

Recorder

The Lord of Hosts, High and Lifted Up!

Pastor Ricardo Graham anchors
a focus section on Reverence
beginning on page 4





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Oct. 3 Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy

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Oct. 9 El Dorado Adventist School

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Nov. 4 Thunderbird Adventist Academy**

Nov. 5 Calexico Mission School[§]

Nov. 6 San Diego Academy**

Nov. 7 Escondido Adventist Academy*

Nov. 12 Hawaiian Mission Academy**

Nov. 13 Loma Linda Academy**

Nov. 14 La Sierra Academy*

Nov. 23 Rio Lindo Adventist Academy**

Nov. 24 Monterey Bay Academy[§]

* starts at 6:00 p.m.

** starts at 6:30 p.m.

¶ starts at 5:00 p.m.

§ starts at 10:00 a.m.

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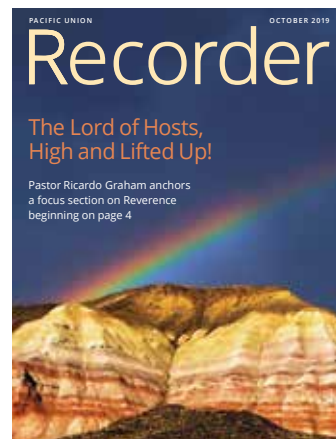
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The nature portraits that appear in this issue were taken by James Ponder, a writer/editor, photographer, and theologian from Loma Linda, California.

He loves how the land and sky reveal the creativity and power of the mind of God. Two or three times a year, he leads photo-adventure tours in the American Southwest. For more information, contact him at jim.ponder@gmail.com.



The Lord of Hosts, High and Lifted Up

BY RICARDO GRAHAM



Why is reverence important?

The word *reverence* is used when we talk about showing respect and honor to God for what He has done and is doing in salvation-history. Reverence is also associated with giving glory to God. “Giving Him His due,” you might say. Respect, honor, glory. Powerful terms.

Some might make the observation, correctly or not, that this attitude or posture of reverence and respect that gives glory to God is lacking in today’s churches. I haven’t heard the word *reverence* used in a sermon or seen it in an article lately. I am not attempting to judge anyone; I am just making an observation.



He is One who can't be contained or limited to our houses of worship. Shouldn't the entire Christian experience be one of a reverential manner of living?

When I was growing up, it was assumed that reverence was related to what I call "attentive silence." Silence was expected in church when the preacher was delivering his (no female preachers back then) sermon. No one dared talk during his message!

While reverence may include silence at the appropriate times in worship, the witness of Scripture indicates that sounds of praise to God are also part of reverential worship. Consider the vision that Isaiah had when he received his prophetic commission:

"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts" (Isaiah 6:1-5, KJV).

Even though Isaiah may have been stunned into silence, at least initially, the angelic beings were not silent; they cried out, attesting to the holiness of the Lord.

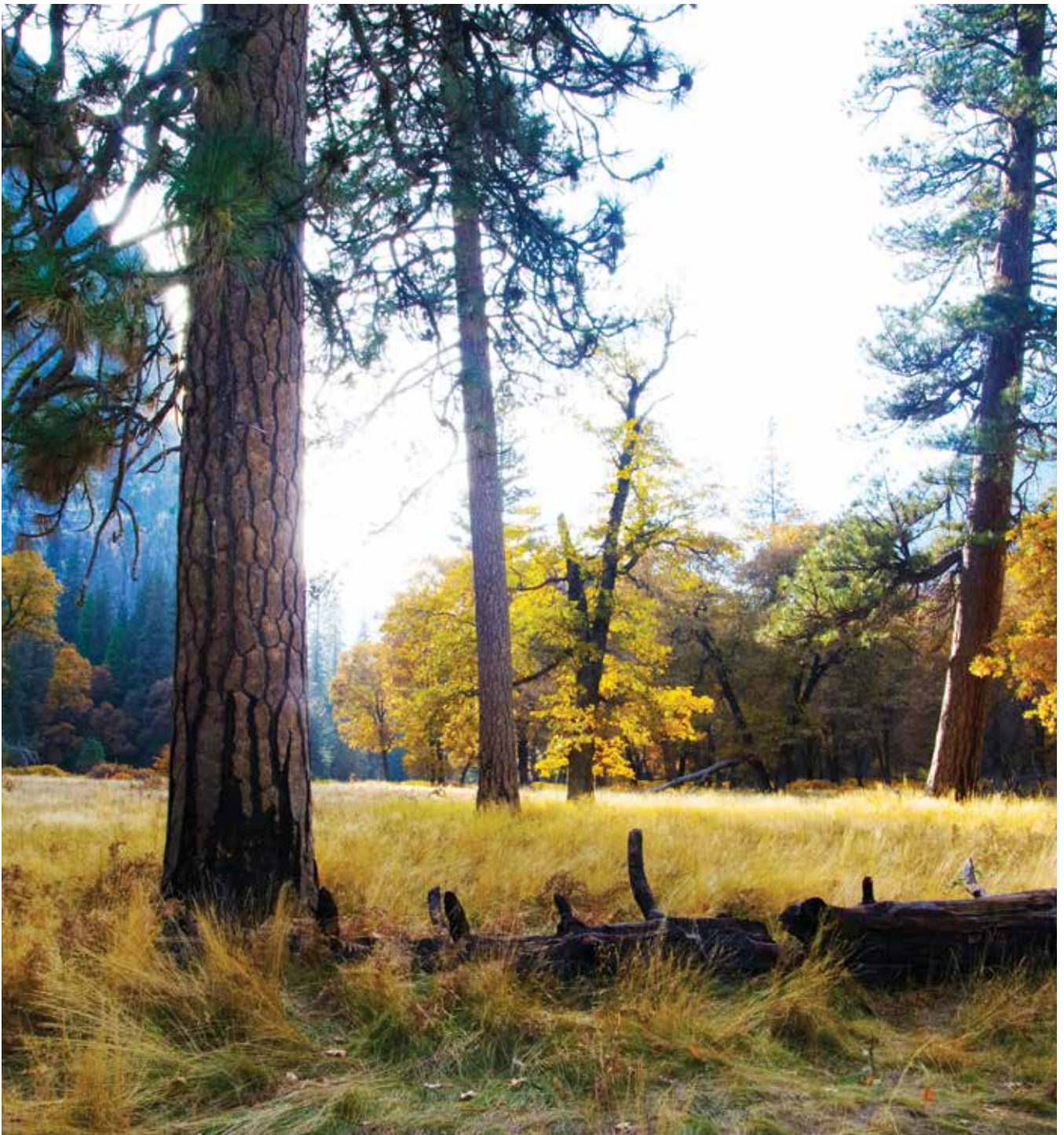
And consider what John reported seeing in vision: "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour" (Revelation 8:1, KJV).

This verse draws the attention of the reader to an anomaly; it is out of character with other scenes described in the panoramic vision of John. It seems to me that silence in heaven is not the usual condition. The inhabitants are often described by the Revelator as praising God continually.

Which leads me to think that the appropriate sounds at the appropriate times are appropriate for reverential worship.

One aspect of reverence is the acknowledgment of the awesomeness of God. His grandeur and majesty have been impressed on countless generations of Christians as they have attended formal worship services. It seems obvious that we, as worshipers, should show reverence in the places where we gather to meet God in public worship. And certainly, as we reference God, we should do so reverently. This idea of reverence has always been one of recognition in our worship services of the awesomeness of God as a transcendent being.

However, He is One who can't be contained or limited to our houses of worship. Shouldn't the entire Christian experience be one of a reverential manner of living? After all, we live in the sight



Portrait of Reverence

"This is my father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders
wrought." Maltbie D. Babcock Meadow in Late Afternoon
Light, Yosemite National Park, California

PHOTO: JAMES PONDER



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of Holy God every moment. God is with us at all times and not just when we attend church.

It fills us with wonder to know that while God is dwelling in the highest heavens He, as God the Holy Spirit, also dwells in our lives and is with us. Reverencing God is not limited to a place and time. Reverence is a full-time, every place experience—or at least it should be.

How does one come to hold a reverence for God and the things of God? How do we decide to make reverence a lifestyle choice? One way is by being taught in the home.

Ellen G. White wrote: “Fathers and mothers who make God first in their households, who teach their children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, glorify God before angels and before men by presenting to the world a well-ordered, well-disciplined family—a family that love and obey God instead of rebelling against Him. Christ is not a stranger in their homes; His name is a household name, revered and glorified. Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator. Such families can claim the promise, ‘Them that honour Me I will honour’” (*The Adventist Home*, p. 27).

When this was written back in the 1800s, families were mostly headed by two parents.

Today, families come in different shapes and formats. However, the basic principle of a parent teaching a child to honor God is clear. And the example of the way a parent behaves during worship can go a long way in “show and tell” about reverence.

But even if a child is reared in a God-fearing home, this alone does not guarantee that a child will adopt a position of humble reverence to God and to the things of God.

Furthermore, it is possible to grow away from reverence and awe in our worship, to let it slide. How do we rediscover reverence for the Almighty God—in church or in private—especially in our very secular “post-Christian” society?

I would suggest that an individual’s personal worship can aid in recovering this reverential aspect of Christian living. Connecting with God in serious, intentional Bible study can help us realize that the God whom Isaiah saw high and lifted up will lift us up to Himself as we worship Him.

And this worshipful, reverential experience will play out in our lives. When we come into the spiritual space of Jesus and spend time with Him, He places His values in us and shows us how to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and how to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Mark 12:29-31).

It fills us with wonder to know that while God is dwelling in the highest heavens He, as God the Holy Spirit, also dwells in our lives and is with us.

Living for Jesus, we reverence Him in our lives—not merely in word, and not always in silence, but in deed and in our daily choices.

This is not magic, although the inworking of the Holy Spirit is mysterious and spiritual. The prophet Ezekiel spoke of it as the implanting of a new heart: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26, NIV).

This high worship experience is not limited to a building or a congregational gathering. It is the work of God, transforming our characters to be like Him. Our self-humiliation before God’s high and lifted up position needs to be renewed every day.

This is part of the “new creation” experience spoken of by the Apostle Paul: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV).

To reverence God is to recognize that He alone is worthy of worship and glory. To do so aligns us with the values intrinsic to His character, and this process is of vital importance to our being new creatures in God, living out His values.

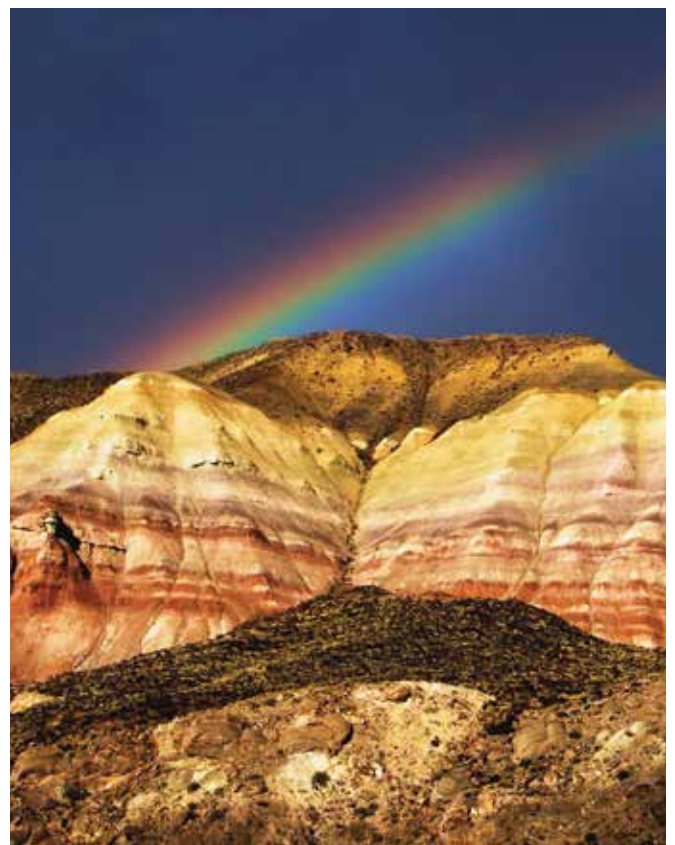
Living for Jesus, we reverence Him in our lives—not merely in word, and not always in silence, but in deed and in our daily choices. We reframe the context in which we live, choosing to include those ideas and functions that ultimately glorify God wherever we are and whatever we do.

It seems to me that reverence for God is the

appropriate acknowledgment that God is the Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer and more. We can recover a sense of His awe and majesty in worship as we receive Him more and more into our hearts and minds.

I realize that this is a very high standard, but it is one to which the God whom Isaiah saw as high and lifted up calls us. When we are focused on Him, He will make it a reality.

Ricardo Graham is the president of the Pacific Union Conference.





The Place Where You are Standing is Holy Ground

BY JORGE SORIA

Exodus 40:16 tells us, “Moses did everything just as the Lord commanded him” (NIV). That sentence is typical of what we’d expect to see in the story of Exodus. But that is not what we find at the beginning of the book.

Look back at Exodus 2. Moses, who had grown up as the adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter, went out to watch the Hebrew slaves at their hard labor. “He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one

of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand” (Exodus 2:11, 12, NIV).

This was not the Lord’s command.

Pharaoh heard about it, and Moses had to flee to Midian. He had a lot to learn.

Moses had taken the work of God into his own hands. His intentions were good, but his methods were not. God had great plans for Moses, but because of his poor decisions God’s



plan for him had to be altered.

Moses felt that everything he had worked and prepared for was a failure. He withdrew, discouraged. God however, continued loving Moses and calling him. And so it is with us. No matter what we do, God is still there. God loves us dearly and will continue calling us back to Him and His plan for our lives.

God called to Moses in rather a dramatic way. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a bush

that was on fire—but it didn't burn up. When he went over to check it out, God called him. Literally. "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, 'Here I am.' 'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God" (Exodus 3: 4-5, NIV).



Portrait of Reverence

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14, NKJV).
Pampas Grass on the Side of a Hill, Big Sur, California

PHOTO: JAMES PONDER



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Of course he was afraid! It must have been terrifying, exhilarating, and magnificent to be in the presence of God—to hear His voice, to feel His presence. Moses bowed in reverence and awe.

The burning bush may have been part of a remarkable, one-time situation, but the idea behind it is still in force. The New Testament tells us, “Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:28-29, KJV). God finds a way to speak to us from the burning bush. He tells us, “I am here, and I know all of the problems you will face today. I will carry you through victoriously. Trust in me.” As we experience our burning bush, let us come before

Him with reverence and honor and respect.

Come to Him as you walk through the desert of misery, disappointment, distress, and depression, where there is no love, joy, or peace in sight. Encounter the Lord and feel His presence. As you bow to Him with reverence and listen to His voice, you will be transformed and ready to walk with Him and follow His commands.

I was born in a Catholic family, and I clearly remember being taught to be reverent at the church we attended. As we entered the church, we knelt and prayed with reverence. When the priest spoke, we sat quietly. When the service was over, we left the church with reverence. I was baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist at the age

of 15 in Hayward, California, but I never forgot the reverence I learned in the Catholic Church. At a young age one does not quite understand the concept of reverence; however, as one matures the concept becomes much clearer and deeper.

The apostle John spent the last years of his life as a prisoner in exile on the Isle of Patmos. God gave him visions of God's glory around His throne. John saw angels worshipping the Lord, and he too fell down to worship. John tells us, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful" (Revelation 21:5, KJV).

God makes all things new. He can change our lives, our hearts. As we focus on the betterment of our characters, let us show Him reverence when we worship, not only in the church, but in every undertaking of our days on this earth. Let us be a blessing to others through Him and for Him.

We were created to worship God, to honor and reveal reverence as we worship Him in His holy place, in His presence. This is the basic business of our lives. We know that serving God, studying His Bible, and sharing His gospel are all important aspects of our relationship with God. But loving God and worshipping Him with true reverence helps provide the intimate closeness that we need with Him. As we come to worship Him, let us take our sandals off along with Moses and bow in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the place where we are standing is holy ground.

As we come to church to worship our Lord with honor and respect, let us worship Him because of who He is and what He has done, and because of His many attributes: His goodness, justice, and mercy.

"True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence. With this sense of the Unseen, every heart should be deeply impressed. The hour and place of prayer are sacred, because God is there. And as reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened" (Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 48-49).

Come to the holy place with reverence and with a humble heart; bow to the Lord and surrender yourselves to Him. Submerge yourself in the music, the prayers, the study of His Word, and the preaching. Let your God know that your worship is all for Him. Let Him know that He is your Lord and Savior, and that He is forever great and wonderful. Turn your heart to Him and let Him know of your love and praise for Him. Consecrate your life to Him. Commit to listen and obey Him on a daily basis. Praise and live with this attitude. Your life will be transformed with happiness and readiness to witness to others that you have an awesome, loving, caring, and understanding God. This is true reverence.

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

***God makes all things new.
He can change our lives, our hearts.***

A photograph of a vast field of sunflowers in the foreground, with a line of trees in the middle ground. The sky is dark and dramatic, with a large, bright lightning bolt striking down from the top center. The overall mood is one of awe and reverence.

Living in Reverence

BY VIRGIL CHILDS

As we approach the end of time, I wonder what startling thing God may have to do to solicit the attention of His people.

I once observed a young man trying to get a young lady's attention. At some point he must have said something that caused her to give him a swift slap on the face. Needless to say, he was startled. I am almost certain that was not the response for which he was looking.

As we approach the end of time, I wonder what startling thing God may have to do to solicit the attention of His people. I also wonder if He will receive the appropriate response from us—if we will go out to fulfill the gospel commission in these last days.

The life experience of Abraham suggests to me that the secret to our success is a right response to the will of God within the framework of our understanding of reverence. GOD MUST BE GOD!

What is this framework? We can find it in the Bible: "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him" (Psalm 89:7, KJV). To reverence God is to respect Him and hold Him in awe.

In Hebrews 11, Abraham is affirmed for acting

upon God's request offer up his son Isaac, demonstrating to us what reverence looks like.

The more I study the life of Abraham, the more amazed I am at his response to God's leadings. In Genesis 12:1-9, God proposed a plan of success for the future. Simply put, God asked Abraham to give up what he had attained in exchange for what God had for him. God made five promises in particular as He spoke to Abraham.

1. *"I will shew thee"* - Perspective (God's perspective)
2. *"I will make thee"* - Productivity (God will produce)
3. *"I will bless thee"* - Provision (God will supply)
4. *"I will make thy name great"* - Position (God will place you)
5. *"I will curse them"* - Protection (God's battle)

Seventy-five-year-old Abram and his barren wife, Sarai, found themselves in a land of promises, facing a famine. I'm sure it took more than a little faith for Abram to remain hopeful.

Even after the miraculous birth of a son in his old age and the survival of the famine, we find another challenge for Abraham in Genesis 22.



Portrait of Reverence

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe” (Proverbs 18:10, NRSV). White House Ruin, Canyon De Chelly National Monument, Arizona

PHOTO: JAMES PONDER



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God now asked Abraham to do an apparently contradictory thing regarding the son of promise.

“Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of” (Genesis 22:2, KJV).

This was a seemingly irreconcilable request. How could Abraham take the son of promise and sacrifice him? It didn’t make sense.

All the scriptural evidence regarding Abraham’s actions seems to suggest he accepted that *God knew what He was doing*. Isaac’s salvation was not the responsibility of Abraham; it resided in the will and ability of God. Abraham held God in such awe

and respect that he surrendered his rationale and reality to God’s perspective.

“Abraham was human; his passions and attachments were like ours; but he did not stop to question how the promise could be fulfilled if Isaac should be slain. He did not stay to reason with his aching heart. He knew that God is just and righteous in all His requirements, and he obeyed the command to the very letter” (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 153).

The three-day journey to the top of Mt. Moriah gave Abraham plenty of opportunity to bail out of the mission. I heard one preacher say, “When Abraham and Isaac were walking up one side of the mountain, the ram was walking up the other

side." Just as Abraham took up his knife to slay his son, God intervened in this dramatic display of faithfulness and gave us a divine definition of what true reverence is: "For now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me" (Genesis 22:12, KJV).

Reverence is not manufactured by humans or religion. It is not based on an approved decibel level or a lengthy liturgical outline. It is not hostage to a particular culture or geographical location.

Reverence is a physical response to a spiritual attitude impacted by a transcendent, awesome, and gracious God. Reverence is theocentric. It is the fuel for testimonies during Wednesday night prayer meeting. It is the reference point for neighborly conversations regarding the affairs of life. It is the default solution for the stressed, repressed, and depressed. It is the product of an intentional regular relationship with our almighty, awesome God.

True reverence calls us to do as Abraham did. We must be willing to give everything we are and hand over the control to God under every circumstance.

There is a story that a large sum of money was given to a British government official in the 1800s to dispense to a poor pastor. Thinking that the

amount was too much to send all at once, the official forwarded just a portion along with a note that said simply, "More to follow." In a few days the pastor received another envelope containing the same amount and with the same message, "More to follow." At regular intervals, there came a third and a fourth. In fact, they continued, along with those cheering words, until the entire sum had been received.

C. H. Spurgeon used this story to illustrate that the good things we receive from God always come with the same prospect of more to follow. He wrote:

"When God forgives our sins, there's more forgiveness to follow. He justifies us in the righteousness of Christ, but there's more to follow. He adopts us into His family, but there's more to follow. He prepares us for heaven, but there's more to follow. He gives us grace, but there's more to follow. He helps us to old age, but there's still more to follow."

We must not only bow in reverence to God; we must also live in reverence to God. Daily surrender to Him will only add more to what we have.

Virgil Childs is the director of African-American Ministries for the Pacific Union Conference.

Reverence is a physical response to a spiritual attitude impacted by a transcendent, awesome, and gracious God.

A high-angle, wide shot of a massive church sanctuary filled with a dense crowd of people. The pews are arranged in a semi-circular pattern, and the stage at the front is brightly lit. The overall atmosphere is one of a grand, significant event.

The Madman and the Mega-Church

BY TIM NELSON

It was the holiday season, and the entire town braced itself for the onslaught of out-of-towners and lookie-loos. Hotels would fill up, the streets would be packed, and everyday business would come to a halt as everyone made their way to the great mega-church. It was that time of the year when people came from far and wide to see the holiday production put on by the largest mega-church in the world.

The church was always crowded. It was a world-renowned masterpiece. Everyone— young and old, rich and poor, the seekers and the secular—came from all over, just to look at the building. No expense had been spared in the palatial cathedral; it graced the cover of all

the architectural digests and society pages.

Though the church put on several lavish productions each year, this one was the grandest. For this one, they would go all out. Extra security people were hired and special vendors were brought in. They even had live animals for the special occasion—and not just a sheep or two, but a whole menagerie. There were more doves, goats, sheep, and cows than could be counted, all for the great show.

The event was so popular that sometimes it had to be closed to outsiders—if anyone should be privileged to partake, it should be the church's members, after all. The many pastors of the church were all on hand to make sure that

everything was just right for the sacred event, that everyone dressed correctly, that only those who were supposed to be there were there, and that everyone behaved with proper reverence. And usually it all went according to plan.

But not this year. This year there was a disturbance. No. More than a disturbance—a ruckus, a hullabaloo, some might even call it a revolt. A homeless man—a drifter, a known troublemaker and instigator—wandered in from off the streets and caused a big commotion. Usually he just disagreed with the church leaders—once he had called out the head elder—but this time he outdid himself. This time he seemed to have truly gone mad.

His actions were so forceful, so emphatic, that even the security people wouldn't go near him. He swung a makeshift whip and overturned the props and tables in the main lobby. Dollar bills were scattered, and loose change bounced and clattered across the floor. The animals fled every which way, dove feathers filled the air, and sheep knocked people over while trying to escape the chaos.

Even worse, this irreverent vagabond had the gall to quote Scripture about worship *while he was disrupting the worship service!* Where was the propriety, the respect, the reverence for the holy things of God?

Even the people he hung out with were stunned. But then "His disciples remembered that

it is written: 'Zeal for Your house will consume Me'" (John 2:17, NIV).

When Jesus cleared the temple, it seemed to the church leaders like it was the most irreverent thing anyone could do. Why didn't He go through proper channels? Why didn't He lodge His concerns with the Sanhedrin or bring it to the attention of the high priest? Surely He could have found a more appropriate time, a more reverent way to handle the situation. But if we take a deeper look at the story found in all four Gospels, we find that not only was Jesus justified in His timing but He was acting in the most reverent way possible.

In the Old and New Testament, the words most commonly associated with reverence are the Hebrew *yir'ah* and the Greek *phobos*, both meaning fear. But the fear spoken of is not a fear that paralyzes but a fear that motivates the heart to proper action.

I remember buying my first comic book when I was a child. It was about G.I. Joe. Proud of my new treasure, I rushed home to show my Dad, sure that he would approve of such a manly book. Instead, anger filled his eyes as he snatched the book from my hands. "We don't read comics in this house!" he boomed, throwing my precious find into the garbage. "I don't ever want to see you with another comic book! Do you hear me?" he threatened, and I knew that if he indeed saw me with another comic book I might not be seen again.

Trembling, I managed to nod my head and flee

***Where was the propriety, the respect,
the reverence for the holy things of God?***

the room. I didn't understand his anger. I knew we didn't go to movies, eat meat, or play cards (except Rook, of course), but this was the first time I'd heard about comics. Even though I didn't understand, I feared what would happen to me if I didn't comply, so I changed my actions: I made sure he didn't see me with another comic book. That's not to say I didn't read comic books. Over the years, I bought enough comics books to fill a public library—but I kept them with a friend and fellow comic book enthusiast. Dad had said he never wanted to see me with another comic book, so I complied to the letter of his law.

The fear changed my actions, around him at least, but not my heart.

Several years later, as a young man, I came home to find my mother weeping. I rushed over to see what was wrong. Had something happened to Dad? Were my brothers OK? Looking at her tear-streaked face, I was sure someone had died. She was in the process of doing the laundry, and she was holding one of my shirts in her hands. Trembling, she held it out to me and sobbed, "Why are you living like this? You know better!"

The night before, I had gone out with my friends to a place where smoking and drinking were prevalent—and even though I hadn't engaged in those activities, my clothes were covered in their stench. I tried to explain to her what had happened.

I tried to tell her that I was old enough to go where I wanted and do what I wanted and that she would just have to trust me. However, while all of that was true, it didn't erase that pain on Mom's face or ease her broken heart.

As she left me, sniffing and trying to hold back her tears, I experienced a new sort of fear: the fear of reverence. I became so fearful of hurting the mother I loved that I never again wanted put myself in a situation that would hurt her like that. That fear, unlike my fear of Dad's wrath, led to a heart change, which motivated me to change my actions.

That heart-changing fear is the biblical *yir'ah* or *phobos*—fear as reverence. It happens when we come into the presence of God and experience a revelation of who He is, in relation to who we are, and we are changed in every aspect of our lives. We realize that our actions are hurting the heavenly Parent we dearly love. And, in fear of ever hurting Him again, we change those actions.

True reverence motivates the heart to action. Too many people want to confine reverence to mean silence in church or a certain praise style. We hear people say things like, "Children need to learn to be reverent in church" or "I wish the praise team picked more reverent songs." What they really mean is that they think children should sit silently in church and the praise team should pick songs they're comfortable with.

True reverence for God permeates every aspect of our lives and motivates our behavior with others. Biblical reverence is something that leads to action.



Portrait of Reverence

“There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God” (1 Samuel 2:2, NIV).
The Colorado River at Horseshoe Bend, Arizona

PHOTO: JAMES PONDER



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Sometimes reverence causes us to sit in silence as we process the enormity of what He has revealed about Himself to us. Other times reverence causes us to jump and shout in the joy of God’s revelation of love. And sometimes reverence causes a Man to open the way for the world to come to God by picking up a whip and removing the obstacles that hinder. All are motivated by the awe and fearful respect overflowing from a heart that has had a true encounter with the heavenly Father.

True reverence for God permeates every aspect of our lives and motivates our behavior with others. Biblical reverence is something that leads to action. It is the thing that causes us to

move and act in a Christlike way for others.

For example, in Colossians 3:22, reverence leads to action with a sincere heart. Here we see reverence extended beyond the church into the working environment: “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord” (NIV). Can you imagine how many in our offices and workplaces would be drawn to God if they saw true reverence reflected in the Christians who worked there? Instead of complaining and badmouthing their bosses, what would happen if Christians uplifted and prayed for them, especially the tyrannical ones?

Furthermore, Nehemiah 5:15 shows that reverence can lead bosses to reject acting like dictators who pass edicts and overburden employees. Instead they can humbly work alongside employees as peers, not masters.

How different would Christian marriages be if husbands and wives were reverent with each other? What would happen if, instead of trying to fight for control, they submitted to each other and let Christ be the head?

Would the TV shows we watch and music we listen to be any different if we followed the reverence Paul writes about in 2 Corinthians 7:1? “Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God” (NIV).

In Ephesians 5:21, we see reverence leading to active humility toward each other: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (NIV). How would we treat the homeless, who inconvenience our days and make us uncomfortable, if we were truly biblically reverent and submitted to helping those we’d might otherwise rather not? If we were truly reverent, we could not walk past the suffering, the oppressed, the outcast and leave them for someone else to help. True reverence for God gives us the passion of God and forces us to act.

This brings us back to Jesus and His actions in the temple. It was not the noise of the moneychangers and animals that prompted Jesus to act. Actually, the courtyard that the moneychangers were in was the place for the Gentiles to worship, since Gentiles were not allowed in the Jewish courtyard. That area was also closest to where the herds were kept for

sacrifice, so it was used as a shortcut to pass the animals through to the temple. Thus, for the sake of profit and expediency, the Gentiles were kept out of their place in the house of God.

When Jesus saw this happening—that people were not being allowed access to the Father—the prophecy in Psalms 69:9 was fulfilled: “For zeal for your house consumes me” (NIV). This is the passage the disciples remembered as they fearfully watched their Master clear the temple. Zeal filled His mind, zeal flooded His spirit, and in reverence He sprang to action. In that moment, though it was not polite or circumspect, the most reverent thing He could do was to make a whip, overturn some tables, and open a way to the Father for the suffering, the oppressed, the outcast, for all nations, where there had been no way. It was a foreshadowing of what He would do, out of reverence for God, on the cross. It was pure reverence in action.

Have you had a revelation of God that has called you to reverence? How has reverence motivated your heart to act? If you find that you only experience reverence in the church building and that your only response is hushed tones and restrained movement, then you’re missing out on so much that God has in store for you. Maybe you should try picking up a whip and making a way for those who have no way, so they can come and know God. Chase away the prejudices and traditions that have kept you from engaging with the suffering, the oppressed, and the outcast and show true reverence.

Tim Nelson is pastor of the Kaneohe church, Hauula church, and Waiola Worship Center on the island of Oahu.



on Reverence

When we view the generosity of Christ to the poor and suffering, his patience with the rude and ignorant, his self-denial and sacrifice, we are lost in admiration and reverence. What a gift has God lavished upon man, alienated from him by sin and disobedience! Well may the heart break and the tears flow in contemplation of such inexpressible love! (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 286)

We are to come before the mercy seat with reverence, calling up to our mind the promises that God has given, contemplating the goodness of God, and offering up thankful praises for His unchangeable love. (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 125)

And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 678)

Let the mother...find time to cultivate in herself and her children a love for the beautiful things of nature. Let her point them to the glories spread out in the heavens, to the thousand forms of beauty that adorn the earth, and then tell them of Him who made them all. Thus she can lead their young minds up to the Creator, and awaken in their hearts reverence and love for the Giver of every blessing. The fields and hills—nature's audience chamber—should be the schoolroom for little children. (*Child Guidance*, p. 48)

You must respect your own faith in order

successfully to introduce it to others. By example as well as precept, you must show that you reverence your faith, speaking reverently of sacred things. (*Christian Education*, p. 92)

Acts of love and reverence for Jesus are an evidence of faith in Him as the Son of God. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 564)

After resting upon the seventh day, God sanctified it, or set it apart, as a day of rest for man. Following the example of the Creator, man was to rest upon this sacred day, that as he should look upon the heavens and the earth, he might reflect upon God's great work of creation; and that as he should behold the evidences of God's wisdom and goodness, his heart might be filled with love and reverence for his Maker. (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 47)

It seems almost too good to believe that the Father can and does love any member of the human family as He loves His Son. But we have the assurance that He does, and this assurance should bring joy to every heart, awakening the highest reverence and calling forth unspeakable gratitude. God's love is not uncertain and unreal, but a living reality. (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 58)

It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 555)

Hawaii Welcomes New Pastors

BY MIKI NELSON

Travis Sager joins the pastoral team of the Hawaii

Conference as senior pastor at the Honolulu Central church. Travis holds a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University and a Ph.D. in preaching from Trinity Seminary/ University of

Liverpool. For 24 years, Travis has served as a pastor and conference department director in Texas, Kansas-Nebraska, and Illinois. He most recently was a district pastor, youth director, and senior pastor of the Hinsdale church in Illinois.

Travis met his wife, Renee, while attending Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and they were married in 1995. They welcomed a son, Brady, in 2006.

In 2003, Renee convinced Travis to visit Hawaii. They immediately fell in love with the islands and hoped to one day make Hawaii their home. That hope continued to grow as they made eight visits to the islands over the past 16 years, and it was fulfilled when the invitation to join the pastoral team in Hawaii was extended. The Sagers are thrilled to have been invited to pastor the Honolulu Central church.

Jay Warren also joins the Hawaii team as the pastor at the Aiea church. Jay received a Master



of Divinity degree from Andrews University in 1992 and has pastored for 26 years in Washington and Arizona, spending the last 16 years at Thunderbird church. He enjoys hiking, biking, flying planes, music, and mission trips.

Jay married his high school sweetheart, Dee Dee, in 1984. Jay and Dee Dee have three children: Jason, Nathan, and Sara. The Warrens are excited about serving in Hawaii.

"It is a blessing and honor to find men of such spirit-filled character to join the Hawaii Conference ministerial team. Travis and Jay bring a passionate love for God and a wealth of experience effectuating His work. We foresee a tremendous blessing through their ministries and an enriching of our Hawaii `ohana through their gifts and considerable talents," said Ralph Watts III, Hawaii Conference president.

"We foresee a tremendous blessing through their ministries and an enriching of our Hawaii `ohana through their gifts and considerable talents."

A trip halfway around the world with her PUC professor and classmates gave one English major honors student an intensely spiritual experience.



BY SARAH TANNER

Westminster's Wisdom



Reverence grows best in quiet places. It is found in the moments after a choir's song trails into echoes, in the "Amen" following spoken prayers. This summer, on a study tour to the United Kingdom, I rediscovered reverence while seated among dozens of strangers at Westminster Abbey's evensong. On a late Thursday afternoon, I entered the abbey with the expectation of enjoying the building's art and architecture. My classmates, professor, and I took turns pointing out significant statues and monuments as we made our way to our seats. Our London Streets honors class had thoroughly explored many aspects of city life, but we had yet to experience a full Anglican service. I had no doubt that it would differ significantly from a PUC vespers service, but I had no concept of how the differences would appear.

As the choirboys opened the evensong with one of the Psalms, a quiet descended comfortably over the congregation. They sang and we listened, and their voices carried us into a shared space of worship. I realized, sitting in the midst of over a thousand years of history, that all

of us had been inextricably woven into a rich and vital tapestry of tradition. It was one that dismantled denominational barriers and sought to unite us in love. Love for God and love for each other.

We stood and recited the Lord's Prayer. And though I have known the words for years, it was as if I had never truly understood them until that day. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever." It was clear then that everything belongs to Him. His kingdom is made of cities as big as London and as small as Angwin. Every thunderstorm that illuminates the night and every earthquake that levels mountains are evidence of His power. And every beautiful thing on the face of this Earth stands testament to His glory. Sunflowers, sunsets, Van Gogh's "Starry Night," and random acts of kindness connect us to God.

Our honors class focused on a certain term during this seminar: "affective gravity." Essentially, it is the weight a given building, location, or event naturally carries and the emotional response entailed when a person comes into contact with it. The affective gravity of a place does not always mirror its physical size;

however, with Westminster this is not the case. It is enormous in its ability to evoke awe, community, and, not least of all, reverence. The abbey pulled me into its time-space web, and I willingly let the presence of theologians, literariness, scientists, and saints fill the sanctuary with a millennia of wisdom. The building interprets itself, and as the acoustic framework reverberated the promises of the Old Testament, it whispered peace. A sweet contentment fell over us as the last notes of the choir faded, and the pinprick of tears gathered in the corners of my eyes.

"This is what it is to feel God's love," I thought.

On a PUC study tour halfway around the world, which included Westminster's evensong, I learned that reverence wells up unexpectedly. It is not tied to any particular place, or time, or to any one group. It is contained by no one but shared by all. And it is overwhelmingly a thing of beauty.

For information about spiritual life at PUC, email Chaplain Kent Rufo at krufu@puc.edu. To schedule a personalized campus visit, go to puc.edu/visit or call (800) 862-7080.

An anointing ceremony occurred at the end of one of the evening programs, during which Central California Conference Hispanic pastors prayed with attendees one on one.



Hispanic Tent Focuses uPward During Central California Conference Soquel Camp Meeting

BY LILLIANA JIMENEZ

Prayer is what this year's 139th-annual Soquel Camp Meeting was all about. The 10-day event that started on Thursday, July 11, and went through Saturday evening, July 20, was a blessing for all who attended. Pastor Alejandro Bullón, an extremely well-loved evangelist within the Hispanic community, was the main speaker in the Spanish Tent. "Pastor Bullón was in the tent every day, as a teacher in the mornings and an evangelist in the

evenings, reminding participants about the importance of prayer and discipleship," said Ricardo J. Viloria, CCC Hispanic director.

"Fuerzas Especiales" (Grupo FE) was introduced in the Spanish Tent this year, while the six-day seminar workshop focused on discipleship and witnessing to others. Pastor Bullón gave attendees the chance to have one-on-one time with him in Q & A segments at the end of every seminar. More than 150 attendees completed

the workshop and participated in a graduation ceremony on the final Sabbath, during which they were presented certificates.

"This camp meeting has been very organized; the quality of the presentations was phenomenal. I venture to say it looks like within the next couple years we will need to add a couple hundred chairs," said Pastor Gilberto Garcia. "The increase in attendance was very noticeable from one Sabbath to another. Overall, the



Seminars were given daily at the Spanish Tent at this year's Soquel Camp Meeting. Speakers Enrique Perez Diaz, Alma Hernandez, and Rudy Salazar covered topics such as mental health and couples/marriage relationships, along with practical stewardship and financial tips.



feeling that I left with was being part of a family, God's family."

Additional highlights of the evening programs included mini concerts with artists Jose Ocampo,



Duo Tadeo, Cindy Garcia, Zaida and David Howard, and pianist Handerson Pontel. Nightly appeals gave attendees the chance to make a personal decision in response to the preacher's message. During the week, attendees also had the chance to write their prayer requests and praises on a prayer wall inside the tent and/or

More than 23 people were baptized in the Spanish Tent on the first and final Sabbaths at Central California Conference's Soquel Camp Meeting this year, which occurred from July 11 to 20.

write petitions on slips of paper that would later be burned in a symbolic ceremony. Attendees left with the reminder to Look uP and keep their eyes fixed on our Savior.

"It was a great joy seeing the Spanish Tent more beautiful than ever," said Pastor Ricardo Wainz. "Not only the tent but also the programming and production. It gives us room to dream of more beautiful things to come. I hope God continues to bless our Hispanic department."



One of the highlights of this year's camp meeting was the new layout inside the Spanish Tent that made room for 800 more chairs, providing a total of 2,000 chairs in the tent. On Sabbaths, there was standing room only along the side of the tent.

PHOTO: LISA TOPETE



Prayers Answered and Promises Fulfilled During Youth Rush 2019

BY LAUREN LACSON

This summer, a team of more than 35 people from Southern California Conference (SCC) spent 10 weeks sharing the gospel in our territory. According to Lisa Topete, SCC Literature Ministries assistant coordinator, the program is transformational because “every aspect of the day is geared toward mission—from the time the student wakes up to the time they go to sleep! This naturally leads to young people having a deep love connection with Christ.”

Marco Topete, SCC Literature Ministries coordinator, is passionate about this ministry through personal experience. “I am in the church seven years later due to God using this ministry,” he shared. Many of the students echo his experience, saying that Youth Rush changed their lives. “Youth Rush gave me the training and experience I needed to confidently share God’s love with others,” said Ronn. “Being around other people with such faith encouraged me to grow spiritually in ways that I could not fathom.”

Student literature evangelists often canvass more than just homes; they also canvass businesses in the various cities where they work. A student named Jacob was canvassing in a coffee shop; after being rejected inside, he decided to go outside where customers were sitting. He began to talk with a young woman named Celine, who started asking him questions about his faith, such as, “Why do you love God so much?” Jacob responded with, “I love Him so much because of what He has done for me.” After a long conversation, Celine began to cry and said, “I want to get closer to God, but I don’t know how to connect with Him. I just want someone who will mentor me in the Bible.”

- More than 21,000 pieces of literature distributed
- More than 195,000 doors knocked on
- 28 students total (with 8 leaders)
- Requests for Bible studies/ Revelation seminar: more than 105
- Requests for health services: more than 115
- Scholarship money earned for students: more than \$90,000 raised for tuition assistance
- Countless people prayed with!

As Jacob was leaving, he asked Celine if she would be interested in studying the Bible. She readily agreed. When Celine found out that the students met every day for Bible study, she joined them the very next day and the day after that! From there, she began studying the Bible one-on-one with a young lady from a local church. They started off meeting one time per week, and it has increased to up to three times per week! Praise God for His leading and His using young people to reach others who are seriously seeking Him.

Answered prayers came in many forms this summer: a man was contemplating suicide when he met one of our students; another had spent the last year making copies of our literature to share with family and friends; a woman was comforted by one of our canvassers who showed up exactly one year to the day after her husband passed away; another man, who had just lost everything, had an encounter with one of our students, who shared much-needed comfort and peace with him.

“The number one thing I pray each student receives from this program is learning how real God is in our day and age,” Marco continued. “The God who split the Red Sea in Exodus 14 is the same God we serve today. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing the students’ eyes open when they realize, sometimes for the first time in their Christian experience, that God answered their prayer directly.”

“Youth Rush has given me a taste of how powerful one-on-one, door-to-door ministry is,” Gabriella said, “and how God can miraculously work through my life when I surrender—sustaining me through the heat, rejections, and sore feet, to bring me to the door of someone in need.”

NAD Chinese Church Camp Meeting Invites Attendees to Turn Their Eyes Upon Jesus

BY ARAYA MOSS

In early August, members from Chinese churches across the North American Division met at the Chino Valley Chinese church for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and testimony. The theme, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” was emphasized by keynote speakers Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president, and Iki Taimi, Southern California Conference (SCC) director of senior youth and young adult ministries.

“We pray that God will bless your ministries here and those of you that have come from other parts of the North American Division,” said Graham during Friday night’s service, “that we might reach all the people that God puts in our pathway to share with them the powerful, wonderful message that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been given.”

Several of the churches in attendance were represented in various aspects during the programs. Every person who stepped up to the microphone to offer prayer, testimony, present a report or honor, or share the message had a translator

so that everyone in attendance could be reached. Special musical performances—praise and worship teams, choirs, string quartets, and a harp soloist—were woven throughout the meetings.

Sabbath was a full day that included services in the morning and the evening. Sabbath School focused on informative outreach and mission reports from nine different churches. Attendees heard how Fremont Chinese company, Houston Chinese Fellowship, Loma Linda Chinese church, Los Angeles Cantonese company, Los Angeles Chinese church, San Gabriel Valley Chinese company, South Bay Chinese church, Toronto Chinese church, and Chino Valley Chinese church have grown in the past few years. Highlighted outreach programs included health clinics, baptisms, music ministry, missionary work, a new church building, and so much more.

Paul Cho, pastor at Chino Valley Chinese church, recalled the ways the congregation has seen God at work in their

church in the last 15 years. As a reminder of these miracles, he shared a photo he recently took of a vibrant rainbow around the new church building that, as he put it, “was drawn by the finger of God.”

After the evening service, the events continued with a social, where attendees shared games, food, and fellowship.

The weekend concluded with a focus on prayer. Janet Lui, member of Rolling Hills church and SCC prayer ministries coordinator, gave a special presentation, titled “Praying to Know God,” expressing how we can meet God every day through prayer.

“The work will never be finished if we leave it up to the preachers,” emphasized Graham. “There are not enough of us; there are too many people to be reached. We all have an opportunity to invite someone to come to Jesus.”



PHOTOS: GARVIN CHAN



(Left) An estimated 300 people attended the worship service at Chino Valley church Sabbath morning. (Above) Ben Giang, a member of South Bay Chinese church, translates Graham’s message, which was taken from Hebrews 12, reminding us to continually look to Jesus as we run the race of endurance.

Arizona's Reformation Expo took many weeks to design and assemble. Much was built at Thunderbird Adventist Academy and shipped to Oshkosh.



Reformation Expo at the 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee

BY PHIL DRAPER AND RAY NAVARRO

The Protestant Reformation was featured at the 2019 International Pathfinder Camporee with Reformation Expo, a 1,600-square-foot exhibit that resembled a medieval courtyard.

Dramatic 16-foot entryway towers, complete with a "barker's" tower, greeted visitors. Along with chandeliers, thrones for the king and queen, medieval banners and tapestries, authentic props and furniture throughout, life-sized face cutouts, authentic replicas of instruments of torture, and medieval music, visitors viewed vivid exhibits of a giant 55" Gutenberg Bible on a

medieval cart, a display describing the Reformers and their world, a 9- by 18-foot timeline mural, and a castle door displaying Luther's Ninety-five Theses.

Visitors received a facsimile copy of Luther's Ninety-five Theses in Latin with full translation, a Latin indulgence from 1484, and a color copy of William Tyndale's English translation of chapter 1 of the Gospel of John.

At the exit they also received a daily card explaining the *solas* of the Reformation from the hands of a life-sized wooden monk. The exhibit's operators donned authentic costumes and did some role-playing

(such as Pastor Ray Navarro dubbing Pathfinders as knights and princesses) to enhance visitors' experiences.

Other popular features were the pin and food stands. Up to 100 people would wait in line as early as 90 minutes before opening to receive the unique set of five different lapel pins featuring Reformers, which had been placed in small, colorful burlap bags, along with a poem on a scroll. The bread, soup, and cheese stand received a five-star rating as Pathfinders raved about the tomato bisque soup and the local Wisconsin specialty cheese.

Many visitors (including media

(Opposite page, from left to right) Cottonwood pastor Bob Lawson explains the Gutenberg Bible on display; Tempe pastor Ray Navarro designed and helped construct the massive Reformation Expo exhibit; Arizona Conference President Keyes and his wife, Lillian, visit King Ray and Queen Elisa Navarro, who are in full Reformation-era costumes.



(Above left) Arizona had five very desirable pins featuring different Reformers. (Above right) Prescott pastor Tony Jasper participates in the baptism of 12 campers from Arizona.

interviewers) expressed their astonishment at the realism, detail, and overall grandeur of the exhibit. Some commented, "This is the best booth in the entire camporee!" Some conference leaders even asked about having the Expo at their 2020 camp meeting. One Russian visitor expressed interest in using the Expo as a unique evangelism tool in Russia!

Reformation Expo was the 2018 dream of Pastor Ray Navarro of Tempe, Arizona, who designed the exhibit,

pins, and all printed materials and built some of the props. Expert exhibit builders, Pastor Hugh Barton of Paradise Valley and John Baker of Tempe, were indispensable.

While it was being built at Thunderbird Adventist Academy, they were assisted by Tyler, Amber, and Heather Barton, Devonte Anau, and other TAA students.

The pin stand was run by chaplain Elisa Navarro; on-site promoter was Judith Silva of Tempe; the bread, soup, and cheese stand was operated by chef Susan Cruz of Tempe; Larry Koehler of Glendale was the torture display attendant; from Iowa, Dan and Melissa Spilger with their daughters

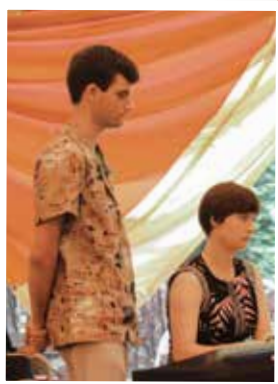
Jennifer and Katheryn were helpers, builders, and guides extraordinaire; and the incredible tour guides were Pastor Bob Lawson and his wife Carol of Cottonwood/Camp Verde.

Thanks to Tempe church members, who gave donations for this project, and to Manny Cruz, Arizona Conference youth director, who enthusiastically accepted Pastor Ray's request for conference sponsorship and always encouraged this project to move forward.



(Left) First-time attendee Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes was delighted with the Oshkosh Camporee and plans to attend each future event. (Above) Arizona was thrilled with 12 campers who were baptized at the Camporee.

(Right) Brother- and-sister duo Evelynn and Jimmy Barr have participated in Tahoe Camp Meeting's music programs for the last six years. Both play the piano, and Jimmy plays the trumpet.



PHOTOS: FAITH HOYT

Evelynn also sings with the Granite Bay Folsom Group lady's trio, *With All My Heart*, which shared special music during Friday's program. "This is such a close-knit community," Evelynn shared. "I like being out in nature. You get bad cell reception and all that stuff, but it cuts your connection with the world and helps you focus on your relationship with God." (Above) During the week of July 29 to August 3, Adventists from across the Nevada-Utah Conference and beyond gathered at Tahoe Valley Campground for the 19th annual lay-led Tahoe Camp Meeting, themed "Building the Kingdom."

Tahoe Camp Meeting Provides Fellowship and a Welcome Retreat in Nature

BY FAITH HOYT

Church members from around the Nevada-Utah Conference and beyond spent the week of July 29 to August 3 at Tahoe Valley Campground in South Lake Tahoe, California, for the annual lay-led Tahoe Camp Meeting (TCM), themed "Building the Kingdom."

"This is a very special camp meeting," shared Justin Torrosian as he began his sermon Sabbath morning. "Tahoe Camp Meeting is one of the best kept secrets in all of California." Torrosian, pastor of the Hamilton church in Australia, along with his wife Charissa, prayer ministries coordinator and associate director for church revitalization in the North New South Wales Conference, spent the week serving as speakers for TCM.

In addition to morning, afternoon, and evening meetings for both adults and youth, campers gathered to enjoy music, evening socials with root beer floats and fruit, and nature walks with Larry Siemans, science department chair and chemistry professor at

Simpson University in Redding, California. A special luau for youth was hosted on Friday.

For attendees, the time to connect with others out in nature was a highlight of their camp meeting experience. Mary Qualls, a traveling nurse who attends the Riverview church in Reno, was invited by their associate pastor to spend Sabbath fellowshiping at Tahoe Camp Meeting. Although she knew only two people who were going, Qualls decided to make her first visit

to TCM. "The fellowship here is high on my list [of favorite things]. I have always gone to camp meeting when I can," Qualls said. "I love being in

all these trees. It's Tahoe, it's pretty up here."

At the invitation of her associate pastor and his wife, Mary Qualls, a traveling nurse who attends the Riverview church in Reno, came to Tahoe Camp Meeting for the first time.



(Right) Katherine Lewis, a member of the Provo church, drove over 600 miles with her daughter from their home in Utah to South Lake Tahoe in order to attend Tahoe Camp Meeting with her extended family. For Lewis, the best part of camp meeting is hearing the messages. "Every year there is something interesting and pertinent to what is going on in the world, and the message that we need to hear." (Far right) Excited to reconnect at camp meeting, Sarah Gill and Mindy Bruck enjoyed introducing their children to each other in the same tent they met in as children in the early 1990s—(left back) Nathan Gill, Sarah, Mindy (left front) Emily Gill and Bison Bruck.



Provo church member Katherine Lewis and her daughter drove over 600 miles from her home in Utah to South Lake Tahoe in order to attend TCM with her extended family. "We learn together and grow together at camp meeting," shared Lewis. "It's a great place to find out what others are doing in their churches and find out if you want to try to implement that in your church. It's also a great place for kids to make friends with other Adventists." For Lewis, the best part of camp meeting is hearing the messages. "Every year there is something interesting and pertinent to what is going on in the world, and the message that we need to hear."

New friends were discovered and old friendships reestablished. Sarah Gill and Mindy Bruck met in

the children's tent back in the early 1990s. They were surprised to find each other in the kindergarten tent this year, while accompanying their own children. Gill said, "Our children, Emily and Bison, hit it off well and really enjoyed the fabulous program provided for them. It was great to catch up with Mindy."

This year was TMC's 19th as a lay-led camp meeting. The TCM committee and attendees look forward to what the 20th year will bring. Due to the ever-growing popularity of both Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Valley Campground, the TCM committee announced the dates of next year's camp meeting, August 3-8, and encouraged attendees to book their campsites a year in advance.



(Above) Michael Harris, Chapel Music Recording Artist and president of Restoration in the Son Ministries, shares special music on Sabbath morning. (Below) Justin Torossian, guest speaker at Tahoe Camp Meeting, shares a message on Sabbath morning.



Participants of this year's Youth Rush program in the Nevada-Utah Conference took a time-out from their ministry in the Reno area to invite people in the community to Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting. Although they didn't see any of the people they invited, the group was blessed by Pastor Torossian's messages and a visit with NUC president, Elder Leon Brown.



PHOTO: JULIE BROWN



Fun + Evangelism + Discipleship = Summer on the Run

BY JULIE LORENZ

In early July, Billy (not his real name) and his grandmother were driving down a street in Stockton when they saw a giant blue inflatable waterslide. “Grandma, stop the car!” shouted Billy, and his grandmother steered her car to the side of the road.

“How can I get my grandson down that waterslide?” she asked a man standing nearby. The man—Northern California Conference (NCC) Youth Director Eddie Heinrich—told her about Summer on the Run, the NCC’s traveling day camp program for kids, which was going on that week at the Stockton Mayfair church. She immediately filled out a registration form for Billy and took another one with her. The next day, Billy and his cousin went down the slide, tried all sorts of other fun activities, and learned something about Jesus.

Throughout June and July, the Summer on the Run team made friends like Billy in a number of places. Under Heinrich’s direction, nine college students ran the program, assisted by a different group of volunteers at each location. In addition to the Mayfair church, the program went to the Gracepoint church in Rocklin, Redwood Creek Camp in Humboldt County, Adventist Christian School of Yuba City, the Chico church, and Redwood Camp Meeting in Redcrest.

Summer on the Run has grown since its first session last year. “This

summer we were more intentional about reaching out to unchurched kids,” said Heinrich.

On the first day in Yuba City, 96 kids showed up—80 percent of them community members. At the weeklong Redwood Creek Camp, the team worked with 92 kids—more than half of them from a nearby Indian reservation. In Chico and Yuba City, the program provided a week of fun for many children who had been displaced by the Camp Fire.

The initial attractions of Summer on the Run were what Heinrich calls “ministry toys”—the waterslide, the

huge inflatable obstacle course, and the bounce house. But the children also enjoyed the daily worships and small group Bible studies. “We would introduce them to Jesus every morning,” said team member Samuel D’Autruche, a student at Pacific Union College. “The kids were very interested in the Bible stories. They hadn’t been exposed to that kind of thing.”

The team members worked hard, arriving at most locations on Sunday afternoon to set up and then running the program from Monday to Friday. “I really believe in what we’re doing—bringing camp to

PHOTO: DIXIE LYSINGER

that wouldn't usually have access to it," said D'Autruche. "There are kids everywhere that don't get to experience this kind of fun stuff."

D'Autruche and the other college students learned leadership and ministry skills as they discipled the volunteers and worked with the children. "The way that Eddie has designed the program, the college students are running it and the rest are support people," said Janeen

Little, Lodi Academy chaplain and Bible teacher, who served as pastor at Redwood Creek Camp and assisted at two other locations. She brought a group of her high school students to help in Chico. "I wish that everybody could have the opportunity to be involved with Summer on the Run," said Little. "Watching youth grow in Jesus is more invigorating than anything else we can do."

Heinrich wants Summer on the Run to introduce local churches to their neighbors. "We are building relationships so the community knows who the Adventist church is," he said. "This is a long game. We're not looking for baptisms this year. We're interested in what the results will be five years from now. We're all about building relationships, making connections, and introducing kids to Jesus."

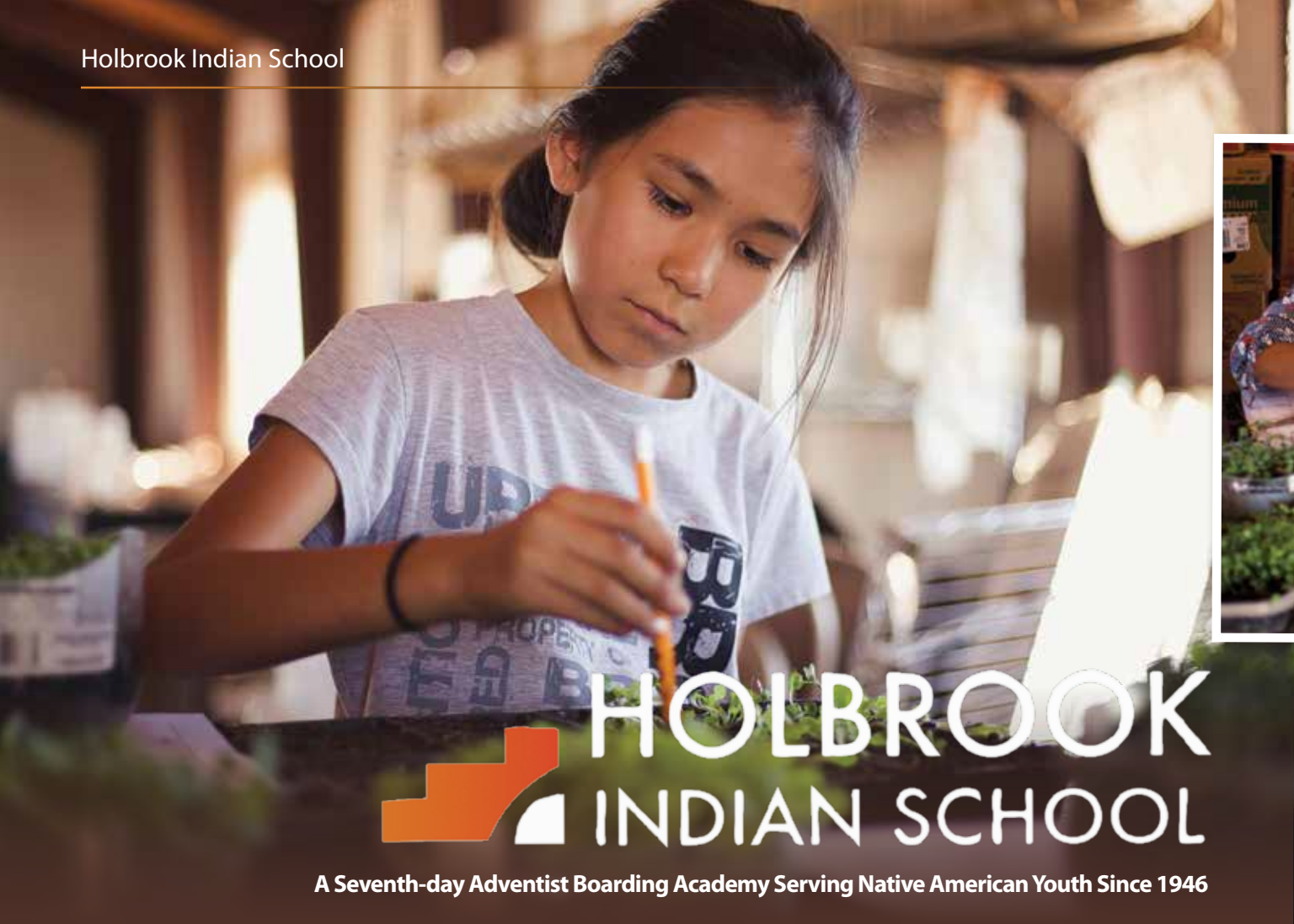


PHOTO: EDDIE HEINRICH



PHOTO: TAMMY HEINRICH





HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

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

Agricultural Program: Growing and Harvesting in the Desert

BY JAMES HUNT, WITH ALYSSA WILLIAMS

Perhaps you have driven across the United States on Highway 40. If so, you would have passed through Holbrook, Arizona. Other than the Wigwam Motel off Route 66 and the Petrified National Forest, Holbrook does not attract many visitors. However, this high desert land is where Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is located. I have been working as the director of agriculture education at this amazing school for a few years now, growing healthy food for the students, staff, and community.

The main objective of the agricultural program is to supply healthy food to the students and staff and to teach the students how they can grow nutrient-dense food for their families in the future. Many of our students come from the Navajo reservation. As with many

youth today, fast food and heavily processed food are the norm. Growing your own food is a lost skill, and health issues are on the rise. We restarted the farm several years ago because we believe it has wholistic benefits for every student. All that we do at HIS is under the umbrella

of MAPS (mental, academic/artistic, physical, and spiritual wholeness). Studies show that getting your hands in the soil is restorative. Our desire is for our students to develop a love for a healthy lifestyle—and what better way than to get them working the land!



This school year, we are teaching the students how to build a hoop house that will become a gardening class lab. This 50- by 20-foot hoop house will be equipped with benches to start plants for transplanting and to do experiments with plant growth. The students will be involved in the entire process, from bending the pipes to assembling the hoop house. We are also excited to introduce cooking classes as a part of the garden-to-plate program. Our assistant gardener, Richard Espinal, is an amazing cook who will be teaching the students how to make delicious food with the produce that they grow on the farm.

The agricultural program helps us witness not only to our students but also to our community. Seventy-two families in the surrounding area receive the weekly list of vegetables available for delivery. We have been gradually developing friendships with these people through produce deliveries. We believe God calls us to minister to all those around us, and the farm has been an excellent way to share the gospel. The agricultural program

is thriving because of generous donors like you who continue to help us financially and who help provide upgraded equipment. We are thankful for those who support the mission of Holbrook Indian School.



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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Haystack anyone? Dr. Aimee Leukert holds one of Adventism's best known iconic meals, the haystack. Left to right around her are Loma Linda Academy students (left to right, front to back) Kolton Ice, Micah Mendez, Liana Leukert, Kayleigh Leukert, and Makena Wacker.

Of Haystacks, Rook, and Potlucks: Study Links School Choice, Adventist Culture

BY DARLA MARTIN TUCKER

Engagement watches, Saturday night Rook games, vegetarian potlucks, debates on proper construction of “haystacks”—for many Seventh-day Adventists these things are instantly familiar. But do anecdotal experiences constitute a denominational culture, and are cultural practices linked to Adventist K-12 school enrollment in America?

A doctoral study by La Sierra University Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Aimee Leukert recently produced intriguing answers to these questions. Initial research conducted for her dissertation at Claremont Graduate University indicates the presence of a unique Adventist culture existing across subcultural boundaries in America, and further analysis based on that research shows that lifelong Seventh-day Adventists who attended Adventist K-12 schools themselves and who are middle-of-the-road traditionalists in their views of diet, dress, Sabbath preparation, and other Adventist activities are often the most willing to invest in Adventist education for their own children.

Conversely, those who scored low for Adventist cultural practices and norms were more likely to send their children to public or non-Adventist schools, and those who tested for a high degree of traditional Adventist cultural practices were more likely to homeschool their children.

“It is a very interesting U-shaped curve,” Leukert said. “I think that the population in the middle is getting smaller,” a phenomenon that may be connected to the enrollment drop many academies have experienced over the past 20 years.

Leukert graduated in May from Claremont Graduate University with a Ph.D. She plans to share more detailed analyses and findings of her

study in the future.

Leukert also serves as associate director of La Sierra’s Center for Research on Adventist K-12 Education and has worked with the North American Division’s Education Taskforce. Prior to arriving at La Sierra University, she taught at multiple levels within the Adventist K-12 system and served as principal of a K-8 school.

As an administrator she often faced frustrating questions about whether schools were doing enough to stem the ongoing enrollment fallout. The experience influenced the formation of her dissertation topic.

“My context was that we have this decline in enrollment that people

have been talking about for at least two decades, and I felt that as a school teacher and as a principal often the finger was pointed at the school— ‘What are you guys doing wrong?’ It was a burden on us as principals,” Leukert said.

She hypothesized that since the quality and content of Adventist education has remained relatively consistent over the years, something in the Adventist culture may be at the root of parents’ decisions of whether or not to enroll their children in Adventist K-12 schools. She decided to put her theories to the test through her doctoral dissertation. “I wanted to ask them whether or not they swim on Sabbath and where they enroll their kids in school,” she said.

The first step was to determine the existence of a nationwide, cohesive Adventist culture. She began in March and May 2018 with two sample surveys of a total 124 active church members within the eight denominational unions around the country. The first survey involved personal interviews with 61 people and produced 27 core statements on Adventist-centric cultural practices

and beliefs that were common among participants. The second survey asked another 63 people to rank-order the core statements from most to least important from the perspective of their Adventist community.

A factor analysis of the results produced a ratio of 3.28, indicating a shared set of cultural knowledge within the U.S. population of Adventist church members. “With this magical number in hand, the validation of a cultural domain was confirmed,” Leukert noted in an article about her research.

During the summer of 2018 she continued the study by distributing a three-part survey through various channels around the United States and received more than 1,000 responses from participants who have children in grades K-12. The questionnaire addressed Adventist doctrine, general religiosity, and Adventist culture. It produced the U-shaped results pertaining to school selection and cultural practices.

Adventist K-12 school enrollment figures for the eight American unions were included in the research results. The North Pacific Union

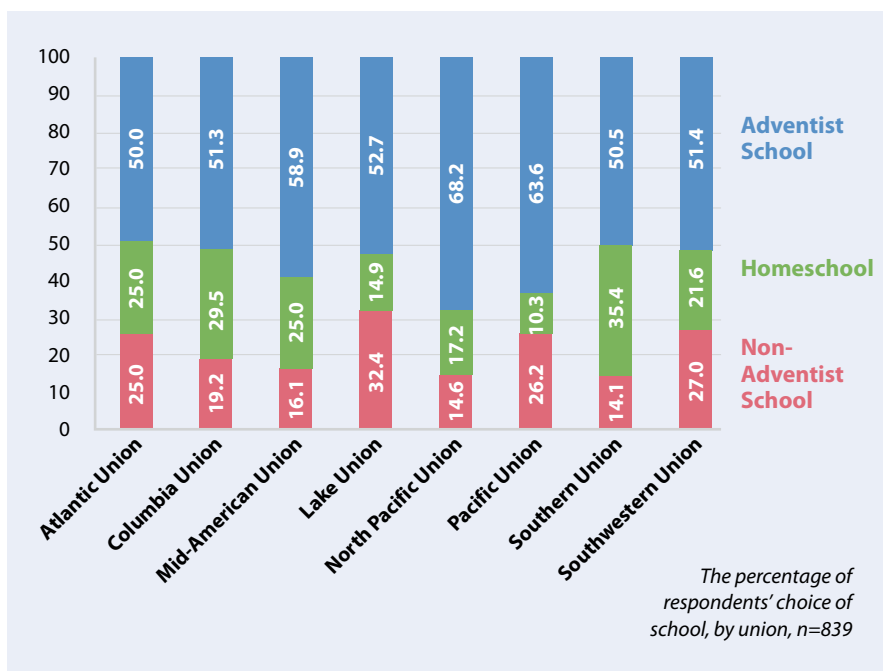
Conference ranked the highest for SDA enrollment at 68.2%, with 17.2% in homeschool and 14.6% in non-Adventist schools. The Atlantic Union Conference scored the lowest at 50% enrolled, with an equal split between respondents who homeschool their children and those who send them to non-Adventist schools.

Donna Baerg Entze, a lifelong Adventist and vice principal for academic affairs at Monterey Bay Academy, participated in the first survey. She agrees that those who attend Adventist schools throughout their education are more likely to send their kids to Adventist academies. “They see that the students are able to get more than just an education,” she said, and if young people observe their parents sacrificing to provide that holistic educational experience, they will do the same with their own children. As an example, she said she is now seeing the children of former MBA students enrolling at the academy, some from Arizona.

She also wasn’t entirely surprised by the study outcome confirming the existence of an Adventist culture, given her own experiences with Adventists in other areas of the country. “When I encountered other Adventists, I just knew there were some similarities,” she said.

Leukert believes her research provides valuable insight into the changing culture of the Adventist church in the North American Division and the implications it may have on Adventist K-12 schools. “For instance, based on this data,” she says, “a better understanding and knowledge of the Adventist community surrounding each school may allow school administrators to develop a more effective marketing strategy.”

For a broader version of this story, please visit www.lasierra.edu.





PHOTOS: JON CICCARELLI

(Left) About three-quarters of the 20 group members consistently show up at 7 a.m. to the Legends 55+ CrossFit workout at a box (gym) near Calimesa church. (Above) Starting the day right: participants in the Legends 55+ CrossFit program begin their day with fresh air and “heavy lifting.”

Calimesa’s CrossFit Program *Builds Community and Muscle*

BY GREG RUMSEY

Sometimes thinking outside the box leads to spending time in the box, so to speak. That’s what is happening in a new health and fitness ministry sponsored by the Calimesa church at a local CrossFit box (the term for gym in the CrossFit community).

Jon Ciccarelli, ministerial director for Southeastern California Conference, then senior pastor at Calimesa church, has a passion to help older people improve their fitness, which led him to become certified as a CrossFit coach. Last year he approached Junior Hernandez, owner of the CrossFit that is two blocks from the church, and proposed team-coaching a class for seniors.

The result? Legends 55+ was born. About three-quarters of the 20 participants consistently attend the 7 a.m. sessions Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. About half the members, ranging in age from 55 to 84, are church members.

“We improvise,” said Ciccarelli, describing the shared coaching

arrangement with Hernandez. “We create the workout, write it on the whiteboard, and gather everybody around.”

One day’s routine, for example, might combine rowing and pushups with kettlebell swings and burpees (squat thrusts). All exercises are scalable, meaning they are customized for each person’s ability. For example, pushups can be done standing up against a wall, on the floor with the upper body on a box, or as standard pushups.

Ciccarelli likes the community atmosphere he sees in the class. “They’re family,” he said, noting that participants often bring fresh fruit or other treats to share with each other.

For Bill Hooker, retired neuroscience professor and a

longtime runner, this interaction is one of the key benefits of Legends.

“I was pleasantly surprised at how much camaraderie there was in this group and how it crosses barriers between church and nonchurch people,” he said. Hooker and his wife, Marie, are one of three married couples in the class.

Ciccarelli also sees the class as an avenue for what he calls “holy hanging out” with the community.

“They all know I’m a pastor,” he said. “They share their prayer requests with me and say, ‘You’re the only pastor I have.’”

Recently one of the participants said she intends to visit a church service soon. Others have attended various programs, such as the church’s Christmas concert.

OC Grace Church Partners with Community Organization for Outreach

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

Dante and Patty Marruffo arrived at their new posts at OC Grace church (then the Garden Grove church) in early 2018. Determined to get to know their new community, they hopped in the car and drove.

"We parked near the fire station and just walked in," Patty said. "We introduced ourselves and explained we wanted to meet our neighbors and make ourselves available."

It was this friendly attitude that opened doors to connecting with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove (BGC). The Marruffos were impressed with their program, and it didn't take long for the idea of a partnership to arise.

"We were hesitant at first," admitted Christina Sepulveda, vice president and director of community impact programs for BGC Garden Grove. "But they were so respectful; they were willing to listen to the community. That holds huge value."

That summer, OC Grace and BGC put on a back-to-school block party for families in the community. It was a rousing success. In August 2019, they held their second annual block party for more than 900 children and families.

Donated space in an exclusive private park near both organizations' headquarters offered families an unforgettable experience.



Lucky recipients receive backpacks stuffed with school supplies during a back-to-school block party in August co-hosted by OC Grace church and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove.

The children had access to haircuts donated by a local beauty school; raffles for donated bicycles and gift cards; free vision and dental screenings; more than 30 community-based resources; and backpacks stuffed with school supplies. The kids were especially excited to get professional haircuts—for many, their first ever.

"Some of these families are homeless, so parents often forego haircuts," explained Raken Mai, Access to Resources for Children's Health, Education and Support director for BGC. "It was wonderful seeing these kids feeling confident, ready to go back to school looking and feeling good."

The highlight of the event for many was the puppy reading station, where

children could select a book to read to a comfort service dog; then they could take the book home.

Sixty-five volunteers from OC Grace helped BGC employees at the event, and all were urged to give attendees a "world-class experience."

For Patty Marruffo, Sepulveda, and Mai, success has everything to do with building and maintaining relationships.

"They've been committed throughout, and that means a lot to us," Sepulveda said of OC Grace church. "It's not just a 'one and done' situation. It's obvious everything they're doing is about building community, and we want to do more with them."

Churches interested in partnering with other organizations should have an idea of what they want to do before approaching them, Mai said. Transparency and trust are critical.

"Get to know each other by working together on smaller things before tackling larger projects," said Mai. "This way you'll know whether or not you are a good fit for each other."

For information on getting involved with the work OC Grace church is doing in their community, contact Patty Marruffo at patriciamarruffo@gmail.com.

(Right) Children start the school year off in style with new haircuts during a back-to-school block party. (Far right) Kids read to a service dog at the puppy reading station during a back-to-school block party co-hosted by OC Grace church.



PHOTOS: BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF GARDEN GROVE

Tamara Thomas Appointed Dean of School of Medicine

School alumna has served as vice dean since 2011.

BY JANELLE RINGER

The high-energy atmosphere that led her to pursue emergency medicine may have lost some excitement for her over the years, but Tamara Thomas, MD, now finds the most joy in seeing that same fresh enthusiasm in new students and residents. Thomas, who recently stepped into the role of executive vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, is trading out time in the Emergency Department for a corner office in the administration building.

The former vice dean takes the role at a time when medical schools face dramatic change, requiring new approaches for educating future physicians. According to the National Resident Matching Program, only 55 percent of applicants worldwide received residency placements in the United States. With a greater number of graduating medical students than residency positions, training well-rounded physician leaders is more critical than ever—a challenge facing medical schools across the country.

“It’s incumbent on us as educators to adapt—to create an environment where students learn their best,” Thomas said. In the past 10 years, healthcare advancements in both technology and patient care have changed the resources available to schools and hospitals, but Thomas believes the mission has remained the same.

“I’m excited to help make an impact in the lives of our



medical students as Loma Linda University Health transforms the way healthcare is delivered in our community and the world,” Thomas said. “The largest honor, but also the biggest challenge, is to do justice to the incredible reputation this school has built over the past 110 years.”

Loma Linda University School of Medicine was founded in 1909 and graduates over 180 medical doctors and research scientists each year.

As dean, Thomas will focus on building compassionate physicians, community outreach, and revamping a curriculum, which is expected to roll out within the year. The new innovative model of medical education is set to take a more system-based approach to curriculum. Students will be taught by organ system—brain, heart, reproductive system—instead

of the more traditional subject-based approaches that cover one class—anatomy, cellular physiology, pharmacology—at a time.

Thomas has served as the Department of Emergency Medicine’s interim chair since 2016, as well as serving as vice president for the Faculty Medical Group, a collection of more than 1,000 physicians. In addition to her new role as the school’s 15th dean, Thomas will continue to serve as an attending physician in the emergency department, which treats the most severe medical cases throughout one-fourth of California’s landmass.

As healthcare enters an era focused on preventive care, Thomas believes it’s now more important than ever to train providers who are deeply compassionate and focused on treating the whole person. It’s a heavy responsibility, she knows, but one that has been fundamental to the school since its formation.

As dean, Thomas is deliberate about teaching students to see the individual—not just as data on a chart. “We’re seeing patients on what may be the worst day of their lives,” she said. “To physicians, it may be another day of work, but the patient’s life may never be the same.”

The school’s collective goal is to create a supportive and excellent environment for the education of future physicians. “I’m so thankful to be working for a school that inspires and empowers the next generation of leaders,” she said.



Wellness Camp Gives Community Kids Tools to Make Wholesome Lifestyle Choices

BY DONAJAYNE POTTS

Loma Linda University Health this summer held its 12th annual Operation Fit, a series of weeklong wellness camps for children and their families to help them learn how to live healthier lives through sensible food choices and physical activity.

This year, 75 kids ages 9 to 15 participated in each of the three Operation Fit camps, which were led and staffed by Loma Linda University School of Medicine and School of Public Health medical students, pediatric residents, and dietetic students.

Through dynamic, interactive educational activities, campers learned how to use portion control, read food labels, and incorporate more fruits and vegetables in their diet. Kids were also introduced to

fun exercise games and physical activities.

Marti Baum, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, said camp participants are referred by SAC Health System pediatricians and family medicine physicians if the patient's Body Mass Index (BMI) is over the 85th percentile, which means the child is considered overweight or obese.

"Children with elevated BMIs often move into type 2 diabetes by the time they reach their 20s," Baum said. "A proactive approach is key to early prevention of this life-altering disease."

Baum said San Bernardino County's childhood obesity rate is as high as 52% in some cities, which is more than double the national rate of less than 20%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A 13-year-old 8th-grade camper from San Bernardino said her favorite part of the camp was the exercise activities, like dodgeball and pickleball. She said she is looking forward to incorporating physical activity into her daily life.

Baum offers this simple advice to parents: "Be proactive. Make wholesome eating part of the conversation with children at restaurants, schools, and churches. That will make it easier for them to develop long-term healthy habits."

See the latest news and Health & Wellness stories from Loma Linda University Health at news.llu.edu.



A Party for *Healthy Hearts and Minds*

BY DAN ANDERSON

Adventist Health Glendale recently hosted its first-ever Wellbeing Block Party at Glendale Central Park. More than 1,000 people participated in healthy activities, exercise classes, and more.

Co-hosts for the free community event were the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

"In addition to being president of Adventist Health Glendale, I'm also a 40-year resident of Glendale, so it is particularly meaningful to launch something like this in the community," said Alice Issai, who joined the hospital as president in July 2018.

"Next year, we will celebrate our 115th year in the community, and we've always been committed to caring for the physical, mental, and spiritual health of all our neighbors,"

Issai added. "This event exemplifies that commitment."

Adventist Health Glendale physicians provided blood pressure, glucose, and BMI screenings, as well as one-on-one time with visitors to field health questions. Members of the Live Well Senior Program were on hand to lead chair yoga and other exercise breaks. Volunteers distributed more than 16,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, thanks to AHA's community partner, Food Forward.

"Our very first AHA and Adventist Health Glendale Wellbeing Block

Party was a huge success," said Taylor Tomczyszyn, Corporate Initiatives Director for the Heart Association in Los Angeles. "I'm thrilled that we were able to bring this Block Party vision to life and showcase Adventist Health Glendale to the community in such a meaningful way."

Said one of the participants, "The day was hot and the party hotter! It was educational, entertaining, and very enjoyable. I came home and fixed a heart-healthy casserole with the yellow squash I got."

Planning has already begun for a Wellbeing Block Party in 2020.

Pacific Union ACS Teams Provide Continued Aid as Camp Fire Survivors Transition to More Permanent Residences

By Faith Hoyt, with Connie Vandeman Jeffery

Pacific Union Adventist Community Services (ACS) Director Charlene Sargent has been in motion for months now to coordinate specific kinds of support for Camp Fire survivors in Northern California.

In the 11 months since the fire, many survivors have resided in hotels, with family and friends, and in other temporary housing situations. This summer, as survivors transitioned into more permanent places of residence, Sargent and her team helped provide items that recently became needs for these families: kitchen supplies.

Thanks to grant monies from Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and ACS at the North American Division (NAD), Sargent and her team purchased the kitchen kits, which included mixing bowls, flatware, pots, knives, bakeware, glassware, and more. Sargent then coordinated relief efforts with other agencies working in Northern California so as to distribute these supplies to survivors with verified needs. Though the process took time, ACS teams were able to host localized giveaways that ensured supplies were given to verified fire survivors. “We need to serve the people who need it,” Sargent said.

ACS has now hosted several kitchen kit giveaways in Northern California towns, including Yuba City, Orville, Chico, and Gridley. The giveaways



PHOTO: CHARLENE SARGENT

Helping pass out kitchen kits to Camp Fire survivors this summer was Charlene Sargent's mother, Ruby Tam. For Tam and the rest of Sargent's team, serving as an ACS volunteer is a joy.

drew the attention of several news organizations, including KRCC News, which interviewed Sargent during their kitchen kit giveaway at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds in Chico. At each giveaway, survivors are directed to look for a red trailer with the disaster response logo.

Working along with ACS to help meet survivors' needs are other organizations and groups. “St. Vincent de Paul has provided some things like laundry baskets, mops and brooms, toilet brushes, and cutting

boards,” Sargent said. According to Sargent, the timely kits, which weigh around 40 lbs., are serving as one crucial way to help return life to normal for survivors and their families. “These survivors have been eating out, or, when they live with family or friends, it's not the kind of food they're used to eating,” she said. “They get to feel a sense of normalcy when they can make their own meals again.”

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As a disaster relief organization, Adventist Community Services was present in the Camp Fire's immediate aftermath; however, their ministry continues as they help provide longer-term support for the survivors still working to put the basic pieces of their lives back together.

This summer, ACS hosted kitchen kit giveaways in Northern California towns, including Yuba City, Orville, Chico, and Gridley. The kits included mixing bowls, flatware, pots, knives, and glassware—items that have become needs now that Camp Fire survivors are transitioning into more permanent housing.



PHOTO: CHARLENE SARGENT

Hispanic Heritage Month in the Pacific Union: Highlights from our Churches and Remembering the Work of Marcial Serna

By Faith Hoyt and Connie Jeffery

Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15) began last month across the United States. In the Pacific Southwest, the contributions of Latino and Hispanic church members were honored with special church programs and events.

Currently, the Hispanic population in the United States stands at more than 56 million, making it the largest racial or ethnic group in the United States.¹ Members of the Pacific Union Conference administrative team took time in mid-September to share some of the many ways that Hispanic and Latino churches are making a

difference. In a recent episode of All God's People, the production team spoke with Alberto Ingleton, the director of Hispanic and Portuguese Ministries for the Pacific Union, about the significant contributions that Hispanic churches are making to ministry in the West.

"The majority of our Hispanic members come from Inter-America and South America," Ingleton shared. "They come with a unique passion. We have a couple of churches—the San Bernardino Spanish church and the La Sierra Spanish church, for example—who are doing a wonderful work with the homeless." Ingleton described how



these churches feed the homeless, give them an opportunity to shower, and provide them with clothing. “We have the Blythe Spanish church, which has been very effective at helping immigrants transition to a new life in the United States,” he



Alberto Ingleton serves as the director of Hispanic and Portuguese ministries for the Pacific Union.

looking for ways to do what they can in their own communities.”

For the Seventh-day Adventist church in the West, Hispanic roots

continued. “Helping those that have been processed, providing shelter for them, and helping them get in touch with friends and relatives who can accommodate them.”

Ingleton described how other churches are also providing different services, such as offering cooking and English classes, hosting soccer tournaments, and presenting seminars on various topics for the immigrant community. “They find different ways to be relevant and to be present,” he said. “They are always

are deep and strong. The first Hispanic Adventist church was founded in Sanchez, Arizona, in 1899. The founding of the church came about after Abel and Adiel Sanchez, while studying their Bibles, discovered that the day of worship was the seventh day, sabado. They learned that Marcial Serna, the pastor of the Tucson Mexican Methodist-Episcopal Church, had become an Adventist through the work of Adventist colporteurs, and they contacted him.

Eventually so many of the

Methodists in Sanchez became Adventists that the Methodists gave them their church on the condition that the Adventists help them build a new one—and the church in Sanchez became the first Hispanic Adventist church in the U.S. Pastor Serna continued to share his newfound beliefs with those he knew in Tucson, and many of them became Adventists, forming the second congregation of Hispanic believers. The following year the Methodists deeded their church in Tucson to the Adventist group. Marcial Serna was granted a ministerial license by the General Conference and so became the first Hispanic ordained Adventist minister.

Learn more about Marcial Serna and other Adventist pioneers in the west in episode #337 of All God's People! Visit Adventistfaith.com.

¹Pew Research, Hispanic Trends Project Statistics & U.S. Census Bureau.

La Sierra Undergrad Biology Students Shine at Top-tier Israel Conference

By Darla Martin Tucker

La Sierra University students Amanda Kaatz and Lelani Del Pinto packed their bags the first week of August for a journey from Los Angeles to Kuala Lumpur, the exotic capital of Malaysia. Adventures awaited them—but not of the typical tourist variety.

Led by their biology professor,

Continued on page 48



PHOTO: LELANI DEL PINTO

La Sierra University biology major Lelani Del Pinto holds a tiny *Stenodactylus petrii* gecko found during a group desert field trip in Israel in May. She and fellow student Amanda Kaatz gave scientific presentations at Tel Aviv University.



PHOTOS: LELANI DEL PINTO

Left to right, La Sierra's Dr. Lee Grismer with biology majors Lelani Del Pinto and Amanda Kaatz pose for a photo while in Israel in May for the students' presentations at a top scientific conference.

Continued from page 47

intrepid and renowned herpetologist Lee Grismer, the duo trekked for two weeks through Malaysia's steaming jungles and across limestone karsts to find and study undiscovered gecko

(Right) Lelani Del Pinto holds a huge *Gekko smithii* species gecko on Malaysia's Penang Island in 2017, the first capture of the animal in the region in more than 100 years. Her research of the species served as the topic of her presentation at the Gekotta Mundi II scientific conference at Tel Aviv University this May.

species that live in reclusive hiding places. Despite their undergraduate standing—Kaatz is a second-year biology student and Del Pinto is a senior—their abilities are on par with that of students far ahead of them in graduate programs, a fact that landed the pair among a roster of top academic presenters at a prestigious global symposium in Tel Aviv, Israel, in May. The La Sierra students' summer work in Malaysia continues to build upon and hone their knowledge, scientific skills, and research, which they put on display during their presentations in Israel.

While in Malaysia, Kaatz hoped to collect a species of gliding gecko for further analysis this coming school year while she works on writing a scientific paper about her Tel Aviv presentation topic. Del Pinto's field work included



attempting to find additional members of the *Gekko smithii* species of gecko on which she presented, a species that hadn't been captured on Malaysia's Penang Island in more than 100 years when she nabbed the animal in the summer of 2017.

Kaatz and Del Pinto were the only undergrads out of 18 presenters from around the globe attending Gekotta Mundi II at Tel Aviv University May 26–28. The conference aimed to showcase the latest research and findings in gecko biology and attracted an audience of the world's foremost herpetologists.

Read more of this article online at the La Sierra University news page: <https://lasierra.edu/news/>

Pacific Union Supports Creative Evangelism in El Monte, California

By Faith Hoyt

The Pacific Union Conference recently presented special evangelism funds to a church in El Monte, Calif., whose outreach efforts within their city

are bringing members and the local community together.

Elder Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union Conference, presented a \$10,000 check on Sabbath

morning, Aug. 31, to Vinh Nguyen, pastor of the El Monte Vietnamese church. The money was allocated from the Union's evangelism fund—a fund used to support impactful

ministry in the Pacific Southwest.

“Our short, one-day visit to the El Monte Vietnamese church was indeed an eye opener,” Graham said. “To see such a relatively numerically small membership involved in so many diverse outreaches to the community was inspiring.”

Outreach at El Monte includes the church's language school, where American children and adults are taught Vietnamese; a printing press with the capacity to print full-size books in Vietnamese, as well as publications for 10 other language groups; and their worldwide outreach through various media broadcasts. “All of this is phenomenal,” Graham said.

El Monte, a city within Los Angeles County, has a population of over 116,000. After surveying the needs around them, the church decided to launch their outreach programs using a modest budget and simple infrastructure. One of their programs is bringing about both long-lasting involvement and participation from the community: an after-school tutoring program.

The church's after-school children's center operates in the late afternoons,



Pacific Union Conference President Ricardo Graham presents a check for \$10,000 on Saturday, Aug. 31, to Vinh Nguyen, pastor of the El Monte Vietnamese church, to support their various outreach programs, which have deepened the church's connection to the community.

Monday through Friday. Tutors at their center help young people with homework and to excel in school. “It's a community program that happens on a day-to-day basis,” Nguyen said. “To us, education, especially for the children, is important. The parents care about it. We found a niche where we can build long-lasting relationships.”

According to Nguyen, the tutoring center also helps build bridges between the church and the local colleges. “Some college students need experience for their degree, so we hire them to help,” he shared. “In doing so, we connect them to the Adventist church.”

El Monte church members are dedicating time to support their local community on a daily basis, and though it takes a lot of commitment, they are finding the effort worth it. The evangelism funds from the Pacific Union will be used to supplement the budget of the after-school program, as well as to provide additional resources for other initiatives in El Monte.

“Together, pastor and members have sacrificed to enable God to use them hundreds of different ways to meet their community as well as contribute to the Adventist mission on a worldwide basis,” Graham remarked. “Audrey and I were so blessed to have been there, and we pray that their faithfulness to the vision God has given them will be realized in His time.”



Though they are a relatively small congregation, El Monte Vietnamese church members have committed to running an after-school tutoring program, which aids young learners, provides part-time employment for local college students, and connects local families to the church. Currently, the after-school program has 30 students—with over 90 percent of attendees being non-members.

The Story of Elmshaven: From Home to Historical Site

“I welcome you to ‘Elmshaven,’ the refuge that I found prepared for me on my return from Australia. I hope you will enjoy your visit, and that you may come again. In your prosperity and welfare I am deeply interested. Your house is the world. Your light must not be put under a bushel or under a bed, but on a candlestick.” This was a personal welcome from Ellen G. White to a group visiting her home in 1913—a home that has become a historical landmark for Adventists in the Pacific Southwest and around the world.

Ellen G. White was one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, together with her husband James, who served as president for a few years. The church they helped establish now has a membership of over 20 million worldwide, with close to a quarter million here in the Pacific Union Conference.

With the passing of time, it's easy to lose sight of who people really were. Because of Ellen White's huge influence on the development of the Adventist Church, and her deeply spiritual experience, it can be hard to keep in mind the reality of the woman behind the history. Elmshaven helps us with this because it shows us the practical aspects of Mrs. White's life—how she ran her home, how things operated from day to day, and how she dealt with the very real challenges we all face.

When Ellen White was 72 years old, she returned from her nine-year stay in Australia. Previously she had lived in the East, but now she believed the West was calling. Regarding a home, Mrs. White was convinced that God would show her the right place in time. On a visit to St. Helena, she learned of the availability of what is today called Elmshaven. After seeing the property, Mrs. White wrote, “This place was



none of my seeking. It has come to me without a thought or purpose of mine. The Lord is so kind and gracious to me. I can trust my interests with Him who is too wise to err and too good to do me harm.”²

Her writing at Elmshaven is what is most remembered. As she set up home there, she recognized her main role was to help coming generations in their Christian experience. She wanted to get it all down on paper before she was gone. She wrote, “I am thankful that the Lord is sparing my life to work a little longer on my books. O, that I had strength to do all that I see ought to be done! I pray that he may impart to me wisdom, that the truths our people so much need may be presented clearly and acceptably. I am encouraged to believe that God will enable me to do this.”³

During her life, Ellen G. White completed about 40 books, along with materials later used as compilations, including nine major works she wrote in the upper writing room at Elmshaven, in addition to many hundreds of articles for church journals. Her religious writings and general correspondence run to over 100,000 pages. Some have been





Ellen White on the balcony of Elmshaven.

translated and published in as many as 160 languages. Millions of books have been produced, and they are also available online and on CD-ROM.

Today, Elmshaven is furnished

much as it was when Mrs. White lived and worked there. In fact, many of the furnishings belonged to her and still sit where she placed them. Elmshaven is owned and maintained by the Pacific Union Conference, and it is open to the public. Currently there are between

7,000 and 8,000 visitors each year. Whether you are interested in architecture, antiques, church history, or just want to see how people lived 100 years ago, you are welcome to enjoy the peaceful environment of Elmshaven. Its reserved style and practical furnishings create a sense

of simplicity and balance—no doubt a reflection of Ellen White herself.

Learn more online at Elmshaven.org.

¹Ellen G. White, *The Central Union Outlook*, Feb. 18, 1913, par. 1.

²Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, p.126.

³Ellen G. White, "Courage in the Lord," *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, June 12, 1913, par. 11-12.

Pacific Union College Ranks #2 on PayScale's 2019-20 College Salary Report

Pacific Union College announced in late August that they rank second on PayScale's 2019-20 ranking of associate degree schools that provide the best return on investment after graduation.

"The majority of the highest earning two-year programs are schools with strong reputations and a specific focus in nursing and healthcare professions," PayScale stated in its release of this year's rankings. This includes PUC, which trails the number one school by a mere \$200 in average mid-career annual pay.

"Our A.S. graduates are receiving a well-deserved return on their investment with an excellent

Adventist education at Pacific Union College," says Milbert Mariano, academic dean at PUC. "We are proud of our them as well as our professors, who are clearly preparing them for meaningful and rewarding service."

PayScale, Inc., is the world's leading provider of on-demand compensation data and software. Their 2019 annual College Salary Report included alumni salary data of 3.5 million respondents, representing more than 4,000 colleges and universities across the United States.

"Higher education is a major financial decision, both in terms of the cost of attending the institution



as well as the potential for future earnings," notes Sudarshan Sampath, PayScale's director of research, in the company's release of the rankings. "Our College

Salary Report can be an important resource for students and their families when making decisions about which school to attend and which major to study."

Interesting and significant to note is that 20 out of the top 25 highest-ranked colleges for salary potential are private, not-for-profit schools, demonstrating that attending private schools like PUC offers a greater potential for higher early- and mid-career salaries.

CALENDAR

Central California Conference

Men's Convention (Oct. 4-6) at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Fresno, Calif. Register ministries@cccsda.org.

Break Away: Youth Prayer Conference (Oct. 24-27) at Central Valley Christian Academy in Ceres, Calif., featuring keynote speakers Godfrey Miranda and Lisa Topete. There will be breakout sessions, powerful worships, and more. The cost is only \$15. Registration required. Please email: yet@cccsda.org.

Retiro de Varones (Hispanic Men's Retreat) el 1-3 de Noviembre 2019 en Mount Hermon en Felton, Calif. Con el orador Pastor Carlos Andino. Reservaciones son requeridas. Contacto: Lilliana Jimenez a 559-347-3144 o hispanos@cccsda.org para más información. El costo es \$250 por persona.

Unleashing God's Power: Prayer Conference (Nov. 8-10) at the Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp, Calif., features keynote speaker Mike Tucker. There will be breakout sessions, powerful worships, and more. Registration required. Email Pat at 2patcurtis@gmail.com or call 559-642-2396.

One Thing: Young Adult Conference (Oct. 19). Join guest speaker Pastor Nathan Renner for this one-day event and be revived through faith, fellowship, and food. This free event for those ages 18-36 will be held at the Ceres Adventist Church in Ceres, Calif. For more information, call 559-575-1375 or email: yet@cccsda.org.

La Sierra University

The 2019-2020 Hanson-Koobs Chamber Music Series begins Oct. 6, featuring Martin Chalifour, principal concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic with violinist Jason Uyeyama, violist Caitlin Lynch, cellist Michael Kaufman. Begins 7 p.m., Troesh Conference Center, Zapara School of Business. \$15 general, \$10 seniors (55+), \$5 students. Info: www.lasierra.edu, 951-785-2036.

The inaugural Charles Teel, Jr. Memorial Lecture in Christian Ethics (Oct. 19) 3 p.m., honoring the life and work of religion scholar Dr. Charles Teel. La Sierra University Church. Rev. Dr. Steve Judd, theologian and Peru missionary, will speak. Reception, 4:30 p.m., Sierra Vista Chapel.

The Zapara School of Business 5th TEDxLaSierraUniversity, "Through it All" (Nov. 8). Engaging speakers will address the victories, humanity, and

lessons that can be found on the other side of difficulty. Info: visit <https://www.tedxlasierrauniversity.com>.

11th Annual Archeology Discovery Weekend, "Ancient Synagogues and Churches in the Galilee" (Nov. 16-17) Troesh Conference Center, Zapara School of Business and the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology. Free admission, with some fees for individual events. Info: <https://lasierra.edu/cnea/>, email archaeology@lasierra.edu, or call 951-785-2632.

Northern California Conference

NCC Pathfinders Invitational Camporee (Oct. 3-6) Patrick's Point State Park. Info: NCC Youth Department, 916-886-5652.

Christian Women's Retreat (Oct. 4-6, 11-13) Leoni Meadows. Keynote speaker and musician: Kirsten Hart; mini-session speakers: Mary Johnson, Judy Ness, Aimee Wyrick-Brownworth, Jill Borth, Lisa Rosenstrauch. Info: www.ourchristianladies.com.

Junior/Senior Retreat (Oct. 18-20) Leoni Meadows. For academy, high school, and home schooled 11th and 12th graders. Speaker: Catrina LeSure, Palo Cedro church associate pastor. Info: NCC Youth Department, 916-886-5652.

Instituto Laico Adventista de California (Oct. 20) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Pacific Union College. Training for Spanish-speaking laypeople. Speaker: Alberto Treier, "Predicación evangélica." Info: www.nccsda.com/ilac.

Healdsburg Church Anniversary (Oct. 26) 10:45 a.m. Healdsburg church, 429 Terrace Blvd., Healdsburg. 150th anniversary celebration. Guest speaker: North American Division President Dan Jackson, dinner, music concert, historic tour. Info: healdsburgsda@gmail.com, 707-433-1737.

Men's Chorus Festival (Nov. 2) 5 p.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Featuring five groups in concert: The Bay Area, Carmichael, Christian Edition, Hinsdale, and Modesto Praise Men's Choruses. Free admission! Info: 916-487-8684 or www.carmsda.org.

Women's Turning Points Conference (Nov. 9) 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Redding Adventist Academy, 1356 East Cypress Avenue, Redding. Keynote speaker: Dorothy Means, Pacific Union Conference Women's Ministries director. Learn from a variety of breakout sessions. Lunch included. \$40. Info: nccwmab@nccsda.com, 916-642-9417 or www.nccsda.com/turningpoints.

Hispanic Lay Retreat (Nov. 15-17) Leoni Meadows. Info: NCC Hispanic Ministries Department, 916-886-5616.

Women's Koinonia Mission Trip (Dec. 4-15) Saint Ann's Bay, Jamaica. Impact lives through outreach at five evangelistic sites around the North Jamaica Conference. Men, women, and children (accompanied by adult) are invited! Conduct evangelistic meetings, children's ministry, health/eye clinics, church repair/maintenance project. Info and registration: www.qhministries.org/portal-missions.

Pacific Union College We're hiring! View current PUC job listings at puc.edu/careers.

PUC Now: Sign up to receive PUC's monthly e-newsletter with links to news, events, and more. Visit puc.edu/newsletter today.

Financial workshops are coming to you! Check out our ad in this issue for details.

College Days are Nov. 3-4. Come find your place at PUC during our annual College Days



event. Sign up at puc.edu/visit. Can't make it during these dates? Schedule a personalized visit! Your adventure awaits.

The annual Maxwell Golf Tournament is Friday, Nov. 8, at Silverado Country Club & Resort in Napa. Register at maxwellcup.com.

Christmas on the Hill: This year's musical celebration of our Savior's birth will take place Dec. 6-7. Concerts featuring PUC's Orchestra, Symphonic Winds Ensemble, Chorale, and Vox Pro Musica. Admission free; all are welcome! For details, visit puc.edu/calendar, or email music@puc.edu.

Southeastern California Conference Festival of Nations (Oct. 13) 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. La Sierra Spanish church, 5885 La Sierra Ave., Riverside. Come enjoy delicious Latin American food,

games, music, and the "Parade of Flags," showcasing flags and traditional dress from each country represented. Proceeds from food sales benefit Adventist education. Info: 951-689-1919.

Welcome Home Weekend (Oct. 19-20) Victorville church, 16070 Lorene Dr., Victorville. You are invited to the annual church and school reunion. Richard Smith is speaking Sabbath morning, and a harvest festival will take place on Sunday at Victor Valley School, 17137 Crestview Dr., Victorville. Info: 760-245-3620, vvsdachurch@gmail.com.

Parenting Conference (Nov. 1-3) Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. "Raising Spiritual Champions," presented by A. Allan Martin and Deidre Rivera-Martin. Info: azurehillchurch.org, 909-825-8611.

Animal Vespers (Nov. 2) 5 p.m. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. "Their Blood Runs Cold: Reptiles." There is an hour-long program in the sanctuary and an hour outside to see the animals up close and hold them. Info: lluc.org.

Equipped2Serve (Nov. 9) 3 p.m. San Diego Academy, 2800 E. 4th St., National City. As part of SECC's strategic initiative to "equip," this training helps lay people discover how to best serve their church and community. Speakers will present on various topics related to church ministries. Info: ateel@seccsda.org, 951-509-2287.

Southern California Conference

Cooking School (Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22) 7-9 p.m. South Bay church is hosting four nights of lectures and cooking demonstrations

catered to plant-based, whole foods. South Bay church, 401 S. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach 90277. Info: southbaychurch.net.

Ojai Religious Liberty Special Event (Oct. 5) 2-3 p.m. Ojai church is hosting a seminar discussing current issues in Religious Liberty. Speakers: David Steward and Jonathan Zirkle. Ojai church, 291 E. El Roblar Dr., Ojai 93023. Info: 805-680-9660.

SYYA Summit (Oct. 6) 9 a.m.-12 p.m. God's Recycling Program: Turning our defining pain into sources of blessing for ourselves and others. Ruth Chung, Ph.D., will present on relationships. Vallejo Drive church, 300 Vallejo Dr., Glendale, 91206.

Second Saturday Series Concert (Oct. 12) 5 p.m. Featuring violinist Lyndon Johnston Taylor. Admission is

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

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

How to Submit Advertising

Classified ads must be sent with payment to the Recorder office (Sali.butler@adventistfaith.com). Display ads should be arranged with the editor (info@adventistfaith.com).

Classified Rates

\$70 for 50 words;

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Display Rates (Full Color Only)

Back cover, \$4,200; full page, \$3,800; 1/2-pg., \$2,200; 1/4-pg., \$1,200; 1/8-pg., \$700; \$160 per column inch.

Information

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

2019 Deadlines

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

November: October 3

December: November 4

Contributions

The Recorder pages are assigned to the local conferences, colleges, and health care institutions, and all content comes through the communication departments in those organizations. If you have a news story/idea, calendar announcement, etc., please contact your local communication department.

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

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

Holiday Cooking Class (Oct. 13) 10 a.m. Learn how to prepare a healthy holiday meal. Pico Rivera Bilingual church, 5058 Cord Ave., Pico Rivera 90660. Info: 562-271-7221 or picohealthministries@gmail.com.

The Prayer of Gethsemane (Oct. 18-20). Hispanic Prayer Ministry spiritual retreat. Speakers: Pastor Mabel Duncan, Pastor Ismael Castillo, and Professor Lupita Aragon. Space is limited. Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center 92561. Info: 626-272-6073 or scministeriodeoracion@yahoo.com.

Los Angeles Adventist Forum (Oct. 26) 3 p.m. All are welcome. Glendale City church chapel,

610 E. California Ave., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-244-7241.

Adventist Health White Memorial Gala

(Oct. 27). This annual gala will honor Congressman Jimmy Gomez, Barbara Brandlin Hines, and Telemundo 52. Info: Yuri E. Casco, 323-260-5739, ext. 8 or cascoye@ah.org.

Health Movie Night (Nov. 9) 7:30 p.m. Movie night and healthy snacks. Pico Rivera Bilingual church, 5058 Cord Ave., Pico Rivera 90660. Info: 562-271-7221 or picohealthministries@gmail.com.

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Bulletin Board

Canvasback Missions accepts vehicle donations of all kinds. Your tax-deductible donation of a running or non-running vehicle can help us share the love of God through health and healing. 707-746-7828 or info@canvasback.org.

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

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to reach people groups who don't know Jesus? Your gift could help start Urban Centers of Influence in some of the largest cities of the world and support Global Mission pioneers in starting new groups of believers among the unreached. So, what are you willing to give up for mission? If you want to help share Jesus with unreached people on Nov. 9, please mark your tithe envelope Annual Sacrifice Offering for Global Mission or visit Global-Mission.org/mysacrifice. Every donation makes a difference. It's money well spent.

Employment

Child Impact International is seeking a General Manager. Applicants must have management skills, including experience in marketing, fundraising, planning, effective communication, and church events; a passion for education

and orphans/underprivileged children; the ability to lead a small but growing ministry based in Collegedale, TN. Applicant works closely with CEO in strategic planning and operations. Domestic and international travel required. Application deadline: January 31, 2020. For more details: support@childimpact.org.

PSR Food Service Director

Pine Springs Ranch Christian Youth Camp and Retreat Center in the San Jacinto mountains seeks a full-time food service director. This position manages hospitality through serving meals to our retreat guests and summer camp campers. The position is responsible for supervision, training, menu planning, budget management, product ordering, food preparation, and other food service related duties. Successful candidates will have the ability to function in a team environment

and will work with diverse ethnic groups. A Bachelor's degree in food service, cuisine, or similar major and three years of experience desired; or equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered for non-degree qualified individuals. For information, contact SECC Human Resources at 951-509-2351.

Southern Adventist

University seeks candidate for Public Services Librarian. The Public Services Librarian provides principal information literacy instruction and serves as a reference librarian as part of the research coaching team. They coordinate Campus Research Day, provide library tours, and contribute to managing the expert systems of the library. Qualified candidates will have a graduate degree in Library/Information Science from an ALA-accredited program (or international

equivalent); experience with public services and information literacy instruction, preferably 3 years; working knowledge of current reference and database applications; as well as knowledge of various library expert systems. For a full list of responsibilities and qualifications: www.southern.edu/jobs.

Southern Adventist

University is seeking a qualified candidate for Alarm Technician in Plant Services. For more information and a complete list of responsibilities and qualifications, visit us at www.southern.edu/jobs.

Southern Adventist

University is seeking a qualified candidate for HVAC Lead Master Technician. For more information and a complete list of responsibilities and qualifications, visit us at www.southern.edu/jobs.

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Union College invites applicants for an Accounting teaching faculty position. Qualified applicants will be committed members of the SDA church and have a master's/doctorate degree or significant experience and willingness to pursue a master's degree. Find more information at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa Forbes at lisa.l.forbes@ucollege.edu.

Wanted: Couple to manage estate home in Rolling Hills, CA (south of Los Angeles), manage staff vendors, housekeeping, animal care, bird care (parrots), light "handyman" duties, some light garden duties. Hours flexible, 4-5 hours per day. Furnished apt. provided in home. Owner travels and needs someone to take charge. Must

have a car, be organized, and be meticulous in duties. Call Myrna Frame, 310-613-9549 or email: curtismyrna@verizon.net.

Events

Farmers & Gardeners (AdAgrA's) 6th annual Adventist Agriculture Association conference (Jan. 14-18) High Springs, Florida. 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.adventistag.org.

Join Timothy R. Jennings, MD (Jan. 17-19) in Texas for the life-changing Power of Love seminar. Revitalize your

heart, faith, and witness for these last days! Learn more and secure your spot now at events.comeandreason.com.

Real Estate

Secluded 155-acre ranch near Redding, Calif. Main house, 3,100 sq. ft., 3-bdrm, 3-bath, office/bedroom with private entrance; second house, 1,300 sq. ft., 3-bdrm, 2-bath. Solar, spring water, orchard, creek, pond, shop. \$650,000. Call Judy; please leave a message 530-410-8525.

Reduced: 80 acres near Loma Linda and La Sierra Universities. City water, wells, electricity, landline, strong cell signal, older mobiles and storage without warranty. Beautiful views and many potential uses. \$1,300,000. Call Martin: 623-759-1738 or email: sttronik@aol.com.

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Reunions

Lynwood Academy Class of '59 Reunion (Oct. 12) at Orangewood Academy, Garden Grove, Calif. Looking for classmates: Virgil Alphonse, Betty Guard, Dick Eberhardt, Ann Paff, Carol Frazer, Rose Jackson, Myron McPherson, Barbara Parsley, Charles Sankey, Bela Toth, Lucy White. Info: Jerry Robertson at gir.curator@gmail.com.

Sunset Calendar **October 2019**

City	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25
Alturas	6:39	6:28	6:17	6:07
Angwin	6:48	6:38	6:28	6:18
Bakersfield	6:36	6:26	6:17	6:09
Calexico	6:23	6:14	6:06	5:58
Chico	6:45	6:34	6:24	6:14
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	6:27	6:17	6:07	5:59
Eureka	6:52	6:41	6:30	6:20
Four Corners [E]	6:53	6:43	6:34	6:25
Fresno	6:38	6:28	6:19	6:10
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	6:13	6:03	5:54	5:45
Half Dome	6:35	6:25	6:15	6:06
Hilo	6:04	5:59	5:54	5:49
Holbrook	5:58	5:49	5:40	5:32
Honolulu	6:15	6:09	6:03	5:58
Joshua Tree	6:22	6:13	6:04	5:58
Lake Tahoe	6:36	6:25	6:15	6:06
Las Vegas	6:20	6:10	6:01	5:52
Lodi-Stockton	6:44	6:33	6:23	6:14
Loma Linda	6:29	6:20	6:11	6:03
Los Angeles	6:33	6:24	6:15	6:07
McDermitt [N]	6:27	6:16	6:04	5:54
Moab	6:57	6:46	6:36	6:27
Monterey Bay	6:45	6:35	6:25	6:16
Mt. Whitney	6:34	6:24	6:14	6:06
Napa	6:48	6:37	6:27	6:18
Nogales [S]	6:05	5:57	5:49	5:41
Oakland	6:48	6:37	6:28	6:19
Paradise, CA	6:42	6:31	6:21	6:11
Phoenix	6:07	5:58	5:50	5:42
Puuwai, Ni'ihau [W]	6:21	6:15	6:09	6:04
Reno	6:35	6:24	6:14	6:05
Riverside	6:28	6:20	6:10	6:02
Sacramento	6:42	6:32	6:22	6:13
Salt Lake City	7:03	6:52	6:41	6:31
San Diego	6:28	6:19	6:11	6:03
San Francisco	6:46	6:36	6:26	6:17
San Jose	6:44	6:34	6:25	6:16
Santa Rosa	6:35	6:24	6:14	6:05
Sunset Beach	6:44	6:34	6:25	6:16
Thousand Oaks	6:37	6:28	6:19	6:11
Tucson	6:03	5:54	5:46	5:39

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

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

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AT REST

Ayala-Padilla, Esther –

b. Sept. 11, 1930, Bucaramanga, Colombia; d. Aug. 1, 2019, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Carlos, Jairo Ayala; daughters, Martha Lucas, Esther Forde; six grandchildren. Esther and her husband Carlos served as missionaries in Latin America for 13 years.

Dean, Charles O. – b. Aug. 22, 1923, Fullerton, Calif.; d. July 22, 2019, Leesburg, Fla. Survivors: wife, Grace; son, Dennis; daughter, Sandra Stanley; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Jansen, Marguerite – b. Sept. 6, 1928, Memphis, Tenn.; d. Aug. 19, 2019, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Paul; daughters, Sharon Bracker, Jan Rice; one grandchild; sister, Della.

Karls, Allin – b. Dec. 21, 1935, Bemidji, Minn.; d. July 18, 2019,

Canyon Lake, Texas; Survivors: wife, Shirley; daughters, Jeanie Pierce, Becky Johnson, Lori; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Kim, Soon Ye (Chun) –

b. Jan. 23, 1945, Korea; d. May 16, 2019, Monterey, Calif. No known survivors.

Lin, Eunice – b. Aug. 8, 1969, Taichung, Thailand; d. Aug. 22, 2019, Fontana, Calif. Survivors: son, Gared; daughter, Finona; brothers, Wei Hsin Hsu, Shola Hsin Hsu; parents, King Long Hsu, Shiu Mei Hsusu.

Logan, Gladys E. (Fachner) – b. Oct. 1, 1925, San Francisco, Calif.; d. June 22, 2019, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Lynn Ellis; grandson, Brian Ellis; many great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Evelyn Robinson Olson.

Lutz, John L. – b. Dec. 17, 1927, Selma, Calif.; d. March 25, 2019, Clovis, Calif. Survivors: wife, Kathleen; son, Roger; daughters, Karen Gleaves, Lore Smith; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Matracia, Heidi Kay (Shidler)

– b. March 2, 1971, Newport Beach, Calif.; d. Dec. 21, 2017, Fair Oaks, Calif. Survivors: son, Taylor; daughter, Megan; father, Mickey Shidler; mother, Marilyn Shidler; brother, Jon Shidler.

McElmurry, Annetta (Kragstad) – b. Nov. 11, 1920, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Aug. 18, 2019, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Lorraine Ehrler; four grandchildren.

Mitchell, Charles –

b. Oct. 31, 1934, Sterling City, Texas; d. Aug. 6, 2019, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patti; sons, Stephan, Tim; three grandchildren. Served as pastor for the Pasadena, Arcata-McKinleyville, Northridge, Riverside, and Palm Springs churches.

Richards, Lee – b. Sept. 21, 1920, Manfred, N.D.; d. Aug. 18, 2019, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sachiko; son, Ralph; daughters, Beverly Phillips, Luna Martin; 16 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren.

Stewart, Willard – b. Dec. 22, 1925, Huntsville, Ala.; d. Nov. 12, 2018, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: wife, Winifred; sons, Larry, Jim; one grandchild; three great-grandchildren.

Wheeler, Charles Lynn –

b. July 4, 1943, Lebanon, Ore.; d. April 11, 2019, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Charlaire (Amey); daughter, Charlynn Cundy; one granddaughter; sisters, Deanna Russell, Kathy Otis, Jill Hauptman, Jan Sheets. Served as chair of Pacific Union College Music Dept. and at Columbia Union College.

Widmer, Myron K. –

b. May 14, 1949, Mitchell, S.D.; d. June 24, 2019, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: wife, Karen; son, Joel; daughters, Christina, Brita Monty; two grandchildren. He was Pacific Union College professor emeritus of religion and pastoral ministry. He served as associate editor

of the *Adventist Review*, managing editor of the *Pacific Union Recorder*, and pastor in Washington and Pennsylvania.

Williams, Marilyn Jean (Nelson)

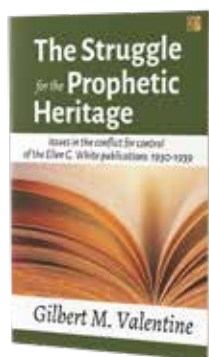
– b. July 21, 1935, Eagle Butte, S.D.; d. Aug. 15, 2019, Napa, Calif. Survivors: sons, Michael, Mark, Mitch, Marvin, Murray; brother, Robert Nelson; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. She taught grade school at Adventist schools in Roseville/Orangevale, Arroyo Grande, and Pacifica/San Francisco.

Correction: Ferguson, Laurie (Varela)

– b. June 22, 1963, San Jose, Calif.; d. July 8, 2019, San Jose, Calif. Survivors: son, Jason; mother, Helen Varela; sister, Mary Mendoza. Served as a physical therapist in San Jose and Watsonville, Calif.

Correction: Lysinger, Myron Eugene (Gene)

– b. May 22, 1919, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. July 1, 2019, Yuba City, Calif. Survivors: sons, Myron Eugene Jr., Walter; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Served as a missionary in Cuba, as a teacher at San Pasqual Academy, and as a dentist in Napa.



For almost 15 years Elmshaven, the Californian home of Ellen White, was the busy hub of development for the Adventist church on the West Coast. And then in July 1915 her voice fell silent. What to do with her writings became an enormously complicated problem for the church. In 1937 the literary collection was eventually relocated to Washington, DC—but the journey was not undertaken easily. The road from Elmshaven to the East Coast was long and winding, and at times the going was quite rocky.

In this book Dr. Gil Valentine relates the intriguing story of conflict and a maturing theological awareness that led gradually to the development of new structural arrangements for the White Estate, ensuring that the writings of Ellen White continued to be a blessing to the church.

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HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC UNION: The Story of Ismael Sanchez

The history of the Hispanic church in the Pacific Union is one of great blessings. One story that has inspired many is that of Ismael Sanchez, son of one of the first Hispanic converts to the Seventh-day Adventist church.

In the early 1900s, Ismael Sanchez left Arizona to study at Pacific Union College in Northern California. He was interested in sharing his faith and soul-winning.

He then began working as a literature evangelist in Hanford, California. Ismael stayed with an Adventist doctor, whose strict rules included a 9 o'clock curfew. If Ismael arrived late after conducting a Bible study, he had to sleep outside!

Elder Candelario Castillo, the only ordained Hispanic minister in California, was the pastor of the Hanford church. Perhaps Pastor Castillo was a little threatened by Ismael's enthusiasm and ability. Or maybe he was overprotective of his daughters. Most likely, he was eager



to see the work expand into new places. Regardless, he sent Ismael off to Fresno (about 40 miles away) to sell Spanish-language literature such as *El Centinela*.

And maybe Pastor Castillo was right about his daughter—because within a few years, Ismael was married to Deborah, Pastor Castillo's oldest daughter. Love found a way!

How did Ismael's work selling *El Centinela* go? Well, through his efforts, the Diaz and Lara families became interested in the Adventist message, and Ismael held Bible studies with them. They became the founding members of a small Hispanic group in Fresno, which grew to become the Fresno Spanish church.

Today there are hundreds of Spanish-speaking Adventist members in Central California, attending many churches! Here in the Pacific Union we have 51,777 Hispanic members—more than 20% of our total membership. There are more than 245 Spanish-language churches. And we still read and share *El Centinela*!

*Every human being should look to
heaven with reverence and gratitude,
and exclaim with amazement,
“Behold, what manner of love
the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we
should be called the sons of God.”*

ELLEN G. WHITE, SIGNS OF THE TIMES, JULY 4, 1895



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