

# Recorder

FOR I AM PERSUADED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE,



NOR ANGELS NOR PRINCIPALITIES NOR POWERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME,



NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING,



SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD



WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.



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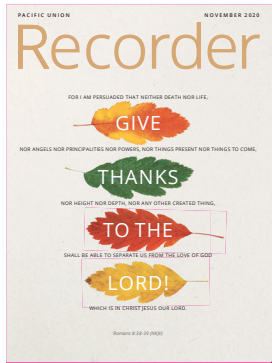
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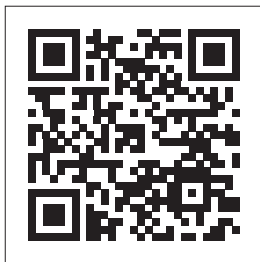




“The Lord Jesus is our strength and happiness, the great storehouse from which, on every occasion, [all] may draw strength. As we study Him, talk of Him, become more and more able to behold Him—as we avail ourselves of His grace and receive the blessings He proffers us, we have something with which to

help others. Filled with gratitude, we communicate to others the blessings that have been freely given us. Thus receiving and imparting, we grow in grace; and a rich current of praise and gratitude constantly flows from our lips; the sweet spirit of Jesus kindles thanksgiving in our hearts, and our souls are uplifted with a sense of security. The unfailing, inexhaustible righteousness of Christ becomes our righteousness by faith.”

—Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, Oct. 22, 1896



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PACIFIC UNION

# Recorder

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.

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# Serving



**W**hile reading, I came across the following statement, which really caught my attention: “With almost impatient eagerness the angels wait for our co-operation; for man must be the channel to communicate with man. And when we give ourselves to Christ in wholehearted devotion, angels rejoice that they may speak through our voices to reveal God’s love” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 297).

Clearly, God seeks our cooperation to speak for Him to other humans. We are the channel He wants to use.



Clearly, God seeks our cooperation to speak for Him to other humans. We are the channel He wants to use.

# God

by **Serving**  
**Humanity**

By Ricardo Graham

Here is another one: "We must be laborers together with God; for God will not complete his work without human agencies" (Ellen G. White, "Partakers of the Divine Nature," *The Review and Herald*, March 1, 1887).

I think these two quotations speak to us about service—Christian service, to be more precise.

Jesus said it this way: "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).

Jesus asked us to serve the poor and needy. To be sure, we cannot duplicate what



He accomplished in His short, power-filled earthly sojourn. However, the principal of unselfish service as a servant or slave (the original Greek word in the New Testament is best translated as *slave*, although many translators have modified the impact by using the more palatable word *servant*) shines through the ages to our modern time.

Jesus was clear. The basis for Christianity is not reflected merely in quoting doctrine correctly, although that is important. We must talk the talk *and* walk the walk. The importance of “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV) is not to be minimized. But *knowing* the truth and *doing* it are connected, like a door is connected to the jamb. There is to be a unifying consistency between what I espouse and what I demonstrate in my daily living.

Christianity must operate as Jesus intended. Here is another powerful statement, which refers to the parable of the sheep and the goats: “Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 637).

I admit that I have not measured up to this yet. We all are a work in progress. Certainly, some may be quick to point to their work for the church or in various levels in the Adventist denomination. But this quote from Mrs. White specifies working for Jesus “in the person of the poor and the suffering.” The ones many of us try to ignore. The ones we

drive or walk past on our way to...wherever.

Society doesn't seem to honor these people, who are created in the image of God, who receive the ability to breathe from the hand of the Creator, but who, for whatever reason, are suffering deprivation. These are the ones who won't be voting in this election year because they are homeless and have no address to use for the voter registration. They are not the focus of any polling organization, because they are regarded as not counting. And during this long period of pandemic-induced economic trauma, their ranks are swelling.

Oh yes, we remember the few dollars bills we may have dropped into a cup as we walked past the person huddled on the corner. Maybe we have even brought a few meals or given away some bottled water to someone in a park or on a sidewalk on a hot summer day.

A study that I read maybe 30 years ago indicated that 80% of church resources (money and work) was utilized within the congregation, with only 20% used to reach outside of the congregation or the church building. I wonder what the updated figures would show.

Measuring my own meager efforts in this regard, I have come up way too short. And any excuse that I may give doesn't put me in an enviable category. I point no fingers at anyone; all my fingers are pointing at the man in the mirror staring back at me.

I remember meeting a former Golden Gate Academy classmate of my sister-in-law, Marcea Weir. This young lady, whom I will not name, had worked with Mother Teresa in India. Mother Teresa, who passed away in 1997, was a Catholic nun who devoted her life to caring for the sick and poor

Even in this COVID-19 pandemic, we can still serve. It may demand more creativity, but under the Holy Spirit's guidance, the only limitation is our imagination.



in the slums of Calcutta. Marcea's friend told us that after her service among the poorest of the poor—I do not recall how long she worked there—she informed Mother Teresa that she was returning to the United States. Mother Teresa's reply was, "If you love Jesus, you will stay." Ouch.

Truly, there are countless opportunities to serve, every day. Parents serve their children by providing for their needs and pointing them to Jesus in word and deed. We serve our communities and our neighbors in small and large ways: by being friendly, keeping our lawns and homes tidy and in good repair, and donating items to Adventist Community Service Centers or other agencies. We serve by attending church services, sending our children to our church schools, and participating on committees—which seem to proliferate without end. We serve by giving so that others around this globe may benefit.

While we may do all these things and more, the question remains: What have we done to help the poor and suffering? Even in this COVID-19 pandemic, we can still serve. It may demand more creativity, but under the Holy Spirit's guidance, the only limitation is our imagination.

Jesus told His disciples of old, "For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always" (Matthew 26:11, NKJV). As always, He spoke truth. And we also remind ourselves of what Jesus said in the parable of the sheep and goats: "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly,



I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40, NKJV).

Jesus recognizes and receives our service to the poor and needy as service to Himself. This may mean that we need to develop a new way of "seeing" people, especially the poor and needy. Instead of seeing their unkempt external appearance, we need to develop "Jesus eyes" and look beyond the externals to see a brother or sister in our humanity—in fact, actually imagining that person as being Jesus.

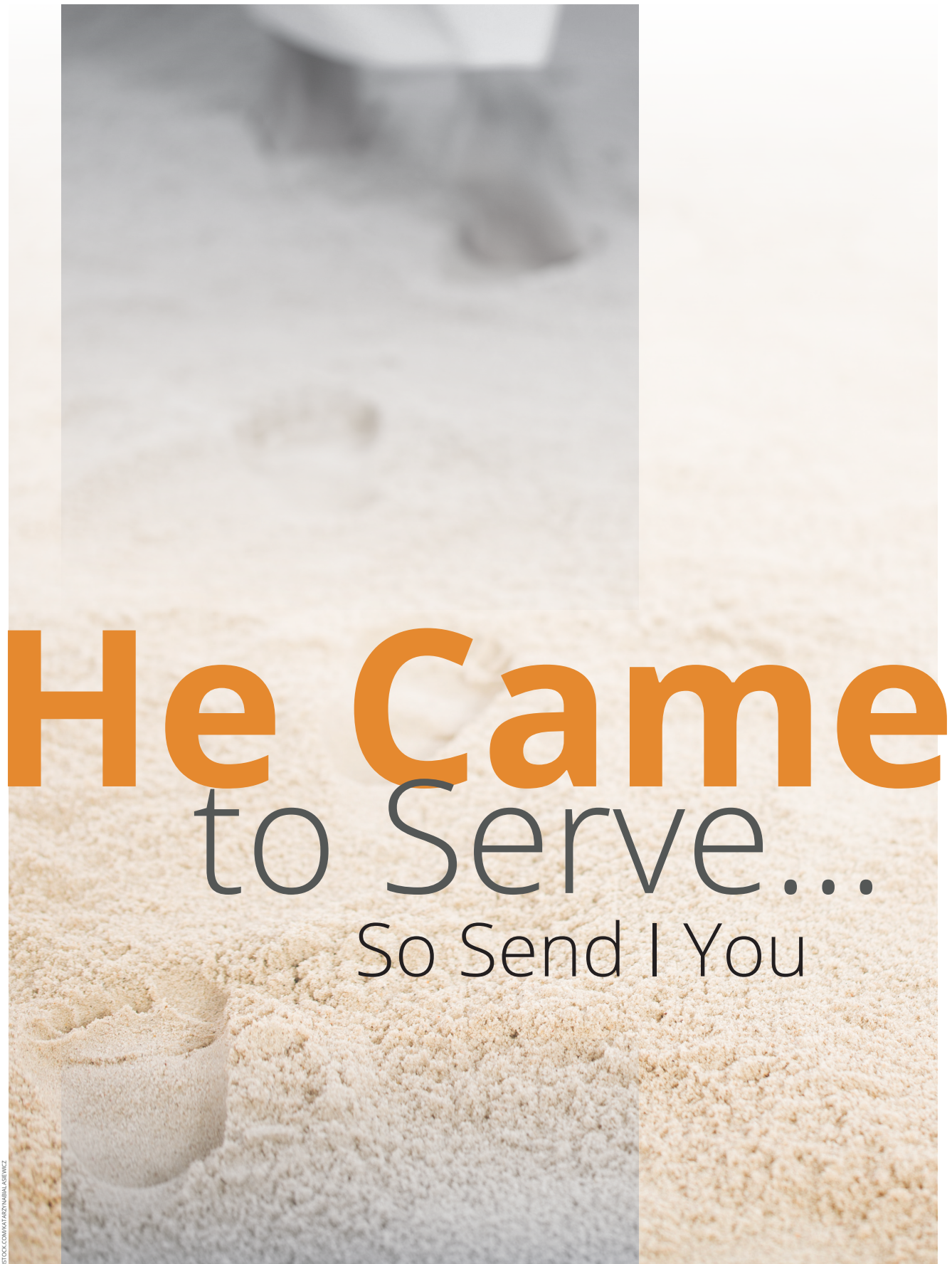
The call to serve will never end. But the result of serving Christ in the personhood of the poor and needy receives these words from the Master: "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world'" (Matthew 25:34, NIV).

We all want to be in the group that hears these words, don't we?

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*Ricardo Graham is the president of the Pacific Union Conference.*





# He Came to Serve... So Send I You

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By Ramiro Cano

**P**raise God for the Bible, the Living Word of God, and the inspired testimonies providing instructions and guidance to us, His children, as we travel this journey preparing for the mansions in glory. I love the fact that as Jesus walked, He left us footprints as a roadmap for us to follow and emulate. Those footprints highlight the essence of who He is and how He desires His children to live. In these solemn times of earth's history, it is incumbent upon us to heed the inspired counsel. Notice the following:

"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2:21, NASB).

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28, NLT).

"His whole life was under a law of service. He served all, ministered to all" (Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 359).

These outline Jesus' pattern for ministry while on this earth. That is what Jesus did by personally associating with individuals for the distinct and clear purpose of service. He went about the townships seeking to rub shoulders with the sinners, touching the sick, and giving words of comfort and hope to everyone He saw.

Just as it was in Jesus' day, we find many of the same needs today in our communities. Our communities are filled with hurting individuals with great needs. Many are discouraged and lack hope, or they may be sinners in the mire of dysfunction. They desperately need a touch from someone who cares. There are many references in the Bible indicating we are to help the poor and needy. They cannot be ignored. Their importance is paramount to our understanding of our duty and obligation to those around us.

This is not the time for us to be "couch potato" Christians. There is no need for us to somehow put ourselves up on some lofty pedestal, thinking only of ourselves. We need to come down from there and get our hands busy (and dirty) serving in our communities. We need to do just as Jesus did in His day by engaging with the common and needy. Let's not allow our pride and selfishness to prevent us from serving like the

We need to do just as Jesus did in His day by engaging with the common and needy. Let's not allow our pride and selfishness to prevent us from serving like the "meek and lowly" Savior.





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“meek and lowly” Savior. Bringing people to Jesus is when we and our communities will then “find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:29, KJV).

If you think about it, our usual method of outreach has been through teaching and inviting the community to come to us to hear and learn the great truths of the Bible. We should not stop doing this. However, this approach does not fully cover Jesus’ formula for ministry. Notice the five-step approach outlined by Ellen White: “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me’” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Going back through that quote again, we can see the five steps:

1. Mingle with people

2. Show sympathy

3. Minister to their needs

4. Win their confidence

5. Then make an invitation to follow Jesus

This formula is outlined for us to follow, and that “method alone will give true success in reaching the people.” I ask you: Do we want success? If we do, then that success will only come about because His anointed formula is the one we use. Christ Himself already modeled it for us. It is a promise we can claim, and it will yield positive results.

A few years ago, the Central California Conference launched the Life Hope Center initiative. We invested in a medical missionary mobile unit that houses and transports fully equipped dental chairs and fully equipped vision chairs. We praise God for the many dentists, vision care professionals, and medical providers who have participated. Many volunteers have also given of their time and

## Why not start a whole revolution of service for others in our conferences throughout the Pacific Union? Let's call for all volunteers, vocational and otherwise, to be engaged as well.

service to make this transformative impact on health throughout the conference.

But we cannot stop there. Why not start a whole revolution of service for others in our conferences throughout the Pacific Union? Let's call for all volunteers, vocational and otherwise, to be engaged as well. This is a call for carpenters, electricians, plumbers, handymen, cooks, and on and on! In essence, if you and I can hold a hammer or a cleaning rag in our hands, then we are missionaries!

By serving those for whom Jesus died, through a myriad of

service functions, then we are performing acts of compassion in our communities.

We need to envision each church and school as a Center of Influence. This can be done by surveying the community immediately adjacent to the church or school; select homes can be adopted as candidates for a "mission trip." Instead of going to a foreign county, this mission trip is right in our neighborhood. The mission could be to humbly paint someone's house, fix leaky faucets, clean up the yard, change lights, or even cook a tasty meal. The possibilities are endless!

So, think about this: what if an elderly individual was diagnosed with a serious medical problem; what if there was the loss of a loved one; what if a neighbor was experiencing depression or financial challenges? Who would keep up with repairs or other pressing needs? Whom do they call upon? It might be easy for us to say, "Well, they can call a

family member." But what if there is no one?

What if the church became the answer to the needs of these families? Could we not agree that the church would be a very tangible blessing of service to those in the immediate neighborhood and community? Is this not following in the footsteps of the One who left us an example?

It is for this reason that we in the Central California Conference have stated in our vision statement the following: Reflecting Christ—Transforming Communities.

We hope you will join us. Why? Because we know that, "When the word has been preached in the pulpit, the work has but just begun" (Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 229). What "work" is that? It is clear that it is the work of service and certainly what God wants us to do.

"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come' Matthew 24:14" (Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111).

I am fully persuaded it is time for Jesus to come again! My prayer is that the "spirit of service" will quickly take us there!

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*Ramiro Cano is the president of the Central California Conference.*



# Turning



By Alberto Valenzuela

Soon after Christ ascended from Earth to heaven, leaving behind a small but growing flock of believers, formerly impetuous disciple Peter traveled about the region, encouraging and promoting the fledgling Christian church.

One day, while he was visiting the town of Lydda, some visitors from nearby Joppa showed up with an urgent request. One of their church members had died, and the congregation needed comforting. "Please come at once!" they urged. The story is found in the ninth chapter of Acts.

Peter followed his visitors to the coastal town and hurried to a home filled with much sorrow and crying. He was led to an upstairs

This is the mark of someone who loves so much that he or she can't help but serve others—especially those who are marginalized, abandoned, or in danger.



# into Action

room where a woman named Tabitha (in Greek her name was Dorcas) lay, her body washed and prepared for burial.

It seems Dorcas wasn't your ordinary Joppa citizen and church member. The mourners showed Peter the robes and other clothing that she had made specifically for people in need. He was told repeatedly that this woman "was always doing good and helping the poor" (Acts 9:36, NIV).

What the mourners expected Peter to do was provide much-needed grief counseling. What he did was something very different.

After sending everyone out of the room, he got down on his knees and prayed. Then he turned toward the dead woman and said, "Tabitha, get up" (verse 40). She did.

I think it's safe to say that the tears of sorrow turned into tears of joy that day in Joppa.

## **A history of service**

In 1879, the young and growing Seventh-day Adventist church was looking for a name for its newly created community outreach program. The name had to project the concept of service to





To continue serving others and reaching outside of the four walls of our churches and institutions, it was eventually decided to come up with a name that would be more descriptive of its work: Adventist Community Services (ACS).

others. It had to suggest a deep passion for the poor and needy. They settled on “The Dorcas Society” in honor of the woman who was always doing good. Some who are reading this may remember donating clothing to Dorcas and, perhaps, helping out in years gone by.

To continue serving others and reaching outside of the four walls of our churches and institutions, it was eventually decided to come up with a name that would be more descriptive of its work: Adventist Community Services (ACS). ACS has been so active at the national level that some of its leaders have been recognized by FEMA and called upon to help in disaster response.

What set the original Dorcas apart from other church members of her time—and is reflected in the fact that a community outreach program was named after her—was her willingness and deep passion to serve—to make lives better, to bring hope to those in her community. She was a “love leader.” She turned love into action. With every stitch she sewed, every garment she mended, every life she touched, she applied leadership in its purest form. Her first response to a need was service.

Today, we see that quality in first responders everywhere. These men and woman don't just stand around talking amongst themselves: “This looks bad.” “What a shame this has happened.” “Wish I knew what to do.” No! They dive right in, eager to apply what they've learned about saving lives. First responders serve. It's in their training, in their passion, in their drive. Like Dorcas of old, they put God's love into action, serving to the point of sacrifice.

### **Applying God's love**

Here's the thing: The only reason we even know about Dorcas is because the Bible shares her amazing story. I'm sure there were many, many others like her, not only in the early Christian church but through the ages as Christianity spread.

And, without a doubt, there are men and woman, boys and girls, who have applied God's love without even knowing anything about God! They've loved and served simply because they cared for others. Christians don't hold the copyright on love and service. They just eagerly identify the source of their motivation.

This is also the mark of a true leader. This is the mark of someone who loves so much that he or she can't help but serve others—especially those who are marginalized, abandoned, or in danger. True leaders serve. It's in their job description. It's part of who they are.

I like to imagine that I hear Peter's words echoing in our churches and congregations today. To those whose spiritual witness is dead, I hear him say, “Friend, get up!”

What an opportunity we have to be part of a process that turns tears of sorrow into tears of joy. All it takes is a little love, a little service, and a little leadership where it's needed most.

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*Alberto Valenzuela is the associate director for communication and community engagement at the Pacific Union Conference and editor of the Recorder.*

# WALKING THROUGH THE **Fire**

**Adventist Firefighters Share Stories of Faith and Service**



“When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze” (Isaiah 43:2, NIV). For firefighters, this promise from Isaiah is probably as real and literal as it gets.

By Cynthia Mendoza,  
with Faith Hoyt



According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), over 8,300 wildfires in California had claimed over 4 million acres by October 2020. Of the thousands of firefighters putting their lives in danger to protect lives and property, some are church members within the Pacific Union Conference. How does their work impact their faith, and conversely, how does faith impact their work?

**Nate Garcia**, who works for the Morongo Valley Fire in San Bernardino County, began his service in firefighting as a first responder for Napa County in 2007 while a student at Pacific Union College.

His desire to help and protect others began early in life. One day when he was 11, while riding bikes in the mountains, his sister fell when she collided with a friend. She sustained a big cut to the back of her head.

At that time, Garcia had just completed his Pathfinder honor in first aid. Putting what he knew into practice, he took off his shirt and socks to apply a pressure dressing. He then fixed the bikes to get his sister to safety and eventually the hospital. It was a scary experience, but Garcia was thankful that he knew what to do. The feeling stuck with him and informed his career and volunteer choices from that point on.

Garcia, a member of the Azure Hills church near Loma Linda, California, went on to graduate from PUC with a bachelor's degree in business and an associate degree in emergency medical services.

"It's a heavy

weight knowing we're going out to try to save someone's life but that sometimes we can't," Garcia said about the sobering realities of working as a firefighter. "It's important to acknowledge that there is something bigger than yourself and that you may not always have answers as to why certain things happen."

Garcia admits that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the heavy mental and emotional toll of the job are very real, but he's thankful for his faith and his supportive family to see him through.

"It takes lots of prayer and trusting in God," he said. "But I truly believe firefighting is a calling like any other, and God will be with you."



**Macho Rosa**, a member of the El Cajon church near San Diego, has been with the Wildland Fire of the U.S. Forest Service since 2002. He first became acquainted with firefighting through friends at church who volunteered for the California Conservation Corps. He got to know several organizations and lines of work within the corps, and he chose the U.S. Forest Service.

His interest in this line of work began early in life,

too. He had a heartfelt desire to be of service to others and an affinity for physically demanding work, like mowing lawns and pulling weeds. But nothing prepared him for the demands of firefighting.

“Having grown up in the city, my perception of what they do was very different,” he said. “There is nothing as physically demanding, and it took some getting used to, but it has become second nature.”

One of the aspects of the job Rosa most enjoys

Mild-mannered university department head or fearless firefighter? **Jonathan Bradley** is both. When not working as the registrar at Pacific Union College (PUC), Bradley is busy fighting fires and occasionally rescuing cats from trees in his role as a volunteer firefighter for the Napa County Angwin Volunteer Fire Department.

“There’s a lot that I love about it,” he said. “I’ve always loved doing things to help people, and there are a variety of ways to help, not just fighting fires.”

Some of that variety includes medical assistance, attending to accidents, downed trees, and yes, even cat rescues. “That’s actually a thing sometimes,” Bradley confirmed.

In the PUC community, Bradley is certainly not alone in his unique religious beliefs, given that half the staff at the Angwin station are Adventist. No one asks why the staff celebrates positive media coverage with ice cream instead of beer, as is customary at most firehouses.

But on a deeper level, Bradley credits his personal faith in God as instrumental in giving him the peace of mind to do his job, even in dangerous situations.

“Where others are worried about safety, I’m less so,” he said. “Not just because I trust God will keep me safe, but because I am at peace with whatever happens, even if I’m not safe.”

The possibility of not being safe became a reality when Bradley was injured while fighting fires earlier in 2020. This has prevented him from helping fight the most current Glass Fire, which came dangerously close to PUC. Like others in the area, Bradley and his family had to evacuate. Because of his previous injury, he wasn’t able to help.

“It’s been a challenging time,” Bradley said about his confinement, when he’d rather be helping put out fires. “My wife is happier about it than I am.”





is getting to know many different people—especially his fellow firefighters as they spend hours or days at a time on the truck going from call to call.

“You’re literally in a truck with the same people 14 days in dangerous situations,” he said. “There’s a brotherhood bond that allows for conversation about life and God.”

Rosa is thankful to have Friday and Sabbath off to enjoy time at church with his family and his church family, but he’s always willing to help when needed on the job.

“Fires don’t stop burning on Sabbath,” he said. “We are doing God’s work by helping protect people and property.”

**Brendon Lew**, who works for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), began his career in firefighting in 2002. At the time, he was working construction and other similar manual labor jobs and wasn’t necessarily looking for anything new, but God had other plans for him.

Lew, a member of The Place church in Newbury Park, California, realized that firefighting offered many different opportunities, beyond just fighting fires, that required skills and experience that he had learned early in life, such as digging ditches. As a trained paramedic, Lew enjoys this aspect of the job as well, which comprises a little over 80% of the calls received.

As much as he enjoys what he does, the work itself is very taxing, mentally and physically, which is where his faith comes into play.

“When I’m extremely tired and down, I know I can pray and God will help me,” Lew said. “My faith also helps me handle problems with His help, and I know He’s always there, day by day.”

That help is particularly needed when 24-hour



shifts take a heavy toll on mind and body, including on home life. Lew is thankful for a supportive wife and family and a close-knit church family that prays for him and for the whole family.

He is also grateful that a flexible work schedule has allowed him to stay active at church, teaching junior high Sabbath School, running audio and livestream at The Place, or going on mission trips.

“Keep your life centered on God, no matter how bad days are,” he said about the source of his strength. “God is always there, and so is your church family.”

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*Cynthia Mendoza, a former journalist, is a freelance writer in Southern California; Faith Hoyt is assistant editor of the Recorder and editor of Newsdesk.*

# Five Elements of Abundance Thinking



## **Grace** *Romans 5:17*

At its root, abundance thinking begins by accepting the gospel—God’s grace freely given to save us. Romans 5:17 says, “It is true that through the sin of one man death began to rule because of that one man. But how much greater is the result of what was done by the one man, Jesus Christ! All who receive God’s abundant grace and are freely put right with him will rule in life through Christ” (GNT). We open ourselves to God’s abundance by first accepting that grace through Jesus.



## **Goodness** *Psalms 50:9-11*

Abundance thinking recognizes God as the Creator of all things. Psalm 50:9-11 says, “I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the field are mine” (NIV). We will believe in God’s abundance if we accept the Lord as Creator and owner of every resource in the universe.



## **Generosity** *Luke 12:15*

Abundance thinking is not tied to how much you own but to how much you give. Luke 12:15 warns us, “Beware! Don’t always be wishing for what you don’t have. For real life and real living are not related to how rich we are” (TLB). We will properly use God’s abundance in our lives when we focus not on how much we gather but on how much we distribute.



## **Gifts** *Matthew 25:21*

Abundance thinking requires an investment of our gifts and talents. “Use it or lose it” is the message of the Parable of the Talents. Matthew 25:21 contains the words of the Master to the servant with five talents: “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (NIV). We will share in God’s abundance when we invest in the gifts and talents given us—great or small.



## **Giving** *Proverbs 12:11*

Abundance thinking does not mean laziness or inattention. Proverbs 12:11 reminds us, “Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense” (NIV). We will enjoy the fruit of abundance by actively participating in service, not by languishing in laziness. Giving abundantly is rooted in the grace and goodness of God. Plentiful giving means we are confident there is always more coming in than is being given away! God invites us to be generous in using our gifts.





# LAUGHING LYMPHOMA AWAY

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON

“You have a malignancy of the stomach.” The physician handed me photographs he had just taken from within my stomach. They showed a mass of nodules; some had red circles around them where my blood was seeping away.

Still dopey from the anesthesia given me before the endoscopy, I struggled to comprehend his words. He went on: "There's a 95 percent likelihood that the cancer is a carcinoma. In that case, the only treatment will be surgery, followed by a long recuperation. The other possibility is that the cancer is a lymphoma, which can be treated without surgery. But the chance that it's lymphoma are so slight—only 4 percent—that you can forget about that possibility. In a few days we will receive the results of the biopsy, and then we will know for certain."

Slowly the reality of what lay ahead began to impact me. I had cancer. Impossible! I ran marathons, blood pressure 120/70, resting heart rate 45. I felt well; no way I had cancer.

A few days later on a bleak Sabbath morning, I put on boots and a heavy coat and went tramping through the snow in a park near our home. A cardinal flashed startling red in the white world. I wondered: Will I be here one year along to see another cardinal in the snow?

As I walked and talked with the Lord, a plan of attack began to crystallize. I would fight this thing with all my might. My strategy would be FEL—faith, exercise, laughter. I would keep on trusting God, come what may. I would keep walking, walking, walking until I couldn't walk any further, until the bad guys in my gut said, "Let's get out of here! This guy's crazy." And I would shame away the cancer by scorning it. No more evening news, no more

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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 59 for information about how to get a pdf copy of the entire book.

As I walked and talked with the Lord, a plan of attack began to crystallize. I would fight this thing with all my might. My strategy would be FEL—faith, exercise, laughter.

downbeat books or movies, only happy endings.

The following day I shared the FEL plan with a wonderful physician friend, Dr. Peter Landless. "Add another L," he exclaimed. "Make it FELL—faith, exercise, laughter, and Landless! I'll be there to see you through."

Tuesday morning, the telephone rang. The surgeon's assistant was on the line: "I'm so sorry," she said. "The biopsy results have just come in. You have lymphoma of the stomach."

Lymphoma! I hung up the phone and shouted, "Praise God! Alleluia! I have lymphoma!"

For many years *Reader's Digest* featured a section titled "Laughter, the Best Medicine." It's still true.

I grew up in a family with nine children during the years of the Great Depression. We were poor, although we didn't think of ourselves in those terms. We laughed a lot in our home.

Dad was a big, strapping Swede. Although serious in demeanor, he loved to tell a joke. We'd sit around the long dining room table with everyone trying to get a word in, then Dad would launch into one of his favorite stories. Although we had heard them all so many times that we knew them by heart, we always stopped talking to hear them again.

He was a lousy storyteller. As the joke unfolded, he'd get more and more involved in it, and he always messed up the punchline because he was laughing so hard. We'd cry out, "What did you say?"



## Dad has long since passed to his rest, and I have my own repertoire of stories that I find funny. My family has heard them over and over.

and he'd repeat the punchline, still garbled, his body shaking with mirth.

Dad's jokes came right out of life and at their best were weak. One of his favorites originated in a stint of jury duty. Whether he actually heard it in court, I can't be sure. It went like this:

Judge to defendant: "Do you mean to tell me that you shot him in self-defense?"

Defendant: "No, Your Honor. I shot him in the backside as he was getting over the fence!"

Dad has long since passed to his rest, and I have my own repertoire of stories that I find funny. My family has heard them over and over.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip. They pitch their tent under the starry heavens, roll out sleeping bags, and settle down for the night.

After several hours, Holmes awakens Watson. "Take a look at the sky," he says, "then tell me what you deduce."

Dr. Watson sees the heavens filled with stars and replies: "I deduce that somewhere amid all the heavenly bodies there must be people like us."

"No, you fool!" snaps Sherlock Holmes. "Someone has stolen our tent!"

Weak? Maybe, but to me it's side-splitting.

How about this one? A priest, a pastor, and a rabbi have a contest to see who is best at their job. They decide to use a bear as their subject.

The priest goes first. He comes back in a short while and says, "That was easy. I sprinkled

him with Holy Water and said 10 Hail Mary's. Soon the bear was down on his knees asking for Communion."

Next the pastor goes out. Pretty soon he returns.

"No sweat," he says. "I gave the bear a sermon, warned him of hellfire, and he asked to be baptized."

The rabbi goes out. They wait and wait...and wait. At last he returns on a stretcher, scratched up and bloodied.

"What happened to you?" they shout.

"Well," says the rabbi, "Maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision!"

Want some more? Sorry, my joke box is shot.

But wait, I have croaker jokes for you. For some weird reason they crack me up. Croaker jokes derive from the original croaker joke: "I'm dying," he croaked. After that, you get to make up your own, such as:

"You treat me like a dog," he barked.

"You drank it all," he whined.

Make your own croaker joke.

Laughter—free, simple gift.

Twelve years along and I'm battling lymphoma again. And some days, I'm laughing it away. I'm learning again the power of this simple gift.



# Campus Ministries Plays a Role in Defining Identity

In our current culture of mask-covered faces and perfect-life social media posts, it can be hard to really know someone. The mask designs or the sayings printed on them have become a form of expression. The number of social media likes and followers define if we are an influencer or not. But once the camera shuts down and the masks are taken off, who are we?

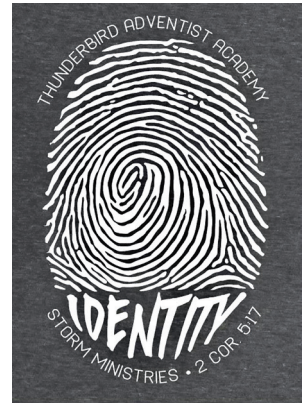
"Who am I?" The question of identity is grappled with by the majority of high school students worldwide, and the students at Thunderbird Adventist Academy (TAA) are no different. What is different for TAA students is the opportunity to explore their identity not just as a person but as a beloved child of God.

Thunderbird Adventist Academy Storm Ministries, led by students under the mentorship of Chaplain Zack Surovec, provides a variety of opportunities for the TAA family to explore and deepen their relationship with Jesus and share through on-campus events, community outreach, mission trips, and various other activities.

In August, the TAA family began a yearlong spiritual journey to learn about identity. The goal is to intentionally explore the questions that come with defining one's identity. The theme originated from a mentor session that Chaplain Zack had with student leaders last school year when this question was posed: "Who are we as a school, as a campus ministries department, as individuals?"

Of his experience, senior Steve Mota shared, "Storm Ministries has helped me grow as a person and as a leader. It has given me many opportunities to grow my identity in Christ and make it real to me and to help other classmates to grow, too. This understanding has also guided me in the career path I believe God is calling me to use my talents for Him. Storm Ministries has grown exponentially since my freshman year, and I am proud to say I took part in that."

Our identity as Thunderbird Adventist Academy is more than a mission statement we quote or the academics we provide. It is the students and staff striving together to reflect Jesus and become new creations in Him.



By Tanna Allison

"This understanding has also guided me in the career path I believe God is calling me to use my talents for Him."



Storm Ministries Leadership (from left to right): Senior Alfredo Trevedan, Student Association Spiritual VP; Senior Steve Mota, Storm Ministries Student Leader; Senior Mahal Tio, Storm Ministries Student Leader; and Chaplain Zack Surovec.



# From San Francisco to the Pacific Islands

*"Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them...Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands" (Isaiah 42:10,12, NIV).*



Pastor Maui'a now reaches many who speak Samoan across the U.S. and the Pacific.

**T**here are no limits to what God can accomplish through His people. The pandemic may have closed church buildings, but it also became a time to "Sing to the Lord a NEW song."

When the South San Francisco Samoan church started to livestream their church service, their average attendance of 50 to 70 people suddenly ballooned to thousands "attending" every week. Averaging between 1,000 to 1,500 and sometimes more, with the first Sabbath in July peaking at 2,393 views, people are listening from across the country and even from New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific islands of Samoa.

Why such an increase? Florencia Tuumu-Vaili (Flo), the church clerk and communication secretary at the time, said, "Having Pastor Manuao Maui'a online opened up an opportunity for Samoan-speaking viewers to hear the Word." The Samoan culture places high value on loyalty to the family. Some family members might like to learn about or even attend a church, but they may not pursue that interest because of the disruption it could cause within their family. "However," Flo explained, "being online provides an innocuous and harmless channel into the homes of many Samoan families." In other words, watching the livestream became a safe way to learn about the Adventist message that might never have happened otherwise.

Starting out as a company in 1966, the South San Francisco Samoan church was the first Samoan

Seventh-day Adventist church in North America. Because most Samoans coming to the U.S. are first-generation immigrants with English as their second language, Samoan-speaking churches are important. Considered the "mother" church to other Samoan congregations in the U.S., South San Francisco Samoan has long felt that starting new churches was a good way to do evangelism. Therefore, members would often financially support their young people in our schools before sending them to plant new churches.

Besides serving as the senior pastor, Maui'a is also the Central California Conference's director of Asian Pacific ministries. He is the author of the Samoan version of the Adult Sabbath School lessons each quarter, and he serves as the leader of the Samoan Ministries Association for the North American Division.

As Maui'a would tell you, it has been an amazing experience to see how many people view the Sabbath morning livestream and to read their numerous testimonies. Many would likely repeat what one viewer from Sydney, Australia, wrote, "Malo, Pastor Manuao. Maui'a le feau i Ienei Sapati." ("Thank you, Pastor Manuao. God bless the preaching of His Word this Sabbath.") God has blessed these new methods so that, as Isaiah exhorted, many more are singing a new song and proclaiming His praise in the islands.

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By Deloris Trujillo

# Soquel Conference Center

## Transitions During Shelter in Place

For the first time in decades, the Central California Conference (CCC) voted during March to cancel Soquel Camp Meeting. Some questioned why they didn't just wait and see how the pandemic would play out before canceling. But God had a different plan for the campground in the months to come.

Everything had screeched to a halt as the coronavirus pandemic made its way to every state in North America. The governor of California announced a shelter-in-place order, and the state stood still to reduce the rapid spread of the virus.

"Shelter in place" means you stay indoors, in your place of residence. Most people stocked up on toilet paper and food and waited at home with their families. But not everyone had a place to shelter in. The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) program of Santa Cruz County serves homeless youth ages 18-24 who have aged out of the foster care system and don't have other assistance as they transition to adulthood.

"The pandemic has affected every segment of society; one of those has been young adults experiencing homelessness in the County of Santa Cruz," explained Ramiro Cano, CCC president. "We have opened the doors to ten trailers to assist up to 30 individuals."

The county worked closely with administration and came to the conclusion that Soquel Conference Center was a perfect emergency, shelter-in-place, 24/7, trailer-based housing option. It was in the middle of the county, met the needed infrastructure of the trailer program, allowed pets, and provided a secure place for the program to continue.

"By opening up our doors to the TAY program, we have provided a safe place where these young people can heal and move on with their lives," said Todd

*"Share your food with the hungry,  
and give shelter to the homeless.  
Give clothes to those who need them, and  
do not hide from relatives who need  
your help" (Isaiah 58:7, NLT).*



PHOTO: SERGIO CANO

Megan Clark, Transitional Age Youth program manager, explains how each trailer houses a family unit while sheltering in place.

Gallemore, Soquel Conference Center manager. "It has also allowed us to continue to build and strengthen our relationship with the County of Santa Cruz, which in turn allowed us to serve as the second-largest evacuation center during the CZU Lightning Complex Fire."

Meg Clark, TAY program manager, and additional county workers provide a diverse range of support services while working closely with Gallemore. The sheltered young adults have individualized case management supporting them with their education and employment goals. In state-provided trailers, TAY family units are sheltered and able to stabilize their independence and live within the community.

"What's it worth? Well, it is what one is willing to pay for it. That is the question we must ask with those experiencing homelessness," said Cano. "The answer is they are worth the life of Jesus Christ who died on the cross for them. In other words, 'priceless.' Opening Soquel campground to the TAY program is an opportunity to express the love of Jesus in a very tangible way." Gallemore echoed Cano's thought, saying, "Being the hands and feet of Jesus is not complicated. It is as easy as opening our hearts and doors and extending the hand of friendship."

*By Sue Schramm*





LEFT: Two little girls help to plant, and we can be sure they will be back later to check on them.  
RIGHT: Two community members with some of the amazing produce they picked.

# Plowing New Ground: Templeton Hills Church Community Gardens

The members of the Templeton Hills church had been praying about how to use their land to bless the community. It occurred to Pastor Zac Page that their big empty field could be a community farm. After talking it over with his wife, they thought of two church members, Matt and Sabrina Giese, and their dream of starting a farm.

*"It's time for my people to plow new ground, to sow righteousness and to reap the fruit of my love" (Hosea 10:12, Clear Word).*

*"New methods and new plans will spring from new circumstances. New thoughts will come with the new workers who give themselves to the work. As they seek the Lord for help, He will communicate with them. They will receive plans devised by the Lord Himself" (Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 476).*

Matt was mowing the church's lawn when Page asked him about the idea. Amazed, Giese turned off the mower and said that he and Sabrina had just been praying and saying, "Wouldn't it be awesome to farm here on the church grounds?"

Although the special projects team began planning, things moved slowly until the school principal called to let Page know there was an opportunity to apply for the creative evangelistic funding from Central California Conference (CCC) and the Pacific Union Evangelism Endowment fund. However, the application was due the very next day. Church leaders quickly decided to move ahead, and their application was approved.

God continued to open doors. Giese, who eventually was hired to manage the farm, wanted a hoop greenhouse for winter and summer use, but tubing alone cost \$3,000. On Craigslist, Giese found everything for a hoop greenhouse for \$700—a greenhouse that was four times larger and had originally cost \$12,000!



To see more, go to <https://www.facebook.com/grow.give.serve> or to [www.instagram.com/templetonhillscommunityfarm](https://www.instagram.com/templetonhillscommunityfarm). Get a glimpse from the drone footage at <https://youtu.be/O6sKqFj1aW0>.



Even the grand opening date in February seemed to be God-timed: just a month later, the pandemic changed everything and the farm became an essential and thriving service to the community.

Testimonies abound as to the impact on members of the community. One community member attended the plant-based meals class at the church. Her husband, who owns an equipment repair shop, was so grateful that he donated \$1,000 to support the farm and offered to fix equipment and lend tools. Other contributions from local businesses include a nursery that donated over 60 fruit trees, an electrician who offered to help as needed, and a family who sold their tractor at a discount because they were moving.

When church member Steve Mulder, an anesthesiologist, was furloughed for several weeks in March, he used his time to work long hours at the farm. Several of his friends came to visit the farm and were very impressed. This included his daughter, Jenny, who hadn't come to church for a long time. Her response was, "This is the best thing the church has ever done." She and her sister regularly volunteer.

Obviously, people from the community enjoy the fresh produce, but they also have become friends with church members. Mike picks up produce and stops to chat when checking on his hive on the property. Bruce, a neighbor, volunteers regularly. Barbara and Joe come faithfully each Sunday and brought 15 community garden club members for a tour. Michelle enjoyed volunteering so much that she posted it on her Facebook page and invited her neighbors to come. She and one of her neighbors now want to learn more about the Bible. Grayson started attending church after the Life Hope Center clinic and then continued because of the farm. He wants to be baptized soon.

The goal of Templeton Hills church's community evangelism project was to build friendships with the community by providing fresh produce and monthly plant-based cooking classes. The garden has already served as a bridge to bring new friends to church and even has brought some former members back. Additionally, it is helping church members to become more involved and the community to see the church in a more positive light. As Page commented, "This is a rapidly growing farm that seems to be a big inspiration to everyone who walks on



ABOVE: Children enjoy harvesting tasty vegetables. A community family displays the variety of beautiful produce they picked. BELOW: Farm manager Matt Giese and daughter pose on the tractor generously sold to them by an outgoing missionary family.



the grounds. We've been amazed every step of the way as God has opened doors over and over for this project that keeps expanding and moving forward."

By Deloris Trujillo



TOP LEFT: 2020 Intern youth pastors pose for a picture during the morning work session (from left to right): Erik VanDenburgh (Hawaii Conference youth director), Lens Farreau, Melanie Ramirez, Danny Perez, Brian Garcia, Lal Chawngthu, Xavier Baca, Aaron Buttery, Kraig Davis (Camp Wai‘anae interim caretaker). TOP RIGHT: Lal Chawngthu clears the ground for weed barrier cloth. BOTTOM LEFT: Intern youth pastors participate in evening worship. BOTTOM RIGHT: Interns remove the hard water calcium deposit ring from top tiles around the pool.



## Building Confidence Amidst Uncertainty

When first starting a job, most new employees go through training in order to be prepared for what is ahead. Typically, our trainers might grant us access to passwords, demonstrate how to use the computer systems, or brief us on essential information regarding our tasks. Training at a conventional workplace doesn't usually involve challenging us to reevaluate our identity or discussions about the importance of the gospel in our lives. But the Hawaii Conference is not a conventional workplace, we interns are not typical new employees, and these are not ordinary times.

As it has in many places, COVID-19 altered the usual schedule and plans for the intern program in the Hawaii Conference. A statewide 14-day quarantine mandate required us to live at Camp Wai‘anae for our first few weeks on the island. A camp that is usually filled with kids and activities during the summer was instead occupied by seven interns who didn't step off the property for two weeks. While many of us had planned to be starting our ministry in our assigned local churches, instead we worked together on manual

labor projects, bonded while playing games, and, most importantly, studied together and were transformed in the Word. Every day we discovered a passage in the Bible that showed the love God has for us and encountered a situation that demonstrated who we are in Him, allowing us to further prepare for our life's purpose and ministry.

Now, quarantine has been lifted and we are no longer at Camp Wai‘anae. We interns are now in our respective churches. Beautiful leis and warm smiles greeted us as we met the congregations to whom we will minister for the next year. Many things are different, but the church family and their appreciation will never change.

As a recent graduate, I never imagined being quarantined with fellow interns in Hawaii, surrounded by breathtaking nature and the uncertainty of how our ministry might look going ahead. Yet this uncertainty provided a perfect place for us to position our confidence in the One who matters most.

*By Melanie Ramirez*

# Ministry **with a Twist**

**A**lthough young people have not been able to gather together in church services because of the pandemic, the Kapolei Sāmoan Seventh-day Adventist Youth (KSY) have continued to claim 2020 through creative and innovative ways, including digital services, Bible studies, small groups, social events (e.g., beach picnics, sports night at the park), and more. However, one activity that stands out more than the rest is a visiting ministry.

The ministry is structured around important concepts that honor the values of their Sāmoan heritage. In the event of an opportunity for ministry, the members of KSY keep three core pillars in the forefront.

## **Humility**

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God” (1 Peter 5:6, ESV).

The visit begins with the youth sitting on the floor of the home, regardless of condition. In the Sāmoan culture, sitting on the floor is a gesture of humility, showing that one is less important. It is an act that brings the youth to a level of humbleness. The visits are not made for recognition or to count every good deed done. They truly are made for one purpose: to serve.

## **Sharing the love of Christ**

“Music...is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth” (Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By*, p. 273).



Social events help keep the unity and engagement of the youth.



Kapolei Sāmoan SDA Youth of Honolulu, Hawai'i

The brief visit combines prayers, words of encouragement, gift-giving, and the pinnacle of it all: the melodious singing of hymns. Sāmoan hymns are traditionally sung a cappella, in a beautiful weaving of harmony. The singing soothes the brokenhearted, uplifts the aching soul, and brings strength to the spirit.

## **Giving**

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NKJV).

Before heading to a person's home for the visit, the youth prepare gifts in the form of food, cases of water or juice, and/or monetary donations. The sacrificial giving has been a spiritual growth experience for the youth, considering that three-fourths of them are not working. The ministry provides avenues for the youth to witness, but it is also a way for them to build their spiritual lives through the act of service.

The past couple of months have been filled with uncertainty, but KSY continues to take every opportunity to witness with grace and love. The gospel of Christ continues to thrive in Hawaii, even in the midst of the pandemic.

*By Landen Muasau*





 **HOLBROOK**  
INDIAN SCHOOL

# The First Fruits: Alumni Stories

With all the uncertainty this year has brought, it is wonderful to have some tangible tokens of assurance. Three alumni of Holbrook Indian School (HIS) are dedicating their time and talents to give back to their alma mater by working as full-time staff. For all those invested in what we do at HIS, this is a welcome note of encouragement. Seeing our students rise above the challenges of their backgrounds and break the cycle of poverty and abuse—this is the reason Holbrook Indian School was founded.

Shanel Draper, Adrain Wiles, and Terrell Bahe are among our many students who pass through HIS and go on to do great things. These three, however, have the unique opportunity to directly impact those coming after them.

In all honesty, not all of our students graduate. Each of them faces unique difficulties. We know there are results that will be seen on the other side of eternity, but it is refreshing to witness some tangible tokens of assurance today—the first fruits.

## Shanel Draper



At Holbrook Indian School, I work as the Scholarship Coordinator. I work with the students and their parents to obtain scholarships for the students' tuition. Some of our students will come up to me and ask about scholarships, and I help them as best as I can. I know that having issues at home or not being able to go home takes a toll on our students. [The threat of COVID-19 on the reservations, where many of our students live, has caused HIS to suspend home leaves for this semester. This is to prevent any spread that could occur when students return to campus from a home leave]. I try to make Holbrook a comfortable place for the students by laughing with them or giving them a smile in passing, knowing that it is hard for them not seeing family as often as they want to.

During my time as a student, I had staff members who were there for me, and I thank them for that. I was broken in so many ways. I am in the process of becoming a mentor, and it's quite nice. A mentor is someone who shows that they care and will not give up on them no matter what. The moments that I treasure are those spent with our students, as I gradually get to know them. They all have very different personalities. To see their faces light up or fill with laughter—those are the memories I treasure.

## Adrain Wiles

I started working as the Assistant Boys' Dean on campus this school year. When I first came to Holbrook as a third-grade student, I went to my dorm room and cried. It's hard leaving family. At the start of this school year, I noticed there were a couple of the boys crying in the dorms. That brought back those memories for me. I was able to empathize with them. I told them, "I was in your situation." I told them my story of when I first got here.



Some of the personal struggles that the boys come to me with are about showing emotions and relationships. One of them asked me, "How do I deal with anger?" I tell them to try playing basketball. While I was a student, we had a low-hanging basketball hoop installed on campus for us younger ones. I would vent out my emotions by dunking.

For dorm worship, I shared my testimony on how I overcame a lot of obstacles. I told the boys, "I'm glad I grew up with a hard life because I wouldn't be the man I am right now."

## Terrell Bahe

I recently started working as the Boys' Task Force Dean this school year. I came to HIS in 8th grade, but I was in tears the day I arrived here for registration. Now, as I see the little ones, I understand that they miss their parents.



At Holbrook, we are responsible for passing on a lot of fundamental education not being taught at home. We are introducing the boys to the ideas of how to be a gentleman—such as hygiene, respect, and manners. It is a major component that is lacking for many growing up on the reservation. I believe the reason for that is because a lot of our students' parents do not have any formal education. There is a strong correlation between education and respect and manners. As a student at HIS, I had to learn this.

After I graduated, I knew I was coming back to Holbrook. I made it my mission to come back. This place has always been home.

*By Chevone Petgrave, Shanel Draper, Adrain Wiles, and Terrell Bahe*



Providing our students with healthy meals is a major priority at Holbrook Indian School (HIS). We make our meals from scratch, which, consequently, incurs greater costs. Help us continue to provide our students with nutritionally balanced meals by participating in our Giving Tuesday campaign for 2020.

Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement, built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses, and communities in all 50 states and in countries around the world. It's a communal method of giving to a specific cause that matters to you. At HIS, we are calling our campaign **#GivingHISday**.

This year GivingTuesday/#GivingHISday falls on December 1. To learn more about how you can help a student, visit [HolbrookIndianSchool.org/GivingHISday](https://HolbrookIndianSchool.org/GivingHISday).

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

### DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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# Is it the Flu or COVID-19? Here's What Doctors Say



Flu season is right around the corner. Like years before, doctors recommend taking preventative measures like washing your hands and covering your mouth and nose—advice that seems commonplace in an era of COVID-19.

The threat of flu paired with COVID-19 could be extremely dangerous; however, using proper precautions and knowing the symptoms can help limit the spread, said Ara Chrissian, MD, an interventional pulmonologist and critical care physician at Loma Linda University Health who regularly cares for patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

“By not taking preventative measures, such as the recommended flu vaccine, the flu season and the coronavirus pandemic could synergistically overwhelm the healthcare system,” Chrissian said.

The two viruses spread in a similar manner: mainly through respiratory droplets created during talking, coughing, or sneezing. The flu and COVID-19 viruses also have many symptoms in common. “They both can cause fever, cough, shortness of breath, headache, stuffy nose, body aches, sore throat, and exhaustion or fatigue. These symptoms alone cannot be used to differentiate between the two,” Chrissian said. “However, understanding some differences may help us suspect one over the other, optimize therapy, and aid in limiting spread.”

## Flu, not COVID-19

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adults who have the flu seem to be most contagious during the first four days of illness but may remain contagious for up to seven days. Most people who get the flu will recover in a few days, and if they don't develop complications, they can avoid hospitalization and recover completely. Fortunately for patients who require medical attention, healthcare professionals are no stranger to the flu and are well equipped to treat it.

For flu patients, FDA-approved prescription influenza antiviral drugs are a great line of defense. “Those who may be hospitalized with flu or at higher risk for flu complications are treated with antiviral drugs as soon as possible and watched for new or worsening symptoms by providers who know how to fight this familiar beast,” Chrissian said.

Perhaps the most considerable difference in the

two respiratory viruses is the availability of preventative treatments. “There are several approved influenza vaccines created each year in anticipation of the viruses likely to circulate that season,” Chrissian said. “The best and simplest way to protect yourself from the flu and help reduce the spread of the virus is to get vaccinated. There is as yet no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.”

## COVID-19, not flu

A characteristic symptom of COVID-19 is a change in or loss of taste or smell. While this does not occur in everyone who gets COVID-19 and is also a symptom seen with common cold viral infections, it has not been associated with the flu. Additionally, if you know when you were exposed to someone with an illness, you can have a better idea of how long you may be contagious, even if you have mild or no symptoms.

“A person with COVID-19 can potentially spread the virus for up to twice as long as someone with the flu,” Chrissian said. “However, there are likely many factors that contribute to one's contagiousness, which we are still learning.” The higher degree and duration of contagion seems to be especially notable in the elderly and those with certain underlying health conditions.

The CDC also states that COVID-19 has been linked to more superspreading events than flu, meaning the virus spreads more quickly and easily than influenza.

There are also additional complications common with COVID-19 that are not consistent with the flu, including multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children and the development of blood clots in the veins and arteries, leading to a stroke or heart attack.

When treating COVID-19, providers stay updated as new treatment options and a better understanding of the virus emerges. “We are still learning the full extent of how the virus impacts the body. Many studies, both nationally and globally, are underway to find the best treatments,” Chrissian said.

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By *Janelle Ringer*

# 48 Hours to Leave

**G**laucia Monteiro was studying French in Collonges-sous-Salève, like many La Sierra University students do each year. She enjoyed immersing herself in another culture and traveling across Europe. The upcoming spring quarter promised many things, including completing government testing for competency in the language and finishing her minor.

But in early March, the spreading COVID-19 pandemic changed everything. Glaucia's year abroad was cut short when she was given a mere 48 hours to leave the country before the borders closed in an attempt to keep the virus from moving further across France. "There was only one option for me," said Glaucia of the sudden and unexpected experience. "Returning home."

It happened quickly; Glaucia and her fellow American classmates didn't have time to say proper goodbyes to their new friends in France. "And with all the crazy screenings, I was even afraid to cry lest my grief would be mistaken for a COVID-19 symptoms and land me in quarantine or worse," Glaucia said of her stressful time in the French airport.

When she arrived back in the United States, there were even more complications. La Sierra's campus had been shut down, and Glaucia had to find a way to stay in school from her family home in Massachusetts. She lost her music scholarship, didn't have a job, and wasn't sure how she was going to pay for her upcoming spring quarter courses—let alone how she would be able to afford the 2020-21 school year.

"My mother works in a factory and barely makes ends meet," Glaucia explained. "Before the pandemic, I was supporting myself financially by working and with scholarships." So when she received a form from La Sierra in her email inbox to help determine student need, she filled it out immediately. Before long, Glaucia received word that she qualified for relief and wouldn't have to drop out of school as she had feared.

With the help of the Emergency Student Aid Fund,



Glaucia was able to enroll in both her spring and fall quarter classes without falling behind on her Religious Studies degree. For her, and countless others like her, scholarships are the difference between attending and not attending a private Christian college.

When asked what she would say to the donors who sponsored the fund, Glaucia emphasized that without the help she received from La Sierra, she would be studying at a state school and earning a different major. "I would be missing out on growing my relationship with God through La Sierra's supportive online culture," she said. "This made continuing my education and Christian experience possible." Thanks to her financial aid, Glaucia remains on track to complete her degree in spring of 2021.

*Hundreds of La Sierra's students have been struggling over the last several months due to the impact of COVID-19. But kindhearted contributors have helped reverse the striking socioeconomic complications of the pandemic on the lives of many of our young scholars. To make a contribution, please visit <https://lasierra.edu/donate/>.*

This story originally appeared in magazine.lasierra.edu.

By Natalie Romero





Devin and Kailani Norris of the Abundant Life church say yes to being God's heroes.

# Young Heroes Wanted

## Capes and Masks Optional

Move over Marvel and DC Comics—Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC) Children's Ministries is grooming a new generation of young heroes! From August 3-7, children and entire families enjoyed virtual Vacation Bible School (VBS) from the safety of their homes. Utilizing the Heroes curriculum produced by the North American Division, the NUC Children's Ministries team offered VBS in English and in Spanish. Children, teens, and adults from around the conference learned about the bravery of Miriam, the devotion of Samuel, the boldness of Rhoda, and other Bible children who God used in small ways to make a big difference.

While no child wants the best week of the summer to end, NUC finished VBS with Heroes Children's Sabbath celebrations in English and Spanish. Children led both worship services from prayer and praise to raising funds for the Adventist



the BIBLE and the cross



sword of the spirit and the shield of faith

FAR LEFT: Erianna Washburn of West Jordan church shows her VBS carpentry shop creation. LEFT: Micah Washburn of West Jordan church shows his VBS carpentry shop creation.





**FAR LEFT:** MyCaia Navarro created a Caring Girl hero. **LEFT:** Maia Navarro created a Brave Girl hero.

Development and Relief Agency's Every Child Everywhere in School project. Jeremiah Green, children and

family life pastor at Mt. Rubidoux church in the Southeastern California Conference, and Angel Heredia, senior pastor of NUC's Mountain View church, invited children and their parents to be real-life heroes by committing their lives to Christ.

The final program was a kindness rock painting project led by Cassie Navarro and Abby Pozo.

Children committed to trusting Jesus, our Rock, to help them be brave, devoted, caring, bold, and generous everyday heroes. (Watch the Children's Sabbath program in English at NUYouth YouTube channel and in Spanish at Nevada-Utah Seventh-day Adventists YouTube Channel.)

*By Darriel Hoy*



**ABOVE:** Mario Navarro III displays his kindness rock.



**ABOVE LEFT:** Carly, Sammy, and Danny Camacho creatively share the memory verse for children's church. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Ruben Ramos Jr. of Maranatha sings for Children's Sabbath in Spanish.



**LEFT:** Paradise Adventurer club member Aimar Vargas leads the pledge to the Bible in Spanish.





# NCC Young Adults Build Relationships with the Unhoused Residents on the Streets of Sacramento



“What can we do to serve our community better?” Little did the Northern California Conference Young Adult Committee (NCC YAC) know as they prayed this how God was going to answer their question.

Led by the Holy Spirit, the NCC YAC connected with Bo Kim, homeless director at the Loma Linda University church and founder of Fusion San Bernardino Ministries (FSBM). In less than a week, and in partnership with FSBM, NCC YAC developed a full three-day ministry over Labor Day weekend. They invited all NCC young adults to Sacramento to minister to its unhoused residents.

On Friday, 25 young adults showed up. By Sabbath, over 100 were feeding and fellowshiping with this forgotten and vulnerable population. Throughout the weekend, these compassionate young adult volunteers gave away a total of 375 food bags, water bottles, hygiene kits, and GLOW tracts.

But beyond this, they did even more. “Fusion is more than just feeding the homeless; it’s about building relationships and connections with God’s people,” said Jade Tuleu, NCC YAC member who spearheaded the effort. “Jesus says in Luke 17:21, ‘for the Kingdom of God is already among you.’ I truly believe that the kingdom of God that Jesus speaks of is truly here among us. The kingdom of God is made up of all of God’s children. It’s our relationships with friends, family, and strangers—whether rich or poor, happy or sad.”

“Not only did we give people things they needed, we sat down, ate, and conversed with them,” said Vacaville/Woodland district Pastor Dan Garza, who attended the event. “We really got to know them.”

## A Volunteer’s Story

During our time in Sacramento, we sat with Nick as he shared the trap of homelessness. He’s stuck, panhandles in order to survive, and feels hopeless. The only time he can get a grasp on his life is when he is near his mom’s house. He gave his mom a call over my phone, saying, “It’s your son,” and continued: “I need you, Mom, I need your support. It’s too hard out here, and the only way I can get better is with your support.”

I’ve realized the importance of connection, love, and support to fight personal addiction. Sobriety is not the opposite of addiction; it’s connection—true, non-judgmental acceptance and affection.

*By Lariza Tarango*

*By Laurie Trujillo*



Foothills Adventist Elementary School before



and during the Glass Fire

# NCC Community Comes Together During Disaster

In late September and early October, a number of fires raged within the Northern California Conference (NCC) territory, causing mass evacuations. By the first week in October, the Glass Fire and North Complex West Zone Fire had destroyed 39 homes belonging to church members and NCC employees. (The number may go up as more reports come in.) No church members' lives have been lost.

## Deer Park

The Glass Fire hit the Deer Park area—a few miles southwest of Angwin—especially hard, burning 20 homes belonging to church members. On the campus of Foothills

Adventist Elementary School, the fire destroyed Baldwin Hall, which housed the upper-grades classrooms, music room, library, kitchen, and school office. “When we picked our spiritual and curricular theme this year, we chose ‘resilience,’” said Principal Rob Ingham. “We wanted to inspire resilience in our students and school family. Little did we know the trials that the start of this year would bring!”

The fire also destroyed The Haven church’s thrift store, which sold clothes, furniture, books, and other items. Profits were used for church and community ministries, as well as scholarships for students at Foothills and PUC Elementary School. Through the years, people visited the store just to talk to deacon Hurshal Woodruff, known by many as the “mayor of Deer Park,” a daily volunteer.

“The store was not just a place where people could get used items for a really great price, it was also a

**Continued on page 38**





Continued from page 37

place where they could have community,” said The Haven church Pastor Josie Asencio. “It’s a big loss.”

Elmshaven, the final home of Ellen White, is still standing, along with the other buildings on its property. Many area residents and firefighters were certain the structures would burn, since they are located on Glass Mountain Road, near where the severity of the fire was first reported. “We praise the Lord that He has saved Elmshaven,” said manager Abner Castañón, during a video tour of the property posted on the “Elmshaven Landmark” Facebook page.

#### Disaster response

A week before the outbreak of the fires, NCC administrators put together the Disaster Response Team and established the NCC Disaster Relief Fund. Already donors throughout California and other states have



PHOTO: FACEBOOK - THE HAVEN THRIFT



PHOTO: JOSIE ASENCIO

made contributions. All donations will be used to meet the immediate and emergent needs of members and those connected to the local church within the first seven days after disaster strikes. “Local pastors are our eyes and ears on the ground—able to identify members and related community who need cash assistance immediately,” said Laurie Trujillo, director of communication and development. “Thanks to the donors of the Disaster Relief Fund, we are able to respond quickly to people’s

needs.” Visit [nccsda.com](http://nccsda.com) to make a donation.

The Disaster Response Team plans for a coordinated and effective response to future disasters, including oversight of the relief fund. The team consists of the communication and development director, the risk management director, the Adventist Community Services director, and two additional members who have experience with disaster response. Adventist Laymen’s

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\*certain limitations apply

Services & Industries (ASI) Pacific Union President Patti Guthrie is serving as an advisor.

“The 2018 Camp Fire and these current fires tell us that the NCC needs to develop a way to respond quickly and deploy resources to help members and those connected to our churches all over our territory,” said Trujillo.

### Interconnected family

Many people and organizations throughout the NCC have stepped up to support church members and others driven from their homes by the fires. To name just a few, Adventist Health, the Fairfield Community church, The Haven church, Napa Christian Campus of Education, the Napa Community church, the Pacific Union College church, and the NCC provided food in

the Napa Valley area. Adventist Health donated food and other items that pastors, members, and PUC students distributed in Calistoga and Yountville. Willie Johnson, African American ministries coordinator/urban ministries director, is working with three churches that have clothing banks to prepare clothes for people to pick up at drive-through distribution areas. The Carmichael church and The Veg Hub ministry have also volunteered resources.

“The NCC is not an office building in Roseville; it’s the 41,000 members spread throughout our territory,” said President Marc Woodson. “When disaster strikes, it impacts all of us. We are an interconnected family.”

By Julie Lorenz



LEFT: Members of the Home and School group at Napa Christian Campus of Education serve dinner to evacuees.

RIGHT: At the Napa Community church, people gather for a pizza supper, provided by several churches and the NCC.

We still **Believe**

**NCCSDA**  
November 4-7, 2020

**Prayer and Praise**  
November 4-6 | 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**Mid-term Report**  
November 7 | 4:30-6:00 p.m.





# PUC Sees Enrollment Growth in Fall 2020

Pacific Union College (PUC) began classes this fall quarter with an increase in enrollment, breaking the nationwide trend of enrollment decreases. The college saw a 4% increase in overall headcount, while higher education institutions across the country saw an average 3.8% decrease.

The census date headcount for fall 2020 stands at 966, compared to 929 last year, and is the first enrollment increase PUC has seen in six years. This is especially notable because of the COVID-19 pandemic that is putting a strain on schools.

Although the increase is due to many factors, some of the more notable contributions can be tied to a growth in transfer students, nursing students, students from the local area, and former students who had taken a break but have now re-enrolled.

"I'm proud of the significant efforts done by our admissions and marketing teams, as well as the support they received from the entire campus. During the 2019-2020 school year, Pacific Union College began a well-thought-out, three-year turnaround plan. This plan, supported by the board, employees, and administration, is beginning to yield results. These positive results not only represent the hard work of our campus but also stand as a sign of PUC's academic excellence," said PUC President Bob Cushman.

PUC has continued its tradition of enrolling a diverse and spiritually active student body. The majority come from the Seventh-day Adventist tradition, but more than 25% come from other denominational backgrounds.

PUC also welcomed 24 high school students this fall

for a free online class. "While moving online last spring, we decided to take advantage of the opportunity and offer one free class to graduating high school seniors," said Associate Vice President of Enrollment, Marketing, and Communication Haley Wesley.

This online program was a success, with about 65% of those first-time students enrolling full-time as regular students at PUC this fall. "Our excellent faculty were able to give these introductory students a great experience, which brought them into the PUC family permanently! Because of the overwhelming success, we are continuing this program into the 2020-2021 academic year," said Wesley.

"We are proud of our growth, and especially the reversal of the six-year downward trend in enrollment," said Vice President of Enrollment, Marketing, and Communication Gene Edelbach. "Doing all this during the time of COVID-19, and challenging nationwide enrollment declines, says a great deal about the positive direction in which PUC is now headed. We have exciting plans to continue this growth, with or without COVID. The significant difference we've seen is thanks to the buy-in across our campus in the turnaround plan, as well as the resilience of the PUC family during our difficulties, and the concentrated campus-wide efforts and incredibly hard work of our enrollment, admissions, and marketing teams. We are grateful for all the prayers, support, and encouragement we've received—and for God's blessing and intervention.

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*By Ashley Eisele*

# Executive Mission Formation

Adventist Health's System Board recently tasked the Office of Mission to continually clarify the Adventist Health mission and to appropriately and proactively guard the organization from mission drift. Alex Bryan, Chief Mission Officer, immediately began constructing designs for leadership training and initiatives focusing on alignment to the mission of Adventist Health.

As a result, the Executive Mission Formation curriculum has been established. This includes an annual three-day learning experience and ongoing reading, reflection, and mentorship throughout the year, with participation from all executive-level leaders expected. The curriculum is designed to help all executives (regardless of personal theological beliefs or religious practices) to manage the company aligned to Adventist Health's mission identity—leading with fidelity to our story, our mission statement, our values, and our church heritage.

Continual clarification of the Adventist Health mission, finding purpose, and protecting the heritage of the organization is more important now than ever. "Moral leadership matters," said Alex Bryan. "The personal character and ethical impulses of leaders in an organization have a direct impact on the values, priorities, and commitments of that organization. Executive Mission Formation is designed to grow our leaders in the ways and means of Jesus. In church-world there's a name for this: discipleship."

With the constant change in the healthcare environment and our world, fidelity to the Adventist Health mission is more important than ever before. Staying true to our values while also using the heritage of the organization as a catalyst for continuing to move forward will prove to be interesting but important work. "The apostle Paul challenges us not to passively 'conform to the pattern of this world but [to] be transformed by the renewing of [our] mind[s]'" explains Alex. "This

"Executive Mission Formation is designed to grow our leaders in the ways and means of Jesus. In church-world there's a name for this: discipleship."

(the Executive Mission Formation program) is serious, proactive work."

To lead the curriculum and program, the Office of Mission has asked longtime Adventist Health associate Kristine Johnson to step into the new role of managing the program and coordinating all aspects of the curriculum. "Kristine Johnson has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ, a faithful investment of nearly two decades in the healing ministry of Adventist Health, a unique ability to connect with people in a mature and inspiring way, and a unique skill-set in producing quality learning experiences" said Alex. "Kristine will be collaborating with the entire Office of Mission team in building faculty, curriculum, and ongoing learning experiences that will positively impact the missional growth of nearly 200 executives and other strategic leaders."

Kristine Johnson's deep appreciation of our mission was clearly echoed in her reflection on the future. "With a mission statement as aspirational and important as 'Living God's love,' it's essential that we dedicate the time and energy to discover, develop, and demonstrate the characteristics and behaviors to the leaders of this organization." She continued, "The Executive Mission Formation will be the foundation that sets our hearts and minds on the course that will allow the organization to live our mission in an impactful way."

The Office of Mission will launch the program starting early 2021 as we develop the integrity initiative. It will include participation from every executive in the organization, and will provide space for board members and other key stakeholders. For the latest updates, download the Simply Mission app at [www.AdventistHealth.org/SimplyMission](http://www.AdventistHealth.org/SimplyMission).

By *Brendan Collins*





# Hello, I Am...:

## First Virtual Youth Leadership Convention Presents Possibilities

Adapting events to follow COVID-19 restrictions and precautions has become part of what is dubbed the “new normal.” For the Southeastern California Conference youth ministries team coordinating this year’s annual Youth Leadership Convention, this involved many hours in a hot and humid warehouse, being gnawed on by mosquitos, and using empty pallets screwed together to create different film sets with a roll-up loading dock door as a backdrop.

“Often we take this crisis box and try to shove into it all the traditional ways we do things, and they just don’t fit,” said Patty Marruffo, associate youth director. “This year, out of necessity, we stepped out of the traditional format and expanded our convention into something even more than we expected.”

This annual event brings together conference youth leaders to “explore, learn, and advance their leadership abilities into the future,” Marruffo explained. With three socially-distanced film sets in the conference warehouse, event hosts led participants through various workshops presented virtually by various leaders on topics relevant to young people and their leaders today. Topics included Pathfinder club organization, friend choices and spiritual development, teaching children to think, interactive storytelling, understanding youth culture, racial reconciliation and privilege, mental health and COVID-19, and many more.

“We set up tracks this year specifically to allow for open and honest dialogue on issues that are relevant and important to young people and their leaders today,” Marruffo said. “This included a track to address racism, diversity, and inclusion.”

The theme this year, chosen by conference youth, was “Hello, I am...” inspired by Isaiah 43:1, which states, “I have called you by name, you are mine” (ESV).

“Our youth interpret this verse as an anthem that compels us to respect, acknowledge, and love people from all backgrounds the way Jesus loves each of us,” Marruffo explained.

The keynote speaker was Marlene Ferreras, assistant professor at La Sierra University. Her message was a unique and innovative look at the intersection between



Patty Marruffo, associate youth director, hosts during the first-ever virtual Youth Leadership Convention. The team set up several socially-distanced sets in the conference warehouse.

social science and theology.

What made this year’s event particularly unique—aside from the virtual element—was the intense engagement made possible by using an app rather than being face-to-face. The app allowed participants to create community boards on specific workshop topics and arrange virtual meetups to network. By the end of the event, nearly 19,000 interactions had taken place on over 230 community board topics, and 52 virtual meetups had been organized by attendees. And, though it was impossible for anyone to attend each of the workshops during the event, all of them were recorded and will remain available for six months so registrants can return to the app and continue to learn from the convention.

“Our prayer is that those who attended go away blessed, equipped, and motivated to continue honoring God through their service to young people,” Marruffo said. “I’d like to incorporate what we’ve developed this year into future events. The more we can connect these leaders to resources and to each other, the better off our entire conference will be.”

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*By Becky St. Clair*



During the ordination service Jonathan Park, executive secretary, shares words of wisdom as well as some reminders about the importance of pastoral ministry as Deirdre Solomon and her husband, Kevin, listen in.

## Deirdre Solomon is Ordained at Arlington Church

On August 29, Deirdre Solomon, associate pastor at Arlington church, was ordained. This was the first ordination service in Southeastern California Conference since COVID-19 restrictions began, and her ordination ceremony was celebrated by church members, conference officials, and family and friends in the fresh air outside of the sanctuary. Along with her parents and her two children, Gideon and Kara, she was joined by ordained ministers from her own family. Her husband, Kevin Solomon, is pastor of the All Nations church in Monrovia; her sister, Raelyn Orlich, is an associate pastor at La Sierra University church; and her cousin, Rochelle Webster, is the senior pastor at Paradise Valley church.

As the associate pastor at her church, Solomon preaches two monthly sermons; one in the main sanctuary and an additional message with an interpreter for the Vietnamese-speaking congregation that meets in the chapel. She also leads out in children's, youth, and young adult ministries and coordinates monthly youth vespers, Bible studies, and an Adventurers program.

"I was a little concerned when Sabbath School

moved to the Zoom format, but our teachers have been wonderful, and the youngest members of our church have really been engaged with our program" she shared. Despite the social distancing, Solomon has enjoyed the one-on-one connections that she has been able to form while welcoming youth and young families to the church.

Her pastoral journey began when she served as class pastor during her senior year at Andrews Academy. After completing a degree in theology from La Sierra University, she returned to Michigan to earn her Master of Divinity. While at Andrews University, she met her future husband, Kevin, who was also studying at the seminary. After graduation, the two pastors returned to California to serve their church congregations in 2013. Her ordination is the next step on her pastoral journey.

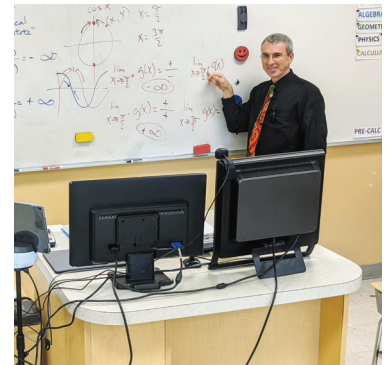
Reflecting on her ordination, Solomon said, "Since the service, I have felt spiritually revived. My time with God has grown deeper, and I feel free to be the pastor that God has created me to be."

*By Tricia Murdoch Zmaj*



LEFT: Carrie Carreon, third and fourth grade teachers, uses a drawer organizer as a laptop stand to enable that students can clearly see what she is writing on the board.

FAR LEFT: Mikal Clark, the high school math teacher, teaches algebra online.



## Called to a Mission: Calexico Mission School Faces COVID-19

Schools around the world have experienced challenges adjusting to their new normal, but Calexico Mission School (CMS) faces some unique challenges. Eighty-five percent of the student body of CMS are Mexican residents, due to its location on the Mexico-California border. In pre-COVID times, these students would stand in line at a port of entry for an hour or more each morning before school, then walk the ten minutes to CMS.

“Mission isn’t just in our name to sound cool,” said Oscar Olivarria, principal. “We are serving a community that is mostly non-Adventist. However, contrary to what most people think, a lot of these students are also U.S. citizens, though their parents are not.”

When COVID-19 closed schools around the world, it also closed international borders. This meant that even when CMS qualified for a state waiver to reopen, there was little point, since a vast majority of their students could not or would not return to class. When education was deemed “essential travel” so students could cross the border for school, many parents, because they could not accompany their children, did not feel safe sending their kids back to school.

Unlike the U.S. government, the Mexican government did not provide stimulus checks or unemployment benefits to its citizens, so many CMS families have had a difficult time navigating finances in recent months. As a result, enrollment at CMS has dropped by 20 percent.

Technology has also been a concern.

“Many of our families have access to devices, so distance learning is possible,” Olivarria explained.

“However, we do have some whose sole device is a cell phone, making online assignments nearly impossible.”

Virtual learning poses another challenge when you consider the low percentage of parents who are able to speak and read English well enough to help their children with their classwork.

“Families view us as a language school, mostly,” Olivarria explained. “They send their kids to school here because they know their children will learn English, and they know being bilingual will boost their chances for success. Like all parents, they want their kids to have better opportunities than they did.”

Olivarria also emphasizes the incredible work the CMS teachers have done, adapting on the fly over and over again, with high expectations and long days. “What they’re doing essentially places them, in my mind, right up there with frontline workers,” he said.

The number of challenges facing CMS seems insurmountable some days. Being located in the county with the highest number of COVID cases per capita does not help, but Olivarria said he and his team of teachers are called to a mission, and in this they find courage and motivation.

“Every single one of our team members has a story about how God led them here,” he shared. “God has put these students in our paths, and we’re going to do our best to minister to them, hoping that whatever we put in their hearts is going to lead them in a direction to see God’s plans for their lives fulfilled.”

*By Becky St. Clair*

# The Next Normal<sup>x</sup>: Meeting the Needs of Black Evangelism

For most of 2020, the nation has been struggling with a pandemic that disproportionately impacts communities of color; in addition, we have been confronting the social injustices of the African American experience. To meet the needs for future evangelism for the Black community, the Southeastern California Conference's Black Ministries, the North American Division's ministerial department, Breath of Life Television Ministries, and *Message* magazine joined to sponsor a new evangelistic series: The Next Normal<sup>x</sup>.

"After the upheaval of the last year, there is no going back to normal," said Marquis Johns, Black ministries evangelist and host of the event. "In the title of The Next Normal<sup>x</sup>, X stands for the unknown. This series represents a departure from the old normal and discovering a new way of fulfilling the Lord's work." Through his relationships throughout the Black Christian movement, Johns pulled together an inspiring lineup of speakers. According to Johns, the presenters were able to equip listeners with tools designed to help minister in a way that is "unapologetically Black."

Meeting in an online format from September 15-17, The Next Normal<sup>x</sup> featured speakers who addressed subjects such as the history and future of evangelism in the African American Seventh-day Adventist context, community development and engagement, racialized trauma, and pertinent topics for pastors and laypeople.

Johns highlighted the interactive component employed after each presentation that allowed the audience to fully benefit from each of the speakers' insights. "For example," said Johns, "on the second night, W. Franklyn Richardson of the National Action Networks discussed how a social justice hermeneutic should inform the programs on the outside and inside

of an African American church. After his presentation, a panel of Black millennial pastors discussed the ideas while answering questions from YouTube and Facebook users." As the panel met with the wider online audience, Johns said, "SECC pastors were able to pose questions to the speaker in a separate Zoom setting."

Allowing each of the speakers' ideas to be discussed in real time while allowing pastors to ask questions in a small group was a great way to capitalize on the rich content on each of the evenings. Johns shared that he hopes The Next Normal<sup>x</sup> was a step in the right direction toward allowing Black pastors to share the unique Adventist message in a way that allows them to be both unapologetically Black and Christian.

By Tricia Murdoch Zmaj





# God Uses Bible Work

## for Baptisms at Pasadena Church

The coronavirus pandemic has changed the nature of work for Bible workers at local churches. It is challenging to knock on doors and meet people in their homes now due to social distancing restrictions and health and safety concerns for both Bible workers and residents. Despite this setback, Ryan Lacson, who was a Bible worker at Pasadena church this summer and is now working as a CROSS Trainer at the Sunland-Tujunga and Living Stones churches, continued to pray he'd find someone to study with who was searching for the truth.

Thelma, a Christian who lived in the Pasadena community, began to feel a negative presence in her home. Determined to rid herself of this negativity, she felt impressed to go to church. The Pasadena church is surrounded by several churches of different denominations; however, Thelma felt guided by the Holy Spirit to stop by this particular church. One Sabbath afternoon, after many had gone home following outdoor worship services, Thelma visited, looking to talk to someone. Lacson saw her first and, later, connected her with Michael Johnson, senior pastor of Pasadena church.

"God led someone to us," Lacson said. "This was a divine appointment. If we hadn't been there at that time, we probably wouldn't have met."

God was also stirring the heart of Kris, who recently transferred to Pasadena church. He felt convicted to study so that he could learn more about Bible truth and have a deeper relationship with God.

After months of study over the summer with Lacson, both Thelma and Kris made decisions for baptism. Thelma was baptized September 12, and Kris was rebaptized the following week on September 19.

According to Thelma, she feels safe and closer to God after her baptism. Her hope is that she'll keep building her



PHOTOS: LAUREN LACSON

LEFT: Kris is rebaptized. RIGHT: Lacson (left) shares how Thelma first came to Pasadena church.

**"God led someone to us. This was a divine appointment. If we hadn't been there at that time, we probably wouldn't have met."**

faith in God and share God with others.

"Being baptized allows me to be closer to our Savior and guides me in the direction of salvation," Kris said. "It also gives me the opportunity to share my testimony."

Johnson, an evangelistic pastor who has worked as a Bible worker in the past, knows the importance of this soul-winning work. "It's critical to have a Bible worker at the church because you need someone who can spearhead giving studies themselves and also train others to do the same," said Johnson. "Pasadena church is shifting to be a true evangelistic center."

Though the pandemic has changed the way we reach people, these baptisms were an answer to Lacson's and Johnson's prayers of sharing Christ's message of truth.

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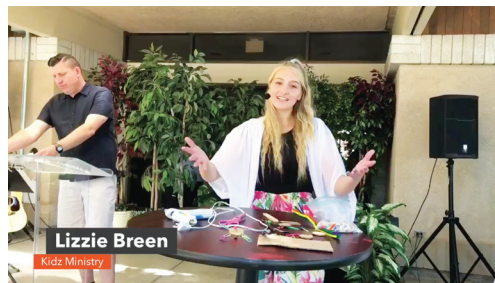
By Araya Moss



FAR LEFT: Breen's Sabbath School lesson demonstrates the importance of God's love in our lives. LEFT: Kids show off their drawings of pastor Sammons from a Sabbath afternoon activity.

## Lancaster Church Is Making a Difference in Children's Lives

While most 21-year-olds are trying to find their place in the world, Elisabeth Breen is making a difference in the lives of children. As director of Kidz Ministry at Lancaster church, Breen spends her time finding creative ways to demonstrate God's love to the youngest in her congregation.



Breen shows kids how to make their own fidget spinners to help deal with stress and anger.

Ed Sammons, senior pastor at Lancaster church, initially asked Breen to be the interim Kidz Ministry director in 2019 because, according to Sammons, "she has a passion for kids and a heart for God." She was instrumental in implementing child safety protocols for Sabbath School, planning a year of events for church members and the community, and organizing Vacation Bible School. Earlier this year, she was voted in as the full-time Kidz Ministry director.

When COVID-19 restrictions increased, churches found themselves unable to worship in person. Breen, however, was determined to keep the children involved. Kidz Kraft is a five-minute presentation during online worship in which she shows the kids a craft that is related to the sermon. So that kids can follow along, every month she arranges for kids to pick up swag bags filled with a month's worth of crafts and devotions. Breen also revamped Summer Fun Days for COVID-19. Parents signed up online or through social media to visit the church for a dedicated time of

crafts and other limited-contact activities to keep the children connected to the church and each other.

"There are so many people supporting and helping; it takes a village," Breen said about her dedicated volunteers. "Everyone at the church loves the kids, and we try to go out of the way to create those 'aha' moments for them."

Working with children has been a constant throughout Breen's life. At age 10, she volunteered after school at a local family foster agency, Penny Lane Centers, helping out in the day care center. During her senior year of high school, Breen balanced schoolwork and her position as president of her school's student government with volunteering for foster children at The Children's Center of Antelope Valley, a children's mental health facility. The summer after graduating from high school, she worked at Pine Springs Ranch as a counselor for pre-teens.

"God always has a plan," Sammons said. "She is someone who was placed here at the right time for us. Her ministry has really fostered an excitement about kids' programming. She's a real leader with an ability to connect with all ages."

Breen's hope for Kidz Ministry is to help kids grow in their knowledge of God and develop a closer relationship with Him.

By Araya Moss





PHOTO: YONNY JIMENEZ

“The volunteers at the La Voz Sylmar Spanish church food bank are church members who care for their community and have answered God’s call to make our world a better place,” says Pastor Jimenez. “We understand the mission God has given us. Our church volunteers are people with big hearts and unbreakable will.”

## Hispanic Region Churches Follow Christ’s Method

During the COVID-19 pandemic, churches in SCC’s Hispanic Region have been busy ministering to the felt needs in their communities. Many have started or continued operating food banks, and hundreds are impacted by these ministries each week.

According to Baldwin Park Bilingual Community Services Director Noemi Sias, their church distributes 16,000 pounds of food to 380 to 400 families each week. Saul Aispuro, pastor of Lynwood and South Gate Spanish churches, sees people travel from a distance to receive the services these two churches provide. At Glendale Spanish, cars line up for two blocks waiting to come in. Food distribution is just the start at EastMont Spanish; the church also welcomes community members to receive prayer by phone or Bible studies via Zoom.

“Having a food bank at the church helps us to be involved in our community so they know that we are there to serve them,” noted Salvador Garcia, pastor of East L.A. Bilingual church. “Some community members who are not members of the church help volunteer to serve the food. Many have received Bible studies and attended evangelistic meetings.”

At San Fernando Spanish church, health ministry goes beyond providing nutritious food. “We have quite a few visitors come from the community, and we conducted a survey as to what topics they would



PHOTO: NOEMI SIAS

Volunteers from Baldwin Park Bilingual church give their time and energy to serve the community.

be interested in learning more about as they wait for the food truck to arrive,” shared Javier Huerta, pastor of the San Fernando Spanish church. “Ninety-nine percent opted for health and mental health topics. COVID-19 has turned our world and our lives upside down, and more people are suffering from mental health issues than ever before.”

Huerta’s wife, Gloria, has since spoken to attendees about eating well during the pandemic and the importance of eating nutritiously to help ease anxiety and depression.

La Voz Sylmar Spanish church served food to more than 2,000 people during the month of September alone, but they know God has more in store for their ministry. “When we see cars lining up to receive food supplies, we know that God is working through us,” said Yonny Jimenez, pastor of the La Voz Sylmar Spanish church. “A few weeks ago, we started asking people if they would be interested in receiving Bible studies. So far, we have more than 10 people who showed interest in receiving Bible studies.”

“Please pray for us that this food bank might be a channel of spiritual blessings for our community,” Jimenez continued. “Our ultimate goal is to reach our community with not only food but with the Bread of Life, who is Jesus, our Lord and Savior.”

By Lauren Lacson

# B4L and Smiles Follow God's Lead Ministering Together in Thailand

This summer, Fedly Bonneau, member of Delaware Avenue church and director of Bottles 4 Life, Inc. (B4L), met with the team from Fundación Smiles to prayerfully discover how, together, they could help the people in Thailand. With COVID-19 spreading around the globe, Bonneau's heart was with the people.

The team decided to provide a 10-day supply of vitamin C, a mask, hand sanitizer, and a pamphlet on the NEWSTART health principles to the people in the refugee camps in Myanmar. On the ground in Mae Sot, Thailand, people were volunteering their time to help. "The response I received from the church community in Mae Sot was amazing," Bonneau said. "Every day, my house was full of people doing different things to help get everything ready."

Bonneau has been ministering in Thailand since 2018, and B4L partners with Fundación Smiles volunteers each year. Fundación Smiles was the driving force behind this project. During the pandemic, they have been helping on various fronts, like feeding the hungry in South America and showing up to help after the floods hit El Salvador. Soon, they would join B4L in the refugee camps in Myanmar.

Rafael Siordia, member of the Alhambra church and president of Fundación Smiles, said, "Seeing video of Fedly's apartment on a daily basis reminded me of how powerful we can be as a human race; you had a mixture of races and cultures working to help people."

Things were going according to plan—then the government of Myanmar shut everything down. Movement from one area of Myanmar to another area came with a 21-day quarantine, and government offices were closed. Accessing the refugee camps was no longer an option.

Not long after, Bonneau received a call from the Migrant Workers Association in Mae Sot requesting donated items for migrant workers going back to Myanmar. Many migrant workers had lost their jobs in Thailand, and the Thai and Myanmar governments worked out a way for those workers to go back to



PHOTO: FEDLY BONNEAU

Naung Bo Den Learning Center students are in full PPE at the second friendship bridge in Mae Sot, Thailand. (Left to right, front row) Kathy Khaing, Nili May, Nay Lin Oo, Lal Awm Pui (back row) Kyaw San Aung.

Myanmar. This call provided an opportunity for Bonneau and the Smiles team to give these migrant workers the supplies they had prepared for the refugee camps.

"I realized that these migrant workers were headed to every corner of Myanmar, taking the NEWSTART pamphlet with them," Bonneau reflected. "The vitamin C is only for 10 days, the hand cleaning solution maybe a week, the mask will probably last a month, but that NEWSTART pamphlet can last for eternity. I had focused on one refugee camp in one corner of Myanmar, while every corner of Myanmar was God's plan. What I thought was a failure, God used to perform a miracle."

By Lauren Lacson and Fedly Bonneau



# EDUCATION

## Pacific Union Office of Education Hosts Virtual Retreat for Student Leaders

By Faith Hoyt,  
with Kimberly  
Stubbert

This fall, the 32nd annual Student Leadership Conference (SLC), which has in previous years taken place at Leoni Meadows Camp in Grizzly Flats, Calif., went virtual for 31 junior and senior academies across the Pacific Union.

It was an unusual year, with Student Leadership Conference being held on Zoom for the first time. The 298 attendees were comprised of 195 students, 75 principals and school sponsors, and 28 presenters and SLC committee members.

"The objective was to strengthen the leadership skills and spiritual commitment of the student leaders in the junior and senior academies of the Pacific Union Conference," said Berit von

Pohle, director of education for the Pacific Union. Added to this is the goal of helping students to network and build relationships with student leaders from other schools. To achieve these objectives, the retreat program made time for team building, fellowshipping with students from other schools,



The 32nd annual Student Leadership Conference was held virtually this year. Though students could not gather at their usual retreat location, Leoni Meadows nonetheless provided tasty cookies, communion bread, and T-shirts for the event.



"God-pleasers will make an unpopular decision because they are concerned about what God thinks; people-pleasers won't make an unpopular decision because they are afraid of what people might think."



and spiritual growth.

Pastor Marc Woodson, president of the Northern California Conference, provided the spiritual foundation for leadership development from the Biblical story of Queen Esther with a theme called “The Power of One.” Woodson’s talks highlighted three important distinctions between God-pleasers and people-pleasers.

“God-pleasers work diligently even though no one is looking. People-pleasers work hard only when others are looking,” Woodson shared with students. He also pointed out that, “God-pleasers work with a burning passion to please the Heavenly Boss; people-pleasers work only to satisfy an earthly boss,” and that “God-pleasers will make an unpopular decision because they are concerned about what God thinks; people-pleasers won’t make an unpopular decision because they are afraid of what people might think.”



During the virtual Student Leadership Retreat, students from Glendale Adventist Academy packaged up 162 bags of food as part of their service project for the community.

## Chat

During their virtual Student Leadership Conference, participants were asked to share the things for which they are grateful. These are some of their responses.

### What RU Grateful 4?

Ever Gonzalez : I'm grateful for being here with all of you.

Joshua Nielsen : I'm thankful that I got to meet similar leaders and share great ideas.

Fernando Lista : For friends and family

Zach Dulcich BAA : Thankful for internet

Claire Bussell : For great new ideas that I can't wait to try out

Charisse Lapuebla : opportunity to connect

Michael RLAA : I am grateful for the love of God!

Loma Linda Academy : school, friends, family, community, Pastor JO, God

VVAA-Vegas Valley : Being alive

VVAA-Vegas Valley : Waking up this morning with Jesus on my mind

Carolina Cuevas-CMS : Friends and teachers

NPAA (Rianne, Addy, Lindsey) : major bible camp vibes

Charisse Lapuebla : for God's mercy <3

Isabella -FAA : thankful for blue skies

Marc Woodson : Adventist education and our schools!

Kathy Hernandez : The awesome student leaders at AUA!

Lodi Academy : Thankful for Sabbath

Datha Tickner : That we got to still have SLC this year!

Fernando Lista : Amen, Datha!

Steve Mota : thankful for our TAA team

Lodi Academy : The work of PUC Ed, Principals, La Sierra, and PUC to make this SLC possible

VVAA-Vegas Valley : For everyone here!

Joel Kindrick : SFVA Great student leaders!

Jolina-SAA : SAA is grateful our officers can be together in person :)

lidia granados : A school that accepts me for who I am

GAA : to be able to get together safely for leadership camp

Continued on page 52



In keeping with tradition, service and outreach were a

part of this year's conference. This year, student leaders participated in socially distanced service activities on their own campuses or individually. Activities included packing care packages, writing notes to the elderly, volunteering at local food banks, and creating gift baskets for local fire departments.

Though the students could not gather at their usual retreat location, Leoni Meadows nonetheless provided tasty cookies, communion bread, and T-shirts for the event. The Office of Education sent boxes to the schools filled with the items they would need for the social activities and communion—and included tasty treats from Leoni Meadows, just like they would have had in person. The program included the usual "Birds-of-a-Feather" sessions for student association presidents, general vice-presidents, religious vice-presidents, social vice-presidents, senior class presidents, and junior class presidents.

"The SLC committee planned very carefully to include the main aspects of the event in a more condensed schedule," said Kimberly Stubbert, administrative assistant to the director of education. "We focused on making it interactive and connecting student leaders throughout the union."

The Student Leadership Conference is a joint venture involving the Pacific Union, Conference Youth Ministries Departments, senior academies, La Sierra University, and Pacific Union College. Representatives from these groups served on the SLC Planning Committee and were heavily involved in planning and executing the virtual retreat. Monterey Bay Academy Principal PJ Deming hosted the general sessions, Northern California Conference Superintendent of Schools Albert Miller created icebreakers, Southeastern California Conference Associate Superintendent Datha Tickner coordinated the "Birds-of-a-Feather" breakouts, and Central California Conference Associate Superintendent Jerry Corson set up a way for schools to share photos with each other as part of their interactive activities. La Sierra University and Pacific Union College also provided strong

support of the leadership program and planned creative social activities.

According to attendees, SLC went very well and was enjoyed by the students. Mountain View Academy said, "Amazing job for leadership conference. I know it wasn't what we expected, but it was an awesome program. Well done."



Service and outreach were a part of this year's annual Student Leadership Conference, which was held virtually for the first time. Student leaders participated in socially distanced service activities on their own campuses or individually. Activities included packing care packages, writing notes to the elderly, volunteering at local food banks, and creating gift baskets for local fire departments.

# Pacific Union Conference Approves Social Justice Statement

By Ray Tetz

**O**n September 23, 2020, the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee voted the adoption of a Social Justice Statement. The development of the statement was carried out at the request of Ricardo B. Graham, president of the Pacific Union. Bradford C. Newton, executive secretary and ministerial secretary of the Pacific Union, was tasked with guiding a small writing committee in crafting the resulting statement, which was presented to the Presidents Council and the Executive Committee for their input and approval. The statement takes a form that is familiar to Seventh-day Adventists in the way it is structured; it includes Biblical references that support the principal ideas within the statement, and it follows a topical and theological progression that is strongly rooted in an Adventist perspective on history and the plan of redemption. The statement as voted reads:



## Social Justice

*Every human life is sacred. Created in the image of God, all people are bestowed dignity, worth, and endless opportunity. Human societies ideally exemplify equality, fairness, respect, and freedom for every person. Sin's curse distorts and corrupts both individuals and societies. Even when unrecognized, to dominate or marginalize others is rooted in selfishness and greed producing racism, discrimination, and injustice. This destructive pattern is broken by the redemptive work of God as taught in Scripture and ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is called to proclaim the transforming and reconciling message of the Gospel while opposing practices and policies that perpetuate prejudice and inequality. In fulfilling its mission, the Body of Christ must challenge racism, discrimination, and injustice by individuals and society while working purposefully towards equitable opportunities so that all people may experience God's redemption and restoration. (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 1:16-17,23; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9-10; John 1:12-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; James 4:17-21; Isaiah 64:6; 1 John 1:7-9; Philippians 2:4; Matthew 23:23; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 18:4, 9-11)*

*Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee • September 23, 2020*

When asked about the importance of developing the Social Justice Statement, Elder Graham responded, "If there is evil, we must speak out about it and work to counter it. Injustice is an evil. I believe that we are to be the representatives of Jesus Christ. We are to model His life in our time, in our way, by being truly authentic Christians with His principles undergirding our actions. This includes demonstrating our concern for other human beings and for any evil of society that the church encounters. We must be clear that neither God nor the church can ignore injustice, and we are to speak and act in a proper and appropriate way to oppose it."

The Social Justice Statement can be found on the "Let Justice Roll" page on the [adventistfaith.com](https://adventistfaith.com) website.

<https://adventistfaith.com/category/let-justice-roll/>

The All God's People program for October 14, 2020, focused on Social Justice and included a visual presentation of the Social Justice Statement, as well as a conversation between Elder Graham and Elder Newton about its significance and importance.

<https://adventistfaith.com/category/all-gods-people/>



# Thank You First Responders

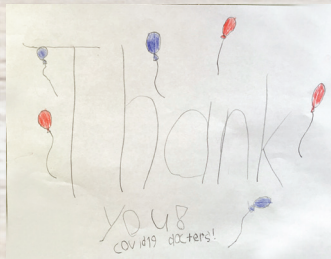


Alana, age 12

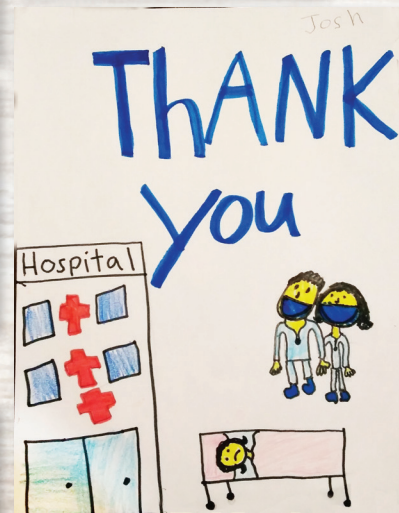


Ian, age 11

Sierra Vista  
Arizona  
Pathfinder  
Club



Eohwann, age 7



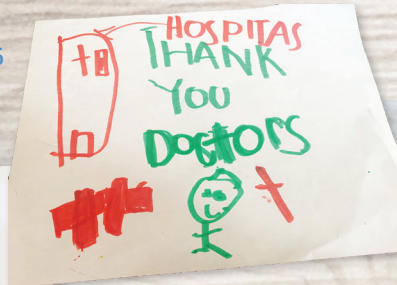
Joshua, age 7

"Nurse"  
Mia, age 10

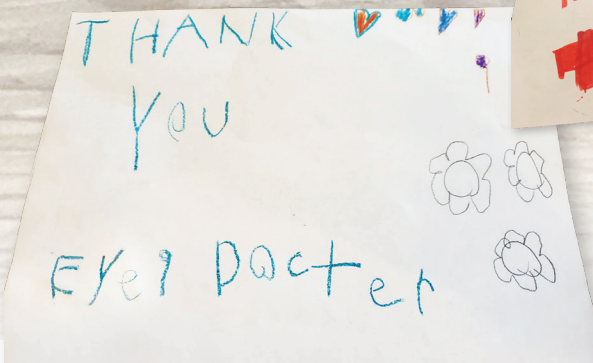


"A Favorite Art Teacher"  
Lauren, age 6

Devon, age 6



"Eye Doctor"  
Jessie, age 6



Kaylie, age 12



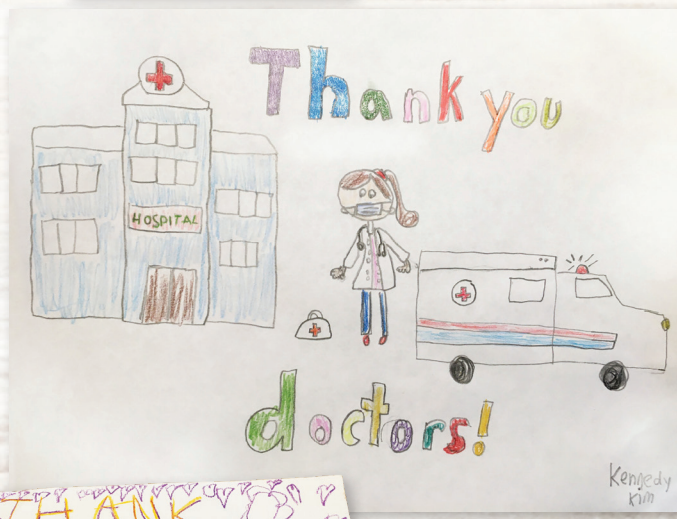
"Nurse"  
Ella, age 12



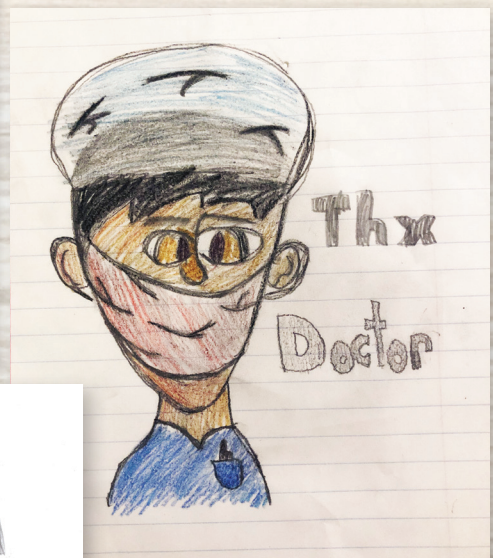
"Postal Workers" • David, age 8



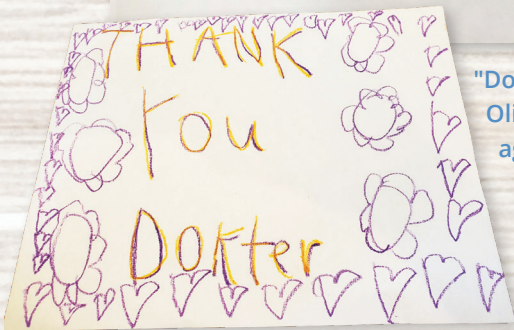
"Saving Lives"  
Sabrina, age 10



"Hope  
and Healing"  
Kennedy, age 6



Dylan,  
grade 5



"Doctor"  
Olive,  
age 7

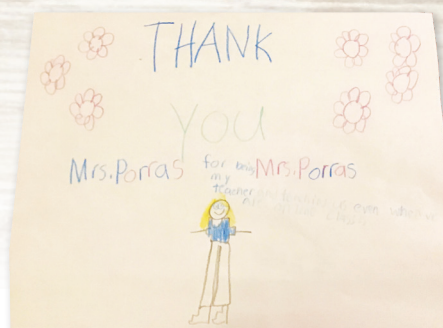


"Mom"  
Cami, age 6

## FROM OUR PACIFIC UNION KIDS



Benjamin, age 6



Kysha, age 7



# Calendar

## Central California Conference

**Many events and outreaches are now being virtually presented 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](http://www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com) for all the updates.

**Zooming with Young Adults (online):** Join the standing Zoom meetings with the young adults. All times are PST; the schedule and meeting id#s are as follows:

Mondays at 11 a.m. .... Last Day Events  
Zoom: 98783552992

Mondays at 6 p.m. .... Bible Study  
Zoom: 844734252

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. .... Anchored Bible Study  
Zoom: 96841309390

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. .... Morning Manna Zoom  
Zoom: 96875731282

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. .... Prayer Meeting  
Zoom: 9631262053

Thursdays at 5 p.m. .... Ladies Only Bible Study  
Zoom: 96875731282

Fridays at 5 p.m. .... Bible Study  
Zoom: 99563061848

Fridays at 7 p.m. .... Vespers  
Zoom: 91229068424

Sabbath at 9:30 a.m. .... Sabbath School  
Zoom: 94581678714

Sabbath at 5 p.m. .... Sundown Worship  
Zoom: 98222957250

For more information, email [tvang@cccsda.org](mailto:tvang@cccsda.org).

## Northern California Conference

**"We Still Believe"** (Nov. 4-7) Conference-wide online event. Prayer and Praise: Wed. through Fri., 7-8 p.m. Mid-term Report: Sabbath, 4:30-6 p.m. Info: [info@nccsda.com](mailto:info@nccsda.com).

**Women's Ministries Conference** (Nov. 14) Speaker Cheri Gregory. Facebook Live. Watch for updates! Info: [www.facebook.com/NorCalWm](https://www.facebook.com/NorCalWm).

**Instituto Laico Adventista de California (ILAC)** (Nov. 22-23) Online training in leadership and church administration for Spanish-speaking laypeople. "Models and Styles of Leadership." Info: [nccsda.com/ilac](http://nccsda.com/ilac), 916-886-5614.

**Drive-thru Nativity** (Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19) 6:30-9:30 p.m. Roseville church, 914 Cirby Way, Roseville. Live actors and animals. Currently recruiting actors from surrounding churches to help revive a longtime Christmas tradition! Info: Roseville church, 916-786-8350.

**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](http://nccsda.com).

## Classified

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### 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](mailto:recorder@adventistfaith.com).

### How to Submit Advertising

Classified ads must be sent with payment to the *Recorder* office. Display ads should be arranged with the editor ([recorder@adventistfaith.com](mailto:recorder@adventistfaith.com)).

### Classified Rates

\$70 for 50 words; 75 cents each additional word. Display Rates (Full Color Only) Back cover, \$4,200; full page, \$3,800; 1/2-pg., \$2,200; 1/4-pg., \$1,200; 1/8-pg., \$700; \$160 per column inch.

### Information

The Pacific Union *Recorder* is published 12 times per year with a circulation of approximately 75,000. For more information about advertising, please email to [recorder@adventistfaith.com](mailto:recorder@adventistfaith.com).

### Upcoming Deadlines

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

December: *November 5* • January 2021: *December 3*

### 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](http://www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news).

**SDA Immigration Attorney.** We handle family and employment-based immigration cases for clients throughout the United States and around the globe. We also provide free immigration law seminars for churches and other groups. Please contact Jason Mustard at 831-249-9330 or [Jason@surowitz.com](mailto:Jason@surowitz.com).

**New/Used Adventist Books:** TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit [www.LNFBOOKS.com](http://www.LNFBOOKS.com) for used books and your local ABC or [www.TEACHServices.com](http://www.TEACHServices.com) for new book releases.

**Country Living:** Properties available in California. Call Soonyoung Park at 707-312-3635 or email [soonyoungnapa@gmail.com](mailto:soonyoungnapa@gmail.com). Country properties and all real estate needs. CA BRE Lic #01421077.

## Employment

**Adventist Media Ministries treasury department** is seeking a full-time staff accountant. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting is required, and two years of experience is preferred. Our offices are in the Riverside area of Calif. Please contact the Human Resources department at 805-955-7715 or [hr@sdamedia.com](mailto:hr@sdamedia.com), or you may visit the following link for more information about the "Staff Accountant" position and to apply: <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>.

**Wanted: single person to manage and care for estate home** in Lake Las Vegas part time. Live-in with private room/bath. For a widow...lovely situation. Call Myrna at 702-568-7777 or 310-613-9549 (cell), or email me at [curtismyrna@verizon.net](mailto:curtismyrna@verizon.net).

**Stallant Health**, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is

accepting applications for an optometrist to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: [marva@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.com).

**Custodian needed.** The Tierrasanda church in San Diego is looking for a custodian (or custodial couple) to live on the church campus. Responsibilities include yard work, opening and closing facility each day, etc. 2-bedroom apartment on campus is rent free. For more info, contact Gary McCary at 858-395-3859 or email [mccarys6@hotmail.com](mailto:mccarys6@hotmail.com).

## For Sale

**For Sale. A well-established, in-home care business** for seniors/disabled. Located in beautiful Northern California. Has some government contracts in place as well as an excellent staff. Email inquiries to [aiello.franchiseconsultant@gmail.com](mailto:aiello.franchiseconsultant@gmail.com) or call 800-957-5166.

## Real Estate

**Sierra Foothills Country Living.** Easy access to Adventist Health System, Northern Calif. Conf., Weimar, Pine Hills Academy. Two-story home with 3 bdrm, 3½ bath, 2500sq. ft. with shop, 4 car garages, unfinished apartment. Pool, landscaping, fencing on 2½ acres. Price \$950,000. Call 530-913-8995 or email [herbiedouglass@gmail.com](mailto:herbiedouglass@gmail.com).

**Quiet 4 bdrm/4 bath home in Angwin, Calif.** Walk to schools, church, and market. Near Adventist Health St. Helena. Two-story with master bedroom on main floor. Private entrance to second floor. Dining room

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## At Rest

**Antor, Clarice Ann Ruf Everest** – b. Aug. 1, 1927, Sao Paulo, Brazil; d. May 23, 2020, Escondido, Calif. Survivors: husband, Fred; son, Rick Everest; stepdaughter, Vyrleene Sjoboen; brother Mario Ruf; sisters, Thea Schleifer, Esther Brummett, Karen Chambers; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; numerous nephews and nieces. Among other positions, she worked at the Michigan Conference, Inter-American Division Travel Office, and General Conference Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries.

**Brett, Beverly Louise Benchina** – b. July 26, 1955, Orlando, Fla.; d. Sept. 28, 2020, Highland, Calif. Survivors: husband, Andrew; daughters, Alanna, Zara Melcher; two grandchildren.

**Claunch, Beth Miles** – b. July 18, 1932, Berkeley, Calif.; d. Aug. 30, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Wilton Senecal, Stanley; two grandchildren.

**Curtis, Herman Clark** – b. March 29, 1929, San Diego, Calif.; d. June 19, 2020, San Diego, Calif. Survivor: wife, Mary L. (Swartz) Curtis. A staff pharmacist at Paradise Valley Hospital for 43 years.

**Darling, Helen Maxine** – b. Sept. 8, 1926, Salem, Ore.; d. Sept. 25, 2020, Redlands, Calif. She was an efficient and respected Operating Room nurse manager and worked at LLUMC for over 50 years.

**Elliot, Dorothy J. (Gregg)** – b. Nov. 8, 1919, Davenport,

## November 2020 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	NOV 7	NOV 14	Nov 21	NOV 28
Alturas	4:49	4:42	4:31	4:33
Angwin	5:02	4:56	4:52	4:49
Bakersfield	4:55	4:49	4:46	4:43
Calexico	4:45	4:41	4:37	4:36
Chico	4:58	4:51	4:47	4:44
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:44	4:39	4:35	4:32
Eureka	5:05	4:58	4:53	4:50
Four Corners [E]	5:12	5:07	5:02	5:00
Fresno	4:55	4:50	4:46	4:43
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:26	5:21	5:17	5:14
Half Dome	4:52	4:47	4:42	4:40
Hilo	5:43	5:41	5:39	5:39
Holbrook	5:20	5:15	5:11	5:09
Honolulu	5:52	5:49	5:48	5:48
Joshua Tree	4:46	4:41	4:36	4:36
Lake Tahoe	4:52	4:46	4:41	4:38
Las Vegas	4:38	4:32	4:29	4:26
Lodi-Stockton	4:59	4:53	4:48	4:46
Loma Linda	4:50	4:45	4:42	4:40
Los Angeles	4:54	4:49	4:46	4:43
McDermitt [N]	4:36	4:30	4:24	4:21
Moab	5:11	5:05	5:00	4:58
Monterey Bay	5:04	4:58	4:54	4:52
Mt. Whitney	4:50	4:44	4:40	4:38
Napa	5:02	4:56	4:52	4:49
Nogales [S]	5:29	5:24	5:21	5:19
Oakland	5:03	4:57	4:53	4:50
Paradise, CA	4:57	4:50	4:46	4:43
Phoenix	5:30	5:25	5:22	5:20
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	5:44	5:42	5:41	5:41
Reno	4:50	4:44	4:39	4:36
Riverside	4:51	4:46	4:42	4:40
Sacramento	4:59	4:53	4:48	4:45
Salt Lake City	5:16	5:09	5:04	5:01
San Diego	4:52	4:47	4:44	4:42
San Francisco	5:04	4:58	4:54	4:51
San Jose	5:03	4:57	4:53	4:50
Santa Rosa	5:04	4:58	4:53	4:50
Sunset Beach	5:03	4:58	4:53	4:50
Thousand Oaks	4:56	4:51	4:48	4:46
Tucson	5:28	5:23	5:20	5:18

[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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Iowa; d. Sept. 6, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; niece, Ann Totaro. She was a longtime member of Loma Linda University church.

**Erceg, Allen C.** – d. April 7, 2020, at age 93. He was an army veteran of World War II and a dentist for over 50 years in Millbrae, Calif.

**Golles, Clara Lou** – b. Jan. 26, 1932, Albert Lea, Minn.; d. June 3, 2020, Ontario, Calif. Survivors: husband, Eugene; son, Dee; daughter, Sharon Trachenberg; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Marna Kroll.

**Griswold, Richard** – b. Aug. 17, 1933, Hanford, Calif.; d. July 21, 2020, Spring Valley, Calif. Survivors: wife, Virginia Inman; daughters, Linda Barron, Lori Waller; stepson, Greg Paul; stepdaughters, Sandi Paul, Shari Davis; three grandchildren; six step-grandchildren. He practiced dentistry for over 40 years and was a proud graduate of Loma Linda University Dentistry, Class of 1962. He loved music and was a docent for the Spreckels Organ Society in Balboa Park, San Diego.

**Marvin, Alfred Junior** – b. Nov. 14, 1925, Leon, Iowa; d. Aug. 23, 2020, Chico, Calif. Survivors: wife, Linda; son, Michael; daughter, Patricia Godfrey; stepson, Jeffrey Galland; stepdaughter, Jennifer Erickson; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

**Munson Jr., Howard Adelbert** – b. Aug. 15, 1925, Takoma Park, Md.; d. Feb. 2, 2020, Placerville, Calif., Survivors: wife, Ferne; sons, Howard III, James; daughter, Elizabeth; stepsons, Kim Reeves, Keith Reeves; stepdaughter, Tami Russo; brother, Alan; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren. Served as

a dental missionary in Lesotho, Zaire, Rwanda, and Trinidad, West Indies. Served in World War II.

**Palmer, Betty (Loomis)** – b. July 18, 1937, Oroville, Calif.; d. Jan. 21, 2019, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: sons, Dana Heflin, Alan Heflin; daughters, Annette Hassalane, Nancy Palmer; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren.

**Pragasam, Lloyd Alfred Joseph** – b. Aug. 25, 1946, Nuzvid, India; d. Sept. 3, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, James; daughters, Almira, Jamie; four grandchildren.

**Soloniuk, William** – b. Jan. 15, 1921, Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. Aug. 4, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Gaylene, Glenda Spangler, Gytha Mannen; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Thora.

**Stahlnecker, Ruby Kahler** – b. June 23, 1928, Walla Walla, Wash.; d. Aug. 11, 2020, Somerset, Va. Survivors: daughter, Carol Wayner, Patti, Leslie; 26 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; sisters, Maralyn Morgan, Miriam Schroeder.

**Yeo, Philomine Y.** – b. March 5, 1934, Shanxi, China; d. July 25, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, James K. Yeo; daughter, Karen Yeo Ng; son, Geoffrey Yeo; five grandchildren. She graduated from La Sierra University in 1963 and worked in W. Covina as a dietitian. Her friends knew her as Philomine Hsu.

**Zane, Ronald** – b. Sept. 29, 1930, Oahu, Hawaii; d. July 9, 2020, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Charlotte; sons, Russell, Gary Zane; daughter, Tami Kizziar; five grandchildren.



# Visions & Revisions

BY RONALD D. GRAYBILL

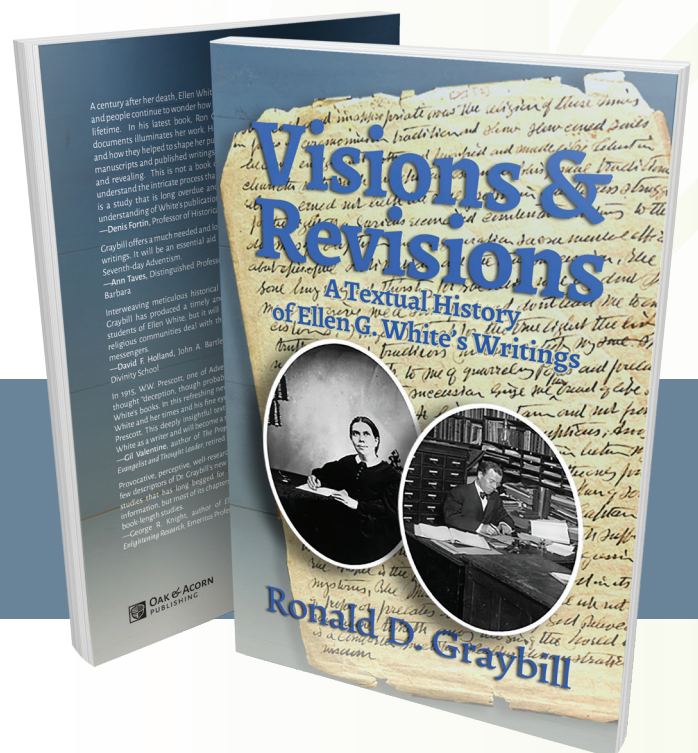
**H**ave you ever thought about the way Ellen White's books were written? Have you ever considered the enormous quantity of writing she produced?

Ellen White enlisted more than 20 literary assistants to convert her handwritten manuscripts into proper, polished prose. Then, both before and after her death, her published writings were corrected, combined, excised, expanded, revised, modernized, adapted, simplified, translated, reprinted, and reformatted.

This book is the story of how her visions underwent these revisions. It explains the editorial processes that began when she first dipped her pen in ink and put it to paper. It even describes that pen and paper.

A century after her death, Ellen White's writings continue to generate interest and fascination, and people continue to wonder how she was able to produce so many books and articles in her lifetime. In his latest book, Ron Graybill shows how studying her original handwritten documents illuminates her work. He also delves into the work of White's literary assistants and how they helped to shape her publications. The online availability of most of Ellen White's manuscripts and published writings makes such a study possible, one that is both intriguing and revealing. This is not a book disputing White's inspiration, but one that attempts to understand the intricate process that went into the publication of her books and articles. This is a study that is long overdue and one that will generate further research and a better understanding of White's publications.

—Denis Fortin, Professor of Historical Theology,  
Andrews University



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