

Recorder

A woman with dark hair and light-colored eyes is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a white surgical mask that covers her nose and mouth. Her hands are clasped together in a prayerful gesture in front of her chest. She is looking upwards and to the right with a contemplative expression. The background is dark, making her face and hands stand out.

I look up to the mountains;
does my strength come from mountains?
No, my strength comes from God,
who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.

Psalm 121:1-2 (*The Message*)

BECAUSE OF YOU AND GOD'S BLESSINGS!

We can't express how grateful we are for the support we received from our donors, alumni and community. Your belief in our mission will make reality a better future for those we serve.

Your gifts have brought **Vision 2020 – The Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow** to a historic conclusion. Vision 2020 was an extraordinary and unique philanthropic campaign, as it was the largest in the history of Loma Linda University Health, the Seventh-day Adventist Church and our region.

Together we built hospitals to serve this community. We were able to fund scholarships and academic chairs to build a pathway for ongoing education. But what we really built was a very broad community of love in action. Through this, Loma Linda University Health is better able to carry out our mission to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ regionally, nationally and around the world.

Please visit **LLUHVISION2020.ORG**
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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Many Strengths.
One Mission.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

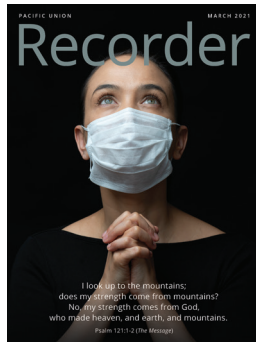
The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

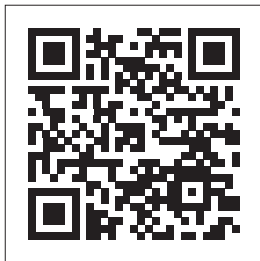
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

—Psalm 121 (KJV)



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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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By Bradford Newton

The Heritage of

Food



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Open your digital news feed or view a mere 15 minutes in the 24-hour news cycle and it can bring even a stalwart heart to fear and doubt about the future. Yet in these times of tumult, uncertainty, and doubt, the Seventh-day Adventist Church offers a vision of truth, redemptive relationships, missionary purpose,

Leadership for



and hope in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to Earth. It is these core principles that continue to give us a sense of optimism when others falter.

This sense of hopefulness is in the DNA structure of our experience. In the Pacific Union Conference, purpose and meaning by service to others is who we have been from the beginning. This heritage of leadership inspires us to bravely face our challenges with the same commitment. We rejoice in the promise of Isaiah: “The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.... You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach” (Isaiah 58:11-12, NKJV). The four core principles of our heritage are revealed in the origin stories of the Adventist work in the West and beyond.

Seventh-day Adventists are a people who believe in truth. At no other time has this affirmation been more needed in our society. At a time of superstition and falsehoods about health and diet, our pioneers embraced concepts of healthful living and medicine that were progressive and rooted in the best

Seventh-day Adventists are a people who believe in the power of relationships. We are not hermits living in deserts or hiding out until the end of the world.

science of their time. To think clearly and seek the facts wherever they may lead meant women and men sacrificed in creating an educational enterprise that purposed to have a membership to not be “mere reflectors of other men’s thoughts.” It was a love for truth that began our Adventist work in the frontier of California.

Merritt G. Kellogg was the oldest son of J.P. Kellogg. He came across the plains in a small wagon train in 1859, and after settling in San Francisco he began sharing his faith. In October 1865, Kellogg and a few believers from San Francisco sent a call along with \$133 in gold to the General Conference, asking for evangelists to be sent. The reply came that they could not send anyone immediately; however, it seems they did keep the gold. Kellogg continued to press the case for the West—even traveling to the General Conference session to make a personal appeal. J.N. Loughborough and D.T. Bourdeau answered the call and arrived in 1868—packing a big tent for evangelism. They arrived in San Francisco by boat on July 18, 1868. Within a month of their arrival, they launched a series of tent meetings in Petaluma at the invitation of an Independent church. They then proceeded to hold meetings in four more communities in Northern California. As a result of their work, the first Seventh-day Adventist church in California was established and organized in Santa Rosa, California, in November 1869.

Seventh-day Adventists are a people who believe in the power of relationships. We are not hermits living in deserts or hiding out until the end of the world. From our very beginnings we have been engaged in the world around us for the glory of God. We echo the sentiment of Jesus

when He witnessed the crowds around Him, “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed and scattered, as sheep not having a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36, ASV). Health seminars, personal Bible studies, religious liberty, and community services are just a few of the methods of intersection with the people around us. It was the power of literature ministry that opened the work for Hispanics in the United States right here in the Pacific Union.

In 1899, literature evangelists Walter Black and Charles Williams contacted a Methodist minister, Marcial Serna, the pastor of Tucson Mexican Methodist-Episcopal Church. Following a public debate, Serna accepted the Sabbath and then shared this truth with his members, many of whom also became Adventists. Eventually so many of the Methodists in Sanchez, Arizona, became Adventists that the Methodists gave them their church on the condition that the Adventists help them build a new one—and the church in Sanchez became the first Hispanic Adventist church in the United States. Pastor Serna became the first Hispanic pastor in the Adventist Church when he was granted a ministerial license by the General Conference. He continued to share his newfound beliefs with those he knew in Tucson, and many of them became Adventists, forming a second congregation of Hispanic believers. The work of God spread through the pioneering spirit of service and sacrifice by these faithful believers.

Seventh-day Adventists are a people who believe in the continued call for outreach and mission to “every kindred, tongue, and people.” One of the key developmental stages in a person is the discovery

of one's purpose for living. When you find that core drive for life, it animates every decision and action. What is true for an individual is also true for this church. Sharing with others the transforming power found in the message of Christ is the motivational core of every congregation and school and remains forefront in the minds of every board meeting, executive committee, and church function. It was desire for spreading the love of God to every person that pioneered the work for African American people in the Pacific Union and beyond.

Charles M. Kinny was born a slave in 1855 in Richmond, Virginia, and was 10 years old at the end of the Civil War. As a young man, he worked his way west to Reno, Nevada, and it was there on July 30, 1878, that he attended a meeting conducted by J.N. Loughborough. The guest speaker was Mrs. Ellen G. White—and she preached a sermon that Kinny would never forget. She records that “I spoke with freedom to about four hundred attentive hearers, on the words of John: ‘Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God’” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 296). Kinny was baptized on the last day of September and became a charter member of the Reno church. In 1883, church members in Reno, together with the California Conference, sent him to Healdsburg College (now Pacific Union College) for further education. Kinny became the first ordained African American pastor in the Adventist Church. He worked initially in Kansas and then throughout the South, with great success.

Seventh-day Adventists are a people who believe that history will not keep repeating itself ad nauseum with further sin and suffering. The



Sharing with others the transforming power found in the message of Christ is the motivational core of every congregation and school and remains forefront in the minds of every board meeting, executive committee, and church function.

Blessed Hope is faith that God will finish what He began—the restoration of Planet Earth from the wasteland of sin and suffering, back to the Garden of God. And the good news is that He wants to share it with everyone who is willing to accept the free offer of salvation provided through Jesus. It

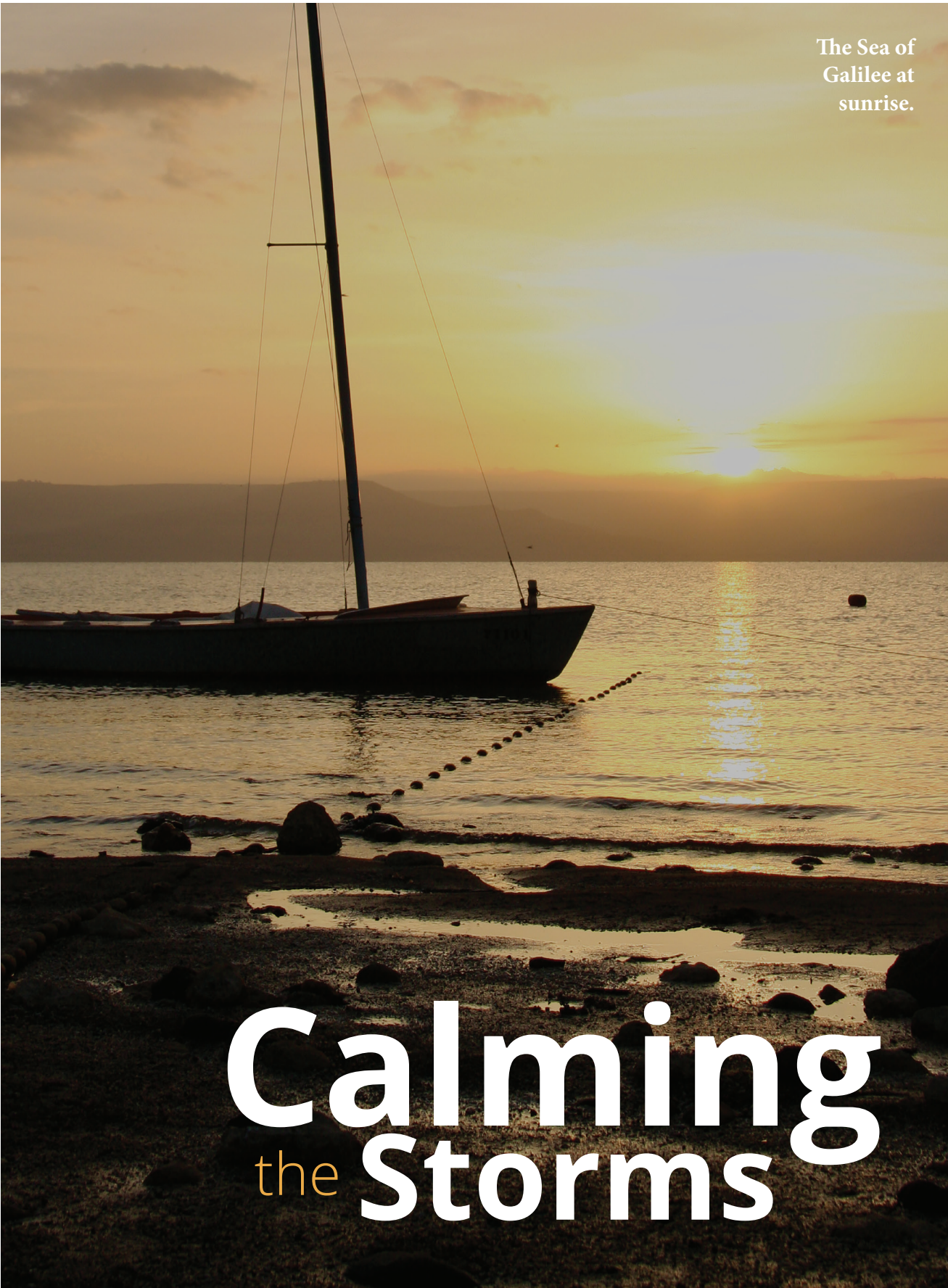
was this animating hope that opened the work of God for Asian-Pacific people in the Pacific Union and across the sea.

In 1892 a Japanese convert, T. H. Okahira, was baptized after public meetings in Paso Robles, California. He then went to Healdsburg College, and as a student

there he led out in establishing the Golden Gate Japanese-English School in San Francisco. In 1894, at the close of the school year, he appealed for a volunteer to go with him to take the Adventist message to Japan. The president of the college, W. C. Grainger, responded. In 1896, they went as the first missionaries sent by the General Conference to Japan. In 1907 Okohira and H. Kuniya became the first ordained Japanese ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Okohira took part as a delegate during the General Conference sessions of 1913 and 1936. His son started the first Japanese church in Los Angeles.

When our hearts grow weary in doing good, we can remember the heritage of leadership in these stories. Like our spiritual mothers and fathers, we can continue to be animated by truth, redemptive relationships, the missionary purpose, and the hope in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your story and mine are ready to unfold!

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



The Sea of Galilee at sunrise.

Calming the Storms

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By Alberto Valenzuela

I must admit that I'm afraid of the ocean. But for the disciples, professional fishermen that they were, large bodies of water were an everyday environment. The weather was perfect when they set sail that evening: still waters, soft breezes, gentle swells. There was nothing to indicate that the trip would be anything but tranquil.

The Sea of Galilee was ringed by hills and mountains, edged by the occasional fishing village, and filled with fresh, clean water supplied by rivers, rains, and runoff. At the north end of the lake sat the town of Capernaum, with its picturesque synagogue and cobbled streets. At the south end, the River Jordan continued its winding journey to the Dead Sea, 60 or so miles away.

Within the Sea's depths were found ample resources to keep skilled fishermen busy while they wished for better days, free from the Roman occupation that gripped their country. They plied their trade surrounded by nature's beauty, yet their hearts were filled with the dark ugliness of anger and hatred toward their oppressors.

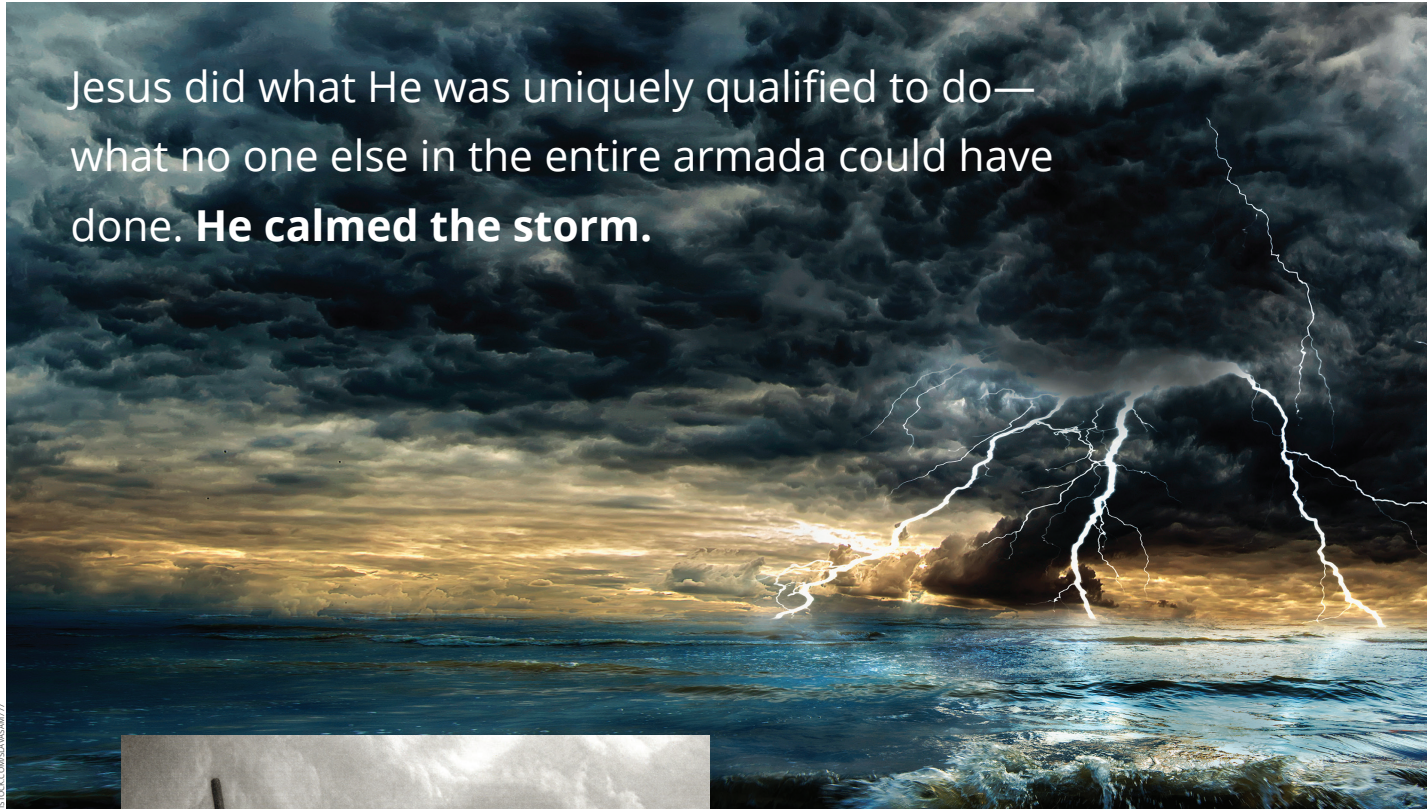
That's why, when a certain rabbi drifted into their lives, they were responsive to His message of love and freedom—something they didn't often hear from their spiritual leaders. He promised a brighter future and a more tranquil life. He promised them a change for the better!

They'd just spent the day listening to this rabbi draw analogies about planting seeds, lighting lamps, growing grains, and how faith—like a mustard tree—can spring from the tiniest source. He spoke words of encouragement. He made them feel good about themselves. He loved them.

Now, the rabbi's disciples were responding to His request to be

The weather was perfect
when they set sail that
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Jesus did what He was uniquely qualified to do—
what no one else in the entire armada could have
done. **He calmed the storm.**



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taken across the broad waters to another village waiting in the gathering shadows. Many boats joined the flotilla and, together, they sailed confidently into the darkness.

Then it happened. Seasoned fishermen knew that Galilee storms could be sudden, severe, or scary. This one was all three. “A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped (Mark 4:37, NIV).

If there was ever a time for effective leadership, this was it. The boats in the little armada were being scattered and tossed about like corks. The cries of desperate men were swallowed whole by the shrill winds and roaring waves. The situation seemed hopeless.

So, where was this rabbi, this teacher,

A vintage engraving shows Jesus calming the storm.



this parable teller who filled peoples' hearts with hope? After all, the journey they were on was His idea! Surely He had a plan, an avenue of escape, a way out of this frightening situation. "Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?'" (verse 38).

Notice that Jesus, the leader, wasn't steering the boat. He wasn't navigating the course. He wasn't barking orders at those who set the sails. He'd chosen the destination and then left everything else up to His experienced crew—those who actually knew how to steer, navigate, and set sails. Then He went to sleep on a cushion. No micromanagement here! He had confidence in His team. He'd placed His life in their hands.

He awoke to a scene of utter terror. So, did He grab the wheel, change course, and reset the sails to accommodate the screaming winds? No. He behaved like a leader. "He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm" (verse 39). I can only imagine the faces of His disciples as the wind and the waves obeyed Him! How I wish I had been there!

Jesus did what He was uniquely qualified to do—what no one else in the entire armada could have done. He calmed the storm. Then He turned to His disciples—to the helmsman, the navigator, and the rigging experts—and said simply, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (verse 40).

True leaders don't do the work of others. They allow the men and women in their organization free reign to accomplish the goals set before them. In other words, they support and encourage. They don't overshadow others' abilities with their own.

Leaders also have a unique attribute. Through trial and error—through the events that marked their path to the role they've assumed—they have learned how to calm storms.

Those storms may be financial, organizational, and even spiritual. Whichever, there they are, standing behind their team—individuals who may be tossed by the uncertainty and violence of reality—rebuking winds, calming seas, and calling for renewed faith in the team's abilities.

The little armada following Jesus across the Sea of Galilee that stormy night reached their destination—not because He took the helm, refigured the course, or reset the sails. They arrived safely because He did what all good leaders do. He allowed those with the necessary skills to take them there. He simply made it possible for them to do their work and reach their goal.

That's true leadership. That's leadership built upon love and freedom.

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



THE SCHOOL AT THE END OF THE WORLD

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON

The brown waters of the Irrawaddy River, swollen by monsoon showers, stretched wide on either side as we chugged south toward the delta.

That we were even on a boat making this trip to a remote destination seemed almost surreal.

The day before, we had landed in Yangong, formerly known as Rangoon, capital of Myanmar, previously known as Burma. For 30 years access to this country had been limited, but now the generals who had seized control opened the door a crack, which permitted our visit.

My traveling companion, Pastor Al McClure, and I had hoped to visit a mission school at Myaungmya, a remote village in the delta of the Irrawaddy, accessible only by boat. But arrangements for the trip had fallen through—we had been unable to obtain the necessary papers.

At 2:00 p.m. on this particular afternoon, we were seated at a luncheon hosted by church leaders when we suddenly received word that the authorities had granted us permission to make the trip. We had just one hour before the boat left! We rushed back to our hotel, checked out, packed a small bag, and hurried to the river. Right on time at 3 o'clock the gangplank lifted, and we were on our way.

The boat was very crowded. About 500 people packed the upper and lower decks; they had rushed aboard to stake out a few square feet of space on which to spread a cloth for themselves and their possessions. Al and I were among the few fortunate passengers who had a tiny cabin (about 5 by 7 feet).

Still, it was anything but luxury class. Our tickets cost the equivalent of 84 cents each for the

overnight trip; for the upper deck it was 32 cents and for the lower deck 25 cents. With the weather hot and muggy, we found two chairs by the railing and caught a slight breeze. Our presence on the boat attracted considerable interest; foreigners had not made this journey for many years. Monks, children, men, and women stared hard and long at us but treated us kindly.

We stayed outside for hours, enjoying the evening air and the passing sights: houses on stilts, a rain squall, four people in an open boat pulling hard against the waves, vendors in small boats from the villages we passed, barges, monks in boats.

At last we went into the cabin and turned on the light. We saw that various lower forms of life planned to spend the night with us. All night we tossed and swatted in the hot, humid air.

Just after we fell asleep, we wakened in a ball of sweat to banging on the door. It was 5:00 a.m.; the 150-mile trip had taken 14 hours. We gathered our things and hurried off the boat. Wet with sweat, unwashed, hair standing on end, we came down the gangplank to find a welcoming party from the school—and they wanted photographs!

They had rented a small pickup (the school owns no vehicle), and we bounced over roads that grew progressively worse. About the moment that my body began to shout that it could endure not one more mile of torture, we arrived at the school.

Al and I agreed that the overnight trip would be one we would never forget. We thought we had journeyed to the end of the world.

The day that followed was unforgettable also—in a pleasant sense. It overflowed with

From the book *Simple Gifts*, the new release by Oak & Acorn, now available on Amazon.com. The book is being serialized in the *Recorder*.

love, appreciation, and eagerness. The hunger of faculty and students for contact with church leaders from abroad, for news, for fellowship and spiritual food made all the rigors of the night more than worthwhile.

Twelve hours, that's all we had. But they were packed, every moment filled: banners, welcome parade, songs composed for the occasion, meals with faculty and their families, a cultural program. The students had practiced songs and national dances for weeks. Little girls in blue and white sat on benches behind us, leaning forward, squirming with excitement like jumping beans.

It was a poor school. Many of the buildings were decrepit; the "roads" were mud tracks. The students ate only twice a day—8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m.—with the same menu: rice and dahl (lentil curry). But it was a rich school.

Rich in healthy, beautiful students. Rich in hard-working faculty. Rich in devotion. Rich in love. Rich in spirit. The school located at the end of the world was one of the richest that I ever visited.

The authorities do not permit private schools in Burma. They do, however, allow seminaries. Thus, the students were considered part of a seminary, with some 250 students enrolled in a 4-year curriculum and about as many in the junior seminary (elementary and secondary levels). Garlands, speeches, food, photographs—the day sped away. We wanted to do something for these wonderful students, leave something tangible

of our visit. We asked the principal if \$20 would provide for a small treat for everyone.

After a little while he came back to us: "Instead of giving them sweets, what would you think of giving each student an egg to add to their evening meal?" he inquired. "They hardly ever see an egg, not even once a month."

So each student received an egg for supper, and Al and I received a blessing.

An egg—such a simple gift. In our culture, the gift of an egg would be met with incredulity, but at the school at the end of the world it was something long to be remembered.

Jesus of Nazareth loved to tell and show the people of His time how loving and generous is God, our heavenly Father. On one occasion He asked, rhetorically, what sort of father would give a child a stone if he asked for an egg. None but the most twisted dad would act like that. And, said Jesus, in the same manner your Father in heaven delights to give good things to us when we request them.

For Al and me, the long day was over. Teary farewells, more songs, bumping back over pot-holed tracks, and back on the boat again.

I stretched flat out, feet poking beyond the end of the bed and hitting the cabin wall. Oblivious to whatever forms of life wanted to crawl or chew on me, I was immediately asleep. Al wrapped himself in a blanket to keep the bugs off and had a free, night-long sauna.



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Our Image

By Charles Mills

Charles Mills is the author of more than 50 published books and over 300 articles. Mills began his career at Faith for Today and the Adventist Media Center in Newbury Park, California. For the past 35 years, he has been an independent media producer, writer, and radio/television host. His most recent releases include *Refreshed Parables* and *Surprising Nature* for young readers, and *Religion in the Real World* and *The Ultimate Prescription* (co-written with cardiologist Dr. James Marcum).

Being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian offers some rather unique advantages over being a member of another faith. It influences how we interpret and apply Scripture.

Nowhere is this more evident than when we read Genesis 1:26 where God says, “Let us make man in our image.” There are those who insist that the word *our* means God was speaking of Himself and the angels. Others say He used it as human kings and rulers often do when making proclamations or decrees, as in “the royal we.”

But we can know beyond a doubt that when God said “our,” He was referring to the members of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In other words, the image in which we were created includes attributes from all three members of the Godhead. To me, that’s exciting. I was created to reflect the Trinity and all the power and love they offer!

You and I were endowed with a special type of awareness that sets us apart from all the other creatures formed to inhabit this world. We have the capacity to reason, to use morality as a guide, to communicate with words and symbols, and to enjoy a sense of purpose. Most meaningful of all, we’re capable of understanding truth, experiencing love, and appreciating beauty.

These gifts enable us to enjoy life to the fullest and also model—serving as the Trinity’s representatives here on earth—the incredible care and tender regard that Heaven has for every human being.

Responsibility

There’s another aspect to our divine lineage that many overlook.



With this solid connection to our roots, we've been assigned the task of "ruling over" or managing all of God's creation. It's our responsibility to care for, protect, and nurture every other creature that roams this world, whether that creature walks on two legs or more. This realization should be front and center in the Christian worldview and help shape our attitude towards humanity.

Suddenly, how we treat others—how we respond to the needs around us, how we spend our time, talent, and treasure—comes into sharp focus. Our primary task is not only to enjoy a sense of dignity and worth and to take advantage of the opportunities that come our way; we're also to share those blessings with others. As representatives of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we've been given the privilege of informing those around us of their inborn connection with the kingdom of God—to let them know that they are much more than they think they are.

Connection

I've enjoyed a long professional association with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), our church's premier outreach to those whose lives have been touched by tragedy or want.

Not only have I created radio programs and public service announcements for them, I'm also a regular supporter of their ministry.

Their motto is a perfect reflection of the connection we all share with the Trinity. It simply states that ADRA is "serving humanity so all may live as God intended." God's blessings were meant for all, and if some find themselves separated from them by choice or tragedy, our job as fellow human beings is to rush to their rescue and help them reestablish the lost connections. Our God-created responsibility is to offer dignity, worth, and endless opportunities for hope and healing.

This thought was echoed by the words of a former ADRA president when I asked, "Should we feel guilty when our lives seemed so blessed while disaster strikes others so violently?" He responded, "No. We should feel a sense of responsibility to help others when and where we can."

That's exactly what people created in the image of God do.





Mirror Image

ISTOCK.COM/SHI PRODUCTIONS

By Charles Mills

Michael studied his reflection in the mirror for a long moment, trying to see if something a teacher had said earlier that day was true. He turned his face to the left, then to the right, and finally lifted his chin slightly. Nope. He couldn't see it. He just couldn't see it.

Earlier, as he'd been standing at the whiteboard at school, working on some math problems before heading out for recess, Miss Thompson had called to him from her big desk at the front of the room. "Hey, Michael," she'd said. "When you're deep in thought, you look just like your mother."

"Hey, Michael,"
she'd said.
"When you're
deep in
thought, you
look just like
your mother."

The boy leaned closer to the mirror and tried to look deep in thought. Nope. He just looked like Michael—with a thatch of brown, unruly hair, brown eyes, and brown skin. His mother, on the other hand, had straight hair and hazel eyes. The only thing they had in common was the brown skin, and even that looked different to him. Her skin was always washed and smooth. His was usually covered with the remnants of the latest soccer game, adventure in the backyard with his dog Sparky, or traces of whatever he'd enjoyed for supper.

Finally, Michael decided that the best way to figure out what Miss Thompson saw was to go look at his mom. He found her sitting in her favorite chair by the window, reading a book. He stood before her, gazing into her face, studying each feature carefully.

After a long moment, his mother looked up from her reading. "May I help you?" she asked.



Michael frowned. "I don't look like you at all," he said. "Miss Thompson was wrong."

Mother smiled. "Oh, I don't know. We have the same eyes and nose shapes. Our chins are somewhat alike, too."

"Really?" Michael gasped. "Do I really look like you? Why?"

The woman closed her book and smiled. "Well, it makes sense. I am your mother. Your dad and I created you. So, you shouldn't be surprised if you look like one or both of us." She paused. "And, there's someone else you look like."

"Who?"

"God."

"God!" Michael gasped as he sat down in a nearby chair, shaking his head. "I don't look like God."

Mother leaned forward slightly. "Well, think about it. When the Creator formed man from dirt, it was right after God said, 'Let's make humans in our image.' Since we're descendants of Adam and Eve, we can be pretty sure that they had two eyes, two ears, one nose, two arms, two legs, two hands, two feet, and hair, just like us."

Michael thought for a moment. "I look like Adam and Eve?"

"Yes, and God—or at least an earthly version of

Him," Mother said. "Of course, sin has damaged us. We get old, we get injured or sick, we don't take good care of ourselves, other people hurt us, our habits change us. But, yes, I think we all look like Adam and Eve...and God. We were created in His image."

"That's why we should love other people," she continued. "That's why we should care for them and treat them fairly. We all came from the same Creator's hand. And, when Jesus died on the cross, it was to save everyone no matter what sin had done to us; no matter how we looked or dressed or spoke. We're all exactly the same in the mind of God."

Michael hurried back to the mirror and gazed at his reflection. "Yes," he thought, "I guess I do look like my mother, and everyone else in the whole world."

That thought made him happy.





Jesus is My Ultimate Sponsor: Mike Boyce's Testimony

Mike Boyce grew up loving the outdoors, but his passion for Jesus blossomed later, after a hard life of addiction. He was born in Stuttgart, Germany, on March 6, 1961, adopted in 1963 by a Catholic military family from Omaha, Nebraska, and gained U.S. citizenship in 1964. Boyce's family fostered his love of sports, and he won third place in state for the breaststroke.



Unfortunately, his high school friendships led him to abuse alcohol and smoke pot. This spiraled into alcoholism, which led to depression. In 1982, he started going to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, but he couldn't get sober. He was attending a Catholic church but wasn't finding true fellowship with Christ or others. He moved to Phoenix in 1998 and started dabbling in harder drugs.

During a 2013 Easter service at his Catholic church, Boyce felt something wasn't right with the doctrines, so he left. He read the Bible, watched *Amazing Facts*, and was referred to a Seventh-day Adventist church nearby. Still his depression lingered, and he stopped taking his blood pressure medication. In 2017, a stroke took the use of his left side. Boyce prayed tearfully for help, and Jesus came into his life as the Ultimate Sponsor.

Mike Boyce was baptized October 6, 2018, at the Glendale church. His observation: "People at the church were very welcoming and they listened." He has been attending Bible studies with Pastor Myles Reiner. For the past two years he has enjoyed being a "greeter," welcoming members and visitors to church.

Boyce asks God for direction on everything, even when to wake up. This happens very early before he goes to work in the cafeteria at Alhambra High, so he prays and studies the Bible several hours each day.

"Jesus is my first thought waking up," he said. "I am trying to take Jesus out to the world." Boyce is inspired and supported by his church friends, and one has adopted Boyce's approach of asking God for direction each morning. Two of his work supervisors asked him about the Bible, knowing he was a believer, and he willingly shared Jesus. One responded that she doesn't need a church. Mike explained that fellowship is important and so is a relationship with Jesus, rather than just a belief in Jesus.

As of October 21, 2020, Boyce has been three years sober. "Once you recognize the problem and give it to Jesus," he said, "He can fix it." Boyce also stopped smoking and lost 40 pounds. He continues, "I would be dead without Jesus. I have to focus on service for Christ. I will never go back to my old life."

By Tennille Feldbush

Let's Work Where God is Working

This past year has been nothing short of overwhelming for all our educational institutions. Teachers and schools have never been so stressed or challenged, and parents have had way too many things on their plates.

Many things have changed, but one thing has not: God is still at work right here in our Adventist schools. Arizonans live in the beautiful desert, where God is alive and blessing so abundantly! We see many positive things evidencing He is at work in our schools.

The Arizona Conference has not lost any schools this year due to COVID-19. Our enrollment has decreased at just a few schools; however, most schools have maintained enrollment or grown slightly.

We are able to staff all of our schools with highly trained, strongly professional Adventist teachers who love God and want to help prepare students for eternity. Our teachers are continually learning and growing to better lead in our schools, and they have adapted to the needs of virtual learning. Currently, all of our teachers are certificated, with 55% having a master's degree.

Thankfully, we have not had any major COVID-19 outbreaks as of January 1, 2021. We have had a very limited number of cases in our schools, and our staff remains healthy and strong.

Our teachers, staff, and school boards have done an excellent job creating safe environments, adapting to the needs of families, and providing a Christ-centered education to our constituents and non-Adventist families alike.

Several School Tuition Organizations (STOs) are still providing financial means for our families who need financial assistance.

Most schools have been able to purchase and adopt the new math series, Big Ideas Math. Teachers and students alike are seeing math in a new



light and enjoying the new learning.

Our adoption of the MAP assessment test this school year throughout the North American Division has made on-going, personalized assessment tangible for all students, enabling teachers to better assess needs and individualize instruction to create an excellent learning experience.

We are currently writing grants to fund STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) lab kits that will be accessible to the schools in the Arizona Conference. These kits will not only provide wonderful learning experiences but will provide means for community and collaboration amongst the ten schools in our conference.

The *Encounter Bible Curriculum* is available in all of our schools now, inviting students to a personal, saving relationship with Jesus throughout every lesson. We are currently working on purchasing resource kits to accompany the curriculum and allow for an even more hands-on learning experience. To help sponsor this project, please go to: <https://www.4giving.com/F18C>.

Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes is a major supporter of Adventist Education. He says, "God's hand is upon us, continually guiding and blessing the work of Adventist Education in Arizona. It's such a wonderful thing to work where He is working. Our teachers and staff are eager to see where He takes us in this new year!"

*From the Superintendent of Education
Nicole Mattson*



"We are able to staff all of our schools with highly trained, strongly professional Adventist teachers who love God and want to help prepare students for eternity."

Sacrifice of Praise

...with Lives Showing Faith, Hope, and Love

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send to my people? Who will go for me and be my messenger?' With my heart overflowing in gratitude for what the Lord had done for me, I said, 'Here am I, Lord. Send me'" (Isaiah 6:8, CW).

The Central California Conference (CCC) pages in the last couple of issues of the *Recorder* have focused on the "sacrifice of praise" (from Hebrews 13:15) of those in CCC churches, schools, and conference-wide events. Praise God that His ministry of love has been shown throughout Central's communities! However, in each event, there have been particular individuals who seem especially called to accomplish what God asked them to do.

Frank and Connie Carpenter

When Pastor David Dean interviewed Frank and Connie Carpenter during a Clovis church service in December, it was evident that this couple has an astonishing amount of energy and a zeal for engaging with people. As Dean pointed out, "They are unapologetic and unashamed of their belief in Christ. Because their personalities are so friendly and open, it is easy to see how and why people are drawn to them."

Throughout their 67-year marriage, serving others started with involvement in both church and civic community service activities. Living in small towns, Frank owned an electrical business and Connie had an art studio. Along with their five children, it seemed that "missionary" was part of the family's DNA. After losing their middle son, Clayton, to an accident and wanting to honor his legacy of helping the underdog, they became involved with the RV trailer park in Friant, California.

RIGHT: The Carpenter's 777 Seeds of Hope provides necessities for the RV park.

TOP OF OPPOSITE PAGE: Frank and Connie Carpenter are interviewed by their pastor, David Dean.





Pastor David Dean, Frank and Connie Carpenter CLOVISSDA.ORG

God seemed to urge the Carpenters to get acquainted with the needs of the park's 41 permanent residents. Not immediately comfortable with the idea, they prayed for assurance. When Robyn, a then-recent Adventist convert, asked to join them in the venture, they felt God had affirmed their decision.

It has been quite the adventure and has turned into

what is now referred to as the *777 Seeds of Hope*. The territory has even widened to include the homeless and others in the community along the San Joaquin River. Remarkably, God has provided for all their needs without energies spent in fundraising.

This undertaking now includes such things as the "Keep Warm Christmas" project, Thanksgiving dinners, dispensing warm clothes, food pantries, giving out Bibles, showing Christian movies on the wall of the laundry building, the "Genesis Garden" project, Sabbath services, gospel concerts, Bible studies, a monthly newsletter, animal clinics, and helping residents with needed repairs on their trailer homes.

They are continually thinking creatively about what else they can do, and they have inspired others to join with them. As Connie pointed out, "We would probably have to write a book entitled, 'We Showed Up and God Did the Rest' to tell all about this particular mission." Their testimony is certainly an inspiration to all of us.



Pastor Anil Kanda

Ever since the pandemic started, Central's young adult ministry has exploded in growth. Thousands join in for Bible studies each week, and their testimonies of changed lives are so inspiring. (Check the Calendar section in the Community & Marketplace pages for topics and times.) Their leader's background helps us understand why he feels so passionate about serving them. Anil Kanda currently works as the CCC young adult director and has experience in pastoring and evangelism. Although he was born and raised

in Orange County, Kanda's parents emigrated from Punjabi, India, a year before his birth. He comes from Hindu and Sikh faith traditions, but he was powerfully changed when he began studying the Bible with an Adventist young adult and his family in 2000. After baptism, Kanda entered Adventist education, and he now holds two master's degrees.

Because of Kanda's personal experience, he knows decisions made at this critical age can have eternal consequences. He also knows these young people have the potential to do great things for the Lord. May God continue to bless as he seeks to serve this important age group.



Continued on page 24

Furman Jones

There was a short item in last month's *Recorder* about what the Fresno Central church is doing for community service. On January 29, *All God's People* included a video report about those same volunteers. However, neither report told you about the leader of those weekly events.

As Pastor Daniel Gouveia will tell you, the church is fortunate to have the services of Furman Jones as the leader of its Adventist Community Service (ACS) center. "Furman Jones is a man of compassion and a man of action. He lives to serve and serves out of love," Gouveia explained. "When he is not serving at our ACS center, he is serving at the church by preparing food for the members and making sure everyone is blessed by the gifts God has given him. When the pandemic started, his work at the ACS center was multiplied, but Furman did not complain. He knows God is the ultimate provider of all we need to share with others. It is a joy, a privilege, and an inspiration to see him at work!"

Almost 2,400 people were helped and 500,000 pounds of food were given away at the ACS center during 2020. There were 565 families served during December 2020 alone. There are also 112 people now signed up for Bible studies. Great things God has done!



RIGHT: Furman Jones leads the Fresno Adventist Community Center as it serves the community each Tuesday.



Joyce Mulligan

January is always a busy month for Joyce Mulligan, the CCC prayer and women's ministries director. Mulligan hit the ground running, engaging with the other prayer coordinators in the Pacific Union Conference

for their virtual 10 days of prayer on Zoom and Facebook from January 6 to 15. The title, "Seeking Revival: Lord, make us one in 2021," is a goal for which she daily hopes and prays.

She also helped organize a second event, the CCC's women's retreat on January 29. Hosted by the Fresno Sunnyside church, the virtual event, entitled "Word of the Woman (John 4:39)," received numerous views on YouTube. If you listen to the episode, you will hear about a miracle that took place, allowing it to continue. Mulligan's 10 years in the CCC have cemented her firm belief that prayers work. Every Wednesday, prayer partners meet by



CCC Prayer and Women's Director Joyce Mulligan can tell you of many answers to prayers in her years of service.

Zoom to support, encourage, and immerse all other ministries in prayer. She can tell you many miracle stories of prayers answered.

From her early years to the present, Mulligan has continually prayed that God would lead and guide her. Twists and turns and answered prayers over and over again led her to give up her job as director of respiratory care at a local hospital and become involved full time in prayer and women's ministries. Her life is a testimony that God answers prayers.

Jim Grossman

Although a brief report was made about the Sonora church's remodel last month, not much was said about the leader of that undertaking. Jim may be upset when he reads this—like so many others who live to serve, he is adamant that he does not want any recognition for what he feels God has done through a team of volunteers. However, a team always has a leader, and his team will tell you that the remodeling project of the Sonora church that is nearing completion would not have happened without his leadership, skills, and dedication.

Jim and his wife, Martha, began their life of service around the time they sent their children to Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy in Sonora. As the story goes, Jim's original goal was to build a castle-style home up on Big Hill. When 9/11 happened, all that changed. He was deeply impacted by the tragedy and immediately drove across country and helped with the cleanup. Since then, he has been involved in cleaning up after hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, etc. all over the United States. He has also given countless hours to renovating Monterey Bay Academy and Albion,

Jim Grossman (left) and Lary Davis hard at work with the renovations at the Discover Life Sonora church.



Pacific Union College's biological field station. No longer wanting a castle, he puts his time, money, and energy into making the world a better place. Both he and Martha desire to live a life of selfless giving.

When the pandemic hit, it became apparent that this was the time to undertake the needed repairs and updates on the Sonora church. As Pam Palmer, the church's campus administrator, said, "This remodel on our church would have been dead in the water without Jim. He is the heart and soul of this project. He is the brain that figures out the solution if any problem arises. We are truly blessed to have him at the head of our volunteer team."

Yes, Jim (and all those who show faith, hope, and love in what they do), all praise and honor can go to God for what He has done in your life of service. And we know it can happen for others as well. As Ellen White pointed out, "It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you.... He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 146).

Although there are many who have put their trust in God and are undertaking some unbelievable things for Him, we only have room in this article to provide a few examples of what God can do when talents and abilities are totally in His hands. All of these people, and so many more who could be mentioned (maybe you know of one), clearly demonstrate that "there are three important things in life: Faith in God, hope for the future and Christ-like love, but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13, CW).

By Deloris Trujillo

A Unique Time to Serve Our Community



Kohala Adventist School is blessed to be among the private schools able to open for face-to-face learning. Opening August 3rd, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, presented many challenges. Significant thought went into doing all we could to ensure safety. Social distancing signage on walls and floors, mask policies, desk spacing, cleaning protocols, and handwashing measures were all considered. Our decision to open was based on a desire to serve the community and to continue to share God's love. With our small school size and ample space, Kohala Adventist School was uniquely equipped to do just that.

As a teacher, my desire is to inspire my students to have the greatest impact for good they can. Teaching face to face makes that job so much easier. Every day I tell my students how thankful I am to be learning in school with them.

The outpouring of gratitude from students and parents makes the privilege of teaching face to face during these unusual times that much sweeter. Here's a sampling of our student voices, sharing what in-person learning means to them:

I love the kids at school. It's way funner. I feel sad for the kids at home [distance learning]. They don't get to go outside, and they always have to work and never get to go out and play with friends. **Graham, 1st grade**

It's great learning face to face because we are not far away from each other and we can stick together. At home we don't



have reading buddies, singing time, or P.E. I like that we get to learn together. **Ethan, 2nd grade**

I like coming to school because I get to see my friends. It's easier to learn here at school. I don't like waking up super early though. I would miss the playground if I had to learn at home. **Jordan, 2nd grade**

I think when you're distance learning you don't show as much respect to your mom as you would to a teacher. I didn't like distance learning because sitting on the computer for two hours gives me headaches. I also like being at school to play and do sports. **Ben, 4th grade**

I like going to school face to face, because it's easier to learn and concentrate at school. I get to see my friends, and I'm not stuck at home all day. **Hannah, 6th grade**

Learning on computers was hard and you didn't really learn that much. Coming back to school I've learned a lot. I got to make new friends and see my old friends too. **Leonard, 7th grade**

At home it felt lonely, and I missed my friends. It is a blessing to be able to come in person and to be more productive. **Faith, 8th grade**

Face-to-face school makes it easier to learn. It helps me focus better, and it makes it so I have something to get up in the morning to do. It's nice to see friends here. **Owen, 8th grade**

A common theme for parents was that their children benefit from socializing with their peers. In addition, many parents are grateful they can continue to work



and don't need to find child supervision or balance working from home and helping their child learn. Here are some comments from KOA parents:

• *Face-to-face learning allows our child to learn how to interact with other kids. It also helps to develop his skills. Learning in groups allows students to share their creative ideas and knowledge.*

• *Our daughter is very social and loves being with others. We are grateful she has been able to attend KOA school. We have seen academic growth and personal development in many areas since the start of the school year.*

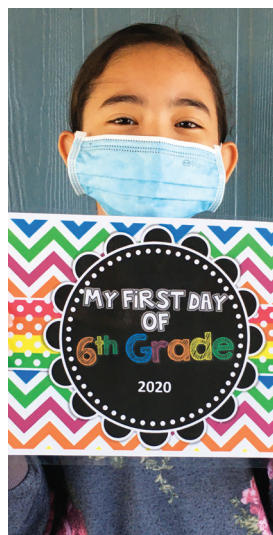
• *Our family feels incredibly blessed that our three boys have been able to attend school, even in the midst of a pandemic. We have all been able to return to a sense of normalcy, continuing with our learning and working.*

• *As an only child, my son has particularly benefited from attending in-person school. Being able to make and maintain friendships is foundational to our human and Christian experience.*

• *Every child learns differently. This is why face-to-face instruction is so important. They can see and learn, have hands-on opportunities, and ask questions then and there.*

The vital role school plays in our communities has been felt like never before. At Kohala Adventist School, we praise God for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

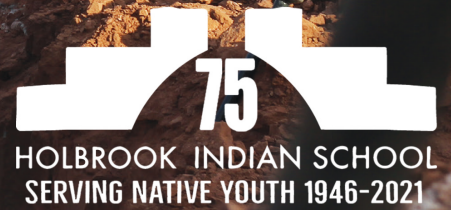
By Jackie Lee Millar



"We are grateful she has been able to attend KOA school. We have seen academic growth and personal development in many areas since the start of the school year."

KOHALA ADVENTIST SCHOOL PARENT

Randal Schafer (left) works on the underground utility line to the triplex.



The Man Behind the Mission

Randal Schafer is a semi-retired surgeon and supporter of Holbrook Indian School (HIS). He has been heading the HIS triplex building project since 2019. He has always worked on a volunteer basis, but since taking a step back, he will be able to spend more time on this project now.

Schafer's connection to HIS began with the honest desires both to help a people group and to grow spiritually.

"I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the Indian people," Schafer said. "I had been praying and asking God to strengthen my faith." An opportunity would soon present itself for him to step forward.

Schafer regularly had gone on mission trips with various groups, but after a period when there were no trips available for him to be part of, Schafer saw an opportunity to look into possibilities for fulfilling his wish to help Native Americans. "Maybe this is a good time to see Holbrook Indian School," he thought.

Schafer spoke with HIS Principal Pedro Ojeda, who told him about a need for staff housing. HIS needed funds and labor for the construction of two apartment buildings. It was one of the school's most pressing needs at the time, but it was also a need that it could least afford in terms of time, labor, and cost. "If you would like to help with this, it would have to be on a volunteer

"I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the Indian people. I had been praying and asking God to strengthen my faith."

basis," Ojeda told Schafer candidly. "Our small maintenance crew are already occupied with their duties on campus."

Schafer says the weight of the demand was not lost on him. This meant he would have to recruit labor and take on the responsibility for the project, including doing some fundraising. After visiting Holbrook to scout the land and speak with staff, Schafer decided to take on the challenge and accept the call.

"I started raising money, making building plans, and recruiting help," he said. John Materne, a retired plumber, responded immediately and has remained for almost the entirety of the project. Tyler Dick, who has plenty of construction and equipment experience, also has spent extensive time working on the project. Along with members of his church and his brother, who worked in construction, Schafer raised funds and started moving forward on the project in 2019. The building site was chosen and marked in late 2019, and site preparation began in January 2020. Some of the building construction was done in his absence, but he maintained supervision.

Shortly thereafter, COVID-19 came on the scene. This initially created an opportunity for further help as it canceled many international mission trips. As Schafer said, "There were groups who still wanted to carry out mission trips domestically." The triplex project provided that for them.

At the same time, this helped fulfill Schafer's desire for increased faith that he had prayed for. "For me, this whole project has been a walk of faith. God has again and again supplied funding and volunteers, just when we need them. It's a beautiful thing. I have just been amazed many times."

As this project moves forward, Schafer says there is a need for help with both labor and expenses. Skilled volunteers in construction and some non-skilled volunteers are welcomed. To find out more about this project and how you can help, visit HolbrookIndianSchool.org/triplex.

By *Chevon Petgrave*



March 2, 2020



March 3, 2020



June 5, 2020



December 9, 2020

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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Six Loma Linda University Health Consortium Residency Programs Awarded Nearly \$2.7 Million to Grow Physician Workforce in Community

CalMedForce awards aim to encourage physicians to work in underserved communities.

Loma Linda University Health Consortium residency programs will grant nearly \$2.7 million in CalMedForce awards to help increase access to healthcare and expand California's physician workforce.

CalMedForce funding is generated by voter-approved Proposition 56 tobacco tax revenues (2016), and the latest award cycle will support 202 residency positions in 101 graduate medical education (GME) programs at hospitals and clinics throughout California—with an emphasis on those serving medically underserved communities. This round of funding also represented the largest applicant pool: 541 residents and 122 applications requesting over \$96 million in funding.

Loma Linda University Health residency awardees represent graduate medical education programs in pediatrics, emergency, family, internal medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology.

Daniel Giang, MD, associate dean for Graduate Medical Education at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, says Loma Linda University Health annually invests over \$16 million of the bottom line to provide the region with competent and compassionate physicians. "This grant extends our investment by increasing the number of physicians we train to serve



Members of the San Bernardino County Medical Society presented a check on behalf of CalMedForce to Loma Linda University School of Medicine Graduate Medical Education programs in February.

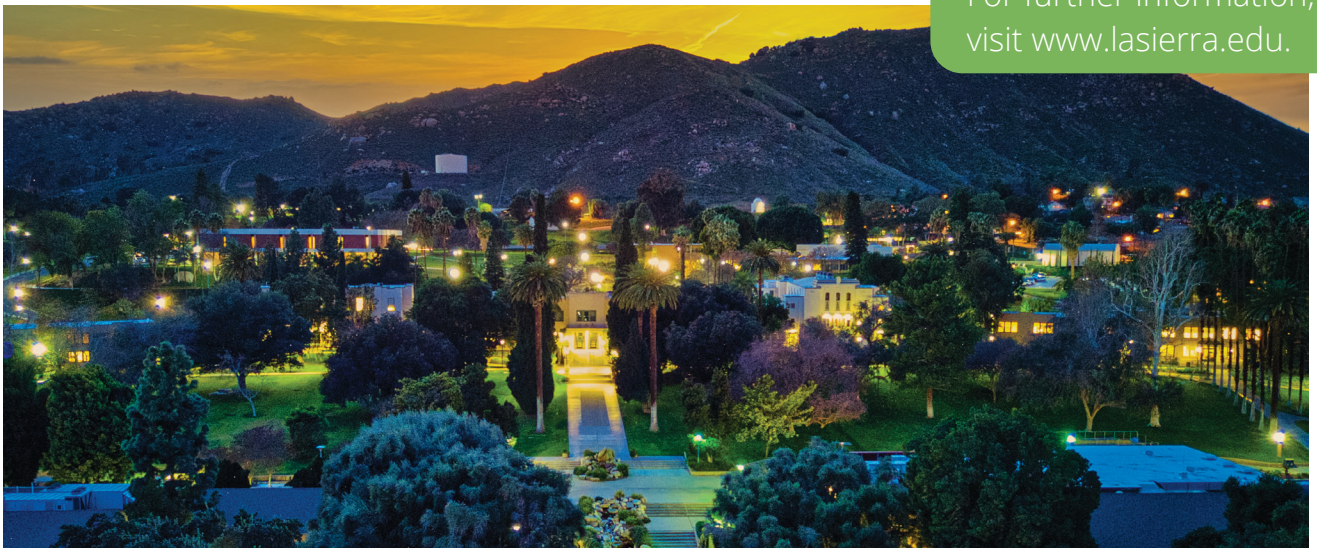
our community and the world," Giang said.

The California Future Health Workforce Commission estimated California will need 4,700 additional primary care clinicians by 2025 and approximately 4,100 more by 2030 to meet demand. Physicians for a Healthy California (PHC), in partnership with the University of California, established the CalMedForce grant program to help address California's looming physician shortage because medical school graduates must continue training in an accredited, specialty-specific GME residency program to obtain a medical license and care for patients independently.

"CalMedForce continues to demonstrate the high demand and need for GME opportunities," said Lupe Alonzo-Diaz, MPA, PHC president and CEO. "The lack of sufficient residency spots contributes to California's physician shortage and limits the number of new doctors entering the workforce," she said. "With COVID-19 impacting life for the foreseeable future, programs like CalMedForce are even more essential to protect access to care for all Californians."

By Donajayne Potts

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



PHOTOS: NATAN VIGNA

La Sierra University Plans Fall Campus Re-opening, Spring Online

La Sierra University's leadership recently announced its plans to re-open the campus for fall quarter 2021-22 while keeping operations online through the end of the current school year.

The university's Emergency Management Team, which last year developed the university's COVID-19 response and re-opening plan, voted on Jan. 19, in light of the coronavirus vaccine rollout, a return of in-person, onsite operations this September. The university moved its operations online on March 16, 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic descended upon the nation.

County and California state orders last year shuttered on-campus functions for higher education institutions for several months, with limited labs and studio classes allowed last fall. Since coronavirus case counts and hospitalizations soared to new records throughout Southern California during the fall and into the winter months, La Sierra's Emergency Management Team also voted to continue online operations through the end of spring quarter, which concludes June 15. As allowed under state guidelines, some science labs and art studio classes will most likely be held on campus in the spring as has been the case since fall quarter 2020. Such classes are subject to health and safety measures, including face masks, physical distancing, cleaning, and regular testing for COVID-19.

The university will also continue through the current school year's end a 10% tuition subsidy it first provided in the fall on combined tuition and fees for all enrolled students.

"As vaccines begin distribution, we are optimistic about the future and plan to return to our beautiful campus for fall quarter 2021," Provost April Summitt, the university's COVID-19 response coordinator noted in a campus message. "We will work diligently to ensure a safe return and follow the state, county, and university protocols for all spaces and will publish any requirements on our website prior to the beginning of the fall term. We will get through this challenging time, together. We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated our region and our country, but thanks to the diligence and perseverance of our faculty and staff, our university has remained a safe learning environment," said La Sierra University President Joy Fehr. "So many people have endured so much hardship and tragedy—our campus family has not been unaffected—but we hold fast to our faith, the foundation of our hope. We are excited about the prospect of moving beyond the pandemic."

By Darla Martin Tucker



FAR LEFT: A stroll down the hallway at Summit Christian Academy is an interesting experience since SCA 5th- to 8th-graders have transformed ceiling tiles into the flags of different countries around the world, including the flag of Trinidad and Tobago (MIDDLE TOP), and Wales (MIDDLE BOTTOM). LEFT: Student Gia Lal prepares the ceiling tile for painting. It will soon enhance the hall of Summit Christian Academy.

Summit Christian Academy Flag Project

Summit Christian Academy (SCA) teacher Thomas Roy has a special gift for making learning come alive with fun, practicality, and service. Recently, Roy and SCA teacher Rith Dok combined academics with culture in an exciting assignment for their students. For the project, they enlisted the help of parent volunteer art teacher, Iso Vernon.

About two feet wide by three feet long, they often go unnoticed hanging above your head as you walk through a hallway or into a classroom. What are these overlooked rectangles? Ceiling tiles! The fifth- through eighth-grade art class has turned these ordinary fixtures into extraordinary works of art. The ceiling tiles have been transformed into flags from different countries around the world. They are no longer overlooked; instead, they are a reason for stopping and looking over!

These flags are a cross-curricular project that brought math, history, English, and art together, culminating in an appealing décor and conversation starter. Each student began by picking a country's flag and doing a report on the chosen country. They also learned how to convert the measurements of the flag from a printout of a copy to the dimensions of the ceiling tile. Once the measurement conversions were achieved, the sketching and painting of the flags began. Every completed tile was then given an honorary location to be hung on display throughout the school.

These decorated ceiling tiles symbolize many of the different countries that are represented by students and staff at SCA. Imagine walking down the hall and recognizing the flag of your country of birth or that of

your ancestors! The younger students love seeing them on the ceiling and identifying the country that each flag represents.

Not only do the flags make for a more engaging ceiling, they also allowed the students to use the concepts that they learned in class to make works of art. The goal to learn and appreciate the history, culture, and, most importantly, the people of different countries was met in this project, and the students will be reminded of all that they learned with each trip down the hall.

By Katie Schleenbaker



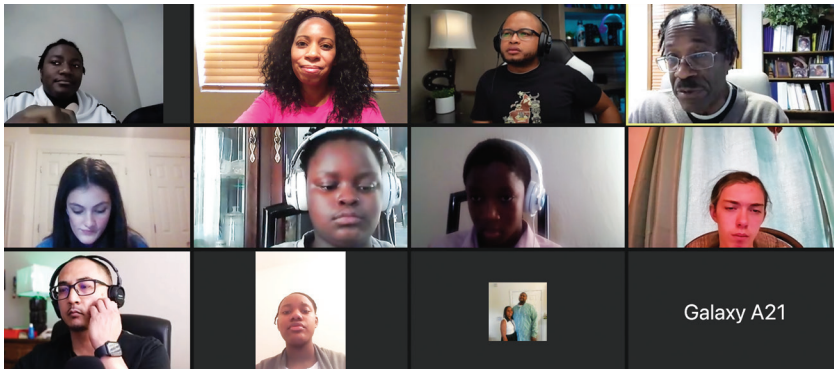
Fifth- and sixth-grade students, under the watchful eye of parent-volunteer art teacher Iso Vernon, work diligently on their flag projects.

Courageous Conversation About Marijuana

Pot, weed, grass, za-za, cheeba, the devil's lettuce: by whatever name it's called, marijuana is a temptation that most teens face daily. According to the Center for Disease Control, one half of all students grades 9 to 12 have reported using marijuana in some form ("Teen Substance Use & Risk," Feb. 2020). Glorified in music and movies and easily

accessible from friends and family members, marijuana was the latest topic for the Nevada-Utah Youth Ministries' Courageous Conversation series.

The dialogue was hosted by teens Sophia Borba, Mako Chenyika, Mariel Chenyika, and Jeremiah Gray. It was facilitated by Pastor Neat Randriamialison, Young Adult Coordinator for Nevada-Utah Conference. "This is a taboo topic, but it's a topic that our teens have wanted to talk about



Encouraging our youth to participate in Courageous Conversation is a goal of the Nevada-Utah Conference Youth Ministry, as evidenced by this conversation on marijuana use (top row - Jeremiah Gray, Darriel Hoy, Neat Randriamialison, Fred King; middle row - Sophia Borba, Mariel Chenyika, Mako Chenyika, Silas Vernon; bottom row - Mario Navarro Jr., Amber Gray, Elijah Gray).

for a whole year," shared Pastor Neat. "It's a concern they identified, and we're committed to creating a safe space to address topics that are relevant to our youth."

The teens tackled tough questions such as: "At what age do most youth begin to have an awareness of marijuana?" "What leads youth to try marijuana?" "What prevents youth from using marijuana?" and "What impact does marijuana have on teens?" Fred King, an elder at the Ogden church and a licensed social worker who specializes in addictions counseling, served as a guest panelist to answer questions posed by youth. King addressed the impact of marijuana on the undeveloped brains of teens, the link between marijuana and mental illness, and the difference between recreational marijuana abuse and medical marijuana use.

"Conversations like these help teens feel like they are being heard and are a part of a caring community," reflected Sophia Borba. "And when youth know that they are part of a community that accepts them just as they are and doesn't judge or condemn them, then they don't need marijuana to fit in."

Follow Nevada-Utah Conference Youth & Young Adult Ministries to learn about our next Courageous Conversation: Instagram @NUYouthMin and NU YOUTH on YouTube.

By Darriel Hoy

"Conversations like these help teens feel like they are being heard and are a part of a caring community,"

Hilltop Students Get Excited About Helping Others



PHOTOS: MEKEY LEFULU

“I liked bringing canned food because it helped people, and it’s kind.”

of gifts to kids in need around the world. Each time they raised \$24, the students went online and selected items—such as toiletries, socks, and toys—to fill a shoebox that the organization gave to a child.

“These service projects really excite our students, and it’s a real joy to see them want to give year-round and be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need,” said Lepulu. “Since 1980, our school’s mission has been to show children Jesus, nurture their love for Him and others, teach them to think critically, and empower them to serve.”

By Julie Lorenz

Hilltop Christian School in Antioch is empowering its students to serve! Last fall, Principal Mekey Lepulu and his staff wondered if they should cancel their scheduled food drive. During the pandemic, a number of parents had lost jobs or had their work hours cut, and some school families were having a difficult time making ends meet. When the food bank truck dropped off 10 large collection barrels, Lepulu wondered if they would get filled.

He needn’t have worried. By the second week, the barrels were overflowing, and the school had to find other containers to hold all the food. By the end of the drive, students from preschool to eighth grade had donated more than 1,100 pounds of food—the equivalent of more than 800 meals. “I was blown away by the generosity of the parents and the children’s excitement,” said Lepulu.

The students knew they were making a real difference in the lives of others. “There are many people in our community that need help,” said fourth-grader Wing Cheung. “I was happy to give because I know it will make someone else happy.”

“I liked bringing canned food because it helped people, and it’s kind,” said kindergartner Jackie Law.

For their next project, the K-8 students collected \$1,000 for Operation Christmas Child, which sends shoeboxes full



ABOVE LEFT: Hilltop Christian School students Kalon Thomas and Daniel Guo help with their school’s food drive. ABOVE: Kobe Massena, Hilltop student, holds donation boxes for Operation Christmas Child.



PHOTOS: WAYNE SCHOONOVER

Women's Ministry Groups and School Team Together for Service

When the Placerville church women's ministry group invited students from El Dorado Adventist School (EAS) and the Camino church women's ministry group to participate in a service project, they didn't expect the overwhelming response.

Together, the women's ministries and the school community collected more than 1,500 items—including toiletries and clothing staples—for the Native American students at Holbrook Indian School (HIS) and Chinle SDA School, both located in Arizona. The items filled 11 large shipping boxes. "I was in shock!" said Daisy Stephens, Placerville women's ministry leader.

Months earlier, Teresa Contreras, a retired social worker on the Placerville women's ministry council, had grown increasingly concerned as she read about the terrible impact of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation. Previously, she had lived and worked with Native Americans, and she wanted the women's ministry to reach out to them. "Knowing the Holbrook Indian School serves a large number of Navajo children off the reservation, and on the reservation via their elementary school in Chinle, I thought we should look into helping via HIS," she said.

Continued on page 36

Northern California Conference Launches the Beginning the Journey Campaign

Like a passport opens the door to world exploration, a child's first years of school can be the beginning of a lifelong learning adventure. Thus, school needs to be a place where kids feel welcomed, cared for, and valued. By cooperating with the divine purpose in imparting knowledge of God to children, Adventist education does more than teach. It nurtures the harmonious development of the emotional, physical, mental, spiritual, and social powers to further God's purpose on this earth.

Caring parents want the best for their children, particularly during a time of extraordinary change that is reshaping our lives. Parents desire a great educational experience for their children because it is their passport to success in life as an adult.

"Because the NCC is committed to supporting parents who want to begin their child's journey at one of our schools," said President Marc Woodson, "we created the New Beginners Educational Fund."

"Our goal is to raise \$47,000 by March 30, 2021," explained Laurie Trujillo, director of communication and development. "When we meet our goal, and with funds from the Pacific Union Conference, 172 new students in kindergarten will receive a full month of tuition for the 2021/2022 school year."

Trujillo continued: "However, we've set a miracle goal to raise an additional \$30,000 so our

kindergarten classes can be at full capacity with 280 students."

Albert Miller, superintendent of schools, explained: "This is not a scholarship. There is no application. It is money given to the school to cover one month of tuition for every new student who enrolls in kindergarten."

By NCC Communication & Development Department



To learn more about the Beginning the Journey Campaign, please visit nccsda.com.

Contreras contacted HIS to find out what they needed. Her commitment and passion inspired the Placerville women. "She gave all of us the fire to follow her lead," said Stephens.

At the beginning of this school year, their group donated 340 hand-sewn masks to the Arizona schools. More recently, they purchased 79 blankets for the students. "We never asked one person for a dime," said Stephens. "They just came to us and said, 'We want to do something for Holbrook.'"

To introduce the joint service project, Contreras gave several chapel presentations at EAS. She told the students about Adrian, an HIS student who had been reluctant to attend his school but has now graduated and gone on to college. She invited the EAS kids to help empower their fellow students at HIS by donating supplies for their daily lives.

They reacted enthusiastically—and they were excited to see the response of their school and church communities. "I really wanted to help," said kindergartner Parker Gatling. "I was really surprised that there was so much stuff!"

"I knew I wanted to help after I heard the story about the boy who didn't want to go to HIS," said sixth-grader Riley Easterbrook. "I was glad to see that everyone really cared about the students."

By Julie Lorenz



"We never asked one person for a dime," said Stephens. "They just came to us and said, 'We want to do something for Holbrook.'"

NORTHERN LIGHTS
OFFICIAL NCC NEWSLETTER

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Because They Saw Christ in Others, They Share His Love

Each week, “Northern Lights,” the news source for the Northern California Conference, tells the stories of members who engage their calling to ministry.

Moises Ramirez

Moises Ramirez grew up in a tough neighborhood. His older brothers got involved in gang activity, and he lost two friends to gun violence during his senior year of high school. He credits the Hayward Spanish church Pathfinder club for keeping his life on track, especially the influence of two young adult brothers who volunteered to work with the kids. “They dedicated so much time and energy, and the young people gravitated toward them,” he said. “They were mentors—positive male role models.”

Ramirez decided he wanted to be that kind of life-changing influence for teens and young adults. After graduating from Pacific Union College with a bachelor’s degree in religion, he now serves as the local-hire associate pastor at the Grand Advent church in Oakland.

Just before the pandemic began, Ramirez and church member Alex Harris started a young adult group at the church called Reveal. Since February, 2020, the group has met together two Sabbaths a month—first outdoors and then via Zoom. “Through Bible study and discussion, we pray that God will reveal Himself to us and also that more of ourselves will be revealed,” he said.

Ramirez also started a young couples ministry for those who are married, engaged, or dating. He and his wife, Nephthali, wed in September.

Currently working on a master’s degree in nonprofit administration, Ramirez emphasizes the importance of trusting young people with significant roles in the church, because if they see they are making a difference, they will want to stay. “The more you are with these young adults, the more you realize how much they care and how much they want to get involved,” he said. “They have the energy, knowledge, resources, and desire. Invite them to the table.”



Demetrio Velázquez

Each weekday morning before he begins his job as a car repair technician in Roseville, Demetrio Velázquez hosts a live 90-minute radio program.

Listeners tune in from across the United States, Central America, South America, and Europe to hear Velázquez speak, pray, and sing on his Spanish broadcast, “Conociendo más a Jesús [Knowing More About Jesus] con Demetrio Velázquez.” The program airs Monday through Friday from 6:30 to 8 a.m. via the online Tennessee-based radio ministry Plenitud La Radio Adventista. (His wife, Lucy, serves as the ministry’s Sacramento-area coordinator.)

Velázquez used to present his program from home, but when his boss, who is a Christian, learned about the ministry, he provided office space and donated a laptop so Velázquez could broadcast at the workplace.

An elder at the Sacramento Spanish church, Velázquez varies his program to engage the various Spanish-speaking cultures in his audience. “After dinner

each evening, I read books and pray to God to lead me and give me what I’m going to talk about the next morning,” he said. “I pray that I can do or say something that will lead people to Jesus.”

Velázquez came to the United States from Mexico when he was a young man. Feeling sinful, he gave his Adventist friends a hard time, saying, “I don’t think you guys are prepared for me to go to church with you. I don’t think you are willing to invite me.” They responded: “You’re welcome to join us! We can give you a ride. We’re brothers.”

During his first visit to church, the music and the preaching impacted him profoundly. “From that day, everything was different,” he said.

Velázquez wants others to have the same life-changing encounter with Jesus. Listen to the program at mixlr.com/plenitud-la-radio-adventista.

By Julie Lorenz



PUC Hires Dr. Kathy Purnell for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Dr. Kathy Purnell began her consultant role as PUC's Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in November. We asked Purnell to share about the challenges, goals, and plans for PUC in her role.



How are campuses falling short when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Purnell: All campuses reflect the ebb and flow of ideological subtleties and local or national flashpoints, and to be honest, the question is one of temperature. Cold might represent inactivity or minimal attention, and hot would suggest great activity and intentionality to normalize true diversity, equity, and inclusion. However, a thorough search of campus-related issues will certainly convey themes, pain points, and areas of opportunity and growth. They may also convey strengths and stories of hope. The voices of students, staff, faculty, administration, and alumni are important in crafting and delivering campus stories.

What is your favorite part of your role with PUC?

Purnell: I love working in my role with Dr. Cushman and the rest of the school leadership team, campus community, and students who are committed to diversity through actionable strategies. They are responsive to these initiatives, and this is made evident via the meetings and efforts to enact them.

Do you have specific goals?

Purnell: Absolutely. Every voice matters, and seeking buy-in through conversations and meeting with key stakeholders is a critical piece in developing measurable outcomes. I teach an important principle that one ought

never to walk into a community with assumptions about that community. Instead, we must practice cultural humility and respect by seeking buy-in from those who are familiar with the needs of that community. Therefore, goals include continued engagement with key stakeholders. This leads to questions to understand the unique needs, issues, and strengths of PUC. It further explores how one might build on the themes that contribute to the character of the community. Whose voices are included or excluded from the narrative and why?

My goal is to ensure that I know the stories as I collaboratively nurture, adjust, or tweak aspects of the campus climate I observe. Every voice matters and should be represented in policies and practices to support a community of belonging.

How do you address collective responsibility?

Purnell: As we continue to strive for a community of belonging at PUC, it will take open, honest discussions and reflections at all levels. This means that all individuals must be willing to examine early experiences in our environments and how these may have shaped our beliefs regarding diversity. Are we reflecting the light of love, care, inclusion, and support of individuals, groups, and communities that might reflect a different story or experience? We must be willing to examine our circles and visit the quiet, unchallenged corners of our lives if true belonging is our ultimate goal. All voices matter, and we must provide room and space for such stories to emerge without limitation.

PUC is excited that Dr. Purnell has joined us to help in our mission to honor and nurture the great diversity we have on campus.

By Ashley Eisele

“Every voice matters and should be represented in policies and practices to support a community of belonging.”



Human Connection During a Pandemic

Last November, Chuck discovered that having an aortic aneurysm and a related stroke was not the best way to spend his holidays, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges he faced, he felt blessed to have received the incredible care that followed—from the emergency medical technicians who brought him to Adventist Health Glendale to the remarkable surgeons and nurses in the ICU and rehab units who worked tirelessly to care for him.

“We are so grateful to all the physicians and nurses there. They saved Chuck for us and never forgot the personal touch, even during the pandemic,” his family wrote.

Adventist Health Glendale (AHGL) fulfills its mission to live God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope for patients. But the pandemic has made it challenging to address whole-person healing with limited human connection.

With Chuck’s hospitalization lasting a month, he and his family saw firsthand how important it is to have family involved in the patient’s healing process—even if it’s virtually, due to hospitals’ “no visitors allowed during the pandemic” policy.

Compassionate nurses went above and beyond to help Chuck connect with his family multiple times a day—generating an abundance of gratitude and reassurance. The family was so grateful that they decided to make a generous donation for more iPads in patient rooms, in honor of the physicians, nurses, and staff in intensive care, critical care, and rehab units. “We hope the iPads can help other families stay connected to their loved ones. It’s such a critical and humane piece of recovery, and we are proud to help in this small way,” said Chuck, now recovered and back home with his family.

Maintaining a quality care experience through Facetime calls and video chats has become part of the new norm, and Adventist Health is committed to

providing the necessary resources to help families stay connected. “We are patient experience—everything we say and do affects our patients on many levels: their feelings, thoughts, and overall well-being,” said Grace Kwasman, patient experience director at AHGL. “Showing empathy, communicating compassionately, and listening actively build trust with our patients. It is our duty to always go the extra mile.”

Through the hospital’s new “Together, Apart” initiative, patients are provided with the most advanced care in a safe, comfortable, and healing environment. The goal is to make sure patient stays go as smoothly and pleasantly as possible, with virtual visits and comfort calls from the hospital’s Spiritual Care team.

“Thank you so much for not only saving the life of the person we love most in the world, but also for giving him and our entire family so much kindness and compassion during our darkest hour,” Chuck’s family wrote. “We will never forget that and are honored to make a contribution to the AHGL Foundation.”

Chuck and his family thanked a few registered nurses who went above and beyond to provide exceptional care for him: Miguel Arellano, Samuel Bodin, Shella Cesar, Christian Davis, Alyssa Fason, Linda Gabriel, Ka’Arah McCoy, Brett Miller, Conrad Modelo, Silva Naranjo, and Fatima Siddiqi.

With each encounter, Adventist Health Glendale physicians and nurses witness the immense joy and hope that FaceTime calls and video chats bring to patients—it gives them the strength to keep striving for a better tomorrow.

“We thank our physicians, nurses, and associates for sharing their strength, resilience, and hope with patients like Chuck every day and for making a difference, one family at a time,” Kwasman said.

By Naira Khosrovian

Southeastern California Conference Churches Are Equipped 2 Serve

On Jan. 9, the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) hosted the annual Equipped 2 Serve training event. This Sabbath afternoon session offered inspiration for church members in leadership roles as well as for those who hope to use their spiritual gifts in the future.

Traditionally, the SECC has offered two annual Equipped 2 Serve events at two separate locations within the conference. Participants would enjoy meeting their ministry counterparts from other congregations and would share a meal together at the end of the day. Like many other activities this year, COVID-19 restrictions mandated that January's event be offered virtually. Attendees registered through Eventbrite and then downloaded the Whova event platform onto their devices.

The afternoon training began with a brief general session with Keith Morris, senior pastor of the Riverside Kansas Avenue church. The program offered 20 ministry-related breakout sessions focused on ministries such as community service, greeters and hospitality, youth and children, and women's and men's ministries. Each hour-long workshop was repeated so that attendees could choose two topics from the 20 quality presentations.

Pastor Caleb Jara drew from the Gospels and the writings of Paul to share solid biblical

teaching for these exceptional times. "Deacons and deaconesses are following the instructions of Christ in Matthew 10," said Jara. "Christ calls His members to serve as He served His people." Jara emphasized the importance of continuing the ministry even though church members are currently separated. "In Acts 6, we read that the Holy Spirit directed the apostles and the work of the deacons," said Jara. "We must be alert to the doors that God is opening for us at this time."

Karen Martell, SECC prayer ministries coordinator, drew upon the truth of James 5:16. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much," she said. "True prayer is to know God, and the role of a prayer ministry leader is to help the congregation be God-centered and to see life from God's perspective, not theirs."

SECC President Sandra Roberts attended many of the sessions. "Each year I am reminded that the Equipped 2 Serve event is a good example of the body of Christ coming together," she said. "Our goal is to equip each church member to use his or her God-given gifts to expand the kingdom of God."

Even though church members are physically separated, the Equipped 2 Serve event provided strength and insight to SECC church members as they continue to follow God's leading.

By Patricia Murdoch Zmaj

AVID Learners: Academies Adopt Uniquely Effective Program

We all know school is where you go to learn “Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic,” but how do you learn how to study? How do you learn to find answers to questions? How do you learn to take and organize notes? How do you learn to read and write as a scientist? How do you learn to advocate for yourself?

The answer to all of the above questions (and more) is simple: AVID.

“AVID is a nationally recognized program which provides specialized training and coaching for teachers so they can intentionally and effectively prepare students in grades K-12 for their educational and professional futures,” explained Amy Cornwall, curriculum coach at the SECC Office of Education.

In addition to school-wide strategies in which teachers are trained, there is an AVID elective class for secondary students who wish to further develop their skills for college and career readiness.

Students who wish to participate in the elective are required to interview and must maintain a C-grade average. Assignments include putting together an organized binder or Google Drive system and participating in what AVID calls “tutorials,” where students learn how to work collaboratively to find the answers they need.

Teachers at Mesa Grande and Orangewood academies—the two SECC schools currently using AVID—noticed a difference within the first two weeks of the program.

“The students’ confidence shot up so fast,” commented Zaidy Olivarria, art and marketing teacher at Orangewood, who teaches art, culinary skills, and personal finance. “They learn how to be good students, not just with study skills, but self-discipline, interpersonal skills, and more.”

They spent a week focusing on self-care and dealing with stress, and they have studied learning styles. They also learn to self-advocate, which begins with an assignment to introduce themselves to a teacher and converse on a predetermined topic.

“This may seem silly at a school where everyone knows everyone, but in college, being able to approach the professor with their needs can mean the difference between struggle and success.”

AVID isn’t just for students; the entire school benefits from what Olivarria calls the “in-between stuff.”

“AVID puts all of our teachers on the same page in terms of instructional strategies,” said Alfred Riddle, principal at Mesa Grande Academy. “Not everything is the same, but our strategies are aligned. AVID raises the bar for how we teach.”

Winston Morgan, principal of Orangewood Academy, has been an AVID fan since he attended an AVID conference at a previous job and realized what an asset it would be. He has advocated for it at each school he’s worked for since and now serves as director for the Orangewood program.

“Sometimes, very capable kids are simply without opportunity,” Morgan said with passion. “You give them the opportunity to succeed, and they will fly. We’re all blown away by what they accomplish, but the truth is, they’ve always had it in them; they just needed a little push.”

By Becky St. Clair

“AVID is a nationally recognized program which provides specialized training and coaching for teachers so they can intentionally and effectively prepare students in grades K-12 for their educational and professional futures,” explains Amy Cornwall, curriculum coach at the SECC Office of Education.



Doing Better to Be Better: SECC Holds Second Forum on Racial Equality and Justice

“Often there are misconceptions about how and why regional conferences began,” said Robert Edwards, VP for Black Ministries in the SECC. “Our purpose with this event was to educate and continue the process of working through our unconscious and conscious biases.”

On Saturday, Jan. 23, leadership of the SECC hosted a second event in their series on the topic of racial equality and justice. The presenter was Dana Edmond, executive director of the Office of Regional Ministry for the North American Division.

“This was an opportunity for learning about the history of racism in the Adventist Church,” explained Sandra Roberts, SECC president. “It’s a sobering history of which many Adventists are unaware.”

During the virtual event, Edmond shared that the decision to start regional conferences started with the General Conference having a choice: They could integrate, or they could start a separate organization for Black Adventists. The GC chose the latter. Edmond also pointed out that regional people were simply looking for equality and equity. Regional conferences helped

to provide a sense of that equality and equity in the church’s organizational context.

“This past year our entire country was confronted with the lack of equality and justice for our black and brown brothers and sisters,” Roberts said. “We learned a lot about implicit bias and the culture that allows such behaviors to exist. It was painful, and it caused us to look at our own churches, schools, and communities and ask what we can do to create a safer, healthier environment of equality.”

This is why Roberts and her team have created a series of forums on the topic of racial justice and equality. The purpose is “to listen, dialogue, learn, and grow in our commitment to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God in the SECC.” But it doesn’t stop with conversation.

“To change the direction the feet go, it starts with the head,” Edwards said. “Your body goes where your mind is. Where your heart is. I would like to see the heart and mind of the church change, and that begins with leadership.”

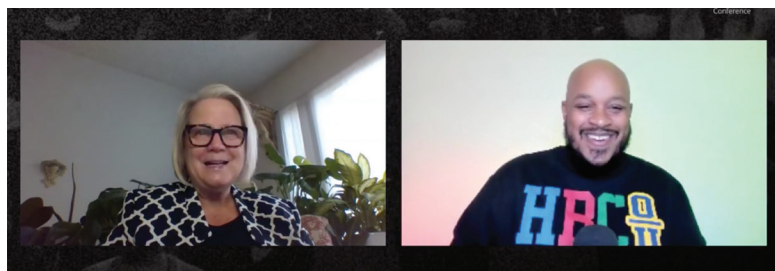
As president of the SECC, Roberts agrees.

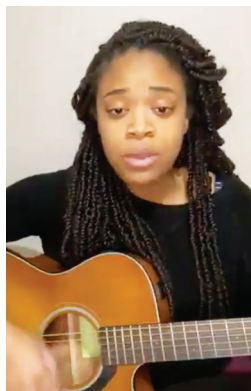
“It takes much intentionality, and it takes a willingness to both listen and take actionable steps to correcting our behaviors,” she said. “We are learning together and are looking to do better as the baton of leadership is in our hands. We believe that all people are the creation of God, crafted in His image, and we must be driven to put that belief in practice to create a conference environment of justice and equality.”

Two additional forums are planned for 2021; stay tuned to SECC social media and newsletters for details.

By Becky St. Clair

SECC participants included Dana Edmond (TOP), executive director of the office of Regional ministry; Sandra Roberts, conference president (LEFT); and Marquis Johns, evangelist for Black ministries and director of community service.





FAR LEFT: From the Central California Conference, Tara Vang helped with the prayer rooms and the technology for the meeting, and Cheyna Ashe provided music.

LEFT: Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma Linda University church, was one of the guest speakers.

Lord Make Us One: 10 Days of Prayer in the SECC and Beyond

As the prayer leader for both the Pacific Union Conference and the Southeastern California Conference, Karen Martell regularly connects with prayer leaders at conferences and local churches across the Pacific Union. In the fall of 2020, many of them were talking about the GC and NAD's 10 Days of Prayer event.

"A lot of people wanted to participate, but it's a lot of work to do something like that, even in your own church," Martell pointed out. "Not everyone has the resources to get it done."

So she and other conference prayer leaders came up with an idea: The union would lead the participation and open it up to all the churches and conferences who wanted to be part of it. This would allow everyone to do as much or as little on their own end as they could or wanted to.

From January 6-16, the Pacific Union Conference hosted nightly prayer gatherings, encouraging all participants to download the study materials from the GC. No one group had to provide all the content—each conference sponsored an evening's program, arranging for a speaker and special music on their night. The overarching theme was "Lord, Make Us One in 2021."

Over 1,700 people from across the union, the U.S., and the world joined the first night, and the union was thrilled to have to invest in a larger Zoom contract to accommodate all who were interested in the 10 Days of Prayer program.

"We tried to ensure we had a diverse group of people presenting, of all ages, locations, and cultural

backgrounds," Martell explained. "We wanted to be inclusive."

SECC sponsored two evenings of the ten. Their chosen speakers were Aron Rennacker, youth and young adult ministry director, and Randy Roberts, senior pastor of Loma Linda University church. Four teens—Aidan Martell, Carissa and Dylan Santoya, and Jack Neely—from SECC churches led a prayer response, and music was presented by Cheyna Ashe from Central California Conference and Adrian Presley from the LLU church.

Following the main evening program, participants were placed into virtual prayer rooms of 6 to 8 people, where they would share personal prayer requests and pray together over each one. Prayer leaders from each conference managed the rooms.

"Those prayer rooms were so powerful," Martell shared with reverence. "It was really phenomenal to see people across the union praying earnestly for each other personally."

The event was such a success that Martell is discussing hosting regular prayer nights throughout the year, coordinating with local prayer leaders.

"More people were able to come to this virtual event than would have attended an in-person prayer conference," she said. "God is giving us new ways to do things, and it's working."

To view the 10 Days of Prayer virtual evening programs, go to SECC's Facebook page.

By Becky St. Clair

Playwright Jonathan Rand Collaborates With GAA Drama Department

Although Adventist schools are known for their music programs, Glendale Adventist Academy (GAA) is about to set itself apart from the rest. This May, GAA will perform an original play in the virtual landscape in collaboration with playwright Jonathan Rand.

The school has performed several plays written by Rand, such as *Check Please*, a trilogy about blind dates that go bad and the number one play performed in all high schools across the U.S. In 2012, Rand even visited GAA himself to watch one of the school's performances.

"When he emailed me saying he would like to come, I thought it was a joke," recalled Matthew Payne, GAA Drama Department director. "I was just shocked, thinking: 'This is *the* Jonathan Rand, who wrote the play.'" The visit was special for a variety of reasons. "It was the first Adventist school he came to ever," Payne added. Plus, Rand's attendance was a surprise for the students.

When asked why he choose the GAA Drama Department to collaborate with for his newest production, Rand said, "Ages ago, there was a Glendale Academy production of my play *Check Please: Take 2*. It was an especially memorable experience, both in terms of high quality of the production and the inspiring conversations with students and faculty after the show."

Last year, GAA's Aladdin musical was canceled due to the pandemic. While brainstorming for this year's production, Payne emailed Rand asking about options for virtual plays with the following response: "I have something better. Call me."

Rand collaborates with one school each year, and this year he's writing an original play for GAA; he has been meeting with the students once a week since January. "Most of my writing experiences are simply myself alone in a room with a pen and paper," he said. "This experience with the GAA Drama Department

is a first for me, in that it's entirely virtual. It's more of a challenge, as it's complicated to collaborate with a dozen small digital rectangles. That said, I relish a challenge, and my hope is that the students do, as well."

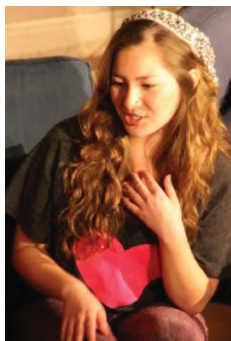
"Not many playwrights are still alive today," said Payne. "That fact alone narrows the opportunity for a playwright to reach out to schools and work with students."

"I love taking a serious concept and applying something far from serious, or flipping expectations in a surprising way," Rand shared, when asked about his favorite kind of plays to write. "It's also a plus if the script makes my wife laugh—she's got especially high comedy standards, so it's a helpful barometer. If I hear crickets, it's back to the drawing board."

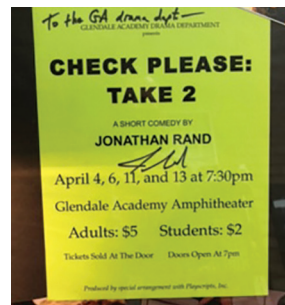
"It's just remarkable that he would choose our school," Payne said. "I'm so proud of our school. They perform for our community and bring them laughter, especially when there's so much sadness and hatred right now. This will be a great opportunity for people to laugh and relax."

Join the fun on May 8 at 7 p.m. Look for more information and the link to watch here: <https://scc.adventist.org/gaa-drama-department>.

By Jailyann Custodia and Emily Garrett, with contributions from Lauren Lacson



Scenes from the *Check Please: Take 2* performance in 2012. TOP RIGHT: Rand (right) is pictured with a student.



PHOTOS: MATTHEW PAYNE & BEN GARCIA



PHOTO: AMY HINKLE

Santa Clarita Church Supports Local Frontline Workers

There's a well-known quote that says, "You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving."

These words came to life this January when the Santa Clarita church treated the COVID-19 ward staff at the local Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital to 60 meals from LaCo Taco, a local restaurant.

A church board goal of finding unique ways to reach out to the local community gained momentum a few weeks earlier. When one church member, who is a critical care nurse, mentioned to her family how much another recent donated staff-wide meal had meant, the idea was born.

"We know it's not easy, especially right now," shared Amy Hinkle, church secretary. "There's so much heartache going on. To recognize the local hospital here in any way possible, to let them know that we're thinking of them and praying for them, is the least we can do."

Board approval for the event was quick and unanimous. "At a time when our community's medical personnel are stretched to the breaking point with COVID patients, day after day after never-ending day, meeting their basic nutritional needs with a little bit extra and unexpected seems to us to be an essential part of what we are called to do as servants of our Lord," Richard Guy, head elder, noted.

"Helping frontline workers is personal for us," Mike Stevenson, Santa Clarita church senior pastor, explained. "Some of our church family work on the COVID units. It has been reported that they work very long hours with little time to stop and eat. Our action was meant to recognize their service and raise their spirits. I am pleased that this and other actions are the Spirit-led response to this distressing time we are passing through. We're not walking away and hiding; we're walking toward and supporting. It's these actions we want to be known for."

The manager of the COVID unit, Melinda, later shared a short thank-you video with the church, in which she said, "Thank you for thinking about us. We appreciate it, because we know everyone's going through a lot, and for you to spend time thinking about us and serving us means a lot."

The most special element of this activity, as Guy put it, was "the reminder of the connectedness we share as a community, even when disease puts up barriers."

By Lauren Lacson

Local nurses from the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital share their appreciation for the donated meals Santa Clarita church provided from the local LaCo Taco restaurant.

"We're not walking away and hiding; we're walking toward and supporting. It's these actions we want to be known for."



FAR LEFT: Volunteer Josephine Rice, member of Fifty-Fourth Street church, sets out lunches to give to those who have taken their showers. MIDDLE: Maria (right), a volunteer from the community, gives free haircuts once a month. LEFT: Those waiting in line to pick up food from the food pantry practice social distancing.

PHOTOS: ADOLPHUS GARNETT

Fifty-Fourth Street Church Brings Showers of Blessings to the Community

Fifty-Fourth Street church is transforming its community outreach into a multi-faceted program on its campus. Throughout its long-standing community service ministry, the church has provided food, clothing, shoes, and blankets for the South Los Angeles community. Most recently, the church added a new outreach component: a shower program called Showers of Blessings.

Since October 2019, the church has offered shower services every Tuesday through a partnership with Showers of Hope, a nonprofit organization whose goal according to its website is “to offer our unhoused Angelenos a path out of homelessness and to bring our community together.”

“It is a blessing for those who live on the street and are able to come,” said Adolphus Garnett, senior pastor of Fifty-Fourth Street church. “Unfortunately, these individuals are only able to shower two or three times a week. We’re happy that we’re able to provide.”

Margaret Carson, Fifty-Fourth Street community services director, and her dedicated team of volunteers also provide the individuals and families who come for showers with meals, shoes, clothing, and hygiene kits. Sign-ups are not required in advance, and the popularity of the shower program has come from word-of-mouth promotion.

Gratitude for this service has been expressed in different ways. “Recently one gentleman said, ‘I am so glad that this church is doing what they are doing for

this community; I want to say thank you, but I want to give you a donation.’ I was reluctant to accept his donation,” Carson said, “but he insisted.”

Another gentleman who came without shoes asked Carson if she had a pair. She didn’t that day but promised to have a pair in his size the following week. When she gave him the shoes the next week, he repeatedly thanked her and had a big smile on his face while trying them on before his shower. “Those are the things that are really rewarding,” Carson added.

In addition to supplying meals after the showers, every week Carson goes to the Los Angeles Region Food Bank to pick up food for distribution at the church’s food pantry, serving anywhere from 400 to 1,000 families each month. People walk up, drive up, and bike up to receive food, and sometimes volunteers have even delivered food directly.

“It’s a job, but it’s rewarding,” reflected Carson, who has held the position of community services director since 1997. “This is what I like to do.”

Next, Fifty-Fourth Street is working to bring oral health care to its services by partnering with UCLA School of Dentistry’s Oral Health Collaborative Consortium.

“We’re totally thankful for the opportunity to give back, and we’re grateful to our community partners that help us,” said Garnett. “They know that we’re an agency that’s doing right by our community.”

By Araya Moss



Church Garden Builds Community in Santa Barbara

In the midst of a pandemic, the effects of which can leave people feeling isolated and alone, Santa Barbara church has continued to minister to its church members and neighbors through its community garden.

Though the community garden at Santa Barbara church is not new, there has been an increase in engagement with the garden throughout the pandemic. Many residents of Santa Barbara do not have adequate space for their own gardens. With the mental and physical health benefits of gardening, the community garden has been a way for people to combat feelings of loneliness and remain connected to one another.

A report from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published in August 2020 found that 40% of 5,412 U.S. adults surveyed reported struggling with mental health or substance abuse. Symptoms of anxiety disorder and depressive disorder increased in the U.S. during April-June 2020, compared with the same period in 2019.*

"A lot of people miss fellowship with others," Shannon Gott, member of Santa Barbara church and coordinator of the community garden, said. "You see people talking with one another while keeping their distance, being able to be outside and get fresh air, and building relationships. It's been a benefit, especially during COVID-19."

The idea of a community garden came from Gott, who didn't have prior experience with gardening herself. "I had been thinking for a while that it would be neat to have a

garden be the outreach for the community to bridge the gap, create conversation, and share the gospel," said Gott.

In the fall of 2018, she invited the church and community to a garden workshop hosted by Lynn Hoag, an experienced gardener who is known for using the Ellen G. White planting method to plant fruit trees. This workshop gave way to opening up a garden for church and community members, using space that was previously occupied by a school on the church property.

"To me, the garden was about family and community," Riva Robinson, senior pastor of Santa Barbara church, said of the garden's origins. "It was a way of repurposing a school that no longer existed. The school brought kids and family into the community and brought life and joy to the church, so the garden brought back life and joy to the church."

The garden has also allowed the church to make faith connections. Some members of the community have started taking Bible lessons through the church's It Is Written Bible study outreach, of which Gott is one of the leaders. "Since the coronavirus, our church has done phone Bible studies," Gott said. "We have a lot of these lessons that go through major pillars of our faith, and community members have joined in. That has been a blessing."

*CDC report: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm#:~:text=Overall%2C%2040.9%25%20of%205%2C470%20respondents,reported%20having%20started%20or%20increased>

By Araya Moss

PHOTOS: SHANNON GOTT



TOP: A selection of vegetables from the first harvest. LEFT: Hoag gives planting instructions to the community and church members who showed support for a community garden by attending the first garden workshop in fall 2018. BELOW: Many of the gardeners are in the process of prepping the soil for spring.



Calendar

Central California Conference

Many events and outreaches are now being virtually presented or streamed online. Check the Events page online at 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. Adventist Home
Zoom: 987-8355-2992
- Mondays at 6 p.m. Bible Study and Testimonies
Zoom: 844-734-252
- Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Anchored Bible Study
Zoom: 968-4130-9390

- Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Adventist Home
Zoom: 987-8355-2992
- Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
Zoom: 963-1262-0503
- Thursdays at 5 p.m. Ladies Bible Study
Zoom: 968-7573-1282
- Fridays at 10 a.m. Morning Manna
Zoom: 968-7573-1282
- Fridays at 5 p.m. Micah Bible Study
Zoom: 974-4249-4745
- Fridays at 7 p.m. Vespers
Zoom: 912-2906-8424
- Sabbath at 9:30 a.m. Sabbath School
Zoom: 945-8167-8714
- Sabbath at 5 p.m. Sundown Worship
Zoom: 982-2295-7250

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

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

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Classified Rates

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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.

Upcoming Deadlines

These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.
April: March 8 • May: April 8

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.

La Sierra University

La Sierra University Music Department newsletter.

The show is still on! Sign up to receive up-to-date information about news and performances from the Department of Music. To subscribe, send your email address and subscription request to music@lasierra.edu.

Winter Webinar Series. Have questions about college? La Sierra University's Winter Webinar Series covers topics ranging from campus life and spiritual life programs to athletics and department Zoom events. For information and registration visit <https://admissions.lasierra.edu/webinars/>.

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

The La Sierra Report. Stay in the know and sign up to

Newsdesk Online



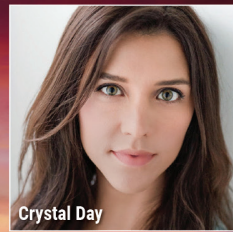
The regular section of Newsdesk in the *Recorder* is

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Speaker

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Northern California Conference

Save the Date! Mountain View Academy Alumni Sabbath, April 10, 2021. In person or virtual, we will be gathering to worship our amazing God and to celebrate our alumni. Join our Facebook Alumni page or check out our website for updates www.mountainviewacademy.org.

Instituto Laico Adventista de California (ILAC)

(March 21-22). Online training in leadership and church administration for Spanish-speaking laypeople. Info: nccsda.com/ilac, 916-886-5614.

Instituto Laico Adventista de California (ILAC)

(April 18-19). Online training in leadership and church administration for Spanish-speaking laypeople. Info: nccsda.com/ilac, 916-886-5614.

Hispanic Women's Retreat (April 23-25). Info: roman.leal@nccsda.com, 916-886-5614.

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Employment

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

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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.

Custodian needed. The Tierrasanta 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.

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.

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Central California Conference is seeking a full-time Director of Communication, Community Engagement, and Volunteerism. The successful candidate will be able to operate in a fast-paced, highly collaborative environment. Will have significant experience in communication, public relations, or marketing. Must have exceptional messaging and positioning skills. Strong cross-group coordination across all levels. Ability to build compelling speeches, videos, emails, and other communications. Flexible and capable of dealing with ambiguity, adversity, change, and real-time adjustments to projects and plans. Ability to work effectively and gain respect of diverse groups and have sound judgment. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing

and maintain consistent, active church attendance. Send cover letter, application, and resume to Human Resources. By e-mail lbarron@cccsda.org or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Position open until filled. Link for application: <https://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/human-resources>

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Constituency Meeting Announcement

Pacific Union College Constituency Meeting. (May 5). An official session of the constituent membership of Pacific Union College will be held virtually.

Missing Members

Pleasant Hill. Contact: Cheri Cautivarío, clerk, Pleasant Hill SDA Church, 800 Grayson Rd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; 925-934-5803; office@pleasanthilladventist.org; Lee Ahlqvist, Kevin Alberts, Candice Albro, Eva Becerra, Laura Becerra, Stephanie Brown, Stephanie Bryan, Anthony Capponi, Luana Capponi, Daniel Cernades, Maria Cernades, Roofo Cernades, Christine Clark, Donald Clark, Naiomi Collins, Anita Comulada-Lopez, Dru Cox, Bill Cravens, Gail Crosgrove, Christopher Davis, Isadora Davis, Cory Dodd, Andrew Easton, Timothy Fitzgerald, Aurelia Herrera, Thomas Johnson, Jacqueline Kuraica, John Kuraica, Claudia Lai, Ruby Love, Rob Martin, Guillermo Martinez, Marie McKenzie, Dale Miller, Kelsey Miller, Sherrie Mims, Jeston Murch, Matthew Ocegueda, Jacqueline Parobok, Pedro Perez, Marjorie Pritchard, Fred Pritchard, Alberto Rendon, Claudia Rutledge, Crystal Vasquez-Felipe, Candace Vernon, Jill Vernon,

Sarah Vu, Tom Vu, Bryce White, Janelle Wilson, Mark Wilson, Keith Winn.

At Rest

An, Byung Joo – b. May 10, 1935, Korea; d. Dec. 26, 2020, Magalia, Calif. Survivors: wife, Soon; son, Hyung (Danny); daughter, Jennifer; eight grandchildren. Served as a pastor, teacher, and missionary.

Bloesch, Louis John – b. Oct. 6, 1930, Sapulpa, Okla.; d. Jan. 13, 2021, St. Helena, California. Survivors: wife, Trudy; daughters, Sally Beardsley, Margie Penkala, Edi Wharton, Loretta Bloesch; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Served as a deacon for many years at PUC church.

Breingan, Merrilyn Irene (Hill-White Webb) – b. April 16, 1935, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Dec. 4, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Roger, Randy Hill; daughters, Karen Hill, Kathy Clem; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Bushness, Samuel Arthur – b. Jan. 2, 1936, Seattle, Wash.; d. Dec. 11, 2020, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: wife, Hope Penn; sons, Scott, Stuart; daughters, Faith, Melanie; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; siblings, Grace, Beverly, Sandra, Carol, Shirley, Kenneth, Ronald, and Keith. Served as a pastor and evangelist



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in Central California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii conferences and as a missionary in the East African Union.

Chairez, Don P. – b. Sept. 29, 1955, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; d. Jan. 21, 2021, Las Vegas, Nev. Survivors: wife, Maria; daughters, Monica, Marina; two brothers and one sister.

Clarke, Calvin – b. Jan. 18, 1936, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada; d. Jan. 25, 2021, Hollister, Calif. Survivors: wife, Lorraine; son, Kevin; daughters, Debbie, Shannon; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren. Graduated from Loma Linda School of Dentistry in 1966, and since has practiced in Hollister.

Colwell, Norma E. – b. June 14, 1927, Phoenix, Ariz.; d. Jan. 20, 2021, Colton, Calif. Survivors: sons, Tim, David, Dan, Bill; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; 12 great-great-grandchildren. Volunteered in Stoneham, Mass., and Payson, Ariz., churches for more than 60 years.

Davidson, Vercie M. – b. Jan. 20, 1923, Santa Cruz, Calif.; d. Jan. 15, 2021, Dewey, Ariz. Survivors: son, Darryl Davidson; daughters, Diane Standard, Sharlene Spees, Ardelle Baca; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren.

Fessenden, Gerri (Dyke) – b. Dec. 9, 1943, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada; d. March 26, 2020, Lincoln, Calif. Survivors: husband, Luke; son, Trevor; daughter, Tammi; two grandchildren. She was a pastor's wife in Nova Scotia and Ontario (Canada) conferences; Northern, Central, and Southeastern California conferences; Washington; and Ohio; assistant administrator of Napa Valley Adventist Retirement Estates.

Garcia, Adelina S. – b. Nov. 10, 1934, Oton, Iloilo, Philippines; d. Jan. 8, 2021, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Marianito; sons, Donald, Dennis, Larry; eight grandchildren. She retired from LLU Medical Center OB-GYN department.

Gardner, Melba Dean (Johnson) – b. Dec. 14, 1922, Bache, Okla.; d. Jan. 3, 2021, Grass Valley, Calif. Survivors: son, Dennis L.; daughter, Valerie J.; one grandchild; three great-grandchildren.

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

Henneberg, Wilbert – b. April 1, 1921, Kulm, N.D.; d. Jan. 21, 2021, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ruby; son, Gene; daughter, Miletus McKee; three grandchildren. Volunteered with Maranatha Volunteers International.

Hudson, Mary (Sullivan) – b. Aug. 12, 1930, Talpa, Texas; d. Jan. 28, 2021, Terra Bella, Calif. Survivors: son, Cory Hudson; daughters, Brenda Pearce, Sally Galagan, Lisa Moran; 14 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren.

Huff, Dale E. – b. Nov. 1, 1930, Windsor, Colo.; d. Dec. 31, 2020, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: sons, Cliff, Herb; daughter, Dalene Saulsbury; sister, Betty Harmon; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. Served as teacher at Pleasant Hill Junior Academy and Paradise Junior Academy, principal at Ukiah Junior Academy, director of housekeeping at Loma Linda University.

Huff, Flossie L. (Moses) – b. Sept. 20, 1932, Three Lakes, Wis.; d. July 8, 2020, Yountville, Calif. Survivors: sons, Cliff, Herb; daughter, Dalene Saulsbury; brother, Calvin Moses; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. Served as secretary and treasurer for the Ukiah church and Ukiah Junior Academy, worked as material management's buyer and in accounts payable for Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Jones, Edmund – b. Jan. 22, 1928, Ledwidge, Ark.; d. Jan. 9, 2021, Lancaster, Calif. Survivors: son, Stephen; daughters, Anita Horner, Teresa Maupin, Pamela Bender; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. During his 60-year career, served as pastor in the Montana, Arizona,

March 2021 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	MAR 6	MAR 13	MAR 20	MAR 27
Alturas	5:29	6:07	7:14	7:22
Angwin	6:08	6:15	7:22	7:28
Bakersfield	5:56	6:02	7:08	7:13
Calexico	5:43	5:48	6:53	6:58
Chico	6:05	6:12	7:19	7:26
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	5:47	5:53	6:59	7:05
Eureka	6:13	6:21	7:29	7:36
Four Corners [E]	6:15	6:22	7:28	7:34
Fresno	5:58	6:05	7:11	7:17
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	6:28	6:34	6:40	6:46
Half Dome	5:57	6:03	7:10	7:16
Hilo	6:27	6:29	6:31	6:33
Holbrook	6:21	6:26	6:32	6:38
Honolulu	6:37	6:40	6:42	6:44
Joshua Tree	5:46	5:51	6:57	7:02
Lake Tahoe	5:58	6:05	7:12	7:18
Las Vegas	5:40	5:46	6:52	6:58
Lodi-Stockton	6:04	6:10	7:17	7:23
Loma Linda	5:49	5:55	7:01	7:06
Los Angeles	5:53	5:59	7:05	7:10
McDermitt [N]	5:47	5:56	7:03	7:11
Moab	6:16	6:23	7:30	7:37
Monterey Bay	6:07	6:13	7:19	7:25
Mt. Whitney	5:52	5:59	7:05	7:11
Napa	6:07	6:14	7:21	7:28
Nogales [S]	6:25	6:30	6:35	6:40
Oakland	6:08	6:14	7:21	7:27
Paradise, CA	6:02	6:09	7:14	7:22
Phoenix	6:29	6:34	6:40	6:45
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	6:28	6:31	6:33	6:34
Reno	5:57	6:04	7:11	7:18
Riverside	5:50	5:56	7:01	7:06
Sacramento	6:04	6:11	7:18	7:25
Salt Lake City	6:24	6:32	7:40	7:47
San Diego	5:50	5:55	7:00	7:05
San Francisco	6:08	6:15	7:21	7:28
San Jose	6:06	6:13	7:19	7:26
Santa Rosa	6:09	6:16	7:23	7:29
Sunset Beach	6:06	6:13	7:19	7:25
Thousand Oaks	5:56	6:01	7:07	7:12
Tucson	6:25	6:30	6:35	6:40

[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

Southern California conferences; traveling evangelist throughout Nevada and Arizona; chaplain holding weekly services at Thousand Trails Campground; Sabbath speaker in Southern California; mentor to many pastoral interns.

Kopiloff, George Sr. – b. Jan. 20, 1934, Buenos Aires, Argentina; d. Jan. 13, 2021, Yucaipa, Calif. Survivors: son, George; daughter, Araceli; four grandchildren. He served as a psychiatrist.

Marnella, Adele – b. July 10, 1927, Lodi, Calif.; d. Dec. 10, 2020, Escondido, Calif. Survivors: sons, Mike, Ron, Steve; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren. Served at San Diego Academy.

Martinez, Carlos Roberto – b. Oct. 18, 1940, Guatemala; d. Jan. 25, 2021, Beryl, Utah. Survivors: wife, Maria; sons, Carlos Jr., Joshua, Joel; daughters, Monica, Mayra, Rosio; several grandchildren. Carlos was one of the pioneers of the Maranatha church in Las Vegas. For the last 15 years he was a member of the Cedar City church.

Miller, Viola – b. Nov. 10, 1931, Shafter, Calif.; d. Jan. 4, 2021, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Jerold; sons, Robert, Edward, Marvin; daughter, Carolyn; 14 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren.

Morda, Patricia Anne (Gutman) – b. July 27, 1946, Butler, Mo.; d. Dec. 23, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Richard S.; daughters, Suzanne P., Elizabeth D. Hall; three grandchildren; brothers, Larry Gutman, Mark Gutman; sister, Mary Gutman. She served LLUC as a Sabbath School volunteer.

Peterson, Margaret “Peggy” (Thompson) – b. June 22, 1926, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Jan. 3, 2021, Mountain View, Calif. Survivors: sons, Eric, Robert; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. At the Mountain View Central church, she dedicated over 30 years to the children’s division and was active with Mountain View Academy’s parent club and alumni association.

Platner, George M. – b. Sept. 21, 1920, Chicago, Ill.; d. Dec. 27, 2020, Murrieta, Calif. Survivors: sons, George, Gary; daughters, Vicki Holbert, Debby Moore; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Taught at La Sierra University in the Education department during the 1960s.

Robison, John Thurman – b. Sept. 1, 1922, Desdemona, Texas; d. Dec. 27, 2020, Red Bluff, Calif. Survivors: son, Chuck; daughters, Johnnie Lou Ferguson, Jacki Walters, Patty Howell, Jane Works; 15 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Shasky, William – b. Dec. 20, 1924, Detroit Lakes, Minn.; d. Jan. 6, 2021, Loma Linda, Calif. His wife preceded him in death. He was a well-known physician in the Loma Linda community.

Smith, Lauren Leroy – b. Dec. 19, 1923, San Joaquin, Calif.; d. Aug. 26, 2020, Redding, Calif. Survivors: son, Russell; daughters, Jan Amundson, Linda Gibbs; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren. Volunteered years of service to the construction of the Redding church and school.

Snider, J.B. – b. March 2, 1926, West Fork, Ark.; d. Jan. 12, 2021, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Leslye; son, Gregory; daughter, Melinda; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

Stark, Floyd A. – b. May 6, 1930, Detroit, Mich.; d. Dec. 27, 2020, Kingman, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Peggy; daughter, Donna; stepdaughter, Tammy Reynolds.

Szutz, Carol Jean (Johnson) – b. Dec. 31, 1925, Montana; d. Dec. 20, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Randy, Tim; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Taylor, Jeanette Amanda (Rohde) – b. July 1, 1938, Algoma, Wis.; d. Jan. 9, 2021, Hanover, N.H. Survivors: daughters, Karen Rigsby, Julie Marsh; stepson, Glenn; stepdaughter, Carol Jean Stroud; four grandchildren. Served at General Conference Insurance Services; Loma Linda University, La Sierra Campus; Shady Grove Adventist Hospital; Adventist Health corporate office.

Wallace, Joyce Elizabeth – b. July 6, 1941, Jordan, Mont.; d. Dec. 23, 2020, Portland, Ore. Survivors: brothers, Carl, Ray McPhail; sisters, Kathleen Severance, Alice Graham. Served as a clinical nurse and hospital supervisory nurse at St. Helena Hospital and nursing instructor at Pacific Union College.

Wilson, Richard Raymond – b. April 11, 1938, Colorado Springs, Colo.; d. Dec. 24, 2020, Clovis, Calif. Survivors: wife, Alberta; son, Robert Santori; daughters, Stephanie Wilson, Tonya Crandall, Elizabeth Stoeckle, Tina Ross, Sheila Barbour; 14 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.

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