

Recorder



**Seeking
to Serve**

Pacific Union Churches

LIVE-STREAMING SERVICES



LIVE STREAMING

Churches of every size, in rural and urban settings, and representative of our wonderful ethnic and cultural diversity, have responded to the coronavirus crisis through streaming their services. Many have found ways to connect that include Bible study, activities for children and youth, virtual musical performances, and much more.

The seven conferences of the Pacific Union Conference have each worked hard to keep up with the ever-changing list of churches that are livestreaming their services and/or hosting online meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. While extensive, these are not definitive directories—they form a flexible and growing list. The most up-to-date directory can be found on the respective conference websites.

For up-to-date information about how your conference is responding to the coronavirus pandemic, visit their website.

www.azconference.org
www.centralcaliforniaadventist.org
www.hawaiiisda.com
www.NUCadventist.com
www.nccsda.com
www.secc.adventistfaith.org
www.scc.adventist.org

If you would like to add your church website, YouTube channel, or Facebook page to this directory, please email a link and the name of your church to: info@adventistfaith.com.

For a summary list, go to adventistfaith.com/streaming, or use your app or device to scan this QR code.



Recorder

What's inside

Publisher

Ray Tetz

Editor

Alberto Valenzuela

Assistant Editor

Faith Hoyt

Assistant Editor

Connie Jeffery

Design/Layout

Stephanie Leal • Alberto Valenzuela

Printing

Pacific Press Publishing Association
www.pacificpress.com

The *Recorder* is a monthly publication reaching approximately 76,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah.

Our mission is to inform, educate, and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Health 916-406-0784

Japhet De Oliveira • Deolivj@Ah.org

Arizona 480-991-6777

Phil Draper • phildraper@azconference.org

Central California 559-347-3000

Cindy Chamberlin • cchamberlin@cccsda.org

Hawaii 808-595-7591

Miki Akeo-Nelson • mnelson@hawaiisda.com

La Sierra University 951-785-2000

Darla Tucker • dmartint@lasierra.edu

Loma Linda 909-651-5925

Ansel Oliver • anoliver@llu.edu

Nevada-Utah 775-322-6929

Michelle Ward • mward@nevadautah.org

Northern California 916-886-5600

Laurie Trujillo • Laurie.Trujillo@nccsda.com

Pacific Union College 707-965-7100

Ashley Eisele • aeisele@puc.edu

Southeastern California 951-509-2200

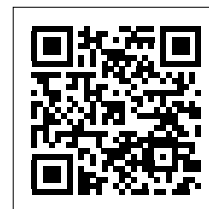
Enno Müller • communications@seccsda.org

Southern California 818-546-8400

Lauren Lacson • Llacson@scsda.org

Postal Regs: The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 120, Number 8, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and is published monthly. Editorial office is at 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361; 805-497-9457. Periodical postage paid at Thousand Oaks, CA, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: No charge to Pacific Union Adventist church members; \$16 per year in U.S.; \$20 foreign (U.S. funds); single copy, \$2. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Circulation Department, Pacific Union Recorder, Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359. Info@adventistfaith.com.

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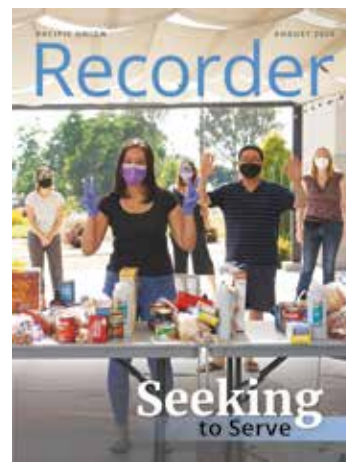
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Churches around the Pacific Union are hosting food drives and other community service activities in order to support individuals in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. On our cover, radiologist Kimberly Izvernari-Im, who serves as the outreach coordinator for the Loma Linda Korean church, helps coordinate a food drive to provide meals for homeless and low-income families.

As the pandemic continues to disrupt community life, Adventists across the Pacific Union affirm service to others as part of our calling to be like Jesus. This is our third issue in 2020 with the topical theme of service, part of our "Love. Serve. Lead." focus on discipleship and ministry.

"We are all woven together in the great web of humanity, and whatever we can do to benefit and uplift others will reflect in blessing upon ourselves." —Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 534-535

Cover Photo: Robin Im



Simon of Cyrene: Service Embraced

BY RICARDO GRAHAM

We don't know much about him. We know his name, Simon, and where he was from, Cyrene, which was located in northern Africa. We don't know his age, occupation, or status in his community. He is mentioned in all three of the synoptic Gospels. And he is mentioned there because he happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry the cross of Jesus to His execution site.

Here is what the Bible says about the man:

“Along the way they found a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross of Jesus” (Matthew 27:32, BSB).

“Now Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and the soldiers forced him to carry the cross of Jesus” (Mark 15:21, BSB).

“As the soldiers led Him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him to carry behind Jesus” (Luke 23:26, BSB).

Mark mentions his two sons, who, according to Ellen White, were disciples of Jesus. Alexander and Rufus believed in Jesus as the Savior of the world, yet Simon himself did not. Until. Until that fateful day when he met Jesus face to face—a convicted criminal struggling under the burden of His cross.

In those days, those convicted of crimes punishable by death were often forced to carry their cross to the place outside the city where execution by crucifixion took place. Jesus stumbled and fell under the load of the cross. As Ellen White tells it:

“The Saviour's burden was too heavy for Him in His weak and suffering condition. Since

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the Passover supper with His disciples, He had taken neither food nor drink. He had agonized in the garden of Gethsemane in conflict with satanic agencies.... All through the disgraceful farce of a trial He had borne Himself with firmness and dignity. But when after the second scourging the cross was laid upon Him, human nature could bear no more. He fell fainting beneath the burden.

"The crowd that followed the Savior saw His weak and staggering steps, but they manifested no compassion.... His persecutors saw that it was impossible for Him to carry His burden farther....

"At this time a stranger, Simon a Cyrenian, coming in from the country, meets the throng. He hears the taunts and ribaldry of the crowd; he hears the words contemptuously repeated, Make way for the King of the Jews! He stops in astonishment at the scene; and as he expresses his compassion, they seize him and place the cross upon his shoulders" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 741-742).

There are some notable realities that come to me from the brief Scriptural narratives and the Spirit of Prophecy statements mentioning Simon of Cyrene.

First, Jesus was a stranger to Simon—but is any human being ever a stranger to Jesus? Simon had heard of Jesus, to be sure. Who hadn't in those days in that part of the world? His sons were believers, but Simon had not witnessed the preaching, teaching, or healing ministries of Jesus. He was just, as has been said, "minding his own business" when he encountered this mob leading Jesus to His death.

Second, Simon had compassion for Jesus. Hearing the jeers of the crowd, and seeing His beaten body falling under the weight of the cross,

he felt sorry for Him. Perhaps, his sorrow and pity showed on his face. Maybe he uttered a word of shock or surprise at the scene he was witnessing. Perhaps he paused in astonishment and expressed his compassion long enough for the soldiers to see him as a candidate for cross bearing and force him to carry the cross to Calvary.

Third, he provided service by force, but in so doing, he met the Savior and witnessed Him dying on the cross. He must have observed how Jesus prayed on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34, NIV). He saw the distinction between Jesus and the two thieves He was placed between. The center spot of the three was traditionally reserved for the worst of the offenders, yet even the centurion recognized that was not the case: "So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, 'Certainly this was a righteous Man!'" (Luke 23:47, NKJV).

Service. While Simon hadn't intended to serve Jesus that day, he did—and in serving unexpectedly, he met the Savior and eventually gave Jesus his soul.

Perhaps you might say that this is purely conjecture or supposition. But I think that there are some overlapping circles in this story. The overlap is service. Jesus had told His disciples that true greatness was measured and demonstrated not by being served but by serving.

"And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:27-28, NKJV).

As Jesus came to serve, so we modern-day

Jesus is the Answer today—as He was when He lived, died, and rose again for the benefit of lost humanity. And service is the key to a lasting relationship with God and others.

disciples are to serve. We serve God and we serve fellow human beings. We reach the highest point of greatness by serving.

Some of those whom we consider to have made great contributions to humanity have realized that what Jesus said about service is absolutely true.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

As Mother Teresa once said, “At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by ‘I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.’”

Some of you have found that when we serve, when we unselfishly do something for others, especially those who cannot pay us back, we receive a fullness of joy that nothing else can provide.

I have found my greatest joy in serving Jesus and His people. Not that I am an example, for there are many, many more worthy than myself to point to. But my testimony is that when I have given of myself to help someone else, there is a level of satisfaction that I receive that I have never

experienced in any other way.

Service is what Jesus rendered each day of His life on Earth. He always pointed others to a correct understanding and true relationship with God as the answer to their problems or concerns. Serving God is the answer to emptiness that consumerism can’t fix.

Jesus is the Answer today—as He was when He lived, died, and rose again for the benefit of lost humanity. And service is the key to a lasting relationship with God and others.

Service is giving of oneself, and giving is living at the highest degree possible. In fact, it is an indisputable law of the universe, implanted by God and represented in this statement of Jesus: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38, NIV).

I have heard this verse quoted in regard to the stewardship of money, but it is really not limited to dollars and cents. It is a principle. When we give our service to others, that which comes back to us is true joy. The joy of service.

Simon of Cyrene may have bumped into Jesus by chance, but soon thereafter, a life of service was his by choice.

Ricardo Graham is the president of the Pacific Union Conference.

Seek + Save

A pair of hands is shown in silhouette, holding a glowing white cross. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise with warm orange and yellow tones. The cross is the brightest element, casting a soft glow on the hands and the surrounding sky.

His mission was two-fold: to seek those who had lost their way and to save them.

= Serve

BY STEPHEN MAYER

There was a moment in time when the Creator of the Universe didn't exist in His usual divine form. His place at heaven's dinner table sat empty. His voice wasn't heard blending with the angelic choirs. His footsteps didn't echo on streets of gold. The sea of glass didn't catch His reflection as He passed by.

At that same moment, an angel appeared to a young virgin named Mary who lived in the rough and tumble town of Nazareth. She was told that she would carry a son—but more than that, she would carry a promise that was made millennia before, a guarantee that humankind would someday host a Savior. *Their* Savior.

About 30 years later, as heaven remained without the heavenly presence of God's Son, He sat at an earthly table and revealed the reason why His journey to earth had taken place. He was having dinner with a sycamore-climbing, tax-collecting, friend of no one: Zacchaeus. He told this highly unlikely recipient of divine truth: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10, NIV).

There you have it. That's why Jesus left heaven and that perfect company, perfect music, perfect food, perfect environment—to hang out with sinners. His mission was two-fold: to seek those who had lost their way and to save them.

Now, 2,000 years later, what about the people who are called by His name? What should be our mission as Christians? What should drive us out of our comfortable beds each morning and place us in harm's way in this virus-infected environment burdened with dishonest and racist people? What's the purpose for *our* journey from womb to tomb?

I'd like to suggest that it should be the same as what motivated Jesus. We, too, are to seek and to save.

To seek

How did Jesus *seek* people? First, He went where they were. They weren't in His perfect heaven. They didn't share His meals in the heavenly dining room. They weren't picnicking by the sea of glass. They were here, on this dark,



We can carry our friends, our family, our business associates, and the stranger within our gates to the foot of the cross, where their salvation is extended throughout eternity.

dingy, dangerous planet. So, He moved. He took up residence among the lost souls for whom He was searching.

Second, Christ sought souls through words. His words were kind, loving, all-inclusive. He once stood before a multitude of people—a crowd that undoubtedly contained adulterers, thieves, embezzlers, liars, and many others not living up to God’s ideal—and the first word out of His mouth was “Blessed.” He knew something they didn’t. He knew that, in the mind of His Heavenly Father, each one in that crowd was precious. Each one was valuable. Each one was worth dying for. Even though they didn’t feel like it—even though they’d lost their way—they were blessed. That must have had an incredible impact on many that day.

Third, He attended to people’s spiritual and physical needs. Words can only take love so far. A husband can say “I love you” to his wife all day long. But if he doesn’t demonstrate those words through actions, they become meaningless. Jesus backed up His words with kindness, forbearance, and, most important of all, forgiveness. Where was the judgment that so many deserved? Where was the fire and brimstone? Where was the rage, the wrath, and the promise of punishment to come?

That’s not how Jesus went about His way of seeking. He talked about the kingdom of heaven, the priceless value of the individual, how people are all equal in the mind of the Father, how to overcome temptation, how to become the person you want to be, and how to find your way back home where you belong. His message wasn’t about crime and punishment. It was about love and acceptance.

Then He backed those words up with actions—

the miracles, the healing, countless lives restored to health and vitality with His gentle touch. Jesus' witness went far beyond words. He lived the love He preached.

To save

How did Jesus save? The answer is painfully obvious. He died for us. He sacrificed His life as our substitute. He got what we deserved.

Which begs the question, "How do we save others?"

Ask any faithful, committed parent. They know what it's like to substitute the needs of a child for their own. They willingly die to self, to their big plans, to their desires for ease and wealth, and, instead, they focus on putting bread on the table. They nurture, care for, and educate their little ones with everything they have. They save them day after day after day.

According to God, that's how we should interact with all our fellow human beings. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We're to do for them all the things we'd do for ourselves.

Our love in action can save people from a life of separation from the God who loves them. We can carry our friends, our family, our business associates, and the stranger within our gates to the foot of the cross, where their salvation is extended throughout eternity. What an honor we've been given to work in partnership with the Creator in both seeking and saving the lost.

To serve

"Christ was establishing a kingdom on different principles. He called men, not to authority, but to service, the strong to bear the infirmities of the weak. Power, position, talent,

education, placed their possessor under the greater obligation to serve his fellows" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 550).

We as Christians need to let go of the temptation to measure our evangelistic success using numbers—the number of baptisms, the number of Bible studies given, the number of spiritual interactions at home or work, or the amount of tithe that is collected. While these are all important and worthy of praise, our seeking and saving must be figured on a much more personal scale. When we look at our fellow travelers on this globe through the eyes of love, we no longer require a spreadsheet to figure the results of our labors. We need to learn the incredible value of the number one.

"Then Jesus told them this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent'" (Luke 15:3-7, NIV).

It's my desire that we begin each day with a prayer of commitment to the God we love and serve, thanking Him for seeking us, asking Him to continue His saving grace in us, and empowering us to serve others as He has done for us.

Stephen Mayer is the treasurer of the Pacific Union Conference.



What Grace

It's one of the most heartwarming stories on social media. Two classmates, Reddy Weldon and Jax Rosebush, think that they're twins. While it may be obvious to the rest of the world that Reddy is Black and Jax is white, the boys don't see race. They think that the only reason their teacher can tell them apart is by their haircuts. Their solution is to get identical haircuts and play the ultimate prank on their teacher by switching places.

It breaks my heart that one day someone will teach these children about race. It may be accidental, or it may be intentional. It may be seasoned with love, or it may be poisoned with malicious intent. But someday, someone will tell Jax what it means to be Caucasian and someone will tell Reddy what it means to be African

American. Media images, tradition, culture, and societal systems will seek to destroy the friendship and love that Reddy and Jax share. My prayer is that as the enemy of humanity tries to separate Jax and Reddy, they'll endure because they're armed with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God.

God says a lot about race and racial reconciliation in the book of Jonah. Most of us get distracted by the miracle of the fish swallowing Jonah, and we lose focus on why the fish swallowed Jonah: because God wanted Jonah's attention. "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their



Says About Race

BY DARRIEL HOY

wickedness has come up before Me” (Jonah 1:2, NKJV). Shock, anger, and fear were probably Jonah’s initial reactions, but, ultimately, resentment and bitterness won the battle of Jonah’s emotions. “I’m not going to Nineveh,” he determined in his heart. So, Jonah boarded a ship in Joppa and purchased a one-way ticket to Tarshish—which was the opposite direction of Nineveh.

You know what happened on his way to Tarshish. God sent a storm to intercept Jonah. While Jonah slept below deck, the ship’s crew struggled against the fierce waves. In a desperate attempt to save everyone onboard, the crew threw their cargo overboard. When Jonah was awakened by the captain, he realized that the storm was a consequence of his disobedience

to God. Even after the ship’s crew knew that Jonah was the cause of the storm, they had compassion on him and attempted to row back to the shore. When the sea grew rougher, they prayed as they tossed Jonah overboard—where God had prepared a great fish to swallow him.

While sheltered for three days and nights in the fish’s belly, Jonah prayed and pled with God for mercy. God heard and gave Jonah a second chance to preach to Nineveh. The result was astounding! From the least to the greatest, the people of Nineveh repented and turned their hearts to God.

However, Jonah wasn’t happy when God forgave the city of Nineveh. Why? Because Jonah was a patriotic Jew who hated the people of Nineveh and the entire enemy nation of

Humankind did not begin with different races. Instead, humankind began with God's image.

Assyria. He justified his hatred because of the Assyrian brutality to Israel and other nations. From peeling the skin off their enemies' backs to burying men, women, and children alive, the Assyrians inflicted the most humiliating and painful deaths imaginable on anyone who resisted their control. Jonah wanted payback for the Assyrian attacks on Israel. His desire to see the people of Nineveh destroyed was tantamount to genocide and was fueled by racial hatred. But throughout the book of Jonah, God makes this statement: you cannot hate others and love Me at the same time. God didn't send Jonah to Nineveh to save Nineveh alone; God sent Jonah to Nineveh to save Jonah too.

God is love

Do you remember Jonah's complaint against God? "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity" (Jonah 4:2, NIV). Jonah was angry at God because God is love. The very nature of racism is that it opposes the character of God.

The same love that God lavished on Jonah, Jonah sought to deny to the people of Nineveh. So, God prepared a visual aid to illustrate His point. "But the Lord said, 'You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight

and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?'" (Jonah 4:10-11, NIV). God loves us and, at the same time, God loves our enemies, because God is love.

God created humankind in His own image. Humankind did not begin with different races. Instead, humankind began with God's image: "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27, NRSV). Racism asserts that one group of people is superior to others and enforces this belief with political, economic, social, and even religious power. However, racism is an intentional rejection of biblical creation and the truth that all humanity is created in God's image. The degradation and dehumanization of any group of people is an insult to God, because we are all made in His image.

We are family

Adam and Eve are the father and mother of humanity, and that make us all brothers and

sisters. The various nations and tongues formed as result of God scattering humanity at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11) means we are different, but it does not negate any human being's value and the fact that all people are descendants of Adam and Eve. Because we are God's creation, difference does not mean deficiency. Acts 17:26 declares: "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands" (NIV).

Grace makes us one in Christ

John 3:16 is the heart of the gospel: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (KJV). God loves, God gives, I believe God, and I live forever with God. But not only me, not only Jonah, not only Jewish people—whosoever! God's gift of salvation is offered to every human being. The gospel declares that we are all on equal footing and viewed as one in the eyes of God: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28, NIV).

When I look into the face of my enemy, I see my brother

Racism is an enemy of the gospel. It invites us to hate when God compels us to love. Loving God means saying yes to all of God's family—even our brothers and sisters who have different skin colors, who speak different languages, who observe different customs, and who live different lifestyles. "Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who

do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen" (1 John 4:20, NRSV). God's word emphasizes that I cannot love God and hate the people God created. There are no loopholes or exceptions; loving God means loving all people, because to hate people is to hate God and His creation.

The citizens of heaven

The book of Jonah ends with a question and not a conclusion. There's a cliffhanger because you and I are Jonah, and you and I have a choice to make. Do we hold on to racial hatred and live in opposition to God, or do we release racial discord and reconcile with God and humanity? God invites humanity to reconciliation: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:13-14, NRSV).

Revelation 7:9 paints a beautiful picture of the redeemed and the reconciled: "After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands" (NRSV). To stand before God as citizens of the new heaven and the new earth, we must stand in harmony with one another.

Darriel Hoy is the children, youth, and young adult director for the Nevada-Utah Conference.



Adventist Health is blessed with associates systemwide who understand the depth of the Jesus Way of serving.



Serving— The Jesus Way

BY JAPHET DE OLIVEIRA

When we think of Jesus as Servant, that is not an incredibly appealing title. Jesus as Messiah, as King, as Rabbi all seem to be far more engaging. Jesus saving the world. Jesus leading the world. Jesus teaching the world. All of them are brilliant.

When John the Baptist was in prison (Matthew 11), he sent his disciples to query if Jesus was really the One—the One spoken of by the ancient prophets Isaiah, Daniel, and more. At that point in time, John could not align the Jesus he'd seen on the riverbank of the Jordan with the Jesus he saw now. How could Jesus let the Pharisees continue to lead out in religious life? How could Jesus let the Sadducees run the Temple? How could Jesus let that hedonistic Herod be the

political ruler? Why did Jesus spend all His time in the little towns, effectively driving around in an “Uber” and doing insignificant miracles? Why did He not come and take over Jerusalem?

Like John the Baptist, we have often cherry-picked the Jesus Way, to our own detriment. When we look for quality applicants, serving is low on the list of desirable characteristics. In fact, very few career paths focus on servant skills. We are enthralled by leadership, management, strategy, vision—all of which are essential. Yet the ability to serve, the desire to be a servant—those are rarely the first quality anyone seeks.

However, if we look at the Jesus Way more fully, if we are willing to allow ourselves the freedom to follow Jesus more honestly, we find that to be a great visionary, we need to serve.

We find that serving is not a low-level, menial task—it is the highest calling. The Jesus Way is impossible without serving. Serving is a double-edged force for good because it heals you as well as those you serve. Serving creates strength and empathy. Serving expands our capacity to manage and strategize.

That is why, when John the Baptist was in prison and asked if Jesus really was the One, Jesus' reply was, "Hear and see." Hear the Sermon on the Mount again; listen deeply to those values. See the miracles, even those that some might consider small. Each of those stories and actions are important.

Jesus' ministry was constantly lifting others up in the most unlikely ways. It was the Jesus Way. In the final week, when the disciples were bickering about power, Jesus took a towel and washed their feet to remind them that they needed each other. That they needed to forgive each other. That they needed to look after each other. In the Jesus Way, the joy is in serving. It became part of a way of life that changed the world forever.

Adventist Health is blessed with associates systemwide who understand the depth of the Jesus Way of serving. Every day, we live this in our hospitals, clinics, and communities online and offline. I am grateful to Kiyoshi Tomono, Partnership Executive for Adventist Health Bakersfield & Tehachapi Valley for sharing this story recently about CityServe and Adventist Health Bakersfield Hospital. Their partnership to serve the local community by offering soup mixes has been transformative. Thousands of pounds of soup packages have been donated by Gleanings for the Hungry.



The story was documented in a short film that opened with Sharlet Briggs, president of Adventist Health Bakersfield, explaining why they partnered with CityServe. "We feel like we have a responsibility to the community to live our mission, which is living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope. It calls us to not only take care of what we have within the hospital but to take care of our community, whether that community be somewhere in the world or in our own backyard. That's where CityServe came in, because not only do they have the communication that we needed, they have the connections with the churches."

Robin Robinson, who works for CityServe in Community Development & Church Engagement, said: "A partner like Adventist Health raises your credibility and puts a foundation underneath the work of the church at large. We're here to connect, and there's power when we collaborate. This partnership empowers that network of people in the community to do good. CityServe ensures that the soup mix is full of protein and essential nutrition, and that it is easy for the families to prepare. The distribution will go to the people who really need it. It speaks so much louder

when it's delivered by a neighborhood church that now knows the family's name and is getting to know them and help them in other ways—hope and support, not just a package of soup.”

Leo Rivas, who serves as a Nutrition Services Cook at Adventist Health Bakersfield and personally understands how significant it is to serve and help others, added: “It's important for people to help each other out. I come from that side. I come from being locked up, being in prison, and not having family to be able to help you out. I know it's important to serve, to help others, to be the light, and to let people know that there is hope and there is a future. God blesses you when you serve others—just be there for them, show them compassion, show them love. We need more of that.”

Jake Lukens, Food Production Manager for Adventist Health Bakersfield, captured the strength of the connection when he shared: “The program is love. It's connecting two powerhouses together to deliver the same message. There's a need and our team is there to deliver. The soup program is accessible. Basically anything you have at your house, you can put in it. All you need is broth, some diced tomatoes or some vegetables—throw it in there and you create what you want. You give the flavor that you want, you make it yours, and you share that love with other people. And that's really what it's about.”

Adventist Health Bakersfield lives the Jesus Way of serving because they have been blessed to have others serve them as well. President Sharlet Briggs was emotional on camera at the end of the story as she shared that she had lived with food insecurity as a child. She recalled how

people came to her door when she was little and gave her food. As she held back her tears, she explained that this is one of many reasons the responsibility to serve is very personal to her.

Jesus loved John the Baptist.

Jesus loved all those little villages.

Jesus loved His squabbling disciples.

Jesus served them all.

It was His way.

It is the Adventist Health Bakersfield way.

It is our way.

If you would like to watch the video of this story, download the Simply Mission app or contact Japhet De Oliveira, Administrative Director, Office of Mission, Resources & Experience Design. DeOlivj@AH.org

Japhet De Oliveira is the administrative director of the Center for Mission at Adventist Health.



Social and the



Justice Loud Cry

BY CARLTON BYRD

We couldn't have seen any of this coming. We never expected that 2020 would be disrupted by a global pandemic that would claim the lives of over half a million people worldwide. We also never expected that the "remixed" Civil Rights Movement would recapitulate and strike a fever pitch with the death of yet another unarmed black man, George Floyd. Nevertheless, here we are, and the fallout continues unabated.

In recent weeks, we have seen the demise of iconic names like Aunt Jemima and the Washington Redskins. Several statues and monuments have also come down. The confederate flag is now banned in both NASCAR and the United States Marine Corps.

Several cities have painted giant "Black Lives Matter" murals on major thoroughfares, and Washington, D.C., even went as far as to change the name of a portion of the street leading directly to the front lawn of the White House. Moreover, approximately 30 million people from all ethnicities, creeds, and colors have participated in the George Floyd protests.¹

People are speaking up and speaking out. Yet, the more people speak out, the more the legacy and mission of the church is called into question. The masses want to know: if the church is an agency that is committed to goodwill, then what does it have to say about the murder of unarmed citizens? Careful analysis of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, the clarion call of Adventists, reveals that a deep social justice



People are speaking up and speaking out. Yet, the more people speak out, the more the legacy and mission of the church is called into question.

element is woven throughout the fabric of this end-time warning message.

The first angel of Revelation 14 preaches the “everlasting gospel” to all inhabitants of the earth. This angel traverses the diverse landscape of the earth and shares the good news of freedom and equality through Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people—regardless of race, status, or rank. The good news is inherently aligned with social justice values because it directly responds to the concept of spiritual slavery. Nevertheless,

freedom and liberation are achieved when humanity engages in true worship of the one and only true God.

The second angel then warns the world to come out of Babylon. This message points back to the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, when Israel was taken captive by the Babylonians. Babylon is a direct representation of sin, rebellion, and confusion, as well as oppression, colonialism, and imperialism. To come out of Babylon is, in part, to be liberated from oppressive, apostate systems.

The third angel identifies a socio-political and economic system that the end-time rebellious confederation will seek to utilize to oppress and even exterminate God’s people. Truth is utilized as the mechanism to disrupt the devil’s deception and liberate those who have been ensnared by the lies of the evil one, with ultimate freedom only being realized at the second coming of Jesus Christ!

These three angels’ messages are God’s final warning to the world that He will eradicate injustice and oppression. And with these messages, God has assigned us to be His earthly angels, His messengers, with the job of expressing the spirit of these messages, not simply in word but also in deed. We must express and demonstrate in our peaceful protests, marching, advocacy, activism, and charity that systematic oppression is antithetical to the will of God for His people.

It’s important to note that our churches have long been committed to charitable community ministry. Food and clothing distributions, soup kitchens, and holiday dinners are just a few of the meaningful ways the church has shown

compassion and care to the communities it serves. Yet, it's even more meaningful to actively pursue the process to dismantle systems that exploit and harm disadvantaged people.

History clearly reveals that many early Adventists were frontline agents in the abolitionist movement. Ellen White said, "I was confirmed in all I had stated in Minneapolis, that a reformation must go through the churches. Reforms must be made, for spiritual weakness and blindness were upon the people who had been blessed with great light and precious opportunities and privileges.... While we will endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, we will not with pen or voice cease to protest against bigotry."²

In the 1800s, abolitionism was present truth. In 2020, with the looming threat of death in the midst of a global pandemic, coupled with the constant threat of death against unarmed minority citizens, the following question begs asking, "Is there a word from the Lord?" The answer to this question is a resounding, "Yes!" And that word is, "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come" (Revelation 14:7, KJV).

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is strategically poised to meet the present age with present truth and speak to the current generation about the will of God for all people—and not just the privileged few. By synthesizing the fullness of God's plan of salvation, the advent message shares God's plan to liberate all who believe in Him, resulting in freedom from abuse, oppression, and injustice.

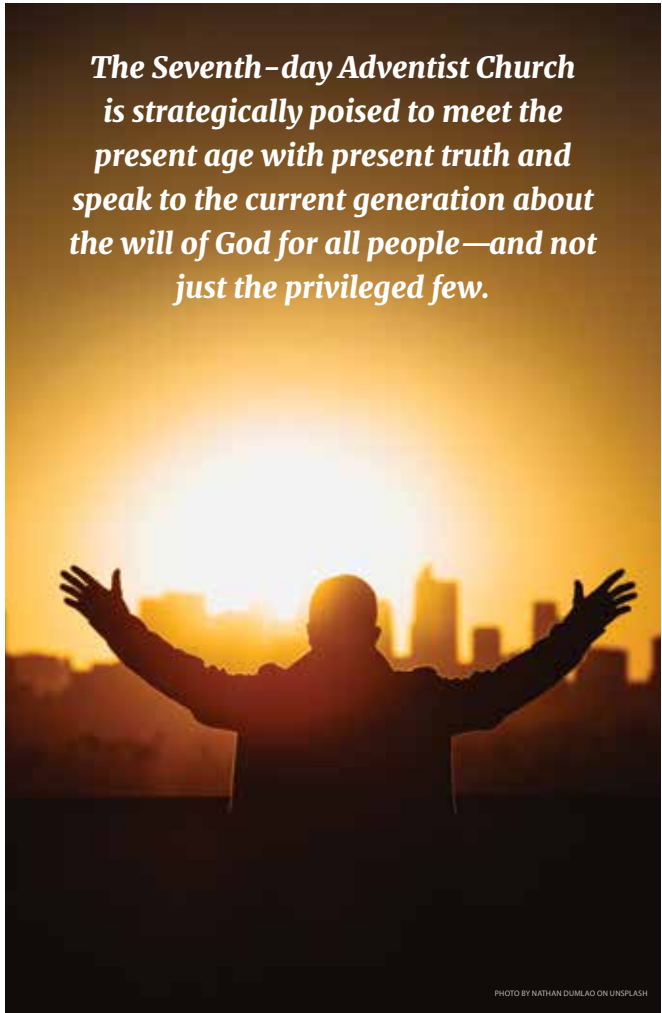
America has always looked like a lamb while simultaneously speaking like a dragon. The

Advent message is the "loud cry" to America and to the world at large that God sees every manifestation of injustice and that, ultimately, He will make all things right. We, who love this great message of hope, look forward to that day when God will say, "Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5, KJV).

¹Larry Buchanan, Quoc Trung Bui, and Jugal K. Patel, "Black Lives Matter May Be the Largest Movement in U.S. History" <https://nyti.ms/3jouz0a>, July 3, 2020.

²Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, p. 229.

Carlton P. Byrd is the speaker/director for the Breath of Life Telecast and senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama.



The Seventh-day Adventist Church is strategically poised to meet the present age with present truth and speak to the current generation about the will of God for all people—and not just the privileged few.

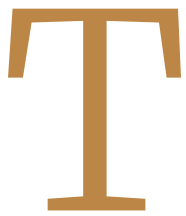
PHOTO BY NATHAN DUMLAO ON UNsplash



THE SUNSET FLAUTIST

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON

Noelene and I started out together in a wild, exotic place. Young missionaries to India, just married, we were assigned to a small boarding school cut out of the mighty Himalayas.



he school, at 6,500 feet altitude, looked out over the burning plains of northern India. After the monsoon rains scrubbed the air of dust and smoke, you could see for 50 miles. Behind us, to the north, rose the eternal snows of Nepal and Tibet. From June to September it rained day and night, and the mountain oaks sprouted moss and orchids. Monkeys chattered in the woods alongside the boys' hostel; when winter brought snow, we'd see the tracks of leopards that came by for a nocturnal visit.

Sunsets over the mountain peaks were spectacular. They painted the sky red, orange, pink, and iridescent blue against the grim mountain silhouette. Then, as the light slowly faded, we would hear his melody—the mountain flautist.

The sound—haunting, beguiling, magical—floated on the night air. Who was he, this maker of sunset music? Where was he, near or far? From what humble mountain home did he serenade the fading of the light?

The sunset flautist played on and on into the dark. Why did he play? Was his a lover's song, or did it simply well up from within him?

Ah, the simple gift of music! Music is the great leveler, bringing together the rich and the poor,

From the book *Simple Gifts*, the new release by Oak & Acorn, now available on Amazon.com. The book is being serialized in the *Recorder*. See page 58 for information about how to get a pdf copy of the entire book.

the mighty and the lowly, the mountain flautist and the audience decked out in tuxes and pearls at the Lincoln Center.

Music—it's an essential part of being human. It's as old as humanity; in no culture, no civilization, has it been absent.

Yet music is mysterious. It doesn't emerge from any particular part of our brain but rather from the whole brain. From a strictly biological standpoint, music doesn't serve any function necessary for existence. Charles Darwin confessed that music baffled him.

And that's not all. Why is it that I hear music inside my head and almost immediately I meet someone whistling the same tune? What mysterious vibration connected our brains? How does it happen?

For some time I have wondered if I was the only person who experienced music in this manner. I am not—not by a long stretch. Famed neurologist Dr. Oliver Sachs, in his massive work *Musophilia*, recounts story after story of men and women whose lives are so bound up with music that they make our lives seem prosaic. Sachs worked for many years treating patients in New York City, caring for people who had suffered devastating neurological damage because of disease or accident. Amid the wreckage of human lives, Sachs witnessed the incredible power of music to restore, if only for a short time, personality that seemingly

was lost forever. With some patients, the trauma of accident or disease actually released musical skills locked away in the brain.

For men and women broken by life, silent, vacant, lost within themselves, music is the one connection with their past. What a gift from a loving God!

I cannot imagine life without music. This divine blessing is integral to who I am. It pulses within my being, constantly plays in my head. It is my ever faithful companion, lifting me up, cheering my heart.

Most, and probably the best, of my writing emerges from a musical bed. Before I sit down to write, I select a CD—almost always Mozart—and start it playing. As I commence to write, the music wafts down the hallway to my office, through the open door, and into my being. I hear its opening bars but no more. As I write, I am not aware of any sound. When at last after an hour, two hours, three hours I put down my pen and rise from my chair, I realize the house is quiet. Some time earlier the music had stopped while I was absorbed in creative activity.

Long ago William Congreve observed:

*"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast,
To soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak."*

And not only to charm, soothe, and soften: music has power to energize, to stir to battle, to summon forth hope when hope is gone, joy when joy

has vanished, love when love has fled.

The traveler in an alien land, far from home, is weary in body and soul. The heat and noise of a strange environment have crushed the spirit. Then the traveler enters a home where the air is cool and the padded chair wraps itself around the body. The host puts on a CD and the traveler hears a clarion call: "dah-da-da dum, dah-da-da dum" (sock it to me, Ludwig van B).

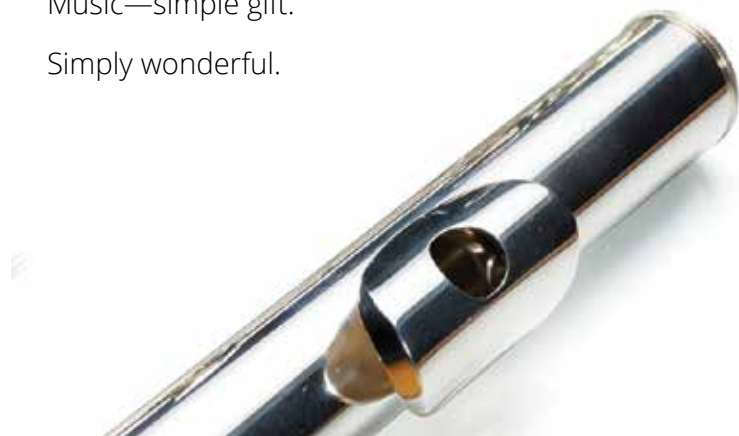
It surges through the veins, shouts inside the head. It's a shot of life from a divine gland.

In the history of humankind, it has ever been thus. Music is as old as Homo sapiens, as old as the universe. Before the world came into being, before time, the morning stars sang together. Heaven was a place of ceaseless music.

It still is, forever will be. The last book of the Christian scriptures, the Apocalypse of John, takes us beyond time and space, out of ourselves to realms everlasting where pain and sorrow are no more and love reigns. There, in the realms of bliss, everyone sings—every person and every angel, every stick of furniture vibrates with a melody of praise and adoration to the Creator and to the Lamb that was slain to redeem the universe.

Music—simple gift.

Simply wonderful.



Enjoying Your Bible

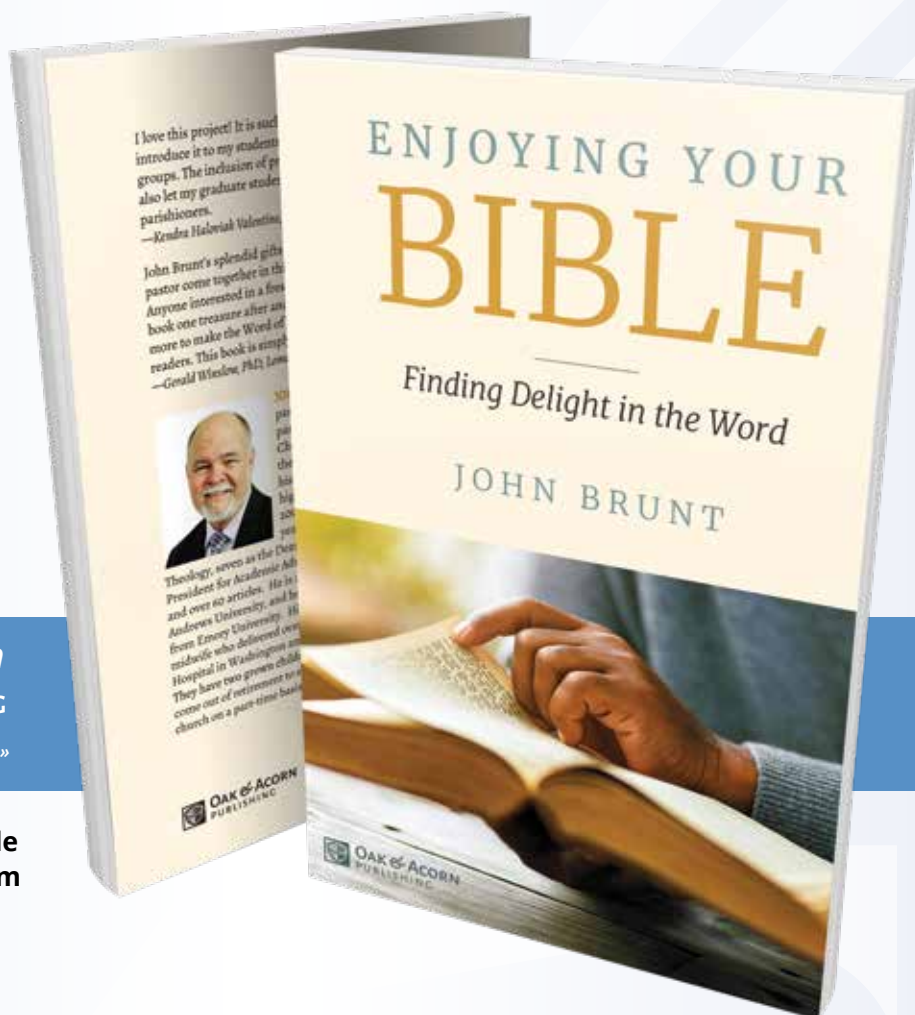
BY JOHN BRUNT

We know the Bible is able to instruct us, guide us, teach us, and show us what to believe and how to live. It is our rule of faith and practice. Too often, however, we find something less than joyful delight when reading the Bible. Sometimes we're not sure what the Bible is saying or how it could possibly be relevant to the kinds of issues we face. And let's face it: sometimes reading the Bible gets just plain boring.

It is the thesis of *Enjoying Your Bible: Finding Delight in the Word* that reading the Bible can and should be a delight and that the Bible is much more understandable than you might think. Our goal is not to talk about the inspiration of the Bible or to discuss all the theoretical issues of divine revelation—our goal is to help the reader experience the joy of discovering the message of the Bible.

Enjoying Your Bible is not intended for scholars. It is for the typical believer in the pew and for those who may not have occupied a pew for a while. It is divided into two main parts. The first offers some general discussion about reading the Bible, and the second looks at specific sections of the Bible to offer a few tips for enhancing your reading.

The study guides at the end of each chapter were prepared to be used in connection with the book.



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A Garden Full of Miracles

BY PHIL DRAPER


“THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN” –ROLAND BINGHAM

The genesis for the Transformation Garden website came into being on a Thursday, around 6:00 p.m., although no one at the time was aware of this fact. On that day, Jim and Dorothy Valcarcel were returning home from a business trip in California. On the western outskirts of Phoenix, Arizona, the unthinkable happened.



P I present myself to You this morning.
R I raise my empty hands asking You to fill them with what You would have me do today.
A I audibly thank You for the way You have led me in the past.
I I invite the Holy Spirit to fill me today.
S I sing a song of hope in Your power.
E I enter this day filled with faith in what You can do for me and not what I can do for myself.

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This bookmark is a gift from your friends at:
Transformation Garden
"Where Every Woman Blooms"
You are invited to our website:
TransformationGarden.com

- Free Daily Devotionals
- Circle of Prayer

Artwork by Betty Carr

A desperate young man, wishing to kill himself, sat in his parents' car in the median of Interstate I-10. Without any warning at all, he intentionally drove into oncoming traffic as fast as the car would go. The Valcarcel were traveling up a small incline in the road, oblivious to the car headed straight for them.

The police estimated the force of the head-on impact to be 145 miles per hour. The impact killed the young man instantly, and the Valcarcel were left fighting for their lives in a wreckage of metal so twisted that at first the police couldn't tell what kind of car they'd been driving. As one policeman said to a local newspaper reporter, "It was the most violent wreck I'd ever seen."

Jim and Dorothy each sustained over 35 broken bones, many of which were crushed into bits and pieces. For days their lives hung in the balance. But day by day, after too many surgeries and treatments to mention, the excellent medical care and the powerful prayers of people around the world brought them to where family and friends could breathe easier, finally believing they had a chance to survive. They spent four months in the hospital and another two years

learning to move and walk again. While the doctors' initial predictions were grim enough to discourage the most courageous person, God laid His healing hands on them and brought them through.

As Dorothy tells their story, "The day after I was moved out of the Intensive Care Unit, Sister Laurana, a tall, elderly woman who worked at St. Vincent's hospital, walked into my room and told me, 'I was in the emergency room the night they brought you in. We never thought you would live. You lost so much blood and had so many broken bones. Then a huge smile came over her face, 'But you lived.' Sister Laurana took my broken, crushed, and casted left hand in hers and said, 'You know, Dorothy, someday you will be doing something—feeding someone who is hungry or praying for someone who hurts or writing a letter to a friend—and it will hit you: "My life was spared for this." Transformation Garden is my 'this.' Transformation Garden became our answer to the question, 'Why?'"

Nighttime was the worst because they both had difficulty sleeping, especially Dorothy. It was during her long, sleepless nights that Dorothy penned her book, *When A Woman Meets Jesus*. This also was when she began to write the daily devotionals that became the foundation for Transformation Garden.

It was 14 years ago when the first devotional went up on the Transformation Garden website. Since then, not one day has gone by when someone, somewhere, in over 192 countries hasn't written and said, "God sent me here." "I had a divine appointment here today." "My

computer froze, and when I turned it back on, I found myself in a place that was new to me, 'Transformation Garden!'"

While the written word is important in Transformation Garden, so are the prayer requests. Within this special link around the world, strangers come to the prayer circle who don't know each other, and they pray for one another. There have been thousands of prayer requests over the last 14 years.

In addition to the daily devotionals and the Circle of Prayer, there are the beautiful bookmarks that the ministry has sent out free all over the world. Dorothy has been quite bold in asking Christian writers and pastors if she can use their quotes on some of the bookmarks, along with texts from Scripture.

While Dorothy was doing the dishes not long before the car accident, the TV was on, and she heard a sermon by Jack Hayford of Church on the Way. In his sermon, Pastor Hayford spoke about his "Praise Prayer." Quickly Dorothy copied down the words, and she began to say this prayer as part of her morning devotions. She did this every day, even after the car accident. She believes that the words put her in a positive frame of mind that helped with her recovery from the wreck.

Once the Garden got going, she



contacted Pastor Hayford to ask permission to use the prayer on a bookmark, and he kindly agreed. Transformation Garden has sent 100,000 Praise Prayer bookmarks around the world. One small Catholic Church in France asked for 100 of the bookmarks so each member could have their own copy of the prayer.

Dorothy received an email from a Women's Ministry leader in South Africa who had seen a small advertisement about Transformation Garden on the

General Conference Women's Ministry website. She wondered if she could have 8,000 bookmarks for their big rally. Dorothy had the bookmarks, but the shipping was over \$800. Dorothy shared the need with her mother, Ellen Hardin, who loves raising money for wonderful projects. She got many of her closest friends to give, and within a few days, the shipping funds were raised and off the box went to South Africa. Before the box arrived, Dorothy received another email from the leader telling her that they had another 5,000 people register for the rally. Could they send more bookmarks? Again, God provided all that was needed.

Jim reflected that, whether through the light or dark, hanging on to God's hand has been the way to walk—even if very slowly at times. Amidst the wreckage of unanticipated and capricious events in their lives, God has shown that with His help a garden full of miracles will grow.

To be a part of this ministry, visit TransformationGarden.com.

Transformation Garden has sent 100,000 Praise Prayer bookmarks around the world.

AIM HIGH and Then Advance Higher

BY DELORIS TRUJILLO

“Dear youth ,... You may every one of you make your mark. You should be content with no mean attainments. Aim high, and spare no pains to reach the standard.... The steps to heaven must be taken one at a time; and every advance step gives strength for the next” (Ellen G. White, *Messages to Young People*, pp. 36, 182).

Several months ago, when the pandemic lockdowns were put in place, we wondered what would happen to graduation ceremonies. This past school year will go down in history as a time of tremendous challenges because of COVID-19. School buildings had to close, and teachers and students learned to use online education. The regulation against assembling brought the possibility that it would affect graduations—and it most certainly did. Contemplating that reality, it did not seem quite fair that young people in 2020 would have to miss celebrating a very important milestone in their educational journey.

We needn't have worried. Our schools figured it out very creatively—they produced special graduation ceremonies for their students who were embarking on a new chapter in their lives. You may have seen reports on the parking lot graduations, drive-by celebrations, and virtual commencement services on Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube that were held. It is nothing short of impressive to see what each school did to show their kindergarteners, eighth graders, or high school graduates that they were not to be forgotten, in spite of the difficult times. It is hoped that each graduate now knows how valuable they are to us and in the sight of God.

The graduates are to be congratulated on their achievements.

If you visit each school's site, every graduation service looks different. If you are looking from an outsider's perspective, you might be tempted to think they were all much the same—but please do not. Each graduation ceremony must be seen as unique because each graduate is a distinct individual.

Ramiro Cano, Central California Conference president, spoke on video to the eighth graders at San Francisco Adventist School. Yet, his message is relevant to all graduates. He wanted them to know, “God loves variety. Each of you is unique. No two of you are alike. You were not mass-produced! The Lord intricately wove you. Psalms 139:14 says, ‘I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made’ [KJV]. You truly are different and exceptional. As a result, you will also make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to society. We are looking forward to seeing what that will be.”

He continued, “You were all designed to grow, and grow you will.

We pray that as you graduate, you will be encouraged and motivated to expand your horizons, to continue to look for every opportunity to learn and sharpen your gifts and talents for Jesus as you take additional steps, always advancing, in your educational journey.”

With all that was unique and difficult this year, lots of appreciation must also go to the teams of principals, teachers, and staff who adjusted their classroom delivery to an online platform so quickly. And certainly, the parents and families of these students must be recognized for the many sacrifices they made during a markedly different educational experience.

Please savor the memories of this unique time in our history as we congratulated our graduates on their achievements in our schools in many distinctive ways. Alongside our good wishes, God has plans for them to keep going higher and higher until they reach the highest rung of His ladder of success. And, most of all, may they someday step right into eternity by God's grace.

“God loves variety. Each of you is unique. No two of you are alike. You were not mass-produced! The Lord intricately wove you.” - RAMIRO CANO

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2020



Armona Union Academy (left)

On May 31, each graduate entered a decorated room with only their families present. They then went into the gym, which displayed their pictures, and each could sign the posters for their fellow graduates. Each of them also expressed their gratitude to their families and teachers on a Facebook video that received 340 views.

Bakersfield Adventist Academy (right)

On June 7, Bakersfield Academy held a drive-by graduation service. Cars lined up, holding the graduates and their families. The graduates received their diplomas, along with a gift basket. A Facebook video allowed each graduate to express gratitude for those who had supported them.



Central Valley Christian Academy (left)

Horns honked every time a graduate received a diploma during their parking lot graduation. Their Facebook video received 750 views.

Fresno Adventist Academy (right)

The faculty posted a separate image for each of their graduates on their Facebook page. Their graduation service was held outside on June 7.



Monterey Bay Academy (left)

On May 31, Monterey Bay Academy held a virtual commencement service. The Facebook video celebrating their 48 graduates had 2,071 views.



Mountain View Academy (right)

On July 12, an outdoor ceremony was held for 27 graduates, combining several media elements. Parents and family stayed in their cars. They used pre-recorded segments for parents' tributes and some speeches.





Hawaii Celebrates 2020 Graduates

BY JR BONILLA



On Saturday night, May 30th, the community was able to celebrate our graduates of 2020. For many years, all Adventist churches and pastors in Hawaii have been able to celebrate with the graduates of Hawaiian Mission Academy over a graduation weekend that included four days of ceremonies held in the Honolulu Central church sanctuary. However, due to COVID-19, graduation celebrations are just one more thing that must be adjusted.

All the pastors of Oahu were invited along with church and community members to celebrate our graduates—to show them the love and support we would normally show them over graduation weekend. Instead of being invited into the sanctuary, loved ones were invited to the parking lot of Honolulu Central. Graduates from preschool to master's programs and from many different schools were greeted with honking horns, cheered on, and given leis and gifts as they drove through the parking lot lined with family, friends, and classmates. All cars were tuned into 88.7 FM to hear the names of each graduate announced by a fellow classmate, Nyllah Safotu, and to celebrate with a

special graduation playlist.

A local car dealership, Audi Honolulu, operated by Mike Lofano of the JN Auto Group, arranged for a couple of employees to join in the celebration by bringing cars for the graduates to take photos with. Photos were taken by HMA Alumnus Daniel Saldevar, who was excited to be a part of the special celebration for the class—they were freshmen in high school when he was a senior. A number of coaching staff came out to cheer on some of their team members, who did not get to finish their last season of sports. Alumni Greg and Esther Nakashima came with a convertible car filled with treats for each graduate to grab.

Many of the graduates, some who hadn't seen each other since their last day on campus together, expressed their appreciation for the love and support they received that night from the community. They had been worried that, because of the unique difficulties caused by the pandemic this year, they might have to miss their graduation celebration. But their community found a way to celebrate and bestow special blessings on these special graduates. Though the church and school community were not be able to attend the traditional graduation ceremonies due to the state guidelines in place, they were grateful they could still express their love and support in this way.

Fullness of Joy: Hawaii Welcomes Pastor Jaime Vargas

Recently, Psalm 16:11 has become a favorite Bible verse of Jaime Vargas: “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (ESV). Jaime treasures this verse not only because it is a promise of things to come but because it declares the reality that God has ushered Jaime into.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Jaime’s early years were dotted here and there with dreams of being a scientist, an astronaut, a chef, an architect, and even a writer. Being a pastor wasn’t on his radar, but it was on God’s. It took a few years of high school at Indiana Academy and some wrestling with God for Jaime to come to the following realization: anything less than a life rooted in the reality of God’s love wasn’t worth pursuing. And so, Jaime arrived at the following conclusion toward the end of his high school years: he would dedicate his life not only to pursuing God and the meaning He bestows on life but also to helping others, through the role of a pastor, find meaning and significance in God and His love.

Yet, even then, Jaime didn’t imagine he would ever be a pastor in Hawaii, and he never dreamed he would be ministering alongside a soul as beautiful, sweet, and wise as that of his wife, Caitlin. It was a seemingly chance encounter with another fellow minister (and now brother-in-law) at Andrews University that led Jaime to Hawaii. Once there, not only did he encounter the joy of



youth and pastoral ministry, but he encountered a friendship with Caitlin that Jaime now considers to be part of the “fullness of joy” that God had promised him all along.

The transition to pastoring on Kauai was made challenging by the impact of COVID-19 on travel and church ministry. Being the pastor of churches located on an island one hasn’t moved to yet would have been impossible if not for the myriad technological resources available—a tripod, an iPhone, and a husband and wife turned presenter and producer overnight.

Today, Jaime Vargas, pastor of the Kapaa and Lawai Valley churches, alongside his wife Caitlin, is happy to be ministering in-person on the island of Kauai in the beautiful state of Hawaii. Though for now their tribe only includes the two of them, they plan to expand with the addition of a feline friend and, one day, a child—or two or three! Both of them relish adventure, whether it be in the form of hiking, camping, or traveling. Yet, their favorite adventure is walking alongside people toward the heart of God, wherein is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.

Postponement of Hawaii Conference Constituency Meeting

The Hawaii Conference Executive Committee voted to postpone for one year the 2020 Constituency Meeting. This means that all other related or accompanying meetings are also being postponed—Area Town Hall Meetings, Organizing Committee, Nominating Committee—in addition to the planned meeting on September 27, 2020. This decision has been a difficult one to make.

Below is the Executive Committee action that was taken:

Whereas, the 2020 General Conference session has been postponed for one year due to the prevalence of Covid-19,

Whereas, the Hawaii Conference Executive Committee voted to postpone all 2020 convocations until next year,

Whereas, some churches have indicated they will not be sending any members to attend the Hawaii Conference Town Hall Meetings, neither delegates to the Organizing Committee nor to the Constituency Meeting, due to Covid-19,

Whereas, conventional wisdom is discouraging airline travel due to risks in contracting Covid-19,

Whereas, some churches are still not physically meeting on Sabbaths and most, if not all, have significantly reduced their Sabbath School and Worship times in efforts to reduce Covid-19 exposure,

Whereas, a significant amount of individuals continue choosing to “attend” Sabbath School and Worship services through Zoom or other electronic platforms,

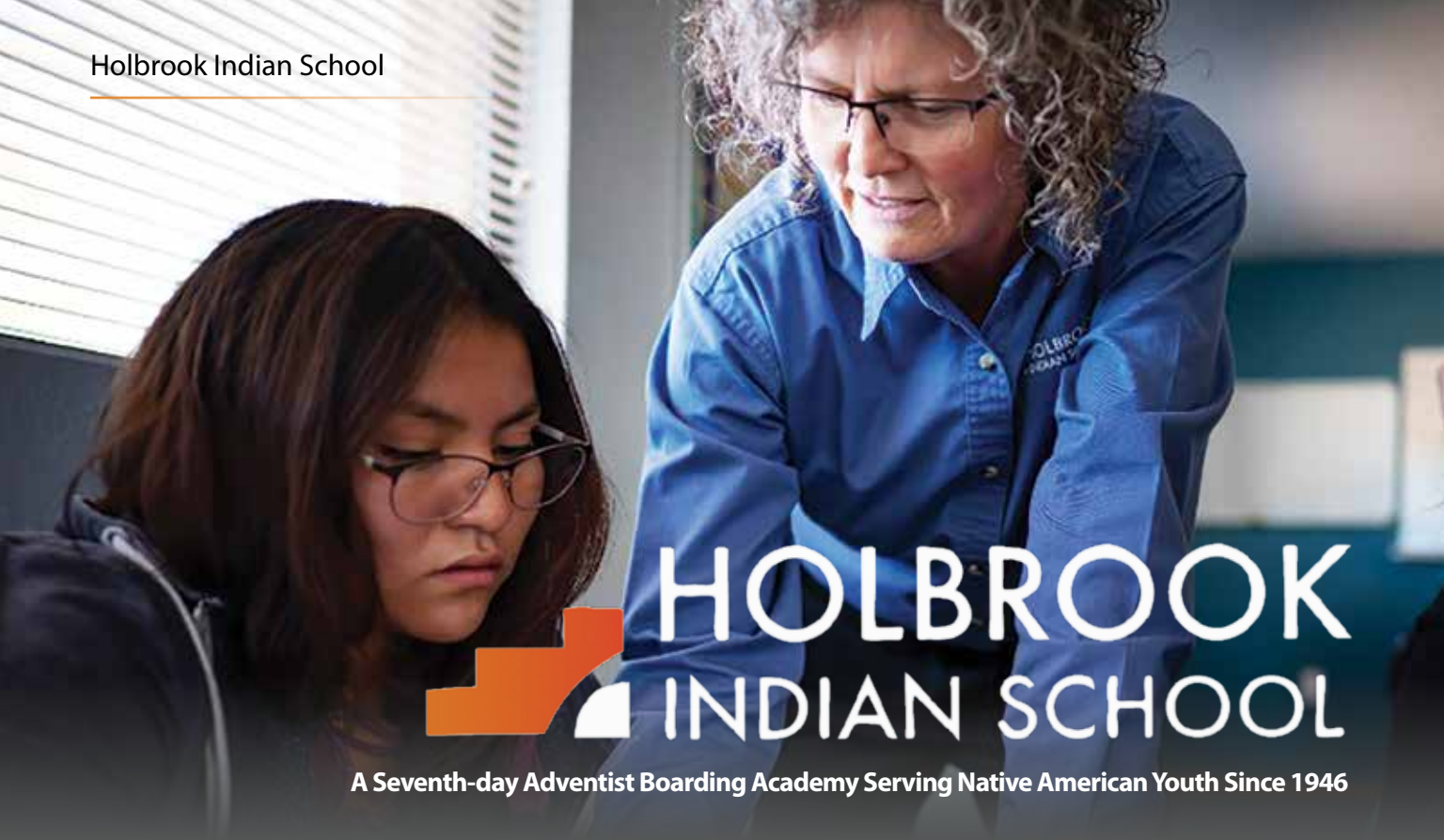
Whereas, the State of Hawaii is presently experiencing a surge in Covid-19 cases,

Whereas, the Hawaii Conference takes its role seriously in seeking to protect the safety of members and of the community at large,

Whereas, the constituency meeting process involves multiple meetings such as Town Hall Meetings, an Organizing Committee, a Nominating Committee, as well as the constituency meeting itself,

Whereas, it is the desire of the Hawaii Conference to safeguard the dignity, purpose, and integrity of its constituency meeting and to thus ensure the largest possible participation of its delegates,

VOTED, that the Hawaii Conference postpone its regularly-scheduled 2020 constituency meeting for one year.



HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

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

When our students are able to enroll for the 2020/2021 school year, we could be anxious about what to expect. The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving. There is a continual feeling of uncertainty and a fear of the unknown.

How will we go about implementing the CDC guidelines? How do we ensure that our students are safe in a boarding school environment? Can we realistically keep them six feet apart? Will they keep their masks on? What about home leave? Will we need to quarantine our students for 14 days when they return? If so, how?

We're thankful for the guidance we are given in God's Word. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV).

God has given us a road map to follow. He promises to guide us and show us the right path to take. And although things may be difficult, we will keep our eyes on the path set before us.

Student Learner Outcomes—Path to Success

BY ANITA OJEDA

Holbrook Indian School stakeholders crafted new schoolwide student learner outcomes (SLOs) during their last school accreditation cycle. The SLOs help everyone stay focused on the big picture. We work towards the goal of helping students discover mental, academic/artistic, physical,

and spiritual wholeness.

Most of all, we work like a triage unit to help our students find wholeness in each domain. However, the highest need differs for each student. Some students need help from our counseling services before they have the bandwidth to improve academically. Other students seek

spiritual healing above all else.

Our academic delivery program enables us to use flexibility as we meet each student's highest needs. When a student enrolls in our school, they immediately take a computerized math and reading test that allows us to place them in the group where they will experience the

most success. While some might look at the results and feel discouraged (students often score 2 to 6 grade levels behind their non-Native peers), we see the scores as an opportunity for growth.

We spend the first 2 ½ hours of the school day focusing on language arts and math instruction—and each student works in his or her zone of proximal development. “Zone of what?” you ask. The zone of proximal development (ZPD) represents the sweet spot where the learner feels both confident and a little challenged.

Students learn about their ZPD in reading classes, and they use their personal ZPD to help them select books at just the right level

for independent reading. In math class, the individualized instruction allows them to make progress at their own pace. They often zoom along, reviewing material until they hit a concept they may have missed at another school.

As students succeed in math and reading, the regular positive feedback encourages them to keep trying their hardest. They also discover that other core classes become easier as their reading levels rise.

Does our system work? Absolutely! It takes an entire team to help students catch up to their non-Native peers. The longer a student stays enrolled at HIS, the more quickly they catch up. Statistics show that students make steady progress

for the first two years and make remarkable progress in the third year of enrollment.

Without the holistic focus of our SLOs, it would be a bigger struggle to help students catch up academically.

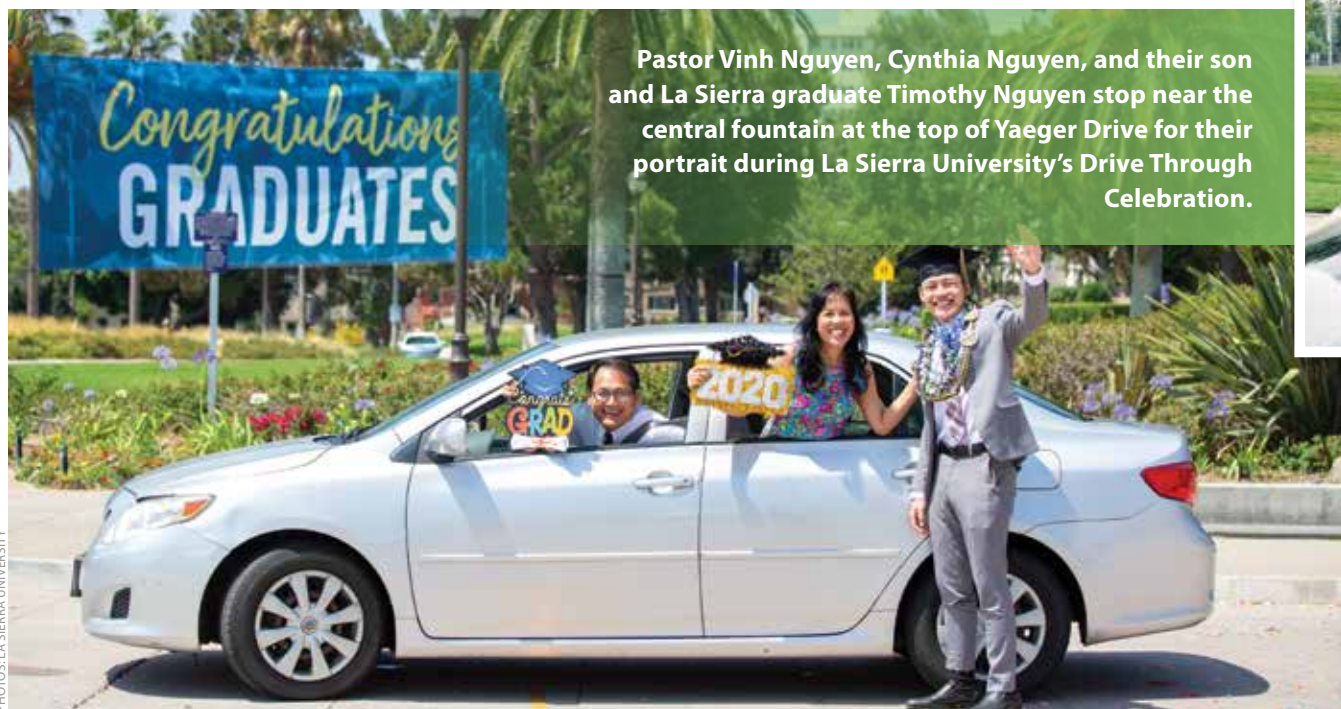
Please keep our staff and students at Holbrook Indian School in your prayers as we face the unknown together with God’s guidance.



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



DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 910
Holbrook, Arizona 86025-0910
(928) 524-6845 (Ext. 109)
Development@hissda.org
HolbrookIndianSchool.org



Pastor Vinh Nguyen, Cynthia Nguyen, and their son and La Sierra graduate Timothy Nguyen stop near the central fountain at the top of Yaeger Drive for their portrait during La Sierra University's Drive Through Celebration.

PHOTOS: LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

Nearly 200 La Sierra Grads Parade Cars in Drive-through Celebration

BY DARLA MARTIN TUCKER

After 14 weeks of online classes, isolation, and the cancellation of their traditional commencement weekend due to COVID-19, La Sierra University's graduates were eager for a way to safely gather and celebrate.

On Sunday, June 21, they had just such an opportunity with the Drive Through Celebration organized by the university to take place on the day the seniors would have graduated in a large commencement on Founders' Green. A formal, in-person awarding-

of-degrees ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 13, a week before the start of fall classes, contingent upon government and public health re-opening decisions.

For more than two hours beginning at 8:30 a.m., nearly 200 grads with their families and friends paraded in vehicles through the main entrance, driving up and circling back down Yaeger Drive. They paused for a portrait photograph in front of the university's central

fountain before traveling down Yaeger to exit the campus onto Riverwalk Parkway. Faculty, staff, and students wearing face masks lined the roadside, waving congratulatory signs and cheering them on.

At the front entrance kiosk, university President Joy Fehr, assisted by interim Provost Cindy Parkhurst provided each grad with a bag holding a mortarboard and tassel, which they could don for their photo further up the road. Other gifts at kiosks located along the route included a face mask with a La Sierra logo, a sticker of university mascot Eko, an alumni license plate holder, and a 2019-2020 yearbook.



Faculty and staff of the School of Education line Yaeger Drive to cheer on La Sierra's graduates.



(Left) Cal Pac Conference's Female Scholar Athlete of the Year, La Sierra sociology graduate and volleyball player Kiana Krumm waves while driving with her family and friend through the celebration route. (Middle) La Sierra University President Joy Fehr poses with accounting graduate Isaiah Leon as his limousine enters the campus for the Drive Through Celebration on June 21. (Right) Graduates' cars parade up the entrance road into La Sierra University's campus as part of the Drive Through Celebration. Background, Zapara School of Business.

"I think, with everything that's been going on, this is the best way that I can imagine, celebrating with the people who helped me get here, from friends to family to people I've met at the school," said Kyrsti Photias, a psychology major and exercise science minor from La Quinta, Calif. "It's so cool seeing other people celebrate with the people that matter to them too."

Sunday's event also fell on Father's Day, and for Photias' father, Gregg Photias, who was driving the family vehicle, this made for a doubly joyous occasion. "With COVID and with everything that's going on, this has actually been a blessing in disguise as far as being able to celebrate with her boyfriend, the parents, the family," he said. "This is really, really a special day and a rewarding day, and I'm so glad you guys did this for them."

Vinh Nguyen, pastor of the El Monte Vietnamese church and also the father of graduate Timothy Nguyen, drove his family through the parade route with Timothy waving from the front passenger seat. "I am so proud of my son to graduate from here. I'm excited to see it," said Pastor Nguyen as their car inched closer to the photography area. "It's an

awesome experience," added Timothy, a biomedical sciences major aiming for a career in nursing. "I'm glad they did this. I'm glad for the school's support."

"The drive-through graduation was so much fun," said former La Sierra Golden Eagles volleyball player and sociology graduate Kiana Krumm. Last month, the California Pacific Conference, of which La Sierra's Golden Eagles are members, voted Krumm as the 2019-20 Female Scholar Athlete of the Year. "It was a blast seeing my professors and the athletic department cheering me on. I drove through with my parents and my best friend since I was five years old, Michelle Schlaman. The overall experience was so exciting, and I am so happy to have been a part of it."

For La Sierra faculty and staff, the morning's event provided connection and community.

"We've overcome all these obstacles, and we're living in

this great moment, and it brings out the spirit of celebration after we've survived something," added Ken Crane, associate professor and chair of the History, Politics and Sociology department.

"This is us; this is hashtag LaSierraTogether," said Vice President of Student Life Yami Bazan.

"Seeing them in person, even though I was wearing a mask and they were in vehicles, reminded me of why we do what we do at La Sierra, provide the foundation upon which our graduates can positively change their and our worlds," said President Fehr. "The excitement on their faces and the pride in their families' faces made all the challenges of these past 3 ½ months responding to COVID-19 worth it. I am so proud of each graduate. Each one is truly extraordinary."

Many graduates decorated their cars for the Drive Through Celebration.



Part of Wearing a Mask is Washing a Mask: Here's the Best Way

BY DONAJAYNE POTTS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended wearing face masks in public to slow the spread of COVID-19, and it's important to know how to properly wash, disinfect, and handle reusable cloth masks.

Ryan Sinclair, PhD, MPH, associate professor of environmental microbiology at Loma Linda University School of Public Health, says his research supports that fabric, when not properly disinfected, is a carrier for both bacteria, including *E. coli*, and viruses—norovirus and coronavirus.

Sinclair says pathogens like bacteria and viruses can live on cloth fabric for longer than one may think—up to 8 to 12 hours. “Because we don’t know what germs we’ve been in contact with or how long the germs have been active on the cloth fibers, it is crucial to regularly wash, sanitize, and dry reusable face masks,” Sinclair said.

Part of wearing a mask is washing a mask. Here's the best way:

How to clean, disinfect, and dry your cloth mask

Although it may be time-consuming to wash reusable masks daily, after each use, Sinclair says this healthy habit is essential to prevent germ transmission. “Have a few extra face masks on hand so they can be rotated,” Sinclair said. “That way you

will always have a fresh, clean mask ready to use.”

Masks made from a cotton material stand up best to hand or machine washing with bleach or other disinfectants. “These fabric masks are the easiest to clean and dry properly,” Sinclair said.

Sinclair says to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before and after handling soiled masks.

Launder masks by completing these steps:

Remove detachable parts like interior filters or elastic ear bands from a folded scarf or bandana before washing.

Use a mesh laundry bag to reduce entanglement with other clothes during machine washing.

Set machine water temperature to high or use water that is 140° Fahrenheit or higher.

Use your washer’s “sanitize” cycle if it has one.

Add a detergent that contains disinfectant or bleach to ensure you’re killing as many germs as possible.

If washing by hand, prepare a bleach solution of five tablespoons bleach per gallon of water, soak mask for at least five minutes, and rinse thoroughly.

Dry masks on the highest dryer setting or use direct sunlight to dry masks.

Because household dryer temperatures rarely reach the threshold temperature you need for disinfection, consider adding disinfectant dryer sheets or dryer sanitizers.

Ultra-violet light from the sun can kill up to 99.99% of pathogens on the sun-facing surface of a mask if it is left in the bright sun during the middle of the day for at least one hour. It is best to allow masks to be exposed to the sun and heat for an entire day—flipping it over mid-day. Hang dry the masks or construct a dedicated portable box or surface for solar disinfection.

Face mask hygiene etiquette

To further reduce risk of infection, Sinclair offers these hygiene etiquette tips:

- Always wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before you put on your mask.
- Make sure your mask is facing the right direction, so your face is not touching the mask exterior.
- Wear your mask snugly over both your nose and mouth.
- Try not to touch the mask while

you're wearing it.

- When removing the mask, touch only the attached strings or elastic bands. Hold it or place the mask on a sanitized surface until you're ready to wear it again or throw it directly into the washing machine when you get home. Then wash your hands again.

In addition, Sinclair advises

washing your hands frequently, keeping surfaces at home sanitized, and avoiding touching high-traffic public areas, like counters, handrails, and doorknobs.

"If you practice these habits, you will be less likely to contract the virus, whether it's on your mask or another surface," Sinclair said.



Scholarship Program Designed to Increase Diversity of Mental Health Workforce

BY LARRY BECKER

Loma Linda University's School of Behavioral Health will be distributing \$2.97 million in scholarship funds to students in the Department of Psychology during the coming five years, following receipt of a grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The grant program originated in the HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program. The grant will be overseen by Bridgette Peteet, PhD, principal investigator and associate professor of psychology, and Patricia Flynn, PhD, co-principal investigator and assistant professor of psychology and preventive medicine.

Grants will provide financial assistance to 42 doctoral-level psychology students whose backgrounds include economic or educational hardship. The HHS

program emphasizes support for underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and is designed to increase the diversity of the workforce in the mental health profession.

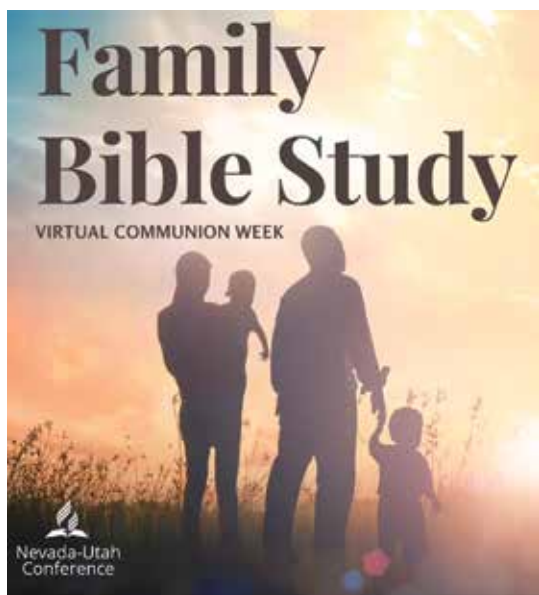
"Our goal is for students in this program to commit to improving the distribution, diversity, and competency of the primary care psychology workforce in the medically underserved region of San Bernardino County," said Beverly Buckles, DSW, dean of the School of Behavioral Health.

The Primary Care Psychology Pipeline Program (4P) will provide up to \$30,000 per year (\$90,000 over three years) to eligible students who demonstrate a commitment to the grant's mission of addressing the mental health needs of patients in medically underserved communities. The grants can be used to cover tuition, fees, books, and living expenses. Students can

begin receiving these funds in the fall of 2020.

Seeking to increase the number of potential qualified grant recipients, the department of psychology has begun to cultivate a psychology pipeline with sister Seventh-day Adventist institutions Oakwood University and the Adventist University of the Antilles. Other Historically Black colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions are also being notified of the program in an effort to diversify the pool of aspiring primary care psychologists.

Students who are accepted into the School of Behavioral Health's clinical psychology doctoral program are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Information about the graduate program can be found at <https://behavioralhealth.llu.edu/academics/psychology>



NUC Virtual Communion Week

BY CARLOS A. CAMACHO

It was more than a Communion service. It was a Communion week. On Sabbath, June 20, in an afternoon Zoom meeting involving several Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC) pastors, Carlos Camacho, NUC Executive Secretary, led a conversation to simply share thoughts about Communion—the meaning and beauty of it and also some of the misconceptions about it. An appeal was made for each participant to invite people to prepare their hearts to enter into a special time of Communion with God and one another the following Sabbath.

Family Bible study time was held each evening, leading up to the culmination on Sabbath morning with the Communion service.

Throughout the following week, devotionals were prepared by NUC pastors presenting themes such as Communion in Genesis, Communion in Deuteronomy 6, Communion and Forgiveness, Communion and Unity, and Communion and Service. Michelle Ward, in speaking about these studies, declared, “In my 40 years as an Adventist, I have never understood the Communion service as I do now. It is wonderful.”

In addition to the morning

devotionals, Bible studies were prepared and presented every evening, encouraging families to come together to study. Pastors from around the conference shared Bible studies from their homes via Zoom, beginning Sunday evening and finishing with a Friday vespers service.

Each of these presentations were simultaneously covered in Spanish by NUC Hispanic pastors, giving people the choice of a Spanish or

an English service. The same topics were discussed throughout the week.

Ultimately, the Sabbath was filled with a celebration for the entire conference. Things began with a time of reflection about Communion with Pastor Phill Vecchiarelli and Pastor Barry Curtis. Parents were encouraged to allow their children to participate in the emblems of Jesus if the children understood what they represented. During this



Pastors Barry Curtis and Phil Vecchiarelli opened the Sabbath celebration with an informative conversation about the Communion service.



U.S. Senate Chaplain Barry C. Black was the divine service speaker for NUC’s recent Virtual Communion Week Sabbath service.



NUC President Leon Brown (top) and Executive Secretary Carlos Camacho(above) provide opening remarks and prayer for the virtual service.

time the Hispanic pastors conducted a Spanish Sabbath School discussion.

For the divine worship, a simple but meaningful program was presented. The speaker for the hour was none other than the chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Barry C. Black, retired Navy Rear Admiral and former Chief of Navy Chaplains.

After his wonderful message, time was allotted for families to come together in their own homes and participate in a conference-wide foot washing ceremony, directed by one of the NUC pastors via Zoom.

As participants dismissed for foot washing, a Zoom room was also provided by a team of single pastors for individuals who didn’t have anyone at their homes to participate with. That meeting proved to be a huge blessing, especially for those who were feeling alone and sad that they didn’t have anybody next to them.

The Hispanic pastors, led by Pastor Benjamin Carballo, NUC Hispanic coordinator, were holding a similar Communion service for the Spanish-speaking constituents.

Earlier in the week, video

instructions had been given on how to prepare the bread and juice for use in each individual home. Following the foot washing, people were led to serve one another and partake of the body and the blood of Jesus as they committed themselves to continue to serve God and their fellow brothers and sisters.

As a result of social distancing, the people of NUC were forced

to find a new way to experience church, Communion, and unity. It was personal and meaningful for participants to celebrate in the coziness of their homes—an unexpected blessing.



Adaluz Serrano Jimenez and her daughter Ester demonstrate how to make Communion bread in preparation for the Sabbath service—Adaluz in Spanish and Ester in English.



PHOTO: NATHAN CARR

Each week, a truck transports boxes of fresh produce from the Carmichael church to churches throughout the Northern California Conference.

NCC Churches Provide Healthy Food to Hungry People

Northern California Conference churches are engaging their communities with compassion as they provide healthy food to hungry people.

Carmichael church

By Julie Lorenz

Every Monday morning, a truck pulls up to the Carmichael church and drops off 1,960 twenty-pound boxes of fruits and vegetables. While some boxes stay at the church to be distributed to about 250 families each week, most of the food is divided among 15 other local NCC church food programs in Sacramento, the Bay Area, Lodi, Paradise, Santa Rosa, Stockton, and more.

“Adventist Health, through its mission department, is coordinating redistribution of California-based agriculture,” said Carmichael church Senior Pastor Keith Jacobson. “This is a magnificent partnership of Adventist ministries, beginning with Adventist Health and extending to the local churches.”

The NCC pays the salary of two drivers who spend two days a week transporting the food to churches at a distance. The churches cover the

cost of the rented delivery truck and fuel. Adventist Health pays for the lease of a refrigerated semi-trailer that stays in the Carmichael church parking lot to keep the food fresh. “This program would not happen without very thoughtful collaboration,” said Jacobson. “We finally stopped working in our own isolated silos and are truly working in partnership.”

Oakland Market Street church

By Julie Lorenz

Twice a week the Market Street church provides food to people throughout Oakland and beyond.

Each Monday, the church distributes hundreds of boxes of fruits and vegetables, thanks in part to produce delivered by the Carmichael church. Each Tuesday, the church distributes around 3,600 prepared meals, provided by government and nonprofit programs. Both days, community members can pick up the food at the church. However,

church members, Senior Pastor Edwin Brown, and Assistant Pastor Preston Willis deliver much of it throughout Oakland and other area cities. In addition, members take food to a homeless camp once a month.

Brown is happy that so many have volunteered to help with the food distribution during the pandemic. “I have more members working outside the church now than ever before,” he said. “Since our church has been closed, we’ve reached more people. It’s been very exciting. God opened the whole city to us.”

Senior citizens are especially grateful to receive food delivered to their doors. One elderly woman in Oakland began crying the first time a volunteer offered food. “I didn’t know somebody remembered me,” she said. The volunteer





Oakland Market Street church volunteers deliver boxes of food to neighborhoods in Oakland and other communities.

responded: "That's God remembering you, ma'am."

Families with children home all day also appreciate the help. Each time a volunteer makes a delivery to a single mother in Vallejo with five children, the kids ask for permission to open the boxes and eat right away.

The food is vital, and so are the friendships that the church members are developing in the community. "The most important thing is that we are now introducing ourselves to people," said Beverly Thompson, the church's urban ministry director. "I tell volunteers, 'When you knock on the door, let them know that this food comes from God. It's a gift from God.'"

Paradise church by Caron Oswald

Food insecurity is a harsh reality in the community of Paradise. The stories are heartbreaking. "My refrigerator is empty. I have used all of my savings." "Due to shelter in place, my husband isn't working. We

are struggling financially, and it's difficult to provide food and other basic needs." "We are living on one salary. There are six of us, and we are constantly in need of supplies."

"We were looking for a way to help our community," said Joelle Chinnock, director of development and disaster recovery at the Paradise church. After discovering that the greatest need was immediate grocery assistance, the church partnered with Holiday Market to start the Love Delivers food delivery program.

Shortly after the shelter-in-place order, Glenna Eady, a case manager for Adventist Health, approached Chinnock with the desire to join forces to address food insecurity in the Paradise community. They teamed up to start a fresh produce pantry.

Chinnock received \$15,000 from three donors (North Valley Community Foundation, Paradise Rotary Foundation, and Feather River

Health Foundation) to start the grocery assistance and delivery program and a \$30,000 donation from Adventist Health to facilitate a food pantry.

In late May, Jacobson called, offering a shipment of fruits and vegetables. "It's free and I will deliver it," he said. "Could your church give some of these boxes out to your community?"

On the day of the first delivery, volunteers gave away 290 boxes of produce in four hours. They continue to give food to community members each week, and when there is a surplus, the produce is distributed to two other church pantries in town. "Oh, I am so happy," said recipient Tracy Periman. "The world needs more nice people like you. Acts of random kindness rarely happen. Thank the Seventh-day Church!"

Chinnock stressed the importance of partnership. "In order to rebuild our community, we must work together," she said. "This is just another opportunity that God has given us to reach out, serve our community, and build strong ties within the body of Christ."

(Far left) A long line of cars waits to receive fresh fruits and vegetables in Paradise. (Left) Garrison Chaffee, Paradise church associate pastor, prays during a food distribution event.





Pacific Union College Returning to On-Campus Classes for Fall

In-person classes will include physical distancing and partial online learning options

BY ASHLEY EISELE

Pacific Union College (PUC) will resume on-campus classes beginning September 14, with new health and safety policies in place. The college will also offer a partial online learning experience for students who are not ready to return to campus, ensuring that all students have the opportunity for an excellent education that suits their situation.

"Not only do we hear from our faculty and staff about how much they miss our students, but we're also hearing from our students about how ready they are to return to campus," PUC President Robert Cushman said. "Our campus family wants to be reunited, and we are excited to make that happen, safely. We remain committed to giving a complete, full college experience."

PUC is located in the Napa Valley, tucked away in the hills and distanced from larger cities. The college's location and campus make it an ideal place to begin the school year safely, with physical distancing and other safety guidance easier to implement.

Since moving to an online format in late March, PUC has been preparing to safely welcome

PUC prepares to welcome students back to campus for in-person classes beginning September 14.



its students back for on-campus classes. In efforts to make informed decisions for PUC, the administration has been participating in multiple briefings each week with Napa County health officials, as well as holding weekly meetings of a newly formed Communication Triage Committee and the Fall Reopening Committee since the spring quarter.

During the 2020 spring break, PUC quickly transitioned their operations to be fully online, continuing courses for current students while also welcoming more than 50 new high school students—an increase in spring enrollment for the first time in years.

PUC has gone the extra mile to continue making a college education possible for all eligible students, beginning with waiving enrollment and deposit fees and dropping the requirement for ACT

and SAT scores. "Our goal is to allow all students who are interested the opportunity to attend, while ensuring the safety and happiness of those enrolling this fall," said Gene Edelbach, Vice President for Marketing, Communication, and Enrollment.

In addition to on-campus classes, PUC will be offering optional online courses for approximately 20% of the classes. Many courses will be available in two formats: in-person or online. PUC has strategically chosen to provide many courses in this dual format to allow freshmen who are not currently comfortable with on-campus living a chance to take a full course load online. Additionally, online options will allow many current students to continue their education from a distance if they choose.

Faculty are receiving specialized training to prepare them for hosting online classes while also offering in-person instruction. PUC is continuing to improve its online and classroom technology, and adjustments are being made for classroom capacity, physical distancing, as well as strict cleaning and sanitizing schedules to ensure student safety.

Because most PUC students live on campus in residence halls, special care is being given to every aspect of on-campus living. Many changes have been made in the dining commons, residence halls, and other shared areas, and the college has implemented policies on face coverings, daily health checks,

foodservice operation restructuring, and safety protocols for every area of campus use.

The fall quarter breaks, including Thanksgiving and Christmas, have also been reformatted to eliminate the possibility of students transmitting infection when returning to campus. The academic year will be starting one week early on September 14 and ending on November 25, combining the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks into one continuous winter break ending on January 4, 2021.

To simplify the process of becoming a PUC student, all deadlines, time restrictions, and limitations for admissions, enrollment, and financial aid have been removed until late August. Prospective students will have a chance to make a thoughtful decision regarding how they wish to attend PUC in this ever-changing environment.

The new changes and policies throughout this ongoing pandemic have already seen a positive return for the college. The percentage of registered, returning students is at one of the highest levels in years, and active new applicant registration is exceeding previous years.

While some things will be different this fall, PUC's focus on providing excellent education will not change.

For full details on PUC's fall campus plan and revised admission requirements, please visit puc.edu/fall2020.

"Not only do we hear from our faculty and staff about how much they miss our students, but we're also hearing from our students about how ready they are to return to campus."

PUC PRESIDENT ROBERT CUSHMAN



(Far left) Lucia participates in a learning exercise on how her teacher will implement the swivl product during the 2020-21 school year. (Above) Amy

Cornwall, Office of Education director of instructional coaching, trains Alpha Islas, third-grade teacher at La Sierra Elementary, on the swivl robot, which will allow SECC schools to offer in-class and virtual instruction at the same time.

“We’re Prepared” SECC Schools Ready to Face the 2020-21 School Year

BY BECKY ST. CLAIR

Editor’s note: All information in this article was accurate as of July 13, 2020. As the situation continues to unfold, adjustments will be made accordingly. Please check SECC’s Office of Education website for the most up-to-date information: secceducation.org.

Recently, Amy Cornwall, director of instructional coaching for the Office of Education, shared a meme she had found on social media that stated, “The upcoming school year might be one of the toughest ever to be an educator. It also might be the most exciting and revolutionary year ever.”

The challenge of the 2020-21 school year cannot be predicted or controlled, but Cornwall and her colleagues are working hard to make sure the latter part of that meme is possible in all schools across the conference.

“We know some parents are eager to send their students back to in-person instruction, and others are not,” she admitted. “Health and safety in our schools is, as always, a top priority, and right up there alongside it is high-quality and effective instruction.”

Over the summer, Cornwall led a task force focused on instruction and

training for teachers for the upcoming school year. Together they researched options for technology that would allow students to participate fully in classroom instruction whether they are at school or at home. What they found was Swivl—basically a robot on a stand with an iPad on top. Teachers wear a tracking device, and the robot follows the teacher’s movements around the classroom.

“With this technology, students can be at home, attending class via Zoom, and yet still be ‘in’ the classroom, interacting with the teacher in real time,” Cornwall explained. “They can

still be a part of their community at school but remain in their own homes if they so choose.”

The blended learning model Cornwall’s team is working to implement emerged from several panel discussions with teachers and administrators at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Examining what went well and should be developed, along with what didn’t go well and should be altered, helped the educators determine what a positive, productive model of both styles would look like.

Datha Tickner, associate superintendent, headed another task

force focused on the specific health and safety issues with resuming face-to-face instruction. Representatives from each of the five counties in the conference researched and discussed campus access, cleaning, PPE, physical distancing, hygiene, training, and communication.

“We have developed specific guidelines for schools in our conference based on the best and most current health information known,” Tickner explained. “It is difficult to create a one-size-fits-all scenario for each of our schools, but we have thoroughly researched guidelines from various authorities locally and across the country and have worked very closely with health experts at Loma Linda University (LLU) to create guidelines we feel best suit the schools in our conference.”

The guidelines were created using those from the California Departments of Public Health and Education, each of the five counties, and area public schools, as well as the California Nurses Organization, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the head of the Department of Preventive Medicine at LLU.



Datha Tickner, SECC associate superintendent, shares through a video the safety and health protocols that schools are implementing for the 2020-21 school year.

All of this does, however, require training for the teachers who will be utilizing these tools. Cornwall is

Both Cornwall and Tickner see the potential for the processes schools develop this year bringing additional benefit to the Adventist Education system far into the future. For example, opening the technological doors to allow students to attend remotely may mean that those who live in more rural areas can still be part of an Adventist school, as they can enroll and attend from home, receiving the same quality education and classroom engagement they would in person.

“Instead of looking for a fully online school, they can tap into any Adventist school with a blended instruction system in place,” Tickner said. “This opens the door to many for whom Adventist Education was previously not an option.”

working with schools to coordinate both individual and group training during the week leading up to the start of school in August. Though they plan on building on the foundation of online teacher training Cornwall’s team developed at the start of COVID-19, the blended instruction model has slightly different strategies the teachers need to learn.

“This is a change to what they’re used to,” Cornwall admitted. “We want to make sure our teachers are trained in best practices so they can continue to provide creative, innovative, and differentiated instruction, with just a few different tools. This will ensure our students are still engaged in their learning and not just watching ‘classroom TV’ at home.”

“We can’t assume we’re going back to the way it was,” Tickner acknowledged. “The future remains uncertain, but we’re prepared with a practical, logical, and safe plan. This is an opportunity for growth as educators, as we learn to deliver quality instruction in a new way. The classroom may look different, but the education and community provided through our schools are still as valuable and beneficial as ever.”

The Swivl robots are part of all SECC classrooms for the 2020-21 school year and will allow teachers to offer in-class and virtual instruction at the same time.



PHOTOS: ENNO MÜLLER

Answering the Call: Stanley Sihotang Is Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

BY ARAYA MOSS



PHOTO: INDONESIAN-AMERICAN CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Pastors “lay hands” on Sihotang and his wife during the ordination prayer. Sihotang, who said he was called to this ministry a long time ago, is grateful to have finally responded to the call.

God blesses a pastor’s call even during a pandemic. Stanley Sihotang, associate pastor at Indonesian-American church, is proof of that. This June, he was ordained to the gospel ministry in a pre-recorded ceremony broadcast live.

Although Sihotang grew up in a pastor’s home, he knew at a young age that he did not want to be a pastor. He continued to participate in ministry and went on to work as a nurse for years.

One day, though, he told his wife, Joyce, that the Lord had been tugging on his heart, calling him to be a pastor.

He knew he needed to answer this call. He moved through a few states on the east coast before settling at the Indonesian-American church in Azusa.

In his homily, Southern California Conference (SCC) President Velino A. Salazar affirmed Sihotang’s calling. “The Lord calls at His own discretion,” Salazar said. “When God calls, He wants us to respond.”

Colleagues shared encouraging words, and friends and family from as far away as Indonesia spoke through video messages. “I know that we are

all called by Jesus Christ,” Sihotang said in his response. “I pray that you will respond to the calling that the Lord has given each of you, so that we may finish His work.”

Through this new method, SCC Executive Secretary John Cress acknowledged that “the holy calling to the gospel ministry is still powerfully recognized by the church—even in this virtual form.”

Whittier Church Hosts Community Blood Drive Amid Pandemic

BY ARAYA MOSS

This June, Whittier church hosted its second annual community blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross. Plans for the event were made early on after last year’s successful turnout. However, as COVID-19 was spreading and stay-at-home orders were enacted, the team hesitated to move forward.

“The need for blood, plasma, and platelet donations across the nation had significantly increased,” said Lejone Morris, co-leader of the planning team. “We felt that this was still the perfect opportunity for the church to meet the need of the community at large.”

The goal was to collect 45 units by



PHOTO: LEJONE MORRIS

Whittier church adheres to social distancing guidelines with designated areas more than six feet apart and approximately 10 donors allowed inside the gym at a time.

filling 58 appointment slots. The team relied heavily on social media and word of mouth to raise awareness, and church members worked hard to

spread the word quickly. One donor even mentioned that she had heard about the event while watching Whittier church’s livestream service on a Sabbath morning.

Safety was top priority. Donors were allowed by appointment only. Donors and staff were required to wear masks and complete symptom checks before entering. The gymnasium—the site of the drive—was thoroughly cleaned and sanitized the day before.

“We are so grateful to God for blessing our event,” Morris said. “Without the community’s participation and our church’s support, we would not have reached our goal.”

Vallejo Drive Church Choir Shares the Gospel Internationally

BY ARAYA MOSS

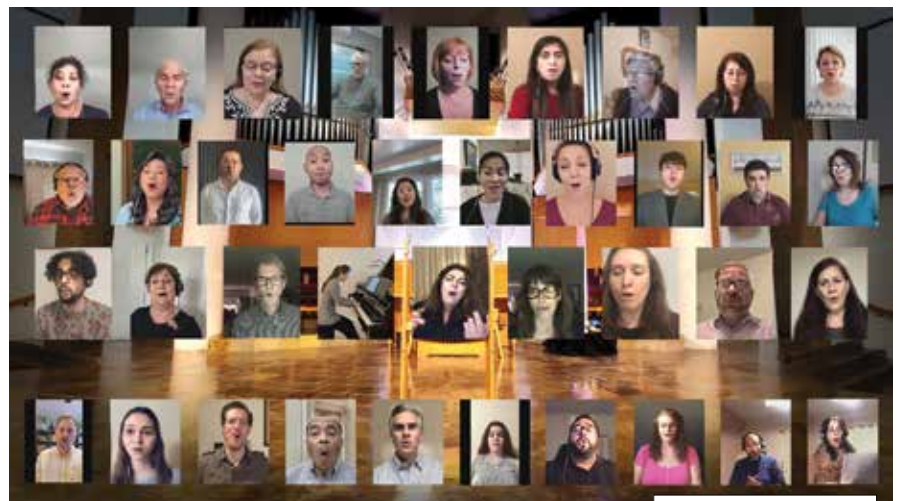
Although church closures have prevented the Vallejo Drive Church Chancel Choir from weekly choir rehearsals and singing together in person each Sabbath, God provided a different way for the members to gather and praise His name during the pandemic. Soon, a virtual choir began to take shape.

The first few rehearsals and performances were difficult as members learned to adjust to a virtual format. Some choir members were not able to join because of the technical challenges of solo rehearsing and self-recording. The new set-up also includes arranging accompaniment, directing virtually, and sharing the video to be edited.

Helene Quintana, Vallejo Drive church ministry of music director, was not used to directing in this manner. "Our singing together—relying on each other's presence, the voices supporting each other in harmony and camaraderie—was what we all knew," she said. "This was a new world to me."

The first performance had fewer participants than what they were used to, but Quintana was met with enthusiasm from those watching Vallejo Drive church services online. "After our first virtual anthem, we were bombarded with words of appreciation and a number of requests to join," Quintana recalled. Those who asked to join the virtual choir were not only singers from neighboring churches but also from around the world: France, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Fiji, and Finland.

Before the pandemic, membership of the chancel choir was about 25 to 30. Since adapting to a virtual setting, it has grown to about 40 members, including those overseas.



(Above) Vallejo Drive Church Chancel Choir performs the signature song "We Have This Hope," composed by Wayne Hooper. (Right) Scan the QR code to view the Vallejo Drive church's anthems on YouTube.



Irene Becerra, a new virtual choir member in Chile, was grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this choir. "Staying at home has not been easy," she said, "and sometimes days went by with me not knowing what day it was! Singing for the choir gave me a purpose for each week, and it certainly gives me a little taste of what it will be like to praise God in heaven."

Miguel Yanez, another virtual choir member in Chile, was equally grateful. "Thank you, Vallejo Drive Church Chancel Choir, for allowing me to share these pleasant moments of rehearsal and recording," said Yanez. "It is never too late to compose the soul afflicted by

the loss, and it is always good to praise the name of God."

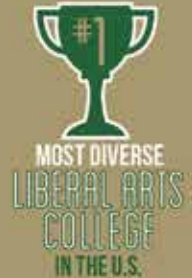
The choir is on a break for the summer but will resume in September. The anthems, which are included in services each week, can be found on the Vallejo Drive church website and on Quintana's YouTube channel ([scc.adventist.org/vallejo-drive-chancel-choir-on-youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCadventist.org/vallejo-drive-chancel-choir-on-youtube)).

"This choral experience was highly gratifying; under confinement circumstances, choral singing was still possible," said Valeria Urigu, a listener in France. "We are virtually traveling and sharing around the world!"

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G. Alexander Bryant Named North American Division President

By Kimberly Luste Maran

On July 9, 2020, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference Executive Committee met virtually to receive the name of G. Alexander Bryant, the recommendation for division president from both the North American Division's nominating committee and executive committee. Bryant was confirmed in a vote of 153 to 5.

Ted N.C. Wilson, General Conference president and, as policy indicates for the vote of division president, chair of the NAD nominating and executive committees held on July 6 and July 7, said, "I'm looking forward to a renewed focus on the three angels' messages and I believe that Elder Bryant can help lead in that great adventure, because that is what is entrusted to each of us. [He] is a mission-focused individual. He is someone who is a careful listener to people. He will take [these cares] to the Lord and ask for guidance.... I believe that God can use him in a very, very special way."

Bryant replaces Daniel R. Jackson, who served at the NAD headquarters since his election in June 2010 at the GC Session in Atlanta, Georgia, and reelection in 2015 in San Antonio,



PHOTO: ENNO MÜLLER

Elder Bryant and Desiree Bryant at the Golden Gate Bridge during the North American Division and Pacific Union Conference mission tour for GC executive secretaries and guests, hosted June 30–July 3, 2019.

Texas, until his retirement on July 1, 2020. The search process for a new executive secretary has begun.

Read the full article online at nadadventist.org/news.



"He is someone who is a careful listener to people. He will take [these cares] to the Lord and ask for guidance." Ted N.C. Wilson

Pacific Union Executive Committee Acts on Behalf of Conferences, Approves \$500K in Aid to Support Adventist Schools

By Faith Hoyt

The Pacific Union Executive Committee recently voted to provide \$500K in stimulus checks to Adventist schools in each of the seven conferences, as well as Holbrook Indian School.

In early July, the Executive Committee of the Pacific Union Conference met together virtually to discuss the proposal and approved \$500K from Union reserves to be distributed in the form of assistance payments to operational schools and early childhood education centers within the Pacific Union.

Approximately 141 early childhood, elementary, and secondary schools in the Pacific Union will receive checks of approximately \$3,500 during the month of July. This aid comes in addition to monies that the North American Division has allocated to local conferences, totaling \$760K for the whole division.

Support for schools has come from multiple sources as they plan for the upcoming academic year. “Back in April, our office provided about \$35,000 to assist conferences in purchasing devices to provide to students who didn’t have access,” said Berit von Pohle, director of education for the Pacific Union. This summer, the Office of Education purchased an infrared thermometer for each school. Additionally, the Early Childhood program provided \$200 grants for each center to reimburse for necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) expenses. “There are significant costs



in assisting schools to open safely—PPE, plexiglass dividers, etc. However, it is also a show of support from the Union that we are all in this together,” said von Pohle.

Adventist Community Services is also lending a hand as schools prepare for the upcoming school year. A donation of masks offered to Adventist Community Services will be distributed to all teachers, staff, and pastors at our schools in our Union. Masks were delivered to the conference offices in California, Hawaii, and Nevada-Utah in mid-July.

“We hope to help by providing donated cloth face masks to all churches, schools, and community service centers of the Pacific Union through the local conference offices,” said Charlene Sargent, director of Adventist Community Services for the Pacific Union.

According to von Pohle, schools and teachers are working hard to meet the needs of the students. “The transition to remote learning happened very suddenly in the spring, and teachers immediately responded with a variety of ways to continue effective instruction,” she said.

Schools have spent the summer developing plans for re-opening. This is being done recognizing that there may be a need to begin the school year in a remote learning situation.

“We are grateful for the dedication and commitment demonstrated by teachers,” said von Pohle. “They have worked hard to ensure both physical and emotional safety for students. Graduation celebrations underscored the desire of the schools and educators to acknowledge the accomplishments of the students.”

Local Churches Serving Communities During Pandemic

By Connie Vandeman Jeffery and Faith Hoyt, with Shera Johnson



Loma Linda Korean church hosts food drives

Churches around the Pacific Union are hosting food drives in order to support individuals in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Loma Linda Korean church, food drives hosted by the outreach department help provide meals for homeless and low-income families.

"We have started doing outreach every week," shared Kimberly Im, outreach coordinator for the church. "It looks different now, but we are finding ways to reach out."

Other recent outreach efforts include delivering meals to the San Bernardino Police Department and taking sack lunches to the homeless. In late February, the church hosted a blanket drive and engaged young people in helping assemble hygiene kits.

While coming together as a community looks different now, this congregation is eager to continue serving the community around them and give hope to those in need.

Kansas Avenue Church grocery drive-through

On May 16, Nyron McLean, a member of Kansas Avenue church, told Community Service Leader Shera Johnson about Inland Harvest, a program that distributed fresh produce. She partnered with his organization, Planet Life, and picked up 25 boxes for a pilot run that targeted seniors and students who were no longer able to have lunch at their school cafeterias. The church members that helped with the distribution that day were very pleased with the quality of the produce. Working with the pastoral staff, Johnson got the liability paperwork and project plan in place

so that they could start distributing 130 boxes of produce on the church property.

The first drive-

Continued on page 54



Continued from page 53

through produce distribution for the community took place on June 4 and has continued every Thursday morning since. The volunteers are excited not only to be part of the service but for the fellowship as well. "I love serving the Lord in any way that He leads," said volunteer Robert Harris. "I really enjoy this ministry because I can see how the community is being blessed by it. It just feels good going back to church in any capacity."

Distribution days start with picking up a rental trailer at 7 a.m., then driving to the distributors to load up the produce between 8 and 8:30. Meanwhile, at the church parking lot, other teammates are setting up the site with cones and traffic direction signs. A table at the drive through is stocked, then the volunteers have prayer and start serving. On a recent Thursday, they gave away 130 boxes in just under 40 minutes. The team operates like a well-oiled machine.

"Through programs like this, Kansas Avenue church hopes to be relevant, connected, and more than just a building on the corner," said Johnson. "Thanks to partners like Inland Harvest, we are working together to provide this vital service for our neighbors."

Hollywood Adventist Church

Hollywood church sits in the heart of Los Angeles, which has one of the country's largest homeless populations. Estimates are projecting that COVID-19 will lead to tens of thousands more becoming homeless in L.A. County. At Hollywood church, the Compassion Connection ministry is well-positioned to meet the needs of the community.

Compassion Connection's roots go back to 2013 when a church member sat down on the sidewalk for



conversations with several individuals down on their luck. The conversation led to the Hollywood church opening its dressing room showers to a few individuals living on the adjacent block. Word got out and the program grew. The church opened its lobby, and individuals

would come in and add their name to the shower sign-up sheet. Showers were on a first-come, first-serve basis. Some individuals would arrive in the morning and have to wait until the end of the day to shower, which prevented them from doing other essential activities. The team knew there had to be a better way.

In July 2017, the showers and day shelter closed for a strategic pause. Compassion Connection was born, based on the idea that everyone deserved top quality service, care, and ease of use. The team implemented a system that allowed guests to use the Compassion website to book their own appointments. The focus on the core mission and the efficiency of the booking system enabled the team to provide 3,900 showers in 2017.

By 2018, Compassion Connection was turning away guests because they lacked the capacity necessary to serve the increased demand. The



team partnered with The Shower of Hope to bring in a mobile shower unit every Tuesday. The Shower of Hope is the largest mobile shower provider in L.A. County, with over 20 locations. During 2019, the first full year of the partnership with The Shower of Hope, the ministry facilitated 5,200 showers and served 600+ unique individuals.

"As 2020 began, it looked as if the compassion team was on track to see a plateau in its year over year service gains," said Andrew Froemming, director of administration for Hollywood church. "Then, in March the world was rocked by the initial wave of a global pandemic that caused businesses to close and workers to stay at home. With gyms shuttered and low-income service providers significantly modifying and shifting the services they provided, many low-income individuals who typically rely on these facilities for personal care resources were left

scrambling to find access elsewhere. Compassion Connection saw a 50% surge in demand within a week of the stay-at-home orders going into effect.”

God’s consistent leading left the compassion team uniquely positioned to serve in the crisis. With only a few minor tweaks, the showers were able to continue to operate without interruption while remaining in compliance with the COVID-19 guidelines. They were consistently booked up a week in advance, and guests had to be turned away.

“We talked with community partners, who reached out to their network, and a collaborative partnership developed” said Froemming. “The Kohler Company, Adventist Health, World Vision, and The Shower of Hope are all working with the Compassion team to provide mobile showers, staffing, personal care products, operational expertise, and funding to serve the incredible need in the central Los Angeles area.” In the first two weeks of the partnership, the team had already served more people than they would have in a month pre-pandemic.

Hollywood Adventist Church has heard God’s call to extend His warm embrace to others through Compassion Connection.

Hale Kōkua O Mānoa

Volunteers at Hale Kōkua O Mānoa, an Adventist Community Center started by the Honolulu Japanese church, have been finding creative ways to reach out to the greater Mānoa community during this difficult time. Collectively, they have been using their gifts and talents in hopes of blessing others.

Most recently, a team of four volunteer Hale Kōkua O Mānoa seamstresses sewed 100 facemasks.



These facemasks were inserted into care bags, which included other items such as toiletries, hand sanitizing sprays, wet wipes, dried goods, and healthy snacks. The 100 care bags were then distributed in the surrounding neighborhood, with most of the bags going to seniors in need at the Mō’ili’ili Community Center.

“This is just a small way that we can show we care,” said Jane Kim Chun, executive director of Hale Kōkua O Mānoa. “I’m so thankful for all the volunteers that helped make this possible. We can’t control the virus or the world, but we can control our actions and behavior.”

“At a time when we are being advised to stay six feet away from one another, it can be isolating for many,” said Dr. Andy Iizuka, family physician and head elder of the Honolulu Japanese church. “When we look back at this chapter in our lives, we hope it will be a time where we were able to share hope, goodness, and aloha with one another, even if it’s from afar.”

Hale Kōkua O Mānoa, located at the Honolulu Japanese church, stemmed from a vision of supporting and bringing together the

greater Mānoa Community. Its community events and activities are aimed at promoting the fullness of life in body, mind, and spirit. They include exercise classes, cooking demos, MOPS

Mānoa (Mothers of Preschoolers), table tennis, and crocheting—all of which are open to the community.

“We are looking forward to the time when we can resume our activities and events and welcome everyone back to Hale Kōkua O Mānoa,” said Chun. “But for now, we will share what we can, and we hope that it will lift spirits and brighten days.”

For more information about the Center, please visit www.HaleKokua.org.



Advertising

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

Payment in advance must accompany all classified advertisements or they will not be published. Display ads for known advertisers will be billed. To pay by credit card, please go to recorder@adventistfaith.com.

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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 email to recorder@adventistfaith.com.

2020 Deadlines

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

September: August 6
October: September 5

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.

CALENDAR

Central California Conference

Most events and outreaches that were canceled will be rescheduled or streamed online. As new information is available, updates will be noted on the Events page of the website. Just click on Events above the yellow banner. Visit us online at www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com for all the updates.

La Sierra University

2020 Fall Quarter. Classes for La Sierra University's Fall Quarter begin Sept. 21. For information about admissions and 120+ bachelor and graduate degree programs, visit https://lasierra.edu. To view La Sierra's Fall 2020 re-opening plans, visit https://lasierra.edu/fall-2020-updates/.

The La Sierra Report. Stay in the know and sign up to receive The La Sierra Report, a monthly e-newsletter of interesting news and events. To subscribe, send your email address and subscription request to pr@lasierra.edu.

Virtual music performances.

To view recent Zoom video musical productions by vocal group United and past Wind Ensemble performances, visit La Sierra University Music on YouTube.

Northern California Conference

NCC Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership Training (Sept. 11-13) Leoni Meadows. Speakers: Rick Cromey, founder of MANNA! Educational Services International; David Woolcock, pastor of the Richmond Beacon Light church. Info: eddie.heinrich@nccsda.com and alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

Redwood Camp Meeting 2020: Watch the recorded programs at www.

redwoodareacamp.com.

Summer on the Run: The NCC Youth Department's summer day camp program created a series of videos for kids: www.facebook.com/summerontherunNCCyouth.

Get the News! Engage with the Northern California Conference by subscribing to the NCC's weekly emailed news source, "Northern Lights." Sign up: nccsda.com.

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Events

United4theCause 6th "Yet... I Still Have Joy" Annual

Conference (Sept. 27) 7 a.m.-2 p.m. via Zoom. Speakers: Sandra Roberts, Lisa Newman, Candace Huber and more. Stimulating health presentations on women's health and breast cancer survivor support. Must register: https://www.united4thecause.org/our-annual-retreat.html to receive login and password info.

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AT REST

Agee, Beverly Deutsch

— b. May 31, 1940, Allentown, Pa.; d. March 30, 2020, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: sons, Stephen, Greg; daughter, Elizabeth; one granddaughter; sister, Linda Paddock.

Alcaide, Ester (Balmes)

— b. July 13, 1938, Batangas, Philippines; d. May 10, 2020,

Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Eunice Penaloza, Merlyn; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren.

Bergvall, Barbara L. (Barrett)

— b. Sept. 28, 1931, Tulsa, Okla.; d. Feb. 8, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Gary; daughter, JoAnn; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

Breitigam, Doris H.

(Dickenson) — b. Sept. 27, 1934, Lodi, Calif.; d. June 24, 2020, Ooltewah, Tenn. Survivors: sons, Daniel, David; daughters, Fernetta Ferch, Eloyce Witzel; ten grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

Busch, Edmund James

— b. Nov. 22, 1926, Beulah, N.D.; d. June 17, 2020, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: sons, Frank Buschbacher; Korla Buschbacher; daughter, Celeste Busch; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

Sunset Calendar August 2020

City	AUG 1	AUG 8	AUG 15	AUG 22	AUG 29
Alturas	8:18	8:09	7:59	7:49	7:38
Angwin	8:19	8:11	8:02	7:52	7:42
Bakersfield	7:58	7:51	7:43	7:34	7:25
Calexico	7:39	7:32	7:25	7:17	7:09
Chico	8:19	8:11	8:01	7:52	7:41
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	7:52	7:44	7:36	7:27	7:18
Eureka	8:31	8:22	8:13	8:02	7:51
Four Corners [E]	8:22	8:14	8:06	7:57	7:47
Fresno	8:04	7:57	7:48	7:39	7:30
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	7:32	7:25	7:17	7:08	6:58
Half Dome	8:05	7:58	7:49	7:41	7:30
Hilo	6:56	6:52	6:47	6:42	6:36
Holbrook	7:22	7:14	7:07	6:58	6:49
Honolulu	7:09	7:05	7:00	6:55	6:49
Joshua Tree	7:45	7:38	7:31	7:22	7:13
Lake Tahoe	8:10	8:02	7:53	7:44	7:33
Las Vegas	7:44	7:37	7:29	7:20	7:10
Lodi-Stockton	8:13	8:06	7:57	7:47	7:37
Loma Linda	7:48	7:42	7:34	7:26	7:17
Los Angeles	7:52	7:46	7:38	7:30	7:21
McDermitt [N]	8:07	7:58	7:49	7:38	7:27
Moab	8:27	8:19	8:10	8:01	7:51
Monterey Bay	8:13	8:05	7:57	7:48	7:38
Mt. Whitney	7:58	7:50	7:42	7:33	7:23
Napa	8:17	8:10	8:01	7:51	7:41
Nogales [S]	7:18	7:12	7:05	6:57	6:49
Oakland	8:16	8:09	8:00	7:51	7:41
Paradise, CA	8:18	8:10	8:01	7:51	7:40
Phoenix	7:27	7:20	7:13	7:04	6:56
Puuwai, Ni'ihau [W]	7:19	7:15	7:10	7:04	6:58
Reno	8:10	8:02	7:53	7:43	7:33
Riverside	7:49	7:42	7:35	7:26	7:17
Sacramento	8:15	8:07	7:58	7:49	7:38
Salt Lake City	8:41	8:33	8:24	8:13	8:02
San Diego	7:46	7:39	7:32	7:24	7:15
San Francisco	8:17	8:09	8:01	7:51	7:41
San Jose	8:14	8:06	7:58	7:48	7:39
Santa Rosa	8:19	8:12	8:03	7:53	7:43
Sunset Beach	7:51	7:44	7:37	7:29	7:20
Thousand Oaks	7:55	7:49	7:40	7:33	7:24
Tucson	7:20	7:14	7:06	6:59	6:50

[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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Duncan, Mildred Marie – b. April 14, 1923, Glendale, Calif.; d. April 23, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Raymond, Robert; daughter, Mona; three grandchildren; brother, Donald Ray Pearson.

Geigle, Jean Ellen (Fisher) – b. Sept. 4, 1931, Plymouth, Calif.; d. March 3, 2020, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: sons, Thomas, John; daughter, Sandra Pahn; 12 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; brother, Raymond Fisher.

Hang, Kia (Xiong) – b. July 12, 1959, Laos; d. May 25, 2020, Fresno, Calif. Survivor: husband, Tony Hang.

Hendricks, Kenneth James – b. July 14, 1953, Holly, Mich.; d. June 29, 2020, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: brother, Gary; sisters, Wanda Blackwell, Louise Smith, Mary Bendler; eight nieces and nephews.

Jonas, Margaret – b. April 5, 1925, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Feb. 24, 2020, San Diego, Calif. Survivor: daughter, Tina Irving.

Lafferty, Douglas L. – b. July 3, 1947, Davenport, Iowa; d. June 15, 2020, Beaumont, Calif. Survivors: wife, Karen; sons, Shawn, Ian. He worked as a hospital administrator for Adventist Health.

Lowry, Jean Frances (Boyd) – b. Aug. 2, 1944, Memphis, Tenn.; d. May 23, 2020, Lockport, N.Y. Survivors: husband, Maynard; son, Chris Lowry; two grandchildren. Served at LLU and became an emeritus professor of communicative disorders and sciences.

Narvaez, Evangelina (Lopez) – b. April 8, 1920, El Paso, Texas; d. July 4, 2020, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Antonia Leonor Loxsom-Salazar, Sandra Narvaez McLeod; four

grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren. Served to establish the Spanish-American church in Los Angeles and the missionary-based work with White Memorial Hospital.

Nelson, Marjorie G. – b. July 15, 1926, Hutchinson, Minn.; d. March 8, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: nephew, Bill Wittlake; nieces, Brenda Bergold, Janice Schoonhoven. Served with Faith for Today in New York City and at LLU's School of Religion.

Peterson, Elsie – b. April 21, 1922, Killdeer, N.D.; d. June 4, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Gordon; daughter, Carol; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Todorovic, Mike – b. Aug. 22, 1952, Nis, Serbia; d. June 3, 2020, Walnut Creek, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jan; brother, John; niece, Shannon; nephews, Daniel, David, Cameron. He was a dentist.

Wood, Virchel E. – b. Feb. 13, 1934, Leominster, Mass.; d. April 17, 2020, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Esther; sons, Gary, Darrell; daughters, Tami, Loli, Victoria; six grandchildren. Longtime LLU professor of orthopedics.

Correction: Nickel, Pearl (Stansal) – b. Aug. 14, 1923, Spinney Hill, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. March 30, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Randy Nickel; daughter, Lavonne Nickel Anderson; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Served in telecommunications at LLUMC.

Correction: Rapp, Peggy J. – b. Feb. 24, 1927, Spencerville, Ohio; d. April 17, 2020, Tucson, Ariz. Survivors: sons, Tim, Todd; daughters, Tana, Trindy; five grandchildren.



Seven

characteristics
of faithful stewards:

1

MINDFUL

Stewards live in the present, without the baggage of the past and without fear of the future.

2

PRAYERFUL

Stewards see each day as an opportunity to be in the presence of God, living according to His will.

3

GRATEFUL

Stewards remember to give thanks for all of God's blessings, especially the everyday ones.

4

GRACIOUS

Stewards accept all of God's creation in a welcoming and hospitable manner.

5

COMMITTED

Stewards persevere, dependably and steadily, in a way of life that acknowledges that everything belongs to God.

6

ACCOUNTABLE

Stewards understand the value of the community of believers and the role they play in it.

7

TRUSTWORTHY

Stewards responsibly manage God's holdings according to His purposes.


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