maps.
- Identify the physical features on maps.
- Identify ways nature speaks of God.

Water Analysis:

- Conduct physical and chemical analysis of Virgin River.
- Demonstrate the proper procedure of water collection.

Birding:

- Identify basic bird shapes.
- Describe how to use binoculars.
- Identify five resident species in Zion National Park.

Art Galleries:

- Students will demonstrate tact.
- Students will demonstrate an appreciation for a variety of styles.
- Students will represent God and HIS.

GOD CAN BE FOUND IN
EVERY LEAF THAT FALLS,
EVERY WINDING RIVER
AND CANYON.





month into the new school year, it offers an excellent opportunity for building relationships and teamwork among the students and faculty. From setting up camp to cooking meals and canyoneering, the students learned to communicate and work together.

Prior to going to Zion National Park, students were heavily involved in the planning process. With awareness of the budget, they researched different park activities and campaigned to raise money. Students also co-labored with



their teachers to create different learning objectives utilizing our NEW (Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness) You Health Initiative. This program includes four fundamental pillars called MAPS: mental, academic, physical, and spiritual health. These responsibilities allowed students to learn what planning a trip entails,

and it also empowers them to have a part in making decisions.

As part of the trip, students learned of the idea of Ho'zho', a Navajo word loosely translated as the concept of peace, balance, beauty, and harmony. This is the kind of environment we strive to create and teach at Holbrook Indian School. Students experienced the peace of God, the balance of work and play, the beauty of nature, and the harmony of the students and faculty, all while learning in God's nature at Zion National Park.



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.



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La Sierra Film Student's PBS, NAD Projects *Aim for Positive Impact*

BY DARLA MARTIN TUCKER

Michelle Noland, a senior La Sierra University Film and Television Production major, landed two contracts this past summer that launched her into the world of professional storytelling and used her talents to impact others' lives.

PBS affiliate KQED inked a distribution deal with Noland in August for the inclusion of her award-winning short film "She Isn't Here" in the nationwide series, "Film School Shorts." The film's air date is yet to be announced.

Additionally, the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists hired Noland to serve as a cinematographer and editor on a millennial-focused web series titled "I Am a Steward." The 24-episode video

series is a promotional campaign designed to increase awareness of the Adventist Giving app and foster understanding of stewardship through personal stories. The first episode will appear in January on the Adventist Giving app, the Adventist Giving website, and the Hope Channel, and through the NAD's social media outlets. The series will also be available to conferences within the NAD for distribution to their churches. "Personal stories are extremely

effective at teaching stewardship, and we have had a great response from the test audiences of the 'I am a Steward' series," said John Mathews, stewardship director at NAD Stewardship Ministries.

The NAD project took Noland to 12 states and to Calgary, Alberta, Canada. "I was invited into strangers' homes, ate with their families, heard their stories, and saw the practical ways in which they lived out their faith," she said. "This has reaffirmed my own

Bryce Vails, Erik Harty, Michelle Noland, and Jonathan Bonnin on the set of "She Isn't Here."





Michelle Noland gives direction to Zoephia Decker-Knealing who played a young Rebecca in "She Isn't Here."

beliefs and reminded me of my own need for God."

Noland's film, "She Isn't Here," which she wrote and directed, was slated to air nationally on PBS stations as part of the series' sixth season. It will also be available for three years through the PBS video-on-demand service and YouTube channel.

"When I was first contacted by KQED at the beginning of the summer, notifying me that I was selected to be part of their show, my initial response was to jump up and down in excitement," said Noland. "I felt as though I was going to burst. I had never been offered anything like this in my entire life."

"I'm delighted, but not surprised, to learn of the successful distribution of Michelle Noland's film on PBS and elsewhere. She has a passion

and a talent for filmmaking that has rapidly developed under the expert guidance of our faculty," said Department of Film and Television Production Chair Rodney Vance.

The fictional film draws readers into the reclusive and anxious world of a character named Rebecca, who grapples with agoraphobia, a disorder that induces panic attacks or feelings of being trapped or helpless in public spaces or crowds. "We get to see an insider's perspective on how difficult day-to-day life is, how debilitating the disorder can become for some people, and how Rebecca deals with pressures from work, family, and relationships in general," Noland said.

The film falls in line with Noland's goals of "telling stories that haven't been told" and touching people's lives toward influencing positive

change and healing, including in the arena of mental health. "I hope that my film will somehow be a part of making others feel like they aren't alone and that it is okay to bring up these topics," she said.

Noland's interest in film production began early in life. She and her brother made their own films with a black and white camcorder that her brother received as a gift. "For fun, we would set up green screens, play around with visual effects, and create short films using animation," she said. "I realized that filmmaking could be more than just a hobby for me."

In addition to the KQED contract, "She Isn't Here" was a finalist and won Best Actress at the Eclipse International Film Festival. It was a semi-finalist at the Caribbean Market and Film Festival, and won Best Dramatic Short at the NAD Sonscreen Film Festival. It was also an official selection of several film festivals in different parts of the world.

For more on this story, visit www.lasierra.edu.

"This has reaffirmed my own beliefs and reminded me of my own need for God."

School of Medicine Alumnus Jason Brayley is Physician for the NBA's Sacramento Kings

BY ARIN GENCER

Jason Brayley is one of two team physicians who regularly attend Sacramento Kings' home games. They are responsible for the onsite care of the Kings and the visiting team, referees, and other staff.

Throughout the season, Brayley also acts as the Kings' primary care doctor, advising and treating players and their families—whether it's dealing with the flu, stomach ailments, infections, or other issues.

"It's a 24/7 job," said Brayley, who serves as chief of sports medicine for Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento. "NBA athletes are human beings just like us, with families and life stresses. Part of my job has been to establish relationships that help provide care in any way that the athlete or family may need."

Brayley's early interest in physical therapy while in high school at Loma Linda Academy evolved into a desire to pursue medicine. He attended Pacific Union College before going on to Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1997. He grew interested in family medicine as he completed rotations at military hospitals and a three-year family medicine residency.

A sports medicine fellowship at Ohio's Cleveland Clinic—the healthcare provider for the Cleveland Cavaliers—began laying the groundwork for his future practice. Working under team doctors for a year gave him an up-close view of the rhythms and requirements of being an NBA physician.

Brayley later worked with a Seattle-area health care system. Five years later when the position in Sacramento opened, he jumped at the chance to work in Northern California.

"Every move I've made since high school and college was based on leaps of faith, and you feel like you're sort of steered in one direction," Brayley said. "My wife and I feel like we've been led every step of the way."

Jason Brayley stands in the Golden 1 Center before a Sacramento Kings' game in March. He typically arrives at games 90 minutes before tipoff.

PHOTO BY ANSEL OLIVER

Global Healthcare Conference Provides Leadership and Governance Education for International Health Care Leaders

BY LARRY BECKER

More than 300 Adventist health care leaders from 44 countries attended the eighth Global Healthcare Conference, one of Loma Linda University Health's ongoing international initiatives that supports the development of the church's health care institutions in developing countries around the world.

Held Oct. 18-21 in Loma Linda, this year's theme focused on leadership, governance, and management issues faced by health care organizations around the world. The weekend provided a venue for networking and collaboration between institutional leaders and encouraged conversations focusing on challenges they face and practical solutions.

"I'm often asked why Loma

Linda University Health works to help support these international institutions," said Richard H. Hart, Loma Linda University Health president, in his opening keynote address. "One answer is found through the many mothers, children, and families whose lives are saved and made better every day at these hospitals. These institutions also provide employment, train health professionals, and give visibility to the Adventist Church in many places around the world."

Conference workshops featured many from Loma Linda University Health's top leadership team sharing information from their areas of expertise. The weekend also featured several presentations on hospital

governance by Lowell Cooper, who served for 15 years as chair of Loma Linda University Health's Board of Trustees until his retirement from the post in 2016.

The Adventist Church operates 175 hospitals and 450 clinics worldwide.

Collaborating organizations for this year's conference included Adventist Health International, the Consortium of Adventist Medical Education Leaders, the Health Ministries and Education departments at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and the Loma Linda University Health Global Health Institute.

(Below) Richard Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health, welcomes delegates to the 2018 Global Healthcare Conference.





Reno Center of Influence volunteers (from left to right) Saline Navarrette, Sae Womack, Mary McKnight, Gina Hiler, Debra Waggoner, Elias Juarez, and James O'Connor team together to prepare the food pantry for customers.



Debra Waggoner assists customers with healthy food choices.

PHOTOS: BRISSA CASTILLO

Reno Center of Influence Joins Pilot Program as a Prescription Pantry

BY FAITH HOYT

The Reno Center of Influence has started a prescription pantry—a place for food-insecure individuals with health conditions to get good quality food.

Since its opening in May of 2016, the Reno Center of Influence has served as a dependable food pantry, thrift store, and helping hand for those in need in the Wells Avenue neighborhood. Their commitment to serving others recently inspired the Center's directors, Jerry and Debra Waggoner, to join a special pilot program hosted by the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. In late September, they signed a contract to expand their food bank services and operate as a prescription pantry two Fridays out of every month.

The Waggoners first learned of the pilot program through the Sparks church, which participated in the program during its first year. Now in the program's second year, prescription pantries across the Washoe Valley are helping provide nutritious food to people with health conditions.

The Food Bank of Northern

Nevada—which supplies the Center with food for its regular pantry—provides an extra half pallet entirely comprised of low-salt, low-sugar, whole-grain, and low-fat foods, as well as more fresh fruits and vegetables, according to Debra Waggoner, who also serves as associate director for Adventist Community Services in the Nevada-Utah Conference.

All an individual needs is a doctor's note for the Center's prescription pantry. "Our three healthcare partners screen their patients for food insecurities," said Jenny Yeager, director of programs and community engagement for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. "If patients screen positive for food insecurity, and they have either a diabetes diagnosis or a cardiovascular diagnosis, they are issued a prescription, which allows them to visit one of our pantries." The Center is one of only seven pantries in Northern Nevada that serve in this capacity.

The directors of the Center are excited to help meet the additional

needs of those in the area. "It's another contact in the community," said Debra Waggoner. "It's another way we can be known as a place to get a regular supply of nutritious foods."

The Center first began its partnership with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada in January of 2016. Since the partnership began, the Center has been one of the most consistent sources for groceries for those who need food. "People can actually get groceries two times a week, and at least two times a month they can go out the door with four bags of groceries," said Debra Waggoner. "Other pantries—while they have a lot of hours—only allow their customers to come once or twice a month. We have a lot more availability than most pantries."

Though the pilot is experimental and dependent on funding, Yeager and the Waggoners look forward to seeing how these pantries are making a difference in the lives of individuals in Washoe County.

Las Vegas Church Launches “Light My Path 313” Radio and Media Ministry

BY FAITH HOYT

With the goal of spreading the Good News of Jesus and the story of God’s love, this year a church in Las Vegas launched “Light My Path 313,” a new radio and media ministry taking listeners on a journey through the Bible. Hosted by the Mountain View church, this ministry broadcasts 313 radio talks each year, spanning the whole Bible story from Genesis to Revelation.

“This is an opportunity to make relevant the truths of the Bible and lead participants on a practical journey through the most wonderful story ever,” said BJ Boles, senior pastor at the Mountain View church and speaker for the ministry. “It excites me to provide such a rich environment for the Holy Spirit to lead the explorer on a journey of spiritual discovery.”

The concept for the ministry began developing in 2015 when Boles took the idea of starting a new radio media program to his pastoral team. With the support of the pastors and the church board, Boles began pulling the



pieces together. Through significant funding provided by the Nevada-Utah Conference and the Pacific Union Conference, as well as private donors, Boles secured over 70 percent of the ministry’s four-year budget.

In March, Boles signed a contract with local radio station KKVV and began broadcasting radio programs in July on 1060 AM. Light My Path 313 talks are also posted to the ministry website and on social media. “The website is a place where the visitor can hear, watch, and study further with a self-guided journey through the Bible,” Boles explained.

Pastors at the Mountain View church have already seen the ministry make an impact on members of the congregation. “Several individuals have already been touched by the messages, and many have been inspired to give time, money, and talent to the cause,” said Melody Darrow, Mountain View church associate pastor. “This is a uniting

program, and it is exciting to see people working together.”

Church members are actively getting involved in spreading word of the ministry, as well as tuning into the programs themselves. “I have been following the sermons and reading the corresponding books along with the sermons on the internet,” said Dale Sanderson, member of the Mountain View church. “Right now, I am in the Peace in the Storm series. I love it! It is my morning devotion time.”

Members such as Sanderson and Frank Richo, church clerk at Mountain View, see the ministry as a timely avenue for sharing the gospel. “As a lifelong and third generation Seventh-day Adventist,” Richo said, “I can say that the Light My Path 313 broadcast ministry is as exciting and necessary as it gets, and I am honored to be a part of it.”

The Mountain View congregation and ministry team hope to see Light My Path 313 continue to spread the Good News until Jesus comes.

Learn more about the ministry by visiting www.lightmypath313.com.

(Right) The Mountain View church pastoral staff prays a prayer of dedication for the Light My Path 313 ministry with the KKVV radio manager. (Far right) BJ Boles, senior pastor at the Mountain View church and speaker for the Light My Path 313 radio ministry, sits at the mic during a recording session.



PHOTOS: MARGALIA BOLES

The NCC Organizes Sacramento Indonesian Church & Ukiah Spanish Company

BY JULIE LORENZ

We're excited to report on the new churches and companies in our territory. Watch for more articles in the near future.

On a Sabbath, April 14, the Sacramento Indonesian church was organized under the leadership of Pastor Bobby Sepang. "We rejoice to welcome another congregation into the Northern California Conference sisterhood of churches," said NCC President Marc Woodson.

The day was especially memorable because the congregation had been a company since May 1994. "We were so excited, very happy," said Sepang. "Praise the Lord! With His help finally the company was recognized as an organized church."

The congregation had its origins more than a quarter of a century ago when a number of Indonesian Adventist families moved to the Sacramento area. Every Sabbath afternoon, after attending various area churches, the families would gather at a local park and fellowship

together until sundown.

In early 1994, under the leadership of Pastor Yoram Tumberante, the group rented an apartment complex clubhouse for four hours each Sabbath. After worship, they would go to a park for a potluck lunch. "We even got a ticket one Sabbath afternoon for having a group gathering with more than 50 people at the park

without a city permit," said church elder Max Tutupoly, who presented the congregation's history at the organization service.

With a membership of 110, the church currently meets at Atonement Lutheran Church, 9242 Kiefer Blvd.,



(Left) An *angklung* ensemble performs a special musical number at the Sacramento Indonesian church organization service. **(Above)** Leaders display the certificate of organization, left to right: Seiko Purba, elder; Max Tutupoly, elder; James Lim, NCC Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator; Jim Pedersen, former NCC president; John Rasmussen, NCC treasurer; Bobby Sepang, pastor; Marc Woodson, now NCC president; Noldy Tiwouw, head elder.



PHOTOS: DEBI PEDERSEN



Marc Woodson, now NCC president, presents the certificate of organization to Pastor Bobby Sepang.

Sacramento. "There is such a large Indonesian population living in the greater Sacramento area, and this church is a good way to reach those people," said James Lim, Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator.

Church members are optimistic about the future. "Today our church is getting stronger and stronger with the support of all our members," said Tutupoly during the service. "Today

we have more youth and young adults with very strong faith to keep this church growing."

Now, Sepang wants the church to focus on spiritual growth and evangelism. "In the coming year, the plan is to have more outreach programs," he said. "But first of all I would like to see the church, by God's grace and by His help, experience a revival and reformation."

On Nov. 18, 2017, the Ukiah Spanish congregation became an official company after meeting together as a group for more than 20 years.

The company's organization service paid tribute to the pioneers of the congregation. Two of them were Luis and Estela Rojas, who moved to Ukiah in the mid-1970s. He studied with seasonal workers in the area, and she started conducting Sabbath School programs for kids, which led their mothers to be interested. In all, about 60 people received Bible studies, and 15-20 people were baptized into the Ukiah church.

In 1984, retired Pastor Manuel Rosado, and his wife Abda, moved to the area. Rosado used his organization and evangelism talents to grow the small group. In 1988, evangelist Doug Batchelor presented a seminar in the area, which also added to the numbers.

Initially, the group met together on the Ukiah church lawn. Through the years, they have met in various places in the church, and they currently meet in the youth chapel. Recently, they have started looking for a facility of their own to rent.

From 2013 until just last month, Gabriel Barraza served as the group's



PHOTOS: JOSUE ROSADO



(Top) Church pioneers and current leaders gather together to celebrate the Ukiah Spanish company organization, left to right: Douglas Barahona, Ukiah

church associate pastor; Gabriel Barraza, Ukiah Spanish company head elder; Roberto Bermúdez; Luis Rojas; Steve Romero; Wilbert Martín; Marc Woodson, now NCC president; Roman Leal, NCC Hispanic ministries coordinator; Abel Chávez; Jim Pedersen, former NCC president; Eric Williams, Ukiah church senior pastor. (Above) A children's choir performs during the service.

leader. In early November of this year, the company joined the church district led by Pastor Ezequiel Osorio. "We average about 50 people every Sabbath, and it keeps growing," said Barraza, who now serves as head elder.

Organizing as an official company was very meaningful to the members. "Accomplishing that milestone was priceless to me—even more so for the people that have been there for a long time," said Barraza. "Becoming a company helps the congregation have

a vision, a purpose, a plan."

Following in the footsteps of their founders, the members plan to keep reaching out to their city. "The organization of the Ukiah Spanish company was the result of the efforts of our lay members as well as the guidance of a group of brave and persevering leaders," said Roman Leal, NCC Hispanic ministries coordinator. "We are confident that this company will grow and become a powerful beacon of light for the Hispanic community of Ukiah."



PHOTO: ENNO MÜLLER

David Solomon Hall Sr., director of DayCon93 Ministries, speaks on Sabbath morning to youth and young adult leaders.

Gear Up Provides Inspiration and Determination to Engage Youth for Christ

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

Nearly 500 youth ministry leaders and pastors converged on the campus of Pine Springs Ranch, Sept. 21-23, for interactive networking, inspiration, and cultivation of their skills and creativity.

The group was participating in Gear Up, training the Southeastern California Conference provides every five years for its youth, young adult, family, and children's ministries leaders, as well as those who lead Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs.

"Our goal is to train our leaders to be prepared for ministry in their local context," said Eric Penick, Gear Up program and workshop director. "Attendees walk away with a sense of purpose and tools to help them lead in their home churches."

The theme of Gear Up 2018 was "Shift," focusing on moving the church away from older methods into refreshed, modernized methods of working with young people to tackle the real-world issues they're dealing with today.

The Scripture theme of the weekend was Romans 12:2: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (NIV).

Keynote speaker Jake Mulder, co-author of the book *Growing Young*, talked about changing the culture of churches into one that attracts and helps young people and young families, and about building bridges between generations to create a healthy church. The event also provided networking, worship, and various ministry workshops.

The outdoor setting was appreciated by many. Carmen Ibañez, executive director of Pine Springs Ranch, organized an outdoor lounge under a canopy—complete with outdoor carpet, couches, and comfy



PHOTO: ENNO MÜLLER



PHOTO: KEN GRIMES

Conference administrators honor Rudy Carrillo, conference youth ministry director, with a lifetime achievement award for his many years of faithful and dedicated work.

can use the language of the people when we reach out with the gospel and promote what's

A pastor shared how he has created an online forum for the youth in his church to gather virtually and play nonviolent games they were already playing online with strangers. He said the chat function of the forum allowed for conversation not always about the game. Through this platform, he has had young people talking seriously with him about faith.

chairs—with the goal of encouraging attendees to relax and network between sessions. "It allowed us to connect with nature and each other in a more intimate way as we also connected with God," Penick said.

Workshops focused on how to minister to young people and meet them where they are, covering topics such as depression, video games, sex, the LGBTQ community, and more. Delroy Brooks, pastor of the Fontana church, presented a workshop on social media.

"Gone are the days when we call each other," Brooks said with a laugh. "The way people communicate now is through Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, and Tumblr. It's where the people are receiving messages. It benefits the church if we

going on in our local churches."

Brooks himself uses several social media platforms for his ministry. Gear Up was an opportunity for him and others to connect and learn from each other how they reach the young people in their churches.

"Nowadays, we have so many ways to remain connected to people, but nothing replaces face-to-face interactions," Penick said. "Events such as Gear Up have become very important for the health of our ministries, allowing us to take a look at ourselves, compare notes and strategies, and encourage each other in our work to impact our kids for Christ."

Feedback from Gear Up attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with both established and emerging leaders leaving inspired and empowered to think more creatively.

"No one has the corner on ministry," Brooks emphasized. "There's room for everyone at the table, and we can't put a cap on the ability of God to use everything available to Him to reach people with the gospel."

For information on future Gear Up events, contact SECC youth ministries at (951) 509-2265.

Jake Mulder, director of strategic initiatives at Fuller Youth Institute, speaks during Gear Up.



PHOTO: KEN GRIMES



Attendees connect during the Gear Up conference and share ideas.

Passion and Dedication Testify of God's Faithfulness *at Chino Valley Chinese Church*

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

We cannot help but acknowledge it is only by God's grace that we are able to worship here today in this sanctuary," said Daniel Choo, Chino Valley Chinese church (CVCC) head elder and building committee chair.

Choo spoke to a standing room only congregation during the dedication of CVCC's new building. The service focused on God's providence throughout the building project and His leading to a debt-free conclusion.

The CVCC building committee first met in 2012, and much work has been done. "From the time we started our journey until today, in every step we have found that the grace of God is sufficient for us," said Paul Cho, senior pastor.

The congregation has seen a steady upward trend of membership growth over the past 10 years. From 2008 to 2010, the congregation almost doubled, and the rapid growth of this congregation did not go unnoticed. "The growth was faster than expected according to statistics," said Velino A. Salazar, SCC president.

"However, today we can say that we are here by the grace of God and the receptiveness of God's people here."

An important and central component of this congregation's growth is its outreach with programs that meet the needs of their local community, like cooking classes, marriage seminars, and more. "This church has been very relevant to the mission in the context of this community," said Salazar. The \$3,000 gift provided by SCC's treasurer/CFO Orville Ortiz during the dedication ceremony was intended to encourage and grow these efforts.

The members' faith in God and His infinite mercy was hard to miss as they dedicated their new sanctuary. "By building their church debt free, the CVCC proclaims three things," said John H. Cress, SCC executive secretary/ministerial director. "First, the leaders



Orville Ortiz, SCC treasurer/CFO, presents a check for \$3,000 to the church to support evangelism efforts in the local community.

and members refused to look to debt to provide the things they wanted, but trusted that God would provide."

Cress continued by saying that, secondly, the church embraced Gods' mission and, thirdly, they cultivated a culture of giving.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony on the evening of the dedication, a special banquet honored two team leaders who, along with their teams, were instrumental in this project: Windy Hwang and Amabel Tsao. "Even though it meant a lot of hard work, it's taught me over and over again that God has His own schedule and is in full control," Tsao said. This statement sums up CVCC's journey: God is in full control!



(Left) CVCC and SCC leadership perform the ceremonial ribbon cutting on the new building. (Above: from left to right) Pete Lou, Pastor Paul Cho, Elder Velino Salazar, Honorees Windy Hwang and Amabel Tsao, and Daniel Choo.

Hollywood Church: 100 Years of Ministry in the City

BY LAUREN ARMSTRONG

Velino A. Salazar, SCC president, (speaking) addresses the congregation before Orville Ortiz, SCC treasurer/CFO, (right) presents the church with a check.

Our Mission and Vision
Pastor Branden Stoltz

HOLLYWOOD
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

TO BE
A FRIEND
OF THE
CITY

This fall, the iconic Hollywood church celebrated its milestone centennial. Elder Branden Stoltz, current senior pastor of the Hollywood church, said of the theme of unity: "We are not the same—we are one as a community in Christ." The morning's focus was laser-sharp on the theme of unity and the church's mission of love and grace as it has played out through the years.

Elder Greg Hoenes, SCC West Region director, shared the morning's message. Hoenes, who pastored the Hollywood church from 1997 to 2004, highlighted important historical landmarks in his message.

He recalled the contextual ministry of the church by highlighting its unique and opportune location in the city of Hollywood. "If context can't determine who we are, what is the point of being here?" he reflected. "God in His mercy and God in His greatness provided history and continuity," Hoenes said, illustrating the complex leading of God. In 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, Paul outlines

the co-working of God's people in His church through the passage of time. Verse 11 points out Jesus as the foundation of this growing work, of which Hoenes said: "That is our shared DNA—the basis of our mission and fellowship."

The celebration ended with communion, which allowed attendees to gather together in unity and partake of the Lord's Supper together. This familiar ceremony was performed differently than perhaps is common: attendees were invited up near the stage to partake of the bread and the juice, and they were further welcomed to remain standing as everyone amassed into a large group. This, as Stoltz explained, is a more personal, communal way to experience this meaningful ceremony. The

communion was followed, quite fittingly, by the congregation singing "God of This City." The song states that God is the king of these people, the community of Hollywood in this instance. The lyrics proclaim, "For greater things have yet to come, and greater things are still to be done in this city."

Hoenes recalled the church's mission preceding his time on staff: "That we hear the sound of grace from every wall of this church." Indeed, this mission still resonates.

Stoltz emphasized the focus on grace. "We want to be a place where we love fully, completely," he said. "A people of God, clinging to the law of love."

The church's mission today? It can be summed up simply. *Hollywood Adventist Church: Where God's Spirit is given space to change lives.*

Attendees gather together at the front of the church to partake in communion together.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRANDEN STOLTZ



Brush Rush 2018

BY YUNCHUAN WANG, FRESHMAN AT NEWBURY PARK ADVENTIST ACADEMY,
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM SHANGHAI, CHINA

Brush Rush? I wasn't sure what to expect when it was announced in chapel that we were going to reach out to the community and help elderly or disabled neighbors who needed their yards and properties cleaned up. I asked my friends, and they told me that "brush" referred to the plants that people don't want in their yards. "Rush" means to hurry, but it's also an offensive play in football. So basically, we were going to attack the brush in people's yards fast and hard to clean it all up.

Sheldon Parris, our new principal at Newbury Park Adventist Academy, explained to us: "My mission is to get the students and faculty more actively involved in service to our community. My larger mission is to educate students for eternity. I want students to live a life of service through character and integrity, according to the plans that God has for them." As an international student from China this concept was very new to me. None of my schools had ever organized projects focused on helping the community, and we certainly never did any kind of labor outside of our campus.

Parents, teachers, and students gathered at 7:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria and enjoyed breakfast together. Afterwards, we had a choice of where to volunteer. There were three projects that needed 40 students each, and two projects that needed 15 students each. All of the

projects were in the Thousand Oaks, Calif., area and included gardening and painting. My classmates and I signed up according to the projects we were most interested in completing.

I chose to work at a mobile home park. I had been feeling anxious about

I watched yards transform from being unattractive, full of weeds and unsightly bushes, to being neat and tidy.



what to expect, but the excitement around me was contagious. When we arrived at the site, the volunteers took out the tools they brought and we organized into teams and went right to work. It was amazing how much we got done!

I watched yards transform from being unattractive, full of weeds and unsightly bushes, to being neat and tidy. Everyone was talking, laughing, singing, and working hard to make the place look really nice. I heard one of the neighbors say, "It's great of your school to hold this kind of activity." I heard another neighbor say, "Wow, I haven't seen my yard look this good in maybe ten years!"

It was wonderful to see the way our service brought joy and happiness to the neighborhood. When we returned to the school I heard that some of the neighbors said they would love to have us back in the future. We also received several letters thanking us for our service. Armstrong Garden Centers in Thousand Oaks gave us a discount on ground covering plants and said they would be happy to work with us on our future projects.

When the projects were done I felt a sense of accomplishment and pride in

a job well done. My friends agreed. Cristina Mattis told me, "It was refreshing to step out of our own problems and help someone else." Nam Nguyen said, "It was great and satisfying to try to help others. We ought to contribute to society even if we are young." David Berrios said, "It was fun to help people who really needed it."

Getting back to the dorm, I dropped onto my bunk. I don't think I have ever felt so exhausted in my entire life. My friend Jerry Wang told me, "Tiredness is like the stars in the sky, and the happiness of helping elderly people is like the sun. When the sun rises, all stars

disappear." I think he is right. When I saw how happy the elderly people were with our work, I felt complete happiness. I'm glad I was able to do something new and make a big difference in our community. I can't wait until the next project.



CALENDAR

Arizona Conference Children's Nativity Program (Dec. 8) 10:45 a.m., Phoenix Paradise Valley (English), 2727 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. Info: 602-971-6010.

Annual Christmas Choir Cantata and Fellowship Potluck (Dec. 22) 10:45 a.m., Phoenix Paradise Valley (English), 2727 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. Info: 602-971-6010.

Camelback Church Homecoming (Dec. 22) 10:50 a.m. We invite all previous members and friends to join us! Phoenix Camelback, 5902 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. Info: 480-947-3781.

Northern California Conference Church Treasurer Training (Dec. 2) 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., NCC

Headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Bring your laptop computer. Lunch provided. RSVP. Info: NCC Treasurer's Office, 888-434-4622 ext. 209.

Live Walk-Through Nativity (Dec. 7-8) 6-8 p.m., Oroville church, 1180 Robinson St., Oroville, (corner of 2nd and Robinson). Pet live animals, sing carols, and hear beautiful Christmas music. Info: www.oroillesda church.org or 530-712-5388.

Concierto de Navidad de FEJA (Dec. 15), location to be announced. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092.

Instituto Laico Adventista de California (ILAC) (Jan. 20) 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Pacific Union College. Training for Spanish-speaking laypeople. "El Predicador y su Preparación

Espiritual." Speaker: Dr. Ben Maxson. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-603-5092 or www.nccsda.com/ilac.

Church Clerk Orientation and Training (Jan. 27) 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., NCC Headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Lunch included. RSVP. Info: clerk@nccsda.com or (925) 603-5037.

Southeastern California Conference The Widow and The Scribe Play (Nov. 30, Dec. 6, 7, 8) 7 p.m., auditorium of Redlands church, 520 Brookside Ave., Redlands. This is the story of two people who have passed through the valley of the shadow of death. The Widow goes in search of a purpose for her life while the Scribe wanders about trying to ease his guilt. Info: 909-793-6337.

Annual Christmas Program with the Loma Linda Academy Choir (Dec. 1) 11 a.m., San Bernardino Community church, 1696 North G St., San Bernardino. Join us for this year's annual Christmas program featuring the talented Loma Linda Academy Choir. Info: 909-883-2400.

Handel's Messiah Concert and Christmas Celebration (Dec. 2) 3 p.m., Palm Springs church, 620 S. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs. This annual concert will feature guest conductor Dr. Viorel Gheorghe and orchestra. A light reception will follow the concert. Info: 760-327-5112.

Candlelight Concert (Dec. 8) 4 p.m., La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. La Sierra University music department presents the 71st Annual Candlelight Concert featuring spectacular Christmas music. Info: 951-354-7095.

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Blue Christmas (Dec. 14) 7 p.m., La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. A service of peace and comfort during the holidays. Music, spoken word, and scripture. Info: 951-354-7095.

Christmas Program (Dec. 15) 9 and 11 a.m.; Blue Christmas (Dec. 21) 7 p.m.; and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Dec. 24) 5 p.m.; Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. Join us as we celebrate this Christmas season in various forms—be it through music, reflection, or reading of scripture. Info: 909-825-8611.

“Shelter to Home” Supply Drive (Dec. 21) 7 p.m., Sierra Vista Chapel, La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. Pack home starter kits for people moving from temporary shelter to long-term housing. Help fund the project, \$30 per kit. Info: 951-354-7095.

Christmas Program (Dec. 22) 11 a.m., High Desert Bilingual church, 9875 7th Ave., Hesperia. Join us for a special worship service during which we will celebrate the King of kings. Info: 760-244-5819.

Christmas Eve Service (Dec. 24) 5:30 p.m., La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. Join the community in reflecting on the Jesus story. Christmas carols, children’s story, spoken word, and music. Info: 951-354-7095.

Southern California Conference

The Journey to Bethlehem (Dec. 1-2). San Gabriel Academy celebrates the 12th anniversary of its annual Christmas event. San Gabriel Academy, 8827 E. Broadway, San Gabriel 91776. Info: 626-292-1156.

Second Saturday Series Concert (Dec. 7) 7:30 p.m. Friday night Christmas Concert.

Admission is by free-will offering. Reception to follow. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-244-7241.

Second Saturday Series Concert (Jan. 12) 5:00 p.m. Organist John West. Admission is by free-will offering. Reception to follow. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-244-7241.

SCC Prayer Ministries Coordinators Meeting (Jan. 27) time to be announced, Vallejo Drive church, fellowship hall, 300 Vallejo Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: Janet Lui, 310-963-2578.

Dr. Anthony J. Kelly Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament (Jan. 28) 9:00 a.m. The Greater Los Angeles Region (GLAR) hosts its inaugural golf tournament to benefit the Anthony J. Kelly Memorial Scholarship Fund. Palos Verdes Golf Club, 3301 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates 90274. To register or learn more, visit: www.AJKMemorialScholarshipGolf.com.

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Southeastern California Conference seeks a full-time staff auditor to perform audits of churches and schools within the conference. BS degree in accounting or finance and 2+ years auditing experience required, a MBA in accounting/finance or CPA is preferred. Successful candidate will have the ability to function in a team environment and be able to work with diverse ethnic groups. For information, contact SECC Human Resources department at 951-509-2351.

Events Farmers & Gardeners (AdAgrA's) 5th annual Adventist Agriculture Association conference (Jan. 16 -19) Portland, Ore. Since 2013 AdAgrA encourages, supports, and mentors those who wish to follow God's agriculture plan. Great information and inspiration for how and why Adventists need to be in the garden. Registration and info: www.adventisttag.org.

NAD Health Summit 2019 (Jan. 20-26). "Healing of the Nations" Designed to provide training, networking, and inspiration for anyone involved with or interested in health ministries. Albuquerque, N.M. Register at www.nadhealth.org. Info: 443-300-8845 or summit@nadhealth.org.

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Cowper, Ivan M.F. – b. July 9, 1941, Johannesburg, South Africa; d. Oct. 6, 2018, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jeanene; sons, Dan, David; one granddaughter, Rebecca.

Gardano, Rosalina – b. Aug. 30, 1920, Pinar del Rio, Cuba; d. March 19, 2018, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Ann Dougan; son-in-law, John Dougan. Served as a Bible worker; helped plant new churches in Phoenix, Ariz. and Riverside, Calif.

AT REST

Chagoya, Mary O. – b. May 30, 1921, Sanger, Calif.; d. June 26, 2018, Clovis, Calif. Survivors: son, Thomas; daughters, Rachel Bartel, Alice Esquerra; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; one sister.

Hargrove, Karrie Ann – b. Jan. 14, 1962, Kingman, Ariz.; d. Jan. 23, 2017, Paulden, Ariz. Survivors: son, Andrew Jaquez; daughter, Tiffany Richardson; parents, Betty and Alex Maacias; sisters, Kristy Hargrove, Kim Delgado, Darla Worley; fiance, Bill.

Hughes, Antoinette Madeline – b. Sept. 23, 1921, Augusta,



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Maine; d. Aug. 12, 2018, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Bonnie Small, Cheryl Hughes; 3 grandchildren.

Larson, Grace E. – b. Jan. 16, 1925, Moose Lake, Minn.; d. Sept. 29, 2018, Laguna Woods, Calif. Survivors: husband, Edwin; daughters, Joy Guttenberger, Janell Jones, Cynthia James; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.



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February: January 3

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



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December 2018 *Sunset* Calendar

City	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28
Alturas	4:32	4:33	4:36	4:40
Angwin	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:57
Bakersfield	4:43	4:44	4:47	4:51
Calexico	4:36	4:37	4:40	4:45
Chico	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:51
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:32	4:33	4:36	4:40
Eureka	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:57
Four Corners [E]	4:59	5:00	5:03	5:07
Fresno	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:51
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:20	5:21	5:24	5:28
Half Dome	4:38	4:39	4:42	4:46
Hilo	5:42	5:45	5:48	5:52
Holbrook	5:15	5:16	5:19	5:23
Honolulu	5:49	5:52	5:55	5:59
Joshua Tree	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43
Lake Tahoe	4:37	4:38	4:41	4:45
Las Vegas	4:25	4:27	4:30	4:34
Lodi-Stockton	4:45	4:46	4:49	4:53
Loma Linda	4:39	4:41	4:44	4:48
Los Angeles	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:52
McDermitt [N]	4:19	4:20	4:22	4:26
Moab	4:55	4:56	4:59	5:03
Monterey Bay	4:51	4:52	4:55	4:59
Mt. Whitney	4:41	4:42	4:45	4:49
Napa	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:56
Nogales [S]	5:22	5:23	5:26	5:30
Oakland	4:49	4:50	4:53	4:58
Paradise, CA	4:41	4:42	4:45	4:49
Phoenix	5:19	5:21	5:24	5:28
Puuwai, Ni'ihau [W]	5:54	5:56	6:00	6:03
Reno	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43
Riverside	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:49
Sacramento	4:44	4:45	4:48	4:53
Salt Lake City	4:59	5:00	5:03	5:08
San Diego	4:42	4:51	4:54	4:59
San Francisco	4:50	4:51	4:54	4:59
San Jose	4:49	4:50	4:53	4:58
Santa Rosa	4:49	4:50	4:53	4:57
Sunset Beach	4:50	4:51	4:54	4:58
Thousand Oaks	4:45	4:46	4:49	4:53
Tucson	5:18	5:20	5:23	5:27

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

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



Why not get an income tax deduction now for property that passes to charity at death?

It's not complicated.

Consider funding a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT).

- a. Donate property to a trust
- b. Receive income for life
- c. Itemize income tax charitable deduction
- d. At death what is left goes to the charity
- e. Avoid capital gains tax
- f. Family benefits with payments up to 20 years

2017 TAX OVERHAUL

Even with the new tax laws, by creating a CRT you can discover how giving to charity can still be financially as well as emotionally rewarding. You will know that you have provided for yourself, your family and the charity that you love.

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

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