

# Recorder



*The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.  
It goes beyond the highest star  
And reaches to the lowest hell.*

FREDERICK M. LEHMAN, 1917

# \$2,000 Scholarship

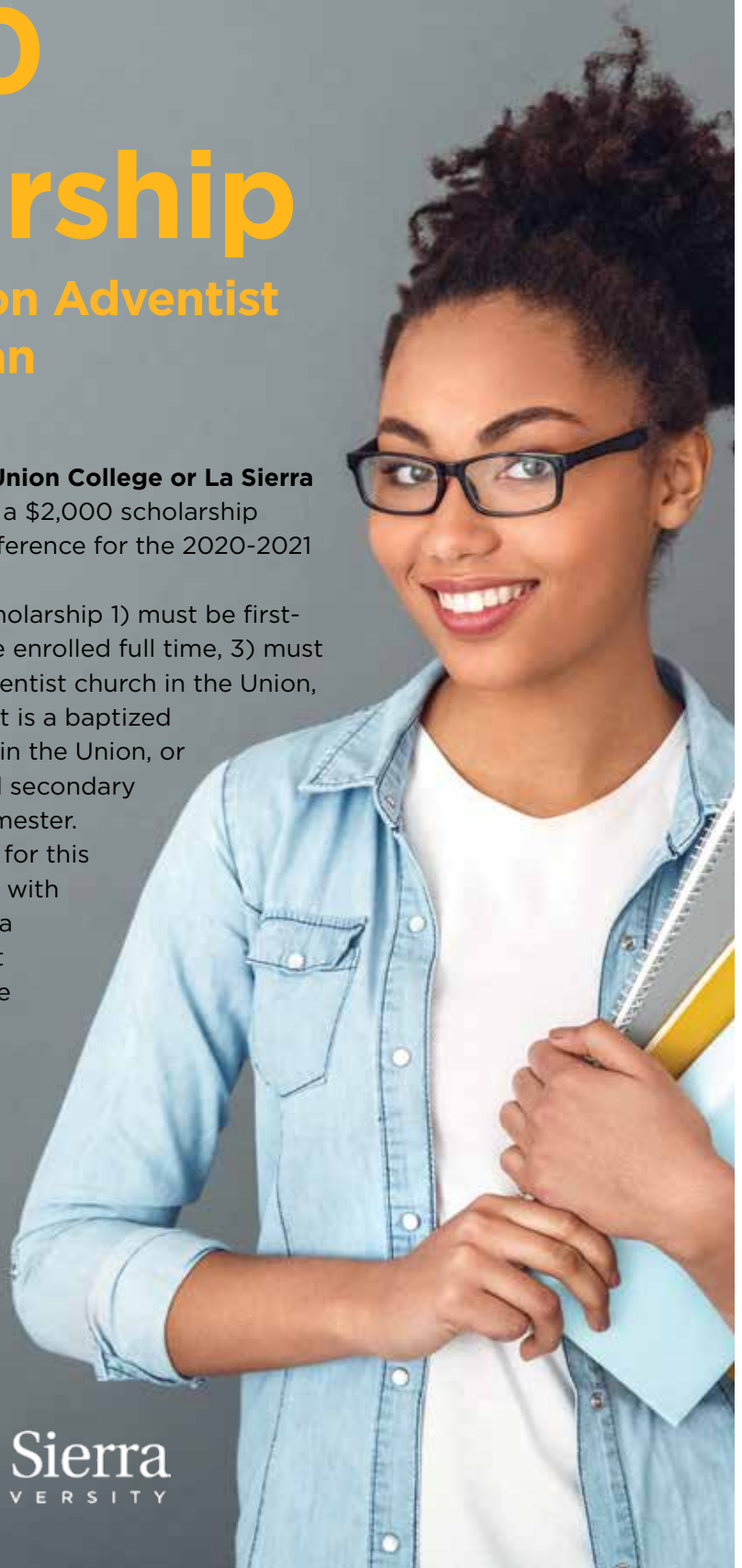
## Supports In-Union Adventist College Freshman

**Incoming freshmen at Pacific Union College or La Sierra University** now have access to a \$2,000 scholarship provided by Pacific Union Conference for the 2020-2021 school year.

Freshmen applying for the scholarship 1) must be first-time undergraduates, 2) must be enrolled full time, 3) must be baptized members of an Adventist church in the Union, or have a parent or guardian that is a baptized member of an Adventist church in the Union, or have attended a Union-operated secondary school for a minimum of one semester.

Applications and verifications for this scholarship are to be completed with Pacific Union College or La Sierra University and submitted as part of the student financial clearance process.

For more information about this scholarship, email the student financial services department of Pacific Union College at [studentfinance@puc.edu](mailto:studentfinance@puc.edu) or La Sierra University at [sfs@lasierra.edu](mailto:sfs@lasierra.edu).



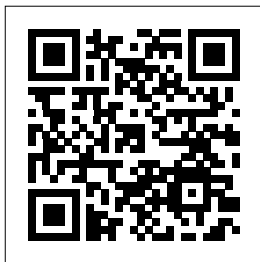


## Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among

us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF #14



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PACIFIC UNION

# Recorder

The *Recorder* is a monthly publication reaching approximately 76,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah. Our mission is to inform, educate, and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.

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THE



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By Ricardo Graham

I don't know about you, dear reader, but I can only in the far stretches of my imagination picture the love of God being sent to me...

# OF Good

Perhaps there is no other topic so all-consuming as love. Love, in its various forms, has been a staple of song, literature, theatrical presentations, and more for centuries.

And of course, the inspired Bible writers recorded much on the subject.

Famous people—some real, some imaginary—have lived out the meaning of their love. Adam and Eve, Romeo and Juliet come to mind as people who were deeply in love with each other.

When we look at the words in the Bible that are translated as *love*, we find these three to be prominent among them: *storge*, *phileo*, and *agape*.

*Storge* is familial love, or the love that a parent has for a child. *Phileo*, the word from which we get Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, is the love we have for a dear friend. And then

there is the mountaintop word, *agape*, which speaks in a revelatory way about God and His desires for humanity.

Agape is unselfish love, perfectly demonstrated when God came to dwell among fallen humanity. He came not to blame, but to save.

God's unselfish love would not allow humanity to be left to the consequences of Adam and Eve's choice to disobey. No, His love compelled Him to make a commitment to the fallen pair, and through them a promise to all of humanity in all ages and in every demographic classification: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15, NIV).

God, being unable to lie or deceive (Titus 1:2), had to fulfill His promise, which was borne of altruistic love: agape.

His love does not cover or excuse our sinfulness. He takes away our sin by the operation of His grace and our faith—trusting and depending on Him and receiving the merits of His life, death, and continuing ministry.

This love is not dispensed in occasional droplets; it courses out continually to us from the heart of God through His Son and our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ the Righteous. Ellen White tells us, "Rivers of heavenly love flow out from the heart of God to us through His Son" (*Steps to Jesus*, p. 7).

Imagine that! A river—not a stream or a trickle, but a mighty river of heavenly love. While reading this, an image of the great Niagara Falls came into my mind, water cascading down endlessly. I looked up the description on Wikipedia: "Niagara Falls is a group of three waterfalls.... Located on the Niagara River, which drains Lake Erie into Lake Ontario, the

combined falls have the highest flow rate of any waterfall in North America."

Although the image of Niagara Falls doesn't fully illustrate the love of God, I think the consistency and volume of this natural wonder help me imagine God's unfailing, ever flowing river of love. He is persistent and tenacious, and both characteristics are borne out of His love. "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you" (Jeremiah 31:3, NKJV).

Agape flows gently and steadily from the heart of God through Jesus. And nothing can separate us from this love. As Paul writes, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39, NKJV).

I don't know about you, dear reader, but I can only in the far stretches of my imagination picture the love of God being sent to me, for my good and His glorious vindication against the baseless lies of the enemy against His true character.

You may have heard this phrase, "God is good all the time, and all the time God is good." Just ponder that thought for a while. It may be a challenge to realize that God is always working for our benefit—working to bless us and to bless others through us.

While I was a student at Oakwood College, I lived in a dorm that had quads—four sleeping rooms connected to a common living area and a shower room. Each room had two beds, desks, and a closet. One of my quad mates was Pastor Byron K. Hill, Sr. When people thanked him for something, I often

Agape flows gently and steadily from the heart of God through Jesus. And nothing can separate us from this love.



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heard him say, “Don’t thank me; thank Jesus!” I never asked him why he said that, but it is true that every good and perfect gift comes from God! (James 1:17). It doesn’t come from us; it comes from God—and then we share what He has given.

We respond to the love of God by giving Him the glory for all the good things, events, and experiences we have. We respond by following the teachings of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A valuable New Year’s resolution would be to read through the Gospels—especially the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew, chapters five through seven—and with intentionality follow where He leads, focusing on Him over all and seeking to do His will daily.

God uses all things, even the negative things that come our way, to develop our character as a reflection of His own and to “mature” us into a perfect or complete person in the image of Jesus Christ. (See Ephesians 4:13.)

As we progressively surrender ourselves to the Divine Mind, our self-centered love is replaced by true, purely unselfish love—the agape love of God.

It is fitting to meditate on and study what is

perhaps the most well-known of all Scriptures: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16, NKJV).

The song *The Love of God*, written in 1917 by Frederick M. Lehman, celebrates God’s perfect love:

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.  
It goes beyond the highest star  
And reaches to the lowest hell.  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,  
God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled  
And pardoned from his sin.

O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—  
The saints' and angels' song.

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



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# What the World Needs Now...

By Connie  
Vandeman Jeffery

"...is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of." If you are of a certain age, you remember the lyric and melody. Written by Hal David and Burt Bacharach, the song was made popular by Jackie DeShannon in 1965, rising to number seven on the U.S. chart in just three months. It reached number one in Canada.

Back during the Vietnam War, the world desperately needed



love. At the beginning of 2021, the world still desperately needs love. “No, not just for some, but for everyone.” Surviving 2020 took grit, determination, perseverance, and love. And even with all that, hundreds of thousands did not survive. This year, we need it more than ever. But what kind of love do we need?

*Love* is a noun, and it is a verb. What the world needs now is *love* (a noun). Jesus *loves* me (a verb). The word *love* appears 310 times in the King James Bible, 348 times in the New American Standard Bible, and 551 times in the New International Version. God’s love is the overarching theme, from Genesis to Revelation. From Creation to the Cross to the Second Coming, the Bible is the story of love.

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Have you ever googled love? It’s unbelievable. In .64 of a second 12,660,000,000 links appear—that’s 12.6 billion links to *love*.

Have you ever googled love? It’s unbelievable. In .64 of a second 12,660,000,000 links appear—that’s 12.6 billion links to *love*. The Wikipedia definition of love made it on the first page of links, in addition to the Dictionary.com definition, which starts out: “a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person; a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection...” Also, on the first page, there was a link to “Quotes about Love” and a link to a TV series called “Love.”

I wondered where in the 12.6 billion links I’d find the text from 1 John 4:10: “In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins” (NET). And where would Google list the greatest love text of all time? “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16, KJV). There’s so much love in the Bible. Surely, Google has all the Bible texts on God’s love listed somewhere in the billions of links.

And Google does have them! I got more specific in my search. “Bible texts on love” yielded 65,900,000 links in just .57 of a second. Far more helpful than my generic “love” search. And still nearly 66 million! I kept narrowing my search. How does the Bible define love? I need not look further than 1 Corinthians.

“It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends” (1 Corinthians 13:5-8, NRSV).

That’s precisely the kind of love the world needs now!

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*Connie Vandeman Jeffery is associate director of communication and community engagement of the Pacific Union Conference.*



# RAIN SOUND

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON

It is coming and I can hardly wait. Every morning I wake up and look at the skies, hoping, longing to see a sign. The rain is coming.

It hasn't rained since last September, and now we are in June. The earth is parched, cracked, dead, thirsting for water. The color green has disappeared from the face of the earth. But it is coming—the rain is coming. Every day, news reports show its progress as it advances from the east. You can observe it for yourself from an airplane. Below you see the line: a dense, white cloud mass to the south; on the other side of the line, the brown parched land, thirsting for water.

Ahead of the monsoon, the thirsty land cries out for breath. Behind it, the streets run ankle deep and streams swell into torrents.

We lived in India for 15 years, and every year we counted time from the arrival of the monsoon. We watched the land change from green to yellow to brown. As month followed weary month, the air grew hotter day and night. Man and beast longed for the gift of life to return.

And then—at last, at last!—the rains hit. The monsoon arrives with wind, thunder, and lightning. At first, a few drops of brown water, then relentless drumming, drumming, drumming. We dash out into the downpour and feel the gift of life course through hair, down into mouth, and over the whole body, soaking to the skin, drenching clothes, filling shoes and socks. We shout and sing in exhilaration; we break into a rain dance.

Our neighbors are outside their homes, hands

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

outstretched. What a simple gift.

I love rain; I grew up loving rain. I grew up in dry country. Southern Australia, near the coast, gets maybe 20 inches of precipitation a year; however, inland, the country rarely sees rain. Way outback in the center—what they used to call the dead heart of Oz—you can meet kids two or three years old who have never seen it rain.

I grew up in a home with a “tin” roof—galvanized iron. In the summer, when a change would sweep in from the ocean to break the 100-degree heat, I'd hear the rain coming; I'd smell it in the air and then actually hear it approaching from rooftop to rooftop.

To this day, some of the loveliest music I know comes through the open window as I lie in bed listening to the rain. Our home these days in Southern California takes me back to the same semi-desert climate in which I grew up. In elementary school I learned that the climate in southern Australia is Mediterranean or Californian—hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Our home doesn't have a tin roof. I wake up, not to rain sound but to the gurgle in the downpipe outside the bedroom. I get up and open the sliding door. The fresh, cool, scrubbed air courses into the room. And there is the wonderfully sweet, steady pit-patting sound hitting the earth.

I climb back into bed, close my eyes, and lie motionless. The peace and joy of the steady, gentle pit-patting takes over my being. I am a boy again in Adelaide, lying in bed, drifting off to sleep surrounded by rain sound.

Once I was invited to speak at a Christian college in the Khasi hills of northern India. Well into my address, the rain began pounding on the tin roof. I raised my voice, but the rain drowned me out. It was no contest. Someone had the bright idea to get everyone singing, but we couldn't even hear the voice leading the attempt. We gave up and sat in silence, yielding to the thunderous drumming above our heads.

I love walking in the rain. It elates me. I want to break out into singing. I want to dance like Gene Kelly, splashing down the street.

For many years we lived in the Washington, D.C., area. Every year we were there, I signed up for the Marine Corps Marathon. I wasn't a fast runner—just completing the course and having a marine hang a finisher's medal around my neck was all that I craved.

One year the weather forecast called for rain. When we picked up our runner's packet for the event, the marines handed out a long-billed cap along with the usual T-shirt. The weather person had it right for a change: we set off in rain, we finished in rain, we ran and walked all 26.2 miles in rain. We ran soaked to the skin, ran with our shoes squishing water. A lot of runners dropped out; some began to suffer from hypothermia when wind came up late in the race.

Somehow I made it to the finish line. It was maybe the craziest thing I ever did.

Garrison Keillor, that prairie philosopher who taught us to appreciate God's simple gifts, once wrote: "Thank you, dear God, for this good life and forgive us if we do not love it enough. Thank you for the rain. And for the chance to wake up in three hours and go fishing: I thank you for that now, because I won't feel so thankful then."

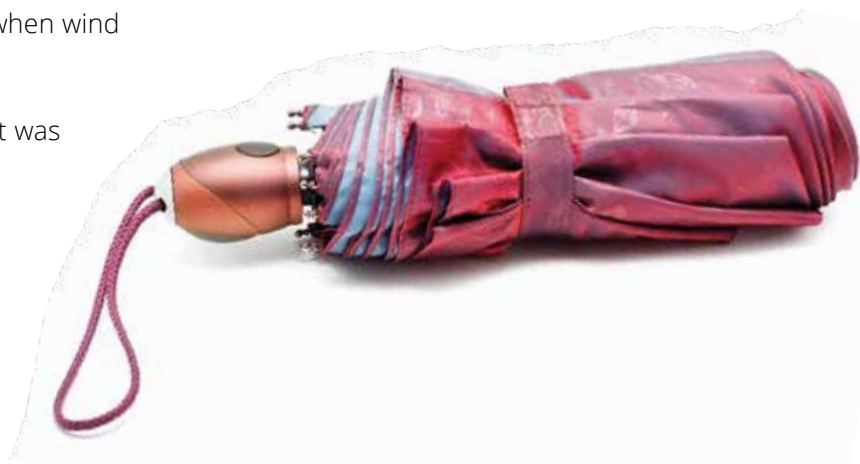
Once, long ago, the rain came with a fury and a roar that wiped out everything else. The rain took over. There was nothing anyone could do about it.

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

(Acts 2:1-4, NIV)

We are in dry country. Even in northern India, where people measure a monsoon deluge in hundreds of inches.

I am waiting for the rain sound.





# How

By Kara Wibberding

## MERRITT KELLOGG Lived

**H**ave you ever thought, “I want to walk to California and hold an evangelistic series”? No. Because absolutely nobody does that. Except, there was this one guy: Merritt Gardner Kellogg.

The story starts underground, beneath the happenings of the everyday world, with a secret “railroad.” Young Merritt probably didn’t participate in the underground railroad that snuck slaves from the South to freedom in Canada. It was his father who supported

it, bending the rules for the greater good of humanity. It was his father who stepped out of the law, to live out the gospel.

That is how Merritt Gardner Kellogg was raised. He was born in Hadley, Massachusetts, and raised in Jackson, Michigan. In February 1854, he married Louisa, a woman ten years older than him.

Merritt Kellogg was a farmer, but he should not have been. God had a much better plan. After a while, Kellogg’s farm crashed, and he took his wife and two-year-old son and traveled to California in a covered wagon. Before leaving, he bought two new pairs of sandals for the journey.

Travel tip: There were two kinds of shoe pegs. Wooden ones and metal ones. Metal ones, known as steel nails, stay better. Don’t get the wrong ones.

Kellogg got the wrong ones.

As Kellogg walked, all the way from Michigan to California, the wooden pegs in his shoes began to leave. They couldn’t take the pressure of such a long hike. Kellogg lost his shoes, but he kept walking. He simply walked 500 miles barefoot.

Finally, he came across a Native American who sold him a buffalo hide and sewed the hide into several pairs of moccasins. And that is how Kellogg finished the trek to California. So, lesson learned there.

Along the way, Kellogg stopped for a while to



Kara Wibberding at Kellogg’s grave

learn carpentry. He would use this skill once he was in California.

Merritt Kellogg was a carpenter, but he should not have been. While his carpentry career went well enough, another arose unexpectedly. He had brought Adventist pamphlets. This was when Adventism was just sprouting. Battle Creek, Michigan, served as Adventist headquarters. Missionaries and evangelists spread out to teach their new beliefs.

You would think evangelists would have made their way to California, but they had not. Kellogg's family were the first Adventists in California. They started handing out the pamphlets, and people liked them. Lots of people liked them. Soon, Kellogg was holding Sabbath School in his home. He converted 14 people. It didn't take long for him to realize that they needed real evangelists.

He sent a letter to Battle Creek, asking Adventist HQ to send some. But HQ said that they didn't have anyone to send and didn't have enough money.

So, Kellogg earned the money and sent it, again asking for evangelists. Again, no evangelists were sent, but the money was gladly accepted.

Kellogg had to outsmart them. There should be evangelists in California—even if he had to move back east to get a medical degree, attend one of the General Conference sessions, and ask for evangelists in person. Guess what he did.

In January of 1868, Merritt Kellogg attended the General Conference session and asked for evangelists once again, while looking them in the eye. At the end of the meeting, while assigning missions, James White finally asked if there was anyone who wanted to go to California.

A man named John Loughborough raised his hand and told everyone about a dream he'd had.

"During the winter of 1867-68, the Lord gave me a number of dreams about laboring in California. I dreamed of taking a ship in New York and riding down to the Isthmus, then taking another ship to California and there holding tent meetings."<sup>1</sup> An interesting dream. That he had at least 20 times. God isn't always subtle.

Loughborough's story was remarkable, but not as impressive as Daniel Bourdeau's. Daniel raised his hand and confessed that he had sold his home, and his wife and family were all packed up, ready to go anywhere. Yeah. God was really trying to get the message across.

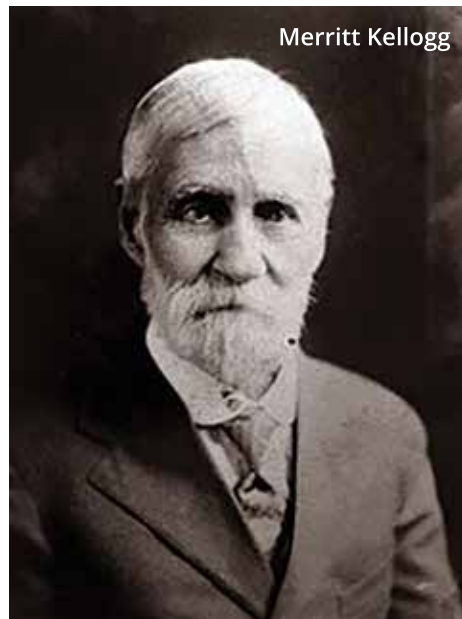
Thus, Merritt returned to California with two evangelists and a medical degree—a degree that only took him a year to acquire. Medical affairs were a tad simpler back then.

The group arrived in San Francisco and began ministry immediately.

In 1871, there was a smallpox outbreak in Bloomfield, where the evangelists were currently ministering. Uninfected people were able to escape the situation, unlike in a worldwide COVID infestation. Even the ministers of other

religions left town, leaving no one to care for the sick. Any smart person with a will to live would have fled, but Kellogg had a will for other people to live. He went from door to door, treating smallpox, burying the dead, and preaching. After the epidemic had passed, he preached about the state of the dead. Many people looked at this and essentially said: "Whoa! Adventist power!" and converted.

After this, it was only a matter of time before someone suggested to Kellogg that he should



Merritt Kellogg



Jim and Lonnie Wibberding calculate probability.

start his own small medical business. Merritt apparently thought this was a great idea—but not great enough. He made some adjustments to this plan and built an entire hospital. That hospital is known today as Adventist Health St. Helena. Yes, this man had no chill, and he achieved great things because of it.

Merritt Kellogg was an Adventist pioneer, and he should have been. He was the man who brought Adventism to California, using the same spirit his father employed in the underground railroad. God does not live within any confinement, and neither does God's ministry. It keeps moving, when other people would stop. It does not have a comfort zone.

Kellogg died in 1921, three months short of turning 90 years old. Most of the people who had known him personally had died. This led to some miscalculations of his birth date, which kept Adventist historians from locating his grave. For decades, no one had record of where Kellogg's grave was, because the year given for his birth on his death certificate was also 1921. The range of places he could have been buried extended all the way to Australia. Other complications were that the headstone

was small, not in a family plot, and only had his initials. But Merritt didn't stay hidden forever.

My dad had been searching for the grave for nearly three years. His research led him to the Oak Mound Cemetery in Healdsburg, California. However, the curator couldn't find the file.

The search attempt was unsuccessful until Saturday, November 14, 2020. My dad, my Uncle Lonnie, and I went on another trip down to the cemetery. There, we proceeded to search through the resting places of dead people, brushing off coatings of dirt and pine needles and turning up fallen headstones.

As we were examining some rows of headstones in the lower part of the cemetery, my uncle called over to my dad and said, "Uh, Jim, what did you say his death year was?"

We made a beeline for my uncle (who will not take the credit and admit that it was in fact him who found the grave). After making multiple calculations, looking back through records, and contacting the curator, we confirmed that we had found the right dead guy.

Then we ate burritos beside Kellogg's grave. So that was a thing. We felt those burritos were probably more holy than most.

And that is how Merritt Gardner Kellogg lived. That is how Adventists began to evangelize California. That is why I am here now, in my living room, writing this article instead of doing homework. Because the message of Merritt Kellogg is more important than the y-axis. Forget the barriers of what seems impossible. You can walk miles barefoot. You can build a hospital. You can find a tiny gravestone in the middle of an entire cemetery. You can look beyond these examples and do something new. Because that's what God's ministry does.

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*Kara Wibberding is an eighth-grade creative writer living in Angwin, California.*

<sup>1</sup> J. N. Loughborough, *Miracles in My Life* (College Place, WA: Heritage Publications, 1985), p. 68.

Additional source: Harold McCumber, *Pioneering the Message in the Golden West* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1946).

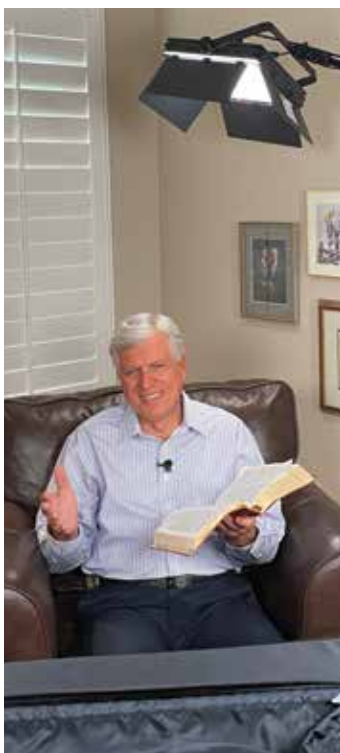




Jeannie helps Lonnie select casual clothing for the videotaping.

## Retirement Slowdown?—No Way!

Lonnie Melashenko and Hope-TV create “HOPE Talks,” a 365-day Devotional Video Series



Lonnie Melashenko takes quite seriously HMS Richards’ advice about retirement. “The word *retirement* isn’t in the Bible,” Richards would say. “Jesus said we must ‘occupy’ until He comes.”

Since moving from Kettering, Ohio, to Arizona’s retirement mecca Sun City West two years ago, Lonnie and Jeannie Melashenko have been busier than ever with travel, speaking appointments, and now a huge new video project—HOPE Talks!

Recently Hope-TV Director Derek Morris asked Melashenko to create a new video series from his Arizona home. A crew flew to Phoenix to create a “studio” with lighting strobes, two cameras, and two teleprompters. Weekly, Lonnie relaxes in an upholstered chair, wearing a casual shirt, and talks to the cameras while Jeannie handles the technical aspects. Their goal is to produce 10 to 20 shows per week.

It will take over one full year to complete this enormous task. Back in Washington, D.C., the Hope-TV staff edits, creates graphics, and inserts Scripture quotations and references, “sweetening” it for television.

Sometimes Melashenko is asked, “Why this? Why now?” He replies, “Well, you can go to the ABC bookstores and religious book counters—even Costco—and purchase any of the dozens of devotional books out there. But to my knowledge no one has ever done a 12- to 15-minute video devotional. There are some



Jeannie Melashenko works as production and technical assistant, running teleprompters and lighting and making sure Lonnie has crisp, neatly ironed shirts for taping.



one-minute 'thought for the day' snippets tucked into various religious television shows. But to my knowledge, no one has ever produced a 365-day devotional video."

With COVID-19 pandemic reverberations, social distancing, the closure of church buildings, and few engaged in Zoom worship and study events, Melashenko was impressed that, while he still has a talent and presence for television communication, he should take on this inspiring project.

Melashenko has listened to scores of preachers through the years. "And of course," he states, "in my humble opinion, the very best were HMS Richards and Harold Richards, Jr. These spirit-filled men influenced and helped me shape my own ideas, develop stories, refine illustrations, and bring into focus the wonderful themes of the Bible."

"Jeannie and I are so excited about this brand-new legacy to people all over the planet—from all denominations—who will be able to access these daily inspirational nuggets. For decades after we are gone (if Jesus doesn't return), these can continue to speak to hearts and troubled souls. Eventually we hope to make them available anywhere on demand on the internet."

"The speed with which our world is careening into the Apocalypse takes one's breath away," he continues. "The dawn of unprecedented social unrest, political

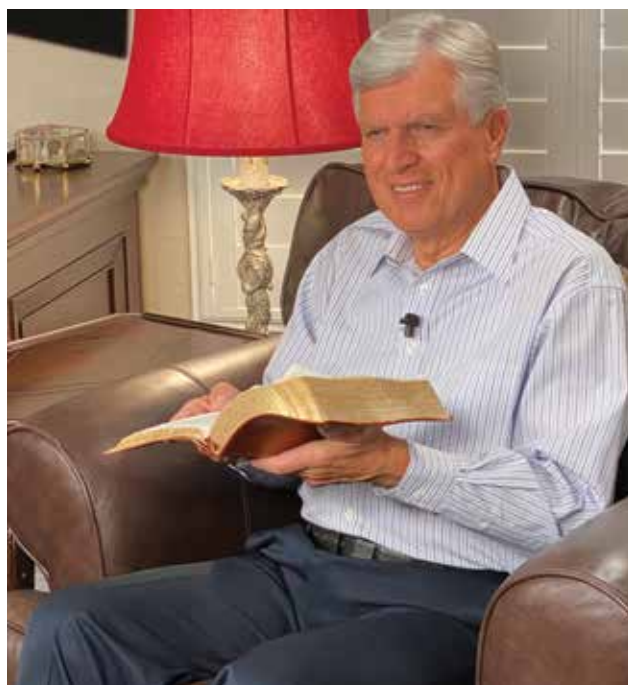
hatred, violence, and quantum change tightly grips people everywhere with fear. Roller-coaster stock market wobbles, insider trading scandals, military crises from Afghanistan to North Korea, not to mention China and international border hostilities—all indicate that something significant lies ahead for our world. Nonbelievers, the news media, and even secular scientists join Christians as we hold our breath, standing on tiptoe, and wait."

The ideas and devotional thoughts for this video series were the result of nearly 20 years of preaching on radio and television. Melashenko gives credit to his scriptwriters, who worked with him in presenting mind-engaging, powerful nondenominational truths right out of God's Holy Word. The Scriptures have power to change lives. Many of his radio scripts were published in small booklets, thanks to David B. Smith, John McLarty,

Ken Wade, Timothy Crosby, Bob Edwards, Kenneth Richards, Karl Haffner, Clifford R. Goldstein, and others.

He concludes, "With all these strands of materials from different sources, all folded together much like the ingredients of a Dutch chocolate cake, I've taken a little from here and a little from there to help my listeners boil it all down to the final product. I'm praying for viewers to begin a personal journey to a changed life in Jesus."

*By Phil Draper*



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"The word retirement isn't in the Bible. Jesus said we must 'occupy' until He comes."

# Sacrifice of Praise

## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

*“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:15-16, KJV).*

Three students attending the Hollister school declare their commitment to Jesus at the beginning of the school year through baptism. All are siblings from a non-Adventist family.



Some quip that 2020 should now be seen with 20/20 vision. While we can be glad the year is over, the lives of many were upended by the pandemic, social issues, fires, and other events. Far too many people have been left feeling powerless, anxious, fearful, and even angry. The year has taught us that we cannot predict what will happen tomorrow. For that reason, many now worry about 2021 and wonder if it will be any better.

Yes, we can agree that 2020 was a strange and challenging year, but it also has been amazing how God has blessed. It is possible to look back and see the creativity and miracles that have occurred. We are now more aware of how preparation helps us walk through crises. We also know we will never be the same—nor should we be.

In biblical times, God often asked His people to remember. And we have the often-quoted lines from Ellen White: “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 10). While we have already featured some amazing experiences during 2020, let us “offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.” It is hoped that the following stories will inspire us as we move forward in 2021.

### CCC K-12 Adventist Education

Last school year ended tumultuously, and the disruptions currently continue. Because regulations constantly change, schools face the challenge of continuous adjustments in enrollment and instructional programs. Yet the value and the importance of Adventist education are unchanged. Here is a glimpse of what a few schools are doing in spite of the difficulties.

#### Dinuba Junior Academy

Wanting to do some fundraising for worthy students, special projects, and general operations, the academy was excited about a newly acquired food prep trailer some months ago. However, the county health department would not allow them to use the gas stove until they had a fire suppression system installed. While the delay was a disappointment, it later proved to be a blessing because a gas leak was discovered that had saturated the soil near the trailer. The county official slowed the leak and perhaps prevented an explosion. As Principal Evan Hendrix commented, “Hindsight revealed insight of God Almighty.”

#### Hollister SDA Christian School

At the beginning of this school year, and as soon as the church could be used, three students—Katherine, Nathaniel, and Alicia, all siblings—were finally able to realize the commitment they had



LEFT: MBA boys dean, Johnsy Posthumus, happily improves a dorm room. MIDDLE: MBA girls dean, Aubrey Wallin, and her associate, Renee Rasco, show off the renovated common area for girls to enjoy when they return to campus. RIGHT: The MBA class of 2020 (before masks were required) can celebrate that they graduated debt-free.

made to Jesus just before the pandemic started. As Principal Chester Sears noted, “What makes this even more special is these students are from a non-Adventist family. The parents allowed their children the freedom to make this decision.”

### Mountain View Academy

Even though they are not on campus due to distance learning, students have organized care packages for the elderly and those in need. Some are helping the local Adventist churches with bimonthly food drives and collecting gifts to give to a local community school with disadvantaged families. In addition, Principal Sarah Baroro connects her school family with a weekly online devotional.

### Monterey Bay Academy (MBA)

The MBA COVID-19 Relief Fund, started in April of 2020, had an ambitious goal of graduating the class of 2020 debt-free. The \$252,000 raised in six weeks did that and more. What a blessing it was to many parents to be relieved of some of the financial burdens caused by the pandemic. It also provided financial aid to over 35 returning students. According to Kevin Bowen, vice-principal of enrollment services, the thankfulness of parents and students was overwhelming. It especially helped those parents who thought they would need to make alternate plans for their child’s education.

In addition, because MBA offered a remote learning program during the 2020 fall semester, the deans decided to make major improvements to the dormitories, including painting, new carpet, and other upgrades in many rooms. Enhancements were made to common areas, kitchens, and exercise and game rooms. They also included the creation of campus ministry

rooms for peer counseling and spiritual ministries. The deans want their students to know, “We cannot stress enough our desire to welcome our students back to campus. Our renovations intend to show we really miss interacting with them every day.”

### CCC Churches

Much like schools, churches have had their share of challenging opportunities as they strive to worship together and serve their communities. It has been a growing experience to realize that “churches are not closed, just the buildings.” Each county’s restrictions vary and can change frequently, creating some perplexing and disconcerting situations. Many accounts could be given of the “sacrifice of praise” that can be found in our churches. There is not room for all the stories, but here are a few.

### Community Service

According to Antonio Huerta, CCC vice president for ministries, there are 33 churches that are currently serving their communities through the Food Pantry Ministry. The CCC received a \$25,000 grant from the North American Division, and the conference added another \$5,000 to aid churches in this special ministry. The goal is to help each of these churches with \$1,000 to assist in their efforts.

### San Francisco Area

Three Spanish-speaking churches—Latino Americana, Nuevo Pacto, and La Voz de la Esperanza—have joined in a project called “Las Manos de Jesus” (Hands of Jesus). Volunteers buy groceries and deliver them to families in need. Those who desperately



needed the help have expressed enormous gratitude and appreciation.

### San Jose Vietnamese

The “red carpet” Thanksgiving hot meal, prepared and served by the Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen at the church, was featured in the local newspaper and TV station. Sonya Herrera, freelance reporter for the San

Jose Spotlight, spoke to several participants at the meal. One of them, who lives in his truck, said that this meal was such a blessing. Another told her that the meals offered by the church on a regular basis are often his only means of acquiring a hot meal. Quoted by Herrera, Pastor Toan Quach said, “All are welcome. Real gratitude means you are a blessing to someone else. Be thankful. Sometimes what little you have is someone else’s dream.”

### Visalia

Vacation Bible School was held online this summer. The church presented “Rocky Railway: Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through.” Watch how the children



PHOTO: SONYA HERRERA

LEFT: With the death of her husband and no job, both she and her children were very grateful for the “Hands of Jesus” food box. RIGHT: One of the recipients stands with the two bags of food he received at the Loaves & Fishes meal distribution at the San Jose Vietnamese church on Thanksgiving.

embraced the programs at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEQVcXjyo-g>.

### Discover Life Sonora

For quite some time, the church wanted to remodel its platform for safety reasons and disability access. The pandemic provided the opportunity, since the building was closed. When it came time to pull up the carpet on the stage, the volunteers asked themselves, “Why stop there?” The project expanded to painting, replacing pews, putting in new countertops in the Sabbath School rooms, and more—all done by a group of volunteer church members led by Jim Grossman. When they were almost finished, they drilled into the floor to put in a



LEFT: Pat Govi, Donn Swartz, and Lary Davis volunteer for some hard work at the Sonora Discover Life church renovations. RIGHT: From left to right, Lary Davis, Pastor Nathan Renner, Jim Grossman, and Sharon Segarini volunteer at fixing the ductwork at the Sonora Discover Life church renovations.





new wheelchair ramp and discovered that the ductwork for the HVAC system was leaking and compromised. Grossman rose to the occasion and, with the other faithful and hardworking volunteers, drilled a trench on both sides of the sanctuary, rebuilt the ductwork, and ultimately decided to put in a long-overdue new HVAC system. Even though services have continued through media (and sometimes out on the lawn), church members will be surprised and thankful for the work of these volunteers when they can finally return to their newly renovated church building.

In the meantime, community service has not stopped. A modified and socially distanced “God’s Closet” supplied children with gently used school clothes. A group of volunteers also replaced a much-needed roof for one of the members, which was featured in the local newspaper.

### CCC conference-wide events

The “sacrifices of praises” continue to inspire God’s people and demonstrate their faithfulness in tithes and offerings. There are many stories and testimonies throughout the conference in spite of—and because of—the pandemic. Just a few are named for now: the Young Adult Ministry has seen explosive growth that includes life-changing testimonies; symposiums on last-day events have reached thousands in both English and Spanish; the social media and online presence has been stepped up; the Soquel campground served the local community as an evacuation center during the fires

## There are many stories and testimonies throughout the conference in spite of—and because of—the pandemic.

and for some young adults experiencing homelessness; Wawona has made improvements; evangelism continues in various ways because of generous and sacrificial donations; virtual ordinations of pastors; involvement with communities embraces food banks, social justice activities, and help during crises; CCC Prayer Ministries held a virtual Week of Prayer (for the first day link, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GymiYX2wZdM>); and testimonies about “GLOW” tracts in the literature ministry are amazing (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjcl2UDutxnQsbnCUiNXcAw?view>). And it doesn’t stop there. Other events are in the planning stages.

Are there problems, challenges, and difficulties? Definitely. Are we glad that 2020 is finally over? Absolutely. Yet, we can look forward to many more opportunities to “offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.” It is hoped that as we read these stories and look around at other evidences of God’s care, we will remember that His plan is for each of us to have hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

*By Deloris Trujillo*



## Kona Hispanic Church Organizes Packages for People in Need

(Top) Members of the Kona Hispanic church in Hawaii put together care packages for distribution.

Though life on the Big Island has not been without its COVID-related challenges, members of the Kona Hispanic church are doing what they can to be of service to their communities and to learn to worship in new ways.

Given government mandates that closed many places that might have otherwise offered opportunities for ministry, the small congregation of approximately 65 has been limited in what they can do as far as public ministry, such as distributing care packages in certain areas.

Prior to a second shutdown, after a brief reopening, church members distributed the care packages on two separate occasions. The packages contained masks, food, over-the-counter pain medicine, and other basic necessities, which were distributed to people in need.

"We've been limited in what we can do," said Nicholas De Lima, district pastor. "We used to distribute on the beach until the shutdown."

When it comes to worship, limits on public meetings have not dampened a spirit of togetherness—but it is togetherness in a whole new way. The congregation now meets in small groups of eight to 12 people in private homes for Sabbath worship and study. And though children's ministry is not possible, three families with children meet together for their own children's worship so that kids also have their own time and space for worship.

These small *ohanas* (families) have not only provided church members a place to worship, they have yielded some unexpected blessings, such as church members who had not been very active in church previously or who were not fond of public speaking now getting involved more.

"They've been developing their special gifts through speaking and praying," De Lima said. "It's easier to do it in small groups than in large ones."

Homes that host *ohanas* have also made an impact in their neighborhoods by inviting their neighbors to worship with them.

"If all goes well, we will have baptisms soon," De Lima said.

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"If all goes well, we will have baptisms soon."

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By Cynthia Mendoza

# Determined to Present a Christmas Program

COVID-19 has changed the way teachers and students do many things at Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki this school year, and their Christmas program was no exception. As they say though, "The show must go on!" While the school could not have a live performance, the staff and parent volunteers did not want it to be any less special.

Ka Lama Iki's Christmas program, "A Silent Night," took audience members back to Bible times to discover what it means to have the silent peace that can only come from Jesus. It was written and coordinated by one of the school's teachers, Ashley Martin. While traditional singing and instruments were not an option this year, the program featured other favorites, including ukuleles, bells, piano, and sign language. Performing a play also presented a challenge because of the need for social distancing and masks, but the school was determined to feature its young actors.

Thanks to a dedicated parent, Jeff Dizon, the program was recorded using strategies to ensure that the safety of the students remained a priority. Filming the program in advance also opened up new opportunities for the performance.

"Filming the program has created all sorts of possibilities for us this year," remarked Mrs. Martin, the 4th- and 5th-grade teacher. "We were able to have the students repeat their lines and songs until they had it just right. It's like a teacher's dream come true!"

Ka Lama Iki's PTO took the program even further by creating a drive-in movie experience in which parents and students could all come together to enjoy the event. They also assisted in all the decorations and setting the Christmas scene.



"I am humbled by the community pulling together to make this Christmas wonderful for students and parents. This may be one of our best opportunities to reach out and share Jesus' love with our neighbors in a time of crisis," shared teaching principal, Sarah Traczyk. "Not only have our students been a part of the filming and teamwork preparing greenscreens and equipment, they also see this as overcoming and rising above a crisis. It's encouraging to watch these young leaders rise to the occasion!"

*By Sarah Traczyk  
and Ashley Martin*







**HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL  
SERVING NATIVE YOUTH 1946-2021**

# 75 Years and Counting



TOP: Early students pose with teachers at the Holbrook Navajo Mission School in 1946.  
ABOVE: In 1951, the *Pacific Union Recorder* first used the term "Holbrook Indian School."

This year, Holbrook Indian School (HIS) celebrates its 75th year of holistic educational service to Native American youth. We are an institution that has been committed to creating a safe place for Native American students to live, learn, and grow in Christ since 1946. Our history is an interesting one to follow for those who love a good history lesson. We have changed names a few times, have changed ownership, and have gone through our share of operational and curriculum changes as well. What has remained central is our mission to serve Native American youth, ensuring that their lives are made better here and in the hereafter.

## The forerunners

The school's history began in 1916, with Elder Orno Follett and his wife doing mission work among the Navajos. A school was built at Lake Grove Mission in New Mexico in 1918, but it was closed in 1937 due to the Great Depression and a shortage of funds.

According to *Mission to the Navajos* written by Betty Stirling (1961), "In 1941 the church again remembered the Navajos as among those of every 'kindred, tribe, and nation.'" The Arizona Conference became concerned about doing something for the growing tribes within the conference's borders. A full-time evangelist, Marvin Walter, was hired for the job. His wife, Gwen, was a registered nurse. It was not until 1945 that enough money was raised to build a school again.

Land for the mission was acquired by the Arizona Conference in 1945. The first parcel of 210 acres was purchased on March 14 for \$8,875; the second parcel of 110 acres was purchased April 20 for \$1,500. Providentially, the land is located over an aquifer, so the school has never had a problem obtaining water.

On the newly acquired 320 acres in Holbrook, the mission school term started in 1946 with 30 students, one teacher, and two deans. The schoolroom had no desks that year, so the children sat on rugs and sheepskins to recite their lessons.

Hard times fell during the school's third year when the Walters had







LEFT: Frank Daugherty, who was principal from 1949-1966, talks with two students in the office at the mission school in Holbrook. RIGHT: A missionary provides dental services at the Lake Grove Mission.

to leave due to illness. The school closed at the end of March, but the conference decided to re-open it again on a trial basis. Frank Daugherty, Ardell Altman, and Wilfred Rathburn were called to serve at the school.

### What's in a name? Mission

Whereas Marvin and Gwen Walter had originally conceived their work to be conducting welfare ministry, ministering to people's medical needs, and holding branch Sabbath Schools, it soon became evident that the Navajo people in the Holbrook area needed a school. On its earliest letterhead, the name is given as "Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Navajo Mission," which focuses attention on Navajos and on various forms of mission outreach. Both parts of this formula would change over time as the mission expanded to include students from many tribes, not just Navajos. As the institution came to focus primarily on education, a shift in focus from other forms of outreach was also made.

In 1951, the *Pacific Union Recorder* first used the term "Holbrook Indian School." For reasons unknown, during its first five years of operation, the new school was not listed in the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (1946-1951). The name has subsequently gone through considerable fluctuation, but, as of 1951, it has been most commonly called "Holbrook Indian School," which today is often abbreviated to HIS.

### A unique history

In a history almost as unique as HIS, the school is the only boarding school for Native American children offered by the North American Division. The school is



This first school building, no longer on campus today, was built in the late 1940s and had classrooms, offices, dorms, staff apartments, and a cafeteria.

currently owned and operated directly under the Pacific Union Conference, which oversees conferences in Arizona, California, Utah, Nevada, and Hawaii.

At its peak in the 1970s, HIS had as many as 200 students. In recent years, the average is roughly 65 enrolled in our first- through twelfth-grade program. Much of the school's annual operation costs of \$3 million comes from the donations of Adventist members. The cost to the student is only \$85 a month, which goes towards tuition, dorm room, and book fees.

The curriculum is developed by the North American Division Department of Education and also includes welding, automotive, construction, horsemanship, and gardening.

Most of the students are from the local tribes, including the Navajo, Hopi, and Apache. We have also had students from the Havasupai, Lakota, and Crow tribes. While English is the primary spoken language, Navajo is taught at the school as a class, with Spanish also available if needed.

*Compiled and edited by Chevon Petgrave, with contributions from Toni Gibbons and Frank W. Hardy*

[Visit HolbrookIndianSchool.org/history](http://HolbrookIndianSchool.org/history) to learn more.

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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# New Sculpture Depicts Nurses' Faith and Commitment to Compassionate Care

A new sculpture honoring 115 years of nursing education at Loma Linda University School of Nursing was unveiled in front of West Hall during a livestream dedication ceremony in November.

The “Be His Light” sculpture, set in the 1950s, depicts the eloquent blend of a nurse’s faith and clinical practice to provide compassion, hope, and the promise of wholeness.

Loma Linda University Health President Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, said the School of Nursing is the oldest at Loma Linda University—enrolling students just a few short months after the purchase of the Loma Linda property, in 1905.

“More than 10,000 graduates are fulfilling significant roles in hospitals and clinics all over the world,” Hart said at the ceremony. “It is nurses who set the culture of the hospital—they determine the heartbeat of each institution.”

The year 2020, recognized by the World Health Organization as the “Year of the Nurse,” proved true for Loma Linda University Health as the institution celebrated two historic nursing landmarks. Both Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital and Loma Linda University Medical Center were awarded the highest honor of healthcare nursing excellence: Magnet Recognition, part of the American Nurses Credentialing

Center’s (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program.

According to Elizabeth Bossert, PhD, RN, dean of Loma Linda University School of Nursing, two Bible texts served as the inspiration for the bronze sculpture. “Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world,’ in John 8:12 and ‘You are the light of the world,’ in Mathew 5:14,” she said.

“His light is represented as an oil lamp in our nursing dedication ceremony—a milestone in each nurse’s journey,” Bossert said. “As our alumni live out Loma Linda University Health’s mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ, may they share His light, illuminating the way as they care for a hurting world.”

The sculpture was donated by an anonymous School of Nursing graduate.

*By DonaJayne Potts*



PHOTO: NATAN VIGNA

# Connections During COVID:

## New Campus Chaplain Charts Intentional Path in Virtual World

Under normal circumstances, La Sierra University Campus Chaplain Jason Decena would form connections by chatting with students on their way to class or in the cafeteria, by stopping by employees' offices or striking up conversations in passing. But the current environment is not normal. In March 2020, as the COVID-19 global pandemic swept across the state and nation, the university moved all but essential operations online and has primarily remained there, with a few allowed exceptions.

It is into this surreal cyberspace that Decena arrived with his wife and two sons, newly hired in July from his six-year position as associate pastor at New Hope church in Fulton, Md. He brings more than 18 years of experience in multiple areas of ministry and a track record of successful leadership and collaboration—but most importantly, a profound belief in and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Decena recently spoke with La Sierra's public relations office about the spiritual philosophy that guides him and his efforts to forge connections through technology.

**The Spiritual Life office currently provides weekly chapels on YouTube, Friday evening worship on Instagram, group meetings on Zoom. Do you have other things you're working on in terms of programming and outreach?**

*Pastor Decena:* I want to connect with students as much as I can just so I can see where they are, you know, to establish a baseline. We've actually been in conversation with OACS (Office of Advising and Career Success) about some of the systems that they use [in



For the full interview, please visit [www.lasierra.edu](http://www.lasierra.edu)

which] students will interact with [advisors] through an app called Navigate.

And so the idea is that if I'm having a conversation with students and I pick up on something—say, for example, they're talking about struggling in classes—then people at certain levels can actually share notes [in the Navigate app] about the student so that we can really help them succeed. It's a platform where we can share that type of information and really prioritize communicating with students.

**What is the underlying philosophy that guides you in your decisions and how you interact with students?**

*Pastor Decena:* A couple years ago I came up with a personal mission statement. One of my favorite Christian thinkers is Dallas Willard. He was hosting a breakfast for pastors and at this breakfast he posited a question to the whole group: he asked what if, when people talked about your church, they said they go there to learn how to do the things that Jesus taught ... like, loving your enemies and praying for people who persecute you. I thought, wow, that would be incredible [if] your purpose is so singular, that if you want to learn how to do those things, go to that place. So that's my personal mission statement, to teach people how to do the things that Jesus taught.

By Darla Martin Tucker







LEFT: Lay mission volunteers Jorine and Gary Rollins (center) pose with F-5 volunteers at Kayenta.

MIDDLE: Volunteers prep the mission trailer for painting.

RIGHT: Dedicated workers continue to serve, even after dark, in order to complete the project.

## F-5 Brings New Life to Kayenta Church

This fall, a group of volunteers were able to assist the Kayenta Mission on the Navajo Reservation with some necessary remodeling projects. They began arriving on September 2, and by the next day, all 10 volunteers from the F-5 group had arrived at the small mission in Kayenta, Arizona.

F-5 (Faith, Fellowship, Fitness, Fortitude, and Fun) is a dedicated and mission-minded volunteer group. The members of F-5 are diverse in age, experience, and skills, and come from many different states. From a painting contractor to someone who had never painted before; from someone who had been on many mission trips to someone who had never been on a mission trip—the group united together and were able to accomplish much and make a distinct impact in a short period of time.

The original plan was to hold a camp meeting and children's program, but because of the pandemic these plans were canceled. Despite the change of plans, the group still came to serve. They were able to paint the outside of a 25-year-old trailer as well as the trim on the church building. Prior to their arrival, Pastor James Crosby had come to assist Gary Rollins in preparation for the painting. All 18 windows received new trim. The skirting around the trailer was also installed, along with insulation under the trailer.

When the group arrived, preparation for painting began in earnest. A base coat had to be completed before the final coat of paint could be applied. The weather was hot, and the work was exhausting, but the volunteers pushed on. Painting continued well after dark.

The volunteers slept on the church floors and set up an outside camping shower, complete with ice-cold water. Even with these sacrifices, they continued to work as a harmonious group until the job was done.

Professional painter Ovidiu Mandache, who headed up the project, said regarding the trip to Kayenta, "It definitely proved a test of my faith. God helped us finish painting with a group of inexperienced painters in two days, and it was nothing short of a miracle."

The volunteers were treated to authentic Navajo tacos, a delicious treat made by a Navajo friend in the community who had attended meetings at the mission. The group was able to do some sightseeing at Lake Powell, view ruins at Narrow Canyon, and sing hymns under a dome in the Mexican Hat formation. They also took a treacherous drive up Moki Dugway to Natural Bridges, where they enjoyed a great hike.

This F-5 group was able to make a definite impact at the mission. They brought encouragement and inspiration to all who were involved. Kayenta pastor James Crosby said, "It was so encouraging to see this project come together at this time, and I am grateful for everyone who had a part to make it happen." The members and friends of the Kayenta church thank God for people who are willing to assist in mission efforts for the Navajo Nation.

*If you, your church, or your school would be interested in coming on a mission trip to the Navajo Nation, please contact Pacific Union Native Ministries Coordinator Nancy Crosby at [ncrosby@nevadautah.org](mailto:ncrosby@nevadautah.org).*

*By Jorine Rollins and Anne Crosby*



# The Grand Potato Hunt

It was just three days until harvest was to begin, and packaging for the potatoes was not yet in place. This was another faith-building moment for the Moab church, and they believed that the Lord had the answer! That morning, the request was shared at the Nevada-Utah Conference digital pastors' prayer time, and petition was made for God's blessing on the harvest.

The potato project started in April, when unemployment was rising rapidly and the food supply was being disrupted. The Moab church wanted to help! Statistics state that the demand for food assistance from the food banks in the state of Utah has risen 300 times year-over-year when compared to 2019.

Over the length of the growing season, life circumstances had taken the project manager to a new home, out of state, before harvest was started. NUC President Leon Brown was made aware of these difficulties with the project, and his response was, "Let's pray about this and see what God does!"

The church prayed every day, and God did amazing things! Within one hour of the pastors' prayer session, miraculously, wooden shipping crates were found. These crates, each with the capacity for 1,000 pounds of potatoes, had already been constructed and included a forklift-friendly base. At \$2.00 each, the crates were virtually being given away, and there were enough for the harvest!

Word was spread through multiple community agencies, including the Interfaith Coalition, and over 200 volunteers (primarily Latter Day Saint neighbors) participated in gathering potatoes from the loosened soil and loading them into crates for distribution.

A semi-truck from the Utah State Food Bank came to receive potatoes. When the

driver arrived, he commented, "I told somebody that I was heading to pick up a load of potatoes down in Moab, and they said, 'You can't grow potatoes in Moab.'" Despite the naysayer's opinion, there were over 8,000 pounds of potatoes waiting for the State Food Bank that day.

The Navajo Nation was facing a food shortage; at the same time, a strict lockdown and curfew prevented travel onto the reservation. What could be done? God had a plan, and He supplied nearly 100 laborers, who packed 5,000 pounds of potatoes, and a driver with special travel permission from the Navajo Nation to come and pick them up.

In one thrilling miracle after another, God opened doors one day at a time—never too soon and never too late. As you read this, the potato harvest is finished, but there are new gospel fields to cultivate. This may be one of the most positive impacts ever made by the Adventist church in Moab. Rarely do hundreds of people, including the non-churched and LDS, engage wholeheartedly with an Adventist outreach as they did with this harvest. Please pray that the gospel seeds that were sown at Moab Manna will germinate and bring forth an abundant and eternal harvest.

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*By Nathan James*



LEFT: Crates of potatoes are ready to ship to the Utah State Food bank in Salt Lake City.

BELOW: Castle Valley Farms, owned and operated by DayStar Adventist Academy, loaned this tractor to the Moab Manna project.



# “We Have This Hope”

## An Interview with President Marc Woodson

**W**e’ve all been through a tough year!  
**How have you seen God’s leading in the Northern California Conference?**

I’ve been inspired by our churches, schools, and ministries that have risen to the challenges during the past year! Our people continue to be Adventists in action, individually and corporately. Members are feeding their communities, sewing masks, checking on each other, reaching out to their neighbors. Our teachers and principals are constantly adapting to the ever-changing guidelines to ensure students stay safe and receive both quality education and support. Pastors and their teams have learned and implemented new technologies and creative ways for their church families to worship together and stay connected.

Our churches are not closed because the church is not the building! Worship, ministry, discipleship, evangelism, baptisms—all are still happening. We have taken this opportunity that was given to us in 2020 to “be” the church and be more relevant in our region.

I’m especially grateful to members who have demonstrated that no disaster or pandemic will stop God’s word, God’s purpose, God’s people. As our conference mission statement says, our aim is to transform people through the good news of Jesus Christ and prepare them for His soon return.

Because of members’ dedication, continuous prayer, and faithfulness in returning their tithe and offerings, God’s work continues in Northern California. I am encouraged by members who have given above and beyond by supporting both the Membership Assistance Fund and the Disaster Response Fund, which have helped our brothers and sisters dealing with loss of employment and the after-effects of recent fires. God is leading our conference.

### **Can you share what the plans are for 2021?**

In the fall of 2020, our administrators and department directors discussed the three ongoing strategic initiatives: engage your calling to ministry, engage your church in planting, and engage your community with compassion. Our goals are the same,



but our methods will change as we continue adapting to the requirements related to the pandemic and adjust activities to the time when vaccines are widely available.

Despite the challenges, we’ve been encouraged to see all three initiatives moving forward. For example, several missional groups in our territory have been established during the past year, and people have been baptized as a result. A number of other groups are in the beginning stages, and we feel that we are well on our way to our goal of establishing 12 missional groups by 2022.

### **What would you like to say to church members as we begin 2021?**

In a constantly changing world, one thing remains true: God still reigns. His purposes go forth in spite of human endeavors, and He has shown Himself to be faithful. Along with many, I’ve lost friends and family members, which has been devastating, but we don’t grieve like those who have no hope. We look forward to the coming of Christ and the resurrection of our loved ones. We know that one day soon, illness, death, division, fear, injustice, and sin will be no more. I believe the time is near, but no matter where we are in this world’s history, we have this hope!

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*By the NCC Communication Department*

# NCC Members Engage Their Calling to Ministry

Each week “Northern Lights,” the news source for the Northern California Conference (NCC) tells the story of members who engage their calling to ministry. Visit [nccsda.com](http://nccsda.com) to subscribe.

## Darrell Johnson

A long journey—including a time of homelessness and a career as a mental health therapist—led Darrell Johnson to his current role as Adventist Community Services (ACS) director at the Valley Community church in Stockton. “It was nothing but the Holy Spirit,” said Johnson.

“There was a point in my life when I had no hope and no desire to live,” he said. “I knew there was something missing. God had a plan for me back then. The park that I was homeless and sleeping in is the same park I’ve been going to monthly for the past eight or nine years and feeding people.”

Johnson and his team have increased the scope of their ministry this year. Currently, the Valley Community ACS hosts a monthly drive-through food giveaway. One day in November, they loaded food into 350 cars during a two-hour period.

In the early days of the pandemic, ACS was the only organization in the area willing to deliver food to seniors who were afraid to leave their homes. One woman wrote: “We are so grateful and blessed to these people and thank God for this help at this needful time.”

Johnson’s ministry provides more than food. “One of the things that ACS offers families in the community is hope,” he said. “Not everyone is going to come to church on Sabbath, but they know where we are. The seed that has been planted is hope. Once we plant the seed, it will grow.”



## Iva Jayme

For months during the pandemic, eighth grader Iva Jayme engaged her calling to ministry each week by serving as the Zoom host for the Pleasant Hill church’s Junior Sabbath School class.

She attended her Earliteen class on

Continued on page 32





Friday evenings but was always ready on Sabbath morning to admit the kids and teachers into the online Juniors class. “What I enjoy most is observing what everyone is doing during an activity and lesson,” she said. “I also like to talk to people by using the chat feature during the meeting.”

The teachers relied on Jayme to help them use the Zoom tools. “The most challenging thing is helping someone if they don’t know what to do or how things work,” she said.

Her assistance was invaluable. “The other teachers and I have really enjoyed seeing Iva mature through the years since we taught her in Juniors,” said teacher John Cho. “It’s nice to see her grow into her own ministry at the church.”

### **Chris Pappas**

For the past 11 years, Chris Pappas has served as the forestry supervisor at Leoni Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, responsible for maintaining the camp’s 960-acre property. “My job is to be a steward of our acreage, keeping it as safe and healthy as possible,” he said. “It’s a never-ending job.”

His team maintains defensible space around the buildings, clears firebreaks in strategic areas, takes out hazardous and dead trees, removes brush, and implements controlled burns. They work hard to mitigate the danger of wildfires. “Leoni Meadows is the safest area that I know of in our immediate area,” he said. “In any scenario—no matter how bad—I’d rather be here.”

Leoni’s forestry program is self-funded by money earned from the forest in the early 1990s. “The NCC



invested the money, and the interest is what pays for my salary, new equipment, fuel, and all the things we need to make this process work,” he said. “The leaders looked into the future and saw that this was important.”

During the past decade, thousands of people have grown closer to God at summer camps, retreats, and conferences in Leoni’s gorgeous natural setting, thanks in part to Pappas, who lives with his family at the camp. “If you get to know the property—the springs and creeks, the old growth trees, the Native American grinding rocks,” he said, “you just start to fall in love with it.”

### **Gina Wilmot**

Kingdom Kids Christian Preschool in Orangevale attracts families from all walks of life—those actively involved in church, those who have drifted away, and those who know nothing about Christianity. Director and pre-K teacher Gina Wilmot ministers to them all.

Each day, Wilmot communicates a simple and powerful message. “I teach them that Jesus loves us no matter what and that He’s our Best Friend,” she said. “God is always there with us no matter where we go.”

A while ago, the non-Christian father of one of her students recounted how his son stopped his parents before dinner and told them they needed to pray. The father told Wilmot that his family had started to pray



“Something clicked. It was seared into my mind—there is a God. I’m not alone. It’s mind-blowing thinking about that moment.”

together before meals. “I look at my job as planting a seed for a child to know God,” said Wilmot.

Although it’s been challenging during the pandemic, Wilmot finds ways to help the school families get acquainted with each other and other young Adventist families. “Our goal is to connect the preschool families with the broader school and church communities to make them feel a part of something bigger,” said Orangevale church Pastor Jon Cicle.

When her students graduate from preschool, Wilmot gives each one a Bible in which she has written, “Remember, Jesus always loves you.” The impact of her ministry will continue throughout their lives!

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*By Julie Lorenz*

### **Ethan Conger**

“Something clicked. It was seared into my mind—there is a God. I’m not alone. It’s mind-blowing thinking about that moment. It was certainly not me deciding there is a God. It was Him saying, ‘I’m here. I found you. Come to me,’” recalled Ethan Conger in his baptismal sermon.

The story of Ethan Conger begins when he was a small child at the Alturas church, one of the conference’s northernmost places of worship. As Conger explained, “I never understood what I was told [at church] or what all of it meant. I drifted away and eventually stopped going altogether.”

Away from a relationship with Jesus, his goal was to be “strong, fast, and as mean as possible” to defeat his opponents, and violence became a way of life.

The Holy Spirit sent Conger on a quest to find the “truths of the earth” after he heard a podcast about the Flood. Considering the validity of the worldwide Flood led him to “completely re-evaluate every conclusion about life, my place in the universe, the time we’ve been around—everything shifted! I wasn’t

exactly trying to prove the Bible, but it certainly was a byproduct of my journey into the truths of the earth.”

To channel his aggression, Conger advanced his fighting skill and became a professional cage fighter in Redding. He also continued searching for the truth. The Holy Spirit led him to an Adventist family who shared a documentary about Noah based on the Bible. With this newfound truth, he added reading the Bible to his daily activities. He came to realize, “at the very core, we have a God who came down to teach people to love—a God crying out to the world to come to Him!”

Conger reached out to his grandma, Joy Evans, Alturas church head elder, who connected him to his childhood pastor, Bruce Blum, now Angels Camp/ Escalon/Manteca pastor.

Coming full circle, on November 12 at the Alturas church, where Ethan’s journey began, he was baptized.

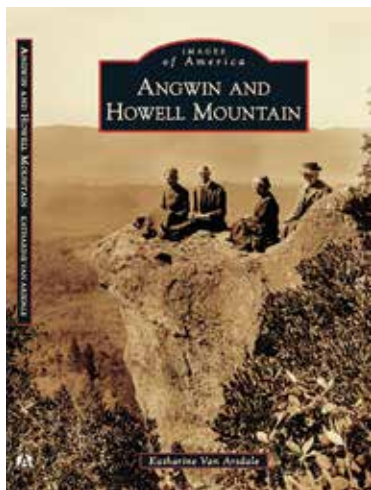
His journey continues with a calling to ministry. As Conger explained, “I’m dedicating my life to a relationship with the Creator of the Universe. Wild, eh? I want more people to experience this. I want people on this train. This is the single greatest thing that I’ve ever experienced. We’re in the last few moments of the world, and everybody needs to know God. It is time to get ready. Get in your Bibles. Do not look back—and remember that God is love!”

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*By Murray Miller*



# PUC Celebrates New Accreditation and New Book for Library



PUC's Special Collections Librarian Katharine Van Arsdale has written a book of local history that will be published by Arcadia Publishing in March. The book is titled *Angwin and Howell Mountain* and is filled with images from the Pacific Union College (PUC) archives that are sure to spark memories in anyone who has spent time at the beloved college on the mountain.

Along with the book news, PUC is celebrating that the Walter C. Utt Center for Adventist History received "Approved" accreditation status from the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR). This accreditation is the second highest rank that is possible to achieve and will last until 2025.

To earn the status of "Approved," an archive must pass with minimum scores in three areas: staffing and oversight, physical location and preservation, and policies.

After a site visit in March to evaluate these three areas, the accreditation team at ASTR submitted a report to the Utt Center outlining commendations and recommendations alongside a final status of "Approved."

Accreditors particularly commended the Utt Center for "the high standards attained in managing these collections," while PUC Administration was commended for supporting the Utt Center through the construction of the new library wing. They added that this new special collections space and reading room, when completed, will be impressive, efficient, and in keeping with archival best practices.

PUC's Utt Center is named for influential Adventist historian Walter C. Utt, who taught at the college for 34 years and chaired the department of history. The center joins other institutions that hold General Conference Archives Accreditation, including the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University and the Roy Graham Library Special Collections at Newbold College of Higher Education, among others.

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By Ashley Eisele



# Adventist Health Response in Glass Fire

In a year already filled with challenges due to COVID-19, the state of California faced a record number of destructive wildfire outbreaks. For weeks, smoke and ash engulfed the air, leaving individuals with more than one reason to wear a mask. Pressed on all sides literally and figuratively, our Adventist Health St. Helena hospital was among those evacuated due to the Glass Fire, which displaced more than 70,000 people.

On September 27, the devastating fire burned through 60,000 acres, resulting in more than 500 homes lost. Napa County families were instantly uprooted from their homes, along with many friends and neighbors. Although no entity can amend all that residents have lost, a glimmer of hope can be found in a team dedicated to serve its community during a time when people are broken, confused, and devastated. Residents feel a sense of relief when they see “Mobi,” Adventist Health St. Helena/St. Helena Hospital Foundation’s Mobile Health Unit, pull in.

Spearheaded by Karla Newton, Community Well-Being manager, Mobi delivers various forms of health screenings, including COVID-19 tests, health education, and crisis response—all of which came to an intense upsurge when the fire escalated and mandatory evacuations took place. With thousands of families forced to evacuate, including local businesses and restaurants, food security became a major concern.

Recognizing this need almost immediately, Newton and the Mobi team began operating in her garage, sorting resources and storing supplies. “Being in that situation, you’re just running off of straight adrenaline,” said Newton. Newton and the Mobi team quickly grew by partnering with more than six organizations to provide warm meals and fresh produce to displaced families from all over the community. “The one thing that keeps you going is seeing all the faces that come through and how appreciative they are to receive basic needs such as a warm meal,” Newton reflected.

Together with partners such as Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International and the St. Helena Hospital Foundation, volunteers distributed over 5,000 warm meals, 15,000 large drinking containers, 10,000 N95 masks, gift cards, back-to-school backpacks, and hygiene kits.

“Because of the generosity of ADRA and Adventist Health’s Rapid Relief Fund, we not only were able to



serve hot meals to our community, but we also were able to invest back into our local businesses,” said Newton. “From Press, Bouchon, Tra Vigne Pizzeria, Bon Appetite, and World Central Kitchen, we’ve been able to provide over seven days of hot meals to our community.”

Although crises can result in irreplaceable loss, they also birth strength in unity. That’s exactly what Glen Newhart from St. Helena Hospital Foundation experienced when partnering together to distribute warm meals: “We are incredibly thankful for the timing of our mobile health program that allows us to go beyond the walls of our hospital, meeting the needs of our community where they are.” Residents from all over Napa County have expressed similar sentiments of gratitude toward Adventist Health St. Helena’s response.

For many, a warm meal is everything in this time of need. For Newton, it’s that Adventist Health St. Helena and the Adventist Health Community Well-Being team supported the community by living God’s love through action in a time of chaos: “We’ve gone through so much this year, disaster after disaster, but one thing I’ve learned is how tight-knit our community is. I’m really proud of our team’s efforts, and I’ve received phone call after phone call thanking me for how grateful they’ve been to our hospital.”

In many ways, community unites during tragedy, loss, and devastation. It begins in backyards and garages. It finds hope in a warm meal. Through this disaster and many other challenges Adventist Health has faced this year, the power of community is more prevalent now than ever before, bringing about a time when well-being has the opportunity to be accessible to everyone.

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By Jade Tuleu





Student volunteers from La Sierra, Redlands, and Loma Linda academies clean the outside of buildings on the Azure Hills church campus.

## Service is at the Heart of Adventist Education

In years past, students at El Cajon school have enjoyed the annual tradition of hosting elderly members from the church at a Thanksgiving dinner on campus. This year's quarantine restrictions and social distancing guidelines meant that they needed to redesign this tradition.

The lower grades made festive ornaments while the upper grades prepared Thanksgiving dishes with the help of school and church staff. After finishing their preparations, the students put together small gift baskets with a delicious meal, a decorated



LEFT: Students express their gratitude by adding notes with the meal they made for church members. ABOVE: Students from El Cajon school pose for a picture after they prepared a Thanksgiving meal for church members.



ornament, a school newsletter, and a heartfelt message from students. Three groups of students, led by the church pastor, secretary, and board chairman, distributed the baskets to over 20 delighted church members.

Principal Pendeza Lawrence was impressed with the student's ingenuity under the new circumstances. "We have a great group of kids that are eager to help wherever they can," said Lawrence. "We offer students a sense of normalcy, and they are able to thrive because they are surrounded by support."

Bill Arnold, associate superintendent at Southeastern California Conference (SECC), emphasizes that the support for students to be active in community service is built into the curriculum of SECC schools. As the students grow and progress to the academy grades, service learning becomes built into their graduation requirements.

"All students are required to spend 25 hours in community service for each year of academy attendance," said Arnold. "They can opt for a number of different activities, such as working at a food bank, visiting retirement communities and nursing homes, assisting in hospital settings, or helping with activities at their church."

Azure Hills church recently hosted a group of academy students from three area academies for a service learning project. A group of 18 academy students composed of students from Redlands Adventist, Loma Linda, and La Sierra academies devoted a full day to cleaning out old storage units and reinvigorating the outside campus of the church.

Art Blinci, interim business manager for Azure Hills church, has been a member of the congregation for 35 years. He had been hoping to clear out 20 years of old clutter from the storage areas on the church campus for some time and knew that the task would be daunting. After a day supervising the cleanup with the academy students, he was impressed with the work ethic that the students displayed. "This project really harnessed the power of these kids," he said. "They had a great spirit and filled up a 40-yard dumpster."

Blinci said that the students got a sense for the necessity of their effort as they cleaned a shed full of old emergency kits and backpacks full of supplies. "When the students checked the expiration dates on the old boxes of cereals and canned food, they realized that the expiration dates listed were years before they were born!"

The students discovered an old snack bar on the premises that had been hidden behind the debris.



A group of 18 student volunteers from La Sierra, Redlands, and Loma Linda academies clean up rooms and a storage closet at Azure Hills church and fill a 40-yard dumpster.

Inspired by the possibilities, the church's youth group joined in to paint and refresh the space so that it could be used for future programs.

"At the Azure Hills church, we talk about our financial contributions as vision in action. These students' gifts of time and talent turned a vision into action that is just as valuable," Blinci said. "They were able to see the value of their hard work and the lasting improvements that they made to the church."

"Students' realization that their service can make a positive impact for others is an important part of their education," said Arnold. "These students are able to build relationships during these projects, even when some of their activities have been virtual by necessity."

According to Arnold, many students have established virtual communications with senior citizens who have felt marooned by quarantine restrictions. "When a student is able to communicate several times with the same person," he said, "they are able to build rewarding and beneficial relationships."

Students throughout SECC schools continue to use their creativity and energy to make substantial differences in their communities, despite undergoing the strains and challenges inherent to the year 2020. Of all the lessons they will learn during their education, values instilled through service can last the longest.

*By Tricia Murdoch Zmaj*

## Creating Space: Christine Wallington Ordained at Costa Mesa Church

Being mentored by older people in the church taught me so much about life," recalled Christine Wallington, pastor of the Costa Mesa church.

On Sabbath, Nov. 7, Wallington was ordained, fulfilling a lifelong dream to lead a church in ministry. Specifically, her passion is to create within the church a safe and authentic space, where everyone feels comfortable being open and transparent with each other.

"People of all ages have gone through challenging experiences, but they may not know if they're allowed to talk about them," Wallington explained. "I want to lead by example and ensure that those who find a place in our church are at home here."

Costa Mesa church is intentionally international and cross-generational in their worship, and they have fostered several productive conversations on hard topics with a family focus. Wallington and her children (ages 8 and 5) have found a home at this church and want to extend that blessing to others.

"They are a beautiful, accepting church," she said. "It is my biggest honor as a leader to create space here for others, too."

By Becky St. Clair



PHOTO: ENNO MOLLER

At the end of the ordination service, Christine Wallington shares her gratitude for the members of the Costa Mesa church.

## Hope and a Plan: Office of Education Creates New Enrollment Strategy Position



Trevan Osborn joins the Office of Education as director of enrollment strategy.

Over the last year, enrollment in Southeastern California Conference schools dropped by 20 percent. Though the pandemic likely played a part, the conference's office of education admits that, like in much of the rest of the country, this enrollment decline has been consistent for years.

"We need to reclaim as many families as we can, but we also want to determine why the drop is continuing and what we can do to change that trajectory," said Trevan Osborn, director of enrollment strategy—his newly created role at the Office of Education.

The purpose of this new position, which began in November, is threefold. First, to help schools develop intentional strategies to reconnect with as many families as possible. Second, to increase early elementary grade (K-2) enrollment across the board. And finally, to improve relationships between schools and their constituent churches to create a two-way support system.

"The future of Adventist Education is in danger," Osborn said. "But we should all be encouraged by the conference's proactive steps to make meaningful change for the future of our children and the church."

By Becky St. Clair

# SECC's First Virtual Pathfinder Camporee a Success

Every November, Southeastern California Conference (SECC) youth ministries holds a Pathfinder camporee for clubs across the conference. Typically, Pathfinders set up camp for the weekend and enjoy worshipping and learning together.

In 2020, of course, "typical" is not possible. So how do you get 1,500 Pathfinders to engage online when they are experiencing Zoom fatigue from months of doing everything virtually? You put Patty Maruffo, associate youth director, in charge.

"I put together a think tank of young people to brainstorm creative and innovative things we could do to make this a special weekend for our Pathfinders," Maruffo said. "We wanted to continue our mission focus and provide something relevant for these young people—something they'd want to tune in and stick around for."

That's exactly what they did.

The youth department partnered with Pacific Union College, who provided the PUC Pioneer Crew—a group of four college students who went camping as a "family unit," following all COVID-19 restrictions in place. The group live-streamed throughout the weekend, and Pathfinders were able to engage in real time, voting on which activities the Crew would enjoy and share with them that day. To really get into the spirit, club members were encouraged to set up a campsite in their own backyard for the weekend and "camp" along with the Crew.

Honors workshops took place before the camporee began, including topics such as endangered species, drawing, worms, computers, Adventist heritage, and prayer. This year's theme, "Hello, I am..." led to three powerful presentations by Meshach Soli, pastor of the



ABOVE: Meshach Soli, pastor of the South Bay church in San Diego, shares one of the three main messages during the virtual Pathfinder Camporee. BELOW: Patty Marruffo, associate youth director and organizer of the event, engages with Pathfinders during the recent virtual camporee.

South Bay church in San Diego: "Hello, I am Christian," "Hello, I am Justice," and "Hello, I am Love." Additionally, presenter Chagy the Messenger talked about how the devil uses illusions to trick us, and a diverse panel of pastors and social workers led the young people in a discussion about mental health.

A 2-D spatial video chat dubbed "Avatar Adventures" gave club members a chance to wander, virtually, the grounds of Pine Springs Ranch, chatting via video in real time with other club members, directors, and pastors they encountered along the way.

"As a department, we want innovation and creativity to be part of our core values," Maruffo said, "as we continue to provide support to youth ministries so they can make a difference in the lives of our kids."

The weekend culminated in a virtual fireworks show on Saturday night in honor of 2020 being the 70th anniversary of the Pathfinders program, which had its beginnings in SECC.

"In the end it was all about God and connecting with the kids in ways that are meaningful to them," Maruffo concluded. "I was excited to hear from directors and Pathfinders that they had fun. Even though we couldn't be together in person, it was still meaningful, and that's exactly what we wanted."

By Becky St. Clair

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"In the end it was all about God and connecting with the kids in ways that are meaningful to them."



James G. Lee, SCC executive vice president, shares what he enjoys most about his role.



## SCC Schools Are Encouraged to Continue “Persisting Together” During Virtual Week of Prayer

“God was really doing something special,” reflected Iki Taimi, director of Southern California Conference (SCC) Senior Youth and Young Adult (SYYA) ministries. “And there was no way we could have done it if the coronavirus hadn’t hit. We see many things as a crisis, but God sees it as an opportunity.”

The opportunity came as a digital week of prayer for all SCC schools. When Taimi presented the idea to the education department, it was met with enthusiasm. “I was very excited about this because I knew that the schools were working overtime as it was just to keep their distant learning going,” said Harold Crook, SCC vice president for education.

“I was thrilled to see pastors and teachers working together for the spiritual growth of young people,” said Velino A. Salazar, SCC president. “A dream was fulfilled: Years ago, the SCC president and education VP dreamed about collective events between pastors and teachers.” A pastor and teacher summit in early 2019 got the ball rolling, and it was just the start.

Taimi then gathered a team of the SYYA leaders and school principals. All K-12 SCC schools participated in the event, either by submitting videos or watching along live in November. Three versions were produced: for grades K-5, 6-8, and high school. Kevin Camato, pastor at Upper Room Fellowship, shared daily messages with the elementary; Celeste Harrison, South Bay church, spoke to the junior high; and four different SYYA pastors shared for each day of the high school program.

The event was themed “Persisting Together.” “In such a

“I was thrilled to see pastors and teachers working together for the spiritual growth of young people.”

tumultuous time as this, it is more important than ever for our students and their families to know that they are not alone," Taimi said of the theme. "With God at the helm, we are here with them, and we are persisting through it—together."

Schools participated by submitting songs, welcome messages from the principals, and more. "I loved the theme and the involvement of so many students and faculty as well as pastors and leaders participating conference wide," said Kirsten Born, fourth-grade teacher at South Bay Christian School. "This creates an awesome sense of belonging to something bigger than our local school and church."

The unity and collaboration were clear throughout the program. "I think that came through to the students," Crook said. Salazar reflected on the ripple effect of events like this one. "These collective events will change our culture of independence," he said, "and it will become a more unified culture."

Conference officers and event leadership made an appearance on video to introduce themselves, share encouragement, and play some fun games. "It was imperative that they meet us," Taimi explained. "Everyone's struggling through something, and they need to hear from the officers in this conference that we see them—that they're not alone."

Another special element of the week was devotionals tailored for the teachers and parents. "As it kept unfolding, it just felt like the next natural step of what God was doing," Taimi shared. During previous weeks of prayer where Taimi had spoken, he had been invited to share a devotional for the

faculty in the morning. This inspired him to create special devotionals for the teachers and, ultimately, the parents. The separate devotionals for parents and teachers were certainly more work, but this programming add-on was affirmed many times over.

Teachers and parents weren't shy in expressing their thanks. "The videos/messages were heartfelt and really hit home with me," one parent said. Cheryl Dickerson, office secretary at Conejo Adventist Elementary, shared, "I love how God works it out that what I needed to hear is what the message was for that day."

One of the goals of the program was to help students to know Jesus more. "For me, it was a reminder of something I had been learning myself," said Kaitlyn Stubbart, senior at Newbury Park Adventist Academy. "However, when you learn something this powerful on your own, it is hard to do and remember by yourself. You need a support system from friends and family, or even a week of prayer. For me, this was my support."

Many requests have come to repeat the event in the spring. In the meantime, the team plans to revisit the students with follow-up resources and short clips from the speakers to check in and encourage the students in early 2021. Integrating a service component is a high priority for future events.

"I am infinitely grateful for our team," Taimi shared. "This would not have been possible to accomplish without them. It just so happened I was the lightning rod to suggest this, but the Spirit had done the work before."

*By Lauren Lacson*



LEFT: Taimi shares a word of encouragement with the parents. ABOVE: Students from multiple schools join together virtually to sing "What a Beautiful Name It Is" on day two.



PHOTO: ADONAI CHURCH

Pathfinders from Adonai and Culver City Spanish churches pitched their own tents during the camporee.

## SCC Pathfinders Commit to Knowing Jesus During Virtual Camporee

Every year, Southern California Conference (SCC) Pathfinders look forward to the Pathfinder Camporee—a weekend of fellowship and activities geared toward youth as they grow in their walk with God. Last fall’s camporee and 70th Pathfinder anniversary aimed to fulfill that purpose in a virtual setting.

The camporee had already been scheduled for the fall when in-person gatherings were first halted in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A Pathfinder advisory team of 15 lay members, chaired by Bob Wong, recently retired SCC youth ministries director, soon started meeting weekly to plan for a virtual camporee. According to Wong, “planning took several prayerful months.”

“My challenge to the team was to focus everything on Christ and building a relationship with Him,” said Wong, “while making the sessions interesting enough to hold the kids’ interest.” With this goal in mind, the theme “Knowing Jesus” was chosen.

Each advisory member was responsible for coordinating different parts of the program. Steven Clement, Pathfinder area coordinator and member of Eagle Rock church, was in charge of the technology team. The team’s initial unfamiliarity with livestreaming production did not deter their efforts to create a memorable camporee for the kids.

“We struck out in faith, not knowing whether something like this could be pulled off—not knowing if we could get it to flow smoothly,” Clement said. “Our passion is bringing youth to the Lord, and our goal was to connect the kids to the Lord in a fun way.”

The virtual Pathfinder camporee was livestreamed on both YouTube and Facebook, where about 1,600 viewers tuned in for the weekend event. Friday night’s Bible challenge tasked Pathfinders with finding words in the Bible spelling the word Pathfinder. On Sabbath morning, Pathfinders heard a special message from 90-year-old Norm Middag, retired North American Division youth ministries director, who started his ministry at Eagle Rock church. Sabbath afternoon, Pathfinders could choose to take one of 11 honor classes, including a brand-new biosafety honor geared toward pandemic knowledge and safety. The night concluded with an international pageant, in which 13 clubs showcased food, clothing, and the anthem from the nationality each club represented. The weekend closed with a devotional from Temple City church Pathfinder Joseph Hernandez, a scavenger hunt, and arts and crafts projects.

“This was not a one-person program,” said Wong. “It was a success because of the advisory team, Pathfinder leaders, lay individuals, and most of all, the Holy Spirit.”

By Araya Moss



# Crosswalk Foothills Group Encourages Community to “Lovewell”

In the fall of 2020, Crosswalk (CW) Foothills was recognized as a group in the Southern California Conference (SCC).

After a year of monthly pop-up worship services in the San Gabriel Foothills area to gauge community interest, the leadership team at CW Foothills was excited for the new possibilities God had in store at the start of 2020. That excitement quickly turned to confusion with the arrival of COVID-19.

“It felt like all the momentum we had for 2020 got swept beneath our feet,” said Joshua Estrada, leader of CW Foothills. “We spent the next couple of months figuring out how to be flexible and following what God was calling us to do.”

Estrada, who helped with the early pop-up worship services on occasion, joined the CW Foothills team permanently in the fall of 2020. Previously, he was a part of the worship team at Crosswalk church in Redlands, the congregation that planted CW Foothills here in SCC.

He met Danny Chan, SCC Los Angeles Metro Region director, in early March of 2020 when Chan was invited to preach at a worship service. At the time, Estrada didn't know what the significance of that encounter would be, but he now sees how God was at work on behalf of this growing congregation.

“Part of my role as region director is to support churches through various stages of growth,” said Chan. “I am blessed to partner with Josh Estrada to provide the guidance and support his team needs to flourish as a church. CW Foothills is a beacon of hope to young,

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“There is a unique thing that Jesus is doing in our community: God is bringing us these people because our community can be trusted with them.”



PHOTO: CROSSWALK-FOOTHILLS FACEBOOK

CW Foothills arranged monthly pop-up worship services before COVID-19. Danny Chan is pictured preaching at such a service in March 2020.

disconnected believers who need a place to learn how to love well.”

Estrada credits their “lovewell” witnessing-focused mission to Tim Gillespie, senior pastor of Crosswalk church in Redlands. “If you can learn to love a person well where they are,” said Estrada, “they’re likely to, at some point, ask where that love comes from.”

Now, CW Foothills, like many SCC churches, is currently worshipping online, and Estrada is navigating how to lead during an ongoing pandemic.

“There is a unique thing that Jesus is doing in our community: God is bringing us these people because our community can be trusted with them,” Estrada said. “We’re trying to figure out how to be a church that doesn’t just ask people to attend, but really embodies ‘go and make disciples.’”

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By Araya Moss

# Giving Feels

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We realize that cheerful giving begins with cheerful receiving.

**A** body is made up of an interdependent set of systems that harmoniously work together for the good of the entire body. Each system (for instance, the digestive system) has unique tasks, and together they make the body strong and healthy. If each system decided to function by itself, the body would die. But the systems work interdependently, like a team.

A barrier to cheerful giving in the body of Christ can occur when we function dependently or independently, rather than as an interdependent team. Think of it as growing through various stages of life. When we were first born, we were completely dependent on our parents for life and nurture. But as we matured, we came to realize that we were unique individuals apart from our parents, and we became independent.

Though we value independence in our culture, this is not the highest level of living, according to the Bible. God has created the body of Christ to be interconnected in its relationship toward each person in the body.



# Good

Just as our physical bodies have systems that function together, so the spiritual body of Christ is built up when we affirm that we are all important to the function of the church.

Notice how Paul describes interdependence: “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16, NIV). That means we grow when we *grow together in love*. Each of us has a role to play. Understanding our unique roles, the places we fit in the body, will lead to more enthusiastic generosity because we become a part of the body when we do this.

How does this happen? First, you need to discover your unique role to play in the body of Christ. This means reflecting on the resources, talents, gifts, and time you have. Understanding your uniqueness allows you to joyfully give to the body in specific ways. And second, you need to affirm the uniqueness of others in the body of Christ. If you rely on others to share their uniqueness with you, but you don’t understand your own uniqueness, then you become *dependent* on others

First, you need to discover your unique role to play in the body of Christ. This means reflecting on the resources, talents, gifts, and time you have.

for who you are in the church. On the other end of the spectrum, if you understand your own uniqueness but do not affirm others, thinking to yourself, “I can do things better myself,” then you become *independent* of the body. Neither leads to cheerful generosity.

Discovering how God has gifted you (with talent, personality, finances, and time) allows you to find a special place of service within the body of Christ. Affirming the uniqueness of others in the body provides doorways to interdependence—that is, serving together as a team. When we serve collaboratively, cheerful generosity will flow, for we will come to recognize that in a trusting relationship with each other, we are far better off than we are alone. Cheerful giving is interdependent with cheerful receiving.







### 2020 IS ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS:

first, a global pandemic, and then, nationwide demonstrations against police brutality and systemic racism. In 2020, the Pacific Union Conference voted an historic statement on social justice, declaring that combating racism, oppression, and injustice is a gospel imperative and part of the ministry of the Adventist Church. This declaration requires the Church State Council to expand its legislative advocacy and educational ministries to address social justice priorities and to empower laity to join us in working for justice. Top priorities include:

**Workers' Rights**—The Council's legal services ministry has long defended the rights of members who suffer Sabbath discrimination at work, as well as those of other faiths who suffer religious

discrimination. The Bible identifies the oppression of workers as bringing judgment in the last days (James 5:3,4). Council Director Alan Reinach has long served on a workers' rights legislative committee in California. Advocacy for workers' rights will continue.

**Immigration Rights**—The Church State Council has been conducting immigration rights seminars and providing resources to our churches for many years. Now this work can include legislative advocacy.

**Civil Rights and Racial Justice**—The Social Justice Statement upholds the dignity and value of every human being as having been created in God's image. Structural racism is woven into the fabric of our society. The Church State Council will be proud to expand legislative advocacy to partner with other civil rights organizations in seeking racial justice and to assist those members and churches that seek to be agents of change.





# The New Normal

## A CRISIS TRULY IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE.

The COVID-19 pandemic is already inspiring creative changes in ministry. The Church State Council has seized the opportunity to produce webinars for both the legal and church community on Supreme Court decisions and pandemic and religious liberty issues. Your church can incorporate religious liberty ministry more easily and frequently than ever before! Consider these primary resources:

- *Liberty* magazine. Support the annual offering, but don't just financially support the magazine, read it! It's a superb magazine.
- *Freedom's Ring* radio/podcast—in its 23rd year! A weekly interview with leading experts on current religious liberty stories, cases, and topics, hosted by Alan Reinach, online at [www.churchstate.org](http://www.churchstate.org).

- Sermons/Sabbath programming. Council staff and speakers' bureau members are available for worship programs, Sabbath Schools, and afternoon seminars.
- Guest speakers for academy and college classes.
- Webinars or Zoom conferences:
  - Hosting town halls with newly elected officials
  - Breaking religious liberty developments
  - Community engagement training
  - Religious accommodation basics
  - Immigration rights
  - Civil rights and racial justice issues
  - Religious freedom implications of vaccines

Connecting remotely has opened wonderful new opportunities. Do host Zoom town halls with newly elected officials, or lobby days for church or school groups. Be informed! Get involved! Sign up for our email list. Contact: Natalie Eva: [neva@churchstate.org](mailto:neva@churchstate.org). Connect to both Church State Council and Alan Reinach's Facebook page.



# Public Affairs Ministry Means Building Bridges

**THE MINISTRY OF BUILDING BRIDGES** with elected officials is not just for professionals. Pati Lawrence is living proof. She had worked in creative enterprises for many years and had no relevant background, until...well, you can learn the story in her recent interview with Alan Reinach, Executive Director, Church State Council.

**Reinach:** How did you first become interested in religious liberty?

**Lawrence:** I was asking God: "What is your purpose for me?" Soon thereafter, Dwayne Leslie from the General Conference spoke at my church about the severity of global restrictions on religious freedom. I felt God leading me to get involved in this ministry. Dr. Leslie put me in touch with you and your associate, Dennis Seaton. Dennis taught me the key to this ministry is "never knowing a stranger," and "the first rule of success is just to show up" and meet elected officials.

**Reinach:** How did you begin to meet elected officials?

**Lawrence:** God began sending elected officials to me. I met the first one in a cookie shop—Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell, chair of the education committee—by accidentally stepping on his foot!

**Reinach:** Has it been difficult to develop relationships with elected officials?

**Lawrence:** Not at all! These officials expect people to ask them for something. I come to thank them for their service and say our church wants to partner with them in serving the community. They love it!

**Reinach:** Can you give me an example of your work with elected officials?

**Lawrence:** How much time do you have? My favorite: Congresswoman Barragan's district director called looking for a church for a town hall meeting for 300 in a neutral place to address a hot topic: potholes! We offered Tamarind church. Instead of the expected 300, more than a thousand people showed up, along with the media and television cameras! This was the first time many had ever been in an Adventist Church.

**Reinach:** So, is what you do ministry? And does it require any special skills?

**Lawrence:** No question it's ministry. If I can do it, almost anyone can. The only preparation I had was the urging of God's spirit!





# A Testing Time

Religious Liberty Offering  
January 23, 2021

**“WE ARE NOT DOING THE WILL OF GOD** if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. Fervent, effectual prayer should be ascending to heaven that this calamity may be deferred until we can accomplish the work which has so long been neglected. Let there be most earnest prayer, and then let us work in harmony with our prayers” (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 714).

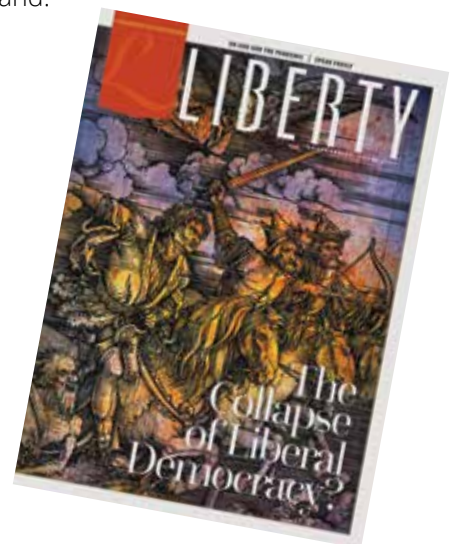
Today, the entire world is engulfed in a crisis of the first magnitude. COVID-19 has killed more than 1.5 million people worldwide—more than 300,000 in the United States alone. Efforts to overcome the virus have led not only to major economic disruption but also to the most severe restrictions on religious gatherings this nation has ever seen. Many are asking: must we sacrifice our liberty for life and health? And if we do, will this sacrifice pave the way for more severe and permanent erosions of liberty to come?

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*The Church State Council is the religious liberty educational and advocacy arm of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.*

*Liberty*, a magazine of religious liberty, has been published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than a century. It is your voice to champion religious liberty before the nation’s thought leaders. Each year, we ask our church community to empower our religious liberty efforts with financial support. It is always vital. But this year, the need is critical. We are in a testing time!

The present emergency is a reminder that time is short. Historic changes are taking place by the day. As Jesus foretold, “the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4, KJV). Thank you for responding generously. With your help, we will “proclaim liberty throughout the land.”



# 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. .... Testimonies EGW  
Zoom: 98783552992

Mondays at 6 p.m. .... Bible Study & Personal Testimonies  
Zoom: 844734252

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

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

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

Thursdays at 11 a.m. .... Testimonies EGW  
Zoom: 98783552992

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

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

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

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

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

For more details, visit <https://bit.ly/2x0jvDf> or email [tvang@cccsda.org](mailto:tvang@cccsda.org).

**Women's Retreat** (Jan. 30) on [YouTube.com/cccsda](https://www.youtube.com/cccsda) with presentations at 10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. Themed "Word of the Woman" and featuring Heather Thompson-Day, all are invited. For more information, contact [ministries@cccsda.org](mailto:ministries@cccsda.org).

## Northern California Conference

**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.

**Church Clerk Training in Spanish** via Zoom (Jan. 24) 9 a.m. to noon. Info: [Premila.Willmott@nccsda.com](mailto:Premila.Willmott@nccsda.com).

**Church Clerk Training in English** via Zoom (Jan. 31) 9 a.m. to noon. Info: [Premila.Willmott@nccsda.com](mailto:Premila.Willmott@nccsda.com).

**Instituto Laico Adventista de California (ILAC)** (Feb. 21-22). Online training in leadership and church

## 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.  
February: *January 6* • March: *February 5*

### Contributions

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

## Newsdesk Online



The regular section of Newsdesk in the magazine is available online at:  
[sda.faith/pacificnewsdesk](http://sda.faith/pacificnewsdesk)

administration for Spanish-speaking laypeople. This month's topic: "Spirituality 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

**Equipped2Serve** (Jan. 9) 3-5:30 p.m. This year E2S is a virtual event that will give you the opportunity to get equipped for ministry. You will be inspired, access resources, and have opportunities to share ideas. After the general session, there will be two workshop sessions covering over 20 topics focused on ministries such as community services, disabilities, elders, hospitality, youth, children, and much more. Info: [www.seccadventist.org](http://www.seccadventist.org), [alma.teel@seccsda.org](mailto:alma.teel@seccsda.org).

## Classified

### At Your Service

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

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

**Feeling the call to get out of the city?** Husband and wife SDA REALTORS® can help you find your mountain home near Yosemite. [Darlene@HerrsRealEstate.com](mailto:Darlene@HerrsRealEstate.com) 559-760-8141. Darlene Herr CalDRE#02071769 & Johnny Herr CalDRE#02081978. We can also refer you to other agents within our networks across the country. [HerrsRealEstate.com](http://HerrsRealEstate.com). Broker: BassLakeRealty.

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

### Employment

**Adventist Media Ministries treasury department** is seeking a full-time staff accountant. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting is required, and two years of experience is preferred. Our offices are in the Riverside area of Calif. Please contact the

Human Resources department at 805-955-7715 or [hr@sdamedia.com](mailto:hr@sdamedia.com), or you may visit the following link for more information about the "Staff Accountant" position and to apply: <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>.

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

**Stallant Health**, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for an optometrist to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: [marva@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.com).

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

**Full-time employment opening, Pacific Union Conference Department of Education.** Full-time office assistant to three associate directors for Elementary, Secondary, and Early Childhood. Candidate will perform high levels of clerical work, administrative and project support, follow through with various tasks as assigned, and occasionally travel to training locations. Must have significant knowledge of computer applications, excellent communication/customer service skills, and be able to manage simultaneous projects and deadlines. For more information or to apply, please contact [treasurer@adventistfaith.com](mailto:treasurer@adventistfaith.com).

### Events

**Save the Date!** March 12-14, 2021, LAAA Alumni Association Homecoming Weekend, featuring Dr. Carlton

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[www.SDACreditUnion.com](http://www.SDACreditUnion.com) 818-246-7241



Byrd as keynote speaker. Email 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.

## Real Estate

**Choice mountain land** inside Cherokee National Forest in beautiful East Tennessee. Four tracts ranging in size from 10-50 acres. Large creek, cleared land, mixed forest, mature trees. On county-maintained road, utilities on site. 50 miles to Southern Adventist University. 60 miles to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Near scenic rivers, lakes, trails. Ideal retreat, country living, retirement. Call,



text, email for info and pictures. 301-332-8237 or Kathyrr777@gmail.com.

**Great opportunity in Idaho** for \$275K. Do you want to experience country living while operating an outpost/ministry or operate your own business? Here is your opportunity to own an 8,000 sq. ft. 2-story building featuring: large open country-themed banquet area, renovated separate living space/office with bathroom/shower, 180-seat auditorium, stage, baby grand piano. SDA church 20 minutes away. 11 S. Main St.,

Kooskia, ID 83539. Price reduced to sell. For information: bit.ly/3iiG47R or Theresa Reynold 208-798-7822.

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

**Quiet 4 bdrm/4 bath home in Angwin, Calif.** Walk to schools, church, and market. Near Adventist Health St. Helena. Two-story with master bedroom on main floor. Private entrance to second floor. Dining room and eat-in kitchen, 2540 sq. ft., large deck, hardwood floors, updated throughout. \$669,000. Call Herb 530-913-8995.

**Settle into your own beautiful mountain cabin retreat.** In the heart of nature on 9 acres near the Salmon river in Siskiyou county. Awesome scenery, hiking, rafting, swimming. Supplies w/wood heat and hydroelectricity. Sleeps 8 comfortably (3 bdrm), shop building, orchard, and garden. Less than 1 hr drive to active SDA church. \$258,000. Wanda, 707-445-1156.

## Vacation Opportunities

**Maui vacation condo in Kihei.** Relaxing and affordable. Only a 3-minute walk to the beach! 1-bdrm w/king bed. Clean, comfortable, well-maintained. Sleeps 4. Fully furnished kitchen, washer/dryer, and more! Free parking, Wi-Fi, and calls to U.S./Canada. Friendly Kihei SDA church nearby. Visit us at: <http://www.vrbo.com/62799>, email: mauivista1125@gmail.com, or call Mark 909-800-9841.

**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.

**Safe 80-acre retreat near La Sierra University.** Not in a flood or fire zone, with views of Lake Mathews/

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Gavilan Hills with deeded access to Wood Rd./Cajalco Rd. and zoned for agriculture/residential. Freedom with two drilled wells, septic, city water line, phone line/FAX, strong cell signal, and high solar score. Original 1977 family mobile home, wells, and tack buildings sold "as is." Used for farming, horses, animal husbandry, nursery, and gardening with serenity and privacy. \$1,250,000. Martin: 623-759-1737 (cell).

Union, Ohio, Northern California, and Southeastern California conferences.

**Fuss, Barbara Jean** – b. July 4, 1931, San Diego, Calif.; d. Nov. 22, 2020, Riverside, Calif. Survivor: daughter, Lori Ann. Barbara volunteered at La Sierra University's Stahl Center, Women's Resource Center, and the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology.

**Gifford, Norma Lavon (Hartle)** – b. Jan. 30, 1921, Elkhart, Ind.; d. Nov. 18, 2020, Galt, Calif. Survivors:

## At Rest

**Alvarez, Paula** – b. June 2, 1935, Oakland, Calif.; d. Sept. 21, 2020, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: husband, Antonio Sr.; sons, Antonio Jr., Rene; daughters, Rosie Aguilar, Elaine Froehner; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

**Anderson, Todd** – b. April 23, 1964, Palo Alto, Calif.; d. Nov. 19, 2020, Aptos, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carrie; sons, Tyler, Elijah; parents, Richard and Clarice; sister, Patrice Anderson-Fratianni.

**Consuegra, Luis** – b. June 21, 1929, New York, N.Y.; d. Feb. 10, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joda; daughters, Leah, Marla Sorenson; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

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

**Farley, Norman** – b. July 22, 1937, Gardiner, Maine; d. Nov. 24, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Alice; sons, Gregory, Norman II; three grandchildren; sister, Jean Shepherd. Norman served as pastor and educator in the church for over 40 years. He started his ministry in the New York Conference and served in the Columbia

## January 2021 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	JAN 2	JAN 9	JAN 16	JAN 23	JAN 30
Alturas	4:44	4:51	4:59	5:07	5:16
Angwin	5:00	5:07	5:14	5:22	5:30
Bakersfield	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:22
Calexico	4:48	4:53	5:00	5:06	5:13
Chico	4:54	5:01	5:08	5:16	5:25
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:44	4:50	4:57	5:04	5:11
Eureka	5:00	5:07	5:15	5:23	5:32
Four Corners [E]	5:11	5:17	5:24	5:31	5:39
Fresno	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:23
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:26	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:53
Half Dome	4:51	4:57	5:04	5:12	5:20
Hilo	5:54	5:58	6:03	6:07	6:11
Holbrook	5:21	5:27	5:33	5:40	5:47
Honolulu	6:02	6:06	6:11	6:16	6:20
Joshua Tree	4:47	4:53	5:00	5:07	5:14
Lake Tahoe	4:49	4:55	5:03	5:11	5:19
Las Vegas	4:38	4:44	4:51	4:58	5:05
Lodi-Stockton	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:26
Loma Linda	4:51	4:57	5:04	5:11	5:17
Los Angeles	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:21
McDermitt [N]	4:31	4:38	4:46	4:54	5:03
Moab	5:09	5:15	5:22	5:30	5:38
Monterey Bay	5:03	5:10	5:16	5:24	5:31
Mt. Whitney	4:49	4:55	5:02	5:09	5:17
Napa	5:00	5:07	5:14	5:22	5:29
Nogales [S]	5:33	5:38	5:44	5:50	5:57
Oakland	5:02	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:30
Paradise, CA	4:53	4:59	5:07	5:15	5:23
Phoenix	5:32	5:38	5:44	5:51	5:58
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	5:55	5:59	6:04	6:08	6:13
Reno	4:47	4:53	5:01	5:09	5:17
Riverside	4:52	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:18
Sacramento	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:26
Salt Lake City	5:11	5:18	5:26	5:34	5:43
San Diego	4:54	5:00	5:06	5:13	5:19
San Francisco	5:02	5:09	5:16	5:23	5:31
San Jose	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:22	5:30
Santa Rosa	5:02	5:08	5:15	5:23	5:31
Sunset Beach	5:02	5:09	5:15	5:23	5:30
Thousand Oaks	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:17	5:24
Tucson	5:31	5:36	5:42	5:49	5:55

[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

sons, Gary, David; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

**Gillespie, Evelyn** – b. Dec. 23, 1933, Angels Camp, Calif.; d. Sept. 11, 2020, Fort Bragg, Calif. Survivors: sons, Timothy Allan Gillespie, William Smith Gillespie.

**Harvey, Richard** – b. March 1, 1930, Whittier, Calif.; d. Nov. 13, 2020, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: sons, Kendall, Paul, Edward Evans, Bruce Evans; daughters, Jan Jaaskela, Tammy Evans Guinn; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

**Innocent, Kenneth** – b. June 20, 1937, Fresno, Calif.; d. Oct. 16, 2020, Antelope, Calif. Survivors: wife, Arnetta; sons, Larry, Lyle; daughter, Lorrie Holden; sister, Nancy Williams; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

**Johnson, Earl Blair** – b. Oct. 29, 1936, Marlborough, Mass.; d. Nov. 14, 2020, Sunnyvale, Calif. Survivors: wife, Edwina; daughters, Debbie Ojala, Kathy Felice; mother of his children, Barbara Johnson; two grandchildren. Served at Chapel Records from 1968 to 1977, when he became the manager of Pacific Press Publishing Association until it relocated out of the state.

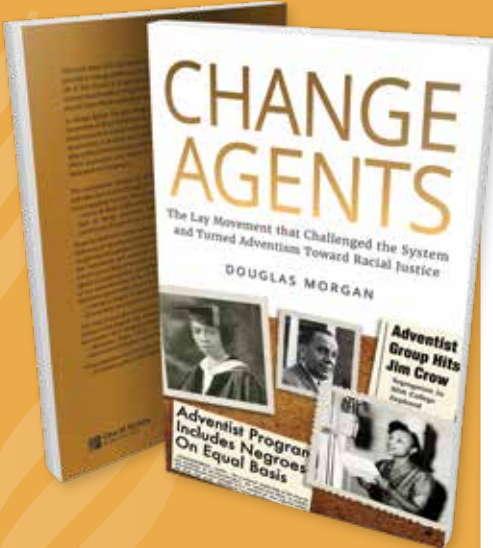
**McIntyre, Bettie** – b. Dec. 14, 1940, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. July 12, 2020, Calhoun, Ga. Survivors: son, Michael Morgan; daughter, Susan Biorn; five grandchildren. Served for more than 40 years in children's ministry.

**Rodriguez, Juanita Eloisa** – b. Jan. 27, 1922, Havana, Cuba; d. Sept. 22, 2020, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: sons, Elvin S., Ruben; daughters, Rosilda Leon Faustino, Elia; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; one great-grandchild.


**Sanders, Doris H.** – b. July 19, 1938, Oklahoma City, Okla.; d. Dec. 1, 2020, St. George, Utah. Survivors: husband, Leon F. Sanders, former auditor and union treasurer; two daughters; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

**Schneider-Hollingsead, Ina Luella** – b. July 12, 1933, Upton, Wyo.; d. Oct. 23, 2020, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Joy Broder, Karen Gonzalez; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Her leadership positions included Loma Linda University Women's Auxiliary, Pacific Health Education Center, and on the executive board at San Joaquin Community Health/Adventist Health Bakersfield.

**Wesson, Roy A.** – b. May 13, 1928, Vancouver, Wash.; d. July 31, 2020, Auburn, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ramona; daughters, Sally Hafner, Laurie Longo; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Served as accountant at Portland Sanitarium and Hospital, teacher at Seattle Junior Academy and Loma Linda Academy, business manager for Monument Valley Mission and Hospital; treasurer for New York Conference and Washington Conference.



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