

PACIFIC UNION

JANUARY 2022

# Recorder

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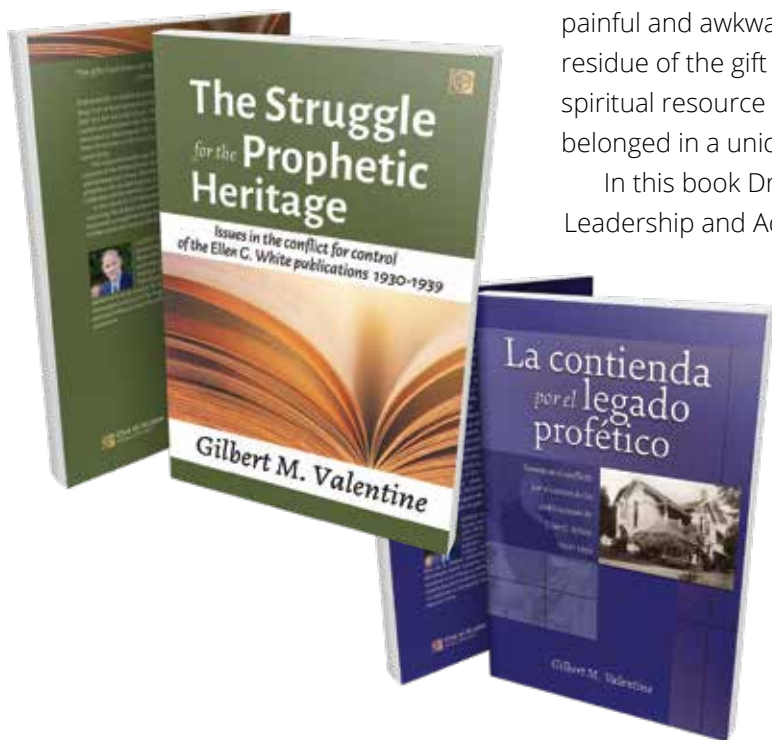
“The gifts have been set in the Church and not in any one family.”

LEWIS CHRISTIAN, EUROPEAN DIVISION PRESIDENT, 1934

For almost 15 years Elmshaven, the Californian home of Ellen White, was the busy hub of development for the Adventist church on the West Coast. And then in July 1915 her voice fell silent. What to do with her writings became an enormously complicated problem for the church. In 1937 the literary collection was eventually relocated to Washington, DC—but the journey was not undertaken easily. The road from Elmshaven to the East Coast was long and winding, and at times the going was quite rocky.

The 1930s witnessed significant conflict within church leadership over the content of the White Estate vaults and what to do with it. The debate was painful and awkward at times. But eventually all agreed that the residue of the gift of prophecy did not belong just to one family. The spiritual resource resident in the collection of Ellen White’s writings belonged in a unique way to the entire church.

In this book Dr. Gil Valentine—a recently retired professor of Leadership and Administration at La Sierra University—relates the intriguing story of conflict and a maturing theological awareness that led gradually to the development of new structural arrangements for the White Estate, ensuring that the writings of Ellen White continued to be a blessing to the church.



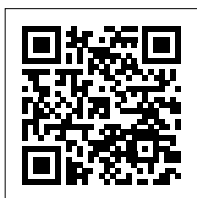
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Christian apologist and author C. S. Lewis wrote, "Joy is the serious business of heaven." As we contemplate the ways we can reach out with love and hope, particularly at the beginning of a new year, let the words from Isaiah 55:12 (NKJV) be our resolve and purpose:

"For you shall go out with joy,  
and be led out with peace;  
The mountains and the hills  
Shall break forth into singing before you,  
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."



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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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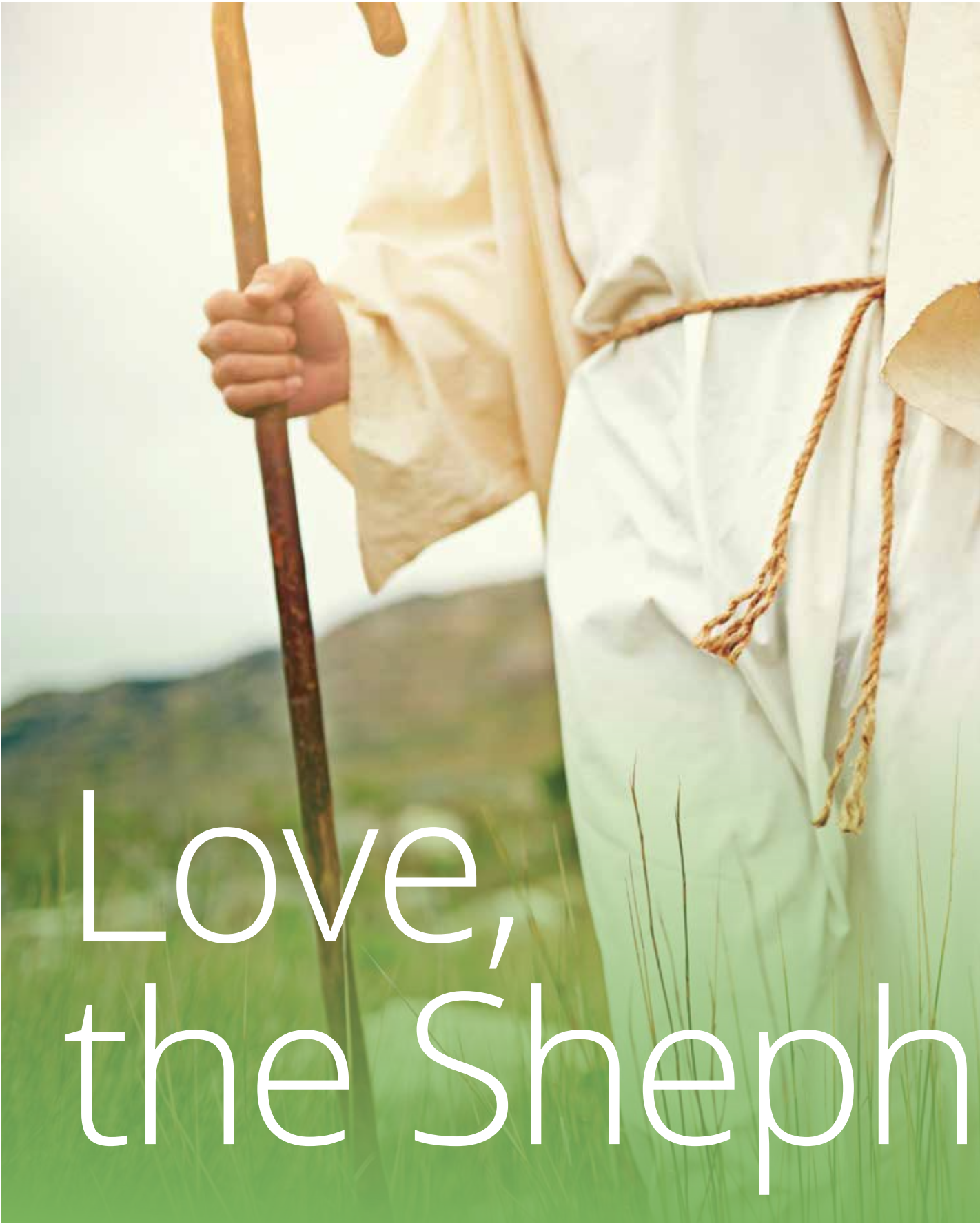
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**Postal Regs:** The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 122, Number 1, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and is published monthly. Editorial office is at 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361; 805-497-9457. Periodical postage paid at Thousand Oaks, CA, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: No charge to Pacific Union Adventist church members; \$16 per year in U.S.; \$20 foreign (U.S. funds); single copy, \$2. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Circulation Department, Pacific Union Recorder, Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359. Info@adventistfaith.com.





# Love, the Sheph

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By Bradford C. Newton

**A** college senior hurries quickly back to his room in the old Burman Hall at Andrews University. Taking the creaking steps two at a time, he quickly places his key in the lock of room 314 and then stands by the green rotary phone hanging on the wall. He catches his breath as the phone rings—right on time. The voice on the other end of the line is the sweetest sound he can imagine on that Wednesday morning. From across the country in Angwin, California, comes the greeting, “Hi, Brad.” It’s his girlfriend, Jennifer, and it’s time for the phone call that they build their weekly schedule around. Before the days of cellphones and unlimited long distance, a call was expensive—so talking like this was both an event and investment. But to talk, laugh, and tell stories about their lives was worth every dollar. After over 40 years of marriage, Jennifer and I still love to talk together. In fact, we’ve grown so accustomed to the cadence and tone of each other’s voices that in a store or a crowd I can discern her voice even if she’s out of sight.

There is another Voice to whom we need to grow ever more attentive as we journey into 2022. The prophet Isaiah tells us about the experience that this Voice brings to our lives: “Your ears will hear sweet words behind you: ‘Go this way. There is your path; this is how you should go’ whenever you must decide whether to turn to the right or the left” (Isaiah 30:21, The

Voice translation). Why do so many Christians feel that they lack this intimacy with God? How can we discover a real-life walk with God?

Our answer begins with one of the most enduring and endearing images of Jesus in Scripture—the Good Shepherd. In John 10:1-5 we read, “He who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers” (NKJV).

Sheep pens and shepherds’ work were familiar to Jesus and His listeners. Often multiple flocks were kept by several owners in a single cave, rocky wall enclosure, or family courtyard. A door was in place, guarded by a watchman to ensure only the authorized could get access to the animals. The shepherd of a particular flock could stand outside the pen and give the distinctive call for his flock to follow. Unlike Western shepherds who drive their sheep or use a sheep dog, the shepherds of Jesus’ day led their flocks, their voice calling them on. Remarkably, the sheep followed simply because they knew the voice of the shepherd.

How do you imagine the voice of Jesus sounded when He lived on Earth? Was it deep and low, like He’s often pictured by old Hollywood movies, or perhaps more friendly and casual? John says that Jesus was

the Word made flesh that dwelt among us (John 1:14). What sound would have met your ears when He spoke as a teacher, a healer, a traveler on dusty roads with His disciples, the dutiful son to His mother, a brother in the family, proclaimer of God’s message in the Temple, standing before Pilate and Herod, crying out, “Father, why have you forsaken me?” hanging upon the cross? Of course, no descriptions of Jesus’ voice were ever written. Yet the life experience of countless millions throughout history and my own life is that the call of the Voice reaches us, speaks, and calls us even today to follow Him toward something far better than we’ve ever known.

Would it surprise you to know that Jesus thought about you when He was still living on Earth? In fact, He prayed to His Father for each of us! “I do not pray for these [first century disciples] alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one” (John 17:20-21, NKJV). This means that, through His grace, the Shepherd has made provision for all who are willing to hear and follow His voice even now. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears *He will speak; and He will tell you things to come*” (John 16:12-13, NKJV; emphasis added). It’s a stupendous reality that Jesus’ departure was necessary in order for the deeper realities of who He is to be awakened in the hearts of people. It’s in God’s great plan that today we may be active listeners to the Great Shepherd through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

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How can you know the voice of the Shepherd? John 10:3 makes it perfectly clear that “the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out” (NKJV).



Which brings us to a practical problem for Christians of every language, culture, and period of history. How can you know the voice of the Shepherd? John 10:3 makes it perfectly clear that “the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out” (NKJV). So how can we be listening today? Over the course of several future articles, we will explore this important subject in a practical manner. But I do not want you to wait to experience the blessing that Jesus has waiting for you right now. We do not need extensive training or lengthy seminars to begin right now with this essential work. In fact, you may set your spiritual table today so that the Voice of our Lord may find fertile ground upon which the seeds of His truth may fall.

Love is expressed in so many ways. However, regularly connecting is an essential quality to any long-lasting relationship. Jennifer and I still love to share problems and joys, big and small. We commit to grow in our knowledge of each other, which promotes our happiness together. Just as marriages

and friendships need investment, even more so does that ultimate friendship with Jesus. Don't wait to invest time with Him. Open your Bible and read a chapter from the Gospels and the Psalms. Ask yourself what Jesus is saying about Himself and your life with Him. Talk with Him about it.

Ellen White glowingly describes your life of growing to listen to the Voice: “As we make Christ our daily companion we shall feel that the powers of an unseen world are all around us; and by looking unto Jesus we shall become assimilated to His image. By beholding we become changed. The character is softened, refined, and ennobled for the heavenly kingdom. The sure result of our intercourse and fellowship with our Lord will be to increase piety, purity, and fervor. There will be a growing intelligence in prayer. We are receiving a divine education, and this is illustrated in a life of diligence and zeal” (*Prayer*, p. 82).

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*Bradford C. Newton is the president of the Pacific Union Conference.*





By Ellen G. White

# The Greatest Joy

**G**od is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Like rays of light from the sun, like the streams of water bursting from a living spring, blessings flow out from Him to all His creatures. And wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing.

Our Saviour's joy was in the uplifting and redemption of fallen men. For this He counted not His life dear unto Himself, but endured the cross, despising the shame. So angels are ever engaged in working for the happiness of others. This is their joy. That which selfish hearts would regard as humiliating service, ministering to those who are wretched and in every way inferior in character and rank, is the work of sinless angels. The spirit of Christ's self-sacrificing love is the spirit that pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss. This is the spirit that Christ's followers will possess, the work that they will do.

When the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, like sweet fragrance it cannot be hidden. Its holy influence will be felt by all with whom we come in contact. The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert, flowing to refresh all and making those who are ready to perish, eager to drink of the water of life.

Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. It will lead to love, tenderness, and sympathy toward all the creatures of our heavenly Father's care.

The Saviour's life on earth was not a life of ease and devotion to Himself, but He toiled with persistent, earnest, untiring effort for the salvation of lost mankind. From the manger to Calvary He followed the path of self-denial and sought not to be released from arduous tasks, painful travels and exhausting care and labor. He said, "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28. This was the one great object of His life. Everything else was secondary and subservient. It was His meat and drink to do the will of God and to finish His work. Self and self-interest had no part in His labor.

So those who are the partakers of the grace of Christ will be ready to make any sacrifice, that others for whom He died may share the heavenly gift. They will do all they can to make the world better for their stay in it. This spirit is the sure outgrowth of a soul truly converted. No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth





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The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert, flowing to refresh all and making those who are ready to perish, eager to drink of the water of life.

cannot be shut up in his heart. If we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit, we shall not be able to hold our peace. If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good we shall have something to tell. Like Philip when he found the Saviour, we shall invite others into His presence. We shall seek to present to them the attractions of Christ and the unseen realities of the world to come. There will be an intensity of desire to follow in the path that Jesus trod. There will be an earnest longing that those around us may "behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

And the effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. This was the purpose of God in giving us a part to act in the plan of redemption. He has

granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men. This is the highest honor, the greatest joy, that it is possible for God to bestow upon men. Those who thus become participants in labors of love are brought nearest to their Creator.

God might have committed the message of the gospel, and all the work of loving ministry, to the heavenly angels. He might have employed other means for accomplishing His purpose. But in His infinite love He chose to make us co-workers with Himself, with Christ and the angels, that we might share the blessing, the joy, the spiritual uplifting, which results from this unselfish ministry.

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*Steps to Christ*, pp. 77-79



# Stewardship of Love

**W**hen we were told in March of 2020 that we were to be locked down, our entire reference to reality changed. Not only were we literally out of touch with our coworkers, we also couldn't visit our loved ones and couldn't accompany them if they went to the hospital.

The way we have been dealing with COVID-19 made me think that we were being good stewards of our health and the health of our community. But it only recently occurred to me that stewardship also has to do with the way we see those around us. When we think about stewardship, generally the first thing that comes to mind is money; however, stewardship is far more than what we do with our money. Stewardship encompasses our entire life—everything with which we have been entrusted: our time, our relationships, our talents,

our bodies, our resources, and even our love. Stewardship is a God-given responsibility that deals with accountability. It is a way for us to acknowledge all that God has given us and examine whether we are being faithful to that trust.

There are four principles we must keep in mind. First, God owns everything; second, God entrusts you with what you have; third, you can either increase or diminish what God has entrusted to you; fourth, God can call you into account at any time—it may be today.

Stewardship is not just about money—and here's a new thought: the stewardship of love might be the greatest of our stewardship responsibilities. Yes, love! When a lawyer asked Jesus which was the great commandment in the law, Jesus responded, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." And then he added "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39, ESV). What was Jesus saying? He was telling that lawyer—and you and me—that stewardship flows out of a heart that is seeking to love God and love others.

We can get bogged down with wondering if our social interaction takes care of that commandment and whether we do it because we feel we have to or because we really mean it. But the love that is communicated and modeled by Jesus is extraordinary. In the first sermon Jesus gave describing the kingdom of God, He made some amazing statements about who and how we are to love: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your

Father who is in heaven.... For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?" (Matthew 5:43-46, ESV).

Jesus was speaking to an audience that believed they were already part of God's kingdom because of their birthright and their adherence to the law. I wonder how often we also feel as they did—that we are a remnant that keeps the faith of Jesus and keeps the true day of rest. I wonder to what extent we are like the self-righteous Pharisees, and if the one we love with all our heart is our self.

The starting point of a genuine relationship with God is recognizing how poorly we keep those two great commandments and acknowledging our lack of love for Him and those around us. Jesus taught that the starting point for establishing a true relationship with Him is being "poor in spirit"—recognizing our own failure to love.

Before we can develop this love for others, we must first realize our need to accept His love and allow that love and His presence to produce a change in us. Humbly accepting His free gift of salvation through faith puts us in a position to give extraordinary love to others.

Our world changed in March of 2020, and it may never be the same. But the love of God never changes. Our attitude as stewards of love for our fellow humans should be such that they may see that we have been with Jesus. Let's steward that love wisely and allow God's presence to guide everything we do.

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*Alberto Valenzuela is the associate director of communication and community engagement for the Pacific Union Conference and editor of the Recorder.*

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# Ordained, Anointed, Destined for Ministry

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I'm a bit new to thinking deeply about ordination. Oh sure, I've always known that ordination was a significant step for ministers and that it afforded those ministers the opportunity to lead out in certain activities within our church. I understood that ordination was that point after which someone was known as "Elder."

But, as an educator—and as a female—ordination seemed to be a topic that concerned others. That has changed over the past months, and the topic of ordination has been something I've thought much more about. For instance, I am convinced that education equals ministry. Ministry happens every day in Adventist education.

When teachers present a new concept, they often begin with the vocabulary and define the terms. So, what does *ordination* mean?

In some circles, ordination has come to mean the process you go through online so that you can become an officiant for a friend or family member's

wedding. Nowadays, you can apply for and purchase an ordination certificate so that the signature on the marriage license is official.

If you check with Wikipedia (and what great researcher doesn't?), the first lines in the entry on ordination tell us:

**Ordination** is the process by which individuals are consecrated, that is, set apart and elevated from the laity class to the clergy, who are thus then authorized (usually by the denominational hierarchy composed of other clergy) to perform various religious rites and ceremonies.

The Wikipedia entry then goes on to explain that in most Protestant churches, ordination is the rite by which an individual is authorized to take on the office of ministry.

There is certainly a plethora of other scholarly, theological, and opinion pieces to be found about ordination, particularly within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In our early church history, there





was some thought that ordination was what identified you as going into an administrative position rather than working in pastoral ministry in a church. A number of resources use language suggesting that ordination is “setting apart” and is meant to “designate someone to perform the rites and ceremonies of the church.”

And, that’s all good. But it’s not enough; it doesn’t get to the heart of what I see happening in ordination. “Setting apart” doesn’t begin to describe it.

Let’s look at a psalm of David.

You have searched me, Lord,  
and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways

(Psalm 139:1-3, NIV).

When I read this psalm, I am reminded of one of the most comforting truths about our God: He knows us.

If we switch two words in the beloved children’s song, we can sing, “Jesus knows me, this I love!” In Psalm 139, David is writing about a God who draws close to His creations, who is personally interested in our actions, our hopes, our cares. The psalmist focuses on God’s omniscience—a concept that may be a fearful thought for those who are not God followers. But the idea that God knows everything is wonderful!

The psalm also focuses on God’s omnipresence. David describes this in 360-degree language—to the sky and underground as well as horizontally!

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast”

(Psalm 139:7-10, NIV).

God’s omniscience is reassuring; His omnipresence is comforting. And into this comforting reassurance, God brought us into life. He formed us, shaped us, created us.

For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well

(Psalm 139:13-14, NIV).

It’s not just that God knows everything—*He knows me.*

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In Psalm 139, David is writing about a God who draws close to His creations, who is personally interested in our actions, our hopes, our cares.

It's not just that God is everywhere—*He is everywhere with me.*

It's not just that God created everything—*He created me.*

Reading this psalm also leads us to think about the author of the psalm—and the story of how he was anointed, or ordained. Maybe if we look at David, we will have a better understanding of why we have ordination services.

Who was David before he was anointed? To understand that, let's think about the times in which he lived.

Things had not been going well for the children of Israel. To quote Frederick Owen, "The people were on a long drift from God." The children of Israel badgered Samuel, the prophet, that they needed a king so they could be like other nations. Saul was selected as king.

About 10 years into Saul's reign, David was born. As time went by, the children of Israel became disillusioned with Saul. Samuel told Saul that the Lord was seeking a man after His own heart. I can't imagine that conversation going well. Samuel was directed by God to anoint a new king and was led to the house of Jesse.

1 Samuel 16 tells the story of David, the runt of the family. There were seven older brothers, but Samuel reported that the Lord hadn't chosen any of them. Jesse admitted that his youngest son was tending the sheep, and Samuel asked that he be sent for. Given David's lack of visibility and status even within his own family, it would be easy to wonder why God chose him for this anointing.

To be fair, in the sinful world in which we all live, there are no perfect people to be called. Ask any

ordination candidate, and they will be the first to tell you they are not perfect—and they might even wonder what qualifies them to be in this position.

In 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Paul described the kind of people God chooses: "Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of 'the brightest and the best' among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these 'nobodies' to expose the hollow pretensions of the 'somebodies'? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, 'If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God'" (MSG).

God makes a practice of choosing those who might be considered nobodies and turning them into somebodies.

There is another meaning for the word ordained: *destined*. We see that idea in Jeremiah 29:11. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (NIV). God is upfront about it: He has plans for us. All we have to do is say yes and hang on.

What qualities does God look for? Well, what did he see in David?

Remember what Samuel told Saul: God was looking for a man after his own heart. A quality God saw in David was his spirituality. To be someone after God's own heart means that you are a person whose life

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God makes a practice of choosing those  
who might be considered nobodies  
and turning them into somebodies.

is in harmony with God. What is important to Him is important to you. When He says go to the right, you go to the right. When He says, "This is wrong and I want you to change," you come to terms with it.

David was an individual who had a heart that was sensitive to the things of God. That's what God is looking for: people whose hearts are His, completely—just as He created them to be!

David had a servant's heart; he was humble. When you're a humble servant, you serve faithfully and quietly. You do your Father's bidding. And you don't care who gets the glory. A servant has one goal and that is to make the person he serves look better—to make that person even more successful.

It is also important for us to look at what happened after the anointing. Imagine the experience. David was anointed by Samuel to be the next king. And then...not much changed. What an unusual situation—to know that you've been designated as the leader, but not be able to take the position. And yet, everything had changed. Now David knew what he was ordained to do, and in David's solitude and obscurity and everyday routine, God was preparing the way.

And with all of that preparation, David was ready when it was time to act. That is another aspect to being called by God—the response and readiness to get involved without any hesitation.

Saul continued to be king, but David eventually got a promotion from sheep tending and became the musician for the king. Saul summoned David to use his musical abilities to soothe his troubled soul. This had to be an awkward time for David. But he didn't point out to Saul that he was there to take his place. Instead, "David came to Saul and entered his service" (1 Samuel 16:21, NIV). He ministered to the king.

David also went back and forth to his home to help his father with the sheep and other tasks. David demonstrated a deep commitment to his family. That is where he was when news came of the giant Goliath who was threatening the army of Israel. Jesse sent David to take supplies to his brothers who were fighting with the army.

Fighting the giant involved defeating more than just the giant. What David showed us is that when God calls you, and you respond, you're all in. Even when facing a giant is intimidating. Even when doing battle is lonely. When God calls you and you respond, He equips you to do the tasks at hand.

David, anointed to be the next king, had proven himself a warrior, a man of courage. He had shown himself to be able to hold his tongue even when it might have been more natural to speak truth to power.

God called David. David responded. God equipped David.

At an ordination service, when we gather to recognize and confirm someone's calling to ministry, they do not need this recognition to be clear on their calling. And the ordination isn't going to change anything about their ministry. They have been doing what needed to be done for many years and will continue to do what needs to be done.

However, it is fitting that we set this example for church members, for families, for teachers and students, and for fellow Jesus followers. God knows each of us and has a plan to use us to help others know Him better.

I particularly appreciate the way Ellen White describes a very special ordination:

"When Jesus had ended His instruction to the disciples, He gathered the little band close about Him, and kneeling in the midst of them, and laying His hands upon their heads, He offered a prayer dedicating them to His sacred work. Thus the Lord's disciples were ordained to the gospel ministry" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 296).

There are many similarities between David's story and yours. God created you in His own image. He has plans to prosper you. He asks you to live your life in harmony with His. You are a person after God's own heart.

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*Berit von Pohle is the vice president for education for the Pacific Union Conference.*



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## Ministry Spotlight

### Muslim Ministries

#### What is this ministry about?

Muslim Ministries is all about sharing Jesus with the Muslim community in scriptural, contextual, and culturally relevant ways. With 1.8 billion Muslims worldwide, this ministry attempts to reach as many as possible through amicable and respectful engagement.

#### Love

This ministry is compelled to share the love of Jesus. Jesus is mentioned more than 30 times in the Quran. The accolades bestowed upon Jesus—such as the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and Mercy of God, among other Bible-affirming descriptions—have been the very platform that it uses in sharing the person of Jesus. By God's grace, we have been able to present a significant portion of the Advent Message, in biblical and Quranic (Islamic scripture) context to Muslims who otherwise would not embrace the gospel due to many preconceived notions, such as "the unreliability of the Bible."

#### Serve

During the recent unsettling events in Afghanistan, Muslim ministries was able to financially

support the underground believers who've been separated from loved ones—since some family members were able to be evacuated, leaving the rest of their loved ones behind. This ministry has made it a point to be very visible to the Muslim Community in the Pacific Union.

Additionally, conservative Muslims from different walks of life have been attending the ministry's weekly live social media events and expressing their concerns, apprehensions, and frustrations with Christianity. This has led to a wonderful phenomenon. Just like a large portion of Judaism and Christianity, Muslims have endured the immense weight of tradition. Through our live programs, they begin to embrace their scripture, the Quran, like never before. They are discovering incredibly affirming statements in the Quran about the Bible, the prophets of the Bible, and Jesus.

#### Lead

Through leading by example, this ministry hopes to inspire the Adventist church family to engage and establish lasting relationships with our Muslim brothers and sisters that God has providentially brought to our shores. By using the Quran and



Jesus is mentioned more than 30 times in the Quran. The accolades bestowed upon Jesus—such as the Word of God, the Spirit of God, and Mercy of God, among other Bible-affirming descriptions—have been the very platform that it uses in sharing the person of Jesus.

Bible trainees (field workers, pastors in and out of the United States, and university professors at Zagorsky theological seminary in Moscow, to name a few), we have been able to successfully move beyond otherwise insurmountable challenges and share the three angels' messages in a meaningful way, resulting in Muslims sharing the message of salvation with other Muslims within the context of the Quran and Islam.

#### How can you get involved?

This ministry has been conducting in-person, virtual training and equipping seminars in

Adventist churches throughout the Pacific Union and the North American Division. Their websites, [www.asureharvest.com](http://www.asureharvest.com) for English and [www.ahdejadeed.com](http://www.ahdejadeed.com) for Farsi-speaking communities, provide standard and contextual resources for Christian and non-Christian inquirers. A wide spectrum of individuals who have attended Muslim Ministries seminars have engaged their Muslim friends in private, church, and professional settings. Muslim Ministries would love to see more pastors and leaders in the Adventist church lead this endeavor in their respective spheres of ministry.

## SIMPLE GIFTS IS BILL JOHNSON AT HIS BEST!

**R**ecorder readers can receive a free e-book of Dr. William G. Johnson's book *Simple Gifts* by signing up to receive the inspiring news from around the Pacific Southwest, including *All God's People*, the weekly videoblog with Connie Vandeman Jeffery, and *Pacific Sunrise*, the twice-weekly email of good news from our schools and churches.

Visit [adventistfaith.com/subscribe](http://adventistfaith.com/subscribe) to subscribe and for instructions on how to download *Simple Gifts* in pdf format. This book has been serialized in this magazine and is also available on Amazon.com.



**OAK & ACORN**  
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OAK & ACORN IS A PUBLISHING MINISTRY OF THE PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE



## Executive Committee Focuses on Mission Goals in Year-End Meetings

From Nov. 15 to 18, 2021, the Pacific Union Conference hosted a series of leadership committees that culminated with the meeting of the full Executive Committee.

"Many of our Executive Committee members are new to the committee, so the meetings are strongly oriented toward answering questions and sharing information. Because our administrative team has changed and grown since the constituency session in August, many of us are learning new roles, too," commented Leon B. Brown Sr., general vice president for the Pacific Union Conference.

To commence this meeting, Adventist Health's Chief of Mission Alex Bryan delivered a moving devotional, followed by Scott Reiner's last presentation as CEO of the hospital system. Bradford Newton, Pacific Union Conference president, presented Reiner with a gift to thank him for his service and leadership. Kerry Heinrich, newly appointed CEO of Adventist Health, will join the Executive Committee in the new year.

Throughout the meeting, several executives gave report-outs concerning the current state of our union. Sandy Roberts, our executive secretary, gave an interesting statistical report on membership numbers, age ranges of our members, and challenges we currently face. For one statistic we give the most praise to our Lord: in 2020, our union welcomed new family members and baptized 2,143 souls into the faith!

After reports from Treasurer Stephen V. Mayer,

General Vice President Leon B. Brown Sr., and Vice President for Education Berit von Pohle, President Bradford Newton gave his report. The main focus of his presentation was our mission, summarized in the words "Love. Serve. Lead." He broke up all the leaders into focus groups to discuss how we as a union can more effectively live out our mission of love, serve, lead. Our leaders engaged in a lively discussion on how they could best live our mission, which in turn furthers us to fight the good fight of faith.

In a conversation after the meeting, Elder Newton expressed his appreciation and enthusiasm for what was learned and shared. "The presentations and reports are the foundation for a better understanding of our mission and how we can be impactful through our local churches and schools," he said. "The plans and strategies that come from these meetings will ultimately strengthen our ministry throughout the Pacific Union."

Evident throughout the meeting was the shared commitment to serve the church, its members, and the community. "Love. Serve. Lead." is a call to love as Jesus loves, and through loving service allow the Lord to lead our church in ministry, open the hearts of those around us, and build the kingdom of God through everything we do.

What was also emphasized is that leaders can't do it alone. Only by working together, not just as a union but as a church body and with every member in it, can we truly succeed.

# In Memory

## Calvin Knipschild

Calvin “Knippy” Knipschild, teacher and Christian Edition director, passed away on November 1. Calvin, affectionately called Knippy by everyone he met, was a giant in the Adventist music world. He was known for his outstanding choral direction, both through his work with SDA high school chorales and through his leadership of the men’s chorus group, Christian Edition.



Calvin was born in Madison, Wisconsin. One of four children, he grew up in Hawaii and California. He graduated from Beverly Hills University with his Bachelor of Arts in choral directing and began his career in 1970 at his high school alma mater, Glendale Adventist Academy, as a Bible teacher and choral director.

“In his family life, high school teaching career, and Christian Edition, Knippy’s ministry first and foremost served the Lord,” Calvin’s good friend and Christian Edition manager Paul Wilcox stated. “His focus was both on bringing everyone he met closer to Jesus in this world and on pointing them toward the blessed hope of the heavenly kingdom to come.”

Calvin is survived by his wife, Linda; his son, Erich; his daughter, DeAnne; three grandsons; his sister, Llona Maxwell; and several nephews, grandnephews, and grandnieces.

Thanks to Calvin’s leadership, Christian Edition’s music ministry flourished as the group traveled extensively across the United States for the past 40 years. Featured in the Family Reunion videos sponsored by the Voice of Prophecy, at several General Conference Sessions, at the National Day of Prayer event in Washington, D.C., and in countless radio and video broadcasts, their message of God’s love reached across the globe. God used this ministry and blessed it.

## Jim McClintock

Beloved singer Jim McClintock passed away on November 29, 2021. He began his singing “career” at the young age of six, when the local church sunshine band in Springfield, Ohio, visited the prison to present a short inspirational music service. In order to be seen, he was placed on a chair behind the podium, and he sang with fervor, “Hold the Fort, For I am Coming!”



Jim began singing in a male quartet during his freshman year in high school. During the next few years he sang with various glee clubs and numerous choirs, including the Roger Wagner Chorale and Mitzelfelt Chorale.

In 1962, Jim became the bass singer in the King’s

Heralds quartet for the international radio broadcast Voice of Prophecy. Affectionately known as “Big Mac,” for the next 15 years he was privileged to sing with the VOP in over 20 different languages and dialects worldwide, recording over 25 different albums of gospel music. Jim’s personal music and preaching ministry, Ministry of the Cross, became a full-time faith adventure in 1988, involving concerts, revivals, and TV and radio appearances in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America.

Jim and his late wife, Ann, were members of the Camarillo church. A memorial service is being planned for later in January 2022.

# Joy in Arizona Autumn Retreats

**A**rizona Women's and Men's Ministries have been active this past autumn. Fall retreats, breakfasts, and other connections provided opportunities for fellowship and communion. A men's retreat with the theme "Abide" was held Sept. 24 to 26 at Camp Yavapines in Prescott, Arizona, and a women's retreat with the theme "The Joy of Service" was held Oct. 10 at the Glendale church in Phoenix, Arizona. Each event had over 60 participants in attendance.

The September men's retreat was staged in the refreshing pine setting of Camp Yavapines. Pastors Gary Venden and Eddie Turner shared presentations on abiding with Christ alone every morning, seeking intimacy through the Bible, prayer, and service as described in John 15:1-5. Pastors John Schachinger and Venden shared in the ministry of music, and Martin Feldbush provided inspirational thoughts for early morning prayer. Along with the energy and talent of Chef Cody Blake, the men returned home well fed, both physically and spiritually.

At the October women's retreat, Marilyn Venden used 1 Corinthians 13:13 as a foundation for her presentation on how joy is found. She discussed the process of focusing on being the blessing rather than looking for a blessing. That process includes "hanging out" with Jesus, loving everyone, and listening for Jesus' whispers to be ready to act.

As the women filed into the gymnasium at Glenview Adventist Academy, rows and rows of lights and fall decor brightened spirits. Retreat coordinator Sylvia Hayashi had arranged for powerful speakers and



presenters. Dawn Goad opened the retreat with a heartfelt devotional relating her experiences seeking Jesus as a frontline medical defense worker fighting COVID. Vocalist Ashley Snedden, pianist Jeremy Snedden, cellist Kim Wall, and violinist Shae Wall shared their talents as they provided beautiful, original worship music. Cooki Peverini taught a wonderful workshop on flower arranging. Chef Elba Martin shared her talents with an amazing vegan breakfast and lunch.

The attendees all left full of Jesus' joy, female companionship, and armfuls of pumpkins, favors, and flowers, as well as a beautiful towel to remind them of a special communion.

Members of the Arizona Conference look forward to many more activities in the future. The year 2022 will be full of more opportunities to celebrate God and commune together.

*By Tennille Feldbush*







# SeedPods for Kids

“There’s nothing out there!” I wailed to my husband. My kids were two and four, and I really wanted to get them in the habit of starting the day with Jesus every morning. Being a busy mom, it was hard enough to find time to spend with Jesus myself, let alone creating the opportunity for my kids. We had our family worship every morning, but I really wanted them to have their own time with Him.

I searched for resources and found there was a program, but it was only for three months. I wanted a consistent, daily program for my kids. My dream? To create a program. Time slipped by and nothing happened, but I still wished my kids’ time with Jesus was more consistent. I did the best I could.

Then COVID hit and lockdowns happened. I was asked to help a friend with a new online kid’s program. After completing the project, my dream resurfaced.

“Why not? I have the time. I have the support. I have the drive and ambition,” I thought. “Could I make this dream become a reality?”

That is how SeedPod Beginners and SeedPod Kids were born. These



“This is a dream come true to create the free resources so that busy parents can help their children start their day with Jesus.”

two podcasts are designed to help children start their day with Jesus. I teamed up with a friend to create and produce the beginner podcast, and I am now able to create a podcast for older children.

SeedPod Beginners, designed for ages birth to five, is a bi-weekly program that has songs, guessing games, Bible stories, memory verse songs, and nature nuggets. There are also coloring pages to download to keep their hands busy as they listen.

SeedPod Kids, designed for children ages five to twelve, is a Monday through Friday devotional podcast that teaches kids hymns and the stories behind them, how to look up Bible verses, Bible Q&A, the books of the Bible, missionary interviews, a continuing Bible story, and daily memory verse review. Every quarter there is a different audio element to teach kids how to deepen their walk with Jesus.

This is a dream come true to create the free resources so that busy parents can help their children start their day with Jesus. The podcasts are now listened to around the world, including in Australia, Japan, Norway, India, and Brazil.

Jesus told His disciples, “Let the little children come.” Now my children get to come to Jesus every morning right after they wake up.

The podcasts are available on any podcast platform, including Google Podcast, Apple Podcast, iHeartRadio, Spotify, and more. Resources and more information can be found at [www.startingwithjesus.com/seedpod](http://www.startingwithjesus.com/seedpod).

By Katie Chitwood



# Keep Listening!

**“Let's keep sharing the stories of Jesus' transforming power!” We hope you will do that by sending your testimonies to [stories@cccsda.org](mailto:stories@cccsda.org).**

*In her song, “Blessed Assurance,” Fanny Crosby boldly proclaims:  
This is my story; this is my song; Praising my Savior all the day long.*

**A**s we join with her in telling our own stories, how exciting it is to know that “In the inner court of heaven they listen to the testimonies of the witnesses for Christ in the outer court on earth, and the praise and thanksgiving from the worshipers below is taken up in the heavenly anthem, and praise and rejoicing sound through the heavenly courts because Christ has not died in vain for the fallen sons of Adam” (Ellen White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 366). Can you imagine what that anthem must sound like?

For that reason, Dan Serns, the Central California Conference (CCC) president, would say, “Let's keep sharing the stories of Jesus' transforming power!” We hope you will do that by sending your testimonies to [stories@cccsda.org](mailto:stories@cccsda.org). For now, please take time to “listen” to more stories and hear about some of the awe-inspiring events that have happened around the conference.

## **Ceres: Elda shared a major spiritual turning point**

I was born and raised as a Roman Catholic and was a very active member of the church. After attending a theology seminar in my late teens and learning even more about its history and what it had done to “Christianize” people, I began to question things. I stopped attending church but continued to search for the truth by reading the Bible and praying. In order to fulfill a graduation requirement, it was necessary to travel abroad to South America for a semester. While in Chile, my host family invited me to attend church with them. I couldn't believe how this church that worshiped on Sabbath actually used the Bible to preach. Taking Bible lessons a year later, I definitely felt the presence of God. In 2005, I was baptized and I married Francisco, the middle child of my host family. We have served together as Adventurer leaders and hope to continue serving Him in the years to come.

### **Clovis: Emma Jeanne shared an experience of how God led and changed her life unexpectedly**

I had always dreamt of serving on a mission trip. My husband had been to one in Venezuela years before we were married. When we heard of one planned for Ghana in 2006, we signed up. The original plan was that my husband would be the speaker and I would assist. That all changed on the last day of orientation when I was asked to go to another village to be the presenter because of last-minute cancellations—especially since that village was really looking forward to the meetings.

Although asking, “Why me, Lord?” I finally agreed to go. It was a little scary at first to go all by myself with people I did not know. It turned out that my stage was a slab of cement where a hut used to sit. A dirt road went right in front of my pulpit, and another went right down the middle of the split audience. (Fortunately, only a couple of cars passed through during my presentation).

Wonderful people helped and electricity was available for my presentation, but the audience had to sit in total darkness for safety reasons. I was still questioning “why me” when I stepped off the stage and met a lady who grabbed my hands and thanked me for coming to present a message that touched her heart. I asked her name and she said, “Emma Thompson.” I was in shock because that was my maiden name. That was the moment I knew God had prepared the way for this to happen. It was thrilling to witness Emma Thompson being baptized on our last day there, along with many others. God is so good, and He is always with me and hears and answers all my prayers and concerns.

### **San Francisco Latin American church**

“Even in the midst of pandemics and trials,” Pastor Pablo Maldonado will tell you, “the Lord will continue to add to the church those who



**Emma Jeanne knew God brought her to Ghana in Africa after meeting Emma at her evangelistic meetings.**



**Members of the Arroyo Grande church package items for the homeless on their Go Ministries service day.**



**Pastor Pablo Maldonado welcomes Eduardo Poof in baptism to the San Francisco Latin American church after an unexpected meeting.**

accept the salvation of Jesus Christ and are saved in His holy name.” Just like the description in Acts 2:47, he saw that miracle take place on a Thursday in October 2020. Hoping that they would be allowed to open for church in November, he and other church members were painting and tidying in preparation. While cleaning some graffiti off the sidewalk, Maldonado was interrupted by a man walking by who asked, “Is this an Adventist church? Do they preach in Spanish? Will you be open next Saturday?”

After answering “yes” to all of his questions, Maldonado gave him a packet of materials and told him to call and make a reservation. However, he silently thought, “He’s not going to call or come, just like so many others who say they will.” What a surprise it was when Eduardo Poof did call, and it was with great joy that the members welcomed him. They found that Poof had listened to many Adventist sermons through social media, even some from different countries. Maldonado is certain that the Holy Spirit guided Poof that day in October so that he could begin his journey to heaven. After studying the Bible via Zoom with their missionary leader, Wilber Aguilar, Eduardo Poof was baptized on April 17, 2021, at a Hispanic men’s retreat. And his story will be multiplied by the grace of God with the more than 30 souls who are also studying the Bible truths—even though they are doing it through phone, Zoom, or small groups for now. Each of them is a testimony of the power and miracles of discipleship.

### **Arroyo Grande**

Wanting to worship God by serving others, Arroyo Grande church’s Go Ministries planned various projects



for members on Oct. 23. Some donned gloves and carried trash bags to clean up a highly trafficked nearby beach. Others participated in a homeless ministry activity that put together bags of necessities to distribute in several nearby cities. Still others did a prayer walk through nearby neighborhoods. The remaining group stayed at the church and called members who hadn't been seen in a while just to check in, inquire of any needs, and take a few moments to pray together. Each of the projects provided an opportunity for relationship building and demonstrated how the love of Christ can be shared through service.

### Veterans Day at Santa Maria and Sonora

While many churches took time to honor their community's veterans, two churches let us know about their special programs on Nov. 13.

At Santa Maria, the church family was reminded about the tremendous sacrifice veterans made to protect the freedom we all enjoy. Veterans in attendance were then asked to stand and were given a special card of thanks with a small American flag attached. Retired Air Force Officer Joe Brezovic spoke on "Battle Buddies," about the importance of caring for the needs of others even if it might mean giving one's life for them. Displays of personal mementos and photographs also allowed the church family to acknowledge those who had served in the military.



Church members line up to recognize the community's veterans in a drive-by award ceremony on Nov. 13 at the Discover Life church in Sonora.

At Discover Life church in Sonora, members sent out invitations to the community for veterans to be honored with a drive-by award ceremony. Each of the veterans in the 46 cars that came were given a medallion, a thank you card made by a student at Mother Lode Adventist School, and a hot lunch for the veteran and their family. Church members lined the route to cheer and acknowledge their appreciation for what each veteran had given in service to their country.

### CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE EVENTS

Each of the events below helps to demonstrate the many ways God blessed. Here is just a little bit of their stories.

#### Youth/Young Adults

On Nov. 6, 2021, at the Turlock church gymnasium, the youth and young adults were once again reunited to ponder the theme of "A New World, A New You, and A New Church." With Ty Gibson as the main speaker, experiences faced by today's youth were highlighted. Anil Kanda, the CCC coordinator for the event, pointed out that many of the attendees had not been to an

actual church service in months. Besides the inspired speaking, there were small group Bible studies and three outreach activities in the afternoon. They ran out of chairs because almost 100 more arrived than the 200 who had registered,



Each of the veterans are especially honored on Nov. 13 at the Santa Maria church.





More youth and young adults than expected join together to fellowship and worship together in the Turlock church gymnasium on Nov. 6.

but God provided and they are all looking forward to having another one-day event in the future. Kanda's comment on the event says it all: "Jesus was lifted up and God is good."

### Hispanic Men's Ministries virtual event

This online event was produced on Nov. 6, 2021, with the assistance of Josue Gomez and Reiss Ramirez. With over 3,000 views on Facebook and YouTube (and still counting), men from around the conference and various countries in Central and South America were welcomed by Ricardo Vilorio, CCC Hispanic Ministries director. Led by pastors Bismarck Castillo, Victor Martinez, and Cristian Mardarie, the program offered various segments of special music, topics by guest speaker Sergio Rodríguez, testimonies, and an interactive Q&A session with Florencio Bueno and Sergio Rodríguez.



Organizers work together in their online studio to produce the CCC Hispanic Men's Ministries virtual event on Nov. 6.



TOP: Joyce Mulligan, CCC coordinator, welcomes and thanks participants to the CCC Prayer Conference at the Bakersfield Central Church on Nov. 13 and 14. BOTTOM: Jerry Page, secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association, and his wife, Janet, were the featured speakers at the CCC Prayer Conference.

### CCC Prayer Conference

The prayer conference held at Bakersfield Central church on Nov. 12 and 13 was an example of how God pours out His blessings when we ask Him. Many that attended expressed how the Holy Spirit had spoken to them through the revival messages by Jerry and Janet Page with the theme "Prayer Changes the World." Joyce Mulligan, CCC prayer coordinator, explained that the weekend was a direct result of much fervent prayer, including "40 Days of Prayer" that the hosting church experienced. She also said that it was exciting to see those from ages four to 84 taking part in different segments of the program. There are now some amazing prayer stories of miracles that God immediately began to answer, which we need to share at another time.

### Nine Days of Hope

While this is being written, 85 locations throughout the conference are about to begin special revival and evangelistic meetings from Dec. 3 to 11. It will culminate in every church filling their baptistry on Dec. 11. We can hardly wait to tell the miraculous stories that will surely result when God answers our prayers. As Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) tells us, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

*By Deloris Trujillo*



## Academy Days at HMA: A Parent's Observations

**T**his year, Hawaiian Mission Academy (HMA) decided to do something different for Academy Days visitation. Why not have students from across the state of Hawaii spend not just one day but several days seeing what HMA has to offer? This would give potential new students the opportunity to get to know each other before committing to HMA as their school of choice. I had the fun privilege of escorting my son and two classmates from Kahili Adventist School on Kauai to Oahu for this event.

As I arrived at Camp Waianae with the three 13-year-old boys I was chaperoning, I noted several things: the weather was fantastic, how quickly we were settled into our respective cabins, and the hum of energy that was nearly audible. Approximately 40 students, mostly eighth-graders from across the state, were the source of that vibrant energy. They were led by 10 HMA students who had been chosen by the staff to oversee all the activities that would take place over the weekend.

Four teams were established, which meant that students from one school were combined with students from other schools. And then the competition ramped up. Each team began putting heart and soul into earning points, which would be translated into "dollars" that would be used to bid on merchandise at the auction to be held on Monday. As the day progressed into evening, it seemed that the energy level did not abate until lights out at bedtime.

The Friday events led into Sabbath morning and

afternoon events. Relay races, balloon popping, cardboard boat building at the pool, team banner painting, and massive tugs-of-war—all teams were working at high speed and cheering each other on. I was interested to note how quickly the boys bonded together. And by Saturday night under the big circus tent, the girls had also formed into a cohesive unit. As the Saturday night games got under way, it was now a competition of boys versus girls. At stake was the camp cleanup chores on Sunday going to the losing side. From the staring contests to the karaoke and lip-synching contests, the cacophony of noise reached a crescendo that threatened to send the tent soaring off like a hot air balloon. Everyone was all in, with each team pulling even the shyest person into the spirit of competing.

As fun as it was to laugh, applaud, and cheer, watching kids having more fun than any video game could offer, I also observed the real achievement for which this event was structured. Despite the high spirits, yells, squeals, shouts, and laughter, when the student leaders got up to talk about their experiences as HMA students, the noise stopped as if a plug had been pulled. Student leaders had been requested to talk about balance in their lives. For one student, this involved time management and procrastination; for another student, this meant body image and learning to accept self; another student leader spoke about parental expectations and the downward spiral when parental encouragement turned into pushing. I looked around the audience and saw the same reaction each time a student leader opened up and talked about



the struggle to find balance, acceptance, and knowing who they are. These 13- and 14-year-old eighth-graders were as intent in listening to these stories as they were in going for the win in relay races. They could relate because they, too, have struggles with figuring out who they are and where they are going in life.

I realized I was witnessing student autonomy. Student leaders on the brink of adulthood had been given a task, and they accomplished it beautifully. The weekend flowed smoothly, events were well organized and well supervised, and these 10 young people showed a level of competence that was not lost on the younger crowd. These eighth-grade students embarking on adolescence could see themselves in the struggles of these student leaders. They also observed the feeling of family and support that HMA provided for each student sharing his or her experience.

By Sunday morning, as we were preparing to leave Camp Waianae (and the boys had completed the camp clean-up chores), the atmosphere was a contented expectation of more good stuff to come. A large circle formed on the field, and around the circle students stated what they liked the most so far. The food was a big hands-down winner, to be tied with making new friends. An invitation was extended for students to come to summer camp, and I overheard some tentative plans being made.

The weekend closed with Monday morning in

classes, where teachers had prepared fun exercises for the visiting students. Again, the competition was on, whether to build the tallest tower from spaghetti, tape, and string to computerized math drills and original English compositions; this was a final chance to win some more “dollars.”

There was one last fabulous meal in the cafeteria from Dean Marshall Freitas and his staff, a Q&A session hosted by student leaders, and finally the much awaited auction. Here too, competitive spirits ramped up the bids on items ranging from Nike apparel to Amazon gift cards. Everyone received a Nike T-shirt, printed in HMA blue, followed by a group photo op organized around the fountain.

On the plane home that Monday afternoon, I thought about the words those four student leaders had shared over the weekend. Each one referenced a Bible verse or two that had special meaning for them. Parents can say a prayer of thanks to know that their teenagers at Hawaiian Mission Academy find relevance in a text from Galatians 1:10 that states, “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ” (NIV).

*By Debbie Nakamura*

## Students Participate in a Successful Bike-a-thon



**O**n October 8, Kahili Adventist School on the island of Kauai held their annual bike-a-thon. This fundraiser traditionally takes place on the bike path in Kapaa. This year, 25 students and 15 adult helpers rode for about three hours. The students rode a combined total of 400 miles in that time—one student rode over 30 miles!

Students sought pledges per mile, and to date they have raised over \$4,000 to be put toward their annual outdoor education trip.

Two aid stations were set up along the path to keep the students fueled and hydrated. We could not have successfully completed this project without the parent volunteers who helped monitor the students' safety on the bike path.

*By Keith Hatcher*



HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL  
SERVING NATIVE YOUTH 1946-2021



## Don't Stop the Music

### Jaden's Growth Through Music Class at HIS



Mrs. Nicholls

Jaden's strengths are in bodily-kinesthetic intelligence. He is very good with horses and intelligent in sports, but general academics have been a challenge for him. At Holbrook Indian School (HIS), as in many schools around the world, students like Jaden are not uncommon.

HIS music teacher Olga Nicholls seems to have found one method that has helped Jaden see improvement in a specific academic area outside of his natural affinity—learning music. Through donor support of the music program, Jaden has gone from showing little to no participation or enthusiasm in singing or classroom engagement to now singing out loud and helping Nicholls in music class.

In general, kids love music, especially the little ones, but there are some cases where a student's personality type and background can be a deterrent. "From my observation, students who have a lack of exposure to music tend to struggle to be engaged," Nicholls said. Music can be fun, but learning the finer points like rhythm, timing, and pitch is where learning music challenges one's ability.



There is also a sense of vulnerability when performing—singing in particular—that adds to general performance anxiety in class. “It’s an expression of yourself in front of others, so it takes a lot emotionally,” Nicholls pointed out. These two realities can make learning music difficult for students like Jaden who are already hit hard by low self-esteem. Added to all of this are issues outside of school that compound Jaden’s general academic struggles.

In her music class, Nicholls shifted her approach to teaching the more meticulous parts of music by catering to student interest.

“Of course, I want to show the students that music is a gift from God, but there is discipline in music that makes it a challenge for those not exposed to it. I did notice that the students enjoyed our musical games designed to teach specific things, and they would always ask, ‘When can we play again?’ I started to do these and other things that they enjoyed, like the percussion instruments.”

Now Jaden shows engagement and enjoyment in singing and music in general. He even asks to help in leading out in certain activities.

In Nicholls’ class, Jaden and all of our students learn about more than just the melody and rhythm aspects of music. They also learn about the lyrics they sing. This is especially helpful for Scripture songs.

“When we learn Scriptures songs like Philippians 4:11, the version of the song that we learn has lyrics that are not easily understandable to young children,” Nicholls explained. “So we go through the lines—like ‘I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content’—and talk about what that means.”

Nicholls says Jaden still has some room for growth musically, but he has made noticeable progress. “If kids are not exposed to music at home,” she said, “usually school is the next best outlet for them.”



**Jaden now takes the initiative to help in music class.**

Through your gifts, you can help Jaden and his friends continue their growth in learning music. And, who knows, there might be a future musical evangelist in our midst.

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

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



**ABOVE:** Jaden, who once showed little interest in singing, is now singing out loud. **RIGHT:** Mrs. Nicholls leading out in a game of musical chairs.



A schedule of events can be found  
at [lasierra.edu/centennial](http://lasierra.edu/centennial)

In a photo from Mount Two Bit, the original three buildings are viewed that formed La Sierra Academy and which are now part of the university campus. Left to right, Gladwyn Hall, then called North Hall; La Sierra Hall, then the administration building; and South Hall.

PHOTO: LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



## From Watermelon Patch to University: La Sierra Celebrates 100 Years

**I**t almost didn't happen. In 1921, constituents of the Southeastern and Southern California conferences enthusiastically voted to develop a new farm-supported academy and junior college, but their proposal was rejected by the General Conference. In early 1922, resolute in their convictions and energized by the strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers," the constituents prayerfully voted to move forward anyway.

With that unwavering spirit began the journey that would lead to the purchase of just over 316 acres in the town of La Sierra, previously part of Rancho La Sierra, a Mexican land grant. Shovels turned the earth in the summer of 1922 and construction began, bolstered by support from the Riverside civic community, private contributions, and many volunteers. An advertisement in the 1922 July edition of the *Pacific Union Recorder* called for women to join an association raising funds, canning food, and creating furnishings for the new school, writes La Sierra University assistant history professor Katherine Koh in the first chapter of a faculty collaborative book about the school.

Classes began with 84 students on Oct. 3, 1922. Conditions were initially less than ideal—while enduring scorching heat and no electricity, some students had to climb ladders to dorm rooms, and sand blew in through unfinished construction.

Writes Koh, "A community with a sense of history was established on what was previously a watermelon patch. This community was ultimately strong enough to survive both the Great Depression and the bloodiest war in the world's history." The campus in 1927 became a junior college and in 1946 was accredited as a four-year liberal arts college. In 1990 the institution was re-organized as a university.

Now a nationally acclaimed institution, La Sierra University's faculty, many noted in their fields, teach students from around the United States and more than 50 countries. The watermelon patch eventually became the current park-like expanse in the middle of campus lined by its early buildings and shaded by towering fan palms and sprawling Chinese elms. It is known as Founders' Green.

La Sierra University will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year and the remarkable faith, work, and sacrifice of its originators. A campus sculpture will be unveiled on January 18, and events are also planned for alumni weekend April 29-30. A Centennial Gala is slated for Founders' Day, October 3, during which the book on the university's history will be released.

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By Darla Martin Tucker

## New PUC Business Department Chair Builds Bridge Between Academics and Industry

For most of Scott Perryman's career, one could find him in various healthcare administration roles, focusing on business functions such as finance, quality, and growth. As the new chair of Pacific Union College's department of business administration and economics, Perryman is excited to use his decades of leadership and industry experience to help students bridge the gap between their application of academic learning and their future careers in business.



of Psychology in sport and performance psychology from the University of Arizona Global Campus.

"What I'm bringing to this role is a passion and drive to develop innovative ways to prepare students to enter the workforce," he said. "That starts very early in their educational process by giving them cognitive, ethical, behavioral, and emotional skills. Then, when they enter the

workforce, they will have realistic expectations coupled with the tools to succeed and deal with the stress and pressure they will ultimately face."

One goal of Perryman's is to encourage collaboration between the business department and other discipline areas on campus—something he calls extremely important.

"Preparing students to understand other disciplines and environments can only help their future careers," he said. "I witnessed this in healthcare—the need for professionals in different roles to understand one another better and collaborate as a team. I want to help students embrace this way of thinking, cross-collaboration, and problem-solving."

Simply put, Perryman's ultimate goal is to not only help students thrive while at PUC but to prepare them for success even beyond their graduation.

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*By Staff Writer*

"At this point in my life, I think that's what attracts me to this work," Perryman said. "I believe business students should be prepared to go into practice, in whatever area they aspire to be a part of, with practical skills versus just finishing their studies with a didactic knowledge about concepts. I have the opportunity to help with that at PUC."

Perryman recently served as a senior vice president and chief administrator of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital in Southern California for nearly six years. He plans to combine what he has learned in the industry with the best of what he knows of academics.

Perryman is from Texas, where he earned a bachelor's in business administration in management from The University of Texas at Arlington and a master's in business administration in finance from Baylor University. He is currently pursuing a Doctor

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"I believe business students should be prepared to go into practice, in whatever area they aspire to be a part of, with practical skills versus just finishing their studies with a didactic knowledge about concepts. I have the opportunity to help with that at PUC."

# School of Public Health Faculty Wins *Clean Air Award* for His Work in the Community



**R**yan Sinclair, Ph.D., MPH, an associate professor at the Loma Linda University School of Public Health and Medicine, in December was awarded the Dr. Robert M. Zweig, M.D. Memorial Award by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) for his contributions toward improving air quality and public health in Southern California, including the Eastern Coachella Valley, San Bernardino, and Muscoy.

For over three decades, South Coast AQMD has honored those who have made outstanding clean air contributions to improve the community's health and the economy. The award was established to recognize the contributions of those deeply committed to reducing the impacts of air pollution on public health.

"I am delighted to see recognition for Dr. Sinclair's work for greater awareness of air quality issues impacting the health and quality of life for residents in the Inland Empire."  
- Helen Hopp Marshak

"I am delighted to see recognition for Dr. Sinclair's work for greater awareness of air quality issues impacting the health and quality of life for residents in the Inland Empire," said Helen Hopp Marshak, Ph.D., dean of the Loma Linda University School of Public Health.

Sinclair was honored for his commitment to improving public health by reducing air pollution in his native Coachella Valley and Inland Empire region, founded in his research on the Salton Sea and collaborative work with the community. His contributions were instrumental in developing Community Emission Reduction Plans for two AB 617 Community Steering Committees in San Bernardino/Muscoy and the Eastern Coachella Valley. He also took on a leadership role during the AB 1318 mitigation fund process to support organizations and communities most impacted by air pollution.

Among other honorees to be recognized are former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mayor Judith Mitchell (Ret.), former California Air Resources Board and South Coast AQMD Governing Board member.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange County, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley.

See the latest news and Health & Wellness stories from Loma Linda University Health at [news.llu.edu](http://news.llu.edu).

*By Staff Writer*



# Adventist Health Ships More Than \$4 Million in Medical Supplies to Ethiopia



**Adventist Health nurse Shellie Carlson makes frequent trips to Ethiopia as part of her work to improve conditions in that country.**

**S**even shipping containers filled with medical supplies from Adventist Health were shipped to the Amhara region of northern Ethiopia in November and December 2021. Earlier in the year, Adventist Health shipped an additional 14 containers filled with supplies.

In total, more than \$4 million in medical equipment and supplies donated by Adventist Health hospitals and industry partners was or will be distributed to 86 hospitals in Ethiopia in 2021 and early 2022. Shipments have included surgical equipment, ICU hospital beds, regular hospital beds, and general consumable supplies, such as bandages, operating room supplies, and birthing supplies.

“This is the region in Ethiopia where they are having a lot of conflict right now, so there is a huge need for help,” said John Schroer, Global Mission system lead for Adventist Health, who organized the shipments. “We are shipping these supplies to do what we can to help alleviate the pain in the region.”

Once the medical supplies arrive in Ethiopia, they are distributed to area hospitals through a partnership between Adventist Health and the New Leaf Ethiopia Foundation, an organization founded by Shellie Carlson, a nurse at Adventist Health Lodi Memorial. Carlson spent the first 14 years of her life in Ethiopia as the daughter of missionaries from the United States. She returned to visit in 2011 and after her visit launched New Leaf to create sustainable improvements in health and community well-being in Ethiopia.

Schroer says Adventist Health has plans for ongoing help in Ethiopia in 2022. If you would like to be a part of this work or learn more about the project, please contact Schroer at [schroejh@ah.org](mailto:schroejh@ah.org).

*By Kim Strobel*

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“This is the region in Ethiopia where they are having a lot of conflict right now, so there is a huge need for help.”  
- John Schroer



**Medical workers in Ethiopia sort through supplies received on one of the initial shipments.**

# Quincy Church Ministers Through the Smoke and Ash

PHOTO: RICH DUBOSE



**ABOVE:** Sad remains of the town of Greenville, Calif., after the Dixie Fire.

**BELOW:** Team of ACS disaster relief volunteers: from left, Joan Gately, Nina Harris, Dale Harris, Dale Evans, Dorrie Philbeck, and Vicki Chestnut.

**INSET:** Flyers advertising the Dixie Fire distribution center were widely distributed.



**Y**ou are in imminent danger and you **MUST** leave now.” This urgent warning came from the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office on August 4, 2021. That evening, the Dixie Fire destroyed most of the Gold Rush town of Greenville, California, displacing around 1,000 people overnight. The residents of Greenville fled for their lives, some with only what they had on their back.

Nine of the residents found themselves in the parking lot of the Adventist church in the neighboring town of Quincy, about 30 minutes away. The Quincy church was blessed to host these fire evacuees in their parking lot and church for several weeks. Many people lived in tents for weeks and were happy to have a safe space to call home for the time being.

Some were anxious about whether or not their homes in Greenville were still standing. To give them something to do, the church provided them with yard tools and let them help maintain the church grounds. The evacuees were happy to have something productive to do. They manicured the church yard, raked, and trimmed shrubs. One of the evacuees, Dale Evans, stayed in the church parking lot with his RV for three months; he became a vital volunteer at the Adventist Community Services (ACS) Dixie Fire Aid Center.

The Dixie Fire started on July 13, 2021, near the Cresta Dam in the Feather River Canyon. It destroyed over 1,300 structures. The fire burned in the Plumas and Lassen National Forests, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and across the five counties of Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and Tehama. It burned nearly 1 million acres, becoming the second largest wildfire in the history of California.

On August 5, while on top of a mountain near Quincy, watching the voluminous cloud of smoke and fire devouring Greenville in the distance, Quincy church member Nina Harris received a call from NUC President Leon Brown informing her that the

conference was releasing to the Quincy church and Plumas County the services of Delberth Castillo, NUC Adventist Community Services director, for as long as they would need him. Soon, a call came from

Castillo, informing them that he was “packing his bag as we speak” and would quickly be on his way to Quincy.

Within a few hours, Charlene Sargent, ACS director for the Pacific Union, arrived in town. In addition to the endless hours she and Castillo spent in the county coordinating distribution efforts, Sargent and Castillo provided a three-evening ACS course on disaster response volunteer training for the church. Eleven individuals were equipped to become credentialed disaster response volunteers. Through the training provided, church members learned how to properly complete necessary forms for the county.

Sargent spent one month in Quincy helping with donations management. She was a huge blessing to both Plumas County and the church, efficiently procuring needed supplies, new clothes, shoes, school supplies, hygiene kits, cleaning supplies, a moving dolly, folding tables, storage bins, and more.

On September 4, the Quincy church opened their fellowship hall, becoming the official distribution site in Quincy for the Dixie Fire. To date, they have helped over 640 individuals. Many of those had lost everything, and they said it felt like Christmas when they received much needed clothing and supplies at no cost.

Donna was in tears with a thankful heart for the kindness she received at the center. She came in with flip-flops and left with new shoes and clothes, stating, “It was like shopping at a nice department store for free.” George, who suffered much loss, came to the center and felt so blessed by the help he received, he came back bringing toilet paper, pet food, and other goods that the center did not have, and he asked to stay and volunteer. He came to church on Sabbath, saying, “I have not been in a church since 1978, but God told me to come.”

At one point during this devastating event, even those at the church and the distribution center were evacuated. The whole county worked together to provide aid to the fire survivors, with the church collaborating with the Grange Hall, Plumas District Hospital, and local grocery stores to share goods when one had a surplus. When Mike, a 2018 Camp



**Mobile distribution of new clothes and supplies at the Evergreen Market in Greenville.**

Fire survivor, saw our flyer on Facebook, he called and wanted to pay it back. He purchased several \$50 gift cards from the local grocery store and asked to distribute them to fire survivors.

Church members and volunteers felt most blessed by being on the giving end, hearing the survivor’s stories, and praying with some when the Lord led. They learned firsthand that, indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive. “My husband, Dale, and I have found our ministry to serve with our church family in our community,” Harris said of the experience. “More than half of our church family participated in this ACS ministry. This is evangelism at its heart. We have seen a unity develop in our SDA church, as well as with other Christian denominations in this ministry.”

The Quincy church is continuing to do mobile distributions in Greenville. They are collaborating with the Greenville Southern Baptist Church, the only church left standing in town. While the folks are fed lunch there, the Quincy Adventist church will distribute new winter jackets, socks, gloves, and beanies to the Dixie fire survivors. As winter is here, these are much needed items.

If you are impressed to donate to this worthy cause, please send your tax deductible donation through [AdventistGiving>Nevada-Utah Conference Church>Center of Influence](#), or by check to the Nevada-Utah Conference, attention ACS Dixie Fire, 10475 Double R Blvd, Reno, NV 89521. For more information, call Nina at 530-927-9001.

*By Nina Harris*



# Four NCC Pastors Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

*In 2021, the Northern California Conference (NCC) affirmed God's calling in the lives of four pastors by ordaining them to the gospel ministry.*

## Trevor Barnes Sr.

Union City company Pastor Trevor Barnes Sr. was ordained at the Hayward church on July 17.

Born and raised in Jamaica, Barnes served the Adventist Church in a variety of roles, including assistant treasurer of the Lake Region Conference, assistant professor in the business administration department at West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University), several roles in the NCC trust services department, and treasurer at Golden Gate Academy in

Oakland. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Andrews University, as well as completing undergraduate work in business and religion.

Throughout his life, Barnes was actively involved in preaching, evangelizing, and growing churches in



Jamaica and California. He was called to the Union City company in 2003. He and his wife, Rita, have three children—Mellonie, Trevor Jr., and Mellodie—and five grandchildren.

"I want to give the ultimate honor, glory, and praise to God for His providential leading and His manifold blessings during every step of my life's journey," said Barnes. "I love the Lord profoundly and want to fully dedicate every moment of my life in service to Him."



PHOTO: JULIE LORENZ

## Eleazar Famorcan

On Aug. 14, Eleazar (Eli) Famorcan, pastor of the All Nations church of Elk Grove and the American Canyon Fil-Am church, was ordained at American Canyon.

A first-generation Adventist, Famorcan grew up in the Philippines, where God paved the way for him to study theology at Mountain View College. After graduating, Famorcan worked as a teacher and then served for 15 years as an editor and writer at the church-run Philippine Publishing House. He wrote articles for *Health & Home* magazine—some of which became part of his book, *Second Thoughts*. At the same time, he shepherded the Philippine Union College Remnant church and completed graduate coursework at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies seminary. Two decades ago, he and his wife, Romelda—and their two daughters, Frances Gem and Francine Danielle—came to the United States.

"I thank God, who is there at every fork in the road, in every uphill climb, and in every downhill slide," said Famorcan. "He put people at strategic places in my journey—to challenge, encourage, support, and pray for me."



PHOTO: FRANCES FAMORCAN



PHOTO: PABLO HILARIO





## Gresford Thomas

Gresford Thomas, Concord International/San Ramon Valley district pastor, was ordained at the Concord church on Sept. 11.

Thomas grew up in New York and New Jersey. He worked for nearly 20 years in pharmaceutical clinical research as a data analyst, database administrator, and programmer. During much of this time, he served as an elder and active lay leader, including planting a church and working with the Jewish Adventist Friendship Center. He also produced and directed a film titled *A Light in Damascus*.

After much prayer, and with the encouragement of his wife, Elia, Thomas decided to respond to God's calling to ministry. He earned a bachelor's degree in theology from Pacific Union College and then a Master of Divinity from the SDA Theological Seminary.

Before coming to his current district in 2020, he pastored the Lincoln Amazing Grace/Olivehurst/Penn Valley district, starting a food distribution program at each church.

"To God be the glory!" said Thomas. "I am humbled and blessed beyond measure to have experienced the confirmation of the call God placed upon my heart decades ago."



PHOTO: JULIE LORENZ

PHOTO: JULIE LORENZ

## Andrew Uyeyama

On Nov. 13, Andrew Uyeyama was ordained at the Grass Valley church, where he serves as associate and youth pastor.

Raised in Hanford, California, Uyeyama gave his heart to God during a mission trip to the Philippines when he was in high school. After training as a Bible worker, Uyeyama preached his first evangelistic series when he was 19. While studying at Weimar College, he worked with the youth at the Grass Valley church.

For many years Uyeyama served in the Central California Conference—as a member of the Youth Evangelism Team, as youth pastor and senior pastor at the Hanford church, as conference youth director, and as Camp Wawona director. He returned to the Grass Valley church in 2017. In 2019, he earned a Master of Theological Studies from La Sierra University. He and his wife, Andrea, have two young daughters, Riley and Remi.

"A verse that has proven true over and over again in my life is: 'Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart,'" he said.



By Julie Lorenz

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A group sings during the organization service; honored guests cut a cake during the celebratory dinner; NCC leaders and others participate in the organization program; NCC Executive Secretary Jose Marin presents the certificate of organization to Pastor Joseph O'Connor.



PHOTOS: CINTHA MARIN

## NCC Organizes First Official Fijian Church in North America

On Sabbath, Oct. 23, the Northern California Conference (NCC) formally organized the Sacramento Fijian church—the only official Fijian church in the North American Division (NAD). The service took place at the Sacramento Woodside church, where the congregation meets each Sabbath afternoon. After the program, church members hosted a celebratory dinner in the church's fellowship hall, which was decorated with Fijian artifacts.

VicLouis Arreola III, Pacific Union Conference vice president of Asian/Pacific ministries and NAD Asian/Pacific ministries director, summed up the feelings of those who attended. "We will never forget this wonderful day!" he said. "It will be something we will remember in history as we have organized the first Fijian church in this division."

Currently about 11,000 Fijians live in Sacramento County—more than in any other place in the United States! For many years, the Fijian Adventists in the area dreamed of having a church of their own. In 2009, a church plant began at the Sacramento Central church. In 2013, the group moved to the campus of Sacramento Adventist Academy, where they met for a number of years. The congregation was formally

organized as a church company in January 2015.

"As I think about our congregation's history, one word that stands out to me is *providence*," said Pastor Joseph O'Connor. "We have seen God moving and blessing."

Through the years, members have worked to build relationships with the local Fijian community by conducting evangelism and outreach programs for people of all ages.

During the pandemic, the congregation used social media to connect with Fijians near and far. Each of their live-streamed presentations averaged between 20,000 and 30,000 views. "We praise God for helping us run the most comprehensive revival meeting ever—through social media—to connect with Fijians throughout the world," said O'Connor. "Fijian pastors, doctors, speakers, singing groups, and members in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Fiji, and England came together to hear the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ."

Church members are looking forward to reaching even more of their brothers and sisters through their newly organized church!

By Julie Lorenz



# Kevin Robert Is New NCC Church Growth and Evangelism Director

**O**n Dec. 1, 2021, the Northern California Conference Executive Committee voted to invite Kevin Robert to serve as NCC church growth and evangelism director. He plans to begin his new role in January.

“We feel blessed to welcome Kevin to the NCC,” said President Marc Woodson. “God has certainly answered our prayers because Kevin’s skillset, passion, and experience match our conference’s needs!”

A pastor and church planter, Robert comes from the Southern New England Conference, where he has served the Merrimack Valley and Billerica churches since 2017. During the last few years, he planted One Connection Academy and One Connection Community church—both in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

Robert is also a facilitator and coordinator for the North American Division Evangelism Institute’s ACTS Church Planting Support System. He is currently coaching church planters in Massachusetts, Florida, the Philippines, Albania, and Mozambique.

His passion is growing missional communities—modeled by the New Testament church—to reach people for Christ. “In a missional community, the believers eat together, study together, go on missions together,” he said. “The whole group has a desire to change the community where they live for the gospel.”

The high school he planted was an intentional part of this type of evangelism. “We planted a core missional community team to use the school as a center of influence,” he said.

Robert didn’t always plan to be a pastor. A native of Massachusetts, he graduated from Atlantic Union College with a bachelor’s degree in physical



education. He spent a number of years as a sleep lab manager before answering the Lord’s calling to the ministry.

As a young married couple, he and his wife, Tanya, were part of a church plant in Massachusetts, where Robert got involved in preaching and evangelism. With his wife’s encouragement, he began working on a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University, which he finished in 2016. In the midst of his studies, he was called to the Pennsylvania Conference, where

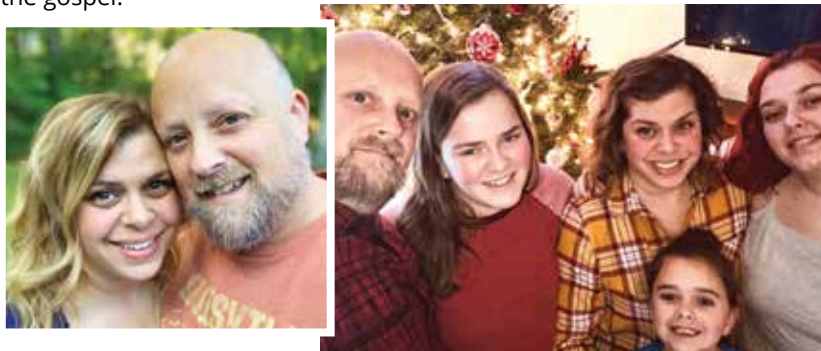
he served in a four-church district until called back to Massachusetts. He was ordained in 2019.

The Robert family is in the process of moving to Angwin, where Tanya will teach nursing at Pacific Union College. The couple has three daughters: Gianna, a college freshman; Carmela, a high school freshman; and Analia, a third-grader.

Robert is excited to join the NCC team. “I’m looking forward to working with all the pastors and administrators, collaborating together, letting creativity flow,” he said. “We want to focus on multiplication, rather than addition—growing disciples that make disciples and churches that plant churches.”

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*By Julie Lorenz*





Ministerial Director Jon Cicarelli gives the ministerial charge to the Peraltas.



## A Cloud of Witnesses: Four Ordinations in the SECC

**S**amantha Peralta sensed God calling her into ministry when she was as young as nine. Her parents took her on a mission trip to the Philippines, and as one of the only children on the trip who could understand Tagalog, Samantha spent the majority of her time there translating Bible studies from English into the Filipino language.

"I fell in love with ministry as I watched some of the kids I worked with on that trip commit their lives to Jesus," she recalled.

On September 18, Samantha was ordained as chaplain at Loma Linda Academy (LLA), alongside

her husband, Wally, who was ordained as pastor of the Victorville church. Their daughter, born at the start of the pandemic, was dedicated during the same service.

Though Wally's call came later, as he tried to decide what to do with his life, once he accepted the call, he was no less confident than Samantha in following God's plan. Many people in Wally's life assured him that they sensed God's leading, and they encouraged him to become a pastor. Looking back, Wally knows it was the right decision.

"I love watching people discover how their lives carry purpose in the gospel," Wally said. "I love helping them find security in God's calling as I have."

Just as their journeys led them to each other, the Peraltas feel God has also called them to parent and minister together. Now, they relish serving together and believe they are strongest when their gifts support each other.

"Our giftings are very complementary," Samantha said. "We wanted a joint ordination because we're not just partners in life—we're partners in ministry, too. It's not a job for us; it's a lifestyle, a calling, and a passion we both share. This is our life, and we're in it together with God."

Somer Knight, children and family pastor at the Redlands church, wants to empower whole families to "experience faith together, integrating it into their everyday lives."

And as a mother of two, Knight is not only pastorally but also personally motivated.



The Peraltas dedicate their baby to the Lord.

"I care deeply about how my kids experience community and hear about Jesus," she explained. For example, Knight appreciates the intergenerational nature of their local church, weekly watching her sons excitedly interacting with their friends from across the age spectrum.

"A lot of my 'why' for investing myself in professional ministry is because of this," she added, "and I want families—including kids—to be deeply invested in and engaged with their church family."

In her ordination on November 20, Knight felt the power and humility of seeing the faces of many who have supported her. Family, friends, mentors, ministry partners, church family, colleagues from across the conference, and classmates from college filled the church and testified with their presence that they had seen evidence of Jesus in her life. Her sons presented Scripture, and her husband played a guitar medley, weaving together songs with themes of guidance and calling.

Sandy Roberts, executive secretary for the Pacific Union Conference and former Southeastern California Conference (SECC) president, sent a video message for the ordination. Roberts was chaplain at LLA when Knight was in junior high, and she was the one who did baptismal studies with and then baptized Knight.

"It's an incredible opportunity to gather with your contemporary 'cloud of witnesses,' as mentioned in Hebrews 12," Knight commented. "God has called each of us to reflect our faith and serve with various unique skills, talents, interests, and opportunities. It's an honor to participate in the body of Christ and serve in the ways God has designed me to minister to others."



Randy Roberts prays a prayer of ordination over Somer Knight.



Eddie Dopp, Patty Marruffo, Will Penick, and Kevin Wilson share during the ordination.

Kevin Wilson, ordained as pastor at the Oceanside church on October 30, has yet to find anyone else doing what he does, how he does it. And "it's lonely sometimes," he admitted.

Wilson maintains a very successful TikTok presence using chai-making as a way to connect and share Jesus with people online. There is a synergy, he said, between what he's doing as a pastor and what he does online. And it's absolutely working.

"Strangers regularly reach out to me and confide that they don't believe in God, but they see me as their pastor," shared Wilson.

Following her presentation during Wilson's ordination, one young leader from the Oceanside church approached Wilson with an envelope. "What I said up front was what I wanted everyone to know about you," she told him, "but this letter is what I want you to know about how you've ministered to me personally." Reading the letter, Wilson was moved to tears.

"A mentor recently commented that maybe I'm not meant to define the space I'm in right now, but simply steward the momentum God has given me and let Him do what He wants to do," Wilson said. "So that's how I'm approaching my work, and I'm absolutely thrilled at the possibility of creating a space where others can join and follow Him, too."

By Becky St. Clair



RIGHT: Baron Sovory leads worship.  
FAR RIGHT: Jonathan Park prays for Sandy Roberts with Patty Marruffo and Jon Ciccarelli.



## Reunited: SECC Pastors Come Together for First Time in Two Years

On November 9, the pastors of the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) gathered for the first time in two years at Loma Linda University church for a professional development day. Since the last in-person pastors' meeting, a pandemic raged throughout the world. Church buildings, school buildings, and even the conference building were closed. Through all of this, SECC pastors stayed on the frontlines and learned to do ministry in a new way. They walked alongside families amid illness, uncertainty, and grief.

The theme for the day was "The Vineyard: A Moment with God." Prayerful planning went into creating this sacred time when pastors would be revitalized and refueled. "We also wanted pastors to have a space to worship and be with God, to have a space to be refreshed with a variety of speakers touching various areas of whole person care, and to connect with each other," said Will Penick, associate ministerial director and one of the planners of the event.

The meeting began with a soul-stirring worship session led by Baron Sovory, pastor of Valley Fellowship church. Pastors were on their feet with hands raised in worship. Others sat quietly and soaked in the presence of God. "That was the most anointed worship time we have ever had," said Delroy Brooks, pastor of Juniper Avenue church. "It was as if heaven came down and glory filled my soul!"

Kendra Haloviak-Valentine, Saul Barcelo, Ashley McGuire, and Kevin Wilson each brought a special message and ministry to the pastors in their own way. "We talked with the ministerial department about what pastors needed. Because of the pandemic, we felt that mental health needed to be addressed. Relevant evangelism in the midst of the pandemic also needed to

be addressed," said SECC President Jonathan Park. "I felt like what we wanted to achieve happened. I believe that at every pastors' professional growth meeting, you not only learn and connect, but it should be something that they look forward to."

Pastors were appreciated with words, books, and gift cards. A special SECC Pastor T-shirt was created for this meeting. It displays the Great Commission in several languages encircling the cross, honoring the diversity and mission of our pastors.

In addition to thanking the pastors, there was a moment of gratitude for Sandy Roberts, executive secretary of the Pacific Union and former SECC president. Park prayed a prayer of dedication for her new chapter of ministry, and Ministerial Director Jon Ciccarelli presented Roberts with a gift.

"It was special, and you could feel the connection throughout the building as cheers and tears went up in appreciation for what she meant to many of us," said Penick.

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By Andrea King



David Peckham and Themba Mzizi pray together.



# Pathfinder Olympics at Annual Camporee

June brought the Summer Olympics to the world. November brought the Pathfinder Olympics to Southeastern California Conference (SECC). Over 1,100 Pathfinders gathered at Lake Skinner in Winchester, California, for the annual SECC Pathfinder camporee. Because of wildfires near the Rancho Jurupa Campground, the 2019 camporee was canceled. The 2020 camporee was virtual due to COVID-19 shutdowns. With three years transpiring since their last in-person conference camporee, this year's camporee was special. Taji Saleem, youth department media specialist, said, "As we gathered together for the first time after a three-year in-person hiatus, we celebrated the unique diversity we inherently have while acknowledging one thing that unites us: Pathfinders."

"We are one of the most diverse conferences in the North American Division," Youth Director Aren Rennacker told Pathfinders in the opening ceremony. "We have so many different communities, so many different kinds of churches, and so many different ethnicities represented. We love that because we believe the kingdom of God is a place where all different kinds of people can come together under the name of Jesus."

The rich diversity of SECC Pathfinders was on full display throughout the weekend. Pathfinders came from San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, and Orange counties. They represented 43 churches but also represented several countries, races, and ethnicities. During the Celebration of Nations, 26 flags were displayed, underscoring the many nationalities that make up our great conference. The Pathfinder song was experienced in three languages. Pathfinders recited portions of the Lord's Prayer in nine languages. Attendees were also able to hear "Amazing Grace" in 54 languages.

During each general session, Pathfinders heard an inspirational and challenging message from Dilys Brooks, Loma Linda



Pathfinders salute during Sabbath service.

University chaplain. Brooks invited Pathfinders to allow God to do "a new thing" in their lives. "Allow the Holy Spirit to show you the places in your life where you have been tempted to trust yourself more than God, and I want to ask you to surrender that," Brooks encouraged. "Do this new thing—which is trusting God more than yourself—fully knowing that God is going to help you."

On Saturday evening, there was so much power during the Celebration of Nations that the circuit blew, resulting in a blackout during the worship set. There were no lights or sound, but the power was still there. Spontaneous worship broke out among the Pathfinders. They continued to exclaim, "Pour Your Spirit out!" Saleem recounted. "While the power was only out for about 10 minutes, it was an encouraging experience to hear hundreds of voices lifted up, praising God. I, however, like to say that this year's camporee was so big that we broke it!"

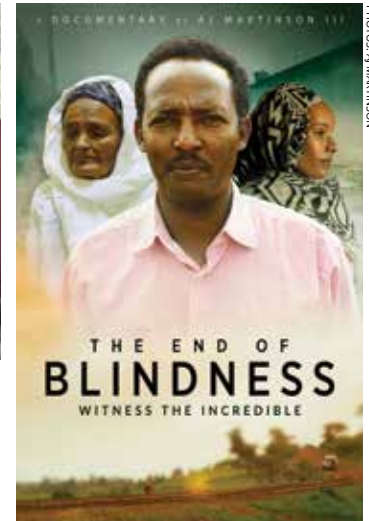
*By Andrea King*



LEFT: Brooks preaches to Pathfinders. RIGHT: San Bernardino County Pathfinders prepare for Celebration of Nations.



Larry Thomas, M.D., (left) and Samuel Bora, M.D., (right) at an eye camp in western Ethiopia.



PHOTOS: AJ MARTINSON

## “The End of Blindness”: Lives Forever Changed by One Doctor’s Dedication

**T**he End of Blindness” tells the true story of Samuel Bora, M.D., the only ophthalmologist for 3 million people in rural Ethiopia. With more than 4 million cases of visual impairment, Ethiopia has one of the highest rates of blindness in Africa. Performing up to 60 free cataract surgeries a day, Bora is committed to this incredible task. In the operating room, lives are forever changed—from children with traumatic cataracts to a blind mother who had never seen her son.

The award-winning documentary is directed by AJ Martinson, Adventist filmmaker and member of Vallejo Drive church, whose goal is to “tell honest, impactful, and emotional stories that inspire others to make a positive impact on the world around them.”

As a child, Bora walked several miles to school barefoot every day because he was determined to get a good education. “Thanks to the help of several people in his life, he was able to continue his education all the way to medical school,” Martinson explained. “Then, instead of setting up shop in the capital city and making as much money as he could there, he decided to return to the countryside where he was born to help the rural poor see again. Hearing him explain his story was so powerful and moving, I realized almost immediately I had to make this into a feature-length film and tell his story, and his patients’ stories, to the world.”

“Critics have been calling this movie ‘a film for our time’ (Debbie Lynn Elias, ‘Behind the Lens’), and I think that sums up my hopes for how people will view this movie,” Martinson shared. “The last few years have left us all in need of positive and uplifting stories of human kindness and compassion that can help restore our faith in humanity and show us how good people can be when they operate at their very best.”



**Bora examines Lalise, a 23-year-old mother who was blind and had never seen her four-month-old infant.**

Bora is sponsored by Tropical Health Alliance Foundation (THAF), a non-profit founded by Adventist philanthropist Larry Thomas, M.D. The film is dedicated to Thomas, who passed away in December 2020. In the early 2000s, he took on the cataract epidemic in Ethiopia after witnessing children being used in place of seeing eye dogs. Since then, THAF has sponsored more than 24,000 cataract surgeries performed by Bora and provided to the patients at little to no cost. Learn more at [www.thaf.org](http://www.thaf.org) and sponsor a life-changing cataract surgery for \$50.

Watch the film at [www.TheEndofBlindness.com](http://www.TheEndofBlindness.com).

*By Lauren Lacson*

# Melvir Ausente Glorifies God Through Music Ministry

**A**s a young boy growing up in a ministry-driven home, Melvir Ausente always had a heart for service. Raising him in the Baptist faith, Ausente's parents instilled in him a spirit of serving the Lord with his God-given gift: music.

Ausente discovered his musical talents in elementary school, when he competed as a soloist in the National Music Competitions for Young Artists, an organization founded in the Philippines to cultivate young artists in composition and performance.

Ausente did not win the title that year, but he later won with his high school choir. His choir teacher and his mom encouraged him to use his gifts for the Lord.

Though Ausente faced financial challenges in his first year studying choral conducting at the University of the Philippines, he didn't have many doubts in his journey to pursuing music. "I kind of just go with the flow," Ausente said, "and wherever God leads me, I follow."

God's leading allowed him to join the Philippine Madrigal Singers and compete in music competitions while at university. There, he made connections that brought him to the U.S. In Texas, he sang with the El Paso Opera and Chamber Choir for a season. While in El Paso, he was introduced to and accepted the Adventist faith. From there, Ausente moved to Los Angeles.

New to L.A., Ausente learned that Temple City church was looking for a music director. While serving at Temple City, he also sang with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, but he longed to connect with the Adventist community outside of the local church context. Soon, he started helping with San Gabriel Academy's (SGA) music department before securing a full-time position teaching band and orchestra there.

"In college, I would always hear him having conversations with his parents about trusting in God and following His path for him," said Sheen Sanchez, former classmate/member of the Philippine Madrigal



Singers and current co-music teacher at SGA. "Now, we are always reminded that we are not just teachers but also spiritual leaders to our students."

Encouraged by their spiritual leadership, several of Ausente's and Sanchez's former students have pursued careers in music.

"Mr. Ausente taught me the importance of discipline, leadership, and giving all the glory to God—who gave us our talents in the first place," said Mirielle Enriquez, SGA alumna (class of 2020) and first-year

music education student at the Adventist University of the Philippines.

When Shouzheng Wei, SGA alumnus (class of 2020), first moved to the United States in 2016, he was unsure of his future studies and goals. After joining the SGA chorale led by Sanchez and receiving voice training from Ausente for three years, Wei is now a student at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, a performing arts conservatory at the Berklee College of Music.

"God has a plan," said Ausente. "It's amazing how we don't understand things that are presented to us."

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*By Araya Moss*



Ausente conducts the SGA Orchestra during a fall performance.

PHOTOS: MELVIR AUSENTE



# Introducing Berbere: Couple Opens New Restaurant During Pandemic, Highlights God’s Faithfulness

**T**ezeta Alemayehu and Tsega-Ab “Bicko” Fenta, members of Berean church, know all too well the challenges of starting a new restaurant, especially during an ongoing global pandemic. With the opening of their brick-and-mortar vegan Ethiopian restaurant, Berbere by T&T Lifestyle, in Santa Monica last fall, the husband-and-wife team have relied on God’s guidance throughout the process.

“Faith was the key to our business,” shared Alemayehu, executive chef and co-owner of Berbere.

Before Berbere, the pair’s food concept was known to many Los Angeles residents who frequented Smorgasburg, a weekend-only open-air food market in downtown, where the T&T Lifestyle brand held space in 2019.

For years, Alemayehu hoped to not only open a restaurant in Santa Monica but to also live nearby. “We were sure that God kept a record of that,” said Alemayehu, “so we just left it up to Him.” When Smorgasburg closed during the pandemic, the couple’s small business, too, was affected. They began serving food through Colony, a kitchen retail space where different restaurants can prepare and serve food, in West L.A.—closer to their desired westside location.

After tirelessly looking at potential locations, some of which they were interested in but were ultimately not where they wanted to be, a space became available in Santa Monica. The couple initially thought they’d only be able to rent half of this large location,



**LEFT:** Alemayehu is seen preparing a meal in the open kitchen. **RIGHT:** The breakfast burrito, a popular item from the 11 a.m.-12 p.m. breakfast menu, is also available for lunch and dinner. It is made with scrambled tofu, Berbere roasted potato, teff injera, firfir, bulgar, whole wheat tortilla, and tangfaye sauce.



PHOTOS: ARAYA MOSS

**Fenta (right) takes orders on a busy Wednesday morning.**

but after meeting with the owner, an agreement was made to rent the entire space.

“If that’s not God, we don’t know what is,” said Fenta, co-owner of Berbere. “Since then, we’ve seen so many miracles, and God has been blessing us immensely.”

Berbere restaurant, an “unusual vegan restaurant in Santa Monica” with an Ethiopian twist, opened in September 2021. Since then, Alemayehu and Fenta have been met with overwhelming support from patrons and media outlets alike.

Uncompromising in their faith, Alemayehu and Fenta close Berbere early on Friday and are closed all day Saturday, in observance of the Sabbath.

“Anyone will tell you that you’re crazy not to open your business on Friday night and Saturdays,” said Alemayehu, “because those are the hottest days for businesses to make money.” Yet, closing on the Sabbath has allowed the couple to share about the Adventist faith with those they interact with. “For us, being closed for Sabbath has impacted our business in a positive way, where we get to tell people that we keep the Sabbath,” Alemayehu added.

Throughout this journey, the couple has held on to the promise of God’s faithfulness as seen in Hebrews 10:23. “We will continue to stay faithful,” said Alemayehu, “because we know God’s promises are true.”

*By Araya Moss*

PHOTO: LAUREN LACSON



PHOTO: LINDA KIRK AND GINA FURBYRE



PHOTO: LINDA KIRK

LEFT: December 4, 2021, mortgage burning celebration. BOTTOM LEFT: Tehachapi members and leaders gather for the groundbreaking. BOTTOM RIGHT: Following remarks from each of the SCC executive officers, SCC West Region Director Greg Hoenes, and former Tehachapi pastors Erwin Joham and Laurie, the congregation gathered to burn the mortgage papers. Karen Towns, church treasurer, opens the cover while Barbara Hoyt, former church treasurer, places the document in the fire.

## Tehachapi Church Celebrates Debt-Free Milestone

Last month, Tehachapi church celebrated a milestone that was more than 50 years in the making.

In 1970, Sharron Bullard and her husband, Harold, moved to Tehachapi and began looking for an Adventist church in the area. To their surprise, the closest congregation was in Mojave. "We need a church in Tehachapi" was Sharron's response to this discovery. So she began to pray, and soon others joined her prayers.

Fifteen years later, the Lord answered her prayers as a small group was transplanted from the Mojave church. This new congregation began renting a facility downtown. In 1993, the congregation officially became a company, the same year they purchased the five acres where the church meets today.

On those five acres, the church began to build its facility—but they were determined to stay debt free. To this end, they decided to approach the building project in three phases: first the fellowship hall, followed by the sanctuary, and finally, a school.

The fellowship hall was completed and dedicated in 1997, and plans for the sanctuary began to move forward. After more than a decade of rigorously saving, the church realized they had outgrown the fellowship hall and decided to take a loan from the Pacific Union to build the sanctuary, breaking ground in 2008. Although

this move challenged the church's desire to remain debt free, their faithfulness never wavered.

Fast forward to 2020 and the congregation joyfully celebrated paying off their mortgage early. In December 2021, Southern California Conference (SCC) leadership, members of Tehachapi church, and former pastors who had shared in the journey gathered to recognize this accomplishment.

Eustace Laurie, who pastored the congregation from 2017 to 2020, shared from his experience. "In one of our board meetings, we were looking at our mortgage and we were just talking about, 'Man, imagine how much ministry we could do if we just paid off this mortgage?'" he recalled. "In a pandemic when the world was flipped upside down, God said 'Guess what, Tehachapi? I've got something special for you: paid off your mortgage, took off that burden.'"

"What a wonderful story the pastors have just shared about how God has led and how God has moved, but I don't think that God is finished with you yet," shared James G. Lee, SCC executive vice president. "I think there's something else He wants you to do."

"The ball's in your court, Tehachapi," Laurie said. "What are you going to do?"

By Lauren Lacson

# Calendar

## Central California Conference

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

**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](mailto:tvang@cccsda.org).

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### Information

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### Upcoming Deadlines

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

### Contributions

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


**Check the Events page online** at [www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com](http://www.CentralCaliforniaAdventist.com) for all the updates. Many events and outreaches are now being virtually presented or streamed online.

## La Sierra University

**Centennial Year Celebrations.** 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. Visit <https://lasierra.edu/centennial/>.

**Python game coding workshops.** Students in grades 9–12 and their teachers are invited to participate in a nine-week, no-cost workshop series online in Discord learning to create computer games using Python coding. No experience necessary. Workshops: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4–5 p.m. PST, Jan. 18–March 24, 2022. For information, visit <https://lasierra.edu/leaf/events/write-python-games/>.

**Hanson-Koobs Chamber Music Series.** Hanson-Koobs Chamber Music will present a concert Sunday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. Music by Mozart, Shostakovich, Dvorak. Featuring Dominic Cheli, piano; Grace Park, violin; Erik Arvinder, violin; Jason Uyeyama, violin; Ben Ullery, viola; and Robert DeMaine, cello. Tickets and protocol: <https://www.itickets.com/>



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events/456055, email [music@lasierra.edu](mailto:music@lasierra.edu), or call 951-785-2036.

### **Northern California Conference**

**10 Days of Prayer** (Jan. 5-15) 7 p.m. Lament, unity, mission: the three angels' call to prayer. Live on YouTube: NCCSDA and Facebook: NorCalAdventistsinAction.

**Church Clerks Training in Spanish via Zoom** (Jan. 16) 9 a.m. to noon. RSVP. Info: [premila.willmott@nccsda.com](mailto:premila.willmott@nccsda.com).

**Church Clerks Training in English via Zoom** (Jan. 23) 9 a.m. to noon. RSVP. Info: [premila.willmott@nccsda.com](mailto:premila.willmott@nccsda.com).

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### **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](mailto:lbarron@cccsda.org) or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Position open until filled. Link for application: <https://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/human-resources>.

### **Central California Conference is seeking a year-round part-time Registration Specialist for the camp meeting registration office.**

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**Looking for someone in love with Jesus to shepherd a church** of about 70 members in southern Nevada. You will ideally have some preaching experience and be comfortable fitting into a theologically conservative congregation. Being a “people person”—maintaining positive relationships with members of the church and community—is important. Hours, schedule, and salary to be negotiated. Please call Brissa Castillo at 775-525-2012 or email at [bcastillo@nevadautah.org](mailto:bcastillo@nevadautah.org).

**Sonora Community Estates is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant.** Sonora Community Estates is an over-55 senior residential community in Sonora, Calif. Must have strong skills in computers, organization, customer service, and business writing. Must be able to multi-task in a very busy environment. There is some flexibility of hours. Successful candidate participates in planning four social events per year. 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](mailto: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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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>.

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

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

**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 manager of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program at 530-637-4025 x289 or email [jodi@stallanthealth.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings).

**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.

## 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 [Kathyr777@gmail.com](mailto:Kathyr777@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](http://bit.ly/3iig47R) or Theresa Reynold 208-798-7822.



**Settle into your own beautiful mountain**

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

**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.

**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: bhmbm1959@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.

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## Recorder Membership

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**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 [rnroger1965@gmail.com](mailto:rnroger1965@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](http://www.adventtours.org) email [info@adventtours.org](mailto: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](mailto: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!"

## Missing Members

**West Covina Hills SDA Church**, 3536 E Temple Way, West Covina, CA 91791. Contact: Carol Sneed, clerk, 626-915-7819. Mary Bingham, Mary Culata, Melissa Culata, Leah De Shay, Orion De Shay, Johanna Duarte, Michelle Halfacre, Alex Janjanin, Monique Nevarez, Virginia Nevarez, Christopher Newman, Alfredo Ramirez, Melba Ramirez, Richard Vasquez, Rosalind Weaver.

## At Rest

**Lucio, Alex Sr.** - b. Feb. 24, 1959, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Aug. 31, 2021, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jennifer; son, Elias; stepson, Kyle Evans; daughters, Monica Lucio-Correa, Elizabeth Lawrence; stepdaughter, Amanda Garcia; mother, Artemisa; stepmother, Rosemary; brothers, Abel, Louie; sisters, Eunice, Clementina; five grandchildren.

**McGee, William** - b. Aug. 18, 1935, Osceola, Iowa; d. Sept. 15, 2021, Rialto, Calif. Survivors: Lucille McGee, Robert McGee, Linda Dortch, Nancy Akumarthi. William served as campus superintendent at Brandon Kitchen Manufacturing. He also worked in campus maintenance at Loma Linda University.

## 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

## February 2022 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	FEB 4	FEB 11	FEB 18	FEB 25
Alturas	5:22	5:31	5:39	5:48
Angwin	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:58
Bakersfield	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:47
Calexico	5:17	5:24	5:30	5:36
Chico	5:30	5:39	5:47	5:55
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	5:22	5:29	5:39	5:43
Eureka	5:38	5:46	5:55	6:03
Four Corners [E]	5:44	5:52	5:59	6:06
Fresno	5:28	5:35	5:42	5:49
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:58	6:05	6:13	6:19
Half Dome	5:25	5:33	5:40	5:47
Hilo	6:14	6:18	6:21	6:24
Holbrook	5:23	5:32	5:40	5:49
Honolulu	6:23	6:27	6:31	6:34
Joshua Tree	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:38
Lake Tahoe	5:24	5:32	5:40	5:48
Las Vegas	5:10	5:17	5:25	5:31
Lodi-Stockton	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:54
Loma Linda	5:22	5:29	5:35	5:42
Los Angeles	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46
McDermitt [N]	5:09	5:18	5:27	5:36
Moab	5:43	5:51	5:59	6:07
Monterey Bay	5:36	5:44	5:51	5:58
Mt. Whitney	5:23	5:30	5:36	5:42
Napa	5:35	5:43	5:50	5:58
Nogales [S]	6:03	6:09	6:15	6:21
Oakland	5:36	5:43	5:51	5:58
Paradise, CA	5:29	5:38	5:46	5:54
Phoenix	6:02	6:09	6:15	6:21
Pu'uwaiaiu, Ni'ihau [W]	6:17	6:21	6:24	6:27
Reno	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47
Riverside	5:23	5:30	5:36	5:42
Sacramento	5:31	5:39	5:47	5:54
Salt Lake City	5:49	5:57	6:06	6:14
San Diego	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:42
San Francisco	5:36	5:44	5:52	5:59
San Jose	5:35	5:43	5:50	5:57
Santa Rosa	5:36	5:44	5:52	5:59
Sunset Beach	5:36	5:42	5:50	5:57
Thousand Oaks	5:28	5:35	5:42	5:48
Tucson	6:00	6:06	6:12	6:18

[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



# \$2,000 Scholarship

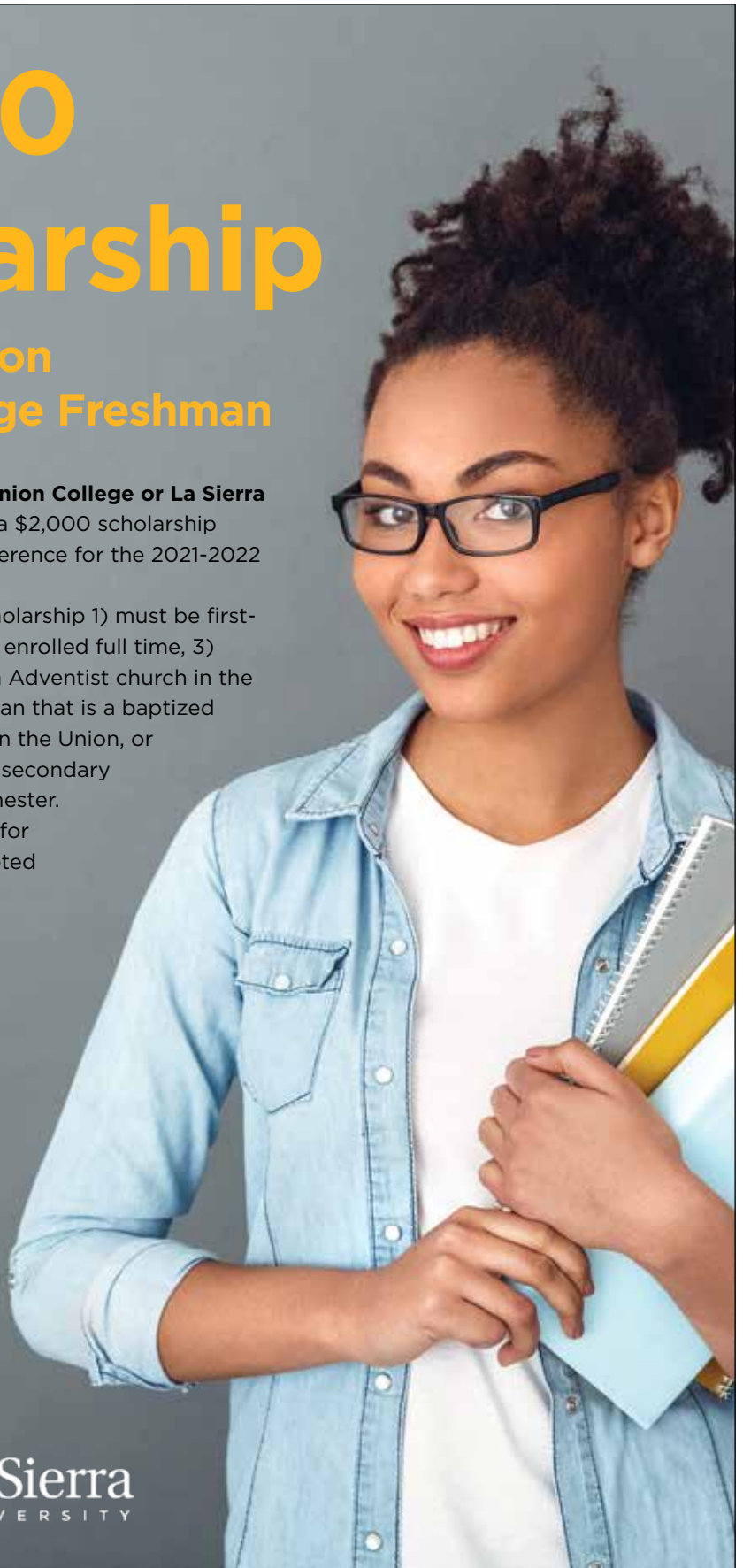
## Supports In-Union Adventist College Freshman

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

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

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

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



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