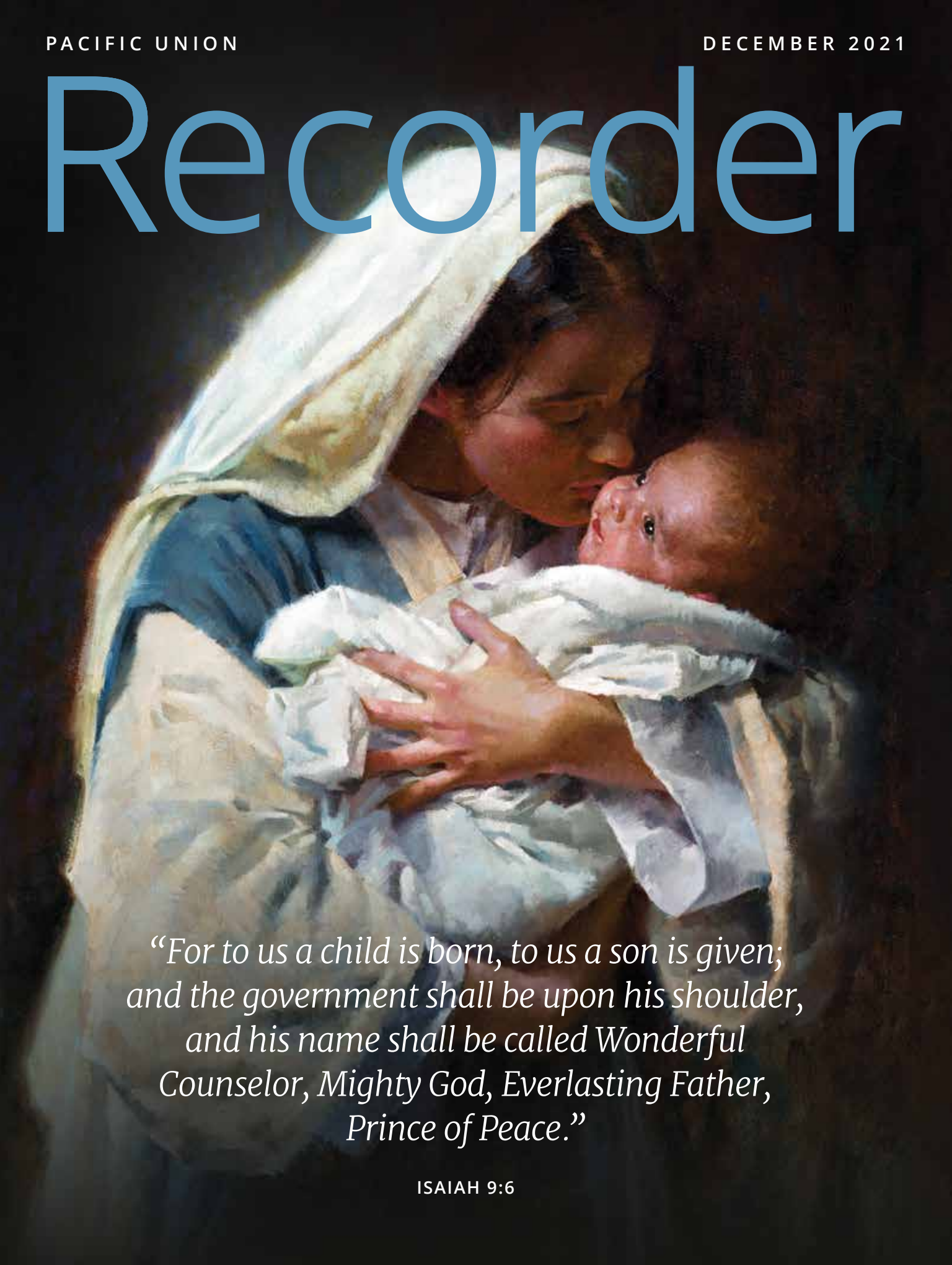


Recorder



*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.”*

Each of us can help stop the spread of COVID-19.



Wear a mask.



Practice physical distancing.



Stay home if you are sick or part of an at-risk group.

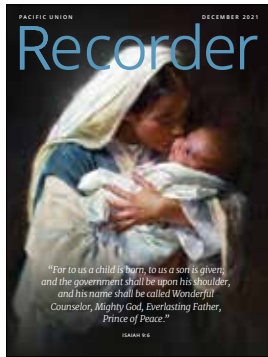


Use virtual tools to stay connected.

Be Safe. Be Faithful. Be Hopeful.



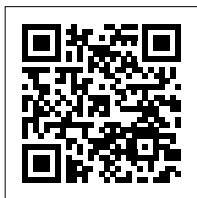
PACIFIC UNION
CONFERENCE



“It is through Christ that we receive every blessing. We may come to him in our poverty and need, and he will listen to our petitions, and supply our every want. We are dependent upon him every moment for grace and strength to maintain our integrity and to continue in his love. How often we

need to have the bread of life broken to our souls! How often we need to be refreshed at the fountain of living waters! Every temporal as well as every spiritual blessing, is a continual witness of his beneficence. The recurring seasons, with the rich and varied blessings which they bring, the refreshing rain and the glad sunshine, every good thing we receive, attests the continuance of our Creator’s gift to man.”—Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, December 26, 1882

Cover art by Morgan Weistling



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PACIFIC UNION

Recorder

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

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Interview with Bradford C. Newton



As president, you bring a perspective that's unique because of your experience in other positions and other places. How does that influence the way you're taking on this responsibility?

It goes back to how I began as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Everything was built around what happened in a local church. My family was brought in through the work of a colporteur. A local pastor had Bible studies with my parents. I can remember sneaking out of my room to peek

around the corner and see the pastor with my parents at the living room couch, studying the Bible with the film strip machine. It was through the local church that we were nurtured as a family. It was through the local church, and things as simple as going to Sabbath School and participating in church, that I experienced what it meant to have a church community.

I was a church organist at the Orange church, where our family belonged. We went Ingathering, and I can still remember the church members showing us how to collect Christmas dollars for Jesus

at Ingathering time. These types of experiences shaped the way I thought about what it meant to be an Adventist—and it was built around local church. Which is probably why when I had my call to the ministry, it was built around my love for what was happening in my local church. I wanted to be like the pastor. I wanted to give Bible studies and be part of our kind of local community.

I pastored for 17 years in Illinois and then back in Southern California. As I moved into doing government relations work for the Pacific Union in the Religious Liberty Department, my assignment was to represent the church to a completely secular world in politics, advocating for First Amendment rights. When I went to Nevada-Utah as conference president, it felt like my role was to, first of all, find ways to empower what local churches were doing. Then coming to the Pacific Union, being secretary and ministerial director for 13 years and now president, I think all that directs me back to the idea that everything we do is designed to empower what the local church and the local school do in a community. If we don't do that well, then we haven't accomplished what made the difference in my life.

The churches and members of the Pacific Union are incredibly diverse. What are the core needs that every member will have, regardless of this diversity?

As the aperture of my life opened wider, I met more people from different ethnic backgrounds and economic levels. There are consistencies.

People everywhere want to know how their experience with God makes a difference in their lives in a day-to-day way.

It doesn't matter what language you speak or what your income is. People who are really wealthy have that same question. Those who can barely make it month to month still want to know, "Can I have the assurance that God is with me through the challenges of my life, with my family, with my work?" Trying to bring order to the chaos is ever a part of our life.

I view the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as providing that biblical, rooted answer—not just as a set of propositional truths, but leading people to a living experience with God that actually makes life meaningful, joyful, purposeful. Showing them that even though they have problems and challenges to deal with, they're not alone. And not only do they have Someone up in heaven who's with them, but they also have a community of faith around them that they can turn to and that can give encouragement.

No matter where you're from, that is, at the core, what being a Seventh-day Adventist is about.

What is the strength of the church in delivering that? Are we capable? Do we have the expertise?

Well, let's start with what we have to say. At the end of the year, it'll be 39 years that I've been in the ministry, and I've never found another place with such an understanding of God's Word. It's an

I view the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as providing that biblical, rooted answer—not just as a set of propositional truths, but leading people to a living experience with God that actually makes life meaningful, joyful, purposeful.



inexhaustible resource. The challenge that we're increasingly having today is how to express this in a way that is accessible, understandable, and relevant to the world that we're in.

We have the opportunity to explore what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist witness in a way that's relevant and yet has integrity with our historic message, which we don't want to dilute. The way in which we're going to communicate that changes. We've got to ask the question, "Are we doing that effectively?"

If our task is to make our historical message relevant, how does the Pacific Union contribute to succeeding in that task?

The obvious pieces are the structural overlays, the finances, the organizational functions. That's all there. However, even though we have successfully navigated how to put together an organizational structure that works, we must continually convene together.

Because of the way we're structured, at the union level we have permission to convene the most important conversations in the church today. Those important conversations have to do with effectiveness and mission, reaching people who are unreached, and discipling our own members to

appreciate and embrace the message that we love.

Those are never-ending processes. We are always one generation away from essentially disappearing, because if we don't bring the next generation along, we're all going to be gone one day. I have the privilege to be able to ask the questions. There's a powerful responsibility in being able to say to a group of people, "Let's look at what we have in front of us. Are we satisfied? Are there ways we could be more effective, successful, engaged, innovative?"

At the union office level, we have the ability to bring together conference leaders, educational leaders, pastors, and engaged lay members and say, "What could we improve? What could we do better?" We will not just sit back and be satisfied to say, "Well, we've always done it a certain way." We need to ask if there are areas in which we want to innovate and improve, and we need to provide permission to try new directions,

How are you going to measure the result of that conversation? How do you know when you succeed?

Ultimately the goal that Christ gives us, in the Great Commission, is that we go and make disciples. What does it mean to be a disciple? Well, being a disciple is a lifelong activity of growth. How do you measure that?

Sometimes we do things in the church that remind me of when I taught archery class for summer camp. Would I tell the students, "Ready. Fire. Aim"? Should you just fire the arrow and wherever it lands, you say, "Well, I guess that's where we wanted it to go"?

The traditional metrics we use in the church are a version of what any company uses. You see tracking of tithe numbers, baptisms, membership, and attendance. We don't want to do away with tracking those things. But the deeper, more important thing is, how is the work of the church impacting the lives of our members? How are the changes or innovations going to impact our members, churches, schools, and the communities we're here to serve?

Here's what I do know. All over the Pacific Union—in churches, schools, community centers—there is a huge human impact that's resulting from the activity of our members. Our pastors, teachers, and lay members are impacting the lives of human beings. In many ways that is unmeasurable. That may not show up if all you ask is, "Did someone get baptized?" You see the lives of people change when you work in communities. The human impact, which may not be measurable, is a big part of what we do. That is a reasonable expectation when we consider doing new things.

What do we make of this? We have our traditional statistic tracking, and then we've got this impact question. Here's the challenge that I would put to myself and the people I'm working with: How do you find ways to quantify or calculate or identify whether we have been successful or not in our projects or in our ideas? This demands some innovation as to how we can do this.

What opportunities do we have in the Pacific Union that may be unique to us?

We have a unique opportunity in the Pacific Union because of the heritage of ministry and resources that we have. Think about what it means to have a premier medical institution like Loma Linda University Medical Center. Think about

what it means to have Adventist Health, La Sierra University, and Pacific Union College. Think about what it means to have 800 different churches and companies, and more academies in this territory than anywhere in North America.

Put all that together with the wealth of intellectual capital, the wealth of experience, and indeed the financial wealth, then add one more thing. We have expatriates from all over the planet who are living in our territory. Scores of ethnic and language groups from all over the world are here, and they're communicating back home to their families and friends.

These are resources that are unexplored and, in many ways, untapped. How can we, in a meaningful way, create more collaboration between church ministry, health ministry, education ministry, and the community ministry? I think the reason we haven't explored it fully is because it's really hard work!

As union president, I'm a part of these groups. I sit on their boards, go to their meetings, and interact with the leaders. I am able to invite the convening of these leaders to sit together and ask, "Are there points of intersection that would benefit you and benefit others and move the work of God forward?" Now I would add, I have no positional authority over any of these folks. A union president can't order people to do anything, but we can invite because we all love Jesus. We all love this work. We can bring people together and talk about it.

Every church member who thinks about education, ministry, and healthcare believes in the ideal that God called us together as Seventh-day Adventists so that these would all work together. There is unreached potential that we all long for. A union has the opportunity to convene, and we at the Pacific Union have a wealth of resources to bring together.

Ray Tetz, director of communication for the Pacific Union Conference, interviewed Bradford C. Newton, the president of the Pacific Union Conference.



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It sounds odd, I know, but that is exactly what my friend Mary gave to me last Christmas—Amazing Grace in a jar! It was a small pink jar with a white lid, and it contained the smoothest, sweetest-smelling whipped body lotion I have ever seen or felt. Its fragrance was heavenly. And it was the most thoughtful, kindest gift I could have received at the precise moment Mary gave it to me. Not just for the contents of the jar, which were truly amazing and luxurious. But for the name of it and what it represents. “Amazing Grace” whipped body crème is from a company that names

its products beautifully. Products with names like “Purity” and “Season of Bubbles” and “Renewed Hope” are some of their bestsellers. Under the words *amazing grace* on my jar is the sub-text: “with every act of grace, the world gains a touch more love.”

I was going through a downward spiral that first pandemic Christmas. It seems a lifetime ago now, Christmas of 2020. But nine months into the shutdown—with remote work, isolation, a vaccine that seemed too far in the future, and a Christmas devoid of gathering with loved ones—I just felt



Amazing Grace in a Jar

By Connie Vandeman Jeffery

spent, running on empty. And I felt guilty for feeling that way. Healthcare workers got to feel spent and overwhelmed. They could actually justify feeling despondent. I couldn't. I was blessed to have a job I loved and was able to do remotely. I had such good friends, who did their best to keep in touch by Zoom and FaceTime, texts and emails. I tried so hard to count my blessings, and yes, there were so many. Still, the sadness and darkness crept into my mind and heart.

Mary's act of grace in giving me the jar of lotion for Christmas was just one of the ways she's

touched my life with love since I met her in the late 1980s. Mary and I worked together on and off for 20 years. She is definitely not a fair-weather friend. She's a pandemic-fire-earthquake-stormy-weather friend. The kind of friend who laughs with you over the latest cute thing your grandchild did, cries with you over shared grief, and drops off homemade soup and her famous oatmeal patties with gravy when you're too sick to answer the door. She calls you when she sees on the news that the fires are closer to your house than hers, and she offers her home as a refuge. She texts you and sends the

funniest memes when she knows you're down.

Mary has been through so much more than I have—the hard stuff, the “Why, God?” questions, the grief of losing her husband way too soon. And yet, she's so incredibly generous and “there” for me in ways I didn't even know I needed. During the pandemic, we have been stopping by each other's houses, staying outside with masks on, visiting briefly, dropping off DVDs or audio books or flats of strawberries and other treats. She keeps my spirits up, and I try to do the same for her.

But it was Amazing Grace in a jar that touched something so deep in my soul that I burst into tears when I opened it. *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.* When I saw the words on the jar, the lyrics flooded into my mind, the melody pushing its way out of my mouth. I cannot see those two words together without humming the hymn and being reminded of what the song means. It had been months since I'd sung it.

John Newton, the former slave trafficker, wrote the most enduring hymn of all time, a song of

conversion and redemption published in 1779. My late pastor once told me that my personal testimony was in the *but now* part of Amazing Grace. I had been lamenting about not having a dramatic conversion story. Mine just seemed so boring. I'm a third-generation Adventist, born and raised. “Of course you have a story,” he said. “It's in the *but now.*”

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

I was one thing before, but after accepting Jesus Christ, after experiencing His amazing grace in my life, I am something else. I will give it a try. I was fearful almost all of the time, *but now* that fear is being replaced by trust and peace. I have been despondent during the pandemic, *but now* I am feeling and experiencing glimmers of hope. I was so sad in December 2020, *but now* my friend gave me a simple yet elegant gift of lotion with a perfect name that reminded me of His amazing grace—the grace that is more than sufficient for each one of us. Yes, this works. I can live in the *but now.* I will live in the *but now.*

It's positively amazing how one gift from Mary reminded me that, as undeserving as I feel, I am loved and cherished and have access to His abundant, amazing grace.

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8, ESV).

The jar is now empty, but my heart is overflowing with gratitude.

Thank you, Mary. Thank you, Jesus.

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





Love Matters

By Leon Brown

In April of 2019, Adventist Health sponsored leaders from the Pacific Union to attend a training seminar at their hospital in Kailua, Hawaii.

The impetus for this seminar was a very great honor: Adventist Health Castle had won the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. Castle was the first organization in Hawaii to earn this award, which recognizes performance excellence in the business, health care, education, and nonprofit sectors.

For three days we attended meetings, listening as the president and her team painted a picture of how God had led them to this moment in the hospital's history. I sat in the front row and listened intently. When they finished, I was deeply impressed and amazed at what God was doing at this small hospital on the windward side of the island of Oahu.

Let me tell you why I was so impressed.

Adventist Health Castle has a philosophy that drives the engine of everything that they do. It is a very simple and profoundly biblical concept: Love matters.

Let me tell you, it is not just a tag line. These words are woven into the fabric of the entire hospital. And beyond that, this idea is also woven into their service to the community. Love matters.

Kathy Raethel, the then-president, told us something significant and so profound: "If you love your community, the community will love you back."

The hospital loves its community, and the community loves the hospital back. The hospital loves and cares for its employees, and the employees love the hospital back. Staff members told us that this was the best job they ever had and that they are not leaving. They travel from all over Oahu to come to work at Castle.

I don't want to paint a picture of perfection. There are troubles, even in paradise. However, I've got to tell you that it left a very positive impression on me.

So, how did the hospital figure this out? Well, it's right there in the Bible. Love matters. Our hospital system used the Bible as a guide.

Let's look at 1 John 4:7-21 (NLT) to see if we can find out why love matters. From my reading of this passage, I have been able to determine five reasons.

God is the initiator of love and our perfect example of how to love.

"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" (verses 7-10).

God's love requires that we love one another.

"Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us" (verses 11-12).

If we live in love, we live in God.

"And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them" (verses 13-16).

When we practice God's love, it eliminates fear.

"And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love" (verses 17-18).

God's love produces in us love for others.

"We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers" (verses 19-21).

What difference does it make if we love each other? Miracles occur when we understand that love matters.

Let's go back to the Castle hospital story for a moment. I want to give you a small example of what happens when love matters.

At Castle, the employees (on every level) have a say; their thoughts and ideas are heard, and they are valued. When everyone is vested in excellence, miracles can occur.

When we went on a tour of the hospital, we learned something that just amazed me.



Sara-May Colon, director of mission and spiritual care for Adventist Health Castle, helps care for the spiritual well-being of a patient.

When we got to the emergency room, we could not get in because they were very busy. However, our tour guide shared something with us. She said that if you have a stroke and you are taken to Castle, they have one of the shortest wait times from the front door to the time you get a brain scan to see the impact of the damage. I believe that the wait time is something like 3 minutes.

Those employees put their heads together and figured out what they needed to do to increase the survival rate of their patients. They have a staff member with a computer meet the ambulance to get the information they need to expedite the patient's care. The faster they know the kind of stroke the patient is having, the greater their chances to survive or even thrive after a stroke.

Hospitals from all over the U.S. are now studying the Castle model. This occurred because the staff were empowered to innovate. They love their community, and they are putting "love matters" into practice.

Paul understood that love is the spiritual resource we need most desperately. In 1 Corinthians, he wrote about why love matters.

"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, NLT).

Adventist Health Castle doesn't win awards because of their technical expertise, their scientific knowledge, the latest technology. That's important, but it's just a clanging cymbal without love. The employees understand that "Love is patient and kind," (verse 4) and it matters. The hospital believes that "Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance" (verse 7). And love matters.

Leon Brown is vice president of the Pacific Union Conference.



Let Me Tell You a Story

By Bill
Robertson

Let me tell you a story." Those words have the power to stop me in my tracks and make me listen. I love stories. I love hearing them, telling them, reading them, collecting them, telling them again and again. I love the way stories get past our defenses and let us listen to big issues. I love how stories can be so simple and yet so insightful and important. I love how stories soften up our intellectual rigidity and get through to our emotions.

I loved it when my grandpa told me stories, in all their wonderful

diversity and detail. I love to listen to the stories my son tells me of all the things he is doing and learning. I love to recount my own stories to my wife at the end of the day—rehearsing (and re-experiencing) the events that shape the way I think, work, and live.

Did I say I loved stories? I should have said WE love stories, because pretty much everyone I know loves stories just like I do.

Through stories, we are able to organize our experiences and ideas. We get to pick out the heroes and the villains, and we get a sense of what's important, who's really in charge, and of moments that are significant and have special meaning.

We like to see the way the elements come together in the particular circumstances or context of a story, and we try to figure out the importance of their interaction. A clever phrase in a story can set our imaginations off and running to fill in the blanks—to imagine or guess who someone is, what they are up to, where they come from, and why they are important.

We like to see our own lives as great stories that have characters and context, conflicts, winners and losers, and intricate details about when things happen and where we were at the key moments. We like to organize the passing moments of our lives into sequences of meaning, with one event leading to another in linked moments of value and importance. Stories help us imagine the possibilities, to think and plan ahead.

Stories let us see another person's point of view; they let us see and imagine the significant events and moments in someone else's life. Stories help us make sense of the world around us by helping us organize and recognize patterns and trends and life directions.

I love the story of that garden called Eden, where the first family lived, and lost, and were offered a second chance.

I love the story of numbers: how all over the world mankind struggled with ways to count crops or design buildings and how the first computing

machine—our hands and fingers—gave us the foundation of our arithmetic.

I love the story of letters: how pictures gave way to symbols that gave way to an organized way of communicating ideas through shapes we now call the alphabet.

I love the wonderful idea of One God as found in the story of Judaism and how monotheism is one of the brightest lights shining from any story ever told anywhere.

I love the story of science—in all of its disciplines—and the wonderfully different and interesting ways mankind is striving to unlock the secrets of the natural world.

I love the story of Galileo, struggling to tell the world that we were not the center of the universe after all. I love the story of Gutenberg and how a torrent of learning and information was unleashed with the creation of his printing press, which made our libraries of storybooks possible.

But mostly, and firstly, I love the story of Christmas. It is possibly the first story I ever really heard and learned. From my youngest days, I considered it my story somehow—precious to me in a unique and unforgettable way.

It's the story of a man and a woman and a journey. A story of a baby being born in really tough circumstances. It's got animals and shepherds and alien beings called angels singing out a message in a language no one can truly understand. It's got simple shepherds (with funny beards) and wealthy, exotic royalty (with funny beards). It's got people who are in trouble—no money, no place to stay, no one willing to give them a hand—and then, suddenly, like the angels appearing in the sky, the birth of a child who gives hope, and a baby named Jesus in a place called Bethlehem.

It's the first story I every really loved. And still do.

William "Bill" Robertson was president of Adventist HealthCare when he wrote this piece in 2003. Used with permission.

This year has seen great advances in recognizing the importance of Adventist education. A unique ministry, without rival in its scope and impact on our church, Adventist education has been a transformative blessing to countless lives. The Pacific Union Conference operates the largest educational system within the Adventist church, and the ordination of two education leaders during 2021 indicates the importance church leaders attach to this ministry.

Pacific Union Conference Director of Education Berit von Pohle Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

Church administrators, coworkers, and friends gathered on Founder's Green at La Sierra University on Saturday, June 26, for an afternoon ordination service for Pacific Union Director of Education Berit von Pohle.

"We add our hands of blessing on the ministry that has already taken place and is taking place," prayed Nate Furness, lead pastor at Napa Community church, during the program.

Brooke Lemmon, von Pohle's daughter and a principal in Southeastern California, introduced her mother to those gathered and shared more insights into Elder von Pohle's life.

Von Pohle has served as director of education at the Pacific Union Conference since June 2011. She previously worked as a teacher and academy principal in Southeastern California Conference, an academy principal in Oregon Conference, and superintendent in Northern California Conference.

Berit spent 12 years teaching—first at San Diego Academy and then at La Sierra Academy. During those years, she earned a master's degree in counseling and added the roles of school counselor and registrar to her teaching load.

Schooling continued, and Berit completed the Specialist in Education degree in educational administration, which prepared her for her first principal position at San Pasqual Academy. As principal, Berit worked closely with the local church pastor to create a spiritual climate that would draw the students to Jesus.

After 14 years as an academy principal, Berit became superintendent of the Northern California

Conference and cast the vision that our classrooms should have an expectation of excellence in an atmosphere of knowing Jesus. And she went back to school again, this time completing an Ed.D. in educational administration by the early years of her tenure as director of education for the Pacific Union Conference.

Berit's husband, Chico, who passed away last year, was one of her greatest champions. Their daughter, Brooke, is forging her own administrative journey as the principal at Oceanside Elementary School. Brooke and her husband, Kyle, have two daughters, Arden and Ava. Berit's mother continues to provide support and wisdom.



Ordination of Fernando Lista, Nevada-Utah Director of Education, to the Gospel Ministry

The Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC) celebrated an ordination service for Director of Education Fernando Lista on Sabbath, October 30, at the Riverview church in Reno, Nevada. Gary Venden, pastor of the Glendale church, in Glendale, Arizona, presented Fernando's life and trajectory as an educator; Berit von Pohle, vice president for education of the Pacific Union Conference, presented the ordination sermon; and NUC President Carlos Camacho gave the ordination charge in front of an audience of educators, friends, and family.

Fernando Lista was born and raised in an Adventist home in Argentina. Fernando's mother, Alicia, used to tell the story of four-year-old Fernando playing "preacher" in the backyard. He would line up empty canning jars as if they were members of the church, then use a wooden box as a pulpit and pretend to read from the Bible while he preached to the jars.

Fernando grew to love and serve the Lord and, while in boarding academy, he felt impressed to dedicate his life to work in Adventist education. He obtained a dual bachelor's degree in education and theology from River Plate Adventist University. After working at an Adventist academy in Argentina for two years, he decided to pursue graduate studies at



Southern Adventist University, where he graduated in 2007 with a master's in education.

The day after graduating from SAU, he and Cristine Azevedo celebrated their wedding ceremony. God has blessed their family by adding Dallan (10) and Kian (8), two sweet boys who are dedicated to God. Fernando continued to serve as a teacher, principal, and administrator within the Adventist educational system, where he still serves today. He has worked for the Arizona, Hawaii, and Nevada-Utah conferences. He recently graduated from Andrews University with a doctoral degree in education.

Currently Fernando is serving as director of education for the Nevada-Utah Conference. One of his favorite Bible verses is, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope" (Romans 15:4, NIV).

Fernando grew to love and serve the Lord and, while in boarding academy, he felt impressed to dedicate his life to work in Adventist education.



Winsome Witnesses: Celebrating Native American Heritage Month—All Year

Although I am not obligated to any person, any culture, or any social norms, I have humbled myself for the sake of all people in order to connect with all people. I adjust my thinking to that of how a Jew would think to connect with Jewish thinking.... I learned what it meant to be like a person weak in the faith to help those who are weak in the faith. I have become all things to all people, so I may connect with them as much as possible. I do this intentionally for the sake of the gospel so that my witness may be winsome. (The message of Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, paraphrased by Chevon Petgrave.)



It's so good to be home!" These words were spoken by a second-grade student as she entered the girls' dorm at Holbrook Indian School (HIS). Her mother had just dropped her and her older sister off late Sunday evening, after all of the other students had gone to bed. Their mom had been drinking, and their time with her was less than they'd hoped for when she had picked them up on Friday afternoon for home leave. It would be easy to be mad about their mother's irresponsible behavior; however, her brokenness is a symptom of generational trauma set in motion by the policies of the United States government toward Indigenous people throughout our country's history.

Among those policies was the establishment of boarding schools aimed at destroying all aspects of Native culture in an attempt to assimilate Indigenous people. Before long, the devastating effects of these policies began to emerge: poverty, depression, suicide,

addiction, abuse, broken families and communities, lifestyle diseases...the list goes on.

In 1990, National Native American Heritage Month was established. According to the National Congress of American Indians, “This is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.”

HIS faculty and staff work to help students find healing from centuries of inhumane practices by reconnecting them with their cultural heritage, not only during the month of November but throughout the year. One way HIS does this is by providing students classes in Navajo language, history, government, and Indigenous arts. Students also experience hands-on learning in agriculture classes.

Diné language

The majority of students at HIS are Navajo or Diné, which means *The People*. The Native language class at HIS focuses on the Navajo language: Diné Bizaad. In the early boarding schools, children were forbidden to speak their Native languages and were often punished for doing so. Ironically, American Indian languages were instrumental in the positive outcomes of World Wars I and II, when American Indians who were fluent in their traditional tribal language and in English were used to send secret



messages in battle. The most famous among these are the Navajo Code Talkers. Throughout the past 75 years, many students who have attended HIS had fathers, uncles, grandfathers, and great uncles who were Code Talkers. Today most students do not speak in their Native language. Yet many of their grandparents only speak Diné. By teaching students Diné Bizaad, HIS hopes to help reconnect Native youth with their elders.

Navajo history

Most people are familiar with the Trail of Tears, but have you heard about the Long Walk? A little less than 100 years before HIS was founded, Kit Carson began his campaign against the Navajo by using a “scorched earth policy” in which he burned their crops in an effort to ruin their ability to sustain themselves. This destructive war resulted in the removal of the Navajo from their homeland—the Four Corners area (Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona)—to Southeastern New Mexico. Carson forced more than 8,500 men, women, and children to walk across New Mexico to be imprisoned at the Bosque Redondo Reservation, over 400 miles from their homes. Along the way, 200 Diné people died from exposure and starvation. Once they arrived at Bosque Redondo, the Diné were given substandard food, causing illness, and they were plagued by deprivation, disease, and death. One out of four people died. Eventually the military admitted the effort was a failure and allowed the Diné to return home.

As part of their history class, HIS students retrace the steps their ancestors took. This helps students understand the experience of their ancestors that continues to affect their lives today.

Navajo Nation government

According to the Navajo Nation government website, the Navajo Nation now extends into the states of Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, covering 27,000 square miles. Navajoland is larger than ten of the 50 states in the U.S. The total population of the Navajo Nation is nearly 400,000, making them the largest tribe in the United States. In 1923, a tribal

Throughout the past 75 years, many students have attended HIS whose fathers, uncles, grand fathers and great uncles were Code Talkers. Today most students do not speak in their Native language.

government was established. Since then, the Navajo government has evolved into the largest and most sophisticated form of American Indian government in the United States. Each year, HIS students visit the Navajo Nation capital in Window Rock as part of their Navajo government class, where they learn firsthand how its three-branch system of government operates. Of the 400,000 registered Navajo, 180,500 are listed as living on the reservation. The median age is 24, the average household income is \$8,240, with 43 percent of the population living well below the poverty rate. Only 56 percent have graduated high school and only 7 percent have a college degree. The reality of these statistics poses a myriad of challenges for government leaders. Helping students understand the challenges they face empowers them to rise above those challenges.

Indigenous arts

One of the best ways to celebrate a peoples' culture is to continue the traditions of their arts. Pottery making, weaving, and beadwork are fast becoming lost skills. The Indigenous arts classes at HIS focus on traditional practices while inspiring students to tap into their creativity to produce new

works of art. Art provides many benefits for mental health and emotional well-being, which include a sense of accomplishment, an increase in initiative, and improved concentration. Studies suggest that art can be valuable in treating depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and even some phobias. At the very least, it is a great way to express emotions. Holbrook Indian School's Indigenous arts classes allow students to learn about the artistic skills from various tribes. Students are able to appreciate and preserve their cultural heritage and gain confidence.

Agriculture

Before the U.S. expansion into the West, the Navajo sustained themselves by farming and sheep herding. When those who survived returned from their imprisonment at Bosque Redondo, they had no means to provide for themselves and relied on government rations until they were able to rebuild. The fact that the Diné are the largest tribe in the United States speaks of their resiliency; however, food scarcity and poor nutrition remain a reality for the Navajo. Teaching students about traditional farming methods helps sustain the Navajo way of life.

By learning how to grow traditional crops such as corn, beans, and squash—known as the Three Sisters—students learn the value of good nutrition and the impact it has on their families and communities.

Appealing to common beliefs

One thought-provoking aspect of Native traditions that is critical for helping students find healing is understanding their traditional beliefs. In the past, well-meaning





missionaries equated all Indigenous practices as pagan and forced people to give up their traditional beliefs. Most Native traditions teach of the Creator. HIS introduces students to their Creator as a personal Being who cares for and loves them. When students are pointed to object lessons in nature, they can more easily understand who their Creator is and their relationship with Him. Like Paul's method in his appeal to the Greeks about their 'unknown god', appealing to common beliefs in creation stories is another way to connect with students in their spiritual journey. It is helpful to meet students where they are.

Spirituality among most Native Americans is a way of life, like the Navajo tradition of the Beauty Way—the concept of living in an integrated environment of beauty, balance, and harmony, derived from the Diné word *hózhó*. The Beauty Way cultivates community that nourishes and supports individuals as they walk together. It is the action of living harmoniously with all of life as it is unfolding—to live in harmony with the Creator, the natural world, with one's own self, and with loved ones.

Students are pointed to texts that resonate

with their traditions, like “Live in harmony with one another” (Romans 12:16) and “How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1). They also learn that their Creator made all that is good and beautiful for them because He loves them.

Knowing where they came from helps students understand the world they are living in now. When faced with overwhelming traumatic experiences, Native children are often told, “It's just the way it is, and you just have to get used to it.” HIS faculty and staff don't want students to settle for the way things are or get used to the ills that plague their post-colonial society. By celebrating Indigenous cultures and educating students about their heritage, HIS aims to empower its students to break the cycle of poverty and abuse and gain back that which was taken from them.

Diana Fish has served in her role as the Director of Development at Holbrook Indian School since 2015. Established in 1946, Holbrook Indian School is a first-through twelfth-grade boarding academy owned by the Pacific Union Conference.

Arizona Conference Corporation Constituency Meeting

The air was filled with a mix of cautious optimism and nervous excitement as the Arizona Conference administration, staff, and volunteers conducted the final run-through on Saturday night, October 23. The next morning, delegates would arrive to attend the 31st Regular Arizona Conference Corporation Constituency Meeting. In a time of uncertainty over attendance, expectations regarding quorum were palpable. As with any large gathering of constituents, the element of surprise motions from the floor or public scrutiny of administrative actions brought a level of stress.

Months earlier the Arizona Conference Corporation Executive Committee had weighed the merits of conducting a virtual meeting versus an in-person meeting. The decision to hold an in-person meeting was based heavily on three elements: 1) The size of the Mesa Arizona Convention Center venue allowed for physical distancing for delegates; 2) COVID-19 protocols would be in place; and 3) Other virtual meetings around the North American Division had met with technical difficulties and mixed reviews.

As registration opened Sunday morning, October 24, delegates began filtering through the lobby and into the main convention hall. The numbers steadily increased, and a little after 9 a.m. it was announced that



Pacific Union Conference President Bradford Newton dedicates the newly reelected officers.



Cyiza Music Ministry opens the constituency meeting with praise music.

the constituency meeting had met quorum and could conduct business. The meeting started as the nearly 400 delegates listened to the music of Cyiza Music Ministry and President Ed Keyes' devotional based on the session's theme, "Love Them Like Jesus." Throughout the day, other musical interludes were presented by the Thunderbird Adventist Academy Chorale and the Glenview Adventist Academy Select Choir. The rest of the morning was filled with reports from the president, executive secretary, treasurer, and director of education.

Pacific Union Conference President Bradford Newton served as the chair of the nominating committee and, along with vice-chair Michelle Ritzer, presented the recommended names to the delegates for the corporation officers, assistants to the president, and departmental directors. After some procedural questions, the constituency voted all recommended names for the next quinquennium, along with recommendations for the Executive and Bylaws Committees. Two departmental positions were left vacant for the newly elected Executive Committee to appoint.

After lunch and the Nominating Committee report, Executive Secretary Jorge A. Ramirez presented

recommendations from the Bylaws Committee for both non-material and material changes to the Arizona Conference Corporation Bylaws. Most of the ensuing discussion centered around the changing of the formula for delegates to the constituency meeting and how the Arizona Conference Corporation committees are to be populated, including term limits and layperson representations.

Treasurer Reginald Leach gave the latest report on the property development plan for the Scottsdale property where the Arizona conference office and Thunderbird Adventist Academy reside. Elder Leach gave a history of the decisions and actions taken by the Arizona Conference over the past five years. He noted how the Lord led through the process. What had initially been viewed as a setback in January of 2020 became a blessing as the COVID-19 pandemic shortly thereafter shut down all sectors of commercial business growth. Conference personnel is currently in negotiations with a company to create a contract for a ground lease on the industrial portion on the northern section of the property. This would give additional revenue for the academy, while not disrupting the operations of the academy or conference.

The meeting concluded with a dedicatory prayer by Elder Newton on the three officers of the Arizona Conference Corporation. The delegates were dismissed, backdrops folded up, and registration materials boxed up. The administration and staff of the conference breathed a little easier, knowing they could fully focus again on the ministry of the conference and not on meeting planning. Undoubtedly, there will be



Arizona Conference officers and wives (left to right): Jorge A. Ramirez, Bexy Ramirez, Ed Keyes, Lillian Keyes, Reginald Leach, and Kelle Leach.

some new faces standing on the platform at the next quinquennium constituency meeting, but as the setting sun cast its shadows across the Valley of the Sun there was a sense of renewed mission and energy to continue the Great Commission throughout the Arizona Conference territory.

By Jeff Rogers



President Ed Keyes recognizes a delegate speaking at a microphone from the convention floor.

Election Results

Officers

President: Elder Ed Keyes

Executive Secretary: Elder Jorge A. Ramirez

Treasurer: Elder Reginald Leach

Assistants to the President

Hispanic Ministries: Elder Abimael Escalante

Multilingual Ministries: Elder Villamor Meriales

Regional Ministries: Elder Kingsley Palmer

Native American Ministries: Elder Dale Wolcott

Departmental Directors

Adventist Book Center: Sandra Bowman

Children/Youth Ministries: Elder Manuel Cruz

Communications: Jeff Rogers

Education: Nicole Mattson

Family Ministries: Elder Villamor Meriales

Human Resources: Cindy Brown

Ministerial/Evangelism: Elder Jorge A. Ramirez

Public Affairs/Religious Liberty:

Elder Kingsley Palmer



Listening is Love

Were you at a Listening Event in one of the eight areas and shared a life-changing story? We have received some, and we look forward to many more. E-mail stories@cccsda.org!

Although October 31 technically ended the “40 Days of Listening” events in the Central California Conference (CCC), we want to continue to share stories of how God has blessed us—and also listen to the testimonies of our family, friends, and neighbors. The Bible is replete with many testimonies of love. One story that certainly comes to mind during this season is the miracle of Christ’s birth. We can be so grateful that Joseph, Mary, the shepherds, and the wise men all listened to God’s instructions and welcomed our Savior’s birth.

In that spirit, we want to keep listening and talking to God—and to each other. When we speak of how God has led in our lives, we can inspire others as they listen to our stories; furthermore, it helps us to get to know each other. Therefore, we plan to keep telling stories—about miracles, a life-changing experience, a conversion story, what happened when doing evangelism or serving others, or how God blessed in an unexpected way.

If you were at a Listening Event in one of the eight areas of the CCC during late September and early October, you may have shared or heard a life-changing story. We have received some, and we look forward to many more. In order to make it easier for our members to share, we have created a dedicated email account: stories@cccsda.org. We are eagerly hoping to hear from you (and please include photos if you wish). In the meantime, here are just a few stories. Please see this as an opportunity to “listen” to each other.

Area 2 at Mountain View: Margaret listened to the Holy Spirit

Even though I was raised a devoted Catholic in Hong Kong, and in spite of attending their schools from kindergarten through high school, I still had many questions about the Bible. I believe the Holy Spirit put those questions in my heart. For instance, I wondered why we had to confess to a priest and why we had



ABOVE and OPPOSITE PAGE: CCC members listen to each other’s stories at the Listening Event in their area.

to pray to statues of saints. When I came to the United States, I had the opportunity to study the Bible with a Seventh-day Adventist friend. I decided to join my friend and attend Pacific Union College. Later, I observed how an Adventist colleague lived his beliefs in a business environment. Although it was not an easy decision and my parents were against it, I followed the Holy Spirit's urging and was baptized into the church.



At a Listening Event, Dan Serns, CCC president, invited members to share God's goodness and grace with each other.

**Area 2 at Mountain View:
Lisa shared her conversion story**

Although I was born an Adventist, I stepped out of the church for over 25 years. I was anti-God and anything to do with organized religion. Amazingly, God continually showed me that He still loved me through what I would call "God-organized encounters." However, I kept listening to Satan telling me that I was dirty and God could not accept me. A friend started me down a path of using a popular meditation method. Thinking that I might as well pray instead of doing the recommended eight minutes of mindfulness, God took care of the rest. I want to praise God that my mother saw me come back to the church before she died and that I will get a chance to see her again on resurrection morning.

**Area 6 at Visalia:
Carol shared how God led in her life**

As soon as I thought my family was ready, I decided

I could go back to work. I began with substitute teaching and applying for jobs. Even with no job offers after numerous interviews, I kept praying and left it in God's hands. Although there were some long-term substitute teaching assignments, three years went by with no permanent placement. The next year, a position opened up because of an overflow kindergarten class. I was hired as a probationary teacher without another interview. Praise God for His blessings, as I remained at that school for 26 years until I retired.

**Area 6 at Visalia:
David shared how God brought him back**

Even though I was baptized into the Adventist church at nine years of age, I drifted away. Nine years later, my 15-year-old cousin was shot and killed in Southern California because of his involvement in gang activity. It was at his funeral when God spoke to me and I made the decision to return to His church.



There are more stories we could share with you next time. If you are a CCC member, you will want to read the story by Antonio Huerta in Central ACTS. Sharing what God has done for you is a witness of His goodness and grace! Listening to those stories is an act of love!

By Deloris Trujillo

Week of Prayer at Hawaiian Mission Academy

“Trust Issues” was the theme during the week of prayer held at Hawaiian Mission Academy (HMA), located on the beautiful island of Oahu. During this week, different topics dealing with the issue of trust were examined, focusing on how students can take steps toward putting their full trust in God.

The week of prayer included diverse speakers from various locations. The speakers for the week were drawn from the Youth Pastor Intern program created by the Hawaii Conference. The students of HMA also played major roles during the week of prayer, sharing their musical abilities as well as participating in a prayer walk at the end of the week. From fun icebreakers to questions and answers about the Bible, the week was full of laughter and plenty of learning.

To end the week of prayer, HMA created an opportunity for the students to practice what they have been learning. Principal Jo Lee and the youth pastors organized a prayer walk for Friday afternoon. During that time, students and the youth pastors paired up and went out into the community to pray for those in need. Strict COVID protocols were followed and protective measurements were provided, making sure the students were safe as they went out into the community. The groups walked down their assigned street and knocked on doors, offering to pray with those who wanted prayer.



Both students and staff came back with amazing stories and experiences. After the event, the students shared that they were shocked by how many of their neighbors wanted prayer. They were blessed during the short time that they were out and are looking forward to more opportunities like this.

It is a joy to see how excited the students can be about sharing the love of Jesus. The next time the students will have a prayer walk will be in December of this school year, and we can't wait to see what God has planned for us then!

By Miguel Manzo





The Village Square

At the end of August, a group of 15 gathered on the lanai at Central church. We called the gathering The Village Square. *Village* suggests local and friendly; *Square* suggests a shared space, a forum for ideas. It was going to be a time of inspiration, education, and discussion—and, of course, food—centered on Christian entrepreneurship. By the end of three high-powered presentations, Q/As, and a dinner of homemade pizza, we collectively decided it would be worth doing again.

Two years ago, I started making and selling an aged jalapeno sauce. I call it Scott Sauce. But I was a reluctant entrepreneur and still often feel the limits of my knowledge, creativity, and motivation. Since bringing my business to Hawaii and navigating the effects of COVID and challenges of transition and growth in general, I have felt adrift and discouraged at times. I needed support and encouragement.

To my surprise, I found it at Simply Worship, a Friday vespers available to all and hosted at Central. Throughout the bulk of the COVID shutdowns, we were meeting every week. These days we are meeting the fourth Friday of the month. In addition to enjoying good food and a meaningful worship experience, I began connecting with local young adults, several of whom, as it turned out, manage businesses of their own.

Sometimes after worship, I would assemble in a small knot with these new entrepreneurial friends to debrief the week. Developments and complications related to our businesses became a natural feature of conversation. I was impressed with these people—principled, problem-solving, God-fearing, and motivated

to be forces for good in their respective fields. I left each of those conversations energized and ready for Sabbath.

Eventually, it occurred to me that we could formalize these connections and invite others in. Liane Ancajas, owner of Pneuma Lifestyles, and I began to brainstorm an event that would bring Christian entrepreneurs together. The result was the simple model described above.

For a modest first go, the event packed more value than we could have ever imagined. Our three speakers were Sisi Torro, Jesse Seibel, and Lisa Sedlar. Each has an impressive résumé and brought insight on a Christ-focused approach to business. Sisi described how to grow with social media through values-informed partnerships and meaningful engagement. Jesse had us reflect on four Ps—purpose, people, product, and process—and showed that the gospel necessarily disrupts bad business and builds community. Lisa, a regular presenter to entrepreneurs, shared for the first time in such a setting how her relationship with God has steadied her, refined her gift for humble and inclusive leadership, and informed high-stakes company decisions during these last two volatile years.

Just today, now two months later, an attendee told me that the event really impacted her. Indeed, I feel the same way, even noticing on the most pragmatic of levels how some of my social media practices have changed. This is the point and the value—to continue circling back to these relationships and the things we learned.

We are building a community of Christian entrepreneurs.

By Scott Kabel



75
HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL
SERVING NATIVE YOUTH 1946-2021

Native American Heritage Month at HIS



Last month the United States celebrated Native American Heritage Month. Thanks to the supporting friends of Holbrook Indian School, the Native American student body can celebrate and learn about their heritage all year in a safe space to live, learn, and grow in Christ.



Boarding schools for Native children began to be established in 1860. These schools were built on reservations, and the end goal was to eradicate all that remained of Native culture. After nearly 20 years of these reservation boarding schools, a new school of thought was introduced by Richard Henry Pratt: "Kill the Indian, save the man."

Holbrook Indian School (HIS) opened its doors in 1946 with a different ideology. HIS has never been about "killing the Indian;" it is about helping students reclaim their identity. Through pottery and other Indigenous arts, Navajo language and government classes, a horsemanship program, and sustainable farming/agriculture, students are connected to their heritage throughout the school year. These programs exist because of the faithful support of friends throughout the Pacific Union Conference and beyond.

November was a special month for celebrating HIS



students and their heritage during Native American Heritage Month. Leading up to Thanksgiving break, students participated in several activities in preparation for the Native American Heritage Fair.

“My Name Is” poster project

In Navajo culture, the Diné (or Navajo) people introduce themselves by stating their name in Diné, its meaning, and the clans from which they originate. In Mr. Hubbard’s Navajo language class, students learned how to do this by creating posters showcasing their names in Navajo, the meaning, and their clans.

Native American Heritage Fair

On November 19, the gym at Holbrook Indian School was transformed into an educational expo. Booths were prepared by students showcasing the origins of America’s Indigenous peoples.

In Mrs. Lopez’s social studies class, students traced the origins of America’s original residents and presented them at the Native American Heritage Fair. Throughout the month of November, students in this class researched a U.S. Native American tribe of their choice and created a poster presentation.

Native games

November was also a great time for students to get active while delving deeper into their heritage. Mr. Tabo led students in Native games and games with Indigenous roots. Did you know that lacrosse was originally played by Native Americans in the Northeast and was originally known as stickball?

It was a game played both for recreation and to settle disputes. European settlers first saw it being played by various tribes in the 1630s, and eventually they adapted it into what is known as lacrosse. HIS students enjoyed playing lacrosse last month as a way to expend energy and have fun.

Stick pull is another Indigenous game that students had a fun time playing. With a few variations, stick pull was a game that historically provided Indigenous peoples with recreation and strength training. The Eskimo stick pull, for instance, was used to simulate pulling large fish (and possibly sea mammals such as seals and smaller whales) out of the water after a catch. The Indian stick pull focused on grip strength and was used to simulate holding on to freshly caught fish.

Thanksgiving meal

The culmination of our Native festivities is the Thanksgiving banquet. Every culture centers around



food and fellowship, and Native American cultures are no different. It’s during this time that everyone literally gets a taste of Native culture through Indigenous delicacies. There are many foods associated with Thanksgiving that are traditional staples of the Indigenous diet. Turkey, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and squash are all traditional to Native Americans.

Beading class

HIS volunteer, Della Ault, is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz based in Oregon. Beginning in late October throughout November, she gave her time to teach students the Indigenous art of beading. During this time, elementary students created their names using loom beading while the high school students did some bead embroidery, creating beaded feathers for their face masks.

By Chevon Petgrave

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-seven percent of funding comes from individuals who have a desire to support Native American ministries and Christian education. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your support.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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(928) 524-6845 (Ext. 109) • Development@hissda.org
HolbrookIndianSchool.org

For more on this story,
please visit www.lasierra.edu/news.



Second Giving Day Offers 13 Options for Impact

More than a dozen projects, including archaeological excavations, a new memorial endowment, music tours, athletics attire, student research, an observatory, and a university museum are the focus of a second annual December fundraising drive at La Sierra University.

Called Giving Day, the main event takes place on Dec. 8 with a total of \$250,000 sought that day and throughout December for 13 department projects. Monies raised will support new initiatives, revitalization of existing projects, and the continuance of programs and scholarships. The university's first Giving Day was held in December 2020 and raised more than \$400,000 for projects and in year-end fundraising.

A slate of Giving Day activities on Dec. 8 will include a virtual music performance, an archaeology discussion, and T-shirt home printing instructions with the Art+Design department.

Fundraising projects this year include the effort by the Zapara School of Business, the alumni of La Sierra's HomeBase ministry, and the family of the late Jodi Cahill to raise \$75,000 for the Jodi Cahill Memorial Endowed Scholarship for students. During more than two decades at La Sierra, Cahill served in many roles, including as founder of HomeBase ministry, as a dorm dean, and as the business school's External Degree Program Business Development Director. She died on

Sept. 10, 2021. The endowed fund honors her legacy as a loving student mentor and change agent who inspired students to use their talents to serve God. The \$75,000 goal was established in recognition of Cahill's 75th birthday, which would have been Dec. 8, Giving Day.

"Jodi's impact on our students' lives is immeasurable. She stepped in and turned them around just by caring deeply and genuinely, and she had a particular knack for reaching and building up those who others might deem unreachable," said John Thomas, dean of the Zapara School of Business. "In that sense, she truly exemplified the values and mission of the business school and of the university and left a legacy that we would all do well to emulate."

The Sciences Advisory Board is seeking \$40,000 this December to reach \$130,000 for renovating the Barnard Observatory with new technology and structural enhancements. The board previously raised \$89,000 for the observatory. The white dome structure on the campus' upper slope was once used by astronomy groups to host community star-gazing parties and for university events and classes. It has been shuttered for 10 years.

For information on Giving Day 2021, visit lasierra.edu/givingday.

By Darla Martin Tucker

Adventist Health Appoints Kerry Heinrich as Next CEO



Adventist Health Board Chair John Freedman announced in October that Kerry Heinrich will serve as the next chief executive officer for Adventist Health.

Heinrich brings a deep understanding of the Adventist Health mission and culture to his new role. He previously led Loma Linda University Health hospitals as CEO for more than seven years and served as the organization's legal counsel for more than 20 years. During his tenure at Loma Linda University Health, Heinrich helped guide construction of the new 16-story hospital and the nine-story children's hospital tower that opened in August. He was named one of the "135 Nonprofit Hospital and Health System CEOs to Know" by Becker's Hospital Review in 2017.

"Kerry is an exceptional leader who brings a wealth of experience to our organization. He is passionate about Adventist Health's mission and our 2030 strategic vision," said Freedman, who, in addition to his role as Adventist Health board chair, is also president of the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Heinrich has served on the board of Adventist Health for seven years and was very involved in the development of the Adventist Health 2030 strategic vision to grow the organization's care, health, and well-being services.

"I have always loved Adventist Health's mission of living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope," said Heinrich. "I'm honored to have been selected to lead and support this incredible team in this high calling."

Heinrich has a bachelor's degree from Walla Walla University with a major in history and a minor in business, with emphasis in finance and management. He earned a juris doctor degree from the University of Oregon School of Law.

Heinrich will replace Scott Reiner, who announced his resignation in July to establish a family foundation that is focused on global health and well-being.

The Adventist Health leadership transition is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2022.

"I have always loved Adventist Health's mission of living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope. I'm honored to have been selected to lead and support this incredible team in this high calling."
Kerry Heinrich

By Kim Strobel

School of Pharmacy Dean Appointed to CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy Dean Michael Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP, has been selected by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) as its liaison representative to the Centers for Disease Control and Infection (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

The ACIP is a group of medical and public health experts that develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States.

The CDC sets adult and childhood immunization schedules based on recommendations from the ACIP. The committee considers many factors, including the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. There are 15 voting members responsible for making vaccine recommendations. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services selects these members following an application and nomination process. Fourteen of the members have expertise in vaccinology, immunology, pediatrics, internal medicine, nursing, family medicine, virology, public health, infectious diseases, and/or preventive medicine; one member is a consumer representative who provides perspectives on the social and community aspects of vaccination, according to the CDC.

In addition to the 15 voting members, ACIP includes eight ex officio members who represent other federal agencies with responsibility for immunization programs in the United States and 37 non-voting representatives of liaison organizations that bring related immunization expertise to the work of ACIP. Hogue is the second pharmacist to serve on the ACIP. His predecessor served 21 years on the committee.

"We are confident that Dr. Hogue will do an outstanding job in providing his own and pharmacists' perspectives to the work of ACIP and will be an



outstanding contributor to the process," said Mitchel C. Rothholz, RPh, MBA, APhA chief of governance and state affiliates. "Hogue has actively engaged with CDC and ACIP over the past 25 years and is an active participant as APhA's appointee to ACIP's COVID-19 Vaccination Workgroup."

For the past year and a half, Hogue served as the only pharmacist on ACIP's COVID-19 Vaccination Workgroup. Composed of 45 healthcare professionals, the workgroup meets weekly to establish vaccine efficacy and make policies around the distribution of the vaccine and subsequent booster shots.

Hogue has led Loma Linda University Health's COVID-19 vaccine efforts in line with CDC and California state guidelines and has played an integral role in organizing student-based mobile vaccine clinics in vulnerable communities throughout Southern California.

Under the direction of Hogue, Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy has twice been recognized nationally for the school's community outreach during the pandemic. LLUSP received the "Rookie Award" at the 10th annual 2021 Medication Adherence Team Challenge in July and received a \$20,000 grant from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation Scholarship Program in September.

By Donajayne Potts

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

PUC Basketball Coach Strives to Create Winning Culture On and Off the Court

Michael Escobedo, head coach of men and women's basketball at Pacific Union College, prayed for the opportunity to use his passion for basketball as a vehicle to share his faith and the message of Christ. He says his current role at PUC fulfills that dream.

"God delivered like He always does," Escobedo said. "Watching these young men and women grow as individuals and learn about God and life through the game is what it is all about. I'm very thankful to have a platform to play a small part in that."

Escobedo has actively been involved with basketball throughout his life, playing in four college basketball programs, including MidAmerica Nazarene University, Allan Hancock College, Mendocino College, and Multnomah University. He coached youth basketball in China for nearly a year and also directed basketball camps with the 1 Dream Foundation and NBA players Patrick Beverly and Horace Grant. He served as the lead assistant for the men's basketball program and as an assistant coach for the women's program at Mendocino College. Additionally,

Escobedo and his wife, Katherine, own and direct ESCO Sports International Inc., a world travel company that directs international sports trips and that so far has taken approximately 100 athletes to China, Hungary, Ireland, and Hong Kong.

Now at PUC, Escobedo recruits student athletes that can succeed both on the court and in the classroom, maintains high academic standards for his teams, schedules games, conducts fundraisers, directs practices, and moves forward with the ultimate goal of growing the players as men and women of Christ.

"The vision I have for both the men's and women's basketball programs at PUC is to create a winning culture on and off the court," he said. "Winning in the sense of playing and living the right way. Working hard, having faith through adversity, getting up when you're knocked down, and serving others. I pray that both basketball programs can ultimately be a reflection of Christ."

By Staff Writer



"The vision I have for both the men's and women's basketball programs at PUC is to create a winning culture on and off the court."

Michael Escobedo



Carlos Camacho Chosen to be President for the Nevada-Utah Conference



Delegates to the Pacific Union Conference Constituency Session, held in Tucson, Arizona, in August 2021, voted to elect Dr. Leon B. Brown, Sr., to serve the union as vice president. His acceptance of that call left a vacancy in the Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC). After a review of several candidates for the office of president, the NUC Special Committee for the presidential selection voted nearly unanimously to invite Elder Carlos A. Camacho to fill the position, which he accepted.

Elder Camacho brings with him over 20 years of valuable denominational experience. He joined the NUC as pastor of the Maranatha Spanish church in June of 2013, coming from the Pacific Press Publishing Association, where he had served nearly eight years as director of sales for multi-ethnic publications. It wasn't long before he was asked to serve as NUC executive

secretary, accepting that position in May of 2014. His previous service also includes many years pastoring in the Southeastern California Conference.

NUC Treasurer Karen Schneider shared her thoughts about working with Elder Camacho. "The first time you meet Carlos, you are immediately attracted to his friendly personality and his relationship to Christ," she said. "What most people don't see right off are his abilities to assess the current situation, visualize a direction that can benefit the work, and prayerfully implement plans to glorify God. After three years, he is not only my friend, he is my Christian brother in service for the King of Kings. I'm proud to continue to serve the Nevada-Utah Conference with this man of God, and I'm excited about the future

"The first time you meet Carlos, you are immediately attracted to his friendly personality and his relationship to Christ."
Karen Schneider



The Camacho family: Samuel, Daniel, Carlos, Carly, and Samantha.

God has planned for the Nevada-Utah Conference with Carlos leading in the position of president.”

President Camacho, a strong proponent of family, is supported in ministry by his wife, Samantha Camacho-Slusher; sons, Samuel (16) and Daniel (9); and daughter, Carly (13).

Sharing his aspirations for the Nevada-Utah Conference, Elder Camacho stated, “We are entering into the final year of the strategic vision planned for the current term of office. The year 2022 will be dedicated to emphasizing Christian education under the theme ‘Educate to Serve.’ We’re committed to finish this term as strongly as possible.

“Plans are already in motion to strategize and set

the vision for the 2022-2026 term of office. The process will be a collaborative effort of every leadership team within our organization. However, my personal vision and prayers are, and will continue to be, to emphasize leading, training, and empowering the Nevada-Utah Conference leadership teams to embrace our God-given role of commitment to service and salvation, toward facilitating and deploying every resource available to inundate our territory with opportunities to know and receive the transformational love of Jesus.”

Elder Camacho, welcome to the office of president of the Nevada-Utah Conference!

By Michelle Ward

Nevada-Utah Leadership Convention

Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC) Club Ministries enjoyed a live leadership convention this year in Las Vegas, Nevada. An all-star cast of instructors and a fantastic speaker made for a great vespers and worship service. In all, 15 Master Guide, eight Teen Leadership Training (TLT), 33 Basic Staff Training (BST), and 15 Adventist Youth Ministry Training (AYMT) certifications were awarded.

Guest speaker Armando Miranda gave two compelling sermons about service and the calling for leaders. “You can’t lead if you are not willing to follow,” he told the attendees. “I see something in you! That something is God shining through calling you to serve.” He assured the audience that, like Peter, we may be rough around the edges, but God sees beyond our faults and knows what we are capable of.

Nevada-Utah’s team of area coordinators, led by Iso Vernon, NUC Club Ministries director, put on an outstanding leadership convention. The instructors were well prepared and organized, and the subject matter was presented in an exciting and interesting manner. One of the best compliments is a satisfied attendee. The area coordinators interviewed some of the Pathfinder leaders who attended. All were very impressed with the overall organization,

planning, and preparation of the convention.

Rachel Saenz, one of the new directors from the Mountain View Pathfinder Club, said, “I really enjoyed the leadership conference this year. I learned a lot about leading a child to Christ. I imagined it was about talking in flowery language and using expensive and complicated educational materials, but I was happy to learn that it really was just about being present and having a relationship with the kids, which is what I already love to do. That was something that I learned, and I was super excited to find that it’s a spiritual gift!”

Special thanks go to all those who organized and set up the convention, the local volunteers, and guest instructors Lyle Petre, Dr. Eileen White, Arthur Blinci, Roslyn Thorpe, Dacyl Silveira-Galicia, Jocelyn Trejo, and guest speaker Pastor Armando Miranda, for taking the time to teach and speak at the NUC leadership convention.

By Mary Converse



The newly invested leaders.

Leoni Meadows Starts to Recover After the Caldor Fire

Recently, Craig Heinrich, executive director of Leoni Meadows Christian Camp and Retreat Center, shared his thoughts in the aftermath of the Caldor Fire, which burned much of the camp's acreage and some buildings.

"As part of my survey after the fire roared through Leoni, I made my way to the Wilderness Camp overnighiter spot on Dogtown Creek," he said. "It was one of the most beautiful, pastoral places in the whole 1,000 acres—huge old-growth Douglas fir trees, six and eight feet in diameter, plus a wonderful creek with neat plants that grew leaves big enough to wear as hats.

"As I drove down the steep grade, tears filled my eyes. Everywhere I looked there was nothing but smoking roots and burning trees. I didn't see a single living plant throughout the whole trip. Everything was burnt beyond recognition. At one point I accidentally scared a red-tailed fox. I hardly recognized him. His fur was singed, and his feet were blistered as he limped away, looking for a place to rest. The knot in my throat wouldn't go away as my eyes watered—and not just because of the smoke. I was mourning the loss of one of God's incredible gifts to Leoni.

"A couple months later, my wife was finally ready to see Dogtown, the area I had only described in words.



As we drove, I noticed the little spring that crossed the road had grass growing beside it. The oak trees that I had assumed were dead were poking up little green shoots. Once at Dogtown, I noticed those funny hat plants had already regrown their leaves. Everywhere I looked there were signs that God had not forsaken us—signs that Leoni will come back and continue to be a place of ministry!"

Heinrich and his staff are working tirelessly, in collaboration with insurance adjusters, to get the camp operational by summer 2022. One of the first steps in the process was to reconnect into the electrical grid—a necessary but costly undertaking since all the poles, wires, and transformers were completely burned. Plans are being made to rebuild and improve the nature center, craft building, and pool facility.

The Northern California Conference is committed to seeing its camp up and running. "Leoni Meadows is our much-loved camp, and it is wonderful to see progress being made," said NCC President Marc Woodson. "We miss its ministry, but God is transforming this tragedy into joy."

Heinrich wants people to hold onto hope. "During this season, let's recount our blessings," he said. "I pray that through all the craziness this world has thrown our way, that you too can see the ever-present leading hand of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all those who have supported Leoni during her time of need."

If you wish to contribute to the Leoni Meadows Recovery Fund, please visit leonimeadows.org.

By Laurie Trujillo

PHOTOS: ERIC HENTON





New Beginners Fund Helps Northern California Conference Families and Schools

The Northern California Conference (NCC) invests in Adventist education! When NCC leaders learned that the Pacific Union Conference would pay half a month's tuition for all kindergarten students in the union during the 2021-2022 school year, they decided to raise funds to cover the other half for NCC kindergarten students. Since NCC schools had the capacity to enroll 280 kindergarteners, the goal was to raise \$77,000 so that each kindergarten student could receive a month's free tuition. In February 2021, the NCC embarked on the "Beginning the Journey" campaign to raise money for the New Beginners Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of 10 compassionate NCC donors, the \$77,000 goal was reached in April 2021!

Between the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 school years, NCC kindergarten enrollment experienced a 20 percent growth, with 218 kindergartners throughout the conference.

"It is amazing how God has blessed our schools and given us a strong pool of students who are beginning their journey in Adventist education," said Albert Miller, superintendent of schools. "This is good news for all our institutions."

"God blessed the investment of our compassionate donors and the on-target marketing efforts led by Carol Tilstra Nash, marketing specialist in our office of education," said Laurie Trujillo, director of communication and development. "Now, 218 youngsters are enrolled in the longest and best evangelism campaign in our conference."

Families throughout the conference are grateful for

"Receiving the New Beginners scholarship definitely impacted our decision to attend EAS." —EAS parent

the tuition assistance. "Receiving the New Beginners scholarship definitely impacted our decision to attend El Dorado Adventist School [EAS]," said one parent. "In the beginning, we considered sending our son to a different school. However, after learning more about EAS and the caring staff who work here, we changed our minds. Moreover, receiving the scholarship made coming to EAS even more appealing. Now, we couldn't be happier with the decision we made. Our son loves going to EAS. Thank you very much for providing us with this great opportunity."

Educators are also thankful. "Our school has been blessed by the Lord with a robust kindergarten program this year," said EAS Principal Martin Sutton. "Our kindergarten class consists of students from our constituency churches as well as from our community. We understand that our kindergarten program is a cornerstone for the growth and sustainability of our school. For this reason, we are prioritizing the kindergarten program in our growth and strategic planning. The Lord continues to bless us with resources like the NCC New Beginners Fund to provide a fun, Christ-centered education that will prepare students for their future."

By NCC Communication & Development Department

A Lesson in Love: SECC Youth Leaders Convention

The Southeastern California Conference (SECC) Youth Department hosted its 2021 Youth Leadership Convention at Pine Springs Ranch in September. The goal of the convention, according to Youth Director Aren Rennacker, was to “train, equip, and inspire the youth ministry leaders of this conference to lead thriving youth ministries in churches.” To this end, they held two dozen breakouts that focused on club ministries, children and family ministries, youth and young adult leadership, and community awareness and engagement.

Leaders continued to ask for help in how to respond to family members and loved ones who were coming out. In an effort to be relevant and helpful, the SECC youth department invited Bill Henson to help leaders as they minister to LGBT+ people and their families.

Henson is the founder of Posture Shift and has trained thousands of church leaders on how to become loving caretakers of LGBT+ people. He has also worked with the North American Division Commission on Human Sexuality. Together, they produced the book *Guiding Families of LGBT+ Loved Ones: Adventist Edition*. This book is available for free at AdventSource. Customers are responsible for shipping.

The purpose of the general sessions was not to debate doctrine but rather to describe good practice. Youth leaders were trained on how to love this group of people and how to show them the compassion of Christ. “Because we have this community of people we know God loves so much, it’s worth it to us as a



Bill Henson gives keynote address.

church to talk about how we can love them as well,” said Rennacker.

“This is our exclusive goal. We want to love the way Jesus wanted us to love,” said Executive Secretary Patty Marruffo. As the former associate youth director, she helped organize the event.

Gabriela Navarro, a youth leader from the Ontario church, was grateful for the training. It was helpful to her to learn “what to say, what not to say, and what to do when someone opens up to you,” said Navarro. “I just wished this education was provided more often.”

Leaders also learned about love in the Faces of Human Trafficking Gallery. This space held over 250 pictures of human trafficking. There were exhibits, activities, and even a virtual reality experience that acquainted participants with the realities of human trafficking in the conference territory.

Benjamin Amoah, youth pastor at La Sierra University church, was impacted by the gallery. He was concerned that it would only display the horrors of human trafficking, but the gallery went a step further. “This was extremely well done and had resources. Instead of just showing trauma, it showed what you can do to help,” said Amoah.

By Andrea King



LEFT: The praise team leads worship. RIGHT: Pathfinder leaders attend convention.



FAR LEFT: Tickner pictured with associate superintendents.
LEFT: Tickner explores on cultural field trip to Machu Picchu with Loma Linda Academy students.

A Leader in Learning: Datha Tickner Assumes Education Superintendent Role

The new school year brought with it a new superintendent in the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) Office of Education. Datha Tickner is the new superintendent of schools. Tickner is no stranger to SECC. She came to this conference in 2001, when she began as a physical education teacher at Loma Linda Junior High School. Prior to coming to SECC, she taught 16 years at Monterey Bay Academy.



new silver cap. Mrs. Steiner, her teacher, gave her a bookmark with 1 Peter 5:7, which says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (NIV).

Mrs. Steiner reminded Datha that God would take care of her anxieties and that she didn't have to worry about what the other kids thought of her tooth. That encounter encouraged and impacted Tickner for years to come. "I knew that when I grew up, I wanted to be a teacher who would make a difference in children's lives the same way Mrs. Steiner did with me," said Tickner.

In addition to over 20 years of teaching experience, Tickner served as a school administrator for 13 years. She served as vice principal and then principal at Loma Linda Academy, as well as principal of Orangewood Academy. For the past three years, she has served as assistant superintendent in the office of education.

Tickner aspires to not only be a leader in teaching but a leader in learning. This teacher is not afraid to become the student. After taking several classes at La Sierra University, the school informed her that she had taken the maximum number of credits allowed without being in a master's program. She earned a Master of Arts in leadership and administration. She continues to learn and to grow and is committed to helping others do the same. "I will be the first to admit I have more things to learn," Tickner said. "But I will seek advice and counsel from those I trust. I will not be afraid to ask for help."

Tickner grew up as a child of immigrants in a bilingual home. Her parents came to this country to flee communism. They worked hard alongside other immigrants of many races and cultures. Her parents instilled in her the value of treating everyone with respect and fairness.

Tickner is passionate about seeing those values lived out in Adventist schools. "Regardless of the color of their skin, IQ, or sexual orientation, I want kids to be cared for and loved," said Tickner. "We will always respect everyone's right to their opinion and never waiver from making all our students and staff feel valued, supported, and loved like Jesus would."

Tickner will be taking over from Don Dudley, who served in education for 47 years. When asked about his successor, Dudley said, "Her love of our Lord and Adventist education has allowed her to serve teachers and students with distinction. The Lord has prepared her for the position of superintendent of schools, and I am confident she will continue to lead with excellence and grace."

Tickner decided to become a teacher when she was in third grade. She had chipped her tooth and was nervous about how students would treat her with her

By Andrea King

Glendale Adventist Academy Launches STEM Enrichment Program and Opens New STEM Innovation Center

Glendale Adventist Academy (GAA) hopes to encourage its students to become change-makers in society through enhanced learning of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). With the launch of the school's STEM program this year, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and representatives from Adventist Health (AH) Glendale, Southern California Conference (SCC), and GAA's school board gathered for the dedication of GAA's STEM Innovation Center this November.

Cristina Lee-Escudero, GAA science teacher and STEM center director, and Kenneth Landaverde, GAA alumnus (class of 2010) with a background in biochemistry, spearheaded the effort to create an enrichment program for TK to eighth grade that is separate from the elementary grade-level math and science classes.

"I believe STEM is at the heart of Adventist education, and I support the study of the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics as we train students to appreciate and learn more about their responsibility to God by caring for what He has given us in nature—as commanded in Genesis 1:26-28," said Israel Olaore, GAA principal.

Renovations for the center began this summer. The building, which holds the cafeteria on the upper level, was repainted and the driveway and parking lot repaved. The three rooms below the cafeteria that make up the center have been redesigned and restructured to accommodate three areas of focus: imagination, investigation, and innovation.

The Imagination Lab, with its vibrantly colored walls and relaxed seating, is a "think tank" that will engage students in topics to explore. In the Investigation Lab, students will conduct experiments and learn new concepts. In the Innovation Lab, students will apply what they've learned to find solutions to problems in a collaborative setting. These three labs are part of the 5E Model of Instruction encompassing five phases: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate.

At the dedication, Lee-Escudero shared her goals for STEM education at



Students, faculty, staff, alumni, benefactors, and representatives from SCC and AH Glendale pose in front of the STEM Innovation Center before touring the space.

GAA. "Short-term goals, I want the students to develop their curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and STEM literacy," she said. "Beyond the short-term goals, I have one long-term goal: How do I inspire conscious citizens of the future? People who see the problems that are here and have the courage and dedication to give of themselves to make things happen."

Students officially began classes in the STEM Innovation Center the week following the dedication ceremony.

Though the current STEM curriculum is available to just elementary students, Lee-Escudero hopes to also service and engage high school students. "I hope to start a STEM club that meets once a week in the space, where we can explore various topics and the

students can engage in developing community service activities and enroll in local STEM-related challenges."

By Araya Moss

Two students check out a display in the hallway that connects the three labs in the STEM Innovation Center.





Left to right: Ryan Lacson, Emin Matevosyan, James Aitken, and John Aitken II.

Unconventional Discipleship Through Social Media at Living Stones Church

"God uses ordinary people...little becomes much as you place it in the Master's hand." – Danniebelle Hall, "Ordinary People"

In July 2020, a few months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the Living Stones and Sunland-Tujunga churches started holding outdoor and drive-in radio services. Utilizing new technology, the church enlisted the help of its young people to run the livestream.

One of those young people was the pastor's 14-year-old son, James Aitken. One Sabbath, James told his dad, John Aitken II, pastor of Living Stones and Sunland-Tujunga churches, "Why don't we open an Instagram account so we could reach more people?" John Aitken II responded that he didn't know how to use Instagram, but James assured him it was easy, offering to set it up and begin posting.

Who would've thought that a 14-year-old's idea of posting on Instagram would reach people who could never be reached using conventional means?

In January 2021, local high school student Emin Matevosyan joined the church's Friday night Sabbath School class on Zoom for the first time. "I came across the church after researching about the denomination's beliefs and seeing the accuracy in the doctrine," he shared. "I did a quick search for an SDA church on Instagram, and there came up Living Stones church. I was surprised there was an Adventist church somewhat walking distance from me."

The next week, Ryan Lacson, cross trainer for the Living Stones and Sunland-Tujunga churches, taught the class and met Matevosyan for the first time. Lacson soon invited Matevosyan for a one-on-one Bible study, and Matevosyan agreed. "It's a blessing being a cross trainer, because you see God working in ways you don't expect," Lacson shared. "I get to witness how God brings the right people, at the right place, at the right time."

After one month attending Sabbath School, Matevosyan began attending the outdoor church service every Sabbath and immediately began helping set up before the service and putting things away after the service.

Matevosyan was baptized by John Aitken II in June. "Before giving my life to Christ, I still was a Christian but a lukewarm one for my whole life," he shared. "My salvation process was over a seven-month period. I was only a senior in high school at 17. I was just getting into philosophy, but I also had studied physiotherapy, astronomy, and some theoretical physics, which all got me to acknowledge that God is evidently real. The more I learned, the more my faith grew."

Matevosyan is now an active church member, deacon, and multimedia specialist for the livestream ministry. He has also extended his discipleship in the community as the founder, teacher, and leader of the Glendale Community College Christianity Club, hosting weekly Bible studies/discussion sessions through God's help.

"Being like Christ is always the way to do it right," Matevosyan said. "With God's help, guide your friends, your families, and yourselves in truth."

May this story inspire us to open our eyes and ears to see and hear what God has given our churches to spread His good news! Let us use our local church resources, young and old, for discipleship, conventional and unconventional.

By Anna Godoy Aitken

Calendar

Central California Conference

The Great Hope online evangelism (Dec. 4-10). Every church in the conference. Register today at www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com.

Prayer + Forgiveness = Amazing Grace Christian Women's Retreat (Jan. 28-30) at Tenaya Lodge, featuring keynote speakers Rick and Cindy Mercer. They will share how to gain victory and break the bond of Satan. You will be uplifted, encouraged, and hopeful on this journey. Find registrations details at www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com.

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These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.
January: *December 7* • February: *January 6*

Contributions

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

Zooming with Young Adults: Join the daily Zoom meetings online with the young adults. For an up-to-date schedule and meeting id#s, visit <https://bit.ly/2x0jvDf> or email tvang@cccsda.org.

Check the Events page online at www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com for all the updates. Many events and outreaches are now being virtually presented or streamed online.

La Sierra University

Centennial Year. La Sierra University's centennial celebrations will launch on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022, with the unveiling of a third sculpture on campus. Homecoming 2022 on April 29 and 30 will focus on the university's 100th year, and a Centennial Gala is planned for October 3. Watch for details at www.lasierra.edu.

74th Annual Candlelight Concert. La Sierra University's annual Christmas musical extravaganza will be held Fri., Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at the La Sierra University church. A virtual replay performance will be offered on Sat., Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. via livestream at <https://music-events.lasierra.edu>.

Giving Day/December Fundraising. La Sierra University is raising funds for 13 department projects beginning Dec. 8, 2021, and throughout the month. For project details and information, visit www.lasierra.edu/givingday.



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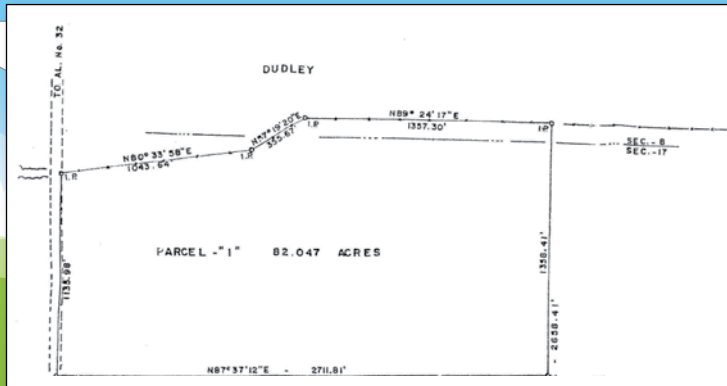
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Northern California Conference

Prison Ministry Special Training Session (Dec. 18)
2-4 p.m. West Sacramento church, 2860 Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento. Virtual presentation by Michael Ashley from Touch of Love Ministry, as well as general training and letter writing. Info: willie.johnson@nccsda.com.

10 Days of Prayer (Jan. 5-15) 7 p.m. YouTube: NCCSDA; Facebook: NorCalAdventistsinAction.

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.

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beautiful area, call me. Pierre @ Remax REC 423-987-0831 (cell) or 423-664-6644 (office).

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

Do you like to read books that are rooted in the Three Angels' Messages and written from the perspective that we are now living in the last days? Do you enjoy peeling back the layers of the words in the Bible to discover hidden meanings? Visit our website: www.comingkingpublications.com.

SDA Realtor at your service: Let us help you sell your property or buy the ideal home here in gorgeous northern California. Rural properties abound. Perfect for families and retirees. Contact: Jerry Kea, 707-888-9613, thomaskea.tk@gmail.com, CA DRE Lic# 02080864, The Real Estate Group.

New Adventist book— *Cross the Waves and Climb the Steeps*. Join the Meyer family as they uproot their lives and heed God's call. Adventures start in Africa, transition to Lebanon and back to Africa, with

other countries in between. Appealing for all ages. Available online at liferichpublishing.com/en/bookstore, barnesandnoble.com, and amazon.com.

Employment

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

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

Delta Eye Medical group in Stockton, Calif., 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

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Manager of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program at 530-637-4025 x289 or 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.

Pacific Union College is seeking a full-time Housing Coordinator. Major duties include coordination of PUC faculty/staff housing, moving arrangements, and monitoring of commercial leases/master leases and utility charges for all College-managed leases. Must be customer service oriented and able to multi-task with numerous projects. Must be able to maintain organization and be team player. Salary position. For more information or to apply, please call Human Resources at 707-965-6231 or visit our website at www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings.

Pacific Union College is seeking a full-time Associate Vice President of Finance for Financial Administration. Major duties include provision of leadership and guidance for all financial aspects of PUC and Howell Mountain Enterprises, ability to develop and implement long- and short-term financial goals consistent with the mission of PUC, budget and balance analysis, and development of strategic tools and systems for critical financial and operational goals. Also must work in conjunction with the Vice President of Financial Administration in engaging the Board of Directors and other members of cabinet in matters of finance, auditing, and investment issues. For more information or to apply, please call Human Resources at 707-965-6231 or visit our website at www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings.

Faculty Healthcare Finance & Economics @ Loma Linda University School of Public Health. We are seeking a full-time faculty member for the Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) program with experience in financial management, economics, and/or quantitative methods. Instructs 4-6 graduate-level courses per year (e.g., Healthcare Economics, Finance, Quantitative Methods in Healthcare Management, and Accounting) using both face-to-face and online modalities. Produce research or practice activities that are industry-related and align with the school's strategic focus areas. Advise and mentor graduate students. Requires a doctoral degree from an accredited institution, and healthcare experience in practice or

research is preferred. Apply at <https://lluh.referrals.selectminds.com/via/BenjaminB-6piol/jobs/faculty-public-health-16900>.

Executive Director – EXSEED Program @ Loma Linda University. Develops and coordinates STEM education, activities, events, and professional development in support of Kindergarten thru Graduate degrees for the Adventist education system and San Bernardino Unified School District. Coordinates organizational networking throughout the Adventist educational system to collaborate with, support, and promote STEM-related clubs, projects, and camps. Oversees the LLU pipeline and pathway programs for minorities to develop project-based science engagement at LLU. Requires a doctoral degree in related field, five years as faculty within a K-12 or higher education academic institution involved in substantial teaching experiences, and experience or involvement in faculty professional development. Apply at <https://lluh.referrals.selectminds.com/via/BenjaminB-6piol/jobs/exec-director-exseed-program-16437>.

Director – Drayson Center @ Loma Linda University. Join our Loma Linda University team as the Director – Drayson Center! Drayson Center opened on January 11, 1995, as a 100,000-square-foot, recreation and wellness center promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual wholeness. The Drayson Center is dedicated to the health and fitness of our Loma Linda University Health employees, students, and community. <https://drayson.llu.edu/> Requires a bachelor's degree, must be a member of Seventh-day Adventist Church, and have five years' experience in managing personnel. Certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), First Aid, and Automated External Defibrillator (AED); certifications required within 30 days of hire. Apply at <https://lluh.referrals.selectminds.com/jobs/director-drayson-center-17421>.

Looking for certified teachers to join us in Christian online education (grades 1–12). Work part-time from home tutoring "live" in a Zoom environment. If interested, please call us at 817-645-0895.

Central California Conference is seeking a full-time administrative assistant in the president's office. Responsibilities include strong computer (MS Office) skills; must be accurate, detailed, and efficient in data entry, processing requests, and setting up events. This person must also be courteous in dealing with external and internal customers. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and maintain consistent, active church attendance. Send cover letter, application, and résumé to Human Resources. By e-mail lbarron@cccsda.org or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Position open until filled. Link for application: <https://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/human-resources>

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Central California Conference is seeking a year-round part-time registration specialist for the camp meeting registration office. Responsibilities include keeping track of site registrants and deadline for same-site privileges, receiving payments and registrations, along with coordinating with phone calls and emails with customers. Must be courteous in dealing with external and internal customers. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and maintain consistent, active church attendance. Send cover letter, application, and résumé to Human Resources. By e-mail lbarron@cccsda.org or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Position open until filled. Link for application: <https://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/human-resources>

Sonora Community Estates is seeking a full-time administrative assistant. Sonora Community Estates is an over-55 senior residential community in Sonora, Calif. The successful candidate must have strong skills in computers, organization, customer service, and business writing. Must be able to multi-task in a very busy environment and participate in planning four social events per year. There is some flexibility of hours. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred. A college degree or previous work experience in real estate and property management preferred. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and maintain consistent, active church attendance. Send cover letter, application, and résumé to Human Resources. By e-mail lbarron@cccsda.org or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Position open until filled. Link for application: <https://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/human-resources>

Sonora Community Estates is seeking a full-time

maintenance staff. Sonora Community Estates is an over-55 senior residential community in Sonora, Calif. The successful candidate will be proficient in grounds care to include installation and maintenance of underground sprinkler systems; safe knowledge of power machines and tools; experience with carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting, and practical maintenance skills. Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and maintain consistent, active church attendance. Send cover letter, application, and résumé to Human Resources. By e-mail lbarron@cccsda.org or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Position open until filled. Link for application: <https://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/human-resources>

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.

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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.

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.

For Sale: Amazing California land with water; Incredible Hawaii land; House in mainland; 36' Islander sailboat in Waikiki. Due to COVID and Paradise Camp Fire we are interested in exploring options. Facing tax foreclosures. Call us at 209-507-9686, email us at: health.by.choice.120@gmail.com, or text me at 530-353-5561.

Southern Oregon, country setting, 3 acres, easy I-5 access. Modified A-Frame, 3-bdrm, 3-bath, ample living areas, grapes, trees, pool, outbuildings, well, septic. SDA church and school, close to Milo Adventist Academy. 541-430-2710.

Office building for lease in Nashville. Kentucky-Tennessee Conference is leasing a free-standing building ideal for medical, dentistry, or counseling practices. The building was recently renovated and measures 3,000 square feet. It is located immediately off the interstate exit in a highly trafficked upscale commercial area, and it is only 30 minutes from Nashville—a growing city with a booming economy. For more information, contact Terri Jenks at 615-859-1391 ext.1006.



Recorder Membership

The *Pacific Union Recorder* is provided as a free service to members of the conferences that are part of the Pacific Union Conference (Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California, Central California, Southern California, Southeastern California, and Nevada-Utah). Each conference maintains the list of members, based on the reports from their churches. If you would like to make a change to your subscription (name, address, cancellation), please contact your local conference. The staff of the *Recorder* does not have access to the circulation lists, other than the paid subscriptions.

Costa Rica country property with two homes on 16 acres. Several water sources, including a year-round creek, spring, and a well. More than 100 fruit trees, 2 greenhouses, and many additional structures. \$595,000. 760-305-9929.

For Sale

Houseboat at Lake Don Pedro, Fleming Meadows, 35 minutes east of Modesto, Calif. Master bedroom with bathroom and shower, guest bathroom, living room with hide-a-bed and two recliners, TV, gas fireplace, full kitchen with two refrigerators/freezers covered upper deck for family, Pathfinder events, etc. Can sleep 20 in sleeping bags. Twin engine power and Sea-Doo personal watercraft. \$110,000 for 1/3 ownership, plus monthly dues of \$375 to cover slip rental, insurances, taxes, and routine repairs and maintenance. Call: Dan García 209-968-7979. Leave a message and I will return your call.

SDA Physical Therapist in western WA selling practice. Small (1.5 FTE) but with growth potential, if motivated. Longstanding, solid reputation. Broad referral base. Consistently profitable (even through COVID). Turn-key business. Training provided. Local K-12 SDA school and active SDA church. Small town with mountains and ocean nearby. Inquire: sdanwptclinic4sale@gmail.com.

Piano for sale by owner: \$29,999 or best offer. 1926 Steinway Model M 5'7" ebony with original ivory. Completely restored in 1990. 2005 appraisal for \$25,000. Looks brand new. Please call 209-931-9619. Email: bhbmbm1959@gmail.com.

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.

Angwin home: Five-bedroom, three-bathroom vacation home 2 miles from PUC. Fully furnished, large kitchen,

dining room, living room, family room, piano, vineyard views, WiFi, washer and dryer, BBQ, sleeps 10. Call for rates, photos, and reservations: 415-539 7980 or email nroger1965@gmail.com.

Israel and Jordan Jesus Tour April 24-May 6, 2022, with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Rediscover the power of the life of Jesus as we visit Galilee, Capernaum, Caesarea, Petra, Jerusalem, and more. For more information on this and other upcoming tours to Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and China, visit www.adventtours.org email info@adventtours.org.

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](https://www.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!"

December 2021 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	DEC 3	DEC 10	DEC 17	DEC 24	DEC 31
Alturas	4:32	4:32	4:33	4:37	4:42
Angwin	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:58
Bakersfield	4:43	4:43	4:45	4:49	4:53
Calexico	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:41	4:46
Chico	4:42	4:42	4:44	4:48	4:52
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:31	4:32	4:34	4:37	4:42
Eureka	4:49	4:48	4:50	4:54	4:59
Four Corners [E]	4:59	4:59	5:01	5:04	5:09
Fresno	4:42	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:53
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:14	5:14	5:16	5:19	5:24
Half Dome	4:39	4:39	4:41	4:44	4:49
Hilo	5:40	5:42	5:45	5:48	5:52
Holbrook	5:09	5:09	5:11	5:14	5:19
Honolulu	5:48	5:50	5:53	5:56	6:00
Joshua Tree	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:41	4:46
Lake Tahoe	4:37	4:37	4:39	4:42	4:47
Las Vegas	4:25	4:26	4:28	4:31	4:36
Lodi-Stockton	4:45	4:45	4:47	4:50	4:55
Loma Linda	4:39	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:50
Los Angeles	4:43	4:44	4:46	4:49	4:54
McDermitt [N]	4:19	4:19	4:20	4:24	4:29
Moab	4:57	4:57	4:58	5:02	5:07
Monterey Bay	4:51	4:51	4:53	4:57	5:02
Mt. Whitney	4:41	4:41	4:44	4:47	4:52
Napa	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:54	4:58
Nogales [S]	5:20	5:21	5:23	5:26	5:31
Oakland	4:49	4:50	4:51	4:55	5:00
Paradise, CA	4:42	4:41	4:43	4:47	4:52
Phoenix	5:20	5:20	5:22	5:26	5:30
Pu'uwaiaiu, Ni'ihau [W]	5:42	5:43	5:46	5:49	5:53
Reno	4:35	4:35	4:37	4:40	4:45
Riverside	4:40	4:40	4:42	4:46	4:50
Sacramento	4:44	4:44	4:46	4:50	4:54
Salt Lake City	5:00	4:59	5:01	5:05	5:10
San Diego	4:42	4:42	4:45	4:48	4:53
San Francisco	4:50	4:50	4:52	4:56	5:00
San Jose	4:49	4:49	4:51	4:55	5:00
Santa Rosa	4:50	4:50	4:51	4:55	5:00
Sunset Beach	4:43	4:44	4:46	4:49	4:54
Thousand Oaks	4:45	4:46	4:48	4:51	4:56
Tucson	5:18	5:19	5:21	5:24	5:29

[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

January 2022 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	JAN 7	JAN 14	JAN 21	JAN 28
Alturas	4:48	4:56	5:04	5:13
Angwin	5:04	5:11	5:19	5:27
Bakersfield	4:59	5:06	5:13	5:20
Calexico	4:52	4:58	5:04	5:11
Chico	4:59	5:06	5:14	5:22
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:48	4:54	5:02	5:09
Eureka	5:05	5:12	5:20	5:29
Four Corners [E]	5:15	5:22	5:29	5:37
Fresno	4:59	5:05	5:13	5:20
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:30	5:36	5:43	5:51
Half Dome	4:55	5:02	5:09	5:17
Hilo	5:57	6:01	6:06	6:10
Holbrook	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:45
Honolulu	6:05	6:09	6:14	6:19
Joshua Tree	4:51	4:58	5:04	5:11
Lake Tahoe	4:53	5:00	5:08	5:16
Las Vegas	4:42	4:48	4:55	5:03
Lodi-Stockton	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:23
Loma Linda	4:55	5:02	5:08	5:15
Los Angeles	4:59	5:06	5:12	5:19
McDermitt [N]	4:36	4:43	4:51	5:00
Moab	5:13	5:20	5:27	5:35
Monterey Bay	5:07	5:14	5:21	5:29
Mt. Whitney	4:57	5:03	5:10	5:17
Napa	5:05	5:11	5:19	5:27
Nogales [S]	5:52	5:57	6:02	6:08
Oakland	5:06	5:13	5:20	5:28
Paradise, CA	4:58	5:05	5:13	5:21
Phoenix	5:36	5:42	5:49	5:56
Pu'uwaiaiu, Ni'ihau [W]	6:00	6:04	6:09	6:13
Reno	4:51	4:58	5:06	5:14
Riverside	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:16
Sacramento	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:23
Salt Lake City	5:16	5:23	5:31	5:40
San Diego	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:17
San Francisco	5:06	5:13	5:21	5:28
San Jose	5:06	5:12	5:20	5:27
Santa Rosa	5:06	5:13	5:20	5:28
Sunset Beach	5:06	5:13	5:20	5:28
Thousand Oaks	5:01	5:08	5:14	5:21
Tucson	5:34	5:40	5:47	5:53

[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

At Rest

Aitken, Delmar – b. May 17, 1947, Omaha, Neb.; d. July 29, 2020, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Cheree; daughters, April, Andra; nephew, John.

Bostian, Donald Fred – b. Feb. 19, 1933, Northumberland, Pa; d. Aug. 21, 2021, Hendersonville, N.C. Survivors: wife, Dorothy; sister, Elizabeth Harris; brother-in-law, Bill Wetherell; sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Charles Ripley; five nieces; seven nephews; 12 great-nieces and nephews. Don was ordained to the ministry and loved to share God's Word with his churches, which included Lynchburg/Yellow Branch, The Review and Herald church, Worthington, Atlantic Union College church, Kettering Memorial, Vallejo Drive, Forest Lake, and Walker Memorial.

Crisp, Jimmie – b. Nov. 8, 1936, Coleman, Okla.; d. July 31, 2021, Galt, Calif. Survivors: son, Garry Crisp; daughters, Tami Jackson, Crystal Furey; brother, Alton Crisp; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Hamilton, Wendy L. – b. Nov. 20, 1955, Ukiah, Calif.; d. Oct. 10, 2021, Loma Linda, Calif.

Kahler, Leland M. – b. March 7, 1936, Goodrich, N.D.; d. March 14, 2021, Tracy, Calif. Survivors: wife, Viola; sons, Philip, Jeffery; daughter, Sheryl; four grandchildren. Before practicing family medicine in Tracy for 45 years, Dr. Leland interned at Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park, Md., after attending Loma Linda University. He served as a Captain in the Air Force for two years, also serving in Vietnam.

Lewis DDS, Steven E. – b. June 23, 1963, St. Helena, Calif.; d. Oct. 5, 2021, San Francisco, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sandy; son, Jackson; daughter, Shelby.

Miller, Ralph Irving – b. May 18, 1925, Fairplay, Colo.; d. May 15, 2021, McKinleyville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jo Evelyn; son, Jerry; daughter, Dolores Estes; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. He served in the Navy from 1943-1945 and was very proud of his service to his country.

Price, Neville Arthur – b. Aug. 16, 1929, Oakland, Calif.; d. Nov. 28, 2020, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Kathy Knittle, Karen Ronk, Jennie Shaw; sister, Glenys Lonberger; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Over 40 years, Neville devoted untold hours of volunteer work to Redwood Area SDA Camp in Southern Humboldt.

Reyes, Maria Ascension – b. May 25, 1939, Durango, Mexico; d. Aug. 20, 2021, Windsor, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Mari Reyes Wright; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

Ronk, David – b. Feb. 11, 1938, Twin Falls, Idaho; d. May 28, 2021, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: wife, Karen; sons, Walter, Tim, Craig, Matt, Joey; daughter, Keri Ann; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Retired SDA pastor and prison chaplain.

Van Vranken, Donald Lyn – b. Nov. 3, 1931, Garden Grove, Calif.; d. Nov. 3, 2021, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: son, Darren Van Vranken; daughter, Traci Karastathis; stepsons, Tim Henson, Richard Henson, Douglas Henson; sisters, Dorothy Wilkerson, Lois Van Vranken; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Weeks, James "Eddie" E. – b. Nov. 19, 1949, Eureka, Calif.; d. Sept. 2, 2020, San Francisco, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sandra; son, Roy; daughters, Jennifer Holgersen, Diana Weeks; siblings, Diana Belak, Mickie Vanni, Norm Weeks.

Wiser, Elta – b. April 1, 1931, Hagerman, N.M.; d. March 14, 2019, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Sandra, Diane, Carolyn; two grandchildren.

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

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



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Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

THE NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

Nondiscrimination Listing 2021-2022 School Year

Arizona Conference

Adobe Adventist Christian School
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 SDA Elementary School
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 Christian 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
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

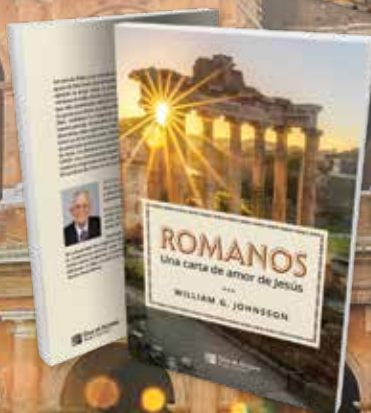
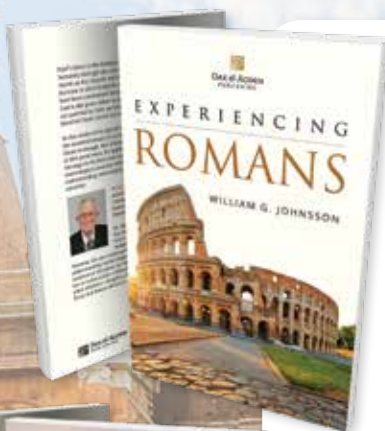
Southern California Conference

Adventist Education Simi Valley
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
South Bay Christian School
West Covina Hills SDA School
White Memorial Adventist School

Pacific Union Conference Operated School

Holbrook Seventh-day
Adventist Indian School

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 Johnson discloses the essential beauty in its message: Christ has already done everything. Christ is enough. But Johnson 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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