

# Recorder



Thanks be to God for his  
indefinable gift!

# It is through Christ that we receive every blessing...



Make melody to Him in your hearts,  
and let His praise be upon your lips.

(ELLEN WHITE, *THE ADVENTIST HOME*, p. 480)

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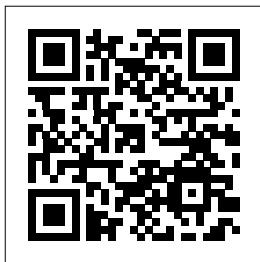
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“Why is the Christmas story so powerful? Because there is no other story like it. There is no other day like it. There is no other love like it. In every generation since that first Christmas, this story has been told with reverence and awe and gratitude. Like believers from every nation, and in every age, we are drawn to

the humble stable of Bethlehem. Our hearts are filled with love and amazement and wonder. In our own time we make that same proclamation that has been expressed for two millennia: ‘Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!’ (2 Corinthians 9:1, NIV).”

*Read “Come to the Manger” on page 8.*



Download the *Recorder* to your mobile device! For iPad/iPhone: open your QR reader and scan the code. For Android: activate the QR scan extension in your Internet browser, then select “Scan QR Code.”

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# Recorder

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# Living

WITH THE



Monkey

By Bradford C. Newton

Can we embrace a life of resilience, faith, hope, and even optimism when others around us are withering under the assault of life? I believe that God's Word provides the answer.

Several years ago, Netflix developed software called Chaos Monkey. It was designed to intentionally initiate failures in the Netflix entertainment system so their squad of engineers could identify potential vulnerabilities. They were preparing for the unknown possibilities of tomorrow by strengthening their system today.

You probably can join me in testifying that it feels like we are living in a chaos monkey world. So many challenges, unforeseen trials, decisions that went awry, and things we cannot control! But what matters for us is not avoiding problems. That is just impossible in this sinful world of ours. What's important is how we plan to respond. Can we embrace a life of resilience, faith, hope, and even optimism when



others around us are withering under the assault of life? I believe that God's Word provides the answer.

A favorite story of mine that brings us God's teaching about this comes from Acts 16. It tells the amazing adventure of Paul and Silas in prison. You remember that their preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ had provoked a riot in Philippi. So often the presentation of the truth of Christ provokes strong reactions in hearers—however, usually it is not a riot. The city officials proceeded to beat these two Christian missionaries and threw them in prison. Just for good measure, the jailer locked them

in the most secure cell possible and put their feet in stocks. No escape!

What do these men do? The Bible says, "Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening" (Acts 16:25, NLT). Their bleeding backs were pressed against rough, wet stone walls. Rats were scurrying over their feet. It was at this hour they decided it was time to conduct a prayer and praise meeting!

Suddenly, in the middle of their worship, there was an earthquake. I have attended church meetings that were memorable, but nothing like this. This was not some little tremor that wobbled the china for a few seconds. This was a shaking that was so intense it broke up the foundations of the prison. As the rumbling continued, the metal doors holding the inmates flew open and everyone's chains fell off.

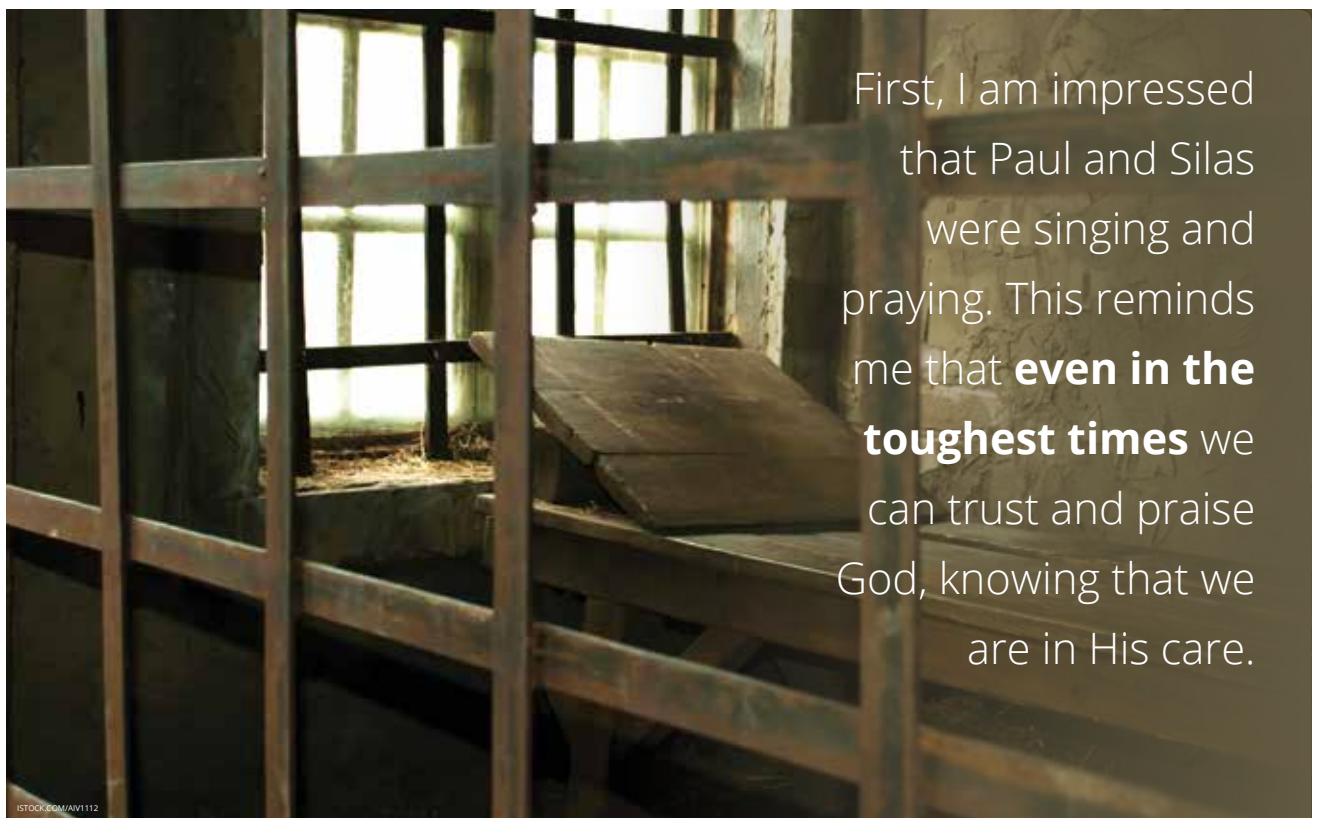
Have you ever been awakened by an earthquake? I can only imagine the disorientation of the jailer as he scrambled out of bed. He was yelling to his family to get to safety outside. But then he froze in his tracks as he remembered his prison security. It

was destroyed. Undoubtedly, everyone had fled. He knew full well the penalty for any prisoner escaping: he would be cruelly executed for dereliction of duty. Alone in his room, he took his sword and prepared to end it all. But then he heard a voice: "Don't do it! We are all here."

God's Word gives us important spiritual lessons as we live in this chaos monkey world. We can be better prepared for the uncertainties, the disappointments, and the challenges ahead by incorporating the experience of Paul and Silas into our faith journey. Here are four lessons that stand out to me.

First, I am impressed that Paul and Silas were singing and praying. This reminds me that even in the toughest times we can trust and praise God, knowing that we are in His care. I love this promise from Isaiah 40:28-2: "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless" (NLT).

Second, we must be aware that other people are



**Love in action** is what we as Christians need to be doing in this hurting nation. We sang a song in Sabbath School when I was a teen with these lyrics: “They will know that we are Christians by our love.”

watching how we act and react. Paul and Silas had an audience, and these were not Christian people. But something about the way these two disciples of Jesus responded to their troubles made these other prisoners act in an unexpected way—they didn’t run off into the night. Instead they stuck by the two men who were witnesses to the living Lord Jesus. We must remember that other people draw encouragement and take our lead from how we live in tough times. Quite often they mirror our faith and good actions. Ellen White makes this observation: “A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of Christianity” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 122).

The story now turns to the jailer, who ran to Paul, falling to his knees and asking, “What must I do to be saved?” I am thinking that he may have already known what Paul was preaching. But now, in the crisis, God is speaking to this man’s heart. Conviction moves him to action. In answer to the question, Paul makes it clear and simple: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household” (Acts 16:31, NLT).

Here is the third spiritual lesson from this story: It is not complicated! Saving faith can arrive in an instant. Paul went on to provide some further teaching, but that very evening the whole family was baptized. This throws a caution light up for us as we seek to be Christ’s witnesses. Sometimes we can make the Christian walk sound so complicated that we turn seeking people away. In this chaos monkey world, we need to share the basics of our faith first and let the Holy Spirit guide people further along the path.

The story ends with the jailer taking it upon

himself to wash and dress the wounds he had inflicted upon Paul and Silas. Then he leads them to his home as his guests for supper, and they all rejoice together. The fourth lesson is that when you know God’s love, you want to help other people. This new believer wanted to make things right with Paul and Silas by doing more than just apologizing. Love in action is what we as Christians need to be doing in this hurting nation. We sang a song in Sabbath School when I was a teen with these lyrics: “They will know that we are Christians by our love.”

Each of us has our own struggles, disappointments, or sadness. But we can take courage from this amazing story by remembering that the same Jesus who led Paul and Silas that night is with us today. No matter what you are facing today, there is One who has gone before us.

In Hebrews 12:1-2 we read: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith” (NIV).

As we face the chaos monkey world today, God has a work for each of us. We can encourage and inspire others when things seem bleak and hopeless. Our witness of faith can bring others to meet the Master. When it seems that we are in the toughest of situations, we can remember Paul and Silas and know that the Jesus who delivered them is also here with us now.

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*Bradford C. Newton is the secretary and the ministerial director of the Pacific Union Conference.*

# Come to the Manger!



ISTOCK.COM/PHOTOS

**T**he very first story I ever really loved did not start out with “Once upon a time.” As I remember it, the story started with “There were shepherds abiding in the fields.”

Now, if you are concerned that those words actually occur more than halfway through Luke’s narrative of the nativity, when most of the story has already taken place, fear not! I love every bit of the story of Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes. But I’m glad Luke included the shepherds in the story.

When I first heard the story as a wee lamb myself, I knew the group I might like to be a part of: the bunch of shepherds camping on the hills, telling stories beside a nice warm fire, surrounded by friendly sheep who were listening in on every word—and known to the angelic host as servants of God, good and true!

By the time I learned that some might consider them to be a questionable choice to be witnesses to the birth of Jesus because they were rough and loud and probably smelled terrible and rarely went to church, I had already decided that theirs was just about the coolest story ever. And the part about the angel choir appearing in the sky like the fireworks on the fourth of July made their adventures even better. Since I grew up in a singing family, it made total sense





By Ray Tetz

to me that there would be a special soundtrack with soaring harmonies and thundering instruments to urge them on their way to Bethlehem to see the Baby Jesus.

The blessed Baby Jesus, of course, is the main event—there is never any doubt about that. Even a kid could follow Luke's storytelling logic that grabbed hold of you from your imagined place with the sheep and led you across the hills into the little town of Bethlehem. He brought you right up to your own place in front of the manger bed of the Christ Child, where you knew you belonged.

This was always the story of the glad birth of the Light of the World; the angels filling the night sky with light or the embers of a shepherd's fire are details. The point of the story was never the

shepherds, or the wise men, or any of the various elements of the story—save this one: Emmanuel! God with us!

Through whose eyes do you join this Christmas story?

Do you begin reading it from "the begats"—and get a sense of the broad span of God's incredible plan? Or does the Christmas story begin for you with that tender meeting between the angel and Mary, when she learns of the great mystery in which she is chosen to have a major part?

Perhaps it is the story of difficult faithfulness lived by Joseph that draws you in—or the story of the once skeptical and then muted and persuaded priest, Zechariah, and his wife Elizabeth's surprising, joyous, geriatric pregnancy. Perhaps the story becomes impossible to set aside with Elizabeth and Mary—Elizabeth greets her cousin Mary and, after a reassuring conversation between two women whose boys will grow up to challenge and change the world, Mary proclaims boldly, "My soul doth magnify the Lord!" (Luke 1:46, KJV).

Do you journey with the magi from a faraway country, looking for the tiny village with the big name—Bethlehem? Does the part of the story about an uncharted star trigger your interest and curiosity? Perhaps it is the old prophetess, Anna, whose response to seeing the baby who will save the world is the part of the story you

## Why is the Christmas story **so powerful**?

Because there is no other story like it.

There is no other day like it. There is no other love like it.

cherish the most. Or it is the strong voice of Simeon, raised in prophetic praise, when he takes the Baby Jesus into his arms and proclaims, "My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32, NIV).

There are villains, too. The faceless evil of an empire that demands a counting for taxation purposes, putting the Holy Family on the road to a place far from home. The callous innkeeper who sends a woman off to a stable to give birth. Herod, the corrupt head of state who cares about nothing except himself and brings down the greatest possible sorrow on the innocents of Bethlehem—resulting in the terrifying flight of the refugee family of Joseph, Mary, and the little Lord at risk.

All of these stories are part of the Christmas story. And regardless of which one you love the best—I do love those shepherds!—they all point to the birth of Jesus, and the coming of grace into our world, and the salvation that inspires our most heartfelt alleluias!

I am not one to quibble too much about the other Christmas, with its lights and gifts and sappy songs. It causes me no real grief or concern, because the center of the Christmas story—the center of every story, really—is still and always will be the story of Jesus.

Santa Claus and Rudolph are no match for the strong arms of the shepherds, for the wisdom of the Magi, for the power of Gabriel. Frosty the Snowman's claims on my imagination pale before the bravery of Joseph or the fierce resistance against Herod. There is no Hallmark channel movie that can



come close to the love of Mary for her Son who will be the Messiah. No gifts rival those of the wise men, and no heart-tugging ad or top 40 pop song comes close to the sky filled with angels.

Why is the Christmas story so powerful? Because there is no other story like it. There is no other day like it. There is no other love like it.

In every generation since that first Christmas, this story has been told with reverence and awe and gratitude. Like believers from every nation, and in every age, we are drawn to the humble stable of Bethlehem. Our hearts are filled with love and amazement and wonder. In our own time we make that same proclamation that has been expressed for two millennia: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:1, NIV).

So find yourself a place near the manger. (I will be found among the shepherds.) Behold the Child who is also God with us. Join in the praise of the angels, or the worship of the magi, or the joyous tears of Anna, or the prayers of Simeon—or even just the devoted silence of Joseph. But come to the manger!

Whenever we celebrate the Savior's birth—at whatever time of year, and in all the ways we have discovered to make the celebration distinctive and joyous and real—remember this one thing: Unto us a child is born! There is a baby in the midst of all of it—a baby who is truly God and truly man, who will grow and become strong; filled with wisdom, and the grace of God is upon him. (Luke 2:40)

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*As director of communication and community engagement for the Pacific Union Conference, Ray Tetz is the named publisher of the Pacific Union Recorder.*



# CHRISTMAS IN BERLIN

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON

All night while we slept, God was at work painting the world white. We woke up to a winter fairyland: blue skies, crystalline air, evergreens bending under the weight of new burdens, and ankle-deep powder leveling the landscape, smoothing over ugliness, wrapping everything in a soft, clean blanket.

joined the cat sitting at the kitchen window, looking out on the birds feasting at the feeder a couple of feet away. Then, bundled up in heavy boots and coat, I set off trudging through the snow.

Already others were up and out before me, walking their dogs, breathing in the fresh clean air. Occasionally a cyclist came by but not a car. This is a society where people prefer to stretch muscles instead of sitting behind the wheel of an automobile. (Unless it's on the autobahn, where they cast every skerrick of German reserve to the four winds.)

Several walkers seemed headed for the same destination. What could it be on this brisk winter morn? Then I began to notice others coming toward me, some with dogs in tow, carrying small sacks. They had been out early doing some shopping. Then I got it: not far ahead a store was open that attracted these early walkers.

Suddenly I found myself in a village and I saw it, large letters proclaiming *Bäckerei* (bakery).

Of course. In Germany you don't buy your bread from a supermarket. And you definitely do not put it in the freezer when you arrive home. That would be close to sacrilege.

Germans get their bread fresh from

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

the local bakery. They walk to the bakery—because no matter where they live, in city, town, or village, a bakery is just a few minutes' walk away.

Bread sustains the German culture. One of the words for work is *Broterwerk*, literally, "gaining one's bread." There is even a postage stamp celebrating German bread culture.

And yes, there is a German institute for bread. Its register indicates that there are more than 3,200 officially recognized varieties of bread in the country. German bread culture was officially added by UNESCO to its intangible cultural heritage list in 2015.

Bread is a staple for most meals in Germany: at breakfast, lunch, and break time (sometimes called *pansenbrot* or "break bread"). In fact, the German word for dinner is *abendbrot*, literally "bread of the evening."

Bread even stars on TV. For German children, a talking loaf named Bernd is a popular character. The comedy series *Bernd das Brot* (Bernd the Bread) has been airing on the children's channel since 2000.

On my morning walk I follow the lead of people ahead of me and enter the *Bäckerei*. Several customers are lined up at the counter; some have dogs, which sit perfectly disciplined by the entrance. The store has a small selection of pastries, but one product dominates the shelves—bread.

Bread, bread, bread.

Brown breads, black breads, white breads.

Breads in sizes small and round, in regular loaves, in strange shapes, breads plastered with seeds, breads baked from wheat, rye, spelt.

This village bakery offers a cornucopia of breads. I can buy ciabatta, seedlicious, Uncle Arnold's seed bread, multi-grain, caraway rye, honey molasses, sourdough wheat, egg bread, cranberry walnut, focaccia, potato bread, or organic breadsticks.

Bread—I love it. But not just any bread, real bread. Bread with backbone, bread that your teeth sink into, bread that will stay with you for hours.

Not the flaccid, spongy, spineless imitations stuffed with preservatives and sugar that you can find on the shelves of supermarkets in America. Those monstrosities are a disgrace to the human race.

Bread—I love it first thing in the morning. What could be better to kick off the day than whole wheat bread just out of the toaster, glowing golden brown with a soft, delicious aroma? Take it, butter it, and devour. (Cold toast is an abomination in my book.)

As a boy I walked to the local elementary school some 10 minutes away. My mother sent the same lunch every day: a cheese sandwich, a cookie or piece of cake that she had baked, and fruit.

I never grew tired of the same menu. When you have good bread and a nice cheese, you don't need much else.

I have a bread test. Whenever I sit down to a meal with unfamiliar bread, I simply spread a small piece with butter. One bite tells me whether this loaf is worthy of further discovery. A good bread can stand on its own feet without the aid of fancy spreads.

Thank God for the simple gift of bread.

It has to be good bread. One spring, many moons ago, Noelene and I spent several weeks at a college in southern France with the sheer face of the Salève towering above and Lake Geneva shimmering in the distance. The setting was exotic.

The food, however, was less so. The chef baked once a week, but he sadistically held back the long narrow loaves for several days. They looked tempting until we took a bite.

I reckon that the Lord knew what He was talking about when He taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."





Several viewers, pictured with mentoring pastors and church leaders at a GNTV Latino rally, share their personal testimony of how the ministry has impacted their lives.

## Effective Soul Winning, Even in the Midst of a Pandemic



A volunteer crew member lifts supplies up to a tower crew on a hot (108 degree) Arizona desert summer day.

**A**t a time when people in our communities are social distancing, their interest in spiritual matters and Bible prophecy is climbing, and our outreach methods must adapt. Good News TV is one way that has proven effective in reaching hearts for heaven.

Good News TV (GNTV), widely recognized as one of Arizona's premiere soul winning ministries, has been spreading the news of Jesus' love and scriptural truths for almost 12 years, with both English and Spanish channels. Viewers throughout the state are blessed to be able to tune into Good News TV for life-changing, Seventh-day Adventist programs, 24 hours per day.

With COVID-19 resulting in many restrictions on outreach and close contact with others, people are spending more time at home watching television. In these unprecedented times, this ministry has become an even more important and effective method to reach souls and then connect them with a local church family.

In advance of the pandemic, an ongoing HD upgrade project, entitled "Perfect Vision in 20/20," was launched, along with a new children's channel, called "GNTV Kids," designed to reach young families for Jesus. The ministry has since completed the upgrade to HD for their English channels, and they are fundraising to upgrade the Spanish channel by early next year. Likewise, the kids' channel has been launched in five of the seven communities, and they are hopeful to finish the final two before the end of 2020.

Many more viewers are being impacted since the pandemic struck, and some are calling with exciting stories to tell.

A viewer from Mesa, a former Anglican priest, believed the biblical truths presented, which he never understood before, and now considers himself an Adventist. He requested more GNTV program guides to give to people he meets, so he can encourage them to watch. Although he is homebound, he has connected with the Apache Junction church, where he's being nurtured by a former Assemblies of God evangelist, who also joined the church through watching the channel.

A viewer in Tucson called in desperation, requesting prayer and help for freedom from his alcohol addiction. GNTV connected him with a local pastor, who is also studying with three other viewers. This viewer is now studying the Bible in preparation for baptism later this year, and he reports that he has not had a drop of alcohol for many weeks since connecting with the pastor and church family. His parents are also excited about the changes they have seen.

A viewer in Apache Junction, who calls herself a "backslidden Adventist," is "remorseful for the many wasted years away from the Lord." She found GNTV and is excited as never before by the faith she had turned away from. She requested a copy of *Steps to Christ* for herself and told us she invited eight friends, who are joining her in her mobile home to watch a live evangelistic series broadcasting on the channel.

A viewer in Tempe recently reminded GNTV that two years ago she had called for a free offer—a copy of *The Desire of Ages* that was delivered by a volunteer. Since then, she continued watching and found a nurturing church family. She was baptized just weeks ago, saying that the channel had been instrumental to her journey back to God.

Good News TV broadcasts on antenna TV as well as on Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, and smart devices,



Several tower crew members pause after bringing a station online in one community.

including Android and iOS. They also have many of their productions and viewer testimonies available for on-demand viewing at their YouTube Channel. To locate them on your device, simply search for "Good News TV" and look for their logo.

Since Good News TV started broadcasting in Phoenix in 2009, they have since expanded to a total of seven communities throughout Arizona, including Prescott, Payson, Flagstaff, Yuma, Verde Valley, and Tucson, now covering about 90% of the population.

The ministry is uniquely designed with several local elements, such as phone numbers, worship services, and promotions, as well as a diverse variety of programs.

*If you would like to consider starting a television ministry like Good News TV to reach your territory, they invite you to contact them to learn more at [MyGoodNewsTV.com](http://MyGoodNewsTV.com) / [GNTVLatino.org](http://GNTVLatino.org) / 480-264-1116.*

*By Phil Draper*

Many more viewers are being impacted since the pandemic struck, and some are calling with exciting stories to tell.



Several of the GNTV viewers who have joined the Yuma Central church, with the GNTV manager on the far left and the church pastor on the far right.

# The Revelation of Jesus: Biblical Symposium on What's Next

*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants. ... Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy" (Revelation 1:1, 3, NKJV).*



CCC President Ramiro Cano presents the welcome at the symposium.

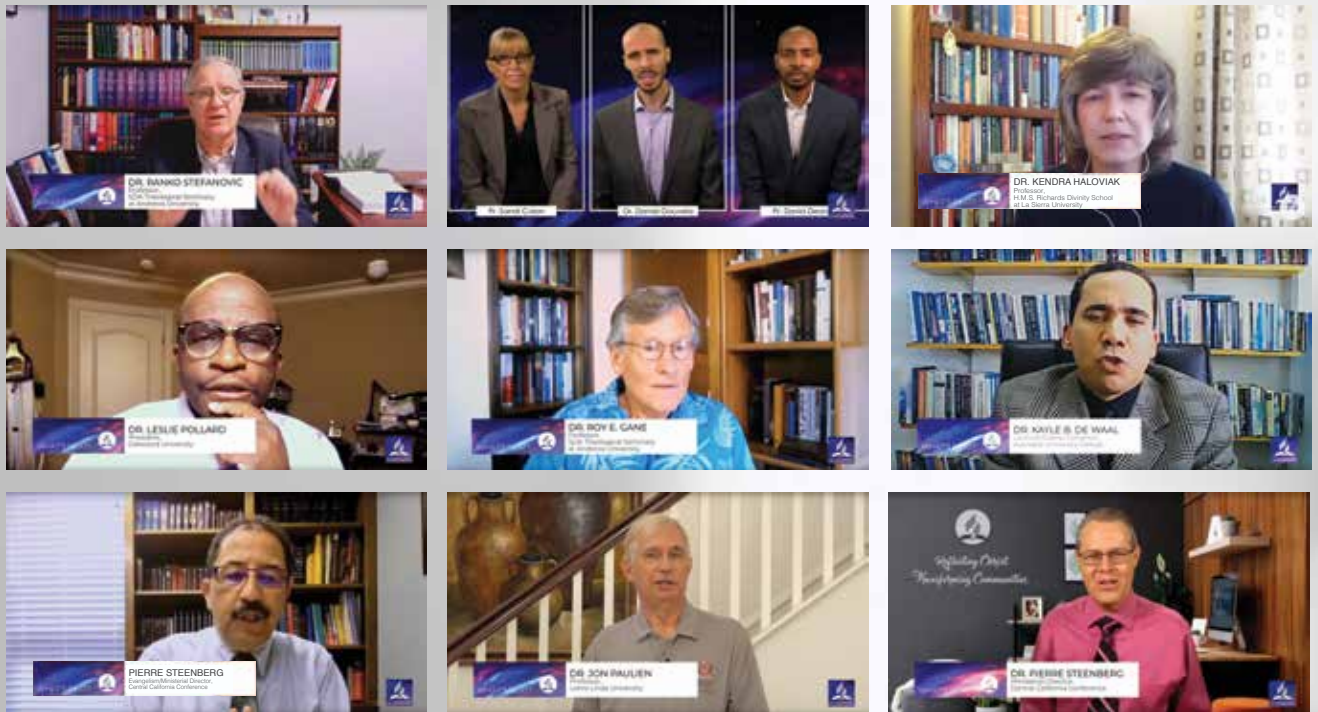
The Central California Conference (CCC) presented a virtual biblical symposium on final events entitled "What's Next?" from Friday evening, October 23, to Saturday night, October 31. Each evening and three times on Sabbath, one of seven Adventist theologians, as well as a discussion group of CCC pastors on Sabbath morning, made presentations on the Book of Revelation. Various scholars from Adventist universities shared their vast knowledge on compelling topics such as the time of trouble, the mark of the beast, Sunday laws, date setting, and the remnant.

Adventists have always recognized the importance of studying Revelation. And yet, the book is often misunderstood, and wild theories can develop that distract from its significance and crucial message for our times. Ellen White advised us, "This revelation was given for the guidance and comfort of the church throughout the Christian dispensation" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 583). Therefore, "We are to proclaim to the world the great





Hundreds and sometimes thousands have already viewed these sessions from around the world. All of these presentations are still available on Facebook or YouTube. Go to [www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/whatsnext](http://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/whatsnext) to access the messages, biographical information, and additional resources.



TOP ROW: Ranko Stefanovic spoke for four services over the first weekend; CCC Pastors Sandi Colon, Daniel Gouveia, and David Dean held a discussion panel on both Sabbaths; and Kendra Haloviak-Valentine spoke on Sabbath, October 24. MIDDLE ROW: Leslie Pollard, Roy E. Gane, and Kayle B. deWaal presented on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, respectively. BOTTOM ROW: Jorge Rico spoke on Thursday evening, Jon Paulien gave three presentations on the second weekend, and Pierre Steenberg provided additional information for viewers on most sessions.

and solemn truths of Revelation” (*Evangelism*, p. 196).

It is for this reason, that Pierre Steenberg, CCC evangelism/ministerial director, Eddy Perez, CCC evangelist, and Sergio Cano, CCC creative arts director, spent long hours and even sleepless nights to arrange for this symposium to take place. Other team members prepared to pray with and answer questions of participants.

“We wanted this symposium to explain what the church believes and to bring clarity to the final events of earth’s history amongst the clamoring multitude of voices,” Steenberg said. “With world events hurling us into uncertainty, hopelessness, and fear, many are flocking to messages that try to make sense of the senseless. Some set dates for Jesus’ return. Others interpret Scripture in strange ways or misuse statements from Ellen White. Some even claim to be representing the beliefs of the Adventist church but end up eroding

the faith of our members. In the midst of chaos, we can hear the footsteps of an approaching God. The time to prepare is now.”

In welcoming viewers, CCC President Ramiro Cano further reiterated the purpose for this symposium: “The CCC is fully committed to this great Advent message while preparing a people to meet Jesus. We are keenly aware of the many voices that are heard today rallying the people to excitement and sensationalism, creating fear, anxiety, and fanaticism. As sentinels on the walls of Zion, we have a responsibility to present the plain, unaltered, and clear truth to navigate safely through the perils of these last days. Even though troublesome and uncertain times are ahead, the only safeguard from deception is a watchful, sincere, and prayerful searching of God’s Word and inspired writings.”

By Deloris Trujillo



## Come to the Table: Communion Service in a Pandemic

On October 10 and 17, two churches in Hawaii participated in something that many churches—for good reasons—have avoided: conducting communion service during the COVID-19 pandemic. With all of the public health limitations and precautions, it certainly makes a lot of sense to hold off on some elements of church life that are very involved, such as the ordinance of humility and the Lord's Supper.

Yet, if communion service was accomplished, and safety protocols and precautions were honored in the process, a great opportunity to refresh weary souls by coming together in this special way would be a noteworthy footnote for a year full of virus-related cancellations, changes, and limitations.

Prayerfully, I decided to present the idea of attempting a pandemic-adjusted communion service to my churches in Hilo and Puna. I explained that we would have to follow safety guidelines and that this would call for some flexibility and changes to our traditional approaches for this service. I also emphasized that this would be a good way to rally our church family around what matters most: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at the cross.

Both church boards warmly supported the idea, and after planning, praying, and rehearsing, we conducted our adjusted communion service. The serving parties and congregants wore masks. Instead of passing plates of wine and bread during the service, these items were pre-packaged in small sauce cups with lids and distributed in advance to our congregants. Physical distancing was maintained throughout the service, and congregants took the bread and wine when prompted in a self-serve style. One church opted to table the

foot-washing service altogether, while the other church allowed persons who resided in the same household to do footwashing among themselves.

The highlight, however, was not the COVID-19 adjustments but rather the power that comes from the Holy Spirit when God's people remember and receive anew the sacrifice of Jesus. "I am reminded of Matthew 5:16, which says, 'Let your light so shine before men,'" said Fernando Martinez of the Hilo Church. "With communion, we were able to bring some normalcy to church. Starting with the sermon, we were reminded of the sacrifice that was made for us. The Spirit was moving in the congregation. As we entered into communion, I felt God's presence there. As I looked around, I saw peace in everyone's eyes. Having communion brought a sense of unity."

For both the Hilo and the Puna churches, this was the only communion service held in the year, due to the pandemic. These two churches were willing to partner with God to accomplish something special, and maybe even rare, and they safely experienced communion service in these unconventional times.

Paul encourages us, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Corinthians 11: 26, NIV). I believe God smiles whenever we proclaim the sacrifice of Jesus with gratitude and remembrance of His love in our hearts.

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*By Andre Weston*



TOP: Hilo Head elder Fernando Martinez assists with communion cups. LEFT: Hilo church members take communion together.

# Helping Our Kupuna Connect

When COVID-19 arrived, no one knew just how devastating it would be for our social interactions. The isolation from family and friends and the inability to gather socially has been hard on everyone, increasing feelings of loneliness and depression.

This is especially true for our elderly or *kupuna*, as they are called in Hawaii. For many of our kupuna, coming to the church building was the one time a week they could connect with others. The church gathering offered them the opportunity to see familiar faces and be part of a larger family. This was invaluable to their mental health and well-being; it was their connection to the outside world.

So, when churches were forced to go online, most of us adapted nicely, enjoying the chance to worship in our pj's on our couches. However, many of our kupuna lack the technology or the know-how to navigate the social platforms many of us take for granted.

In the Kaneohe church, we noticed the lack of connection with many of our dear kupuna and sought to find a solution. Equipped with a generous technology grant from the president of the Hawaii conference, we were able to purchase several tablets and streaming devices for our kupuna to use to once again connect with their church families.

On October 3, a Sabbath afternoon, Josh Landenberger, Kaneohe technology ministries leader, led several of our kupuna in a training session on how



A small group of kupuna gather to learn how to use technology to connect to ministry from Technologies Ministries leader Josh Landenberger.

to connect to our social media platforms using the tablets. Josh walked the excited and eager members through the process of how to connect to Bible studies on Zoom, how to watch livestreamed services, and even how to post thoughts and encouragement to others on Facebook.

“The reason we went with tablets is so that through preloaded Facebook, Zoom, YouTube, and the writings of Sister White, connection with their church ohana [family] would be a simple click away,” said Kaneohe Pastor Tim Nelson.

While there has been a learning curve, the kupuna have started to embrace the new technology. “It was the bane of my existence when I first tried to use it!” exclaimed Sue Costales. “However, getting to study with our ohana has been such a blessing.”

Several of the kupuna have not only embraced the tablets, they have started using them to reach out to other friends and family for Jesus. Recent tablet receiver Elsie Frisbee has already set up a week of prayer, a woman's worship tea, and a worship talk with a mainland church—all using the new technology.

Kaneohe church is humbled yet excited to see how God is using this new ministry to connect its kupuna to each other and to the continuing mission of the church, in spite of COVID-19's best efforts to separate us.



Elsie Frisbee shows off the tablet she used to conduct a multi-church Zoom week of prayer.



**HOLBROOK**  
INDIAN SCHOOL

## HIS Impact

*“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed”  
(Proverbs 11:25, NLT).*



*Jerena is a 2012 graduate and a remarkable testament to God’s impact through our school on each one of our students. For Jerena, the influence was so significant that she felt drawn to come back to help us in a time of need. Here is her story.*

**G**rowing up, I went to school on the Navajo Reservation. It was going OK for me until I started getting into fights. It got so bad that students would come to my house just to start trouble. Because of this, my mom and I decided I needed to go to school off the reservation at Holbrook Indian School (HIS).

I started going to HIS in 2007 for junior high. This was before they had any special art classes. I was physically absent from the reservation, so I was away from the fights, but things were still rough for me emotionally. I thought suicide was the way out. I would blow up at the staff, and I was always getting sent to the principal’s office. I remember a staff member handing me a pen and paper and telling me to write down whatever I wanted to lash out about. I took the pen, but I actually started drawing instead of writing. The staff noticed that what calmed me down was arts and crafts.

When I came to register for classes the following year, I noticed there were new classes, like drawing and other art classes. I wondered why they were adding these. When I started taking the classes, I noticed some supplies that had not been there before. I saw drawing stands and drawing pencils, which I was told were donated. If it wasn’t for those donations, which helped to start the art classes, I think I would have gone crazy.

I graduated from HIS in 2012. Eight years after graduating, I returned to help by assisting a teacher with physical tasks that he could not perform

because of injuries from a recent accident. I have been helping Mr. Bruce with his Welding and Mechanics classes and by taking care of the horses on campus.

I was working for the Navajo Government Census while staying with my mom when I found out about Mr. Bruce's accident. My family thought I was risking my health and safety by working with the Census on the reservation during this pandemic. I had cases involving households with COVID-19, but as a Census worker, I was notified about this, so I knew when to keep social distance. All I could think of was helping my family financially. My dad's recent passing has put a financial and emotional strain on them. I needed some sort of income.

I found out about the accident through Mr. and Mrs. Bruce's posted update on social media. Mr. Bruce was OK, but he would be unable to perform most of his tasks as a teacher. What came to my mind was, "Who is taking care of Skipper? Who's going to feed him? Mrs. Bruce can't do that all by herself." Mr. and Mrs. Bruce were my sponsors during my senior year, so I had grown very close to them. Horsemanship, one of the classes Mr. Bruce had taught, was my favorite class, and Skipper was the horse I rode. When I heard about the accident, I bought a get-well card and wrote a message that I was here if they needed help.

Meanwhile, back on the reservation, I had vehicle problems, and I didn't know how I would continue doing my work. A few days later, Mr. Bruce called me and asked if I was serious about helping. I told him I was, especially now that I couldn't continue working with the Census.

When I talked on the phone with the principal, Mr. Ojeda, he told me he would arrange for me to get paid for my assistance. I had been thinking of coming to volunteer. I didn't know there was going to be any pay involved. My dad would always say, "Some things happen for a reason." After my car broke down and I got this opportunity to help, his saying came to my mind.

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By *Chevon Petgrave & Jerena Hunter*



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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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# A Mom, Her Baby, and Their Family's Story of Hope and Healing After COVID-19

**M**onica Ramirez awoke alone and confused in an unfamiliar hospital room in late July. "I felt like I had been hit by a train," she recalled. "Someone opened the shades in my room, and I could see buildings and pavilions outside the window. It all seemed so familiar."

Ramirez's last memory was of driving to a hospital in Corona and being admitted on July 7. At the time, she didn't know she had COVID-19; she only knew she couldn't breathe. At 29 weeks pregnant, Ramirez was in critical condition as her body battled the virus and struggled to support the life of her baby. She was airlifted to Loma Linda University Health, placed in the intensive care unit in a medically induced coma, and intubated.

Ramirez for many years had joked with her family that they should drop her off at Loma Linda if she was ever sick, because Loma Linda University Health would come to her rescue. Ramirez and her family have had a special connection to Loma Linda University Health ever since her father received a liver transplant at the Medical Center. "I tell every person I can to go to Loma Linda University Health for care," she said. "The most important thing is their faith in God, which motivates them to truly care about and help people."

While she was in the coma, Ramirez's water broke prematurely at only 30 weeks. Doctors delivered her tiny daughter, Emiliana, via C-section on July 13. She weighed three pounds and six ounces. Ramirez would remain comatose for more than a week after Emiliana was delivered. During that period, her body continued to battle the virus, and her heart stopped twice. She later recovered and was sent home to rest and continue her recovery.

On August 15, Ramirez was free of COVID-19 and strong enough to come visit the hospital and hold Emiliana in her arms for the first time.

Now, mother and baby at home, Ramirez says her family is complete. "I am so happy, blessed, and beyond

grateful to be able to be home—both of us," she said.

Ramirez still suffers from symptoms related to having had COVID-19, including breathing difficulty, throat pain, and some body numbness, but she said she's thankful—for her life, her healthy baby, her family, and her story of hope and healing.

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*By Sheann Brandon*



# La Sierra Enactus Team Produces 200+ Face Shields for Health Workers

As the COVID-19 pandemic shifted into high gear this spring and again in the summer, healthcare institutions around the country struggled to keep protective gear stocked. A group of La Sierra college students decided to help meet some of the need around them.

Members of the La Sierra University Enactus team realized they had an opportunity to contribute clear plastic face shields to frontline healthcare and other workers, a vital component of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed to defend against infection from COVID-19.

The La Sierra team, based in the Zapara School of Business, is part of an international student-driven nonprofit that uses entrepreneurship and social innovation toward meeting needs and improving the world. Led by Enactus 3D Printing Solutions Projects leader Christian Lott, a senior accounting and political economy major, the team utilized Makerforged 3D printers in the business school's Innovation Lab along with Markforged face shield designs to produce 217 clear plastic face shields during the spring and summer.

Of those, 162 shields were delivered to medical staff at Redlands Community Hospital, 30 went to the Loma Linda University Research Affairs Office, and 25 shields were delivered to La Sierra University. All the shields produced so far have been donated, with the team absorbing production costs.

"PPE was at times very hard to come by, and the addition of these shields was very appreciated," said Carolyn Arnold, Maternal Child Director at Redlands Community Hospital. The shields were provided to physicians, nurses, and technicians in the Labor and Delivery Unit. "The Materials Management Team at Redlands Community Hospital did an amazing job acquiring supplies and PPE, but there were times when they were struggling to find the numbers of supplies needed. The donated shields helped take some pressure off that team and has provided protection for our staff and medical providers," Arnold said.

Lott, who helped deliver the shields, said it felt like a task he was called to do. "I hope it made things a little less stressful," he said.

The team made flyers and sought contributions to help cover materials costs, but they did not ask



Nurses and other healthcare staff at Redlands Community Hospital take a selfie with their new protective face shields donated by La Sierra University Enactus.

the receiving institutions to pay for the shields. The team pays \$11.58 per mask for foam, elastic bands, and plastic, which were chosen based on recommendations from Markforged. "The masks aren't FDA approved like a lot of PPE that's being used right now, but they can be used under the Emergency Use Authorization," Lott said.

The 3D printers are able to produce eight shields a day and, while not set up to manufacture thousands of face shields, the team is making a difference where it can. Presently the team is taking orders on a case-by-case basis.

The La Sierra University Enactus team's current projects include Freight to Table, a hydroponic vegetable-growing venture, and the e-Library, which provides digital learning without the need for internet infrastructure.

*For a special opportunity this month to support the La Sierra University Enactus team's hydroponic freight farming project, please visit [lasierra.edu/givingday](http://lasierra.edu/givingday).*

*By Darla Martin Tucker*

# Another Day to Serve the Lord

One of the youngest pastors in the Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC), Melody Darrow, NUC women's ministry director, thought herself healthy—she eats veggies, works out in the pool, and is a product of “hardy stock.” Never considering that COVID-19 would nearly kill her, Pastor Darrow naively believed that if you serve God and obey, you will be spared pain, sickness, and suffering. That is no longer her belief.

A recent victim of COVID-19, she now realizes that serving God does not prevent suffering. “I wore my mask and sanitized myself and my shoes,” Darrow declared. “I quarantined and refused to allow anyone to darken my door, and I still got the virus!” Serving God does not exempt us from trouble, trials, or disease; in fact, it sometimes makes us a target. Describing her battle, Darrow said, “I sat in my chair as fever raged through my body like an inferno for 12 days. The body aches that followed were extremely painful and intense. I could do nothing but curl up in a ball and rock and cry, praying to God for strength to survive.” Christian music and praising God helped to distract her from the pain.

“The constant hum of the oxygen machine threatened my sanity. The oxygen caused nose bleeds, and the steroids kept me from enjoying restful sleep,” she continued. “I lost 12 pounds in two weeks. Weakness followed, and I gasped for air just crossing the room.”

Friends, family, prayer groups, and members all over NUC lifted her to heaven in prayer. People brought food and medication. Counting her blessings, she recognized that she had health insurance, oxygen, inhalers, and a nebulizer. A great blessing was her nephew Lambo Darrow, who became nurse to her, making smoothies and finding ways to comfort her.

“I could do nothing but curl up in a ball and rock and cry, praying to God for strength to survive.”



Melody Darrow, NUC's women's ministries director, faced a big battle with COVID-19. She is pictured here with her nephew, who helped her through it.

In spite of all this, the virus almost killed her. Her optimism fell with her dropping oxygen levels. She sat scared, gasping, dizzy, and disoriented, stubbornly refusing to call the doctor, fearing a hospital admittance would be a death sentence.

Fortunately, Lambo stepped in and compelled her to call the doctor. New medication brought about a rise in oxygen levels within hours. Hope rushed back into her soul, and she realized she would live to fight another day.

As a result of this trial, there was self-realization of the stubbornness and arrogance in thinking she would be spared from the virus because she serves the Lord. A promise of an easy life does not accompany dedicated service to God. On the contrary, those that were closest to Jesus experienced great difficulties, including painful deaths. 1 Peter 4:12 says “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you” (NIV). We know trials will come, so why do they surprise us?

“When sitting in my recliner, gasping for breath and burning up with fever, I thought, ‘Is this it? Will I ever have a chance to preach the gospel again?’” Darrow said. “I grieved that I may never get the opportunity to baptize again.”

Still weak, losing her hair, struggling through respiratory rehabilitation to save her lungs from permanent damage, Darrow realizes the war is not over, but the end is in sight. Spared to live and preach again, she is eternally grateful for the blessing of ministry—helping others to know God and helping facilitate the change that only God can bring.



# Fallon Couple

## Receives Marriage Award

Worldwide Marriage Encounter recently awarded Bill and June Jamerson, members of the Fallon church, the “Longest Married Couple State Winners” for the state of Nevada.

Bill learned people skills early on as one member of a family of seven. June had two siblings. Bill and June went to a Seventh-day Adventist church in Michigan together as children; Bill was just a few years ahead of June. Later down the road, the two corresponded by mail while June was going to Broadview Adventist Academy in Illinois and Bill was departing from a base in Nevada to Europe with Patton's 3rd Army, where he was on the front lines at the Battle of the Bulge as a combat medic.

The lovebirds married on May 25, 1946. If you do the math, you'll see they've been married 74 years! Their first son, Gary, was born on May 25, 1948. Four years and 51 days later, their second son, Dennis, was born. Another four years and 51 days later, their third son, Kevin, was born. All three boys were born on Tuesdays, as was June.

Bill spent many years as a pastor in Sacramento and Orange County. It was important that June be home when her boys got home from school, the same way her mother had been for her. Once the boys were in high school, she began working as an administrative assistant at Glendale Adventist Hospital.

The Jamersons also spent 10 years as missionaries in Peru and Bolivia. Dennis was born in Bolivia. God's

watch care was evident when Kevin was 18 months old and the family was living in Lima. Somehow, little Kevin got out of the house. June asked the maid where he was, but she didn't know. They found the open door and then an open gate to the road, with no sight of the boy. The driver of a passing car questioned, “Senora, are you alright?” June replied that she was looking for her baby. Immediately, the driver told her to jump in and he would take her to search for the missing child. Fortunately, Kevin had been picked up by a kind woman when she found him in the street. June was so, so grateful!

Bill and June moved to Paradise, California, about 32 years ago. June said it took some adjustment getting used to life in the country, but they grew to love it. The Jamersons had assumed that would be their last home and they would not be moving again. In November 2018, that all changed as an unforgiving fire ravaged their town and their home. As they were evacuating the area, flames threatened both sides of their vehicle. Because of their experience with this fire, June said she has learned that stuff is just stuff and has no real value. Bill shared, “We always need to be ready because we don't know when something might happen. Have all of your important legal documents in one easy spot so you can quickly grab them if needed.” They fled with nothing in hand.

Passionate about young people, they developed and were involved in many programs to reach them for Christ, including day camps, youth evangelism, VBS, and weeks of prayer. Now well into their 90s, ministry is still their passion and the love of this inspirational couple for God is contagious.

The recognition letter from Worldwide Marriage Encounter states: “A life-long commitment can seem like an impossible dream to many couples who are just starting off their lives together today... [These couples] look to you, a couple who has honored their commitment, nurtured their marriage and loved unconditionally through the peaks and valleys of a lifetime together!”

By Michelle Ward



LEFT: Bill and June Jamerson married on May 25, 1946. RIGHT: They celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.



# Foothills Students and Teachers Return to Class

Although students and teachers were unable to return to Foothills Adventist Elementary School after its main building was destroyed in the Glass Fire, they began in-person classes on Oct. 19—thanks to their sister schools up the hill in Angwin. Pacific Union College Elementary School and PUC Preparatory School opened their doors and provided classrooms for the K-8 students.

On the first day back, Lynne Hattendorf and Lori Holm—the counseling team from Loma Linda Academy—talked with each class about feelings they might be experiencing. “They taught the children intentionally how to express their hidden emotions in positive ways, both verbal and nonverbal, such as coloring, sharing their stories, and petting a dog,” said The Haven church Pastor Josie Asencio. She

## Generosity Continues After the Fires

Many people have provided help for those impacted by the recent fires in the Northern California Conference (NCC) territory.

- Established just before the fires began last September, the NCC Disaster Relief Fund has filled an important need. “A special thank you to all our compassionate donors, who have given just over \$20,000,” said Laurie Trujillo, director of communication and development. “As a result, in collaboration with local pastors, 99 families connected to an Adventist church received direct assistance during the first 12 days following the recent fires.”
- NCC Adventist Community Services has been

providing cash support to churches in the communities impacted by the fires.

- NCC churches came together to help evacuees. When Willie Johnson, African American ministries coordinator/urban ministries director, contacted Valley Community church deacon and ACS leader Darrell Johnson and Fairfield Community church head deacon and ACS leader Patrick Siverand, they gladly agreed to prepare and sort clothes for Napa-area evacuees. They delivered bags of clothes, sorted by size and gender, to the Napa Spanish church, which hosted a drive-through clothing giveaway for the county.

*By NCC Communication Department*

# Redwood Adventist Academy Breaks Ground for New Campus

On Sept. 25, Redwood Adventist Academy held its groundbreaking ceremony for phases one and two of its new facility. Since the Tubbs Fire destroyed the school in 2017—and before the current pandemic—classes met in temporary buildings installed on the campus.

The goal is to have the multipurpose gym and the administration building completed before the beginning of next school year. “Breaking ground gives us hope,” said Principal Shaun Lazarus. “A brighter future awaits us.”

Those in attendance included school families and local pastors, as well as members of the school board, the school foundation, the Pacific Union Conference, the NCC, local government, and the local chamber of commerce—which the school recently joined. “My goal is for us to network in our

community so people will recognize our school and what we stand for,” said Lazarus.

As of November, teachers and their K-8 students were meeting online until they receive the go-ahead from Sonoma County to return to their classrooms.

*By Julie Lorenz*



PHOTO: CARMEN SANDOVAL

and St. Helena church Pastor Robert Kurtz were on hand to support the Foothills community.

Three golden retrievers from Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry were on campus all morning. One boy spent 45 minutes with a comfort dog. He had escaped the Camp Fire with his grandmother, lost his previous school, moved to Deer Park—and has now lost his second school. Although his home is still standing, he had not yet been able to return to it.

Educators and students found some cheerful surprises when they walked into their substitute classrooms. Students from Middletown Adventist School had created welcome posters, and PUC Elementary students had left encouraging letters. The Oklahoma Conference sent Adventist hug bears (stuffed animals) for each student and staff member, with some left over for others. The Napa Community church provided a plant and baked goods for each teacher, and staff from the NCC education department brought breakfast treats and lunch for all.

The school has received an abundance of generosity! PUC Elementary, The Haven church, and others have donated school supplies, textbooks, and playground equipment. People are sponsoring new Bibles for

the upper-grades students who lost theirs in the fire. Foothills alumnus Sarah Racker set up a GoFundMe page, “Help us rebuild the Foothills Elementary Library,” to raise money for new books. The California Department of Education provided Chromebooks, iPads, hotspots, external monitors, and Wacom boards for each of the teachers at no cost.

“The Lord has been blessing and taking care of Foothills,” said Principal Rob Ingham. “The teachers and students feel very grateful for all the support and love that has been poured out on their behalf. As school gets back into a routine, there continue to be needs, but we know God moves ahead and provides, even before we ask.”

*By Lynal Ingham*



PHOTO: LYNAL INGHAM



# Do Unto Others

## PUC Serves Local Community After Fire Evacuations



Back-to-back wildfires in Northern California forced the evacuation of Pacific Union College (PUC) twice during fall. Thankfully, the PUC family was blessed to remain safe during both the LNU Lightning Complex Fire and the Glass Fire, and the campus was not damaged.

Some of PUC's students and employees used the time away from campus to give back to their Napa County community through service. Students, including the college's athletes, distributed food and personal items to families affected by the fire at multiple distributions in the area.

Once local evacuation orders were lifted and PUC's local community was allowed to return home, the school hosted multiple events with their partners Adventist Health St. Helena and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to provide warm meals, hygiene items, and 5-gallon jugs of water for hundreds of their Angwin neighbors who were also returning from evacuation.

The delicious food was prepared by local Napa Valley restaurants and Bon Appetit, who runs PUC's cafeteria, and it was well received by the community, whose power had not been restored at the time.

*By Ashley Eisele*

# No One is Alone

“To be, or not to be.” To be a mission owner, or not to be a mission owner: that is a question that would not even cross the minds of the 37,000 associates who serve at Adventist Health. They know how to “be a mission owner,” one of the six values driven by our mission to live God’s love.

A bold statement? Absolutely.

Can we say the same of our schools? Can we say the same of our churches? Can we say the same of our families? Absolutely. I believe that we are all mission owners. There are moments when we excel in that value and supersede all expectations. There are moments when we sense the freedom and creativity that God has given us, and we move forward with exceptional faith directly into action. Those are moments when we understand that everything really is held together in Jesus, as the Apostle Paul shared: “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17, ESV).

God’s love is the motivator that inspires us to own our mission. That is what inspires Sam Neese, ICU telemetry monitor for Adventist Health Sonora.

She noticed that our COVID-19 patients are often isolated for their treatment and recovery. When family members are distant due to COVID visitor restrictions, the patients need the love of those around them to cheer them on towards recovery.

In response to this, Sam started to create artwork



“What inspires me to come to work each day is being able to help others. I like the smiles I get in return.”

for her patients. She finds out what they are interested in and makes personalized posters for them. We asked Sam what motivates and inspires her to serve and care for our patients every day. She shared: “What inspires me to come to work each day is being able to help others. I like the smiles I get in return. I like how proud it makes my children feel. I like knowing I make a difference in someone’s life.”

The kitchen team at Adventist Health Sonora has a tradition of making something special for patients who are in their care on their birthday. One of our patients, who had been taking a long time to recover fully, was overwhelmed when the cards arrived and the birthday meal was presented. That day, he created his own thank you note: “Best birthday morning of my life! Love you all. Thank you.”

Last month, we held our annual Mission Week, which focused on being a mission owner. Each day we streamed at three different times, live to a global audience. Hospital presidents, like Kathy Raethel and her team from Adventist Health Castle in Hawaii, provided box lunches to encourage associates to pause and be inspired. Then on Friday, a video telling the story of Sam Neese’s mission to use artwork to encourage her patients was introduced by Mario DeLise, mission director for Adventist Health Sonora. Mario explained that even the creation of the short film was a result of the efforts of three mission owners: Lindsay Brewer, Matthew Rose, and Karen O’Brien.

Each day of Mission Week, our hearts were lifted by stories from throughout the system of associates who are all mission owners. If you missed the Mission Week, you can watch it online via the Simply Mission app or at [www.AdventistHealth.org/MissionWeek](http://www.AdventistHealth.org/MissionWeek). And next year we hope you save the date to join us live the first week of November.

By Japhet De Oliveira



## Schools Maintain the Values of Adventist Education

While parents are feeling the strain of the ongoing global pandemic, their children are also experiencing difficult emotions. The important issue of schooling has families weighing the options for their children during this unprecedented year.

Daphne Thomas, professor of social work at La Sierra University, said that more children are currently living with high levels of stress. According to her, “Children absorb the experience of those around them. They may worry about vulnerable loved ones as well as parents who work in situations where they are exposed.”

The effects are amplified as the stressful conditions persist. “Chronic stress changes the chemical and physical structure of the brain and can impair cognition, attention, concentration, memory, and creativity,” said Thomas, who adds that there can be longer-lasting effects. “Mental health and academic achievement are linked. When mental health suffers, then academics start to fall behind.”

Schools in Southeastern California Conference are responding to these

ABOVE: La Sierra Academy’s K-6 chapel takes place outside during the 2020/21 school year. LEFT: The seventh-grade math class at La Sierra Academy meets with students in-person and online.



challenges. Don Dudley, conference superintendent, said, "From the beginning, our teachers have really stepped up and have been amazingly creative in reaching students, whether they are learning in the classroom or joining our schools remotely." He noted that while most students have returned to campus, one fourth of enrolled students have chosen to stay home and use the online instructional format.

Students who are on campus observe social distancing measures that have allowed them to safely return to the classroom for interactions with their teachers and classmates. "The students meet in cohorts and stay with the same group in the classroom, on the playground, and when they are dismissed," said Dudley. Schools have not had a widespread outbreak since the pandemic began due to these successful measures.

Libett Muñoz Beard, principal of La Sierra Academy, recognizes the importance of creating a safe environment for their students. "In many of our families, there are multiple generations living in the same home," she said. "Both the students and parents are worried about the older generation's safety."

La Sierra Academy safely follows the socially distanced cohort model, and Muñoz keeps in close contact with each student's family. "When we are living with so much anxiety, La Sierra Academy offers all of

our students a community of shared values," she said. "The priority is for students to feel safe here."

Marnie Straine is a professor of social work at La Sierra University and a parent of two elementary-aged boys attending La Sierra Academy. "At first I was worried about my kindergartener starting online. My oldest, who is now in the fourth grade, had a wonderful kindergarten experience, and I was mourning that my youngest son would not have the same experience," Straine said. "I didn't need to worry though! The kindergarten teacher is amazing, and my five-year-old has had a great experience."

Straine said that the current normal has not slowed down her sons' joy about going to school. "Kids are really resilient, and they have adjusted to wearing a mask to school and social distancing from classmates. I realized that they were really enjoying their experience and I was the one who was having a hard time adjusting to the change."

She praised her sons' teachers, saying, "They have been incredible and have spent countless hours responding to parent emails. There are so many different ways that their students are attending their classes, and they have to set up different curriculum plans. Whenever I see them at school, they are still so cheerful and energetic."

Each morning, when she drives up to La Sierra Academy, her sons greet the staff members who welcome them and walk them to their classrooms. "This has become normal for them," Straine said. "The world can seem incredibly chaotic to children right now, and when they have a school and teacher that provides them with peaceful consistency, they can really adapt to this current normal that we are all experiencing."

Throughout all of the changes, Dudley emphasized that "the schools have maintained a tremendous spiritual focus. Our schools are continuing with their academic excellence and rigor while growing the students physically, socially, and spiritually. SECC schools continue to uphold the values of Adventist Education to educate the whole child."

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By Tricia Murdoch Zmaj

"From the beginning, our teachers have really stepped up and have been amazingly creative in reaching students, whether they are learning in the classroom or joining our schools remotely."



Edith Pereda, culinary arts teacher, poses for a picture with one of her students, Dimas Acosta, junior at La Sierra Academy, during the class.

# First-Ever GLAR Preaching Training Equips and Inspires

This fall, SCC's Greater Los Angeles Region held its first-ever virtual preaching and homiletics training for elders and laypeople. With a practical, original curriculum, the four presentations by Gamal Alexander, Compton Community church senior pastor, focused on practical and applicable tips.

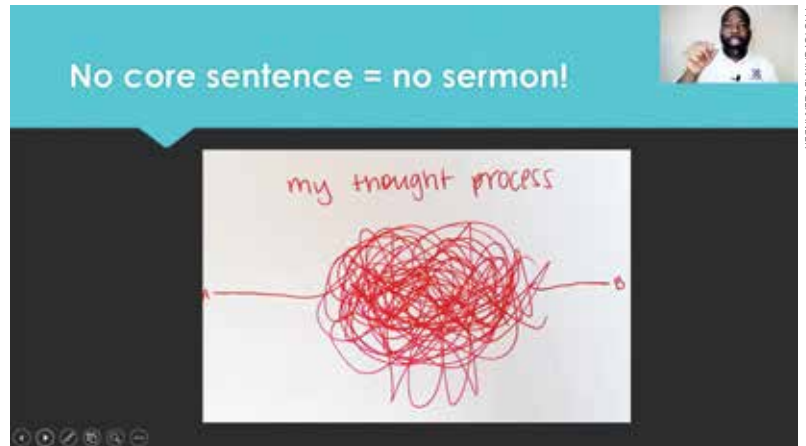
Elders and laypeople are often called upon to facilitate in group studies or even to preach from the pulpit, but these can be intimidating tasks. With this in mind, Alexander, whose emphasis while studying at the seminary was homiletics, sought to simplify the topic by giving instruction on how to map out a sermon based on an idea or a verse and make it memorable.

"The normal everyday person has a 9 to 5 job and doesn't have time to read everything published on preaching," Alexander explained. "They're staring at a blank page and don't know what to do. In the training, I tell them what to do and how. Hopefully, when they see how simple it is, they can say, 'I just have to take these four steps, and I'll be ready to preach. I respect the craft, but I also know that I can do it.'"

Sheldon Brooks, Antelope Valley church treasurer, elder, and Sabbath School teacher, attended three of the four sessions during this year's virtual training and found the instruction to be immensely helpful.

"I purchased his book after the first session I attended, and in the foreword of the book, someone wrote that they wished they would have read his book 20 years ago," Brooks said. "If I'd been to one of his trainings or read his book 20 years ago, it would definitely have helped in my development as a speaker."

Alexander originally wrote the training for Oakwood's 2019 Pastors Evangelism & Leadership



Alexander shares why it's so important to have a clear and concise core message when preparing and delivering a sermon.

PHOTO: GAMAL ALEXANDER

Conference. Instead of providing handouts to accompany the training, he put everything into the form of a book, which he made available to attendees, titled *Preach E.A.S.Y.: Preaching That Effectively Authentically Shares Your Story*.

"I'm not really a preacher," Brooks shared. "I'm an elder. Sometimes elders are called to preach, and, like most elders, I take it seriously. It was very helpful—the book, the training, his energy, his knowledge. I look forward to putting the concepts and principles to use."

"It was a great tool," Royal Harrison, Greater Los Angeles Region director, said of the training. "Alexander does a phenomenal job. He's just a gifted, gifted presenter. He made it so simple and so easy that anybody can do it, and this will increase our region's ability to get the gospel out into areas where we are not reaching."

To watch the presentations and find more info on this training, visit our website at <https://scc.adventist.org/stories/preaching-training> or scan the QR code.



By Lauren Lacson



We invite each of you to Say Hello! For more information, visit [scc.adventist.org/sayhello](http://scc.adventist.org/sayhello).



With Say Hello, members have an opportunity to find common ground, learn more about one another, remain connected, and close the distance within SCC.

## SCC Fosters Connection Through Say Hello Campaign

Everyone has a story to tell—even if we don't realize it. When news from churches and schools within the Southern California Conference (SCC) is shared, one might wonder who the individuals behind these ministries are. What trials have they recently overcome, and what struggles are they currently experiencing? What has happened in their lives that may be inspirational to others? In other words, what are their stories?

SCC is dedicated to sharing these stories through an ongoing social media campaign called Say Hello, which aims to highlight the unique perspectives of members from local churches.

"Many of us have been experiencing anxiety, loneliness, and separation," said Lauren Lacson, SCC communication director. "We launched the Say Hello campaign as a way to bring our SCC family together, which is more important than ever during these isolating times. These spotlights offer connection as we get to see familiar faces and share in each other's personal stories."

Through the pandemic, Joshua O'Balles, member of All Nations church, has been reminded of the importance of living a life fully dependent on God. Olivia Chae, member of Rolling Hills church, has spent more time with God during COVID-19 through daily devotion,



PHOTO: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

along with a small group of friends who refer to themselves as The Bible Buddies.

Earlier this year, Bob Cañete, member of Light Above company, began sharing his passion for music by teaching children and youth how to play the guitar. Caitlin Lopez, member of Long Beach church, is working to pour more love into the body of Christ

through Sidekicks, an inclusive ministry for kids and teens with disabilities.

Marco Topete, member of Sunland-Tujunga church, invited Jesus into his life at his lowest point—alone in a jail cell at 21 years old. Topete now knows God has a purpose and plan for his life. Though Michelle Noland, member of Temple City church, was raised in the Adventist faith, she never fully understood what it meant to have a relationship with Jesus until she was 15 years old.

These are just a few of the stories that have been shared through the Say Hello campaign.

"I appreciate what our conference communication and digital ministry does by publishing your stories on our SCC social media platforms," said Velino A. Salazar, SCC president. "Please share your story. Each story is appreciated and valued; I'm sure it will inspire others."

By Araya Moss

# 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. .... EGW Book Discussion  
Zoom: 98783552992

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

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

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. .... Prayer Meeting  
Zoom: 9631262053  
Thursdays at 11 a.m. .... EGW Book Discussion  
Zoom: 98783552992  
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@cccda.org](mailto:tvang@cccda.org).

## La Sierra University

**La Sierra #GivingTogether.** On December 9 and throughout the month, La Sierra University will hold fundraisers for specific projects and departments ranging from student scholarships to sustainable farming on campus. To learn more about #GivingTogether, please visit [lasierra.edu/givingday](http://lasierra.edu/givingday).

**Virtual music performances.** To view Zoom video musical productions by vocal group United, student recitals, and other productions, visit La Sierra University Music on YouTube. On Instagram, follow @kenaiso1 to watch live home mini concerts weekly by La Sierra adjunct violin/viola instructor and concert artist Ken Aiso.

**Winter Quarter begins.** La Sierra University's winter quarter begins January 4. For information on La Sierra's wide variety of academic programs and undergraduate and graduate degrees, visit [www.lasierra.edu](http://www.lasierra.edu).

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

## 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.  
January: December 7 • February: January 6

### 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).

## Newsdesk Online



The regular section of Newsdesk in the magazine is

available on line at:  
[sda.faith/pacificnewsdesk](http://sda.faith/pacificnewsdesk)

## Northern California Conference

**Live Walk-through Nativity** (Dec. 4, 5) 6-8 p.m., Oroville church, 1180 Robinson Street, Oroville (corner of 2nd and Robinson). Bring the whole family for our 25th year! Live animals to pet and feed, Christmas carols, beautiful seasonal instrumental music. Free! Masks and social distancing required. Info: [www.oroillesdachurch.org](http://www.oroillesdachurch.org) or 530-712-5388.

**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 office, 916-786-8350.

**Instituto Laico Adventista de California (ILAC)** (Jan. 24-25). Online training in leadership and church administration for Spanish-speaking laypeople. This month's topic: "Spiritual Gifts and Leadership." Info: [nccsda.com/ilac](http://nccsda.com/ilac), 916-886-5614.

**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).

## Southeastern California Conference

**La Sierra University Church Advent Series** (Dec. 5, 12, 19, 24). Join La Sierra University church during their Advent Series on Saturdays at 11:15 a.m. Additionally, there will be a Candlelight Concert, Dec. 11 in the evening and a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.live.lasierra.church](http://www.live.lasierra.church).

**Azure Hills Church Christmas Program** (Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26) Sabbaths, 11:30 a.m. On Dec. 5, the Christmas series will take place in the new amphitheater for an in-person service. A Blue Christmas service (Dec. 18) at 7 p.m. will create space for those who want to grieve. There will also be a Christmas Eve Candlelight interactive and in-person celebration, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. For more information, visit [azurehills.org](http://azurehills.org).

## Classified

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## 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

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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).

### Events

**Save the Date!** March 12-14, 2021, LAAA Alumni Association Homecoming Weekend, featuring Dr. Carlton Byrd as keynote speaker. Email [info@laaa-alumni.com](mailto:info@laaa-alumni.com) to register or for more information.

### For Sale

**Houseboat at Lake Don Pedro**, Fleming Meadows, 36 minutes east of Modesto, Calif. Master bedroom with bathroom and shower, guest bathroom, living room with hide-a-bed and two recliners, TV, gas fireplace, full kitchen with two refrigerators/freezers covered upper



deck for family, Pathfinder events, etc. Can sleep 20 in sleeping bags. Twin engine power and Sea-Doo personal watercraft. \$110,000 for 1/3 ownership, plus monthly dues of \$375 to cover slip rental, insurances, taxes, and routine repairs and maintenance. Call: Dan Garcia 209-968-7979. Leave a message and I will return your call.ss

### Missing Members

**Placerville.** Contact: Daisy Stephens, clerk, Placerville SDA Church, 6831 Mother Lode Drive, Placerville, CA 95667; 530-622-2446; clerk. [placerville@nccsda.com](mailto:placerville@nccsda.com): Cheryl Abbitt, Sarah Abbitt, Beth Adams, Melinda Bailey, Shawn Bailey, Matthew Barrish, David Baskins, Hannah Beausang, Mary Beresford, Darlene Biedenbender, Doug Biedenbender, Melissa Bishop, Scott Bishop, Tim Blackburn, Shelby Bolton, Jordan Brooks, Howard Bryant, Kenneth Bryant, Adina Carrion, Cathy Castillo, Tyler Clark, Trevor Cochran, Christian Cook, Kimmie Cook, Bryce Coppola, Alison Costa, Gerald Countz, William Cox, Pia Curtin, Julie Day, Alan DeLaura, Robert Devlin, Norma Dodds, Ember Eriksen, Mark Evans, Sue Fain, Howard Fairbairn, Cora Farnsworth, Linda Ferguson, Katherine Florence, Darrell Fox, John Fox, Sharon Fox, Peter Franchi, Howard French, Ray Garcia, Elizabeth Garner, Jennifer Gasaway, Julie Gatti, Kaitlyn Gentilin, Jonathan Giese, Kristine Giese, Phillip Giese, Sandra L. Gray, Bryan Gray, Sharon Grimstad, Norma Gunby, Wendy Haas, Ryan Harris, Susan Harris, Norma Hasley, Kaessa Herdt, Starleen Heriman, Zack Heriman, Daniel Hintermeier, Debbie Hohman, Kyra Hohman, William Hull, Beverly Hunsacker, Holly Hunt, Denise Hunter, Larry Hyde, Andrea James, Lisa Johnson, Christopher Karver, Blanche Kawahara, Carl Kelley, Kevin Kennedy, Kimberly Knost, Melissa Kuproski, Harlan Larsen, Wyatt Larsen, Tammy Larsen,

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Connie Lockard, Patrick Lockard, Brent Lockwood, Brandon Longo, Lindsey Lowman, Taleen Maksoudian, Christina Martin, Ismael Martinez, Charlotte McConkey, Lee McCormick, Joyce McCormick, Jim McDonald, Charles Mehard, Patrick Mello, Andrea Melton, Melissa Meyer, Milton Meyer, Jonah Miller, Micah Miller, Kathy Miller, Blair Mitchell, Lorraine Moeller, Donald Monroe, Jeff Moon, Patricia Morton, Anna Morton, Gene Morton, Ken Morton, Terri Morton, Craig Morton, Yvonne Morton, Mike Morton, Ambyr Morton, Martin Morton, Robert Morton, William Morton, Heather Morton, Lorena Morton, David Morton, Jeanne Morton, Kathe Morton, Michael Russell, Fred Sack, David Sanderson, Paula Sanderson, Ryan Schaff, Susan Schmidt, James Scott, Steve Seslar, Jeanne Shaw, Rick Shaw, Stefanie Shaw, Karen Shepard, Larry Shepard, Andrea Shields, Sidney Shields, Stephen Simmons, Sammi Sinclair, Jerri Slack, Scott Slater, Joshua Smith, Jimmie Smith, Sherry Snavely, Mirna Sneed, Ted Sneed, Joseph Stafford, Monike Stafford, Nancy Stephens-Moore, Sarita Stewart, Jeneille Strong, Thomas F. Surrency, Diana Swart, Briana Taggart, Anamarie Thompson, Anita Thompson, Keith Thompson, Lysbeth Totten, Tracy Tucker, Alvin Uttecht, Laura Valdez, Elisse Van Deusen, Mark Van Deusen, Pam Van Deusen, Yvonne Vasquez, Jenette Waldow, Kharman Watkins, Lori Watkins, Randi Weaver, Jacquelynn Wheeler, Daniel Wheelwright, Lisa Wilson, Patricia Wilson, Robert Wilson, Michelle Woolcott, Marie Wright, Gail Young, Michael Young, Karen Ziniach.

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**abc CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**

# Glory!

This ABC Television Special, in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), will feature a Christmas message from **Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry and Senior Pastor of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama.** This special will also feature Grammy Award-winning Musical Artists, **Michael W. Smith, Erica Campbell, and Kirk Whalum,** along with the International Choir of the World, the Oakwood University Aeolians Concert Choir.

Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director

Michael W. Smith, Erica Campbell, Kirk Whalum

Breath of Life

**Watch on ABC on December 25, 2020**

For a list of stations and times, call 256.929.6460 or visit [breathoflife.tv](http://breathoflife.tv)

## December 2020 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	DEC 5	DEC 12	DEC 19	DEC 26
Alturas	4:32	4:32	4:34	4:38
Angwin	4:48	4:49	4:51	4:55
Bakersfield	4:43	4:44	4:46	4:50
Calexico	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43
Chico	4:42	4:43	4:45	4:49
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:31	4:32	4:35	4:39
Eureka	4:48	4:49	4:51	4:55
Four Corners [E]	4:59	5:00	5:02	5:06
Fresno	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:49
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:13	5:14	5:17	5:20
Half Dome	4:39	4:39	4:46	4:46
Hilo	5:41	5:43	5:46	5:49
Holbrook	5:09	5:09	5:12	5:16
Honolulu	5:49	5:51	5:54	5:57
Joshua Tree	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:42
Lake Tahoe	4:37	4:37	4:40	4:44
Las Vegas	4:25	4:26	4:29	4:33
Lodi-Stockton	4:45	4:46	4:48	4:52
Loma Linda	4:39	4:40	4:43	4:46
Los Angeles	4:43	4:44	4:47	4:50
McDermitt [N]	4:19	4:19	4:21	4:25
Moab	4:56	4:57	4:59	5:03
Monterey Bay	4:51	4:52	4:54	4:58
Mt. Whitney	4:37	4:38	4:40	4:43
Napa	4:48	4:49	4:51	4:55
Nogales [S]	5:20	5:22	5:24	5:28
Oakland	4:49	4:50	4:52	4:56
Paradise, CA	4:41	4:42	4:44	4:48
Phoenix	5:20	5:21	5:23	5:27
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	5:42	5:44	5:47	5:51
Reno	4:35	4:35	4:38	4:42
Riverside	4:40	4:41	4:43	4:47
Sacramento	4:44	4:45	4:47	4:51
Salt Lake City	4:59	5:00	5:02	5:06
San Diego	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:49
San Francisco	4:50	4:51	4:53	4:57
San Jose	4:49	4:50	4:52	4:56
Santa Rosa	4:49	4:50	4:52	4:56
Sunset Beach	4:50	4:51	4:53	4:57
Thousand Oaks	4:45	4:46	4:49	4:52
Tucson	5:18	5:19	5:22	5:26

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

## At Rest

**Adams, Celian Luther** – b. July 18, 1920, Orosi, Calif.; d. July 8, 2020, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Betty; son, Fred; daughters, Gloria Keeping, June Mitchell, Janet Taylor, Linda, Lanita Medina; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

**Battin, June (Willson)** – b. June 17, 1924, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Sept. 28, 2020, Marysville, Calif. Survivors: son, Richard; daughter, Judy Clendenon; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

**Blomberg, Dennis R.** – b. Jan. 12, 1947, St. Paul, Minn.; d. Sept. 18, 2020, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jacqueline; son, Andrew; daughter, Anna; sisters, Susan, Barbara.

**Bork, Susan Marie** – b. Feb. 19, 1955, Glendale, Calif.; d. Nov. 3, 2020, Grand Terrace, Calif. Survivors: husband, Paul; parents, John and Carol Ruffcorn; sister, Sharon Dolinsky. She volunteered with LLUC media ministries in its early years.

**Braister, Eva** – b. Feb. 1, 1931, Avram-Iancu, Romania; d. Oct. 29, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Viorica Carmona, Zorica Szabo, Ileana Catarama, Minerva Catanean, Penina Sturgis; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

**Greer, Indra** – b. Dec. 14, 1927, Istanbul, Turkey; d. Oct.

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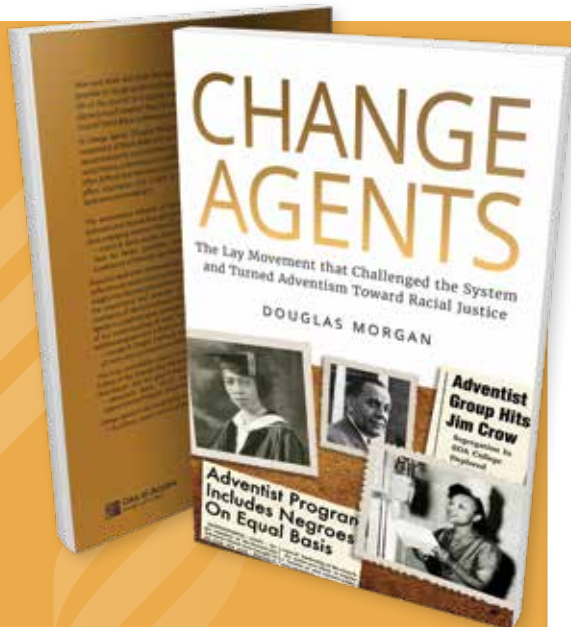
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How and when did racial discrimination become embedded in Adventist institutions? Is it possible to change patterns of injustice when they become deeply ingrained in the corporate life of the church? Is it appropriate to organize in opposition to the voted policies of duly elected church leaders? May Christians use protest and pressure to bring about change in the church? Were Black conferences a step forward or backward?

In *Change Agents*, Douglas Morgan sheds light on such questions by telling the story of a movement of Black Adventist lay members who, with women at the forefront, brought the denomination to a racial reckoning in the 1940s. Their story, told in the context of the church's racial history in America as it unfolded during the first half of the 20th century, illuminates the often difficult but necessary conversations about race that challenge the church today. And, it offers inspiration and insight to Adventists today whose love for their church drives a dedication to changing it.

6, 2020, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: husband, Lee Jr.; son, Lee F. III; daughter, Ruth Qualls; three grandchildren.

**Jones, Ruby (Brodie)** – b. Oct. 8, 1928, Kibler, Arkansas; d. Oct. 29, 2020, Ventura, Calif. Survivors: son, Gary; daughters; Pamela Jones Steinke, Tamara Anderson; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

**Kelln, Elmer Ellsworth** – b. Nov. 6, 1926, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. Oct. 7, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jean; son, Wayne; daughters, Myra Garner, Lois Mikelson; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Elmer and Jean were married for 72 years. After practicing and teaching in various states, he joined LLU School of Dentistry. He eventually served as associate dean before retiring.

**Leer, Joy Louise (Deiss)** – b. Aug. 24, 1932, San Jose, Calif.; d. Oct. 27, 2020, Medford, Ore. Survivors: daughters, Louise Ceccarelli, Verlinda Henry, Jan Gregory, Ivey Hendrix; brother, Fred Deiss; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Taught at Adventist schools in Arroyo Grande, San Jose, Yuba City, the Micronesian Missions, and Hawaii.

**Samarior, Hector** – b. July 20, 1927, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Sept. 1, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Emma; daughters, Anya, Adrea; three grandchildren.

**Scarborough, Reginald G.** – b. Oct. 12, 1940, San Jose, Calif.; d. Sept. 3, 2020, Butte Valley, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carolyn; sons, Reginald B., Jack R., Aubrey G.; four grandchildren.

**Steinke, Paul** – b. July 8, 1948, Frankfurt, Germany; d. Oct. 30, 2020, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Pamela Jones Steinke; son, Paul Jr.; daughters, Heidi Oman, Heather Susong, Holly Rogers; brother, David; sister, Sonja Vargas; seven grandchildren.

**Twing, Carolyn Lee (Chrisman)** – b. Jan. 29, 1942, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Oct. 4, 2020, Nevada City, Calif. Survivors: husband, Gary; son, Kevin; daughter, Kathie; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**Von Pohle, Carlos Ross Jr.** – b. July 12, 1955, Tempe, Ariz.; d. Oct. 19, 2020, Murrieta, Calif. Survivors: wife, Berit; daughter, Brooke Lemmon; son-in-law, Kyle Lemmon; two granddaughters; brothers, Larry, Drew, Ted. Served at Columbia Adventist Academy in Battle Ground, Washington, and at Northern California Conference office.

**Vyhmeister, Werner K.** – b. Sept. 5, 1931, Los Angeles, Chile; d. March 21, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nancy; son, Ronald; daughter, Heidi; three grandsons; one great-grandson; brothers, Edwin, Gerald; sisters, Lucy Veloso, Ellen Mayr, Mirna Sack.

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