

Recorder



LEADING IN THE AGE OF COVID

Pastor Andrea Trusty King
sets example of leadership
in the community



California Governor Newsom visits the vaccine clinic at the San Bernardino Adventist church.

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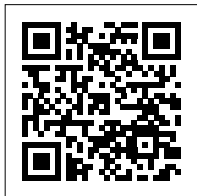
#changeyourworld





Even as the pandemic has impacted our regular means of ministry, Adventist members and churches across the Pacific Union have found many ways to reach out to their communities. Each month our seven conferences report on activities from within their territories. On pages 40-41 of this issue, Newsdesk features

an inspiring story about the community outreach being led by Senior Pastor Andrea Trusty King at the 16th Street church in San Bernardino.



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PACIFIC UNION

Recorder

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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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The Gre



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By

Ransom of atness



Bradford C. Newton

They had spent most of three years traveling together. Although the three of them were in the same line of work, it was their proximity to Him that had forged their true brotherhood. Seeing thousands of people surge around them throughout the country was transforming them day by day from simple fishermen into activists and revolutionaries. His power had been theirs as well in healing and casting out demonic forces. The battle lines were being drawn the closer they got to their nation's center.

For the third time, He had surprised them with talk of betrayal, death, and something about rising on the third day. What kind of talk was this from the One they were now sure was the fulfillment of the hope of every true son of Israel? Hadn't they seen Him transformed before their own eyes just weeks before? The three of them—Peter, James, and John, the trinity of the inner circle—had kept it from the others as Jesus had commanded. But they could not help but relive it between themselves. Moses and Elijah were there. The Voice from the cloud had spoken. A kingdom was soon to arrive, and they were elbowing their way closer each day to the center of power.

Which is why what happened next still troubled Peter, even all these years later as He retold the story to Mark. "Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, 'Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask'" (Mark 10:35).^{*} They were cutting their "brother" Peter out of the action. A side deal was being struck. Remarkably, they wanted Jesus to give them a blank check up front, even before they said what they wanted.

To receive others and serve others as Jesus did is the polestar of greatness.

At first, Jesus appeared to play along with their ploy: “What do you want Me to do for you?” (verse 36). Without missing a beat, the brazen demand their inner entitlement required spilled out: “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory” (verse 37). In the march to victory, we want to flank you, Jesus. And as we all know, there is only room for two—not three. Only a right and left hand, you see. Blood is thicker than water. Peter’s a great guy, but family sticks together. And remember how You said to him, “Get behind me Satan?” You can rely on the Zebedee brothers to have your back in Jerusalem.

How often has Jesus had to say what came next in the story? “You do not know what you ask” (verse 38). The One who sees the end from the beginning is doubtless bemused by the certainty with which human beings come asking, pleading, and even demanding that Divinity act on their behalf in a particular way. But there is more to the story, said Jesus. Your ideas are obvious, but the Master looks beyond the moment, the hurt, the need toward a horizon ending with eternity. The fraternal conspirators received the yellow light of caution from Jesus about a cup and a baptism. Undeterred, the “sons of thunder” (loud noises, big booms, no lightning, no rain!) confidently strode forward into the abyss of their boundless ignorance: “We are able” (verse 39).

Their confidence rested on recent experience.

After all, hadn’t this same Jesus imparted to them the power in His name to heal, chase away demonic forces, and help feed thousands? They were on the right side of history, with its arc bending right in their direction. With Jesus, there was nothing they could not accomplish. Psalm 30:6-7 was their motto: “In my prosperity I said, ‘I shall never be moved.’ Lord, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong.” They had the leverage, and now was the time to use it. “We are able” was still ringing in their ears when the rug was pulled out from under their sandaled feet. “To sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared” (Mark 10:40). Maneuvering past the Father’s providential purpose for us is not possible. The cup and the baptism you signed up for is on the way. You will then be crying out, “Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; Lord, be my helper” (Psalm 30:10).

The gambit failed. Peter found out. He told the other nine. Mark’s measured words, “they began to be greatly displeased with James and John” are an understatement. Of course, it was not like these other disciples hadn’t been thinking the same thing. In Mark 9 Jesus had perceived that they had been having an argument on the road. “They had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest” (verse 34). With the issue unresolved, John and James had done what the other ten had failed to do. They took it to the top Leader. And now a crisis

gripped the heart of the Jesus Movement leadership just as He would enter the final act of His mission. From this pivotal moment came Jesus' profound teaching on discipleship and greatness.

What is greatness? "Remarkable in magnitude, deed, or effectiveness" is what a dictionary says. Whether in business, politics, relationships, or the church, humanity is drawn to the concept of greatness. Polls rank the American presidents. (Abraham Lincoln is number one.) Forbes magazine annually lists the wealthiest, thus presumably the greatest, people on earth. (Jeff Bezos of Amazon weighs in at \$177 billion.) Historians classify the greatest national leaders of history based on factors such as courage, tolerance, and ruthlessness. Philosophers through the ages have reflected on the qualities and actions that make for greatness.

Yet none speak more profoundly to the Christian than the teaching of Jesus as He made His way toward God's destiny in Jerusalem. "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35). To receive others and serve others as Jesus did is the polestar of greatness. He amplified further a few days later: "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant" (Mark 10:42).

Leadership literature highlights the word servant as if this is a trait that you can turn on and off as a characteristic for success. This is not Jesus' point. Everything surrounding this story in Mark speaks to the cost of discipleship, the calling of a follower of the Christ, and the price paid for faithfulness. Servanthood and slavery to the gospel do not come from the leadership textbook but through that personal, life-changing encounter with Jesus. He closes this teaching with a powerful revelation of Himself: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

In the economy of the kingdom of God, greatness is a life of, if you will allow me, "ransomness" to God for others. Paul expounded on this to the believers in Philippi, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...taking the form of a bondservant.... He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death" (Philippians 2:5-8). Greatness is discipleship that is the surrender, obedience, humility, and yes, ransom for the wellbeing of others before yourself. And who are those people? The Lord who later washed the disciples' feet speaks today that they are the marginalized, the out-of-power, those who can't return the favor, people not suitably grateful for our help, and especially those who bring us grief.

Greatness as a life of ransom is mostly anonymous and unrecognized. But there is One who sees and knows. And He calls each of us to such a life of service and surrender. The world needs each of us now for this moment of human history to be ransomed disciples of Jesus. Utterly sold out to Him. Only then do we fulfill the calling of Jesus to the greatness that James and John did not yet understand that day. (Of course, they would understand in time, as James died a martyr in Jerusalem and John suffered exile on Patmos Island.)

Ellen White's words are as true today as when they were penned in the classic text, *Education*. She calls us to an authentic greatness the world needs now. "The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall" (p. 57).

**All texts are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.*

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



The Fall

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.

How did we get here? How did social justice even become an issue? How is it possible that there are those who rage against the establishment of programs and policies that promote equality, fairness, respect, and shared freedom?

The answer has direct ties to an event that took place a long time ago.

Motivated by the devil's words, "You will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4, NKJV), Adam and Eve transferred their allegiance from one supernatural power to another. They handed the keys of their kingdom to Satan and chose to live by his rules and be guided by his vision for society.

What was that vision? Look around you. *That's* where society goes when walking in lockstep with the devil.

It's interesting to note the polar-opposite emphasis that the two powers vying for the hearts and minds of earth's first human inhabitants offered. God spoke about how their presence could benefit the earth and the creatures who roamed it. They were invited to make many more humans, to tend gardens, even to name the animals. Their focus was directed outward toward nature, the environment, and others.

Satan's emphasis was very different. Countering what God had said, the devil redirected Eve's thoughts to a new and exciting dynamic. "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5, NIV).

"You will not die. *Your* eyes will be opened. *You* will be like God." For the first time in earth's short history, its human inhabitants were being invited to think inwardly instead of outwardly. They were being asked to place themselves and their needs above everything else. "What do I want? How



will this make me feel? How will this benefit me?" became the new normal.

Social injustice

Their response opened the door to social *in*justice that continues to this day. The hoarding of resources, the protection of jobs, the separation of tribes, the caste system, racism, slavery, white supremacy can trace their roots back to that decision in the garden when Adam and Eve chose to think of themselves first and others second. Sin is all about inward thinking. It's all about me against you. It's all about selfishness.

We should not be surprised by where this selfishness has taken us as a society. We were warned.

The long laundry list of curses that the Creator lowered on the serpent, Adam, and Eve because of their choices perfectly reflects where we are today as a society. Read them in Genesis 3:14-19.

We can, with our voice and actions, reestablish social justice.

Curses aren't judgments

We need to keep in mind that these curses aren't judgments from God. They are simply conditions that inward thinking creates naturally. It's what happens when God's presence, power, and protection are rejected. Like an astronaut stepping out into space without a spacesuit, Adam and Eve—and we—must live life in an environment far removed from what God had in mind when He created this world. Inward thinking forms a deadly void around us.

The good news is that there's hope, and God's ideal for society can still be constructed, even in the atmosphere of sin. You and I can provide a place where people can find safety and comfort. We can think outwardly, embracing those whom inward thinking people reject. We can, with our voice and actions, reestablish social justice, offering those in need and those not like us equal opportunities for happiness and freedom.

The devil may have distorted and corrupted God's original plan, but we can turn the tables on him by changing our allegiance and thinking outwardly in love.





Song of Love

By Charles Mills

“The birds have
their song to
sing. So did
Grandma. Her
song was love.”

Lisa stared down at the words carved into the stone face of the grave marker. She wanted to cry, but she had no tears left. They'd all been used up.

It was weeks ago when she'd heard the news that Grandma was sick. Then she'd overheard her mom and dad talking about medicines and machines and strange sounding treatments at some hospital. She'd even visited the building where Grandma was staying, but she couldn't go inside because there was a danger that she could become sick, too. All she could do was call out “I love you” to a window high overhead where a busy, masked nurse appeared from time to time. Lisa had been told that Grandma was in that room, lying on a bed, trying hard to breathe.

She understood that there was something called COVID-19 stalking the world. She'd lived in fear that she or someone she knew would catch it and become very sick or even die. Sure enough, it happened. Now, Grandma was gone. All that remained were happy memories, words on stone, and an empty place in her heart.

“Why,” the girl whispered. “Why did this happen?”

Lisa's mother walked up beside her and took her hand. They stood for a long moment gazing down at the marker. When mother spoke, her words were faltering and sad. “Grandma died because of sin,” she said.

Lisa blinked. “Sin? I thought she died of COVID -19.”

“Sin made COVID -19 possible,” Mother stated. “Without sin, nothing gets sick, nothing becomes sad, nothing dies.”



"I hate sin," Lisa said. "It took away all my tears."

Mother sat down on the ground beside the freshly turned soil of the grave and Lisa joined her. The two listened to the birds overhead and felt the cool wind on their faces. "Grandma loved birds," the woman said. "She knew their songs. Remember?"

"Yes," Lisa agreed. "And she taught me some of their names. She taught me robin and chickadee and sparrow hawk. She taught me about mallard ducks and Canada geese and hummingbirds. I miss her so much."

Mother nodded. "She did that because she wanted you to know about the two worlds."

"Two worlds?"

"Yes. Earth and heaven. On Earth, where sin is, there's sadness and crying. In heaven, there is only happiness and love."

Lisa frowned. "But Grandma was always happy. She loved people. And she lived on this Earth."

"That's because she brought heaven to Earth," Mother said. "She wanted everyone to know that there can be more than sin in our lives. We can enjoy a little bit of heaven right here, right now. When Satan says, 'Be unfair, be disrespectful, look down on people, take away their freedoms,' Grandma insisted that we act like God and be respectful, be fair, allow

people to be who they are and follow their dreams. And, while we're doing that, we can share how much we love Jesus and tell them how much He loves them." Mother smiled, gazing up at the branches of the tree high overhead. "The birds have their song to sing. So did Grandma. Her song was love."

Lisa nodded slowly, letting her mother's words penetrate her breaking heart. "Song of love," she thought aloud. "I like that. That's the song that Grandma taught me. That's the song I'm going to sing whenever I think of her." She glanced over at the marker. "Thank you, Grandma," she whispered. "Thank you for teaching me your song of love."

The two stood and walked away through the afternoon shadows, leaving the cool wind to whisper through the branches and the birds to sing their songs among the leaves.





BUSH ABLAZE

BY WILLIAM JOHNSON

We crave the spectacular; God inhabits the ordinary. We want God to speak to us from heaven; He's already here in a bush ablaze.

*"This is my Father's world.
I walk a desert lone.
In a bush ablaze to my wondering gaze
God makes His glory known."*

(Maltbie D. Babcock)

It was all over for Moses. Once he had entertained dreams of greatness, leading his people to freedom from bondage in Egypt. He'd grown up privileged, educated in the best schools. Born to be a leader—that's what he once was.

Then he killed an Egyptian and tried to hide the body in the sand, but he was caught. With Pharaoh about to arrest him, he ran. And ran. And ran. All the way beyond Egypt, beyond the wrath of the king. He escaped, swallowed up in the desert of Midian.

Here the once-proud prince who had been destined for greatness became a shepherd. No more martial arts, no more palace intrigues: his life centered around finding pasture and water. His host, Jethro, had a daughter, Zipporah, dark complexioned; Moses fell in love with her. They married and she bore him two sons. Now a man of the desert, his expectations of grandeur evaporated.

But one day everything changed. He saw a small bush—but there was something strange about it. It seemed to be on fire, but it kept on blazing.

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

When Moses came closer to see what was going on, he heard a voice speaking. From within an altogether ordinary plant, it was God. Moses' eyes opened wide. He no longer saw a bush; he knew himself to be in the presence of God.

Near the house where we live there is a vacant lot. It's the only one in the neighborhood; all the others were long ago snatched up and built on. Although the lot is well-situated, it never sold. When the winter rains water the earth, thick, tall grass totally covers the lot. By April the rain spigot shuts off and the color of the lot goes from emerald green to yellow. By June the field is tinder dry and a fire hazard. Someone shows up to mow and relieve the fears of anxious neighbors.

Then the lot lies bare and brown for month after baking month. Only in October will fresh showers return to bring life to the earth.

Every year during the hot, dry stretch something happens in the empty lot. A bush begins to grow. Not pretty, it's a scraggly thing of yellow green. No moisture falls, but the bush continues to grow until it is a couple of feet across. Where does it get its life? The air is powder dry, the earth, dust.

All through the dry months, the intriguing bush lives out its life cycle. Before the rains appear, its weak green leaves turn to brown and it nears the end of its little day in the sun. By now its long scraggly limbs have begun to turn in on itself until it becomes spherical in shape. Then a strong wind blows in and breaks its tenuous hold on the parched soil. The bush begins to tumble. It wanders through the world as a child of the wind, born to go on tumbling.

I was that bush, that tumbleweed. I tumbled through life, blown hither and yon by every gust of wind.

Just a bush: youngest of nine, born in the depths of the Great Depression. Prospects were bleak. I was the only one of my siblings to have the opportunity to finish high school—all the others quit and went to work as soon as they turned 14.

A bush growing up in a desert place. But a Voice came to me and set me ablaze. That Voice taught me to lift my sights, to dream impossible dreams, to take control of my destiny. Still a bush, but no longer blown hither and yon by every gust of wind.

Slowly, gradually, the Voice taught me to see every bush ablaze with divine glory. It taught me that the Hand that guides the universe makes its glory known in the simplest, most unlikely objects of creation.

Now I can see; the desert is ablaze with glory. Sun, air, sky, stars, trees, flowers, every blade of springing grass is a simple gift, a gift of grace.

That's the way God works. The one who is infinitely great inhabits the ordinary.

In the Hebrew Scriptures we encounter a mysterious person who is simply called "my servant." This messenger of Yahweh will change the world, not by guns and bombs, not by armies and war, not by power and persuasion. He will transform the world by humility, gentleness, and love. He makes no speeches, beats no drums. He

takes a bruised reed and holds it tight so that it does not break. He fans the flame of the smoking ember and brings it back to life. Throughout His life the Servant takes upon Himself the sickness, cares, and suffering of humanity—and in a tragic, triumphant climax stretches out His shoulders to carry the entire load of sin and guilt of a race that has lost its way.

Jesus.

The Scripture describes the Servant's coming to the rescue of lost humanity:

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us
to him,

nothing in his appearance that we should
desire him.

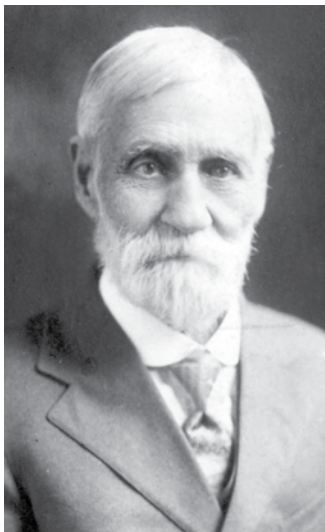
(Isaiah 53:2, NIV)

A bush, springing up in the desert. Don't be deceived. Look again at that bush. It's ablaze with glory. Open your eyes: that bush ablaze cradles the God of the universe, full of grace and truth.



Merritt Gardner Kellogg (Part 1): First to Preach in California

By Jim Wibberding



A good find

“Did you say his initials were M. G. K.?”

Lonnie’s question quickened my pulse. Could three years of sorting time-stained documents have just paid off?

He bit his lip, hesitant, but a tremor of hope rolled through his words: “What was his birth year?”

The tiny white headstone read, “M. G. K. 1833 – 1921.” That was almost right; he was born in 1832.

My brother and 13-year-old daughter, Kara, were searching with me for the long-lost grave of Merritt Gardner Kellogg—the first person to preach the Adventist message in California.¹ We had found it! A dusty old cemetery file for that grave number confirmed it.

Why does Merritt Kellogg matter? Let me tell you his story.

Westward journey

It is time to go west, Merritt resolved. His stack of liberty-head pennies was woefully short.² To weather the financial Panic of 1857,³ either his farm would have to adapt to long-distance domestic trade⁴ or he would need a new job. Merritt chose the greater gamble. This was not surprising, given his family culture.

The Kelloggs dripped with creativity and lacked the usual dose of risk aversion. Merritt’s father, John Preston Kellogg, led a station on the Underground Railroad, smuggling escaped slaves to freedom⁵—and later pioneered westward from Massachusetts to Michigan.⁶ Merritt’s stepmother, Ann (née Stanley), proved equally fearless in domestic ventures—such as step-mothering

The Kelloggs dripped with creativity and lacked the usual dose of risk aversion.

This Kellogg family culture spawned Merritt—a man who would shape Adventism in California and beyond, from little more than tracts and the mist of the San Francisco Bay.

five kids at age 18 and later raising 11 of her own.⁷ Merritt's kid brother John built a whirlwind of sanitariums across the globe, leaving a flurry of inventions in his wake.⁸ Their brother Will, the "Corn Flakes King,"⁹ built a cereal empire.

This Kellogg family culture spawned Merritt—a man who would shape Adventism in California and beyond, from little more than tracts and the mist of the San Francisco Bay.¹⁰

Almost penniless, at age 26, Merritt rode the pioneer wind westward from Michigan.¹¹ Along the way, he built his carpentry trade, taking jobs to pay for the trip.¹² Merritt's wife, Louisa, rode in the lumbering oxcart with toddler Charles,

while Merritt and two older kids, Alvin and Anna, walked. The year was 1859, and their aim was the booming lands of Pike's Peak.¹³

In a hapless attempt at good planning, Merritt bought two pairs of new shoes for the journey. Alas, the soles were fastened with wooden pegs, which fell out as he trudged beside the wagon, leaving him to limp barefoot for hundreds of miles. Buffalo hide moccasins finally brought relief.¹⁴

Scrambling west in the stream of fifty-niners set for "Pike's Peak or Bust!"¹⁵ soon lost its glow. After one too many tangles with the rougher sort, Louisa and Merritt took their family farther west to California,¹⁶ where they settled in the cool breeze of San Francisco.¹⁷

California mission

Merritt's carpentry craft paid the bills, but his distant gaze lit on grander hopes. He had embraced the Advent Movement¹⁸ six years before¹⁹ and was determined to share it. Repurposing his skills as the first Sabbath School Superintendent in Battle Creek,²⁰ he held two evangelistic series—one in a courtroom and the other in a rented hall—which netted 14 converts.²¹ Still he dreamed of more.

Merritt penned letters to Battle Creek, begging for a minister to be sent to California. He was a mere layman, after all. James White replied that they had no one to send,²² but Merritt persisted; he kept asking and praying.



The author finds the gravestone for Merritt G. Kellogg.



Merritt and Eleanor Kellogg with friends.

God heard Merritt Kellogg's prayers. In late 1867, John Loughborough dreamed that he boarded a ship in New York and sailed to California, where he pitched a carnival tent and commenced to preach. The next night, he had the same dream again, then again, and again, and again—at least 20 times that winter.²³ At the 1868 General Conference Session, when Merritt made a rousing plea for help in California, the deal was done.²⁴ For much of the next five decades, Merritt Kellogg and John Loughborough would be the duo who built the California Adventist mission—making it the second great center of Adventism after Battle Creek, Michigan.

Kellogg had made sure he would be at that 1868 Session by temporarily moving back East, where he occupied himself in earning a medical degree. Back in California, as he and Loughborough preached from town to town, Doctor Merritt Kellogg gave health talks and provided free healthcare to locals. He also designed beautiful lithographs to illustrate the salvation story—such as his famous *The Way of Life: From Paradise Lost to Paradise Restored*.²⁵

A vivid example of Dr. Kellogg's evangelistic impact occurred while he and Loughborough worked in Bloomfield, near Santa Rosa. Part way

through an evangelistic series, smallpox roiled the town. Residents fled in fear, leaving the sick to fend for themselves. Merritt and John didn't run. They called at each home, and Merritt cared for the sick. When the plague abated and they resumed preaching, the grateful town showed up.²⁶ Dr. Kellogg's kindness had won hearts to the gospel.

Mission structures

We can feel the true force of Merritt's impact on Adventist mission when we realize the range of his influence. In the early days of Seventh-day Adventism, five structures emerged to keep the mission moving.

The first two were local churches and conferences. In this sphere, Merritt planted churches and helped start the California Conference. The remaining structures formed a trifecta of support systems for mission expansion: institutions of healthcare, education, and publishing. Merritt's heart and hands were all in—editing and writing, doctoring and evangelizing through medical work, training nurses and helping start a college.

In 1874, Merritt helped plan, build, and serve the Pacific Press in Oakland—also writing a tall stack of books and articles himself.²⁷

Next, "on the tenth day of September, 1877, with pick and shovel, Dr. M. G. Kellogg broke the sod on the site," built the road, made bricks, milled lumber, framed rooms and windows, tapped the spring, and everything else needed to raise a world-class sanitarium (now Adventist Health St. Helena) from the earth and timber of the land.²⁸

He also started training nurses at the sanitarium and then, in 1882, was on hand to help launch Healdsburg College (now Pacific Union College).²⁹ There were even a few carpentry tasks to do.³⁰ Later, in retirement, Merritt settled two blocks from the college, where he frequented campus³¹ and regaled students with firsthand mission stories.

As one can see, besides pioneering churches and the local conference, Merritt Kellogg played

formative roles in publishing, healthcare, and educational institutions—rounding out his influence on every arena of Adventist mission.

Conclusion

Here in the West, we owe Merritt Gardner Kellogg our thanks each time we worship at an Adventist church or visit an Adventist hospital or attend an Adventist school or read a publication like this one. He lit the torch that burns here today.

I will share more of his story in next month's issue. For now, let us resolve to carry that torch and fan its flame. Let the light of this beautiful Adventist faith shine as brightly as it did in Merritt's day.

James Wibberding is Professor of Applied Theology and Biblical Studies at Pacific Union College

¹John N. Loughborough, "Sketches of the Past—No. 139," *Pacific Union Recorder*, vol. 12, no. 47 (June 19, 1913), pp. 2-3.

²Harold Oliver McCumber, *Pioneering the Message in the Golden West* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1946), p. 34.

³James L. Huston, *The Panic of 1857 and the Coming of the Civil War* (Baton Rouge, LA: LSU Press, 1999), pp. 14-24.

⁴"1800-1860: Business and the Economy: Overview," *Encyclopedia.com* (accessed December 2020).

⁵Merritt Gardner Kellogg, *Notes Concerning the Kelloggs* (Battle Creek, MI: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1927), p. 51.

⁶Kellogg, *Notes Concerning the Kelloggs*, pp. 10-11.

⁷Kellogg, *Notes Concerning the Kelloggs*, pp. 19-20.

⁸Richard W. Schwartz, *John Harvey Kellogg: Pioneering Health Reformer*, Adventist Pioneer Series, George R. Knight, ed. (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 2006).

⁹"Corn Flakes King to Make Home in State," *Healdsburg Tribune* (July 2, 1925), p. 4.

¹⁰Kellogg, *Notes Concerning the Kelloggs*, pp. 53-59.

¹¹McCumber, p. 34.

¹²Kellogg, *Notes Concerning the Kelloggs*, p. 63.

¹³McCumber, pp. 35-36.

¹⁴Kellogg, *Notes Concerning the Kelloggs*, p. 90.

¹⁵Robert L. Brown, *The Great Pikes Peak Gold Rush* (Caldwell, ID: Caxton Press, 1985).

¹⁶Kellogg, *Notes Concerning the Kelloggs*, pp. 77-82.



Merritt and Eleanor Kellogg.

¹⁷Loughborough, "Sketches of the Past—No. 139," p. 3.

¹⁸John N. Loughborough, *The Great Second Advent Movement: Its Rise and Progress* (Nashville, TN: Southern Pub. Assn., 1905).

¹⁹Schwartz, p. 16.

²⁰191. Dr. Merritt G. Kellogg. Database on-line. Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos> (accessed Dec. 2, 2020).

²¹McCumber, p. 52.

²²John N. Loughborough, *Miracles in My Life: Autobiography of Adventist Pioneer J. N. Loughborough* (College Place, WA: Heritage Publications), pp. 42-43.

²³Loughborough, *Miracles in My Life*, p. 43.

²⁴*Ibid.*

²⁵Merritt Gardner Kellogg, *The Way of Life: From Paradise Lost to Paradise Restored* (Battle Creek, MI: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1873).

²⁶Loughborough, *Miracles in My Life*, p. 51.

²⁷J. J. Wessels, "California Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association Annual Report of Manager," *Pacific Union Recorder*, vol. 13, no. 35 (April 2, 1914), p. 1.

²⁸Wessels, p. 2.

²⁹Sydney Brownsberger, "Healdsburg Academy," *Signs of the Times*, vol. 8, no. 17 (April 27, 1882), p. 199-200.

³⁰"Healdsburg School," *Signs of the Times*, vol. 8, no. 26 (July 13, 1882), p. 307.

³¹M. G. Kellogg to W. C. White, May 29, 1906.

Here in the West, we owe Merritt Gardner Kellogg our thanks each time we worship at an Adventist church or visit an Adventist hospital or attend an Adventist school or read a publication like this one.

\$2,000 Scholarship

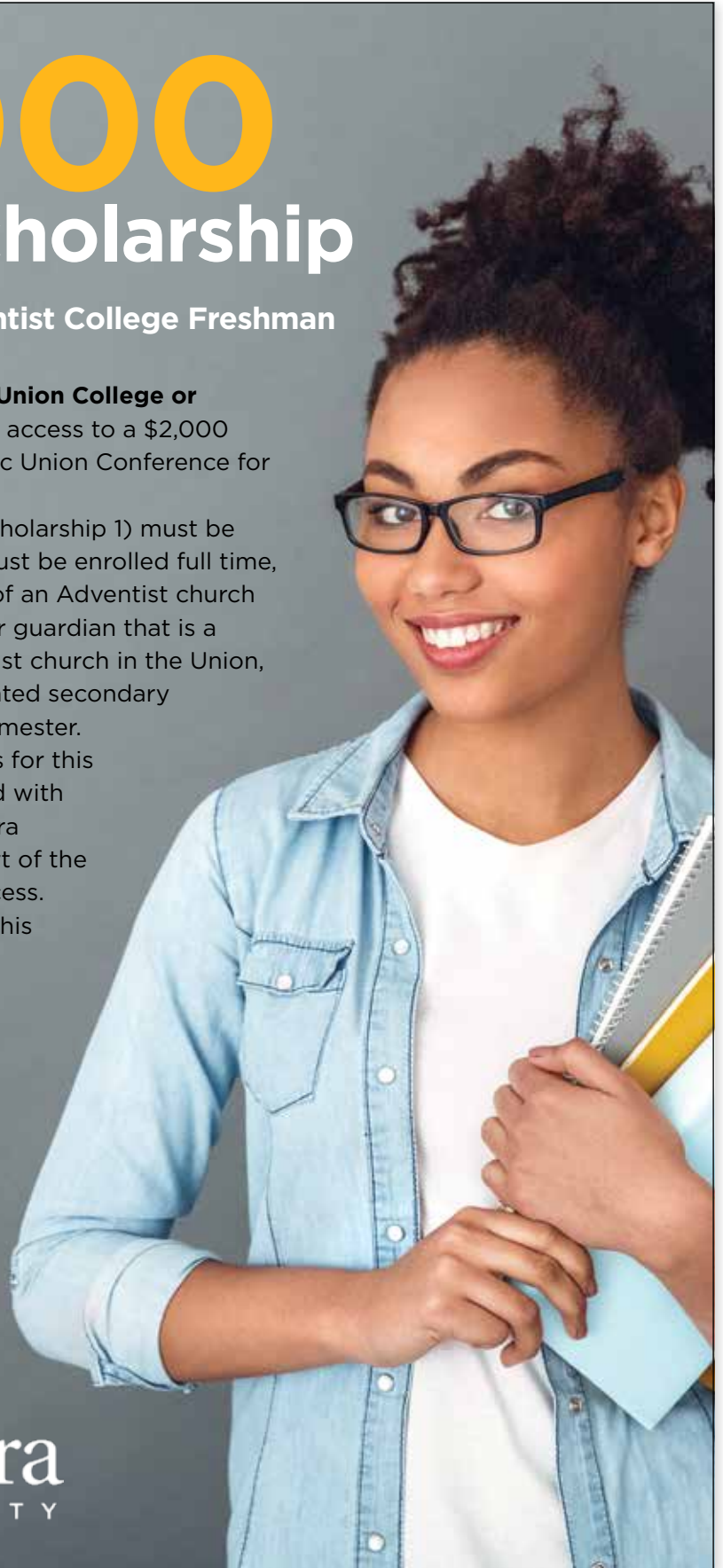
Supports In-Union Adventist College Freshman

Incoming freshmen at Pacific Union College or La Sierra University now have access to a \$2,000 scholarship provided by Pacific Union Conference for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

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

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





FROM FOUR TO FORTY: Born Anew on the Banks of the Salt River

What a glorious, powerful event to be a part of in these difficult times—and a reminder that God continues to work in Arizona and around the world.

Heaven rejoices over just one soul who gives his or her life to Jesus and is baptized. So, can you imagine the rejoicing that was happening in heaven on Sabbath, May 1, when 40 people were baptized in the Salt River in Mesa, Arizona?

Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19, NKJV), and Pastor Ed Anderson and the Chandler church have done just that.

What started out as a baptism for four candidates quickly grew to a much larger number. So how did four grow into forty? “Jesus asks us to follow Him, go, teach, and baptize by casting the net out. That’s what I did,” said Anderson. “And Jesus drove the





fish into the net. I had enough faith to cast the net and hold it.”

It is not uncommon to see large baptismal events during foreign mission trips, but Anderson believes that the baptism in Arizona is “proof that the Holy Spirit is working powerfully and that these types of results are not just confined to places overseas. I believe that we are in the end times and signs are being fulfilled. The gospel is being preached faster now than people realize!”

COVID-19 has made baptisms in church difficult, so Anderson looked for somewhere outdoors that would be a safe place for many to gather. “We found the [Salt] River that reminds us of the Jordan River, in a place similar to the Holy Land,” Anderson said. Arizona Conference President Ed Keyes and Executive Secretary Jorge Ramirez assisted Pastor Anderson with the baptisms, and it was a joy for the two administrators to be part of such a wonderful celebration. Ralph Robertson, interim pastor of the Chandler Fil-Am church, was also invited to assist.

While the candidates were baptized in the waters one by one, “friends and families rallied together and sang melodious hymns from the riverside. The waters were cold, yet everyone’s faces radiated with warmth,” recalled Jacqueline Battistone, who attended the event. “I was immensely blessed to witness such an inspirational, moving, and transforming ceremony.”

The Arizona Conference rejoices along with heaven in the baptizing of so many precious souls for Jesus. What a glorious, powerful event to be a part of in these difficult times—and a reminder that God continues to work in Arizona and around the world. Anderson invites everyone to “get ready for Jesus’ second coming, because the latter rain has begun!”

By Kerysa Ford



**NOTICE OF
ARIZONA CONFERENCE CORPORATION
31st REGULAR CONSTITUENCY MEETING
2nd QUINQUENNIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING**

The 31st regular constituency meeting of the Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene as follows:

**October 24, 2021
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (or until business is completed)
Mesa Convention Center
263 N Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201**

The purpose of this meeting is to receive departmental reports; to elect conference officers, departmental directors, executive committee, bylaws committee, and the Adventist scholarship committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates during this meeting.

*Ed Keyes, President
Jorge A. Ramirez, Executive Secretary*

Soquel Camp Meeting 2021—Virtually

JULY 14 TO 17, ENGLISH | JULY 18 TO 24, SPANISH

Save the dates! Inspirational days are ahead! Maybe it's "not the same," but you still won't want to miss it! Yes, there will be something for everybody—children, youth, young adults, and adults in both English and Spanish. And maybe you will even find some special surprises tucked throughout. If you love stories, this is where you will want to be! Lots of planning is going on even as this is being written in early May, but you can be assured that many special things are in progress. Here are a few highlights for now. All times mentioned are Pacific Daylight Time.

REVIVAL WEEKEND

Be sure to check out the information about the meetings to be held **before** camp meeting at the Clovis church, entitled "Prayer Changes the World."

CHILDREN

That's right! We are bringing Soquel Camp Meeting to your children. CCC Children's Ministries has created age-appropriate programming to keep kids engaged while learning. New content will appear each day on CCC's camp meeting website. *Pre-register your kids today at <https://tinyurl.com/Camp-Meeting-2021> so they can enjoy new music, crafts, and games while learning that Jesus is returning to take us home.*

You only need to register once for all four days—and be sure to include all of your children. Watching our virtual camp meeting is completely free. If you want your children to receive the craft station supplies, there is a charge of \$7 per child to offset the shipping costs.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

The virtual program will include powerful speakers, discussion Bible studies, and inspirational music. Hear amazing testimonies from your peers. Time for networking and meeting others will be included, so plan on staying connected from the comfort of your home. All youth and young adults are invited.



Youth

Beginning Thursday, July 15, at 7 p.m., youth will explore the theme, "The Story I'll Tell." The meetings continue on Friday with a devotional at 8 a.m.; a workout that includes three breakout sessions at 2:30 p.m.; and a 7 p.m. vespers. On Sabbath, a youth-led Sabbath School starts at 9:30 a.m.; with church service at 11 a.m.; "iTestify" (art, singing, testimonies, poetry) at 6 p.m.; and vespers at 7 p.m.; followed by a Saturday night social at 8:30 p.m. The Zoom ID is 931 9757 6489.

Young Adults

With the theme, "When Hope Returns," the young adults will continue with their regular programming on Wednesday and Thursday, July 14 and 15. Beginning Friday, they will have a Bible study at 10 a.m.; join the main adult program at 7 p.m.; and then discuss the sermon at 8:30 p.m. They will begin Sabbath at 9:30 a.m. with Anil Kanda, and end it at 5 p.m. with Sabbath vespers and testimonies. The Zoom ID is 967 6324 9314.



Although Soquel camp meeting is virtual this year, we still look forward to you joining us because, "From the beginning to the end every camp meeting may be a love feast, because God's presence is with His people" (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 63).



SOQUEL CAMP MEETING 2021 | JULY 14-24

Virtual



John Bradshaw
JULY 14-15, 7PM



Henry Wright
JULY 16, 7PM



Wesley Knight
JULY 17, 10:45AM & 7PM



Hyveth Williams
JULY 17, 3PM

SPANISH

Homero Salazar
JULY 18-20, 7PM

Jose Esposito
JULY 21-24, 7PM

YOUNG ADULTS

"When Hope Returns"
Fri, July 16 | 10AM | 7PM | 8:30PM
Sat, July 17 | 9:30AM | 5PM
Zoom ID: 967 6324 9314

YOUTH

"The Story I'll Tell!"
Thur, July 15 | 7PM
Fri, July 16 | 8AM | 2:30PM | 7PM
Sat, July 17 | 9:30AM | 11AM | 6PM | 7PM | 8:30PM
Zoom ID: 931 9757 6489



From original music videos and skits, to our follow along craft center, our program has been created to teach your children about Jesus' sacrifice and His soon-return. New content will appear each day on our website. Want to receive a box of crafts and other fun stuff for your child's virtual experience? Register today: tinyurl.com/Camp-Meeting-2021

FOR VIEWING INFORMATION VISIT CENTRALCALIFORNIAADVENTIST.COM/CAMP-MEETING

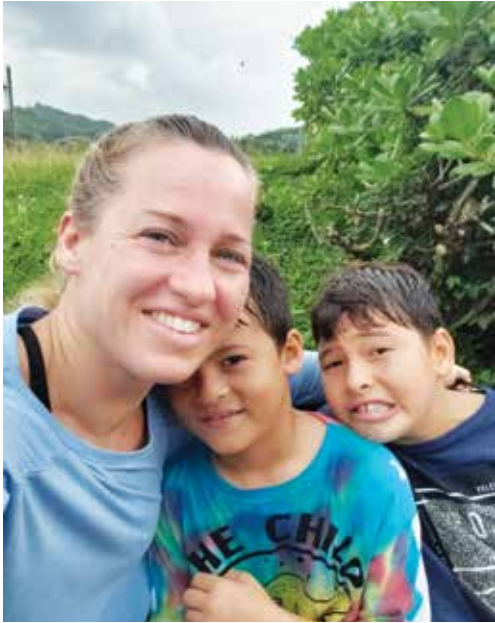
REVIVAL WEEKEND | JULY 9-10, 2021

"Prayer Changes the World"

FEATURING ANIL KANDA, DAVID DEAN
WITH AFTERNOON TESTIMONIES FROM OUR TEACHERS, CHILDREN & YOUTH.

FRIDAY: 7:00PM TO 9:00PM
SATURDAY: 9:00AM TO 5:30PM

LOCATION: CLOVIS SDA CHURCH
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED



Students Participate in Safe Jog-a-thon...

Every year, Hawaiian Mission Academy (HMA) Windward Campus and HMA Ka Lama Iki get together for a joint jog-a-thon fundraising event. These have always been fun days, with families helping to count laps and offer refreshments to the runners. However, this year the two schools held separate events due to COVID-19.

For Jog-a-thon 2021, HMA Windward decided to forego the usual running track venue in order to maintain family bubbles and limit exposure. Families met at the HMA Windward campus early Sunday morning on January 17 to warm up and stretch while spread out over the parking lot. This allowed students and families to enjoy camaraderie and school spirit at a safe distance.

Each family was provided with free apps to keep track of students' distances. After Pastor Brennon Kirstein's worship thought and prayer, families scattered to locations of their choice (neighborhoods, parks, running tracks, hiking trails, etc.) to run/walk/jog for two consecutive hours. They had until 6:00 p.m. to complete the event and submit the data from their apps, which showed their time and distance.

Since this event was new, the anticipation was that it wouldn't raise as much as previous years, but participants are praising God for the \$12,000 that was collected! Students were given incentives such as treats and prizes for donations collected. Everyone enjoyed the award ceremony, which recognized the top runners and top collectors.

Organizers received positive feedback from families on the way the event was executed despite the obvious obstacles, and they are thankful to be able to find ways to continue to encourage exercise, raise money, and promote school spirit.

By Hilda Scott





...And Jump-a-thon



Traditionally, every January, Hawaiian Mission Academy (HMA) Ka Lama Iki holds a joint jog-a-thon fundraiser with its sister school HMA Windward. This year, however, due to safety regulations, they were forced to set off on their own. With so much uncertainty within this school year, the staff desperately wanted to bring some shade of “normal” back to the classroom.

As they discussed plans to hold the jog-a-thon in various places—Camp Waianae, the beach, their campus—they kept circling back to the same colorful idea: a color run! Better yet, since the campus doesn’t have space to run, they would jump! So, the students and teachers started jumping rope in preparation for Jump-a-thon 2021. The teachers were not confident that the school could reach the fundraising goal of \$20,000 for the 2021-2022 Scholarship Fund, but they could at least focus on the health and fitness aspect of the event.

Early morning on Friday, April 23, as tents and water coolers were pulled from dusty closets, the jump-a-thon got underway. The day began with an inspiring outdoor chapel with local youth pastors and helpful interns, as *keiki* (children) and staff praised and worshipped God together. The exciting event was then kicked off with the color run—an opening lap around the school as students were ambushed and covered in multicolored cornstarch powder. As students dodged and ran, the staff were able to see those hidden smiles that they had missed so terribly.

The rest of the day was filled with all kinds of jumping at the different stations. From Double Dutch to helicopter to speed jumping, the students, volunteers, and teachers jumped their hearts out! They also could spend time at the “count station,” where they counted the jumps of the other participants for the fundraising portion of the event.

Looking back, there was no need for concern about the generosity of donors this year. Thanks to students, community, the church community, and even coaches, Ka Lama Iki not only exceeded the fundraising goal of \$20,000, they surpassed it two weeks before the deadline. God continues to bless this school, despite all of the challenges faced this year. The staff and students of Ka Lama Iki encourage all of their sister schools to not lose faith—if God wants students at your school, they will come!

By Sarah Traczyk and Ashley Martin



Anita Ojeda

MAPS: Academics and Arts at HIS



The MAPS program at Holbrook Indian School (HIS) has four pillars: Mental, Academic/Artistic, Physical, and Spiritual. Each pillar is a fundamental component of our students' environment and education, with specific and practical applications. Last month, we began a series in the *Recorder* covering our MAPS program by looking specifically at how we approach the "M" (mental health). This month's article continues the series by looking at the "A" (academic and artistic).

In this issue, HIS teacher Anita Ojeda presents a summary of our unique approach to academics and the arts at Holbrook Indian School.

Academic overview

At Holbrook Indian School, we want our students to find wholeness. We've created a unique delivery system for the two essential subjects: English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Many of our students have experienced a high level of trauma, which produces a phenomenon known as the affective filter. An affective filter makes it impossible for a student to learn and retain things. Each traumatic experience further prevents students from learning at the same rate as their peers.

When students arrive at HIS, we immediately test them to discover their reading and math levels. In order to meet their needs, we want to make sure we know the correct level for them to start. The data from the test scores ensure we place students correctly.

ELA and Math delivery systems

In a conventional school setting, teachers teach based on their students' grade-level placement. Unfortunately, many of the students at HIS have fallen behind academically, and their needs don't necessarily match up with the teachers' areas of expertise.

For example, a high school English teacher won't have expertise in helping students learn how to read. Therefore, we pair students who have trouble reading with the teacher who can best meet their needs. To do this, the entire school teaches ELA at the same time each morning. Students rotate between three different teachers, based on each student's individual needs. We teach math to the entire school during one period also. This allows students to pair up with teachers who can best help them experience success.

As students accelerate their learning, our system allows the fluidity for them to move up to a higher level. This academic success boosts their confidence and enables them to experience success in other areas of their lives. Our data also shows how our system works to accelerate student learning. The longer a student stays at our school, the sharper the rise in their academic performance.

Arts

Art provides many benefits for mental health. Art also allows students to feel successful at something. A student might not read very well, but they might find success working with pottery. When our students find success at something, we try to nurture their talent. Their artistic achievements breed success in other areas of school. We want students to understand the value of creativity as a form of self-care.

Our indigenous arts class allows students to learn about indigenous art practices from various tribes.



In order to build self-confidence, we emphasize the importance of learning about their heritage.

Next level placement

Juniors and seniors take the next level placement class every other year. We've discovered our graduates have a very low success rate in college. Many factors influence these statistics, such as poverty, family pressures, and lack of knowledge about how to take the next step. About 99% of our students come from families where no one has attended college. When they don't have that background or support, they start college at a disadvantage. We want to help students learn the vocabulary of higher education and feel comfortable applying for scholarships and financial aid.

By Chevon Petgrave and Anita Ojeda



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

Rescued, Malnourished Infant Receives Lifesaving Care and Adoptive Home

Three-year-old Payge is healthy and living in a loving home—a dramatic turnaround after being rescued at age three months from neglect and malnourishment.

Dawn Huff, Payge's adoptive mother, loves Loma Linda University Children's Hospital for giving Payge lifesaving care and is thankful for the community effort that brought Payge into her family.

"She was this emaciated baby, so close to death," Huff said. "And now she's going to turn three and is just amazing—her personality, the fighting spirit she has. She's come so far." Doctors who cared for Payge told San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies that if they had not found Payge, she would have died within several days.

Payge was rushed to Children's Hospital in July of 2018 after being removed from her home by deputies. She'd been living with her biological parents in a trailer without water or electricity and was sleeping in a urine-soaked car seat, said Morrissa Cardoza, a deputy district attorney for the county.

"Payge's dad would put alcohol in her bottle to try to get her to go to sleep faster and would blow marijuana smoke directly into her face because she was fussy and hungry and crying," Cardoza said.

When rescued, Payge weighed only six pounds. "She had been starved," said Melissa Siccama, MD, a forensic pediatrician at Children's Hospital. "She was dehydrated. You could see her ribs, her bones."

Doctors like Siccama and Amy Young-Snodgrass, MD, who specialize in child abuse pediatrics at Children's Hospital, were determined to help Payge survive. After 10 days in the hospital, Payge had improved and gained enough weight under the attentive care of the physicians, nurses, and staff that she was discharged to a foster family.

"When I first saw her at the hospital, I started to cry because she was so small," Huff remembered. "All of

my foster babies have been failure-to-thrive [cases], but Payge was just so small and so sickly looking."

From the moment Payge clung to her finger, Huff wanted Payge as part of their family. Payge's adoption was finalized in 2020. Now almost three, Payge is thriving in the loving care of her family.

Young-Snodgrass, also the chief of forensic pediatrics at Children's Hospital, said they respond to approximately 2,500 cases of child abuse per year, but the numbers have risen during the pandemic. "Just a few months into COVID-19, we started to see a drastic increase in the number of egregious cases of child abuse," she said.

Children's Hospital is committed to helping children affected by abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences to reach a place of wholeness, health, and safety.

By Sheann
Brandon



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

From a Pandemic's Grip, Champions Emerge

On April 11, excitement exploded on the field and ricocheted almost immediately around social media: The La Sierra University Golden Eagles women's soccer team won the title against No. 1 seed UC Merced Bobcats, their first championship since the program's inception in 2016.

The Golden Eagles finished 1-0 to sit atop the California Pacific Conference, one of 21 member conferences in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, or NAIA.

"To bring the first championship [to the home field], ...it was surreal. It was great," commented Women's Soccer Head Coach David Trevino. "A night I will probably never forget." Trevino, a La Sierra alumnus, has led and built the women's soccer program since its beginning.

Senior Marisol Bravo, a defender, recalled the exhilaration of the moment. "Everyone was crying; I was crying for sure. It was a really nice moment; it was exciting," she said.

The conference win propelled the team to opening rounds of nationals in Santa Barbara, Calif., where on April 15 they lost by one point to the Westmont College Mountaineers. Their appearance was a memorable achievement given the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public health mandates shuttered operations of all schools in the state beginning in March 2020. The university's nine varsity sports teams—men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross-country, volleyball, softball, and baseball—faced varying degrees of disruption. The cross-country program was sidelined for the year, and on-campus team practices for other sports were delayed and then repeatedly shut down when COVID cases surged in the region. Conference play and championships were also moved up in the season by months.



PHOTO: ADRIAN WILSON

The Golden Eagles women's soccer team clinches the conference title on April 11.

The athletics department, under the leadership of Athletics Director Javier Krumm, last year created detailed pandemic protocols that affected training, practice, and game play. Through an online system, the department also kept track of grades and worked with advisors to help guide and support students.

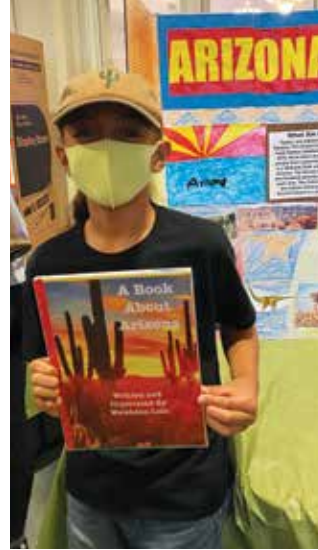
In April, Bravo placed among second team All Team Cal Pac Conference Recognitions, one of several awards for Golden Eagles women's soccer. She recalled the difficult days when players were trying to work out on their own at home, motivated by physical activity assignments, use of online athletics apps, and daily information from Trevino.

Meanwhile, as numbers of vaccinations increase and COVID cases decrease, re-opening decisions for fall are underway at La Sierra University.



ISTOCK.COM/BY_NICHOLAS

By Darla Martin Tucker



Riverview Learning Fair

BELOW: Each student also painted a watercolor picture to highlight their state report.



In April, the students in grades 2 to 4 at Riverview Christian Academy (RCA) in Reno, Nevada, participated in a Learning Fair. Preparations for this exceptional evening began many months before.

The students have been studying the United States. Early in the year, each student chose a different state to represent and research. The students began formulating outlines for reports that went through various stages of editing. The students then became the illustrators of their reports, which were finally "published." Of the assignment, fourth-grader Dallan Lista said, "We wrote reports about states that we chose. We got books from Mrs. Beddoe to help us with our research."

On the night of the Learning Fair, students wore costumes they had chosen to represent their selected state. They had written a paragraph explaining the meaning of their attire and placed it on a display board, along with numerous facts about the state chosen. According to Tomasi Valele, third-grade student, "The Learning Fair was so fun! The state I represented was Alaska. The part I liked about Alaska was the state animal, the moose."

Those who attended the event enjoyed hearing the oral presentations that the students read from the stage. This was followed by an opportunity to speak with the students individually in the lobby, where the reports, display boards, and artifacts were set up on tables. Parent Krysta Wyman was impressed: "Not only were their presentations well thought out and researched, but perhaps more importantly, the students were able to present with confidence, enthusiasm, and pride, which speaks volumes of the growth, support, and nurturing ways here at RCA." Carlos Camacho, parent and NUC Executive Secretary, said, "The students took us on a nationwide tour and showed



TOP ROW: (left to right) Dallan Lista, fourth-grader, representing the state of Georgia and Julio Jones, wide receiver for the Atlanta Falcons. Tomasi Valele, third-grade student representing Alaska and Joseph Juneau. Welshdon Lolo represents Arizona, highlighting the Grand Canyon. Dani Wyman as a cowgirl representing Wyoming. Texas was reported on by cowboy Kian Lista, who said that cowboys are famous in Texas because of the cattle they take care of. Daniel Harter shares his display about Washington State. Ngie Finau, dressed as Elvis Presley, showcases the state of Tennessee.

RIGHT: Daniel Harter, portraying George Washington, and Lynn Goulard, portraying Eliza Hamilton, await their turn to present their reports.

BELOW: Following their presentation, the students took a bow or curtsy as the audience applauded. Lillia Waring, second-grade student dressed as Laura Ingalls Wilder representing the state of Wisconsin, takes her bow.



us the beauty of almost every state of this great nation. The displays were very informative, and the kids were so proud to share their hard work. Mrs. Beddoe finds ways to incorporate the discipline of learning and researching in very fun ways, allowing the children to showcase their hard work to their peers and parents."

In addition to the costumes, display boards, reports, and presentations, student watercolor artwork was also on display on easels for the guests to admire.

Although space was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event was well attended. Those who were unable to be there were able to watch a livestream on the Riverview Christian Academy YouTube channel. If you missed it, the event is still available for viewing. Carol Veitenheimer, grandmother of a student, exclaimed, "It was a fabulous program! We loved seeing the work and personalities of these sweet kids!"

Now is the time to enroll your children for the 2021-22 school year in the Adventist school nearest you so they can enjoy the benefits of a Christian education in a loving environment.

By Mariann Beddoe



ABOVE: Creativity was on display in the watercolor paintings accompanying the students' reports.

Despite Physical Distancing, NCC Members Connect

Each week, people throughout the Northern California Conference find ways to connect with each other in fellowship—both in person and online. Here are a few recent examples:

“A Ministry that Feels Natural”

by Daisy Stephens

The Placerville church’s fire bowl serves as an outdoor gathering place for fellowship and ministry, thanks to the efforts of the church’s over-50 group, called Alegria (which means “joy”).

For a long time, several of the Placerville church seniors had dreamed of creating a place for groups of all ages to come together in a comfortable environment and worship God in nature. Fred Stephens launched a fire bowl project planning team, but they had no money

or adequate resources. Stephens and the team prayed that God would make a way for the project.

The Lord answered them by sending all the resources needed at little or no cost. Greg Fridley and Lemoin Brewer cleared the land. Lowell Spiva provided the timber for the benches, milled it, and delivered it at no cost. Bo Stewart at El Dorado Truss Company provided the steel for the legs and did the welding. Brandon and Jerry Dennis bored the holes for the rivets and poured the concrete for the walkway. Jim Shoun and Wally Cordis built the fire pit. Many others volunteered to sand and stain the benches, as well as paint bench legs.

The work began in August 2019 and finished in March 2020—one week before the pandemic lockdown. Life changed, and the newly finished gathering place sat dormant for many months. Eventually, groups began to worship and spend quality time together at the fire bowl, located near the church’s pond. “Being able to be outdoors, get fresh air, and build relationships has been essential,” said Brandon Kharns, Placerville church associate pastor.

“The fire bowl was a perfect place for us to create a ministry that feels natural,” said Stephens. “To many people, their time at the fire bowl was a brief moment in a chaotic and scary time that felt normal and relaxed.”

“Don’t Forget Me!”

By Julie Lorenz

In mid-April, the NCC Prison Ministries Rally and Training Day took place at the West Sacramento church. The theme of the day was “Don’t Forget Me!”

More than 70 people attended the event in person, following NCC COVID guidelines, while others watched online to learn ways to reach the incarcerated and recently released.

A variety of speakers gave presentations, including Virgil Childs, director of African American regional



PHOTOS: BRANDON KHARNS

ministries for the Pacific Union Conference; Michael Ashley, founder/director of Touch of Love Ministries; Aaron Brieno, deputy chief of staff for California State Senator Ben Hueso; and Loland Moutray from Blade of Hope Ministries.



PHOTOS: YOLANDA REZAR

This past year has been difficult and lonely for people in prison. “I am grateful that our incarcerated brothers and sisters have not been forgotten during the pandemic,” said Willie Johnson, NCC prison ministries coordinator. “Letter writing has increased, giving them hope. Bibles and other Adventist books and literature continue to flow into the prisons.”

One of the day’s attendees was Victor Beale, head elder at the West Sacramento church, who has been involved in prison ministry for 33 years. He encourages others to get involved with this important outreach. “Prison ministry is what Jesus called us to do,” he said. “I believe that every call He makes, He equips us for.”

“The Opportunity to Be Together”

“Give Everything to Jesus: He Is Able!” was the theme of the annual Hispanic Women’s Retreat, held online in April.



Psychologist Yaqueline Tello and nutritionist María José Hummel provided hope and encouragement during their presentations, while Addi Yin and Sandra de Hernández blessed attendees with their music. So far, the recordings have received more than 2,000 views.

“We received a blessing from the speakers, musicians, and the opportunity to be together, even though we were meeting online,” said Teresa Leal, Hispanic women’s ministries leader. “We look forward to being together in person next year at Leoni Meadows.”

“A Reunion of Brothers”

On April 30 and May 1, men from around Northern California and beyond gathered online for the 34th Christian Men’s Retreat (CMR). Doug Tilstra, vice president for student life at Walla Walla University, spoke on “The Perils and Possibilities of Power.”

Usually held at Leoni Meadows, the CMR is an annual inspirational event for men ages 16 and older. “Each year our mission is to give men the opportunity to fellowship together, to listen to dedicated Christian speakers, and to establish a closer relationship with Jesus Christ,” said organizer Keith Stafford, who planned the retreat with Bill Whitted, Alvin Cacho, and with the support of the NCC communication and development department. “We want to help men be better husbands, better fathers, and better men of God in the community.”

Stafford invites men from throughout the union to attend next year’s event, April 29 to May 1. “It’s like a family reunion of brothers from all cultures and all backgrounds,” he said. “When you form a friendship through this retreat, it’s everlasting.”



Visit nccsda.com to find out more about these stories, view recorded presentations, and subscribe to the NCC news source “Northern Lights.”

PUC Awarded \$210,000 Distance Learning Grant from USDA

Pacific Union College (PUC) was recently awarded a Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant from the USDA worth \$210,392. Only four of these grants were awarded within the entire state of California, with the intention of connecting rural communities with services and opportunities through telecommunications.

PUC will use these funds to purchase equipment and provide more opportunities for distance learning courses and career counseling in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields in particular.

"We are very grateful for the award and its timing," said Director of Technology and Innovation David Rai. "As we move forward with a new vision for PUC, a substantial investment like this shows that we are moving in the right direction to meet needs that are relevant to students now. This grant is helping us put our technology plans into action so that remote instruction and career counseling is accessible to more students."

The college's plans for the funds currently include installing cutting-edge video and broadcast technology across PUC's Angwin campus and providing equipment for a new, state-of-the-art broadcast studio in Fisher Hall, home to the college's department of visual arts. The studio will be used to record and deliver innovative content for remote classes, workshops, and other important presentations. When not in use for remote learning needs, the studio will be an invaluable resource for visual arts students to gain hands-on experience for future job skills.

The grant will also allow PUC to provide career counseling for college and academy students from a dedicated space, professionally equipped for the purpose.

"The benefits of receiving this grant are vast, as we work to expand our academic excellence beyond the walls of our campus classrooms," said Vice President of Academic Administration and Academic Dean Milbert Mariano. "We have very ambitious plans for the future of PUC's academics, and technology is at the heart of these plans. The funds from the grant will get us closer to our vision sooner than we thought possible."

In addition to technology upgrades on campus,



Fisher Hall, home to PUC's department of visual arts, will soon house a state-of-the-art broadcast studio made possible by a valuable distance learning grant from the USDA.

the awarded grant funds will help connect the college with nearby Adventist academies. Rio Lindo Adventist Academy and Monterey Bay Academy are both receiving teleconferencing units that will allow academy students to participate in early college classes through PUC from their own school facility.

"Reaching prospective students for PUC is not just about promoting ourselves. More and more, our connection with high school students depends on how we can meet those students' needs where they are now," said Vice President of Admissions, Marketing, and Communication Gene Edelbach. "Partnering with our academies is incredibly important to us, and we are thrilled that they will benefit from the investment of this grant alongside PUC."

Work on the exciting plans made possible by this grant will begin soon on the PUC campus and at their partner academies.

By Ashley Eisele

Transforming a Community in Baja, Mexico

About seven years ago, a group from Adventist Health White Memorial went on a medical mission trip to Valle De La Trinidad in Baja, Mexico. One of the participants, Music Chaplain Alex Lalin, soon found it was a place he, his family, friends, and fellow co-workers would continue to revisit. While the group was there, they connected with the local orphanage. After meeting and visiting with the children, Alex and the others realized that this was a place they needed to be involved in more than just once a year. They began making trips with their own families to bring donations, support, and friendship to the orphanage. The kids at the orphanage were overjoyed with this, and a lasting relationship was born.

When the small group from Adventist Health White Memorial returned for the medical trip the following year, the kids from the orphanage remembered them; the volunteers were deeply moved by this. After the group returned home, word began to spread about the orphanage in Valle De La Trinidad, and support and donations began pouring in from all over the Adventist Health White Memorial community. In describing the donations, Alex expressed joy and thankfulness for the generosity of the people from his community and the hospital, who contributed shoes, mattresses, and other specific needs for the orphanage.

Each year, the frequency of visits has increased. In addition, the size of the group from White Memorial has grown and been augmented by volunteers from the Adventist Health Glendale and Bakersfield hospitals who have joined the endeavor.

However, the relationship didn't just encompass the clinic and orphanage. Alex and the group



began helping the local community as well. Families have been assisted with essential items like shoes and backpacks, and kids from the orphanage have been sponsored and supported to attend school. A new dental clinic is opening later this year, sponsored by Adventist Health in collaboration with Montemorelos University and the Northern Baja Conference. The dental clinic will be managed by a former resident of the orphanage who was sponsored to attend university, trained to be a dentist, and will now be returning to her home community to run the clinic.

When talking about the continued partnership with the Valle De La Trinidad community, Alex expressed how amazing it is to see how this small, grassroots project started and how it continues to grow each year, with donations and people wanting to be involved in any way possible. "They are sold on mission" he said. "This is being done out of true compassion and heart. So many of our associates and volunteers are engaged not only with the Adventist Health mission but also the mission of Christ."

*By Brendan Collins, Alex Lalin,
and John Schroer*



The Divine and the Sacred: Recent Ordinations Across the SECC



Akira Chang

In the 1990s, Akira Chang was not yet a pastor, but he was starting to get to know God. He was living in San Francisco, regularly studying the Bible with an older gentleman, when his mother came to visit from Taiwan. She shared that she, too, had been studying the Bible, with the wife of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor.

Later, Chang shared this with the elder with whom he was studying, and the man got a very odd look on his face and admitted that he, too, was an Adventist. Chang was floored.

"I asked him how his religion could be so stubborn as to hold onto old traditions like going to church on Saturday," Chang recalled. "He simply asked me when, in our six months of studying the Bible together, we had ever come across the word Sunday. I searched the Bible from beginning to end and couldn't find it anywhere."

In 1998, after attending seminary, Chang became a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. For the past three years, Chang has been a pastor in the SECC, and in February 2021 he was ordained at the Loma Linda Chinese Church.

Chang leads his congregation with his family alongside him—his wife, Huiling, and his children, Andrew (19) and Anna (15). His vision for LLCC is that it will become a church that is focused on community outreach.

"I want us to truly internalize that we are not just here for ourselves or immigrants coming to study at Loma Linda Medical School, but we are here for our community," he said. "We may be a church established by the first generation of Chinese Adventists in the area, but we have a purpose far beyond that."

Kayla Malit

"I was trying to do everything else to find purpose and satisfaction," said Pastor Kayla Malit, who was ordained at Bonita Valley church in January 2021, "and the only time anything totally clicked and felt *right* was when I admitted to myself that ministry was something I wanted to be part of for life, not just as an extracurricular."

Malit finds joy in being someone with whom others feel comfortable being vulnerable. It's the relationship-building she finds so fulfilling in her ministry.

"When people decide they're going to let someone in, it's a journey," she explained. "I'm so honored and I get so energized when someone decides to journey with me."

As her first full-time church, the Bonita Valley church made a collective investment in her, as she did in them, and Malit said their relationship is endearing and supportive.

"They have allowed me to come into my own in my



“The thing about following Jesus is that it’s a mystery. It’s a thrill, that journey of unknowns; I never know what’s next, but in the aftermath I see what He was doing, and that’s exciting to me.”

ministry,” she explained. “They let me be who I am, and they are the epitome of what it means to be a true community of faith.”

This was demonstrated beautifully during Malit’s ordination, which, since it took place during the pandemic, she and the conference jokingly called her “coronation”—a coronavirus ordination.

“It was of course in jest, but it demonstrated that my administrators saw and affirmed me, and I truly appreciated that,” Malit said. “It sent the message that our call can be lived out in so many different ways.”

As Malit’s was the first ordination ever taking place at the Bonita Valley church, she felt it was an ordination of not only herself but also the community that built her.

“It wasn’t because I as a pastor have achieved a thing,” she said, “but it was an incredible moment in which we were able to publicly declare that God has done something divine and sacred in His people.”

Moises Estrada

Pastor Moises Estrada leads a two-church district in Corona, and he started in early 2020. He was introduced to his new churches and had two weeks at each one before the entire country shut down due to COVID.

“The only preparation you have for something like that is blind faith,” he said with a laugh.

Over the years, he has seen many times how things make more sense when he follows God’s lead, even when he can’t see where they’re going.

“The thing about following Jesus is that it’s a mystery,” Estrada said. “It’s a thrill, that journey of unknowns; I never know what’s next, but in the aftermath I see what He was doing, and that’s exciting to me. A lot of times it’s when I try to follow my own agenda or plan that things don’t seem to work out.”

During his ordination in April 2021 at the Corona Main Spanish Church, the speaker talked about the call to God being very closely tied to solidarity with the poor. This struck Estrada.

“I don’t think that means just the poor financially but also those who are marginalized—outsiders and outcasts,” he explained. “That really shook me and left



me contemplating what my ministry ought to look like.”

Estrada serves the Lord with his wife, Sylvia, and their children, Levi (4) and Izel (8 months).

“I regularly re-learn the lesson outlined in Proverbs 3:5-6,” Estrada added. “I must trust the Lord with all my heart and not rely on my own understanding. He makes my paths straight and shows me the way, and I’m ready, wherever that path takes me.”

By Becky St. Clair

A promotional graphic for Pine Springs Ranch Family Camp 2021. The top part shows a group of people at a camp. The bottom part is a purple banner with the text "PINE SPRINGS RANCH FAMILY CAMP 2021 CAMP IS BACK 5 Days of Fellowship, Worship, & Connection Register at www.psr.camp".

Member Answers God's Call at 93 Years Old

It's never too late to make a decision for Christ" is a sentiment that rings true for Margie Armstead, who at 93 years of age was baptized by profession of faith at Normandie Avenue church on Sabbath, March 20.

Armstead first became acquainted with Normandie church in 1999 through a seniors' group at the church named Golden Ages. Soon, Armstead began serving as a pianist for Sabbath School and in other ministries that didn't require membership.

Armstead faithfully served at Normandie for more than 20 years before making a decision for baptism. Over the years, questions about her membership and baptism sometimes arose from Normandie or from her previous congregation at the Amos Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) church. When asked why she waited so long, Armstead, who had been praying for wisdom all along, simply said, "I was waiting for the Holy Spirit to guide me."

That moment of clarity came at the beginning of March when Armstead was preparing for the annual day of prayer conducted by Normandie's women's ministry. "I heard the Holy Spirit say, 'It's time to go.' That's the confirmation I was waiting for," Armstead shared. "I didn't have to ask, 'Go where, when, or how?'" She immediately acted on this call and informed the church of her decision for baptism.

Keith Bradford, head elder, was particularly moved by Armstead's journey, as he too was previously a member of a sister CME church. "When the Lord reveals new light and truth," Bradford said, "it's on us to accept it and move forward."

Throughout the pandemic, Normandie has been without a senior pastor; however, Bradford recognized that "God has blessed our church in a special way." The church



PHOTOS: KEITH BRADFORD

Armstead (center) with newly baptized members Kuron Dominguez to her right; his mom, Regina Chatman, behind him; Jerome Coleman to her left in white; and friends and family at Normandie. Interim Pastor Deon Chatman (center back), Head Elder Bradford (far right), and Greater Los Angeles Region Director Royal Harrison (farthest right) are also pictured.

is certainly growing. Armstead was baptized along with three other individuals on the same day, totaling 12 baptisms this year so far.

"My hope is simply that Margie will continue to be faithful to God, that her testimony and witness will inspire others to make that decision—both young and old," Bradford added. "It's a wonderful testimony even at 93 years old that the Lord is still using her."

"I'm just so happy, thankful, and full of gratitude at being a part of Normandie for 21 years," Armstead said, "and being accepted wholeheartedly."

By Araya Moss

Armstead shares the journey that led to her baptism.





PHOTO: TODD LEONARD



PHOTO: GLENDALE CITY CHURCH FACEBOOK

FAR LEFT: GCC was awarded the 2021 Church of Compassion award from the North American Division, which included a grant for use with community service ministries. David Ferguson (left) and Leonard (right) are pictured receiving the grant. The church awarded \$10,000 of the grant to Caesura Youth Orchestra. **LEFT:** GCC works with other congregations in Glendale to prepare healthy lunches on Sunday afternoon for homeless members of the community. Pictured is a Sunday take-go lunch from May 2020.

Glendale City Church Celebrates 115 Years of Serving Its City

Even in the midst of a pandemic, there is still much to be grateful for. Glendale City church (GCC) recognized this as the congregation celebrated 115 years of ministry and service in the city this year.

“What we discovered about the congregation during the pandemic is that we’re strong,” Todd Leonard, senior pastor of GCC, said. “Our members really rallied together during this pandemic. The anniversary points to our longevity of a lot of good spiritual health that has been passed on from generation to generation in this church.”

Leonard has pastored at GCC for more than eight years. Contributing to a history of engaged membership and pastors with creative and unconventional approaches to ministry, Leonard has helped the church position itself as the hands and feet of Jesus in the community.

As such, GCC has partnered with and launched numerous organizations through the years, with the goal of making the city of Glendale better for all. Through these initiatives, GCC has advocated for the arts, families, kids, interfaith connections, social justice reforms, and more. The church created Caesura Youth Orchestra in 2013, which gives low-income students musical instruments and orchestra training, and *Communitas* in 2015, which serves families at risk of becoming homeless and helps families recover from homelessness. In 2020, *Communitas* joined nonprofit organization Family Promise of the Verdugos to expand poverty prevention and recovery services in Glendale and Burbank.

“Ever since Todd came to Glendale City church, things are definitely different among pastors in the area—they know each other,” Mike Kim, associate pastor of GCC for nearly four years, said. “He started programs to help the underprivileged in the



The Caesura Youth Orchestra performs at the Glendale City Church Christmas Concert in 2018.

community; this drew churches in the area to be involved.”

The most recent organization that the church is working with is the Coalition for an Anti-Racist Glendale, in partnership with YWCA Glendale and Black in Glendale. This group of community members, activists, educators, students, parents, and faith leaders formed in June 2020 “to address systemic racism and inequities in our community,” as stated on the YWCA Glendale website. In September 2020, the coalition successfully urged Glendale City Council to pass a historic resolution acknowledging the city’s history of racism as a former sundown town and committing to a more equitable Glendale.

“We own the fact that we are a congregation that needs our city as much as our city needs us,” Leonard said. “We want to be blessed by and be a blessing to our neighbors in the city.”

GCC’s mission stated on the church website is to “reveal the love of Christ in all its tenderness and grandeur to the community in which we live.” This mission embodies the command in Micah 6:8 to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.”

By Araya Moss

Pastor Andrea King and the 16th Street Church Advocate for Community Health

*By Connie Vandeman
Jeffery, with Faith Hoyt*

In San Bernardino, Calif., a congregation is working to fight health inequities and support their community during COVID-19.

At the 16th Street church, Senior Pastor Andrea Trusty King—a wife, mother, author, speaker, and ordained minister of the gospel—has spent the last eight years leading her flock. Under her leadership, her church has helped serve the community in specific ways.

“Last year we worked tirelessly to help San Bernardino declare racism a public health crisis,” King said. “As a result, our church, in collaboration with the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches (IECAAC) and C.O.P.E. (Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement, a network of churches focused on Black residents in the Inland Empire)—we have been working to minimize some of the health inequities we’ve been seeing, especially in dealing with COVID.”

To that end, on Friday, April 2, Governor Gavin Newsom visited the pop-up vaccine clinic at the 16th Street church to encourage eligible Californians to get vaccinated and to highlight efforts to vaccinate people in the state’s

“We have been working to minimize some of the health inequities we’ve been seeing, especially in dealing with COVID.”





Governor Newsom visits the pop-up clinic in San Bernardino at the 16th Street church in April. Pastor Andrea King served as a host to the governor's visit.



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THE RIVERSIDE PRESS-ENTERPRISE VIA GETTY IMAGES

most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas. King described the governor's visit as a blessing for the community, providing people with the opportunity to see and talk with the governor as well as get their vaccine. Five hundred vaccines were distributed through a partnership with Loma Linda University Health and C.O.P.E.

King explained that during the clinic, community members were also able to see and talk with their congressman, assemblywoman, and other elected officials.

"It's a community-oriented church. It's an amazing group of people who love to be out in the community," King said, describing her congregation.

In addition to the clinic, the church provides COVID testing and food giveaways, as well as partnering with other organizations to fight human trafficking. Dr. King counts it a blessing to work alongside a group of people who love God and also love people.

Watch the interview with Pastor King on All God's People:

<https://bit.ly/3we9IYB>

For more info about Andrea King, visit:

<https://www.iamdrandrea.com/>

Read more about the vaccine clinic:

<https://www.sbsun.com/2021/04/02/gov-gavin-newsom-visits-san-bernardino-coronavirus-vaccination-site/>

Calendar

Constituency Session

The Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will meet in Constituency Session at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Hotel and Spa, Tucson, AZ, August 15 and 16, 2021. The first meeting of the business session will be called at 6:00 p.m., August 16. Registration will begin at 2:00 p.m. This session is called to receive reports from the officers and various departments, to elect personnel for the ensuing term, to consider revisions in the Bylaws and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates. Delegates are selected by the local conferences according to the terms of the Pacific Union Bylaws. Official notice of the session will be given in the July, 2021, issue of the Pacific Union Recorder, and notice of proposed Bylaws amendments will be provided at that time.

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.

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Information

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

Upcoming Deadlines

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

Contributions

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

Central California Conference

Soquel Virtual Camp Meeting: The Return. That's right! We are bringing Soquel Camp Meeting to you and your children 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 23 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. Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2
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. Mind, Character, and Personality, vol. 2
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@cccda.org.

Many events and outreaches are now being virtually

Newsdesk Online



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presented or streamed online. Check the Events page online at www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com for all the updates.

"Prayer Changes the World" (July 9-10): a pre-camp meeting prayer revival weekend. Beginning Friday from 7-9 p.m., and all day Sabbath beginning at 9 a.m. at the Clovis Church (2370 Helm Ave, Clovis, Calif.). Lunch and child care will be provided.

La Sierra University

Fall 2021 Reopening. La Sierra University has announced plans to reopen its campus this September for the 2021-22 school year. Details will be forthcoming and will be subject to public health guidelines. Please visit lasierra.edu/thisfall to discover more about La Sierra, and visit <https://lasierra.edu/covid-19/campus-operations/> for continuing updates.

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 reserve their Golden Eagle Day orientation to secure their fall schedules. Visit lasierra.edu/golden-eagle-day for more information.

[edu/golden-eagle-day](https://lasierra.edu/golden-eagle-day) for more information.

Virtual Music Performances. La Sierra University's Department of Music will offer a virtual Wind Ensemble performance on June 10 at 7 p.m. and a commencement concert on June 12 at 7 p.m. Performances will be available on the music department's Facebook Live and La Sierra's Vimeo at <https://livestream.com/lasierra>. Information: music@lasierra.edu or 951-785-2036.

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

Northern California Conference

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

Redwood Camp Meeting (July 19-24, 26-31) Choose between the sessions. Don't miss out on the blessings! Info and registration: redwoodareacamp.com.

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

The Upper Room Experience: Unveiling the Character of God (June 11-12). Hosted by Upper Room Fellowship and Journey churches with speaker Pastor Anil Kanda. 710 E. Gladstone St., Glendora, 91740. Registration is required: <http://www.urf.org/ure2021>.

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.

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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

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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.

Seeking full-time Substance Use Navigator to join Stallant Health, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif. This individual must have the unique background of substance abuse with at least one year of successful recovery and will serve to assist patients navigate aspects of their recovery using knowledge of available community resources, personal experience, and

modeling successful recovery behaviors. Certification preferred, but assistance available to acquire certification after hire. Please contact the Associate Manager of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program at 530-637-4025 x289 or by email: jodi@stallanthealth.com.

Stallant Health, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for a family practice physician and an NP or PA to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com.

Real Estate

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



Ideal retreat, country living, retirement. Call, text, email for info and pictures. 301-332-8237 or Kathyrr777@gmail.com.

Great opportunity in Idaho for \$275K. Do you want to experience country living while operating an outpost/ ministry or operate your own business? Here is your opportunity to own an 8,000 sq. ft. 2-story building featuring: large open country-themed banquet area, renovated separate living space/office with bathroom/ shower, 180-seat auditorium, stage, baby grand piano. SDA church 20 minutes away. 11 S. Main St., Kooskia, ID 83539. Price reduced to sell. For information: bit.ly/3iiG47R or Theresa Reynold 208-798-7822.

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

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/

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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.

Adventist Tours 2022. Israel in Jesus' Steps, March 9-17 & June 12-21 (optional Jordan/Egypt); New Testament Alive/7 Churches, June 2-12; African Safari & Service, May 24-31; Germany-Austria: Luther to WW2, June 22-July 1 (includes Oberammergau Passion Play); Thailand, July 27-Aug. 7. All tours are Adventist-led, with excellent rates and beautiful experiences for all ages. \$1750+/person. For full details, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or facebook.com/TabghaTours or call 423-298-2169. "The best trip I've ever had! Nothing comes close." "Fabulous!" "The Bible comes alive." "An awesome experience!"

At Rest

Ballard, Ester Grace (Swayze) – b. Dec. 1, 1937, Ignacio, Colo.; d. April 8, 2021, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: husband, Gary L.; sons, Daryl, Dennis, Scott; daughter, Sheri Hansen; 11 grandchildren. Lifelong involvement in children's Sabbath School leadership in Pensacola, Fla., Boulder, Colo., Redlands, Calif., and Ukiah, Calif.; Ukiah church clerk; AMEN medical/dental clinic coordinator in Ukiah.

Burns, Elinore – b. Dec. 11, 1924, Adair County, Iowa;

June 2021 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	JUN 5	JUN 12	JUN 19	JUN 26
Alturas	8:32	8:36	8:39	8:40
Angwin	8:30	8:34	8:37	8:38
Bakersfield	8:08	8:11	8:14	8:15
Calexico	7:47	7:50	7:52	7:53
Chico	7:59	8:02	8:04	8:06
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	8:02	8:06	8:08	8:09
Eureka	8:45	8:48	8:51	8:52
Four Corners [E]	7:53	7:56	7:58	7:59
Fresno	8:15	8:18	8:20	8:22
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	7:41	7:45	7:47	7:48
Half Dome	8:16	8:20	8:22	8:23
Hilo	6:57	6:59	7:01	7:02
Holbrook	7:31	7:35	7:37	7:38
Honolulu	7:11	7:14	7:16	7:17
Joshua Tree	7:54	7:57	7:59	8:00
Lake Tahoe	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:30
Las Vegas	7:54	7:58	8:00	8:01
Lodi-Stockton	8:24	8:28	8:30	8:31
Loma Linda	7:57	8:01	8:03	8:04
Los Angeles	8:01	8:04	8:07	8:08
McDermitt [N]	8:22	8:26	8:29	8:30
Moab	8:39	8:43	8:45	8:46
Monterey Bay	8:23	8:27	8:29	8:30
Mt. Whitney	7:55	7:58	8:00	8:01
Napa	8:29	8:33	8:35	8:36
Nogales [S]	7:25	7:28	7:30	7:31
Oakland	8:28	8:31	8:34	8:35
Paradise, CA	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38
Phoenix	7:35	7:38	7:40	7:42
Pu'uwaiiau, Ni'ihau [W]	6:57	6:59	7:01	7:03
Reno	8:23	8:27	8:29	8:30
Riverside	7:58	8:01	8:03	8:04
Sacramento	8:27	8:31	8:33	8:34
Salt Lake City	8:55	8:59	9:02	9:03
San Diego	7:54	7:57	7:59	8:00
San Francisco	8:28	8:32	8:34	8:35
San Jose	8:25	8:28	8:31	8:32
Santa Rosa	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:38
Sunset Beach	7:12	7:15	7:17	7:18
Thousand Oaks	8:04	8:07	8:10	8:11
Tucson	7:28	7:31	7:33	7:34

[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

d. March 10, 2021, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Chris Casey Kersch, Katherine Casey Meriam, Kimberly Casey Vain, Caleen Casey Wieg; stepson, Terry Burns; stepdaughters, Ginger Burns, Heather Burns; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren. She and her late husband were field representatives for Weimar Institute, traveling all over North America giving health lectures and cooking schools.

Cruise, James Robert – b. Nov. 2, 1934, Dott, W. Va.; d. Nov. 21, 2020, Redwood Valley, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carol Anne; son, James Robert “Rob” Cruise II; daughters, Cheryl Canaday, Deanna Cruise-Bryant; three grandchildren. Graduate of Loma Linda School of Medicine and an alumnus of the year in 2019. Practiced internal medicine in Ukiah, Calif. Church elder 54 years. Taught Sabbath School and preached. Poet, guitarist, author, and composer.

Davidian, Richard Dale – b. June 2, 1942, Vallejo, Calif.; d. May 1, 2021, Calimesa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Maryalice; son, Ian; daughters, Trisha, Meesha; three grandchildren. Served as a missionary and teacher in Zaire, Rwanda, and South Korea, and taught for many years at Andrews University, La Sierra University, and Loma Linda University.

Davies, Norma Lee – b. Dec. 15, 1930, Fresno, Calif.; d. Feb. 20, 2021, Sonora, Calif. Survivors: three nephews; one niece; 11 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Elloway, John – b. Aug. 4, 1932, Arlee, Saskatchewan, Canada; d. March 26, 2021, Novato, Calif. Survivors: wife, Maryann; sons, Gary Douglas, Dwight, Donald; five grandchildren. Graduated from LLU medical school and was 2014 alumnus of the year. Served as a physician in Novato, Calif., focusing on preventive medicine. He received the Rotary International Service Above Self award for his efforts to immunize children in the Ukraine against polio.

Farver, Irene Lois – b. Oct. 20, 1923, Salina, Kansas; d. April 16, 2021, Cottonwood, Ariz. Survivors: daughters, Janis Farver, Lahna Farver, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. As an RN, Irene was school nurse at Cedar Lake Academy and Blue Mountain Academy; she also worked in hospitals in Michigan, Georgia, and Florida. Active in the Cottonwood church, she served as parish

nurse, deaconess, and played saxophone in the church orchestra.

Feldman, Marge – b. Nov. 19, 1934, Vader, Wash.; d. April 6, 2021, Highland, Calif. Survivors: husband, Carl; son, Don Sadler; daughter, Amber Newcomber; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Henderson, Florence – b. Jan. 8, 1928, Corvallis, Ore.; d. April 24, 2021, Portland, Ore. Survivors: son, Scott; daughter, Susie Bailey; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. Florence and her husband Cliff lived near Lake Isabella, Calif., for 42 years prior to moving to Portland in 2017.

Howard Hughes, Sable Dean – b. May 9, 1945, Vallejo, Calif.; d. April 8, 2021, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: son, Lajuan Hughes; daughter, Larahna Hughes; brother, Millard Howard; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served in Pathfinders as a Master Guide, Missionary Volunteers, women’s ministry, Sabbath School, and education. Cofounded Step Up Stream, Women’s Spiritual Koinonia, and Fairfield Community church’s May Month of Praise. Served on the NCC African American Planning Committee.

Miller, Harvey Nary – b. Feb. 14, 1925, Santiago de Cuba; d. April 10, 2021, Provo, Utah. Survivors: wife, Frances; sons, Fred, Don; step-daughters, Deb Hickerson, Tina Boyce, Toni Lewis; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren. Served as an educator in Puerto Rico, Universidad Adventista Dominicana, Dominican Republic, and Calexico Mission School; served on the NCC Board of Education; translated and preached on many mission trips.

Nation, Jean – b. April 23, 1934, Tonasket, Wash.; d. March 4, 2021, Bellflower,

Recorder Membership

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Calif. Survivors: sons, David, Douglas; two grandchildren. She worked for more than 20 years as a psychiatric nurse at Adventist Health White Memorial.

Ocon, Marta E. (Quesada) – b. Nov. 29, 1939, Paraiso, Costa Rica; d. April 7, 2021, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Martita Ocon del Valle; son-in-law, Nicholas del Valle.

Polk, Robert W. – b. Jan. 21, 1925, Kokomo, Ind.; d. Feb. 5, 2021, Snowflake, Ariz. Survivors: son, Charles; daughters, Marilyn Norrell, Linda Polk; brother, Herbert; 15 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren. Robert helped build the Snowflake church as well as the church in Glendale, Ariz.

Pride, Sandra Lea "Sandy" – b. April 27, 1936, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; d. April 20, 2021, Healdsburg, Calif.

Survivors: son, Vernon; daughter, Debora Young; brother, James Nelson. "Momma Pride" served as dean of women for more than 30 years at Oak Park Academy, Laurelwood Academy, and Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. Taught choir and gave vocal concerts all over the world. As "Grandma Pride," she continued her ministry to teens at Rio after her retirement.

Williams, Cynthia – b. Dec. 6, 1935, San Francisco, Calif.; d. Feb. 15, 2021, San Francisco, Calif. Survivors: son, Malcolm Askew; daughter, Anita Askew Wharton; sister, Helen Williams Hill; two grandchildren. Served on executive committee for both the CCC and NAD; founding member of the African American Advisory Council (3AC); provided counseling through Family Life Ministries during Soquel Camp Meetings.

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Cochise SDA Christian School
Glenview Adventist Academy
Maricopa Village Christian School
Prescott SDA Christian School
Saguaro Hills Adventist Christian School
Thunderbird Adventist Academy
Thunderbird Christian Elementary
Verde Valley Adventist School
Yuma SDA School

Central California Conference

Armona Union Academy
Bakersfield Adventist Academy
Central Valley Christian Academy
Chowchilla Adventist School
Dinuba Junior Academy
Foothill SDA Elementary
Fresno Adventist Academy
Hollister SDA Christian School
Los Banos Adventist Christian School
Miramonte SDA Christian School
Monterey Bay Academy
Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy
Mountain View Academy
Peninsula Adventist School
San Francisco Adventist School
Sierra View Junior Academy
Templeton Hills Adventist School
Valley View Junior Academy
VHM Christian School

Hawaii Conference

Adventist Malama Elementary School
Hawaiian Mission Academy (9-12)
Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki
Hawaiian Mission Academy Maui
Hawaiian Mission Academy
 Windward Campus
Kahili Adventist School
Kohala Adventist School
Kona Adventist Christian School
Mauna Loa School

Nevada-Utah Conference

Bishop Seventh-day Adventist
 Elementary
Deamude Adventist Christian School
Fallon Seventh-day Adventist Elementary
Riverview Christian Academy
Summit Christian Academy
Susanville Seventh-day Adventist School
Vegas Valley Adventist Academy

Northern California Conference

Adventist Christian Elementary
 School of Red Bluff
Adventist Christian School of Yuba City
Bayside SDA Christian School
Chico Oaks Adventist School
Clearlake SDA Christian School
Crescent City SDA School
Echo Ridge Christian School
El Dorado Adventist School
Feather River Adventist School
Foothills Adventist Elementary School
Fortuna Junior Academy
Galt Adventist School
Hilltop Christian School
Humboldt Bay Christian School
Lodi Academy
Lodi SDA Elementary School
Middletown Adventist School
Napa Christian Campus of Education
Orangevale SDA School
Pacific Union College Elementary School
Pacific Union College Preparatory School
Paradise Adventist Academy
Paradise Adventist Elementary School
Pine Hills Adventist Academy
Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy
Redding Adventist Academy
Redwood Adventist Academy
Rio Lindo Adventist Academy
Sacramento Adventist Academy
Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School
Ukiah Junior Academy
Vacaville Adventist Christian School
Westlake SDA School
Yreka Adventist Christian School

Southeastern California Conference

Calexico Mission School
Desert Adventist School
El Cajon SDA School
Escondido Adventist Academy
Hemet Adventist Christian School
La Sierra Academy
Laguna Niguel Junior Academy
Loma Linda Academy
Mentone SDA School
Mesa Grande Academy
Murrieta Springs Adventist
 Christian School
Needles SDA School
Oceanside Adventist Elementary
Orangewood Academy
Redlands Adventist Academy
San Antonio Christian School
San Diego Academy
Valley Adventist Christian School
Victor Valley SDA School

Southern California Conference

Adventist Union School
Antelope Valley Adventist School
Conejo Adventist Elementary School
East Valley Adventist School
Glendale Adventist Academy
Linda Vista Adventist School
Los Angeles Adventist Academy
Newbury Park Adventist Academy
Ridgecrest Adventist Elementary
San Fernando Valley Academy
San Gabriel Academy
Simi Valley SDA School
South Bay Christian School
West Covina Hills SDA School
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Building Our Faith Through Giving



Through practicing the art of giving, we can flex our spiritual muscles. We can learn what it means to surrender ourselves completely and wholly. Through giving, we can build our faith.

Principle #1 - My money is not my money

The Bible makes some very clear statements about material possessions. Essentially, it all boils down to one simple fact: God created the universe, and everything in it is His—including your house, your car, and your bank account.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17).*

“Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for *everything* in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all” (1 Chronicles 29:11, emphasis added).

Principle #2 – God requests a portion back

Once we have decided that everything we own belongs to God, it is a natural progression to want to give something back. Through tithing, we can begin to act upon the gratitude and thanksgiving that we feel.

Tithe is giving back to the Lord one-tenth of our income. In Biblical times, when income was derived primarily from crops, tithe was paid in produce. In today's equivalent, tithe is one-tenth of the money that we earn. The Bible makes it abundantly clear.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9).

Principle #3 – Attitude vs amount

Scripture records the poignant story of the widow and her mites (Mark 12:42). Jesus, seated in the temple courts, was obviously touched by the woman's gift. Clearly it had nothing to do with the amount she gave. She gave two copper coins—a small, insignificant amount that would have been surpassed by hundreds of others that day. She would not get a special mention in the temple bulletin thanking her for her generosity. And really, what difference did her pennies make? Apparently, a lot. Centuries on, we are still learning from this faithful woman's act. The amount is irrelevant. The attitude is everything.

Principle #4 – Offerings: Using money for good

While tithing is important and a right attitude is essential, it is not the sum total of what God expects a Christian to give. All through the Bible, people brought offerings to God. Some of the offerings were atonement offerings in the sacrificial system; however, others were offerings of joy and thanksgiving for the blessings bestowed upon the giver. Indeed, the widow we discussed above was in all likelihood bringing what could be called a “free will” offering to the temple. It is the practice of churches today to collect offerings as part of their worship services to assist them in their work. This Biblical principle continues to be significant.

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (James 1:27).

Principle #5 – How much?

Getting down to the nitty gritty is the underlying question of “How much?” How much should a believer give to the church? Perhaps the best principle can once again be found in the Bible.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

It is clear that the decision of how much to give is one that is made in each person's heart and that their heart posture is what counts. Once again, the amount is secondary to the attitude.

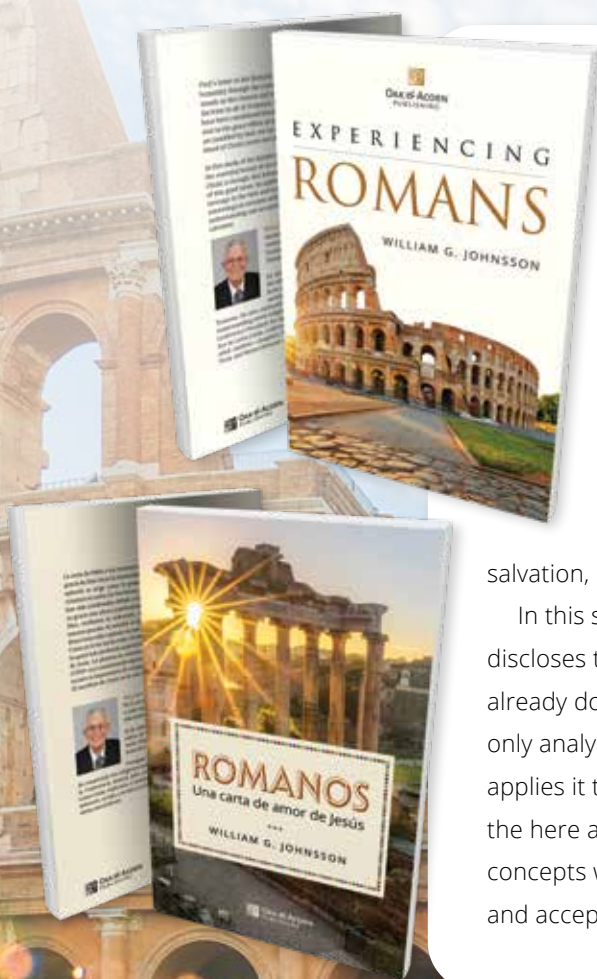
“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

Where have you stored your treasure?

**All Scripture quotations are from the New International Version.*



EXPERIENCING ROMANS



Paul's letter to the Romans is known for his vision of God's grace toward humanity through the cross and the resurrection of Christ. The epistle stands as the clearest and most systematic presentation of Christian doctrine in all of Scripture. Paul begins by pointing out that all people have been condemned because of our rebellion against God. However, God in His grace offers us justification by faith in His Son Jesus. As we are justified by God, we receive redemption, or salvation, because the blood of Christ covers our sin.

In this study of the Epistle to the Romans, William Johnsson discloses the essential beauty in its message: Christ has already done everything. Christ is enough. But Johnsson not only analyzes and provides exposition of this good news, he applies it to Jesus' followers. He places the ancient message in the here and now, questioning some entrenched soteriological concepts while emphasizing the importance of understanding and accepting the message of the good news of our salvation.

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