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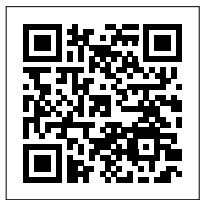


On the cover: Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School (HIS) is celebrating its 75th year of serving Native American children. From the one-building mission school that opened its doors in 1946, HIS has grown into a modern facility that has kept pace with today's technology and education standards.

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

According to *Mission to the Navajos*, written by Betty Stirling, "In 1941 the church again remembered the Navajos as among those of every 'kindred, tribe, and nation.'" The Arizona Conference resolved to do something for the growing tribes within the conference borders.

Evangelist Marvin Walter was hired for the job; his wife, Gwendolyn, was a registered nurse. By 1945, enough money was raised to build a school on 320 acres in Holbrook. The mission school term started in 1946 with 30 students, one teacher, and two deans. The schoolroom had no desks that year, so the children sat on rugs and sheepskins to recite their lessons.



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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.

What's inside

- 4 Caring for Real Problems in a Real World
- 8 Wash Her Feet
- 11 A Steward's Priority
- 12 Green Was Her Color
- 16 Master Plan
- 18 The New Kid
- 20 Newsdesk
- 24 Arizona Conference
- 26 Central California Conference
- 30 Hawaii Conference
- 32 Holbrook Indian School
- 34 Loma Linda University Health
- 35 La Sierra University
- 36 Nevada-Utah Conference
- 38 Northern California Conference
- 42 Pacific Union College
- 43 Adventist Health
- 44 Southeastern California Conference
- 48 Southern California Conference
- 52 Community & Marketplace
- 56 Sunset Calendar

Publisher

Ray Tetz

Editor

Alberto Valenzuela

Assistant Editor

Faith Hoyt

Assistant Editor

Connie Jeffery

Design/Layout

Stephanie Leal • Alberto Valenzuela

Printing

Pacific Press Publishing Association
www.pacificpress.com

Adventist Health

916-742-0429
Brendan Collins
collinbm@ah.org

Arizona

480-991-6777 ext 114
Kerysa Ford
kford@azconference.org

Central California

559-347-3194
communication@cccsda.org

Hawaii

808-595-7591
Miki Akeo-Nelson
mnelson@hawaiisda.com

Holbrook Indian School

505-399-2885
Chevon Petgrave
cpetgrave@hissda.org

La Sierra University

951-785-2000
Darla Tucker
dmartint@lasierra.edu

Loma Linda

909-651-5925
Ansel Oliver
anoliver@llu.edu

Nevada-Utah

775-322-6929
Michelle Ward
mward@nevadautah.org

Northern California

916-886-5600
Laurie Trujillo
Laurie.Trujillo@nccsda.com

Pacific Union College

707-965-6303
Haley Wesley
pr@puc.edu

Southeastern California

951-509-2287
sandy.roberts@seccsda.org

Southern California

818-546-8400
Lauren Lacson
Lacson@scsda.org

Editorial Correspondents

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Caring for Real Problems in a Real World

By Jorge Soria

The past year has been hard for everyone; however, God is with us and never abandons His children during times of confusion, uncertainty, sickness, and death.

Jesus' first sermon is recorded in Luke 4. The Gospel writer tells us that Jesus came to Nazareth and entered the synagogue on Sabbath, as was His custom. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him, and He read the prophecy from Isaiah 61:1-2. The way I see it, He chose these verses to be a mission statement for His ministry.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19, NKJV).

The original language is very clear. *The poor* refers to economically impoverished people. *The blind* refers to people with physical disabilities. *The oppressed* are people who are mistreated or persecuted.

In other words, Christ's mission statement relates to real, practical problems in this world. And we have been called to minister to the people that Jesus came to serve. Our ministry is the people in the community—any place where we mingle with humanity.

We praise God that thousands of families have been blessed by the ministry of our church members who provide food, clothing, and other necessities. Some people in need have even been helped with rental assistance to get through one more month or, sadly, funeral expenses for loved ones.

Allow me to share a few stories of mission-driven service that is happening in some of the Asian-Pacific, Black, and Hispanic churches in the Pacific Union Conference.

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Warming hearts and bodies

In Sacramento, California, the Capitol City church helped keep their community warm by opening their doors as a warming center during the cold winter months. The church was approached by the city to help meet this need for the homeless community. For a month and half during the coldest months, Capitol City church was one of only three other centers open on a nightly basis, providing people in need with a place to sleep, a warm meal, as well as some basic health services. The center drew people from across the city—and a few came directly to the church after being discharged from the hospital.

According to Damian Chandler, senior pastor, a city council member stated at a press conference how surprised he was at how quickly the church stepped in to help. In an ABC 10 Sacramento news article dated February 24, 2021, City Councilmember Eric Guerra is quoted as saying, “This isn't a solution to addressing the long-term issue of homelessness, but it does save lives if done in every part of the city.”

Chandler said that over a three-month period, the church served approximately 40 unique people, with some coming back multiple times.

Let's give it a shot

On April 2, 2021, the 16th Street church in San Bernardino, California, held a COVID vaccination clinic for the local community. The church is located in San Bernardino's Westside, a longtime socioeconomically disadvantaged community.

According to an April 2 article in the *San Bernardino Sun* newspaper, “areas such as the Westside have been among the hardest hit by the pandemic.” Citing the California Department of Public Health, the article states that areas such as these have a death rate 6% higher for Blacks, 22% higher for Latinos, and 37% higher for communities with a median annual income below \$40,000.

The 16th Street church, in partnership with other community organizations, wanted to

be a part of the solution by opening as a free vaccination site. The clinic drew local elected officials and leaders, as well as California Governor Gavin Newsom, who visited the site and chatted with community members.

According to Andrea King, senior pastor, the 16th Street church was one of several churches across the state that were provided with some of the 25,000 vaccines from the state of California. According to King, during Newsom's visit, the governor also asked questions, including about vaccine hesitancy.

“I think he really enjoyed talking with people, and people enjoyed talking to him” King said. “It was a really down-to-earth time.”

Over 300 people were vaccinated on April 2. The church also provides free COVID testing twice a week.

“Our churches have made a tremendous contribution to their communities, and it has helped them practice true Christianity,” said Virgil Childs, director of African American Ministries, of these and many other Black churches in the Pacific Union who have been actively engaged in community service during the pandemic. “That's a way to be ambassadors for Christ. The strong ought to bear the burdens of the weak, as the Bible says, and we do that through service and making ourselves available to those in need.”



16th Street church in San Bernardino



Inland Empire Filipino church



Loma Linda Korean church

More than food

The Pacific Asian church communities in the Inland Empire region of California have also been actively serving in their local communities during the last year. Well before the pandemic, the Inland Empire Filipino church (IEF) had been actively involved in a weekly meal ministry for the homeless. They served approximately 70 people per week. The meals were prepared by volunteers from the church. When COVID hit, however, it was no longer possible to provide hot meals. Through a partnership with a local anti-hunger organization, however, IEF Community Services was able to provide food boxes to 200 to 300 families on a weekly basis.

At the Loma Linda Korean church, food drives hosted by the outreach department help provide meals for homeless and low-income families, especially those who had lost jobs due to the pandemic. The church also hosted a blanket drive and, with the active engagement of young people in the congregation, created hygiene kits for the homeless. Part of the homeless outreach also included food bags with fruit, water, granola bars, and Bible verses for encouragement. The church has also ministered to local law enforcement by delivering meals to the San Bernardino Police Department.

"How can the community feel Jesus' touch of love through the church?" This is the question the Thai church in Redlands, California, started to ask itself in order to better serve others.

Part of the answer resulted in initiating an outreach through food distribution. The first

distribution event began in November 2020, with only 10 boxes containing three days' worth of produce and dairy. By March 2021, the ministry was providing over 100 food boxes twice a week, including 600 to 1,800 pounds of fruits and vegetables.

Apart from the weekly food distribution, the church also started a "Sanctified DoorDash" project in which church members and volunteers deliver food to the people in their community who cannot make it to the food distribution.

The ministry has made an impact not just in meeting physical needs but also spiritual needs and social connection. There are new people attending church services, including a Buddhist, and several non-Adventist community members have become food ministry volunteers.

"The Asian-Pacific Ministry in the Pacific Union was not in a lockdown or quarantine mode during the pandemic," said VicLouis Arreola, director of Asian-Pacific Ministries. "Doors were opened for service, and all our Asian churches were in active community service mode. There is no higher calling than service to humanity. To work for this common good is the greatest act."



Thai church in Redlands

Celebrating service

In spring 2021, the Anaheim Spanish church celebrated a rather bittersweet one-year anniversary of their community drive-through food pantry ministry. *Bitter* because of the life-altering pandemic no one asked for that turned the world upside down, but even *sweeter* in the ways that God has moved through church members in sharing His love with their community through service.

Initially, the drive-through food pantry was serving 30 to 40 families per month, including church members, and it had about four volunteers. Fast forward to today, when the church now serves over 500 families per month, including those in the community and in the congregation, due in part to partnerships with local food banks and other organizations. Through these partnerships and over 20 volunteers, many of them youth and young adults from the church, Anaheim Spanish has been providing food, baby care, toiletries, and even personal protective equipment.

But beyond meeting physical needs, the church is also focused on providing spiritual care. Every Sabbath morning, people around the community start lining up in cars and on foot. Some of them arrive early to worship as they wait for the pantry to open up. Families have asked for prayers, Bibles, or materials to study at home.

As they conduct their outreach, the church has gotten to know some of the people they serve, such as the elderly woman who picks up food for her family because they are unable to do so, or the elderly gentleman who rides over on his bicycle to pick up food for his six grandchildren. Because of his age, he is unable to work, so he is thankful for the food and personal items that the church provides. Like others who have been blessed by the church's ministry, he



Anaheim Spanish church

has spread the word in his neighborhood and brought others to the church to be fed, both physically and spiritually.

"Compassionate ministry is a biblical concept. Christ showed compassion to the less fortunate,"

said Alberto Ingleton, director of Hispanic Ministries. "Following the example of Christ, our Hispanic churches have become relevant to their communities, and even to members of their own congregations most in need, during this difficult time. Food, clothing, and even financial assistance have been provided on a

regular basis. This has provided much relief, and hope, to many families."

Following Jesus' example

Ellen G. White wrote, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Jesus mingled with people because He loved them and because that was His mission. This is the way He helped and blessed countless lives. Then He extended an invitation to follow Him—and they followed Him.

Unfortunately, because of this tragic disease called COVID-19, we have not been able to mingle with people as we usually do. But God continues to offer opportunities for us to minister using innovative programs, thus enabling us to do what Jesus asked us to do: carry out His mission of serving others.

And now it's my turn to ask: Are you ready to follow Jesus? As we serve others, following Jesus' example, we'll be living out His mission

Jorge Soria is the vice president of the Pacific Union Conference.



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Wash Her

“So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him” (John 13:4-5, NIV).



There are so many ways we can offend and be offended by others, especially in relationships with family members, friends, coworkers, and fellow church members. Sometimes we don't even know that we have rubbed someone the wrong way or that someone is holding a grudge against us. We may have actually said or done something—or jealousy and envy could be at work in someone's heart. In the eyes of Jesus, it is never OK to remain resentful or angry with someone because of an offense. We are instructed in God's Word to take the time to clear the air and set things right with those we have offended or with someone who may have insulted us.

Some years ago, I was blessed to learn how to bring about reconciliation between myself and an older woman in my church. Sister Harris always seemed to be irritated by me and my twin daughters. Her annoyance was obvious, especially when there was a church potluck. Sister Harris always had several dishes she prepared to share with her family and choice friends at church. People waited eagerly for her desserts—a pound cake, a delicious pie, or big chunky cookies. After lunch, she would bring out her treats and walk around the tables, serving the people she chose with a gracious smile. Her smile would fade as she passed by my daughters and me to share with those she felt worthy.

And it wasn't just at potluck; we felt rejected and confused by her apparent dislike for us. She turned away from us when she served as usher and often spoke to us with a harsh tone. As a new member of the church, I had no idea what I had done to offend her.

Cheryl, a teacher at my daughters' church school, graciously offered to give my girls a ride to and from school since she passed our house on her way. She became my

Feet

By Sali Butler

“Wash her feet,” Cheryl said. “Sali, when you wash her feet, you are showing humility; you are humbling yourself to honor her.”

friend. We chatted on the phone most Sunday mornings, catching up with each other and praying together about everything. Her prayers meant so much to me. I learned so much from her quiet faith. While talking with Cheryl one morning, I opened up and shared my dilemma about my relationship with Sister Harris. Cheryl responded, “Next time you have communion, serve her.” I had no idea what she was telling me to do.

My upbringing was in the Freewill Baptist church. We had foot washing during Wednesday night prayer meeting before First Sunday. Perhaps because I was young and not paying attention, I never connected it to communion, nor did I remember learning the significance of foot washing.

“Wash her feet,” Cheryl said. “Sali, when you wash her feet, you are showing humility; you are humbling yourself to honor her.” Our conversation turned to something else, but it left me with this “humble yourself” idea to grapple with until the next communion service.

The next time we celebrated communion, I remembered Cheryl’s advice and sought out Sister Harris. When I took the little basin and towel and knelt before her that day, our eyes locked and she dropped her head. The room was filled with chatter and singing, but neither of us spoke. I lifted one foot at a time into the basin and cupped the cascading



water with my hand. After wiping each toe gently, I carefully placed a shoe on each foot while I felt God’s tug on my heart.

When I stood up to return the basin and find a seat, I had no idea what God had in mind from that day forward when it came to Sister Harris. I only felt in my heart that I had somehow been obedient to Jesus.

Two years later, I left Philadelphia to enroll in the University of South Carolina to finish my college education. Word of my graduation traveled back to my home church in Philadelphia, and Sister Harris came. She took the train from Philadelphia, stayed in a motel, took a taxi to graduation, and surprised me. When I had left Philadelphia, Sister Harris had requested my new address, and from time to time she would send a card with an encouraging word and always “a piece of change.” “Buy yourself some lunch or treat the girls to ice cream,” she wrote. Although I never moved back to Philadelphia, Sister Harris remained in touch with me. When she passed away many years later, her daughter asked me to sing at her service.

My friend Cheryl’s advice has had a profound impact on my life. If you have a Sister or Brother Harris in your life, consider this advice and wash their feet.

Sali Butler is the administrative assistant to the regional director of the Pacific Union Conference.



A Steward's Priority

Christian stewards use the treasure of the gospel in their own lives by faithfully gathering every Sabbath around the Word to worship. There they receive the treasures of life, strength, hope, and power that make Christian stewardship possible. We gather regularly with other Christians to study the Bible so we can grow in our understanding and knowledge of God through His Holy Word. And having so gathered around the Word, we then are ready to invest these treasures.

Stewards don't just bury this treasure; they put it to work! This is our sacred trust and responsibility. Christ wants us to share the saving gospel He has committed to our trust so that through it others may be won for Him for all eternity (Mark 5:19-20). He died for all (2 Corinthians 5:15), and it is His will

that none should perish but that all should be brought to repentance and faith (2 Peter 3:9).

As Christian stewards joyfully use the greatest gift of all—the gospel shared through the Word and our testimony—they will find that the priorities in their life change and take on a new perspective. No longer do they live only for themselves. Rather, they recognize that they are part of the most dramatic, exciting, and wonderful life possible—life with God and life in service to Him for the sake of others.

Paul puts it so beautifully when he writes, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20, NASB).



GREEN WAS HER COLOR

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON

Christine, the girl who loved green, was a simple gift of rarest purity. From her flowed love, unsullied and unceasing.

When I think of Christine, it is always of innocence bathed in tragedy. She came into our lives when her parents, Brenda and Blair, were struggling with grief from the loss of their older daughter Julie, whose life ended abruptly in a car wreck. Julie and Brenda were soulmates: they looked alike and had the same warm, outgoing personality. Julie would burst through the door, throw herself on Brenda's lap, and say, "I love you Mom."

Their other child, Christine, was Daddy's girl. Born three years after Julie, she was big and strong but with the IQ of a 5-year-old.

Christine opened up a new world to me. Having spent much of my life in an academic environment, I hadn't come to terms with the world of the mentally challenged. But because of Christine, I grew to see these children, some of them grown to adults, in settings of joy and love. The simplicity of their enjoyment and the purity of their love grabbed my heart.

Slowly, slowly I was overwhelmed. From the "normal" people who cared for these kids flowed such love and affection, such acceptance and affirmation as I had never before witnessed. These special people required no supervisor with advanced training or college degree to be their teachers at church—the only requirement was the ability to love.

Brenda, Blair, and Christine began to attend the same church we did. Christine was assigned to a class for kids with special needs. The first day her teacher gave her a Bible with a green cover and thereby won her heart—she loved the color green. Sometime later another wonderful thing happened: mother and daughter were baptized.

It was a story of life out of death, grace out of tragedy. But another chapter was yet to be written.

On the Thursday morning before Easter, the county police called my office. I had gone out on an errand, so the call went through to Noelene. It was Brenda, breaking up so badly that Noelene couldn't get details beyond the fact that something tragic had happened to Christine.

By the time I got the news and rushed to the home, neighbors were gathering. Representatives from the coroner's office were upstairs in Christine's bedroom. Christine had been on spring break. She and Blair had planned a big day together. He wouldn't go to work; they'd sleep in late and then go out for breakfast. But when Blair went to call her, Christine didn't stir. She had died in her sleep, presumably suffocating from a seizure.

I stood numb as Blair called the funeral home to make arrangements. Same people, same situation. "Just do it like you did before," he said in a voice that came from far away.

Christine was one month away from her 21st birthday.

Two daughters—both gone.

Two daughters—both dead at 20.

What can you say at a time like this? Nothing that says anything. You can only be there to hug and listen and weep with hearts overwhelmed by life's cruelty.

Immediately Brenda asked me to conduct the funeral. Noelene and I spent a lot of time in that home of tragedy, especially during the first two days of their grief. And that is how I came to see clearly for the first time an aspect of Brenda's life that had been staring me in the face all the time, but I'd been too oblivious to see.

The friends who came by the home, and later for the viewing at the funeral home, helped take the scales from my eyes. As I met more and more of them—and there were many—I came to realize the common factor: Most were associated through children with special needs. Classmates of Christine. Teachers of Christine. The principal of Christine's school. One father in retirement heads a foundation to provide homes for children with special needs whose parents are aging.

The decency of these people I met was extraordinary. Their relationship with Brenda and Blair and with one another went way beyond friendship. It was much more than being in the same boat of caring for "difficult" kids. They had a radiance about them, an unselfish love more profound than I

had ever encountered.

Gradually they helped me realize—without trying to instruct me—that these “special” children are special in ways I hadn’t dreamed of. I learned that kids such as Christine and her boyfriend Josh and her friend Gretchen (who told me as soon as I met her that she wanted to speak at Christine’s funeral—and did) are blessed with rare and beautiful gifts. I learned that they have the ability to love without hating, that they can experience good without knowing evil, that they can find joy in the simplest amusements.

This, their world, is pure grace. That Good Friday, Noelene and I spent much of the day with Blair and Brenda. When I went to bed, my head was full of Christine and Brenda and Blair. After keeping Noelene awake for a couple of hours, I moved to the guest room and tossed around some more, but I still couldn’t drop off. I went downstairs, put on a CD, threw a blanket over my shoulders, and stretched out on the family room sofa.

But this night even Mozart didn’t work for me. Sometime in the wee hours I gave up trying, dressed, and went walking. The night was clear and still, the air heavy with the scent of spring blossoms. I was scheduled to preach in but a few hours, but my thoughts were on what I would say Monday morning when we would bid a last farewell to Christine.

As I walked on and on, a phrase floated through my brain, snagged on something and lodged. The words kept coming back, stronger, louder: “Green was her color.” Gradually other ideas attached themselves, and I knew what Monday’s message would be.

I walked until the words had all come together. Then I went home, put on Mozart’s Piano Sonata No. 15, stretched out on the sofa, and fell asleep.

A couple of hours later I was up and writing.

Green Was Her Color

Green was her color.

Size and shape, fit and cloth didn’t matter if the

color was right. Christine would be at the Community Services center with Brenda and would haul out a load of outfits. Dresses, jackets, blouses, pairs of shoes—they’d all be green.

“Look at these dresses,” Brenda would say. “They’re size 10. You need to look for 18s!”

Christine would go back for more, but they were just like the others—the wrong size, they wouldn’t fit. Only one thing mattered—they were all green.

Green was her color.

She was born in May when spring was in the full, when the trees wore silken jackets of green, when grass covered the fields and earth throbbed with life and vitality.

She fell asleep on the first day of April. Winter hung on late this year, but she lived to see the snow melt away, the first buds shoot out, and the greening of the land.

Green was her color.

Christine was a spring child. She was a child of eternal sweetness and love who could go up to perfect strangers, give them a big hug, and say, “I love you.” Who could resist this spring child?

She knew love; she never learned evil.

She knew the affection and protection of parents. She knew the warmth of friends such as Gretchen and Josh. She knew the joy of her dog, Freckles. She knew the taste of food, especially nachos. She knew fun. She knew contentment, happy to play with her Lego building set for hours. She knew love. She knew the love of Jesus.

She never learned evil. She was shielded from the crookedness and ugliness, the deceit and cruelty that most of us know—lying so close at hand and sucking us into their orbit.

So who can say who was disabled? Was it the spring child or was it we who think we are whole? The spring child left behind a legacy of pure sweetness and unconditional love, a legacy of good.

No doubt some people looked at Christine and asked themselves how this girl was gifted. But we here today who have looked through the open gates of heaven, know that gifted she was—gifted with

a rare and precious ability that any church would desire to find among its members.

Green was her color.

Jesus told many parables about the spring. Here is one:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads [when the color green appeared], then the weeds also appeared.

“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

“‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.”

(Matthew 13:24-28, NIV)

Life is marvelous, and life is monstrous. Blair and Brenda, you must have racked your brains asking, “Why? Why, God? We’ve been there, done that! We went through this three and a half years ago. How could God put us through it again?”

An enemy has done this. God isn’t the author of this tragedy; neither are you the cause. Nothing you did or failed to do has been a factor in the loss of your beloved daughter.

An enemy has done this.

Although God isn’t the author of evil, He can turn even evil to a good purpose. The passing of His saints, such as Christine, causes the rest of us who live on to reflect on who we are and what sort of legacy we will leave when our name is called. And thus, even through her leaving us, Christine continues to bring the greening.

Green was her color.

Her favorite song was “Jesus Loves Me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

She knew love. She knew that Jesus loved her. All that matters in religion comes down to that. All that matters in life comes down to that.

Jesus, too, was a spring child. In the spring of the year, when the Passover moon was at the full and

the Holy Land was covered in green, He went to the cross.

“There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.”

(Cecil Francis Alexander)

By His dying He gave life to all. With His stripes we all—Christine included—are healed.

Green was her color.

Because He lives, we too shall live. “I am the Living One,” He says. “I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades” (Revelation 1:18, NIV). “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11:25, NIV).

The greening is coming. It is coming as surely as spring came at last this year.

The greening—when the desert shall bloom like the rose and the earth give up the dead. When God will dwell with His people and wipe away every tear. When we shall be free from heartache and loss and suffering. When Christine will be with us forever.

No dark valleys then. No death valleys. There will be a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth will have passed away.

Christine will be so happy in that day.

Green was her color.





Master Plan

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.

God never intended for Adam and Eve to be the sole human inhabitants on earth. There were to be more people, a *lot* more. It was part of the Creator's Master Plan.

We have no idea what the before-sin “be fruitful and multiply” command entailed. We just know that Adam and Eve were invited to be co-creators on this earth, filling it with people as knowledgeable and deeply spiritual as they. How that would be accomplished is never defined. But the end result would be a human society based on God's ideals and standards.

We can catch glimpses of those concepts based on what the Creator said to Adam and Eve right after He told them to “fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28). It's important for us to remember that the words used by Moses when he wrote Genesis reflect generations of humanity living outside of God's Master Plan. Only when we imagine life in a sinless environment can we begin to understand what the Creator was really saying. It's also important to consider what God *didn't* say as He laid out His roadmap for society.

Nowhere did God tell Adam and Eve to divide the world up into sections and confine individuals to those sections based on any type of criteria.

The words *subdue* or *rule over* had to do with the governorship and care of earth's natural resources and animals, not a rigid domination over other creatures—including fellow human beings. Human societies based on God's Master Plan all had the same goals. Everyone was to be a co-creator and co-caretaker of creation.



Food for thought

The Creator's design for humanity included the opportunity for all to grow and harvest food. "Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food'" (Genesis 1:29, NIV). Again, equality was the rule. No one was left out.

Next comes a statement that may surprise many. "And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food" (verse 30). Seems even the animals were included in God's equality equation. The thought of humans sacrificing animals for food was not part of the plan. That tragedy came later, after sin.

So, here we have Adam and Eve being instructed to care for the earth and every living creature on it, enjoy plants as food, live their lives based on free-will choices, and create many, many more individuals just like themselves to do the same. In God's Master Plan, human societies would enjoy individual equality, fairness for all (including animals), respect for each other, and the freedom to accept or reject those standards set forth by the Creator.

A higher standard

When we look at our world today, we see a far different plan in action. But God calls us to a higher standard—a shining ideal that is as foreign to society now as sin was to Eden then.

The good news is that we don't have to wait for heaven to bring about the changes needed to realign our world with God's original Master Plan. We can start treating people as brothers and sisters now, support their human rights now, accept their differences now, and demand that they be given the same opportunities and choices we enjoy now.

How? By following another charge the Creator God delivered much later when He said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12, NIV).





The New Kid

By Charles Mills

"If you were a new kid in school, and you didn't know anyone, and you felt like a stranger, and maybe you had a hard time understanding what the teacher was saying because you didn't speak the language all that well, how would you feel?"

"Anything exciting happen at school today?" Mom asked as Jerry lowered himself into his favorite chair.
"Well, sort of," the boy replied. "A new kid sat next to me in science class."

"New kid?"

"Yup. Some guy from a country far away. Syria or India or Africa or somewhere."

Mom smiled. "Oh. That's nice. What did he say to you?"

"Nothing."

"What did you say to him?"

"Nothing."

The woman frowned. "You guys didn't talk to each other?"

Jerry shook his head. "Why should I? I don't even know him. And, he doesn't know me. Besides, we've got nothing to talk about."

"I can think of one thing," Mom pressed.

"What?"

"Science! You were both in science class!"

"Well, yes. But I don't think I'm going to hang out with him anyway. He looks strange."

"Strange? What do you mean?"

"I don't know. Maybe not *strange*. Maybe just *different*. His hair, his skin, his eyes. Even the way he talks. You know, different."

The woman settled herself on the footstool beside Jerry's chair.

"Let me ask you a question."

"OK."



"If you were a new kid in school, and you didn't know anyone, and you felt like a stranger, and maybe you had a hard time understanding what the teacher was saying because you didn't speak the language all that well, how would you feel?"

Jerry thought for a long moment. "I guess...I'd feel kinda embarrassed? Kinda lost?"

"And what would you want someone to do—someone such as the student sitting beside you?"

"Well, maybe he could say something like, 'Hey. How are you?'"

Mom smiled. "That sounds like a good plan."

The boy gasped. "Wait a minute. I know what you're doing, Mother dear. You're making me pretend I'm the new kid so I can figure out what I should do and say if I sit beside a new kid in science class, right?"

Mom nodded. "Or in church, or at the store, or on the bus, or at the ball game. There are a lot of 'new kids' in this world and, you're right, they probably feel embarrassed and lost just like you'd feel. When someone says 'Hello' or 'How are you today?' they don't feel so alone."

"And now you're going to tell me that *Jesus* wants us to talk to new kids, too, right?"

"Yes, *Jesus* did say something about how we

should treat the new kids in our life. We read the verse just last week during morning worship. Remember?"

Jerry frowned again, then brightened. "Wait. I remember. Something about *doing* to others what we want them to *do* to us?"

Mom smiled. "You *were* listening when dad read that verse! Good for you! It said, 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you' Matthew 7:12. That's a very important verse. If we want to be treated fairly, with respect, and be allowed to be who we are, we have to allow others the same privilege." The woman leaned forward. "Can you imagine what this world would be like if everyone...I mean *everyone*...did what *Jesus* said? What would happen?"

Jerry grinned. "I know one thing for sure," he stated. "There'd be a whole lot fewer strangers and a whole lot more friends."

"So," Mom pressed, "what are you going to do the next time you sit by the new kid?"

The boy lifted his chin slightly. "I'm going to say, 'Hey. How are you? Do you know what a supernova is?'"

Mom nodded. "That sounds like a good plan," she said proudly.

FOR THE RECORD:

Documentarian Martin Doblmeier Makes Religion Relevant

By Stephen Chavez

The last 14 months of pandemic-induced self-isolation have driven us into our kitchens to bake bread and try out new recipes; to our bookshelves to read (or reread) forgotten books or new releases; and to streaming services to binge-watch movies and television programs.

Those who haven't yet discovered the treasures offered by Journey Films (JourneyFilms.com) are missing out on a trove that ministers to both emotional and spiritual healthfulness.

Martin Doblmeier, award-winning documentarian and founder of Journey Films, has done for religious documentaries what Ken Burns has done for historical subjects. Over the last 45 years, Doblmeier's skills as an interviewer, writer, film editor, and documentarian have established him as one of the premier voices for faith and spirituality in North America. His films routinely bridge the gap between religious and secular broadcasting and have been viewed on all the major North American television networks as well as on Public Broadcasting.

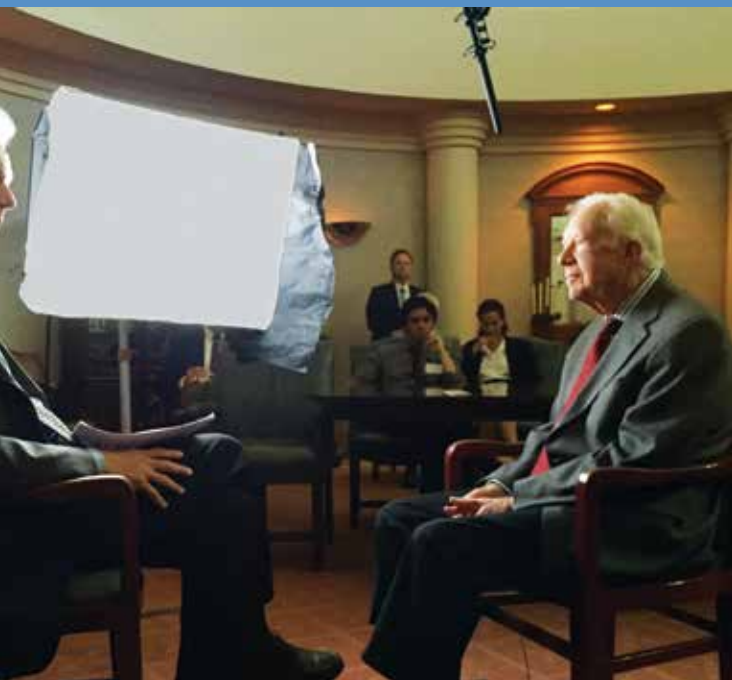
Just this year, his film *Spiritual Audacity: The Story*



Abraham Joshua Heschel (right), the subject of one of Doblmeier's latest films, walks alongside Martin Luther King Jr. at the Selma march in 1965.



“The job of a filmmaker—at least in my space—is to explore, not preach.... In spiritual matters, you try to get people to be as curious as possible.”



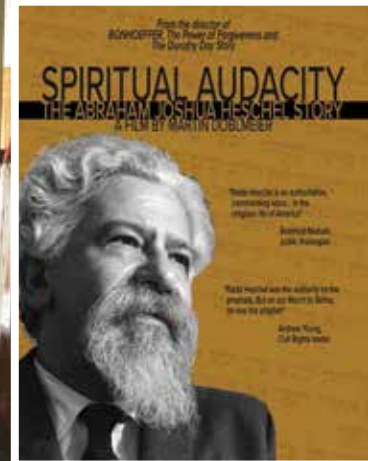
TOP LEFT: Martin Doblmeier interviews former President Jimmy Carter. **ABOVE:** Doblmeier and cameraman Natan DeWild film for the Adventist Church in the Amazon.

of Abraham Joshua Heschel won the Religious Communicators' Council Wilbur Award for videos and film longer than 30 minutes. Heschel is well-known to Adventist pastors of a certain age for whom his book *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man* (1951) was required reading in their university or seminary settings.

"The job of a filmmaker—at least in my space," said Doblmeier in a 2006 interview,¹ "is to explore, not preach.... In spiritual matters, you try to get people to be as curious as possible." He does that by profiling public figures, who, over the course of their careers, had to grapple with complex and complicated issues of justice, mercy, compassion,

and righteousness.

Heschel, for example, dealt firsthand with evil and suffering when his mother was murdered by Nazis during World War II. Two of his sisters died in Nazi concentration camps. Heschel's understanding of social justice as mandated by the Bible's Old Testament prophets was appropriated by leaders of the civil rights movement of the 1960s in the United States. In 1965, he participated in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, with Martin Luther King Jr. and future U.S. representative John Lewis. Heschel famously remarked: "When I marched in Selma, I felt my legs were praying."



Doblmeier interviews Susannah Heschel for one of his most recent films.

A historical record

Doblmeier's first exposure to a national audience came in 2003, with the release of his feature-length documentary *Bonhoeffer*, a profile of the German theologian and activist Dietrich Bonhoeffer. At a screening of the film in Loma Linda, Doblmeier fielded questions from the audience and was introduced to Seventh-day Adventists, particularly their emphasis on the relationship of health and spirituality.

Over the next 10 years, he released three films that highlighted the health and education ministries of the Adventist Church: *The Adventists* (2006), *The Adventists 2* (2010), and *The Blueprint: The Story of Adventist Education* (2013). His documentary *Chaplains* (2016) featured a segment about Barry Black, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and chaplain of the United States Senate.

Impressed by the Adventist emphasis on the relationship between health and spirituality, Doblmeier said about *The Adventists*: "What I wanted to say was 'At the foundation of...the behavior of Seventh-day Adventists in terms of health is this central notion that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.'... That, for me, was the central thing."²

Perhaps Doblmeier's greatest contribution to the

dialogue about religion's role in society is illustrated in the diversity of his films' subjects. His film *The Heart Has Its Reasons* (1984), for which he received his first Gabriel Award, profiled Jean Vanier and his L'Arche communities for people with intellectual disabilities. *The Power of Forgiveness* (2007) examined the common themes embraced by Christian, Jewish, and Buddhist concepts of forgiveness. It was released just months after five children were killed in the Amish community of Nickel Mines in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, after which the Amish community memorably forgave the perpetrator's family.

"What has changed over the years since I started this work is what might be called the 'religious literacy' of the average television viewer," said Doblmeier. "Words like *redemption*, *salvation*, and *grace* may mean different things to different people—or mean nothing at all."

Body of work

In recent years, Doblmeier's Journey Films has released biographical profiles of individuals whose influence was not limited to religious settings. "I find myself captivated by the way someone is moved by their understanding and relationship with God," he said.

An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story (2017) is a profile of one called by *Time* magazine “the greatest Protestant theologian in America since Jonathan Edwards.” Arthur Schlesinger Jr. called Niebuhr “the most influential American theologian of the twentieth century.” Doblmeier’s treatment of Niebuhr features interviews with former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, political commentator David Brooks, civil rights leader Andrew Young, and others. The effect is to reinforce the reality that Christians and Christianity are an integral part of society, and that their influence is not limited to weekly sermons or articles published in religious periodicals.

“Many people have been scarred by a negative encounter with a ‘religious’ person or experience,” Doblmeier observed. “I am still confident [that] if the story itself is compelling and of human interest, it will somehow cut through whatever blockage people’s individual histories present.”

In *Revolution of the Heart* (2020), Doblmeier profiles Christian activist Dorothy Day, who notably quipped, “Don’t call me a saint; I don’t want to be dismissed that easily.” Doblmeier traces her embrace of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and how her radical interpretations of Christ’s words earned the ire of both the Catholic Archdiocese of New York and J. Edgar Hoover’s Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“I see it not only as a privilege to share the story with others but an invitation to reflect on the ideas and themes within that story in light of my own spiritual life,” Doblmeier said. “I want every film... to help me see God revealed a little more clearly, to understand my relationship with others more deeply, and to commit myself anew to whatever transformation is needed. Spiritual growth...

is about the hard work of honest, ongoing self-transformation.”

The view in the rearview mirror

As he reflects on the societal changes he has observed in his 45 years of filmmaking, Doblmeier admits that not all changes are positive. Yet he remains optimistic. He said in a 2013 interview: “We’re growing more and more impersonal; we’re less civil.... The role for churches in the twenty-first century is to restore the notion that human beings are made in the image of God.”³

In the late 1970s Martin Doblmeier was profiling the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic order of religious women who live and work in the Bronx, New York City. Not long after Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize, he received a phone call from the order: “Mother Teresa’s going to be here in a week. We’re going to let you be the only one to interview her.”

During the two days he spent with Mother Teresa, she spoke to him words that are seared into his memory: “God does not call us to do great things; but little things with love.”

Now, 35 films later, he says, “If anything, the years have made me more grateful for the chance to make these films and tell these stories.... As long as God gives me the opportunity, and people are willing to trust me with their stories, I will continue to make films the best way I can.”

Stephen Chavez is retired after a career as a pastor and writer/editor.

¹Ken Adelman, “Journey Films: Interview With Martin Doblmeier on Film and Religion, ‘Bonhoeffer,’” *Washingtonian*, Oct. 2006.

²Stephen Chavez, “Martin Doblmeier: Filmmaker,” *Adventist Review*, Aug. 22, 2013.

³Chavez, “Martin Doblmeier: Filmmaker.”

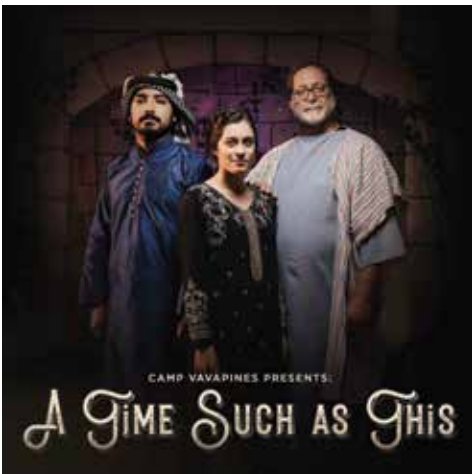
“I want every film...to help me see God revealed a little more clearly, to understand my relationship with others more deeply, and to commit myself anew to whatever transformation is needed.”



A Time Such as This

Last year, the staff of Camp Yavapines had been expecting over 800 campers to fill their cabins and their hearts, but when the COVID-19 virus became a pandemic and turned the world upside down, they had to get creative with the way they ministered to their campers. The way in which they had been sharing the gospel for the past 72 summers had to change. Little did they know how big God wanted to go with their evangelistic program last summer.

Switching gears from taking care of campers at camp while sharing the message of Jesus' love for them was a challenge. How do you run a summer camp without the campers driving the go-karts, flying down the zip line, making a splash in the pool, and singing praises to God each day?



As the creative minds of the leadership team planned together, they knew that the biggest impact on the campers is the evening campfire program. The team asked if that could happen without the campers actually being present at camp, and the unanimous answer was, "Yes we can, but it will be different."

As the 24 passionate and creative summer camp staff gathered together, the can-do attitude was contagious. Soon, a multitude of ideas were being thrown around, and the best of the best were winnowed out. Considering logistics, equipment, and finances, a plan came together, and the beautiful biblical story of Queen Esther unfolded.

The COVID-19 conditions in which many of the campers had been living had similarities to Esther's story—she was also thrown into a situation that she was not exactly planning on or excited about. The team kept seeing how God was glorified in the story, and they knew God could be glorified in a summer camp dedicated to Him, even without campers.

Cody Blake, the program director, was given the task of retelling the story of Queen Esther by writing the script, rehearsing with the summer camp staff, and designing the costumes and set. The story had four episodes and was aired on four consecutive Friday nights, beginning July 17, 2020. Princess Demiar and Patty Majano

helped the actors get ready with their wardrobe, hair, and makeup. Jo Amaya, the videographer, set the stage, lights, and camera in the best way to capture the story; then she filmed, edited, and added music to the story. Kerysa Ford, associate summer camp director and social media manager, placed "A Time Such as This" on YouTube and connected it to the social media accounts. The staff then watched God do big things. Never did they expect the first episode alone to reach over 3,600 people!

We continue to hear stories from people all over who have watched "A Time Such as This." We believe the Holy Spirit has taken this story far and wide and is continuing to use it to draw His children to Him. We received several comments on our social media pages throughout the weeks, saying things like, "I can't wait for the next episode to air!" "This was SO well put-together, and I wish there were more episodes!" and "Thank you so much for doing these! We looked forward to it every week!" One staff member, Marry Drozdov, who played one of the supporting characters, was even recognized at a Panera Bread in Indiana as having been a part of "A Time Such as This."

Besides preparing the story of Queen Esther in the afternoons, the staff were hard at work in the mornings trimming trails, cutting down scrub oak from the center



of camp, painting cabins, painting bunk beds, rebuilding raised flower beds, tearing down the unsafe stage at wagon camp, building a safety line and benches at the archery range, weeding flower beds, and cleaning cabins and bathrooms for the families who were camping during the month of July. One of the newest staff members, Marcos Burgos, said, "At camp, we got to clean up the camp and participate in a play that a lot of kids watched and enjoyed. It felt great to know that I was doing something to serve the kids and to serve God."

Both morning and evening worships were held, but the evening worships were special. Time was spent each evening opening up Scripture and reading a chapter or two, followed by discussion questions, sharing, and applying what was learned. The discussions would often last over an hour.

Staff member Savannah Courtad said, "Camp this year was definitely a unique experience. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I'm very glad I was able to work there. It was an honor to be a part of the team and to work hard and to grow spiritually together."

It was exciting to see how God took a summer camp without campers and was able to not only touch the campers' lives but change the staff's lives as well. Long-time staff member and former camper Erla Trevedan said, "It was a different experience being part of the

special projects that we did, instead of being with campers. However, because it was a smaller group of people, I really felt like I got close to everyone. Overall, it was one of the best summers yet!"

We were immensely blessed last summer with what God did in different and difficult times, and we look forward to His continued leading and having campers join us in person for summer 2021.

*By Wendy Eberhardt
and Kerysa Ford*



A man in a brown t-shirt and dark pants is jumping joyfully in the air with his arms outstretched. The background shows a vast landscape of rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky.

SACRIFICE OF PRAISE

Giving Ourselves Wholly to God

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6, KJV).

ABOVE: Pastor Daniel Gouveia, the senior pastor at Fresno Central Church, enthusiastically illustrates John Wesley's famous quote, "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

For over a year, we have been mired in a pandemic as well as an economic meltdown, and we have been facing challenging issues of racial disparity and fairness. While these issues have dominated much of our attention and emotions, we can also look back and see how God has led us. Even though we would like to somehow magically erase these ordeals, we have not only learned a great deal but also gained much during this year.

The pandemic won't end suddenly, with bells tolling or a ticker-tape parade; instead, life will proceed cautiously back to the familiar. Although things will not be exactly as before, it will be important to remember the "sacrifice of praise" (Hebrews 13:15) that has been so abundantly shown by God's people. There have been innumerable churches, schools, individuals, and conference ministries and events that have sacrificed and served their communities. The stories of some have been told, but others may not be recognized until Jesus says, "My good and faithful servant." To all, we say thank you for what God has done through you to bless others.



As seen from a chair lift above the accident, Ben Ronneberg, the black dot to the left, is rushing to help Justin Calbert, completely buried with only his snowboard showing.

Miracle on Dodge Ridge

A man is alive today because of the actions of 16-year-old Ben Ronneberg, who was described as “heroic” by the local newspaper, *The Union Democrat*. A member of the Adventist church in Sonora and an eighth-grade graduate and former student of Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy, Ronneberg had quite the miraculous experience on Thursday, January 28.



Ben Ronneberg

Justin Calbert, a former college snowboarding champion, had frequently taken the precipitous 20- to 30-foot jump called The Face Rock at the Dodge Ridge Ski Area. On this day, he instead went headfirst into an eight-foot powder bluff below. Fortunately for him, Ronneberg was about 100 yards away and raced to traverse the hill diagonally,

with powder up to his neck. Quickly digging, he found Calbert’s head and discovered that he wasn’t breathing and had no pulse. Ronneberg began CPR—something he learned when he was in Pathfinders—and was later assisted with the effort by a Modesto firefighter. The rescue effort to get him out was difficult, but Calbert, once clinically dead, was able to come home days later from a Modesto hospital. There are plans for all those involved in the rescue effort to meet sometime in the future. For now, Ronneberg said, “I’m definitely grateful that God put me where I was at that point in time.”

Fight the Hate ministry

Although the Fight the Hate (FTH) was briefly mentioned in the February issue, so much more can be said about this remarkable ministry. Janet Abbey, the founder and a member of the Mountain View church, was inspired by Ellen White’s statement that youth could be trained to hasten Christ’s coming. (See *Education*, p. 271.) Using Isaiah 58 as their guide, FTH’s purpose is to address social justice and perform actions of love through outreach and service.

There are many facets to this ministry that allow young people to show God’s love. However, one of the most recognizable events is the food distribution outreach. Now affiliating with 32 partners throughout seven Bay Area cities, including eight local Adventist churches and two schools, FTH has distributed 48,000 boxes and bags of food during the pandemic to



LEFT: Fight the Hate volunteers pack bags for their food drive. RIGHT: Fight the Hate volunteers load cars during one of their food drives.



Fresno Spanish church

On Monday evening, March 22, the Fresno Spanish church suffered a devastating fire that caused significant damage, including the destruction of thousands of dollars of food that was to be distributed. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but Pastor Justin Aguilar is grateful that no one was hurt.

Fire damage at the Fresno Spanish Church on March 22.

approximately 192,000 people. These free grocery drive-through events happen each week at one of the partnering Adventist churches.

“Fight the Hate has been an impactful ministry in the Silicon Valley,” explained Mark Howard, pastor of the Sunnyvale church. “Over the years the methods have changed, but the goal of showing Christ’s love in practical ways has remained the same. I appreciate FTH because it seeks to stay relevant.”

This huge food distribution program requires many volunteers. For example, one of the several forklift drivers is Pastor Dennis Tello of the Cambrian Park church. Drivers unload 30 pallets of approximately 1,500 to 1,700 boxes of food, which are then redistributed. Each box can generally feed four people for two to three days. Volunteers, such as the students from Mountain View Academy and Miramonte Christian School, help to load the bags. Even first-graders are involved by counting the oranges for each bag. Other churches and community agencies such as Google help with generous donations and volunteers.

Kimberly Thomas, assistant to the city manager in Mountain View, recently stated, “The city team, who are working on community food access and coordination, are so grateful for the work done by Janet Abbey and her team of volunteers at Fight the Hate Ministry. Their amazing team has ramped up quickly and been committed to reaching as many Mountain View residents as possible with their program during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis.”

Templeton Hills Community Garden

This garden has garnered more news since the article about it in the November *Recorder*. Having opened one month after the pandemic started, the Templeton Hills Community Garden celebrated its one-year anniversary on April 18. This community outreach has now been featured in several local newspapers (*Paso Robles Press*, *Atascadero News*, and *New Times*) and was noted in the *NAD Newspoint* in early March. The Pacific Union also highlighted it in *All God’s People* on March 27. As Pastor Zac Page will tell you, “We are just amazed at what God has brought together. He has opened many doors, and is so merciful and faithful!”

Central California Conference

By signing up to receive notices of events on the various social media applications and/or checking out



LEFT: Templeton Hills Community farm manage Matt Giese harvests some greens.

FAR LEFT: Several media organizations featured stories on the Templeton Hills church’s ministry.

announcements on the CCC website, it is possible to keep up to date on what is happening throughout the conference.

For instance, past events included the CCC Couples Retreat and panel discussions on justice in February. In March, Robert Wilcox, pastor in Porterville, was ordained. Two churches, Sonora and Shafter, celebrate their 100-year anniversaries during April.

Watch for later coverage of the partnership and ministry that Adventist Health provides in our conference. Look up the encouraging GLOW testimonies on the conference website. And last but not least, take note of the exciting announcement on this page, with more information to come later, about the upcoming virtual Soquel Camp Meeting in July. That is certainly something you will not want to miss!

As Ellen White wrote, "When we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 363). As we slowly emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, the churches and members of the CCC are realizing what they have gained from the experience—that God's work continues and even thrives if we are willing to "give ourselves wholly" to Him, no matter the circumstances.

By Deloris Trujillo

Corcoran church

Because the Corcoran church distributed food boxes to the community during December and January, Pastor Joel Valdez reports, "Thanks to the Lord that some families now are interested in Bible studies."



Corcoran church volunteers are ready to distribute food boxes.





Adventurers Experience the Armor of God

ABOVE: It took a team to present the Adventurer program "Armor of God." Military personnel drew comparisons with the tools they use to the lessons God gives us.

Over 160 kids and their families registered to attend "Armor of God," the Hawaii Conference's fifth annual Adventurer Family Retreat. Half of them attended virtually, so Youth Director Erik VanDenburgh hosted the entire event through a special Zoom link, which was recorded.

With masks in place and temperatures checked, families occupied the socially distanced pews of Honolulu Central church for the program. Aiea church Adventurer leader Rachel Perez had transformed the church into a castle, complete with turrets, torches, and a drawbridge on stage.

Adventurers learned the song "Armor of God," freshly penned by Scott Kabel, praise and local ministry leader. After a rousing worship service, family groups rotated through stations VBS-style to learn about the different spiritual equipment. One engaging station was a completely non-touch obstacle course, creatively designed by Jerry, Korie, and Katie Mota; it was even wheelchair accessible. Kids cheered as each one made it across the finish line!

Hawaii is substantially populated with all branches of the military. The ratio of military personnel to the general population is roughly 1 in 22. Adventurer leaders were able to

use the local talent of professional, godly servicemen, who could use their real equipment to explain spiritual armor.

While learning about the Belt of Truth, Staff Sergeant Jonathan Rodriguez of the Hawaii Air National Guard showed kids how a harness used for jumping out of helicopters could be likened to the trustworthy strength of the promises of God. While dressed in full uniform complete with sword, retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant Micheal Miller hosted kids in making a "sword." As our Army representative, Major Ben Clapp invited groups into a fatigued army camo tent; after sharing about the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation, he let kids experience how heavy it was to wear a real bulletproof vest. Chaplain Ed Villalba talked about how dangerous territory—demonstrated by trays of broken glass, coals, and thorns—could be easily navigated by wearing boots of the gospel of peace.

Finally, Tyler Morrison, ministry coordinator for the Hau`ula church, dressed in full Roman soldier costume, shared about the Shield of Faith, which is Jesus Christ. He explained, "I encouraged the kids that it's not necessarily how well they believe, but whether or not they believe He is their shield to protect them against the lies of the enemy." Adventurers were able to hide behind Tyler's giant Roman shield, which completely covered them, while a Nerf gun dart was shot and deflected with musical vibration.

The event culminated in an engaging message

"By using stories of real-world missions and displaying the equipment, we were able to demonstrate how each piece of the armor transforms from something that is memorized at church into something that can actually be used in their personal walk."

from Chaplain Richie Charles, ending with a special dedication prayer, during which parents placed their hands on their children. Young attendees left with a snack bag, activity packet, patch, prize, and their own set of armor—including shield, sword, and make-at-home paracord belt.

"It was refreshing to have an in-person kids' event," shared presenter Tyler Morrison. S.S. Rodriguez said, "By using stories of real-world missions and displaying the equipment, we were able to demonstrate how each piece of the armor transforms from something that is memorized at church into something that can actually be used in their personal walk. I guess that's why Jesus used parables."

Children's Ministry Director Madonna Taueu gave all the credit to God, saying, "Seeing our teamwork and prayers unfold by His grace is always a highlight for me."

By Jana VanDenburgh



TOP LEFT: Speaker and Chaplain Charles Richie, with his family, provided a closing prayer for the families. TOP RIGHT: Kids hear from a Roman soldier with the "Shield of Faith." BOTTOM LEFT: One of the military personnel presents a lesson on "Shoes of the Gospel." BOTTOM RIGHT: Attendees enjoy the maze.



Loren Fish



Laura Sohn

MAPS: Mental Health at Holbrook Indian School

You might have heard of or read about an acronym that we like to use at Holbrook Indian School: MAPS. If you haven't, then allow us to introduce it to you. This program seeks to improve every dimension in our students' lives to help make their futures brighter.

The program has four pillars: **M**ental, **A**cademic/Artistic, **P**hysical, and **S**piritual. Each pillar is a fundamental component of the students' environment and education, with specific and practical applications. This article begins a series where we will focus on each pillar, starting with the "M" (mental health).

Our students often have troubling circumstances in their lives that can limit their ability to learn. Overcoming the mental roadblocks that these experiences and behavioral patterns create can be a big challenge. Part of our solution is to provide our students with individualized counseling services. This is where licensed counselors play a key role in assisting students in expressing their stories and assessing how to change negative behaviors and thought patterns.

Licensed counselors Laura Sohn and Loren Fish, who make up a two-person team of counselors at HIS, will help us review this topic in this month's issue by sharing some of what their work entails.

Laura Sohn

I'm entering my second semester here at Holbrook Indian School (HIS), and my role here is the female clinical counselor. I meet with students one-on-one in the office from Monday to Friday. In addition to these one-on-one meetings, I'm also responsible for the girls' groups that meet once a week. We base these groups on grade levels. In total, I have four girls' groups: one for junior high, one for high school, and two for elementary. The purpose of the girls' groups is to give the students an opportunity to hang out, eat some snacks, relax, and talk about whatever is on their minds.

These are not always therapy-type group sessions. Sometimes we just play games. For the older students, I ask them at the beginning of the semester about topics they are interested in talking about, and they all choose something we end up exploring together.

Loren Fish

I'm a licensed clinical social worker and director of the counseling department at HIS. In addition to group meetings with the boys, I work with the students, male



To watch the complete two-part discussion **Mental Health at HIS**, visit the HIS Nation blog at HolbrookIndianSchool.org/hisnation/mental.

and female, doing individual counseling.

In the young men's group, we try to keep our sessions fairly relaxed. I try to check in for each meeting to ask them about their high and low for the week.

I also ask them to share a color to represent where their current emotions are, using a color chart related to a series of emotions. Sometimes a student shares more than one, and I ask if they want to talk about what those different colors mean. Boys tend to not talk as freely or fluently about emotions as girls, but I find it encouraging when these young men express their emotions.

We feel very blessed to be able to have a counseling program at HIS—to be able to address some issues like PTSD, abuse, and generational trauma. With our counseling program, we are able to help students focus on what they're here for, which is to learn and grow.

By Chevon Petgrave, Loren Fish, and Laura Sohn



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

Thank you for your support.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

COVID-19 Shaming and Social Media— A Dangerous Combination

Coming together in support offers healthy outcomes

The act of shaming someone on social media is by no means new, but with the increased time people have spent on social networks over the past year, instances of online bullying and shaming have increased, according to Statista. In many cases, this has been partly due to the anger and aggression some feel towards others' actions during the pandemic.

"It's a challenging situation, and unfortunately, it's brought more attention to stigmas that were already in place," said Serafin Lalas, MD, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Loma Linda University Behavioral Health. "When people feel threatened by something, they often try to break it down or apply stigmas to what scares them," he said. "It can help them feel they have a better understanding of what is happening."

Everyone with access to the internet can broadcast their voice in a way like never before, making the opportunity to affect people a great one. Since the pandemic began, countless stories have surfaced of people posting photos of themselves responding to mandates.

"People who speak out against masking or vaccinations may later post that the virus has infected them, and others online have been quick to shame them or point out their mistakes rather than offer them comfort or support," Lalas said. "We don't always know someone's story behind the firewall, and being quick to judge can cause a lot of pain for people who are already suffering," he said.

Lalas recommends considering how you would treat a person if you saw them face-to-face. "Often, social media provides a false sense of confidence, and we lose the ability to take social cues that may help

us navigate a situation in the most appropriate way," he said.

Social media isn't going away, but Lalas says we have the power to control how we use it. "Instead of passing immediate judgment, or jumping onto a bandwagon, use your social media presence to fight stigma instead of fuel it."

There is still a lot of mystery behind the virus, and it may be a long time until we know everything we need to know. In the meantime, Lalas says to focus on what we do know. "Community makes us stronger, healthier, and happier," he said.

"Even if you feel hurt by someone else's decision, showing others empathy can be good for both parties. Reach out to someone and see how they're doing, even if you don't agree with their decisions. This can bring people together in a healthier way than banding against someone. Do what you can to make the world a little bit less divided."

If you or someone you know is in a life-threatening crisis now, seek help immediately. Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach a 24-hour crisis center or dial 911 for immediate assistance.

By Janelle Ringer



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

Two-Part COVID-19 Screening Forms Effective Stop-Gap at La Sierra

Widespread testing has long been touted by public health officials as one of the best ways to control the COVID-19 pandemic and save lives, but the process can be cost-prohibitive. Toward maintaining the safety of its campus while reining in expenses, La Sierra University in February implemented a two-part testing process that replaces a contracted service and utilizes a less invasive method that was developed by one of its biologists and his research colleagues.

Following a five-month pilot, a weekly saliva-based screening for COVID-19 was initiated Feb. 16 for the limited number of students and employees who are allowed to study or work on campus during its closure due to the pandemic.

It is used in concert with a new, “gold standard” rapid point-of-care PCR Cepheid GeneExpert Express molecular testing system purchased last fall to verify positive results from the saliva-based model. The two-part system stands to save the university tens of thousands of dollars monthly while producing quick results and maintaining the safety of the campus community.

Since February, more than 2,500 saliva specimens have been collected during weekly COVID testing clinics in the Alumni Pavilion. Saliva samples are collected in small vials, replacing the nasal swab specimen-gathering method used at many public testing sites. The saliva samples are then processed in a lab in La Sierra’s Price Science Complex; a change in the solution from a bright pink to a

clear yellow signals a positive test. The few tests flagged by this process indicating possible positivity for COVID activated immediate isolation procedures while results were verified or nullified by the rapid PCR system. A website case tracker reports any active Covid cases weekly with one active case listed as of April 13.

The saliva test in use at La Sierra was developed by associate professor and virologist Arturo Diaz and his colleagues at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He then modified the protocol in his lab for use on La Sierra’s campus.

“Our current procedure is that individuals who test positive by the saliva test are immediately contacted and required to obtain a PCR test through La Sierra’s Student Wellness center and self-isolate until the results of that test are known,” Diaz said. “We can run about 20 saliva tests for the cost of what the university was being charged for one [contracted] PCR test.” The saliva-based tests, which take about two hours, cost about \$6 apiece, with the university covering the expense for students and employees.

By Darla Martin Tucker



PHOTO: NATAN VIGNA

La Sierra University student and dorm resident assistant Benae Anderson participates in a saliva testing clinic on April 12.



Children burn off some energy with a game of dodge ball.

STEAM-ing Through Spring Break at Summit Christian Academy

Summit Christian Academy (SCA) in Salt Lake City, Utah, offers transitional kindergarten (TK) through eighth-grade to nearly 60 students. As part of a strategic effort, SCA's school board has been exploring ways to expand learning opportunities outside of the classroom that continue the school's emphasis

on science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) and reduce the potential for learning loss during breaks. The result has been the development of a new Extended Learning Program, which launched during this year's spring break.

Fourteen students attended the one-week Spring Break STEAM Program held onsite in the school's gymnasium. Each day focused on one of the five elements of STEAM. Children also learned about the power of prayer and strengthened friendships outside of their usual classroom or cohort groups—unique to this year because of COVID-19 protocols at the school. Custom curriculum was developed for the program, considering attending age groups and the school's facilities.

Engaging, hands-on activities—DIY nano bugs, popsicle catapults, simple robots, 3D animal puzzles, popsicle flashlights, and more—provided engaging learning opportunities while encouraging problem-solving and teamwork.

Children also grew their critical- and creative-thinking skills through playful activities, such as obstacle course construction. For this activity, children were broken into two groups and instructed



Gia Lal shows off her marble maze made with drinking straws and recyclables.

to draw out a feature for an obstacle course, noting what would be needed to build the feature and how a person would move through it. Children then met with their group to pitch the idea and determine the best three to five features for their group's part of the obstacle course before building and running the course.

Inventor Lab, a favorite of the children, provided the opportunity to explore the power of their own imagination and creativity. Using an assortment of recyclables, craft supplies, and household items, children were given the space to be an inventor. "It was great to see the children build their own unique designs. They thought through how they wanted something to look, move, and function. We were able to empower them to be creative without the limits of a set outcome, and they flourished," said Katie Schleenbaker, spring program curriculum developer, instructor, school board member, and volunteer.

Feedback from this new program has been exceptionally positive. Attending children and parents found the Spring Break Program to be a big success. "Our son had an amazing time at SCA's Spring Break Program," shared parent Nicole Lawrence. "He learned about science and art, having fun the whole time! His favorite activity was Inventor Lab, where he got to



Noah Veen (left) and Jakob Schlehuber (right) test the launching capability of their popsicle catapults.

bring his own creations to life. We will definitely be signing up for the upcoming summer break program."

"God has led us to think bigger as we refresh our strategic plan for the school," noted Hillary Schlehuber, parent and school board chair. "The

new Extended Learning Program has been the result of much prayer and passion to see our school grow the services we offer families and our community. The positive impacts of a program like this to our school, students, families, and community have the potential to multiply exponentially. We have also already seen relationships with supporters, donors, and volunteers strengthen as we worked together to kick off the program this year."

SCA's school board is currently developing additional elements of the new Extended Learning Program, including a summer program that will offer themed learning opportunities for children. If you are interested in engaging with or supporting this program, please contact the school's front office at office@scautah.us.

By Hillary Schlehuber



ABOVE: Magnolia Schleenbaker poses with her 3D dolphin puzzle while group leader Mariella Rowe looks on.

MIDDLE: Children search the variety of recyclables for inspiration during Inventor Lab.

RIGHT: Vegetable spread tub lion and other Inventor Lab creations.





NCC Members Engage Their Calling to Ministry

Throughout the Northern California Conference (NCC), people continue to engage their calling to ministry in a wide variety of ways.

Jeanice Warden-Washington

Jeanice Warden-Washington jokingly tells her friends: "Call me Daniela." Like Daniel in the Bible, she witnesses for God while working in the seat of government.

After beginning as a paid government intern right out of college, Warden-Washington has risen to become chief consultant for the California State Legislature, California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education.



"God really orchestrated all of the steps," she said. "I know without a shadow of a doubt I am where He called me to be."

Through the years, she has discovered that people closely observe her actions. "There have been several situations when people came to me for prayer when we had never even had conversations about faith," she said. "But they knew I was a Christian."

One day, she was approached by a security screener. "I've been meaning to ask you this," he said. "Are you a Christian?" After hearing her response, he replied: "I knew it! There was something about your spirit!"

As she has formed relationships, people have asked about her healthy lifestyle and her faith. One curious staff member spent lunch breaks studying the Bible

with her, and he was baptized.

She encourages others not to be afraid of working in the government. "God will prepare you for what He's calling you to do," she said. "Even if it's outside of our comfort zone, we need to trust Him."

Elia Thomas

God has called Elia Thomas to challenge negative ways of thinking.

Thomas, who holds a Master of Social Work, currently serves as a clinician providing mental health services to children and families. "I could not do my work without the guidance of the Holy Spirit," she said. "As clients are processing trauma, I'm praying. I've seen amazing miracles."

Outside of work, she helps others recognize harmful thought patterns and exchange them for helpful ones. She remembers a friend who was struggling with fear. "God helped her to replace negative beliefs with His Word. I felt the power of the Holy Spirit as she was replacing the beliefs the enemy had placed in her life," said Thomas, whose husband pastors the Concord International/San Ramon Valley district.

Thomas's own life was by impacted after God led her to reconsider her preconceived ideas. Years after she had given up on the idea of higher education, a friend encouraged her to enroll at Pacific Union College. Thomas thought it was impossible, but then she experienced a revelation.

"When I thought I was too old, God reminded me of Moses," she



said. "When I struggled with the idea of studying in a language that was not my first, God reminded me of Daniel and his friends. When I felt like I couldn't make it, He reminded me of Paul, who wrote: 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.'"

Dan Oliver

Dan Oliver turned his love of painting into a ministry.

As Oliver was growing up, his artist father taught him to paint. "I took to watercolor, but once I got into medical school, I quit," said Oliver, a retired physician.

He always promised himself that he would return to his art. A few years ago, he approached fellow St. Helena church member and artist David Miller, and they discussed getting people together to paint. "I thought this might be an interesting small group ministry," said Oliver.

This was the beginning of Watercolor & Worship—a group that met weekly for worship, prayer, and painting. They were joined by church member and artist Sherrie Wimberley as well as others from the church and wider community.

The group stopped meeting for a time, but it took a new form last November. Concerned about people isolated by the pandemic, Wimberley suggested that art could help. The members began Card Connexion, a ministry of creativity and encouragement. They now meet one evening a week via Zoom to paint greeting cards and write messages inside. "I usually do tutorials for art on the cards that anybody can do," said Oliver.

Since then, Card Connexion has mailed more than 400 hand-painted cards of encouragement. "The Holy Spirit gives gifts, as Paul says, for the edification of the body of Christ," said Oliver. "What more beautiful way to use these skills than to facilitate communication and connection!"



Steve Holm

Years ago, when Steve Holm first joined the Adventist church, his father-in-law gave him some advice: "Stay in service." Holm has followed that counsel ever since.

A decade ago, he worked with others to establish the Auburn Renewal Center (ARC), a free medical clinic that is an independent ministry of the Auburn church. He now serves as its director.

Currently in its ninth year, the clinic has provided services to more than 20,000 patients, helping them with their medical, dental, vision, chiropractic, and mental health needs. "Our client base consists of those who are non-insured, under-insured, unsheltered, undocumented, or who simply find there is more month than paycheck," said Holm.

From basic beginnings—six old donated modular buildings—the clinic has expanded to its current space of 3,500 square feet. Through the years, Holm has established relationships with the city, the county, and other area ministries. "God is in charge of this, and He has been since the very first day," he said.

Holm is grateful for the many donations that have outfitted the clinic. "Every single piece of equipment has a story attached to it that is inspiring," he said.

Currently, about 40 volunteers from the church and the wider faith community work at the clinic, which is open two days a week. "The ARC is not an Auburn church ministry alone," said Holm. "It has become a community ministry supported by a vast variety of like-minded lovers of Christ." (Find out more at www.auburnclinic.org.)

By Julie Lorenz

The Northern Lights Shine in the NCC

Northern Lights, the weekly online news source for the Northern California Conference (NCC) tells the stories of how churches, schools, and ministries are connecting people to abundant life in Jesus Christ and preparing them for His second coming.

Below are some articles that have been included in previous issues.

April 22 - NCC Principals Are Excited about the New Beginners Educational Fund

During the month of March, donors gave \$77,000 to the New Beginners Educational Fund! Combined with funds from the Pacific Union Conference, the money will enable all new kindergartners in NCC schools to receive one month of free tuition next school year.

NCC principals are excited and grateful for the opportunity to offer this benefit to families who are considering Adventist Education for their preschool children. "I can't thank the union and the conference enough for putting money into something that is so important—the ministry of education," said Lisa Bissell Paulson, principal of Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy. "Adventist Education is evangelism."

"I think it's a tremendous blessing, especially for those families who are considering an Adventist school for the first time and who are not used to the added expense of tuition," said Joe Fralick, Pine Hills Adventist

Academy principal. "We anticipate that we will have a full kindergarten class because of these funds."

"Because of this financial resource, an exponential number of kindergarten children will have the opportunity to fall in love with Jesus and get to know Him better and love Him more each day," said Robert Robinson, Bayside SDA Christian School teaching principal. "This financial gift will help fund the longest evangelistic crusade in history—180 school days of sharing the good news about God's love for us and how we live out our lives based upon His great love."

April 15 - NCC Disaster Response Team Members Are Eager to Serve

In response to the Northern California fires of recent years, the NCC administrative team established the Disaster Response Team (DRT) last fall, and they are working together to make plans for the future. Team members include

- Selena Diaz, Angwin Fire Department lieutenant (pictured) - She has a master's degree in emergency management. Since 2013, she has been a first responder in every fire that has impacted Napa County. She is a wildfire survivor, and she helped in the development of the Angwin Community Disaster Response Plan.
- Jeff Joiner, associate professor of nursing and director of the emergency services program at Pacific Union College - As a nurse, he specializes in critical care and trauma, as well as wilderness emergency management. Since 2001, he has been active in



PHOTO: LAURIE TRUJILLO



PHOTO: MIKA HORINOUCHI

emergency management and disaster response at the local, state, national, and international levels.

- Maureen Wisener, marketing account manager, Adventist Health, Northern California Region - As a communication and marketing expert, as well as a wildfire survivor, she brings an enormous amount of experience and resources to help create a well-executed response to disaster.
- Rhonda Bandy, member of the NCC's Inter-church Recovery Committee (IRC) - She formerly served as the interim NCC disaster response coordinator for the Camp Fire, and she has been coordinating with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) for many years. Her knowledge and experience with county, state, and federal entities will be invaluable.

Others on the team include NCC employees Josie Asencio, pastor of The Haven church; James Lim, director of community services; Jeffery Maxwell, director of risk management; and Laurie Trujillo, director of communication and development.

March 18 - Capitol City Church Hosts Baby Shower for 100 Families

Last month, the Sacramento Capitol City church partnered with the Meadowview Birth & Beyond Family Resource Center to host a drive-through baby shower for 100 community families. Some church members purchased baby clothes, shoes, books, and learning



PHOTO: CAROL HERBERT

toys, while others donated money to buy presents. The center's staff brought diapers, baby wipes, and other gifts.

The congregation was excited to support new mothers in the community. "The church is supposed to be the light in the city," said Carol Herbert, the church's mission council leader. "We should find all the ways we can to reach people."



PHOTO: ERIC WILLIAMS

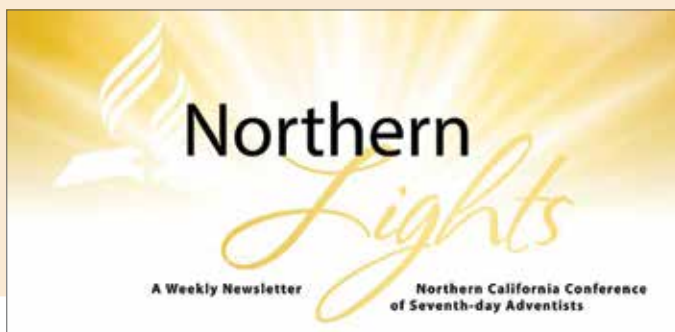
Jan. 21 - Ukiah Church Partners with Adventist Health

On Monday, 515 community members received COVID vaccinations at the Ukiah church in a joint effort between Adventist Health Ukiah Valley and Mendocino Community Health Clinic. Providing the vaccines at the church prevented crowding and traffic at the medical center. Ten church members helped with the event, including five hospital employees and five volunteers.

"There was a sense of relief, happiness, and thankfulness among the people who were receiving the vaccines," said Senior Pastor Eric Williams. "Some of the 75-year-olds were jumping up and down. It is such a joy that we could serve the community this way. We're all in this together."

The previous Monday, 163 people were vaccinated at the church as part of a community-wide effort to distribute more than 800 vaccines after a freezer malfunction at the medical center.

By Communication and Development Department



If you wish to continue learning more about what NCC churches, schools, and ministries are doing, sign up to receive **Northern Lights** at nccsda.com.

PUC Students Bring the Love of Butterflies to Local Elementary School

Students from Pacific Union College recently visited Howell Mountain Elementary School (HME), a local public school, to teach second- and third-grade students all about monarch butterflies and to involve them hands-on in the learning process!

The students discussed the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, including the importance of milkweed as nutrition and as a habitat crucial for monarch reproduction.

“The HME project was a great opportunity for these college students to connect with the elementary kids,” said Professor Aimee Wyrick, chair of PUC’s department of biology. “It reminds them of the amazing curiosity that kids have about the world around them—gives college students an additional excitement or ‘spark’ when they see the schoolkids enjoying the experience. The PUC students were also impressed with the HME elementary students; they were very engaged in asking/answering questions. College students also get a chance to practice their interpersonal and leadership skills—directing the session and interacting with each other and a wide range of students.”

The kids were enthusiastic learners, and the PUC students on hand were happy to answer question after question. One item that got a lot of attention was the fact that milkweed is poisonous to animals like cows and even to crops, so it’s important to plant it in places where it can sustain monarchs but still be safe.

“How does it poison crops?” asked a second-grader named Gavin, who got a detailed answer about allelopathy, in which chemicals in the roots of milkweed transfer to the roots of other plants.

At the end of the presentation, each student was given soil, trays,



and a very special milkweed seed donated by local community member Randy Dunn. The resulting plants will eventually create an environment capable of sustaining and maintaining a monarch population!

Each student filled their pots with care and anxiously chased any seeds that flew away. Writing their names on sticks to place next to their plants, their excitement was obvious as the children looked forward to welcoming monarch butterflies to their school.

“We are caring for the milkweed seedlings for the time being and will return to the HME campus later this spring to plant other established native plants,” said Wyrick. “The milkweed will likely be big enough to transplant in October, and the group will visit once again to outplant these milkweed.”

PUC plans to bring the monarch butterfly project to other local schools in the future, including nearby Adventist schools.



By Ashley Eisele

Making a Difference in Rural Sacramento Valley

When wind-whipped brushfires burned dozens of homeless encampments in Marysville, California, in October 2020, Ashten Phillips, MSW, and her

team at Adventist Health and Rideout passed out food, blankets, and other relief items to the evacuees, serving side by side with others from local government and community agencies.

The team was able to respond quickly because it is plugged into the network of homeless

service providers in Yuba and Sutter counties, the rural Sacramento Valley counties in the hospital's service area.

"Our mission of living God's love calls us to care for everyone in our community, and we're honored to do that," said Rick Rawson, president of Adventist Health and Rideout. "I'm grateful to our team, who continues to find new ways to impact the lives of those we serve."

Phillips, the hospital's director of community well-being, leads community-wide efforts to identify and impact root causes for poor health. The team is making a difference in its communities in several ways.

Street Nurse Program

Much of Adventist Health's involvement in this effort centers on providing preventive medical care for the homeless where they are, rather than waiting for them to arrive at the emergency department. A Street Nurse Program that began in 2019 provides medical screening at homeless service locations, shelters, and encampments. The program saves lives and shows Adventist Health to be a sincere and critical partner in serving the homeless.

This example of Adventist Health taking its mission outside the walls of the hospital has had a profound impact not only on the lives of those served but also on the staff involved and the community. The program also builds trust with homeless community members.

Agency collaboration is critical to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people in the community, Phillips



said. "Together, we can care for our community members and deliver results that foster change here at home."

Food Secure Program

The community well-being team also helps patients admitted to the hospital who are insecure about the availability of food. Through the Food Secure Program, patients receive case management, resources, and food when they return home. Recently, the program partnered with City Serve and other faith-based organizations to help deliver 4,800 food boxes a month.

Food bank support

The hospital provides support to help feed more than 9,000 Yuba-Sutter residents monthly, and associates collaborated with the Yuba Sutter Food Bank to provide 3,500 meals at Christmas. Adventist Health and Rideout physicians also donated over \$20,000 in 2019 and 2020 to support the food bank.

COVID-19 vaccination clinics

More than 18,000 community members have received COVID-19 vaccinations at Adventist Health and Rideout clinics, with generous staff and volunteer support.

By Linda Plummer





Pursuing the Possible: One Church's Ministry Efforts During a Pandemic

Ten years ago, Pastor Namyong Kim befriended the pastor of a Sunday church. They discussed many biblical ideas, and over time the Sunday pastor came to accept the Adventist doctrines and was converted to Adventism.

"Every month in the Korean newspaper, he began announcing that Sunday worship is not biblical," Kim recalled. "And because he had been one of them, other Sunday pastors and church members began to listen and discuss. I began to hear from many of them, seeking the Bible truth, and I told them about it."

Kim is now senior pastor at the Garden Grove Korean church, and his passion for outreach has not waned. Today, he and his church members consider it their calling to reach out to their community and beyond, and they have organized several ministries with this in mind.

"There are more than 50 Sunday pastors and their wives with whom I have been studying the Bible," Kim shared. "We get on Zoom at all hours of the day and night because we are in several different time zones,

and we read Scripture, discuss *The Great Controversy*, and pray."

Surprisingly, the pandemic has actually benefited the church's efforts; whereas, prior to the lockdown, many Korean Sunday church pastors were actively keeping their members from engaging with the Adventist church, once churches closed, many members of Sunday churches found their way to Kim's Zoom meetings.

Kim added, "Even some pastors have joined, their

names changed and videos off, curious to learn more."

As he got to know these pastors and their wives, Kim found that many of them were struggling with health issues such as chronic illness or cancer. In response, the church created New Start, a healthy

cooking program. Meals are provided along with demonstrations and instruction, and every attendee goes home with food. This approach often leads to feeding more than stomachs.

"I met three Sunday pastors' wives at our church kitchen who were there to learn about the health



program, and then I invited them to my Bible classroom to talk more,” Kim offered as an example. “We were there for three hours as I answered their questions, and by the time they’d left, we had agreed to meet once a week for a health message and Bible study.”

Food is an important way to demonstrate the character of Christ, and the Garden Grove church doesn’t just wait for people to come to them; since the start of 2021, the church has distributed more than 1,000 lunch boxes to houseless individuals. Kim encourages his members each week to, when they go to the market for groceries, spend an extra \$10 to \$20 on food they can distribute to houseless people they see on their way home.

“It is important to practice not only thinking about those in need but to actively reach out to them,” Kim said.

In addition, the Garden Grove deaconesses felt a special burden to create a special online health program focused on natural remedies. As church

members distributed brochures advertising the seminar, however, they found that many people they spoke to did not know what Zoom was or how to use it. And so they invited anyone who was interested to attend a training session at the church to learn how to use Zoom.

Their first natural remedies seminar saw more than 250 attendees each night, with a total of 1,300 attending over the course of the five weeks. Their second seminar was expected to have more than 1,000 in attendance each night from all over the world.

“Like many other churches, when COVID-19 hit, we began to worry how we would continue to reach our community within the new reality,” Kim remembered. “As we thought and talked and prayed, however, we found we could do many things even through a pandemic. We just had to believe it was possible and be willing to try new things.”

By Becky St. Clair

VIRTUAL

Sabbath, May 22, 2021 • 3:00-5:30 p.m.

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The Best Place to Be: One Family's Journey to Adventist Education

Last year when the pandemic hit and my daughter began online school from home, I began to notice things that concerned me.”

Dino Cantarini’s daughter, Allie, was in a local charter school for grades three to five, and there had never been a problem. Her teachers said she was doing well, and her report card corroborated their praise. However, when Allie began remote learning in 2020, she didn’t seem to be doing as well as Dino had believed. For example, though Allie had learned her multiplication tables in second grade, she was now unable to complete simple equations without a calculator.

“I began questioning whether she was really in the best school for her,” Dino recalled.

So he began looking for other options. Through a mutual friend, the Cantarinis got an interview with Luis Ortiz, principal at Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian Academy (MSACA).

As non-denominational Christians, the Cantarinis had only a basic understanding of the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists, so they did their homework. Dino called some close pastor friends and asked what they knew.

“They told me, ‘The Adventists are good people; you’re on the right track,’” he said. “So we got her



enrolled for sixth grade.”

Though Allie struggled to catch up in math, Dino said the teacher wasn’t worried and worked with Allie and her parents to get her settled and confident. Her grades came up with each progress report until, a few months into the year, Allie had an A in math again.

“I’m extremely pleased,” Dino said warmly. “With such a small class size, the teachers can do individual tutoring with the kids. Allie has friends in all grade levels, and she’s really enjoying it.”

In particular, Allie appreciates her teacher, Mrs. Palitang, and the opportunity to take an art class.

“I’ve always loved painting and drawing,” she said, adding that she finds MSACA to be a very friendly school, too. “If I had to describe my school in two words, I’d say ‘friendly learning.’”

Allie’s experience is exactly what MSACA strives for with every student who walks through their doors.

“We want each student here to sense that they are loved and valued, and that God loves them and has a plan for them,” Ortiz said. “I’m delighted that Allie has been thriving at our school, and I know there are other students out there who would truly be blessed to have that same experience.”

Dino admits they are seriously considering Adventist education for Allie’s high school years, as well. Though the nearest school is a fair distance from their home, he says he would make the effort to drive her there for the value it would bring to her education.

“I’m so happy Allie is at MSACA,” he reiterated. “I know it is the best place for her to be.”

By Becky St. Clair

“We want each student here to sense that they are loved and valued, and that God loves them and has a plan for them.”

Faithful Adventists Leave Lasting Legacy of God's Love

The Seventh-day Adventist church is blessed with members whose long lives are dedicated to service and sharing Biblical truths with their community. Two members of the Southeastern California Conference illustrate the positive impact that each life can have when committed to Christ.

Helen Kirkpatrick moved to Los Angeles from Texas when she was 15 years old. Her lifelong friend Mildred Sweeney Bradley introduced her to Don Franklin, and Helen and Don married just days before he left to serve in Europe at the height of World War II.



Upon returning from the war, Don worked on the construction team for the Los Angeles Union Seventh-day Adventist School in El Segundo. "A coworker invited them to attend a George Vandeman Seminar in Lynwood," their daughter Vicky said. "They were immediately drawn to the health message." In 1949, they were baptized at the First African American church in Los Angeles.

The Franklins built a life of service to others. Don built the Kansas Avenue and Mt. Rubidoux churches, and Don and Helen became charter members of the new congregations. In 2014, they were honored to have the gymnasium and conference room at the Mt. Rubidoux church named in their honor.

In addition to full-time work and raising six children, Helen was active in the Dorcas Society. "She had an open door for whoever needed help," said her daughter Stephanie. "She would invite single mothers to stay in our home and later fostered many children."

Helen celebrated her 95th birthday on October 22, 2020, at the Linda Valley Assisted Living Facility with family and friends across the country joining in on Zoom. Local news channels reported on her remarkable life. "My mother has always been committed to church and family," said her daughter Donna. "All her life, she dedicated her energy to helping others."

Ernesto Vergara was born and raised in Mexico before emigrating to the United States with his future wife

Eriberta in 1976. Ernesto began a job in manufacturing and was invited by a coworker to attend a Seventh-day Adventist church service. Ernesto and Eriberta felt that Adventism answered many of the questions that they had about their Catholic faith, and they began Bible studies. On October 25, 1983, they committed their lives to the Lord and committed to a life with each other as they were baptized and married on the same day at the Paramount church.

Ernesto and Eriberta had two boys each from previous marriages, and they added another boy and girl to their family. Ernesto's parents and siblings in Mexico cut off contact when he became an Adventist. With his conversion, he lost the family that he was born into, but he gained a large spiritual family that grew every year as he gave Bible studies, led Sabbath School programs, and distributed editions of *Steps to Christ* with his phone number inside.

Despite having to drop out of formal education in the fourth grade,

Ernesto was a keen student and teacher of the Bible throughout his adult life. "As a child, he had a stutter," said his daughter



Priscilla, "but God unleashed his tongue when he began to speak at church, and he was able to give Bible studies every night of the week."

"Each time he would meet someone new," Priscilla said, "he would tell them 'God had a purpose for us to meet.'" This would include the doctors and health care professionals he met toward the end of his life. With every interaction, he continued to share his faith in the goodness of the Lord.

When he passed away in August of 2020, his family read his favorite Bible verse, Job 19:25-27, at the memorial. "This was my father's favorite text," said Priscilla. "At the end of his life he was blind, but he knew that at the resurrection he would see his Savior."

By Tricia Murdoch Zmaj



The First Armenian Congregation in NAD Officially Recognized as a Company

“The motivating part was that this is the only Seventh-day Adventist Armenian group outside of Armenia proper in all the world.”

ABOVE: James G. Lee, SCC executive vice president (not pictured), offers prayer over the church officers (left to right): Rita Dekrmenjian, head deaconess; Alexan Dekrmenjian, head deacon; Agapi Zakaryan, clerk/secretary; Hovik Hacopian, head elder; Vigen Khachatryan, pastor; and Aramis Vartanians, treasurer.

This February, the Armenian congregation in Glendale, Calif., made history as the first Armenian-speaking Adventist congregation officially organized in the Western hemisphere. Los Angeles is home to the densest population of Armenians in the United States, with more than 40 percent of the 200,000-plus people in Glendale claiming Armenian ancestry.* “Adventist churches in our conference reflect the amazing diversity of Southern California,” observed Danny Chan, SCC L.A. Metro Region Director.

The service highlighted the rich history and dedicated mission behind this congregation. Throughout the event, tributes were shared about the important work of this congregation in the Armenian community as well as the historical foundation to that work. Three new members also joined the company by baptism during the program.

Leaders throughout the denomination recognized the special event, and letters were read from Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president; Tony Anobile, North American Division (NAD)

director of multilingual ministries; G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president; and Ted Wilson, General Conference (GC) president. Karnik Doukmetzian, GC general counsel, was present to bring greetings from the GC. "I guess we could have done it by video, but as an Armenian, to give up this opportunity is just simply unheard of," he shared.

The group started meeting at the Hollywood church in 1977. Hovik Saraffian, retired pastor of the congregation from 1983 to 2017, spent many years pouring himself into the ministry this congregation provides to the Armenian community in Southern California. "The motivating part was that this is the only Seventh-day Adventist Armenian group outside of Armenia proper in all the world," he stated. This motivation has kept the congregation alive for more than 40 years. In 1981, the congregation began to meet in Glendale City church (GCC), and in 2017, Vigen Khachatryan joined the congregation as its leader.

Reflecting on the occasion, Khachatryan shared special thanks to God, SCC, and GCC for the help and support through the years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Khachatryan has led the congregation in tremendous growth through online ministry. "Our work for the community is done mostly through social media," he shared. "We try to help people who are sick or frightened by the virus, or in distress because of the pandemic, to rely on God's promises."

Velino A. Salazar, SCC president, has been a great support of this congregation throughout their ministry. Looking forward, he focused on the mission that lies



John H. Cress, SCC executive secretary, (left) presents Khachatryan (right) with the certificate of company status.

ahead for this now-organized company. "We need to emphasize that Jesus came to this earth to save people," Salazar shared, "not just for eternity in the future, but now from suffering and anguish. We find that message of hope in the Holy Scriptures. May the Lord continue using you to share what people need—they need a Savior."

By Lauren Lacson

**<https://tinyurl.com/why-glendale>*

To visit the Armenian Adventist company on Facebook or to watch the recorded organization service, visit <https://scc.adventist.org/stories/first-armenian-adventist-church-scc>.



FAR LEFT: Saraffian recounts the congregation's history and dedication to its unique ministry throughout the years.



LEFT: Salazar (right) encourages the congregation to remain steadfast in the mission moving forward as an organized company as Khachatryan (left) translates.



(Left to right) Salazar, Diaz, Cress, and Lee

Kathleen V. Diaz Named Southern California Conference Treasurer/CFO

G. Lee, executive vice president; and John H. Cress, executive secretary. Salazar and Lee have served as executive officers since 2003, with Cress joining SCC in 2016. “She will bring a different perspective to the group,” said Lee. “She is gifted and skilled in the area of finances. Her personal spiritual journey will add a special dimension that our officers’ group does not have. We welcome her input to our Administrative

Committee. Our officers’ group is now complete.”

As treasurer, Diaz will be accountable for all monies the conference receives. “All our donors who faithfully contribute expect us to be good stewards,” Diaz shared. “More than a good steward, I want to be faithful, wise, and trustworthy. In my opinion, the most sacred source of income we have as an organization is tithe, and it is my commitment to give God the glory in adequately using these funds for the advancement of His mission.”

“I’ve been impressed with Kathleen’s technical skills as an accountant and associate treasurer, especially during the nine months that we were without a treasurer,” Cress continued. “She has stepped up, confidently grabbed hold of the challenge, and done everything that was required of her. Even more, I’ve been impressed with how Kathleen understands the treasurer job as a vital ministry. She has a passion for good stewardship, but also she realizes that a treasurer is the custodian of the funds of God’s church.”

“She realizes that the church exists to bring the world to Jesus,” Cress said of Diaz, “and I know she will manage our resources with excellence for this mission.”

By Lauren Lacson

This March, Kathleen V. Diaz was voted in as the new treasurer/CFO for the Southern California Conference (SCC).

Diaz joined SCC in March 2017 and has since served in the positions of accountant, chief accountant, and most recently, associate treasurer. God’s leading has been clear, and Diaz sees this position as a calling. “I heard God’s calling and have accepted the position to lead the SCC treasury department,” Diaz responded. “I am very honored to be able to continue using my skills and capabilities in the advancement of preaching the gospel to the whole world. This calling comes at a time our world is in crisis, but if we put ourselves in the hands of the Lord, He will provide for us. ‘We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us’ (Ellen G. White, *God’s Remnant Church*, p. 18).”

Diaz makes history as the first female to serve as SCC treasurer/CFO and the first female to serve as one of the conference executive officers. “For some years, at constituency sessions, delegates expressed the need to have a woman among the top leadership in this conference, followed by another statement highlighting the value of having a young adult in such groups as the executive officers,” Velino A. Salazar, SCC president, said following the vote.

“Therefore,” he continued, “by electing Diaz to take this position as conference treasurer, this conference is making history by having the first young adult among the top executive team in this conference. In the times we live in, we need to have the younger generation’s perspective among experienced leaders.”

Diaz joins current executive officers Salazar; James



SCC Welcomes Fred Warfield as HR Director

This spring, Southern California Conference (SCC) welcomed Fred Warfield as their HR director.

Warfield comes to Southern California from Maryland, where he most recently directed the launch of a virtual school during COVID-19. Prior to that, Warfield served as the HR director at the Potomac Conference for five years.

According to SCC Executive Secretary John H. Cress, who worked with Warfield in the Potomac Conference, "Fred seeks to pursue the values of the kingdom in how he relates to people and serves. He thrives well in a diverse environment, which makes him a perfect candidate for the HR position in SCC."

Warfield's experience, too, has been diverse, allowing him to understand the work of the employees he serves. "What I enjoy most is just serving the people in any way I can," Warfield shared. Having worked as an ordained pastor and taught at two academies, he knows the ropes when it comes to working in the field. "It can be very difficult work! What fulfills me is just being there



to support as they carry out their work on the front lines. Whether they experience illness and need FMLA, as they grow their families through childbirth, or get injured on the job and need workers comp, HR has a unique opportunity to assist so that employees can focus on the mission and on their families."

HR is a multifaceted field, especially set in the unique context of Southern California.

"I believe Fred will bring a steady and calm leadership approach to our HR," Cress noted. "He will provide thoughtful conversation to complex issues that we often face as an organization in Southern California. We are fortunate to have such a high caliber of a human resource director join us following up the good work that Iris Chuah has done."

Warfield recalls the motto he worked with in the Potomac Conference: "Serving those who serve." Warfield wants to bring this same motto to his work at SCC, where one of his goals will be about supporting administration as well as the workers in our churches and schools.

"My goal is just to infuse in the workforce the idea that they have support, that they're not on their own," Warfield shared. "Of course, they have ministerial, educational, and other administrative assistance, but as it relates to HR and the personal areas that impact them, just to know that they are supported—that would be a win for me—for them to say, 'If I have an issue, I can call HR. They care and are here for us!'"

Warfield will be joined in California by his wife of 15 years, Lindzie, who currently works as HR director at Frontline Community Services, and three children, Pheobe, 13, Michaela, 11, and Harvey, 5.

By Lauren Lacson

"My goal is just to infuse in the workforce the idea that they have support, that they're not on their own."



PHOTOS: FRED WARFIELD

Calendar

Central California Conference

Soquel Virtual Camp Meeting: The Return - That's right! We are bringing Soquel Camp Meeting to you and your child(ren) in July. Children's Ministries has created age-appropriate programming to keep kids engaged while learning. New content will appear each day on Central's camp meeting website. Want to receive a box of crafts and other fun stuff for your child's virtual experience? Go to <https://tinyurl.com/Camp-Meeting-2021> and register today. For adult program information, see page 29 of this *Recorder* or visit www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com.

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. Steps to Christ
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. Steps to Christ
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.

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.

La Sierra University

Drive-Through Graduation. La Sierra University will honor its graduating seniors with a drive-through celebration on Sunday, June 13. For further details, please visit <https://lasierra.edu/graduation/>.

Fall 2021 Reopening. La Sierra University has announced its plans to re-open its campus this September for in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. Details will be forthcoming and will be subject to ongoing public health guidelines. Please visit lasierra.edu/thisfall for continuing updates.

Advertising

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

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

How to Submit Advertising

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

Classified Rates

\$70 for 50 words; 75 cents each additional word. Display rates (full color only): back cover, \$4,200; full page, \$3,800; 1/2-pg., \$2,200; 1/4-pg., \$1,200; 1/8-pg., \$700; \$160 per column inch.

Information

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

Upcoming Deadlines

These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.
June: May 6 • July: June 7

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.

Newsdesk Online



The regular section of Newsdesk in the *Recorder* is available online at:
sda.faith/pacificnewsdesk



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Summer Session 2021. Registration is open for La Sierra University's summer program for 2021. All scheduled courses will be provided online. For further information visit <https://lasierra.edu/summer-program/>.

Golden Eagle Days. Has your college-bound student been admitted to La Sierra University? Admitted La Sierra students may now start reserving their Golden Eagle Day orientation to secure their fall schedules. Visit lasierra.edu/golden-eagle-day for more information.

Northern California Conference

Instituto Laico Adventista de California (ILAC) (May 23-24 and June 13-14). Online training in leadership and church administration for Spanish-speaking laypeople. Info: nccsda.com/ilac, 916-886-5614.

Find upcoming events on the Northern California Conference website: nccsda.com/announcements.

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

Southern California Conference

Carlye Hummel-Strever Memorial Service (Sabbath, May 15) 2 p.m. Santa Barbara church, 425 Arroyo Rd., Santa Barbara 93110. Info: 805-729-1754.

One House Living Room Sessions (May 16-23).

Tune in online for a week of worship, sharing, and growing in the area of mental health. The theme is "THRIVE," and the event will focus on mental and emotional wellness. Info: onehouse@sccsda.org.

Tuesday T-Time 4 p.m.

Every Tuesday, join SCC Senior Youth and Young Adult director Iki Taimi as he sits down to chat about life and ministry with a different special guest each week. Available to watch on Facebook @onehousesocal and YouTube: www.youtube.com/onehousesocal.

Classified

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

You can help the Lord's ministry of healing in Micronesia by donating your car, boat, bike, RV, or truck. All proceeds go to provide free medical services to the island peoples of Micronesia. Canvasback Missions, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, has been serving since 1986. Visit our website for more info: www.canvasback.org or call 707-746-7828 to arrange your donation.

Employment

Central California Conference is seeking a full-time videographer and editor. The successful candidate will be able to operate in a fast-paced, highly collaborative

environment. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and maintain consistent, active church attendance. Send cover letter, application, and résumé 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>.

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

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.


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.

Delta Eye Medical group in Stockton California is looking for an ophthalmologist to join thriving practice. 209-334-5886.

Real Estate

Choice mountain land inside Cherokee National Forest in beautiful East Tennessee. Four tracts ranging in size from 10-50 acres. Large creek, cleared land, mixed forest, mature trees. On county-maintained road, utilities on site. 50 miles to Southern Adventist University. 60 miles to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Near scenic rivers, lakes, trails. Ideal retreat, country living, retirement. Call, text, email for info and pictures. 301-332-8237 or Kathyrr777@gmail.com.

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

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

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Safe 80-acre retreat near La Sierra University. Not in a flood or fire zone, with views of Lake Mathews/Gavilan Hills with deeded access to Wood Rd./Cajalco Rd. and zoned for agriculture/residential. Freedom with two drilled wells, septic, city water line, phone line/FAX, strong cell signal, and high solar score. Original 1977 family mobile

home, wells, and tack buildings sold "as is." Used for farming, horses, animal husbandry, nursery, and gardening with serenity and privacy. \$1,250,000. Martin: 623-759-1737 (cell).

For Sale in Northwest Arkansas 1,885 sq. ft. home, built summer of 2019, 3 bdrm, 3 bath, on 20 acres with great view of lake. Fruit trees, garden, muscadines, building sites, firewood, 30- by 40-ft. shop. Very nice SDA church nearby. Remote, secluded, yet near town. 85 miles to Ozark Adventist Academy. Located near Ozark, AR. Junior Scoggins, scoggins41@live.com, or phone 479-213-1338.

Country living at its best! This 5-acre property has it all for \$395,000. Located near Blue Ridge in North Georgia, it has a four-bdrm, three bath house with a well, creek, barn, cabin, woodshed, greenhouse, tractor shed, and root cellar. Call Pierre @ Remax REC today for more information 423-987-0831.

Vacation Opportunities

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

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

At Rest

Aronson, Edward J. – b. July 11, 1936, Auburn, Wash.; d. Feb. 2, 2021, Desert Hot Springs, Calif. Survivors: wife, Dorene; son, Jeff; daughters, Cindy Brooks, Jannell Johnston, Cheri Hopkins; brother, Alfred; sister, Evelyn Smith; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Worked in nursing home administration for 50 years. Was a very active member of the church.

Bewley, Joseph Earl – b. April 3, 1941, Santa Maria, Calif.; d. April 19, 2021, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Mickey; daughter, Robin Marchetti; stepchildren, Colleen Greenlaw, Paul Kingsley, Kelly Kingsley; sisters, Connie Bell, Ruth DeLangie; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Blankenhorn-Roxas, Hillie – b. June 26, 1949; d. Calif.

Chang, Mai Xiong – b. July 15, 1960, Northern Laos; d. Feb. 28, 2021, Visalia, Calif. Survivor: husband, Koua.

Cheneweth, Ruth U. – b. March 28, 1938, Honduras; d. April 26, 2020, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: sons, Eddy, Mark, Taff; five grandchildren. Born to German missionary parents, graduated from Southern, taught

at Lynwood Academy, and supported the church through her foundation Friendship Mission.

Christenson, Jack – b. Sept. 13, 1930, Nevada, Iowa; d. Feb. 2, 2021, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Cheri, Linda; two grandchildren.

Coderre, Thomas Allen – b. Dec. 31, 1945, Putnam, Conn.; d. Jan. 27, 2021, Chico, Calif. Survivors: wife, Rita; daughters, Denise, Amy Fitzgerald, Deirdre, Saron; 10 grandchildren.

Cone, Ed – b. Dec. 27, 1944, Hanford, Calif.; d. Dec. 1, 2020, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Fonda; son, Shane; daughter, Shelly Fanselau; eight grandchildren. Attended Monterey Bay Academy, Southwestern Adventist University, and Loma Linda University; served in the United States Army.

Dennis, Carol J. – b. Jan. 30, 1935, Council Bluffs, Iowa; d. Feb. 4, 2021, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, David, Simone; daughters, Jane Valdez, Ellyn Childers; son-in-law, Mike Valdez; five grandchildren.

Dupper, Frank F. – b. Jan. 20, 1933, Beebe Draw, Colo.; d. Dec. 31, 2020, Granite Bay, Calif. Survivors: wife, Norma; son, Brent; daughter, Debbie Ashlock; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Co-founded Adventist Health (then Adventist Health Services) and served as its first

May 2021 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	MAY 1	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22	MAY 29
Alturas	7:52	8:00	8:14	8:21	8:27
Angwin	7:55	8:01	8:14	8:20	8:26
Bakersfield	7:36	7:42	7:53	7:59	8:04
Calexico	7:18	7:23	7:34	7:38	7:43
Chico	7:29	7:34	7:45	7:50	7:55
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	7:29	7:35	7:47	7:53	7:58
Eureka	8:06	8:13	8:27	8:34	8:40
Four Corners [E]	7:24	7:29	7:39	7:44	7:49
Fresno	7:41	7:47	7:59	8:05	8:10
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	7:09	7:15	7:27	7:32	7:37
Half Dome	7:42	7:48	8:01	8:06	8:12
Hilo	6:41	6:43	6:49	6:51	6:54
Holbrook	7:00	7:06	7:17	7:22	7:27
Honolulu	6:54	6:57	7:02	7:05	7:08
Joshua Tree	7:23	7:29	7:40	7:45	7:49
Lake Tahoe	7:46	7:53	8:06	8:12	8:18
Las Vegas	7:22	7:28	7:39	7:45	7:50
Lodi-Stockton	7:49	7:56	8:08	8:14	8:20
Loma Linda	7:27	7:33	7:43	7:49	7:53
Los Angeles	7:31	7:36	7:47	7:52	7:57
McDermitt [N]	7:42	7:49	8:04	8:11	8:17
Moab	8:03	8:10	8:23	8:29	8:34
Monterey Bay	7:50	7:56	8:08	8:14	8:19
Mt. Whitney	7:26	7:31	7:41	7:46	7:51
Napa	7:54	8:00	8:13	8:19	8:25
Nogales [S]	6:58	7:03	7:12	7:17	7:21
Oakland	7:53	7:59	8:12	8:18	8:23
Paradise, CA	7:53	8:00	8:14	8:20	8:26
Phoenix	7:06	7:11	7:21	7:26	7:31
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	6:41	6:43	6:49	6:52	6:54
Reno	7:46	7:53	8:06	8:12	8:18
Riverside	7:28	7:33	7:44	7:49	7:54
Sacramento	7:51	7:58	8:11	8:17	8:22
Salt Lake City	8:16	8:24	8:38	8:44	8:50
San Diego	7:25	7:30	7:40	7:45	7:50
San Francisco	7:53	8:00	8:12	8:18	8:24
San Jose	7:51	7:57	8:09	8:15	8:20
Santa Rosa	7:56	8:02	8:15	8:21	8:26
Sunset Beach	6:55	6:57	7:03	7:07	7:10
Thousand Oaks	7:34	7:39	7:50	7:55	8:00
Tucson	7:00	7:05	7:14	7:19	7:24

[N]=Northernmost [S]=Southernmost [E]=Easternmost [W]=Westernmost point in the Pacific Union

"So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God." Hebrews 4:9

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vice president. Served as president of AHS/West for 22 years. Earlier in his career he taught accounting and worked as treasurer for church schools, including Fresno Union Academy, Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, Newbury Park Academy, and Glendale Adventist Academy; served as controller and vice president of finance at Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital.

Duran, Joel – b. Oct. 16, 1953, Moca, Dominican Republic; d. Nov. 3, 2020, Watsonville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Katy; son, Joel David; daughter, Ruth Ester Siregar; four grandchildren.

Earl, Edna Lillian – b. April 17, 1935, Nut Mountain, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. Jan. 15, 2021, Fair Play, Calif. Survivor: husband, Claude.

Fambro, Pearl – b. Nov. 16, 1918, New Amsterdam, Guyana, South America; d. Jan. 8, 2021, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: nephews, Walter, Kelvin, Timothy Harris, Max; nieces, Maggie, Sandra, Enid Harris.

Fonner, Bonnie Lou (Ingran) – b. Aug. 23, 1941, Claysville, Penn.; d. Jan. 19, 2021, Carmichael, Calif. Survivors: husband, Robert; sons, Robert Woodrow Fonner, Daniel Lee Fonner; daughter, Kimberly Bell; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Galvan, Gloria – b. Aug. 2, 1947, Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico; d. Aug. 24, 2020, Norwalk, Calif. Survivors: son, Mark Martinez; sister-in-law, Eva Galvan; one grandchild.

Giordano, Ginger (Baker) – b. Jan. 11, 1962, Rialto, Calif.; d. Feb. 21, 2021, Temecula, Calif. Survivors: husband, Max; son, Geoffrey; daughter, Gillian Mills; mother, Norma Baker; brothers, Gary, Greg, Glenn; three grandchildren.

Recorder Membership

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Guthrie, Richard Stewart – b. Dec. 21, 1930, Niles, Mich.; d. March 27, 2021, Reno, Nev. Survivors: wife, Shirley; sons, George, Tim, Todd; stepdaughter, Shari; sister, Romilda; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. A child of a missionary family, he spent time in an internment camp during World War II. Served as a physician, including two years as a Navy doctor. Played the bass clarinet, piano, and organ.

Hoffman, Ardyth – b. March 8, 1928, Shanghai, China; d. March 13, 2021, Oroville, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Nancy; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. She worked in community services at Road River church in Grants Pass, Ore.

Hosek, Mary E. (Mikeska) – b. Sept. 7, 1916, Seaton, Texas; d. Jan. 18, 2021, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, David; daughter, Nancy; niece, Carole Linder.

Howard-Hughes, Lily J. (Johnson) – b. Feb. 6, 1929, Muskogee, Okla.; d. March 10, 2021, Vallejo, Calif. Survivors: son, Millard Daniel Howard Jr.; daughter, Sable Howard-Hughes; two grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren. Instrumental in starting the NCC New Believers Retreat at Leoni Meadows; served as a Bible instructor for many evangelistic meetings; served as president of the Pacific Union Conference Bible Instructors Guild (BIG) for 23 years; co-founded May Month of Praise at the Fairfield Community church.

Hummel-Strever, Carlye – b. Dec. 7, 1962, French Camp, Calif.; d. Feb. 21, 2021, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: husband, Danny; mother, Romilda (Dave) Davis; sister, Lisa Geisinger; niece, Zoel; nephew, Blue. Graduated MBA '81 & PUC '85. Gardener, artist, musician, and theologian. Memorial service May 15 at 2:00 p.m. Santa Barbara church.

Lazar, Charles C. – b. March 12, 1950, Karachi, Pakistan; d. Dec. 31, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Hilda; sons, Alistar, Charles Jr.; sister, Ruth Ditta; brother-in-law, Aziz; daughter-in-law, Ellyza; two grandchildren.

LoBue, Sandra – b. June 6, 1931, Uniontown, Pa.; d. Sept. 4, 2020, Downey, Calif. Survivors: son, Patrick LoBue; daughter, Linda.

Longoria, Israel – b. Sept. 17, 1938, Mission, Texas; d. Dec. 31, 2020, Terra Bella, Calif. Survivors: wife, Juanita; sons, Israel Jr., Ernie; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Within the same month, his sons, Roland, Abel, and René preceded him in death.

Matthews, Marciel (a.k.a. Johnston, Marcy) – b. July 31, 1942, San Jose, Calif.; d. March 21, 2021, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: sons, Scott Johnston, Jeff Johnston; siblings, Gregory Matthews, Vonda Lee Severance; three

grandchildren. She was a graduate of Modesto Union Academy in 1960.

Morrison, Alberta – b. May 16, 1943; d. Feb. 19, 2020, Calif. Survivor: daughter, Glenda Williams.

Nutting, Charlotte Louise – b. Jan. 13, 1945, Santa Rosa, Calif.; d. March 25, 2021, Ukiah, Calif.

Odell, Lucille Luvenia (Espinoza) – b. April 14, 1951, La Saucos, Colo.; d. Nov. 30, 2020, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: husband, Don; son, Josh Odell; daughter, Shelly House; two grandchildren.

Osinga, Virginia C. – b. July 7, 1940, Lima, Peru; d. Dec. 10, 2020, Hesperia, Calif. Survivors: son, Tommy; daughter, Rosie; four grandchildren. Was a devoted Seventh-day Adventist and loved her church family.

Savre, Grace – b. Nov. 27, 1923, Dominican Republic; d. July 18, 2020, Loma Linda, Calif.

Smith, Linda – b. Dec. 15, 1948, Muncie, Ind.; d. Sept. 8, 2020, Burbank, Calif. Survivors: son, Darrell Smith; daughter, Julie Casey; son-in-law, Dan Casey; one grandchild.

Strehle, John Sr. – b. Oct. 11, 1950, Pasadena, Calif.; d. July 24, 2020, Whittier, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ann Strehle; sons, John Strehle Jr., Pete Walker; daughters, Jennifer Strehle, Heather Barnes; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

Tait, Myron Wallace – b. June 28, 1946, Oakland, Calif.; d. March 31, 2021, Harper, Texas. Survivors: wife, Mary Jane; son, John; daughter, Faye Louise; brother, Russ; one grandson. Served as a pastor in the Wyoming, Colorado, and Northern California conferences; taught at Feather River Adventist School; served as police chaplain in Gridley, Calif. and fire department chaplain in Harper, Texas; served in Pathfinder ministry for 50 years, including many years as an NCC Pathfinder coordinator; played more than 12 musical instruments.

Villanueva, Samuel – b. Feb. 14, 1945, Tagudin, Philippines; d. Dec. 12, 2020, Bridgeport, Conn. Survivors: spouse, Jedd; daughter, Sheri; three grandchildren.

Welebir, Olive B. – b. Feb. 8, 1915, Rolla, Mo.; d. March 13, 2021, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Tim; daughters, Carolyn Doran, Benita Lewis; 16 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren.

Whiteman, Joyce Colleen (Morrill) – b. Feb. 13, 1929, Lincoln City, Ore.; d. March 31, 2021, Vacaville, Calif. Survivors: sons, Gary, Bob, David; daughter, Karen Bunch; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.



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