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Recorder

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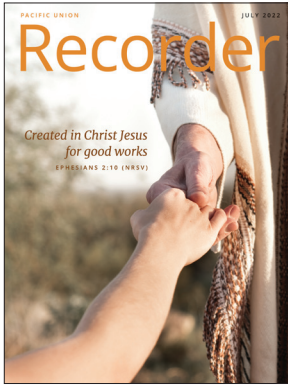
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“We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” In His divine arrangement, through His unmerited favor, the Lord has ordained that good works shall be rewarded. We are accepted through Christ's

merit alone; and the acts of mercy, the deeds of charity, which we perform, are the fruits of faith; and they become a blessing to us; for men are to be rewarded according to their works. It is the fragrance of the merit of Christ that makes our good works acceptable to God, and it is grace that enables us to do the works for which He rewards us. Our works in and of themselves have no merit. When we have done all that it is possible for us to do, we are to count ourselves as unprofitable servants. We deserve no thanks from God. We have only done what it was our duty to do, and our works could not have been performed in the strength of our own sinful natures.

Ellen White, *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 200

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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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The Pilgrimage



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By Bradford C. Newton

The room swells with emotion as celebrating family and friends stand to watch the robed graduates march to the front of the auditorium. The joyful music provides the soaring score for each young face beaming with happiness. The pandemic has forged this gathering into a tribe of persistent survivors. Zoom classes, isolation from peers and professors, and masks and vaccines have marked this educational journey. Their degree completion is a triumph over adversity for both themselves and the project of higher education itself. As each name is read and the diplomas and handshakes are accepted, here is a contemporary cloud of witnesses testifying to the power of prayer and faith.

But what of the day after? The words of Winston Churchill, spoken during the dark days of Great Britain's fight against Nazi Germany can be appropriated for the hour: "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." As young women and men process from graduations around the Pacific Union Conference, we can ask of them (and ourselves!) "What are you beginning?"

The answers vary. "The beginning of my career" or "The beginning of trying to get a job" or "The beginning of relocating to another place to live" or "The beginning of more schooling" or "The beginning of the unknown."

As they stride into the day after—whether to

new jobs, more schooling, or a new home—each is beginning the next segment of a divinely designed pilgrimage. But how can we be so sure?

First, because each of us are endowed at birth with a divinely designed future. Psalm 139:16 declares this about God and our relationship to Him: “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”¹ In the context of the ever-present free will endowed to us by God, we are all continuing a pilgrimage that began the day we drew our first breath.

Pilgrimage is not a word we of the western world are accustomed to using about our lives. But in ancient times and in contemporary world religions, a pilgrimage is a planned journey with the destination being a holy place. In Bible times, it was Jerusalem that was the temporal goal for Passover and other national feasts. Many of the Psalms (“of ascents”) were written for the pilgrims to sing as they journeyed up to Jerusalem. What about today?

Scripture reveals that there is a spiritual destination for all on life’s pilgrimage with God. “But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them” (Hebrews 11:16).

I am reminded that we can also be so heavenly minded that we become no earthly good. Part of the pilgrimage is asking the question, “How can I make a difference in this world here and now?” On this journey, whether a newly minted graduate or a longtime pilgrim, we expand our horizons, develop wisdom, and witness the pathways emerging that deepen our relationship with God and expand our positive impact upon other people.

But why should this matter today in a world torn by war, financial uncertainty, and social unrest? Social surveys show that the default reaction to government, media, and other institutions (including the church) is distrust. Yet that same distrust is transformed into confidence when

people interact personally with leaders in their personal sphere of work, community, and faith. If we choose to fulfill our calling from God, each of us becomes uniquely equipped to bridge those chasms of distrust and be instruments of God’s grace and love in this distrustful world.

We are at a generational moment where our field of work—our presence in this society and this church—calls for each of us to be beacons of God’s redeeming grace. These are the times that call women and men who are ready to engage with the big problems. God is calling for spiritual pioneers who are brave enough to enter the public square of service—individuals just audacious enough to reject the default cultural norm of personal security and wealth creation and seek service and sacrifice in the name of Jesus Christ.

Man’s Search for Meaning is Viktor Frankl’s profound narrative of his personal journey to purpose as a Holocaust survivor. After enduring the unimaginable horrors of the concentration camp, he profoundly asserts, “The meaning of your life is to help others find the meaning of theirs.”²

A friend recently shared with me the book *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change*. The author, Tod Bolsinger, recounts his visit to Prague: “There in the middle of the square were two artisans who were drawing a sizable crowd to watch them ply their craft. They took pieces of scrap iron, discards, and by first heating them until they were soft and pliable, and then held securely on the anvil, they were pummeled and pounded into a new shape. The process repeated: fire, steel, sweat; heating, holding, forming; placed, pounded, and finally, plunged into water. I watched those artisans—so physical, so purposeful, so violent with hammer and inferno, so precise and exacting. They seemed a living icon of God. For we are the raw material, scraps of hardened, resisting steel. And they, the craftsmen, are so like God in precision and purpose, using the heat of challenges, the anvil

On this journey, whether a newly minted graduate or a longtime pilgrim, we expand our horizons, develop wisdom, and witness the pathways emerging that deepen our relationship with God and expand our positive impact upon other people.



of community, and the hammer of practices to transform us from raw material into something useful and beautiful.”³

If we are willing, this is our time. Fashioned for this very moment in earth’s history to be shaped for God’s unique purpose in the days ahead. It is our Lord who brings the question before each of us: Will you heed the call and embrace the pilgrimage?

This promise in Ephesians 2:10 is for each of us on the journey today: “For we are God’s

masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

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

1. All Scripture quotations are from the New Living Translation.
2. Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2006). Kindle edition, location nos. 1613-1615.
3. Tod Bolsinger, *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020), pp. 1-2.



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The Power of Preserving Prayer and in



Unceasing, in Hearts Churches

By Karen Martell

My God-story is my life story. My life today is the direct result of prayers for me by people who loved me. God heard and answered them. Prayer has always been the most important part of my journey. That is why I am so passionate about dedicating my life to prayer ministry. As Prayer Ministries coordinator for the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) and Pacific Union, my greatest joy is watching God work in the lives of the people for whom I and other prayer warriors pray.

My personal journey to Christ is the direct result of my grandmother's, mother's, and aunt's faithful prayers. Even though I grew up in the church, I was involved in high school and activities. I had no plans to become an Adventist. I did not give my life to Christ until I attended Pacific Union College for nursing school. It was in this positive spiritual environment that I found Jesus.

During that time my then-boyfriend—now my husband—Lynn was attending Sacramento State College on a boxing scholarship. When I made my decision to follow Jesus, he started to study the Bible. The prayers that shaped my decision also shaped his, and we were baptized together in the Sacramento Central church.

Together, we made the decision not only to give our lives to Christ but to also serve Him in ministry. Lynn transferred to Pacific Union College to study theology. We have



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/WUJINGQIA

served the Lord together ever since, I as a pastor's wife with my husband in evangelism and church administration across the North American Division. We are currently pastoring the Los Alamitos church in the Southeastern California Conference.

I became formally involved in prayer ministry when my husband was president of the Hawaii Conference and prayer ministry was recognized by the union as an official ministry. When we moved back to the mainland, I was asked to be the prayer leader for SECC, and then for the Pacific Union. I have been privileged to watch God grow this ministry into a worldwide ministry over the years. What was a small beginning has become a worldwide movement.

Why is prayer so powerful? To answer that question, I can only share what God has done in my life and what I have seen Him do in other's lives.

I am privileged to watch Him heal the sick, clean

up messy and impossible situations, transform broken lives, and create ministries for those who want to serve. I am privileged to pray with parents whose children do not know God or who are prodigals. There are so many stories I can share of witnessing the power of prayer. I think of the teenage couple whose lives were in turmoil—homeless, unmarried and pregnant, on drugs, no jobs or high school education. Over the period of a few months, we watched God work in their lives. Family relationships were healed, they got off drugs, got jobs and high school diplomas, studied the Bible, and finally accepted Jesus as their Savior. This precious couple was transformed from extreme brokenness to wholeness.

Ministering to people through prayer is one of the biggest blessings of my life. I get to sit on the front row and watch God at work in a personal way in the lives of so many people and in churches.

It is important to be persevering in prayer, pushing through until the answer comes. Sometimes this takes years. I have prayed for years with parents who wanted more than anything for their son to know the Lord. Even when it seemed as though the Lord was not answering, we prayed anyway. Just recently, that son gave his life to Christ and made the decision to serve Him in ministry.

While we wait for the answer, it is important to remember Jesus wants our children even more than we do. Ordinary prayers reap extraordinary answers, but perseverance is the key. It is important to continue to pray for the burdens that God lays on our hearts—especially when the answer does not come immediately.

Passionate and persevering prayer is just as necessary and equally transformative for our churches. The Pacific Union prayer team meets faithfully every Tuesday morning to pray for our union, its leadership, and the challenges they face. Each conference in the union also prays for its leaders and constituency on a regular basis.

My vision is to see prayer ministry as the very foundation of every ministry in the church. My dream is for every church to be a prayer-saturated church—a church where every member is a praying member, making it a true house of prayer. When God gives His people a great task, He expects His people to pray with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. We cannot do the work ourselves. According to Zechariah 4:6, it is His Spirit, not our own might or power, that will accomplish all that needs to be done.

Churches that have become true houses of prayer will display unity and increased fruit in their ministry. They will pray for revival and experience the tangible presence of God in their congregations. I dream that our constituents will develop a lifestyle of prayer and a relationship with Jesus that will change our church and our world so Jesus can come.

We cannot work with God to build His kingdom

without His leadership for leaders, our churches, and constituency. If we call on the Lord, He has promised to answer, to save the lost, to pour out His spirit among us, and to be attentive to our prayers. If we do not call, He has promised nothing. The power of His grace and Spirit for His work are only unleashed through a relationship with Him through prayer.

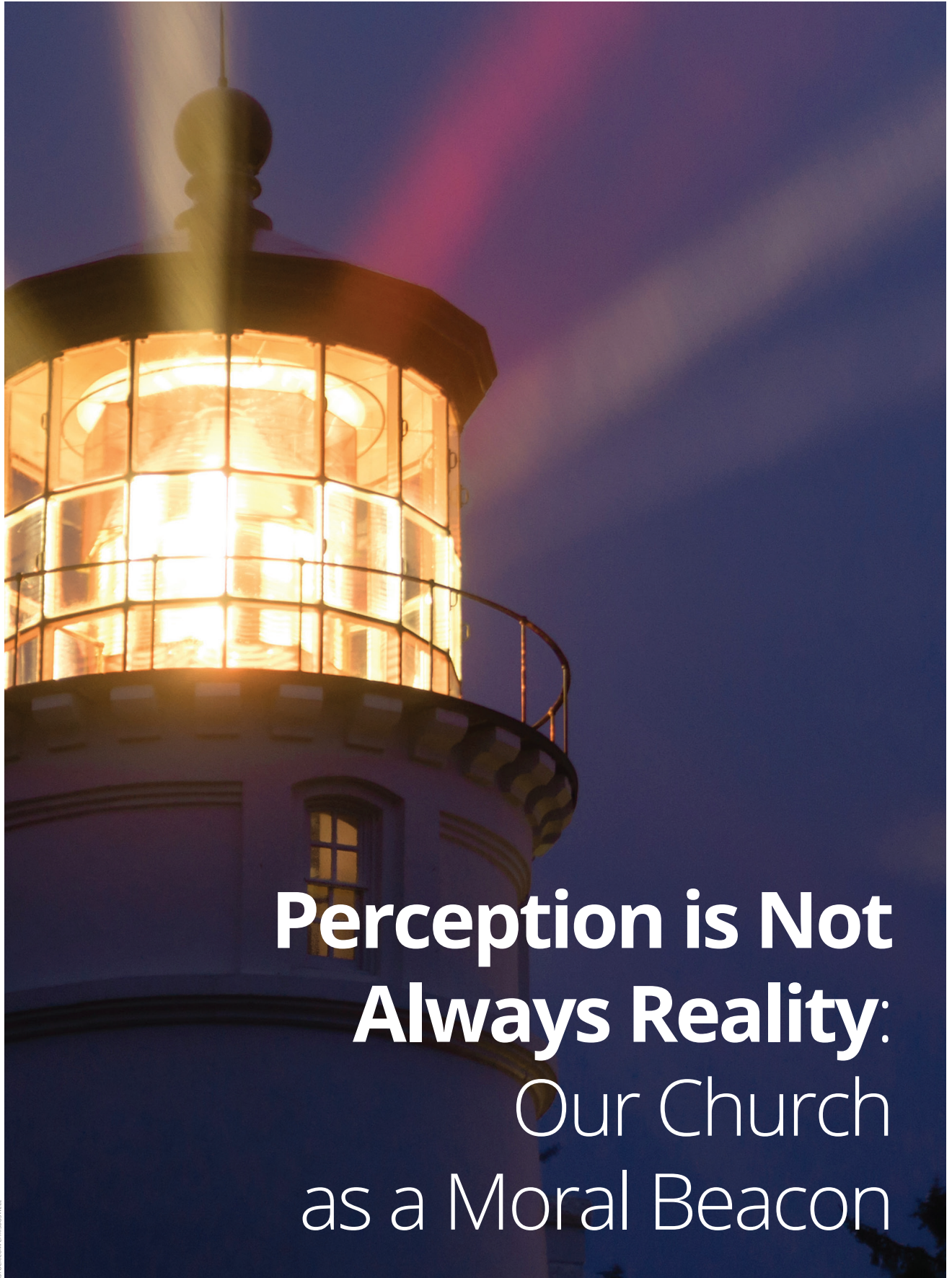
As Prayer Ministries coordinator, I help equip and train local church prayer leaders and congregations to develop a culture of prayer. Prayer Ministries also organizes and leads out in providing prayer support for evangelism, church ministries, leadership, and events. We also organize special events like prayer-focused retreats, breakfasts, and conferences. I also work with the North American Division Prayer Ministries team to develop materials for prayer ministry. I am happy to work with your church and prayer teams to develop prayer strategies that will work for your church. One of the upcoming events in the Pacific Union Conference is the Prayer Conference in Hawaii from August 5 to 7. It is open to everyone.

I believe that God is calling each of us to a deeper relationship with Him and an extraordinary prayer life. Nothing is too hard for Him. He calls us all to be intercessors. Will you be His prayer partner? He is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God! Don't ever give up on praying, no matter how impossible your situation seems.

My life took a radical turn the night I prayed the words, "God help me to know you deeply, hear your voice, see what you see, and love with your heart. Make me willing to be willing. Give me faith and trust." I know He will do the same for you and for your church, through prayer.

For more information on Prayer Ministries, email Karen Martell at karenmartelline@aol.com.

Karen Martell is the prayer ministries coordinator for the Pacific Union Conference.



**Perception is Not
Always Reality:**
Our Church
as a Moral Beacon

STOCK.COM/CHRISBOWELL

By Leon Brown

Under the direction of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, the church undertook a groundbreaking study to determine the extent of the denomination's involvement in local communities.¹ The goal was to discover what effect conservatism, pastoral tenure, and a clear mix of evangelism combined with social action had on Adventism and its outreach.²

On a weekend in April 2001, more than 300,000 worshipers from 50 denominations and religions completed a four-page questionnaire. The respondents included 5,596 members at 94 randomly selected Seventh-day Adventist churches.

This was a pioneering endeavor to gather facts about the religious life and activity of the church in North America. It was also an opportunity to peer into the window of Adventist life in particular and harvest facts that may or may not have been readily available beforehand. The sole purpose of the study was to develop a strategy for future assessment, evaluation, planning, and decision-making.

Individual churches and survey respondents provided vital responses to the survey questionnaire and, in so doing, opened the door for a clearer understanding of the Adventist Church's involvement in community service and social justice.

The study revealed the following facts, presented here as raw data.

1. Nine out of 10 local churches give modest amounts of cash assistance to families and individuals in crisis.

2. About 1 in 10 Adventist churches, and twice that number of other faith groups, channel the

cash assistance they give through a collaborative program with other congregations or faith-based community organizations.

3. Three out of 4 local churches conduct or co-sponsor an emergency food pantry or soup kitchen. Congregations of other faiths are even more likely to do so.

4. Adventist churches are more likely than congregations of other faiths to sponsor three kinds of community service. A clothing program—such as a Dorcas Society or thrift store—is the most common.

5. The majority of Adventist churches sponsor a Community Service Center or Dorcas Society that provides donated clothing to needy individuals and families.

6. One in 6 co-sponsors a Community Service Center with other nearby Adventist churches.

7. Overall, 1 in 4 religious congregations sponsor a clothing program, sometimes called a Community Clothes Closet.

8. The majority of Adventist churches also conduct or co-sponsor health programs for the community, including health education and health screening events as well as medical and dental clinics.

9. Nearly 2 in 5 local Adventist churches participate in prison or jail ministries, significantly more than other faith groups.

10. Adventist churches are below the overall norm among religious congregations across America in all other types of community services.

11. One in 5 local Adventist churches provide counseling services or a telephone “hotline” for families and individuals.

Church leadership, on every level, needs to be reminded that God has given the universal church—and that certainly includes the Seventh-day Adventist Church—a vitally important message on how to make this world a better place in which to live.

12. One in 6 local churches (17%) provide substance abuse programs for their own members and/or the community.

13. One in 6 local churches (16%) sponsor or help with a homeless shelter or other housing project, such as elderly or affordable housing.

14. One in 6 local churches provide childcare services, including day care, preschool, and after-school programs.

15. Overall, 1 in 4 religious congregations provide childcare, a very important service that government officials recognize as an essential contribution to the needs of the nation.

16. One in 10 local churches conduct or sponsor a tutoring or literacy program for children and/or teens among its own member families or in the community. Other faiths are more than twice as likely to do so.

17. One in 10 local churches conduct voter registration and/or voter education for its own members or the community.

18. Nine percent of local churches provide services to immigrant or migrant workers.

19. Nine percent of local churches provide employment counseling, placement, and/or training programs that they sponsor or co-sponsor.

20. Seven percent of Adventist churches conduct or participate in community organizing and social programs.

21. Adventist churches are reaching fewer people than is the norm for all faiths. Two-thirds of local churches report that they touch the lives of 50 people each month.

22. Adventists are less likely than the average American churchgoer to get involved in community service organizations not connected to the church.¹

The facts summarized in this survey reveal several areas in which the Adventist Church can take pride. Among these are the areas of health and wellness outreach and the existence of Community Service Centers or Dorcas Society programs. It is also surprising and heartwarming to see a strong Adventist emphasis and presence in prison ministry.

Community Service Center programs were formerly called “The Dorcas Society” in Adventist churches and were so named because the work they did found its biblical and historical roots in a New Testament personality called Tabitha (translated Dorcas), whose story can be found in Acts 9:36-43.

Dorcas was noted to have performed acts of good works for the infant Christian community. “This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did” (Acts 9:36, NKJV).

The author of the survey report, Monte Sahlin, summarized the findings of this survey by highlighting the fact that the study reveals an area of concern for the local church as it battles to bring to bear every ounce of support the church can muster to reach the “least of these.” He writes: “Most members say that their participation in the activities of their local church is about the same as it was two years ago. Only 30% report that their involvement has increased.... Much more effort must be focused on involving teens and

young adults in the mission and life of the church and increasing the impact of the church in the community.”

Sahlin also notes that the current issue facing the Adventist Church regarding its social justice involvement is much more complicated than it appears to be on the surface. The survey results, in some ways, are a wakeup call to Adventists as they begin to take a serious look at their reflection in the proverbial mirror.

Sahlin adds the following commentary in order to give a clear understanding of the full picture of Seventh-day Adventist social justice involvement: “There is an interesting set of contrasts in the self-image of most Adventist congregations today.... The majority of local churches see themselves as a moral beacon in the community, but only one in five is working for social justice.”

In my opinion, there’s absolutely no question on this point. There’s a very clear congruence between what one says and what one does. Actions do speak louder than words. Nowhere is that truer than in the above indictment of the Adventist Church’s moral compass when it comes to social justice.

“Perception is not always reality” is a catchphrase bantered about within modern media. Yet, it is eerily clear here that just because people perceive themselves to be a “moral beacon” does not mean that that’s always the case.

Some Seventh-day Adventists believe that they can claim to live on a moral high ground because of their *theological* views. Understanding that we are saved by Christ’s righteousness alone and believing in the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Sabbath, the state of the dead, the sanctuary, and health reform is very admirable. Returning a faithful tithe and offering is also noteworthy. Yet, the Bible, Ellen G. White, contemporary and historical Adventist theological scholars, as well as preachers and teachers, all remind us that the counsel of James 2:20 is still true: “Faith without works is dead.”

Where the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been

historically on the issue of social justice gives us no clear indication of where it will be or where it’s headed as it navigates the path to the future. One thing is painfully clear. There are many more needs to be met in order to magnify the issues in the hearts and minds of Adventist Christians today. The struggles concerning these issues are immense and, one would contend, even vital or essential to the promise of receiving eternal salvation.

Church leadership, on every level, needs to be reminded that God has given the universal church—and that certainly includes the Seventh-day Adventist Church—a vitally important message on how to make this world a better place in which to live. As long as we’re here on earth, the Bible states that God’s Church, including Adventists, must become intentional about ministering to the poor. Why? Jesus said it best in Mark 14:7 as He responded to Mary’s discouragement after she anointed His feet with the oil from her alabaster box: “For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always” (NKJV).

Knowing, understanding, and practicing this “good” toward the poor “whenever we wish” is a reminder to us that God has made us caretakers of the earth and everything in it. That includes all land and sea creatures, plants and animals, and human beings that find themselves in the unfortunate condition of being vulnerable, endangered, or poor. Many people are in that condition through no fault of their own. They were simply born into such an environment. Sin has produced this ongoing tragedy.

God, who has blessed us with so much, expects His children to understand this and to make every effort to stem the tide of poverty, hopelessness, and despair. If nothing else, it’s our human duty.

Leon B. Brown Sr. is executive vice president of the Pacific Union Conference.

¹Monte Sahlin, *Adventist Congregations Today: New Evidence for Equipping Healthy Churches* (Lincoln, NE: Center for Creative Ministry and North American Division, 2003).

²This article is excerpted from a chapter in the upcoming book *Ministry to the “Least of These,”* to be released by Oak & Acorn Publishing.



GC Session Wrap Up

By Cynthia Mendoza

After a two-year postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seventh-day Adventist Church held the 61st General Conference Session from Monday, June 6, through Saturday, June 11, 2022, in St. Louis, Missouri. General Conference sessions are scheduled every five years. The 61st Session had originally been scheduled for June 2020 in Indianapolis.

Given the fundamental paradigm shifts that have taken place in business, travel, and communication because of the pandemic, the 61st GC Session was shorter, only one week as opposed to nearly two weeks as in previous times, and it was conducted in hybrid fashion—meaning both on-site and via electronic communication. Delegates who were unable to travel to St. Louis participated via Zoom internet video calls.

The following is a very brief wrap-up of a few of the items discussed and voted on. Links are provided on p. 22 for the full agenda, viewing the session, and other material.

The primary item was the election of officers.

The following are the newly elected officers:

President, Ted N.C. Wilson; General Vice Presidents, Guillermo E. Biaggi, Abner De Los Santos, Artur Stele, Audrey Andersson, Geoffrey Mbwana, Thomas Lemon, Maurice Valentine; Secretary, Erton Köhler; Undersecretary, Moise J.F. Hensley Mooroooven; Associate Secretaries, Gerson Santos, Claude Richli, Saw Samuel; Associate Secretary, Adventist Mission, Gary Krause; Associate Secretary, Adventist Volunteer Service, Elbert Kuhn; Associate Secretary, IPRS, Karen Porter; Treasurer, Paul Douglas; Undertreasurer, J. Raymond Wahlen II; Associate Treasurer, George Egwakhe; Associate Treasurer, Daisy Orion; Associate Treasurer, Josue Pierre; Associate Treasurer, Investments, Timothy Hiroki Aka; Associate Treasurer, IPRS, German Lust; Associate Treasurer, Technology, Richard Stephenson.

Shortly after the officers were elected, GC Communications Director Williams Costa asked Elder Wilson, president, what he would do differently.

“Just to reaffirm that our true mission is to prepare people for the soon coming of Jesus and every way we can do that is how we want to accomplish the task, all being led by the Holy Spirit,” Wilson said.

The following is a brief recap of a few of the items discussed and/or voted on, and other general highlights.

On Monday, June 6, the first day of the session, the business meeting opened with Executive Secretary Erton Köhler, who reported that there were 1,876 registered delegates on site.

Discussion on various agenda items

Agenda item 406

RATIONALE: This amendment allows for consistency of wording between the sections on elders and deacons/ deaconesses and addresses some confusion in areas where women are ordained as elders.

RECOMMENDED, To amend the Church Manual, Chapter 8, Local Church Officers and Organizations, page 73, Ordination of Elders, to read as follows:

Ordination of Elders—Election to the office of elder

does not in itself qualify one as an elder. Ordination is required before an elder has authority to function. When a church in a business meeting votes the election of new elders, it also authorizes their ordination. Between election and ordination, the elected elder may function as church leader but not administer the ordinances of the church.

The underlined portion indicates the recommended change. The full text may be found on the agenda.

During discussion of this item, several delegates, including two from conferences within the Pacific Union territory, expressed their thoughts about it. The following are their statements, edited only for clarity.

“I would like to speak against sending this back because the reason stated for sending it back held with it very particular theological beliefs that I don't believe we as a church have voted that we all agree on,” said Sandra Colon, from the Central



California Conference. "Therefore...if we are saying we are going to consider that belief, then we are condemning the freedom of conscience for many other believers within the church that do not believe that particular point of view. We know that we did in this session, it was voted not to ordain women in ministry. I myself have been commissioned to be a pastor, which is in accordance with what we believe, but before that vote was taken it was already agreed that areas could decide on whether ordaining their women in positions of church leadership or not, depending upon their conscience. Given that *The Great Controversy* has a whole chapter on the freedom of conscience, it's very important that we as a people do not force conscience on other members of our denomination, so we need to think carefully about our decisions regarding sending this back and what message that sends. Thank you."

"The original motion is clear and I'm against referring it back. I see no problem with its wording. This is about facilitating mission, right? If this is really about facilitating mission, we should allow local churches to recognize who the Holy Spirit chooses," said Mario Alvarado from the Nevada-Utah Conference. "It doesn't sound like an imposition, rather a flexibility to let the Spirit lead where it is needed within its context. I can't know exactly how the Spirit is working in other places, and stopping that means we are going against the work of the Spirit since we put limitations on allowing Him to choose who He wants and allow each local church to acknowledge the elders that are to serve the mission of the church. Talking about it later, tabling what the Spirit can and cannot do right now should not be left to later. The Spirit has been patient enough. The wording is good and only a miniature step forward to allowing the Spirit to work out His mission. Let the local church acknowledge who the Holy Spirit chooses as an elder."

The recommendation to amend the church manual chapter 8, page 73, that requires the ordination of elders passed by a vote of 75.7% (1,088 votes).

During a different portion of the meeting, a

motion was made by GC delegate Jonathan Zirkle to amend the agenda to include discussion on the church's current position on vaccines.

"I would like to propose that we discuss the position that the church has taken on the vaccines, specifically related to the statements of 2015 and 2021," Zirkle said.

Zirkle referred to the current statement as "very detrimental" to religious liberty. He said he had a document signed by 25,000 Adventists in 138 countries, including 1,929 pastors and 4,164 medical professionals, asking that the General Conference reconsider their stance on vaccination.

"Many people have lost their jobs, their livelihood, their homes, people, custody battles, and a lot of it is due to the fact that they're not able to assert their sincerely held religious health beliefs because of the position in the church," Zirkle said. "I don't know what the right solution is, but I trust that this body can come to that solution, and I think it's very important that we have a discussion of this."

Artur Stele, GC General Vice President, told Zirkle that GC session deals with items related to the constitution and bylaws, the church manual, or fundamental beliefs.

"The issue of vaccination is a divisive issue, and the document that was proposed by admin committee has given full right to everyone to follow their own conscience," Stele said. "We plead with you because we have a shortened session that we not load our agenda with items that don't belong there. But we really appreciate your concern."

After some technical difficulties that delayed connecting to the session, a delegate from Canada seconded Zirkle's motion via Zoom. A delegate from Tobago also expressed support for the motion.

As part of a lengthier statement, Elder Ted Wilson stated that the General Conference has stood on the position that everyone should make their own decision regarding vaccination, that the item is an administrative one, and he strongly encouraged delegates to vote against putting the issue on the agenda for the reasons already stated by Stele.

The motion to add an item regarding the

statement on vaccination to the session agenda did not pass by a vote of 88.6% (1,579).

Another item from Monday's business meeting was about unauthorized speakers in local churches.

Agenda item 401 UNAUTHORIZED SPEAKERS - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RATIONALE: This item clarifies who may be invited to speak in the church and addresses confusion caused by the implication that a layperson could not preach because they do not hold credentials.

RECOMMENDED, To amend the Church Manual, Chapter 10, Services and Other Meetings, pages 120-121, Unauthorized Speakers, to read as follows:

Authorized Speakers—Only speakers worthy of confidence will be invited to the pulpit by the local church pastor, in harmony with guidelines given by the conference. 24 The local elders or church board may also invite speakers, in consultation with the pastor, and in harmony with conference guidelines. Individuals who are no longer members, or who are under discipline, should not be given access to the pulpit. At times it is acceptable for government officials*

or civic leaders to address a congregation, but all others should be excluded from the pulpit unless permission is granted by the conference. Every pastor, elder, and conference president must enforce this rule. (See pp. 34, 32, 118, 119.)

The following are comments made by a few of the delegates on this matter.

"I am slightly concerned about this," said Christopher Holland, GC delegate. "Pastors are hired with confidence to decide who is speaking from their pulpit, and the phrase 'authorized by the conference,' while I certainly understand the concern that may exist over some speakers, it seems to withdraw confidence, or at the very least display distrust in the pastor or the local church. I would urge this to be reconsidered by the committee."

"My concern with this is that while it requires church boards to work with their pastor in terms of who preaches in the church, it does not require the pastor to work with the church board," said Tim Standish, GC delegate. "It makes him only



accountable apparently to the conference, but there must be some accountability of pastors to the local congregation that they serve.”

“My question is in the use of the word *consultation*,” said Mandla Se-Bantwini Lupondwana, delegate from the Southern Africa Union Conference in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. “My question to the committee would be in the phrasing of the paragraph. Were we looking for mere consultation or were we hoping that it would lead to consent?”

Delegate Chalmer Gevieso from the South Philippine Union Conference in the Southern Asia Pacific Division expressed his view that the list of unauthorized speakers should also include pastors or individuals who are antagonistic toward and not loyal to the church.

Motion to amend Church Manual, Chapter 10, Unauthorized Speakers, Agenda item 401, approved by a vote of 90%.7 (1336 votes).

An item that drew close to 20 delegates to the microphone to express their views was item 408.

PASTOR AND OTHER CHURCH EMPLOYEES - CHURCH MANUAL AMENDMENT

RATIONALE: This amendment expresses how important it is for pastors to focus on training the local church leadership in the mission and work of

the church. It also explains the role of conference leadership and explains who may be invited to speak at the local church.

RECOMMENDED, To amend the Church Manual, Chapter 4, Pastor and Other Church Employees, pages 31-35

The entire proposed text may be found on the agenda.

The comments expressed by the delegates were varied, from commenting to the item itself to wording and other issues.

“I very much appreciate the focus on the rationale that pastors are there to train leaders and to equip leaders; I think this is a very important issue,” said Stefan Giuliani, Inter-European Division. “However, I want to point out that by amending the church manual, all we do is change the text, but we’re not changing church culture. So my question would be, what measures are you proposing or will you be taking up in the future in order to change the culture and the role of the pastors, because just changing the text of the church manual won’t accomplish what we’re hoping for.”

“Excellent observation,” responded Gerson Santos, associate secretary. “If you want to see some change, you need to start somewhere, and several people, administrators, pastors, ministerial association working together came up with these recommendations.”

Santos said there would be follow-up with strengthening orientation, equipping pastors through the ministerial association, and influencing the institutions that offer theology majors in the areas of equipping church planting so that new pastors get training for the future.

“It’s nothing new,” Santos added. “We’re just trying to revitalize the principles and the values we had as a





church in the beginning.”

“I call into question the rationale on the role of the conference president specifically, which is referred to as ‘he,’ which is out of context and not in alignment with the rest of the currently designated leadership mentioned in this recommendation—except for Jesus Christ who is the true and only head of the church and not men as stated in Ephesians 4:11 through 13,” said Flaviano Dalisay from the Southeastern California Conference. “When the word of God explains that God gave some apostles it does not say ‘men apostles,’ when it says [some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, some teachers, it does not say men only] for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ, who is the only man in this picture. We are all called to the royal priesthood, not just men.”

“I have to ask myself if God could call a woman to be a president of a university, why can't God call a woman to be the president of a conference,” said delegate Anthony Bosman, citing the example of Dr. Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University,

where he serves as a professor. “I've seen firsthand how under the leadership of Dr. Luxton she's led us capably with excellence and faithfulness, and now we are emerging stronger than before the pandemic. This morning we recognized the leadership of Dr. [Ella] Simmons. We applauded her because we recognize that God had worked through her and put her in that position for such a time as this. I want to speak in favor of using gender neutral language in the description of a conference president so we do not restrain the Spirit in whom He might call.”

Treasurer's report

“In 1863, when the General Conference was organized, the records tell us there were 125 churches reporting a total tithe of \$8,000,” reads the report prepared by Paul Douglas, treasurer. “Nearly 160 years later, with more than 90,000 churches, the data show approximately \$2.7 billion in tithe, \$1 billion in local church offerings, and \$81 million in world mission offerings. This is God's money to be used for the mission He has entrusted to us. Ellen



GC Session Portal: <https://gcsession.org>

Agenda: <https://gcsession.org/files/business/session-agenda.pdf>

Elected officers and staff:
https://www.gcsession.org/voted_positions/

Treasurer's Report:
<https://www.gcsession.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Treasurers-Report.pdf>

**You may view the entire session on
 YouTube at:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/AdventistOrgChurch>

White penned these words that ‘Every dollar of our means should be considered as the Lord’s, not ours and as a precious trust from God to us; not to be wasted for needless indulgences, but carefully used in the cause of God, in the work of saving men and women from ruin.’”

Douglas clarified that the Treasurer's Report includes only those funds relevant to the General Conference and excludes the funds of other entities that have no bearing on General Conference funds. He also addressed the impact of world currency changes and laws of certain territories to prevent the use of currency as the church has historically used them. A task force is already in place to study the issue further.

He assured the delegation that he will work with division treasurers to ensure every division is able to best implement the suggested working capital in each respective territory, taking into consideration those with unstable currency. He also recommended that [local] churches prepare for economic downturns. A link to the full and detailed report can be found to the left.

During his sermon on Sabbath, June 11, Elder Ted Wilson preached the third angel's message, ending with words of hope and encouragement.

“These messages not only have a strong warning, but they have great hope through the righteousness of Christ as revealed in the everlasting gospel, so don't get weary or discouraged. Don't give way to complaining and skepticism. Do not turn away from the Lord and the task He has entrusted to us,” Wilson said. “Look to Jesus Christ and live, as you respond to God's instructions for His last day people. We are on the edge of the promised land as we view the approach of Christ's soon second coming.... Jesus is the only one who can guide us safely to our heavenly home as we look to Him alone each and every day.”

The 62nd General Conference Session is scheduled for 2025 at the Dome in America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis once again.

Cynthia Mendoza is a freelance writer from Southern California.

Adventist Health Executives Lead With Heart for Mission

More than 120 Adventist Health executives gathered at Adventist Health headquarters in Roseville, California, on May 25 to immerse in conversation about the organizational mission: Living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope.

The theme of the event, "Jesus the Great Physician: Five Clinical Outcomes," focused on the healing work of Jesus as the foundation of the Adventist Health mission. Throughout the day, executives explored five outcomes of Jesus' work—people are healed, bodies are valued, souls are loved, community is restored, and hope is promised—as well as practical applications of these outcomes in the contemporary healthcare context.

The event was part of the Executive Mission Formation program at Adventist Health, which provides training to ground every executive in ownership of the organization's mission and to focus on mission as the foundation of decision-making. Throughout the day, executives participated in lively discussions on topics such as healthcare without bias, the hospital as sanctuary, the challenges of caring for physical bodies, and hope that is grounded in reality.

"Mission is not an excuse to just have good intentions and not be brilliant," said Alex Bryan, chief mission officer for Adventist Health. "The bedrock of our ministry here if we are to honor Jesus has to be competency—doing great work." Bryan spoke for the event on the subject of Jesus healing the sick and injured and, in that process, revealing that God is good.

Event speakers also included Lisa Clark Diller, professor of history at Southern Adventist University; Tim Gillespie, lead pastor, Crosswalk Redlands; Timothy Golden, professor of philosophy at Walla Walla University; and Karl Haffner, vice president for student experience at Loma Linda University.

During his opening comments at Operations Council meetings the following day, Todd Hofheins, chief operations officer for Adventist Health, said,



"Our Executive Mission Formation meetings yesterday have prepared us for today. We have several essential systemwide and market strategies to process. This will only be possible if we keep the honesty, authenticity, and courage from yesterday in our operations."

Joyce Newmyer, chief people officer and president of Adventist Health's Pacific Northwest Network, summarized the importance of mission-focused work: "What if we all began every day as brokers of hope? What if everyone in our workplace understood that? This would be game changing. We've only just touched the surface of how this approach can change healthcare."

By Kim Strobel



Ray Navarro Appointed Executive Secretary

Elder Ray Navarro has a passion for engaging people in a multi-sensory way. His interactive themes for the Junior department at camp meeting each year draw crowds. One year's beach theme featured several inches of sand spread across the floor, while another year showcased a large entrance to a Reformation castle. A desire to engage with others fits with his overall philosophy of "serving others with whatever abilities you have."



After nearly 16 years as senior pastor of the Tempe church, Navarro has been appointed to become executive secretary of the Arizona Conference. Starting his new position July 1, he stated that he is "excited about this new journey and learning other aspects of ministry."

Raised in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, he

struggled with the Lord during his teen years. "I stopped attending church, and it wasn't until my early 20s that I felt a strong pull from God to get closer to Him," he said. In April 1985, he decided to study for the ministry, and one of his greatest joys has been "witnessing the change that people experience when God uses me as His spokesperson to draw people to Jesus."

In reflecting on his own growth through the years, he noted, "The lessons I have learned are too numerous, but I have learned over time that God is much broader minded and bigger hearted than I understood in my early years. I have grown in my utter dependence on Him."

By Jeff Rogers

Van Bledsoe Appointed Ministerial Director

Elder Van Bledsoe has accepted the appointment to become ministerial director for the Arizona Conference. This is a "new" position, having been created when the Arizona Conference Executive Committee divided the responsibilities of the executive secretary and the ministerial director. For many years the two roles were encompassed in one position.



Bledsoe has spent the past 16 years as the senior pastor of the Apache Junction church and prior to that several years as associate pastor at the Glendale church in Glendale, Arizona. He not only has a long history of service in the Arizona Conference but spent much of his youth in the state as well while attending Thunderbird Adventist Academy. It was while a student at the academy that he felt the call to serve the Lord.

"It was during my Junior year at Thunderbird Adventist Academy," said Bledsoe. "I did not go to the extreme Jonah did in running from God's call, but I did wrestle with what God was calling me to do. I will say there

is great peace and joy when one finally accepts the plan God has for our lives."

As an advocate of Adventist education and evangelism, he sees a major role in the one-on-one ministry that happens in church. "Ministry is about service," Bledsoe said. "Service to God and service to man." His greatest joy is to see someone accept God's love, grace, and forgiveness while at the same time recognizing that "God can use a broken, dysfunctional sinner like me

to share His grace."

Reflecting on his journey in ministry, he said, "I think the most important thing I have learned is God uses ministry to save us as much as He uses ministry to save others."

Service is the foundation of his goals as ministerial director. "I want to serve the pastors and families in the conference and find ways to help each other grow professionally and grow together in a personal relationship with Jesus and their families," he said.

By Jeff Rogers

Native American Camp Meeting: Bridging the Gap

As with so many events over the past three years, the Arizona Conference Native American Camp Meeting has been on hiatus. The Native population took the opportunity May 20 to 22 to come together and fellowship on the campus of Holbrook Indian School.

"Most Native American Adventists worship in very small congregations, and some live where there is no Adventist church," said Pastor Dale Wolcott, who serves as both the Arizona Conference Native American Ministries director and pastor of the Chinle church. "General gatherings bring believers together and reinforce the reality that we are a part of a global family," he continued.

Weeks prior to the camp meeting, each of the Diné Adventist Radio contacts were mailed an invitation to attend camp meeting. In addition to the Adventist members from the Native churches, three radio listeners attended the meeting, including two who had never been around Adventists before. Another attendee had graduated from Holbrook Indian School in 1993 but had never been connected to the church and returned to the campus for the first time since leaving. Over 120 people participated in the camp meeting program on Sabbath. Sunday morning many of the attendees woke up early to run in the fun run course laid out by Pastor Jonathan Chitwood.

The Native American Ministries team is comprised of three pastoral teams: Dale and Nancy Wolcott in Chinle, Arizona; James and Nancy Crosby in Page, Arizona; and Jonathan and Katie Chitwood in Window Rock, Arizona. Along with the administration and staff at Holbrook Indian School, these teams work in a region that resembles more of a mission field than a traditional church district. The Navajo Reservation is a large geographic area, and it is so rural that the pastoral teams are very isolated.

One of the spiritual challenges of the work in the Native community is bridging the gap between Christianity and

Native culture. Hermus Poor Thunder, who taught the Sabbath School lesson at camp meeting, shared his insight on this issue. "There is a point of disconnect between our culture and Christianity," he said. "I thought, 'There has to be something in between.'" Poor Thunder, who is Lakota from South Dakota, attended Holbrook Indian School and now works on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

"I am Lako...which means 'of the way,' and didn't Jesus say, 'I am the Way?'" he reflected. "I found that our culture and the Bible can intersect." Referring to the legends of Star Boy and the Thunderbirds and the visions of tribal leaders that mirror aspects of the great controversy, Poor Thunder sees a way to connect Native peoples with Jesus.

Part of the celebration of the weekend took place when the \$20,000 matching campaign was met for the Diné Adventist Radio station. A donor's challenge was met by the end of the weekend, and \$20,000 was raised that will go toward building and maintaining the radio station. Pastor Chitwood illustrated the impact radio can have as he told the congregation about driving far out into the reservation to visit a home with no electricity or running water. "As I got out of the car, I heard the unmistakable sounds of a radio playing from inside the house," he said.

Sabbath afternoon featured a time of personal testimony. Throughout the weekend, individuals expressed a feeling of loss. They live in a community that faces ongoing issues with alcohol and drugs, serious health issues associated with substance abuse, and the loss of life experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Native American camp meeting was more than just a get-together of fellow believers. It was a time to weep, rejoice, and strengthen belief and faith.

"I was delighted to see the way people interacted, especially after the isolation of COVID," reflected Pastor Wolcott. "God is so good."

By Jeff Rogers



LEFT: Larry Haycock celebrates crossing the finish line at the Sunday morning fun run. MIDDLE: Jonathan Chitwood talks with attendees at Sabbath morning breakfast. RIGHT: Hermus Poor Thunder teaches Sabbath School during camp meeting.



Puerto Rico Mission Trip Teaches Monterey Bay Academy Students to Give Back to Their Community



Monterey Bay Academy sent 21 students and five faculty and volunteers on a mission trip to Puerto Rico in February to share God and, as a result, learn more about God. The students and staff spent over a week cleaning up beaches, leading out in worship, and spending time with the people they had just met.

“The time that we visited Puerto Rico was just after their hurricane season. There was plenty of organic matter like seaweed, twigs, and leaves that washed up on the shores of the beaches. So, we did trash cleanup as well as organic matter cleanup,” explained Elizabeth Mendoza, Spanish and physical education teacher at Monterey Bay Academy, who organized the mission trip. “We also did some ministry work. We put on a Sabbath School and main service for the local church.”

The school volunteered alongside a mission group called Changing People’s Lives International Ministries. The group’s founder, Marcos Perez, grew up in Puerto Rico, and he is connected to the ministry there. Perez helped lead the mission trip, making it easier for the volunteers to connect with the local community and reach more people safely.

The volunteers spent most of their time cleaning up beaches near a town called Luquillo, which is on the northeast edge of Puerto Rico. There is an Adventist camp in the middle of the El Yunque National Rainforest near Luquillo, where they were able to stay during the trip.

Sofia, a senior at Monterey Bay Academy, explained a significant difference between California beaches and the beaches of other parts of the world. "I have grown up in the [California] area by the beach, and it's a very different kind of beach. We are lucky to have a big open space here that isn't too polluted."

She said she was surprised by the different kinds of trash they found as they cleaned the beach in Puerto Rico. There was the typical paper and plastic trash, but then there were objects we use in our everyday lives that we don't see as often on California beaches, such as tires, clothes, and toys.

This trip was a time for the students and staff of the academy to address a need for the people of Puerto Rico, but it was also a time to look inward and ask questions, such as how we can give and to whom. "I learned the importance of giving back and the importance of community," explained Mendoza. "I learned the importance of using the gospel to reach people and, to me, ultimately, the gospel is love. God is love. And we have a duty to spread love."

Mendoza believes the trip impacted the volunteers similarly. "I think they learned the importance of giving back and learning to be selfless—doing something and not expecting something in return."

She believes this impact has spilled over even to

the students who didn't go on the trip. Students have become more involved in their community, and their community is the school. Those who went on the trip have become stronger spiritual leaders in the school, and the students who didn't go have begun asking questions as a result. They are curious about the change that has happened on campus and how they can be part of the next mission trip.

The mission trip has increased excitement around the academy. MBA faculty have already started to plan another mission trip for the students. There is a potential trip back to Puerto Rico to work with the same ministry. "We developed good relationships with the camp where we stayed, and they felt like our kids did a fantastic job—and there is more work to do in the community," said Mendoza. They may do more beach cleanup in the same area as well as extend to other beaches on the island. They also hope to do more ministry work in local churches.

In the meantime, this trip has made many of the volunteers realize that ministry does not require going overseas once a year or becoming a full-time missionary. "You can give back to your local community," explained Mendoza. "And our kids learned ways they can give back to their local community, whether it's doing community service work at a local church, or participating in a vacation Bible school, or volunteering at a food bank—there is plenty of work that people can do."

By Brennan Hallock





Working with the Homeless Gives Armona Union Academy Students a New Perspective

Mission trips can take us to the farthest corners of the world. But sometimes, those farthest corners are in our very own state. Nine students from Armona Union Academy traveled to San Francisco to serve in the corner of Central's world so many try to ignore: the homeless community.

Armona Union Academy chaplain and religion teacher Kathleen Hernandez and a volunteer drove nine students and one volunteer into San Francisco's heart last March to volunteer with an organization called San Francisco City Impact (SFCI). This organization helps those who sleep on the streets or need assistance through food, housing, education, clothing, and numerous other methods.

"They have meals every day in their rescue mission where they have Bible studies, they give out groceries every morning—there are lines down the street waiting for groceries—they run a thrift store, they run an elementary school and an after-school program. It's grown into a huge ministry," explained Hernandez.

The SFCI organization is in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco, well-known for its poverty level, substance abuse, homelessness, and crime. This troubled section of the city caused San Francisco Mayor London Breed to announce an "emergency declaration" this last January to try to contain the drug overdoses in the area.

The students helped by sorting food donations,



unloading food trucks, and preparing grocery bags to hand out to residents. They also prepared boxes for the Adopt-A-Building program that delivers meals to Single Room Occupancy (SRO) residents, meeting the basic needs of over 11,000 low-income SRO residents each year. In addition, they sorted barrels of clothing and hung items on racks for SFICI's thrift store.

Some AUA students were especially excited to help with an after-school tutoring and childcare program called City Kids, which provides children a safe space to learn and play. KeAna Tabura, a sophomore on the trip, explained, "The kids of the after-school program were so much fun. I got a small glimpse inside the lives those children live due to the district they live in. It's not safe or nurturing for a child. However, with the after-school program provided by SFICI, the kids of the Tenderloin get their daily dose of love, care, and Jesus from the amazing staff members. What the City Kids program is doing for the Tenderloin district is truly beautiful."

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness estimates that California has approximately 161,000 homeless individuals on any given day.* This is nearly double the next closest state (New York, approximately 91,000). This overwhelming number has become an underserved culture so close to the homes that we pass by them nearly every day without noticing.

Instead of passing them by, the students spent time interacting directly with the homeless on the streets. The students walked up to them and offered them boxes of food and also offered to talk and pray with them. "The kids were really touched by this because I think most of them had always been taught to rush

by for personal safety reasons. On this trip they were able to see the homeless from a different perspective—as people that Jesus loves who have needs like we do," said Hernandez. "I was proud of the students, how they stepped out of their comfort zones and actually interacted with the Tenderloin residents," she continued.

"This mission trip changed me because it changed my perception of life," said Dovan Martella, another student on the trip. "Growing up in the city, I had my fair share of seeing homeless people. But I grew up ignoring them because it was the 'safer' option. Meeting the residents made me realize that homeless people are still people. They need to be treated the same as we would treat our friends and family."

Mission trips offer many benefits to those who participate in addition to those being served, and one of those is the ability to experience something outside your culture. Hernandez explained that one of the reasons she chose to take the students to San Francisco was that the homeless community in the city offers that experience right here in our state.

"I love traveling and learning languages and experiencing different cultures, and I really wanted to give the kids that opportunity without leaving the country," Hernandez said. "I asked myself, What could be something really different that they've never experienced?" She realized that the inner city provides that experience.

By Brennan Hallock

*<https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ca/>



Loving Hawaii

The young adults of the Kapolei Sāmoan church spent Global Youth Day 2022 loving the forgotten in Hawaii. Their outreach began at the shores of Waikiki, spanned the harbors of Kaka’ako, and stretched to the plains of Kapolei.

By Landen Muāsau



Alofa i Pagotā (Loving the Imprisoned)

“For the Lord hears the poor, and does not despise His prisoners” (Psalm 69:33, NKJV).

The day of service kicked off with handwritten letters to friends and family in prison. Writing letters is uncommon nowadays, which made this activity very personal and intimate. The love from heaven goes beyond steel bars and reaches even the dark places of prison.

Alofa i Tuaoi (Loving our Neighbors)

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39, NKJV).

The middle of the day was spent passing out 2,000 GLOW tracts in Waikiki and Kaka’ako, a place known for its high concentration of the homeless. It seemed that no one was interested in the tracts or in small conversation, and the young adults were hitting a stumbling block. They noticed many in Waikiki were too occupied and in a rush to enjoy their vacation in paradise.

The team reassessed and changed their approach, using their gifts to reach out. One member of the group is a teacher and knew how to engage with children; she began passing tracts to them, and they in turn gave it to their parents. Another member of the group used his gift of language to spark conversations; in one situation he spoke Arabic with two Muslims. When he gave



them the “Why Do I Go to Church on Saturday?” tract, they happily accepted. Others started getting creative, leaving tracts on restaurant tables, store registers, directory shelves, newspaper stands, and parked cars. What started as a disappointment finished in victory.



Alofa i Mātua (Loving our Elders)

“When I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me” (Psalm 71:18, NKJV).

The day concluded with a home visitation in Kapolei to an elderly member, Leleiga, who is no longer able to attend in-person services. Hymns in the Sāmoan language were sung, and prayers filled the home to close the Sabbath. Although Leleiga is hard of hearing, she praised God with her hands and spoke words of affirmation, gratitude, and blessing over the young adults.

After a full day of service, one lesson was learned: keep loving the forgotten, for it may provide the hope they need.



Puna Church Celebrates 30 Years

On Sabbath, February 26, the Puna church on the Big Island of Hawai'i celebrated 30 years of service to the Lord during an anniversary Sabbath. The church was formally organized and became a part of the Hawai'i Conference on February 22, 1992.

The church held a special prayer meeting on Tuesday night, February 22, 2022, to commemorate the day on which it joined the Hawai'i Conference family. That prayer meeting was filled with shared memories from across the years, and inspiring passages from the writings of Ellen White were read.

On Sabbath, February 26, Hawai'i Conference Executive Secretary Jay Warren visited the church to bring words of commemoration and encouragement. He urged the church to always remember their "Ebenezer"—the moments throughout their story when God has proven to be their stone of help. Conference President Ralph Watts III joined the celebrations via a special video message in which he reminded the congregation at Puna of how God added daily to the early Christian Church and continues to increase in Puna.

Another highlight in the service was the unveiling

of a custom painting of the Puna church by local Adventist artist Kehau Freitas. Back in 1992, Kehau painted a portrait of the church's original building—a humble house where the founding members of the church met to worship. It was beautiful to see the two paintings, 30 years apart, demonstrating God's progress in Puna's history.

The anniversary service also included exhortations from area friends of the Puna church, including the Kohala church, the Hilo church, and Mauna Loa School. All in attendance enjoyed a warm fellowship meal where a home-baked vegan vanilla cake commemorating the anniversary was served. The cake was baked by Michael Ingold, one of the youth from the Puna church.

Church Pastor Andre Weston expressed appreciation for the unity displayed in the anniversary service. "Thirty years is a time to remember that God calls us together, has held us together, and continues to hold us together. Our unity is a powerful witness to an unbelieving world."

The church plans to hold other events in the year to celebrate its anniversary.

By Andre Weston

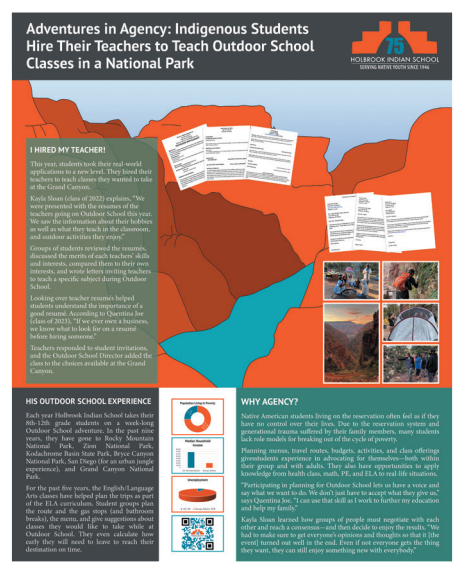




New Horizons: HIS Students Travel to Atlanta to Present on Outdoor School Experience

Thanks to the faithful support of friends of Holbrook Indian School (HIS), two Navajo students had the opportunity to attend the International Inside Out conference for the Children & Nature Network in Atlanta, Georgia. The trip allowed Quentina, an HIS junior, and Kayla, a senior, to present a poster about their involvement in planning Holbrook Indian School's annual Outdoor School adventures. The trip to Georgia provided many firsts for Natives Kayla and Quentina: first time at a professional conference; first time on an airplane for one of them; first time presenting to adult professionals; and the first time navigating a big city using public transportation.

Kayla and Quentina created a poster and displayed it at the conference with the facilitation of English teacher and Outdoor School coordinator Anita Ojeda. In one afternoon, the students answered questions for three hours about Holbrook Indian School and the real-life skills they've learned by actively participating in planning Outdoor School, a yearly





seven-day school trip to a National Park held by HIS at the beginning of the school year.

Kayla and Quentina wore their traditional Navajo regalia when presenting. This opened the door for conference attendees to ask them about their culture and experiences growing up indigenous. When Kayla told an attendee about Holbrook's gardening program, she learned about networking and building community with other groups who experience similar barriers to enjoying outside activities.



Students chose and attended different conference sessions, where they learned about fun outdoor activities for young children, the importance of advocating for change, the impact of spending time in nature on healing trauma and improving mental health, and the importance of decolonizing history.

The Children & Nature Network, founded by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, seeks to help educators, government entities, city planners, mental health professionals, and parks and recreation departments work together to ensure every child has an opportunity to spend time in nature.

When the conference ended, the HIS group visited the Georgia Aquarium to learn more about animals and ecosystems they don't see in Arizona.

These student experiences could not happen without the faithful contribution of HIS supporters. Thank you for continuing to make Holbrook Indian School a place of opportunities for Native youth.

By Anita Ojeda



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

Thank you for your support.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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HolbrookIndianSchool.org

To read more,
go to lasierra.edu/news

PHOTO: NATAN VIGNA



Bradford C. Newton, left, president of the Pacific Union Conference, congratulates Dr. Joy Fehr following her official installation as president of La Sierra University. Background, left to right, Riverside Ward 7 Councilmember Steve Hemenway; La Sierra University Provost April Summitt; Julian Melgosa, General Conference associate director of education; and Randal Wisbey, former president of La Sierra University.

University Holds Belated Inauguration, Draws Regional, Academic Leaders

After two earlier attempts were thwarted by the COVID-19 pandemic, La Sierra University held its inauguration on May 31 in celebration of its president, Dr. Joy Fehr.

On May 29, 2019, the La Sierra University Board of Trustees voted Fehr into the presidency as La Sierra's fourth president since the institution re-organized as a university in 1990. Fehr officially took the helm July 1 of that year and serves as La Sierra's first female president in its 100-year history.

A first inauguration scheduled for April 2020 was canceled as the pandemic advanced, and an attempted second ceremony planned for that November was also pulled back. The university returned to in-person classes in September 2021, and the inauguration was slated for May 2022.

The ceremony was held at the La Sierra University church and included regional civic, academic, and legislative leaders. Musical performances included a fanfare by the La Sierra University Wind Ensemble titled "Joy is a Bird." It was directed by music professor and composer Giovanni Santos, who wrote the work under a commission by the La Sierra University College of Arts & Sciences.

Cheryl Harris Kisunzu, provost of Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Maryland,

delivered the inaugural address. She said that she drew inspiration from an unexpected source: La Sierra's golden eagle mascot. "The female golden eagle is known for her ability to soar [like] the male, but she is known for agility, she is known for nesting abilities through which the offspring and the next generation is secured," Kisunzu said. "And I thought, that's our President Fehr. She is our inaugural presidential female golden eagle."

She noted the golden eagle's ability to rise on the currents, to take those entrusted to her to new heights. In that vein, Kisunzu played off the word *rise*—using it as an acronym for resilience, inclusion, service, and excellence—and incorporated examples of those traits from Fehr's presidency. She concluded with words of wisdom that might be imparted from noted biblical female figures.

Bradford Newton, president of the Pacific Union Conference and chair of La Sierra's Board of Trustees, conducted the presidential installation ceremony.

"Joy, your passion for excellence, your ability to see around the corners as we work on the strategic future of our university together, and your deep commitment to the enterprise of Seventh-day Adventist higher education instills confidence for the future," Newton said.

By Darla Martin Tucker



Loma Linda University Health Supports Weekly Produce Distribution

Every Friday morning, hundreds of people converge at the SAC Norton parking lot in San Bernardino for a community produce distribution program, sponsored in part by Loma Linda University Health.

Launched in January, the event is held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and serves some 400 families each week. Additional food supports nearly 20 community partnership food suppliers. As much as 2.5 tons of food are distributed each week.

The program has three key sponsors. Helping Hand Pantry secures the equipment needed to move the produce each week, Inland Empire Health Plan provides staff and technical support through an online registration portal and secures the delivery of more than 20 pallets of fresh produce and fruit, and Loma Linda University provides student volunteers and staff to manage the program each week and promotes it among community partners.

Surplus produce comes from warehouses in Los Angeles and is delivered by semi-truck to the Jardin de la Salud (Spanish for “Garden of Health”), where it is distributed to families and partner organizations.

“In times like this, when fuel costs are skyrocketing, when housing is so expensive, even food is expensive, people are just so grateful for this resource,” said Juan Carlos

Belliard, PhD, MPH, director of LLUH’s Institute for Community Partnerships. “It’s my end-of-the-week opportunity—it’s almost a spiritual experience to see so many grateful people, and many folks are taking a lot of this food to their neighbors or people who need it.”

Many families come to pick up food for their household, while community partners pick up larger amounts in vans or pickups for distribution to area food banks. Some people distribute food to people experiencing homelessness.

Approximately a dozen LLU students and staff volunteer each week, and several LLUH departments periodically send volunteers.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for departments to get out of the office to feel our LLU mission and experience the community side of things,” Belliard said.

The SAC Norton parking lot is located at 1455 East 3 Street in San Bernardino. For more information, contact the ICP/CAPS office at 909-651-5011. To volunteer, visit llu.ivolunteer.com/produce.

By Ansel Oliver

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



LEFT: Filadelfia church, Bucaramanga. ABOVE: Pastor Ricardo Vargas, Camino a Cristo church, Las Vegas, with two of the 94 baptismal candidates.

Evangelistic Exchange in Bucaramanga, Colombia

This past May, 94 precious souls gave their lives to Jesus in an evangelistic pastoral exchange between the Nevada-Utah Conference (NUC) Hispanic pastors and the *Asociacion del Oriente Colombiano* (Eastern Colombian Conference). A group of seven pastors and a doctor arrived in Colombia on May 17 to visit natural and historic landmarks as they made their way to the city of Bucaramanga. The group from NUC were hosted by local pastors and conference officials. Eight weeklong evangelistic meetings began on May 21. During this time, the church members and friends who attended the meetings were fed the spiritual manna that led to the baptisms; several more are planning to be baptized soon.

This exchange was the result of an agreement between both conferences that began before the pandemic. Eight Colombian pastors visited our territory last February, resulting in 42 people giving their lives to Jesus during that series of meetings. Many more will continue to study and make the commitment to Christ because of that evangelism effort.

Benjamin Carballo, NUC Hispanic ministry coordinator, shared his insight: "The evangelistic exchange with the Eastern Colombian Conference in Bucaramanga was not just a trip for eight pastors to preach but has been an effort to strengthen ties of friendship in the ministry, to learn about the diversity

and multiculturalism of our church, to look at and admire the way the work is done beyond our conference, to enliven the joy of evangelistic preaching in each pastor, and to grow in vision of church and mission. The view widens and the spirit in service increases. An evangelistic exchange with a field outside the United States will always bring new life to our pastors."

Also blessed by the experience, Pastor Ricardo Vargas from the Camino a Cristo church district shared, "It was very motivating to see the enthusiasm of the churches in the work of preaching the gospel. Observing the faces of the people every night during the preaching and witnessing the work of the Holy Spirit is something that strengthens the call to this sacred ministry as a pastor."

Evangelistic exchanges like these are very enriching, both personally and in ministerial work. Pastors can see different perspectives and learn valuable lessons from their colleagues as well as from the churches they minister to. Great lessons are learned that can be applied to enhance their work with their congregations. Such experiences result in great blessings for our churches both in Colombia and the Nevada-Utah Conference. The mission field in Colombia as well as the team of Hispanic pastors in the NUC are very grateful to the administration of the conference for making this possible.

By Noreen Vargas

Our Daily Bread

“Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

A phone call from a local bakery distributor would change the face of ministry for the Living Water Fellowship in Las Vegas. Upon hearing reports of the homeless living under the bridge of the freeway near the church, Pastor Oneil Madden took a personal trek and confirmed the account. In response to the great need, the church wanted to start a food ministry of some sort to provide for the homeless and the unfortunate in their community.

Contact was made with the bakery distributor, and the long wait began. Many other local nonprofit entities in the valley were vying for the same bread. Numerous phone calls were made, much prayer ascended, and patience was tested. Finally, on a Friday morning the call came.

“Will you be able to pick up bread on Fridays?” “Yes!” the excited reply came before the caller even finished her sentence. “The only thing is, you’ll have to pick up today. I need the bread out of my warehouse today. And you’ll need a truck.” The pick-up was made by two ladies, with a van and an SUV, but they were able to get every loaf of bread that was given to them. The company representative said that was fine this time; however, “You’ll need a truck for future pick-ups. You’ll have it every Friday from here on out!” They were in. Praise God!

This was the beginning of a beautiful collaboration, not only with the local bakery distributor but with many people and local churches in the community. They now rent a 15-foot truck and have over 30 volunteers of all ages, including three high school students from nearby Liberty High School. The bread ministry services over 15 churches that have their own homeless ministries. Thousands upon thousands of loaves have been distributed in their area. Volunteers are developing lasting friendships, strong ties within their community, and a stronger faith.

The Daily Bread ministry is continually multiplying as a true blessing from God to feed His people, just as Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000 in the Gospels. Bread donations have gone from Living Waters to feed the

hungry in other states such as California, Utah, Idaho, Arizona; close by in Reno, Nevada; and by way of visitors to the church who are invited to take as much as they need to help their homeless neighbors and friends in need.

If you are interested in having your church join this Daily Bread ministry, contact Livingwaterschurch2018@gmail.com. or visit the Living Water/Fil-Am church at 3085 Raven Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada. The Las Vegas Abundant Life church on 1720 N J Street, Las Vegas, has joined them and offered a more central location. Distribution from Living Water is from 2 to 4 p.m. on Fridays, and on Sabbath bread is available to members and visitors. At Abundant Life, bread is provided from Wednesday to Saturday, 11:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.

Let us give honor and thanks to our Heavenly Father for this ministry. The bread symbolizes the sharing of the Word of God, both physically and spiritually. It demonstrates Jesus’ continued compassion through His people here on Earth.

Thank you to the faithful volunteers who are making a difference and being part of a miracle. Find your blessing through volunteering.

By Ginger Underwood



From left to right: Edie Sandro, Beth Rodriguez, Tess De Castro, Derrick Stewart, and Liz Holland display some of the blessings of the Daily Bread ministry.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!



We are so proud of our 2022 graduates, who were able to advance despite a pandemic and the natural disasters that hit our territory. These inspiring young men and women remind us that “God’s purpose for the children... is wider, deeper, higher than our restricted vision has comprehended” (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 262). If you have been reading our weekly newsletter, Northern Lights, you will have seen the many stories we have highlighted about these wonderful graduates and glimpsed their potential.

For example, when asked what it means to have a servant’s heart, Landon Chamberlain, Rio Lindo graduate, responded, “I like to motivate other students to do their best. It is fun to connect and encourage them to look at their problems from a different angle and find gratitude in everything.” At first read, this seems to be a respectful response, but put it into perspective with the recent events in our country. With this foundational core value, how is God going to use this young man to fulfill His purpose?

One of his classmates, Jayssie Badette, another Rio graduate, explained further, “If we truly focus on God, everything else falls into place.” How many of us have this much faith in our Creator?

Elijah Priest, an eighth-grade graduate at Foothills

Elementary School, which was nearly burned down during the Camp Fire, understands about answering the call to service during a very difficult time. As his teacher explained, “He demonstrates a servant’s heart by his willingness to always lend a helping hand to the younger students.” Elijah explained why: “I like working with younger kids because I want to help them stay on track.”

The educational system in our church is a training ground for youth. “To every household and every school, to every parent, teacher, and child upon whom has shone the light of the gospel, comes at this crisis the question put to Esther the queen at that momentous crisis in Israel’s history, ‘Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’” (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 263).

As in the time of Esther, which was a challenging time for the people of God, who knows whether today’s graduates are called for such a time as this? They are facing the world during a time when society is complicated, and their challenges are different from those that previous generations had to face. As you look at the following pictures, please pray for each one.

By Laurie Trujillo

OPPOSITE PAGE: 1. Chico Oaks Adventist School, 2. Echo Ridge Christian School, 3. & 4. El Dorado Adventist School, 5. Galt Adventist Christian School, 6. Foothills Adventist Elementary School, 7. Fortuna Junior Academy, 8. Hilltop Christian School, 9. Lodi SDA Elementary, 10. Middletown Adventist School, 11. Clearlake SDA Christian School, 12. Orangevale SDA School, 13. Paradise Adventist Elementary School, 14. Pine Hills Adventist Academy, 15. Adventist Christian Elementary School of Red Bluff, 16. Redding Adventist Academy, 17. PUC Elementary, 18. Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy, 19. Redwood Adventist Academy, 20. Sacramento Adventist Academy, 21. Napa Christian Campus of Education, 22. Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School, 23. to 25. Ukiah Junior Academy, 26. Vacaville Adventist School, 27. Yreka Adventist Christian School.

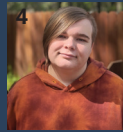
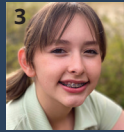
Constituency Session Notice • Northern California

Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at the Granite Bay Hilltop church in Granite Bay, California, on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

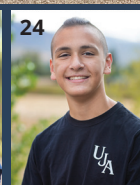
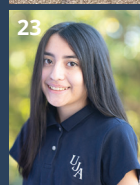
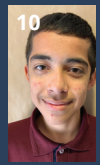
The purpose of this meeting is to receive from the officers and department directors of the conference reports pertaining to the work carried on within its territory since the last conference session; to elect for the ensuing session officers, department directors, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Conference Executive Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof.

Marc K. Woodson, President • Jose J. Marin, Executive Secretary



Northern California 8th-Grade Graduates





Lodi Academy



Pleasant Hill
Adventist
Academy



Paradise Academy



Pine Hills Adventist
Academy



PUC Preparatory
School



Rio Lindo Adventist Academy

Northern California Academy Graduates



Sacramento Adventist Academy



PUC Students Help Reclaim the Critical Role of Women in Adventist History

Maud Sisley. Alma McKibbon. Ruth Temple. Adventist women of firsts. Pioneers in mission, education, and healthcare, they were once household names. But their stories stopped being told—buried by time and societal change from the church’s collective memory.

As Jim Wibberding, professor of applied theology and Biblical studies at Pacific Union College, studied the church archives, he discovered the names of women he’d

never heard of before. Wibberding was surprised to learn that there were so many women “prominent in shaping Adventism as we know it today.”

He began making a list.

Starting with 50 names, Wibberding organized a course on the history of Adventist women, dedicated to telling the stories of female leaders who

“The Adventist Church has always been made up of a majority of women, many of whom have worked within their ability and influence for the mission of the church. We need to be intentional in telling their stories.”

shaped the church's faith and mission. He invited 14 additional Adventist historians to be guest speakers.

Choosing which women's biographies to share proved difficult. A dilemma arose, Wibberding said, when almost every presenter had other forgotten female figures to add to the list from their own primary document research.

The problem of underrepresentation of women in history is not singular to the Adventist church. Women have been overlooked throughout United States and world history. Across the globe, there are concerted efforts to fill these gaps. The first step toward that goal, historians concur, is research and storytelling.

To a class of 25 students, Wibberding and the other historians told stories and shared photographs of over 30 remarkable Adventist women and recounted their often uncredited contributions to the church and its mission.

Maud Sisley left her hometown of Battle Creek, struck out on her own, and started mission work in Ohio—then on to Switzerland, England, South Africa, Australia, and beyond. She helped introduce Adventism around the world.

Alma McKibbin wrote the first Adventist elementary school curriculum and became a professor at PUC.

Flora Plummer was “an architect of Sabbath School as we know it today” and served for decades as the sole woman on the General Conference Executive Committee.

Ruth Temple was the first Black woman to graduate from Loma Linda University. From there she devoted herself to helping low-income underserved communities in Los Angeles receive free and affordable healthcare. Temple opened the first medical clinic in Southeast Los Angeles. Her leadership there, according to historian Benjamin Baker, eradicated more than one epidemic—including an outbreak of the plague.

Why were these women marginalized? Michael Campbell, historian and religion professor at Southwestern Adventist University, told the stories of 12 women to Wibberding's class. Following that experience, he wrote a reflection on the major themes that emerged from his research. Campbell said there are several reasons for women being overlooked or omitted from Adventist history. “Part of it,” he said, “has to do with the [culture] of domesticity and the rise of fundamentalism that eclipsed women in ministry within the church.”

Some missionary women married, and their husband's stories were glorified without any mention of their contributions. Ana Stahl was initially denied

entrance to Battle Creek College because

she was already married with a child. Evangelist and pastor Minnie Sype was served with retirement papers from the conference because she remarried at 61 and “had a man to care for her.”

However, like other significant women in our nation's history, these Adventist leaders found ways to work around gender discrimination. Many female missionaries were especially effective at converting women in other cultures.

Campbell also notes that the Great Awakening created an avenue for women to become Adventist leaders. “Ellen White was actually part of a larger group of women who provided support, evangelism as well as leadership,” he said. She herself advocated for women and their leadership roles in the church.

Wibberding agreed. It was in the decades following White's death “when Adventism moved away from gender equality and women's stories stopped being told,” he said.

Students were not just passive listeners in Wibberding's class. They became storytellers themselves. Each one chose and researched a female Adventist leader and then wrote and submitted a short biography for the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*.

Ashley Garner, a sophomore studying psychology and English, enjoyed the exploratory part of the class. “We had the chance to not only uncover but share their history for one of the first times,” Garner said.

Garner researched and wrote about Theresa Kennedy. A missionary, nurse practitioner, and professor, Kennedy chaired the nursing departments of three Adventist colleges. In addition to her work, she was a classical pianist.

Like other important Adventist women in history, Kennedy in her lifetime did the work of many people.

“The Adventist Church has always been made up of a majority of women, many of whom have worked within their ability and influence for the mission of the church,” Campbell said. “We need to be intentional in telling their stories.”

Twenty of the PUC students in Wibberding's class submitted articles to the online encyclopedia, making a significant contribution to scholarship. In researching primary documents from around the world and publishing the stories of extraordinary women, they became active participants in restoring these names to the pages of Adventist history.

By Laura Gang

22 Souls Baptized Through Full Circle Program at Arden Hills

Arden Hills church hosted the Full Circle program from last October through April, which led to 22 souls deciding to be baptized into the church.

Directed by Eric Isaia, Southeastern California Conference (SECC) literature ministries director, Full Circle aims to equip church members and ministries with new ways to spread the gospel.

The Literature Ministries Department of SECC has been running Full Circle for the last 10 years. When churches choose to participate, four coordinators partner with members over six months to brainstorm methods to expand their ministry into the local community and win souls for Christ. The program culminates in a three-week Bible prophecy seminar called Revelation Revealed that seeks to share different facets of God's love.

The Full Circle program hosted at Arden Hills church was the first since the COVID-19 pandemic halted operations.

"Full Circle helped our small church grow and become more focused on Jesus and serving other people," said Jeffrey Harper, pastor of Arden Hills church. "I really appreciate the emphasis on



Francis, Full Circle coordinator, involves a young church member at a free car wash.

preservation. The Full Circle team really concentrated on helping us integrate new people and families into our church family."

Throughout the Full Circle program, Arden Hills held several programs designed to build relationships with surrounding community members. More than 20 community members attended a cooking class geared

toward nutrition and healthy eating.

One community member attended each night of the Revelation Revealed seminar virtually, because the Adventist church explained God's love and the Bible in a way she could understand. "She told me that she was so thankful for a church in the community that cared about her and her family," shared Harper. "We now study the Bible with her weekly and she also attends church. It was a blessing to see her transition from watching online to coming in person, and she is getting baptized in July!"

For Pastor Harper, the best part is watching Jesus work in people's lives, both in the Arden Hills community and the church. Even members who normally were not involved participated in the various ministries and programs during Full Circle.

"Full Circle is a great program," said Harper. "But any church can do the same thing! Get a group of people together at your church and think about ways to share the Bible and God's love with people in your community."

Full Circle is happening at two more churches in the SECC this fall.

Interested in bringing Full Circle to your church and local community? Reach out to Eric Isaia at eric.isaia@seccsda.org.

By Danni Thaw

Church members pray with a community member.





LEFT: The Soli family (from left to right): Marley, Gideon, Linda, Judah, Meshach, Zion, and Isaac.
RIGHT: Soli preaches at an ordination.

Represent the Two Percent: Soli Appointed as Associate Youth Director

In March, Southeastern California Conference (SECC) welcomed Meshach Soli as the new associate youth director for club ministries. Soli has been working with youth and young adults since his conversion. He became his church's youth leader one week after his baptism. "I've always had a passion and a heart for youth and young adults, so that was my sweet spot in what I was passionate about," said Soli.

While Soli has ministered to youth and young adults from all walks of life, he has a special place in his heart for Pacific Islander and indigenous youth. In 2017, Soli was asked to present a seminar on why ethnic minorities, in general, and Pacific Islanders, specifically, were leaving the church at an alarming rate in the North American Division (NAD). As he listened to the other presentations, he learned that natives and others, the group that includes Pacific Islanders, were just two percent of the NAD membership. He felt an awesome responsibility to share their stories and allow their voices to be heard.

Ever since that NAD event, Soli started a hashtag, #TheTwoPercent, and whenever he got the chance to participate in Pacific Islander events, he would share the story and remind them that God does big things with small beginnings. Soon Soli was approached about making the Two Percent more than a hashtag, and it has since become an intentional ministry and platform to highlight and develop the talents, leadership, and giftedness of Pacific Islander and indigenous youth and young adults.

Soli has served as the ministry coordinator of the conference's Samoan groups. He also helped with the planting of XCell church and served as an associate pastor at Beaumont church. Most recently, he was the pastor of the South Bay church in San Diego. Throughout his ministry, club ministries have always been close to his heart. He often started clubs in churches where they had none, and revitalized clubs that were fledgling.

In reflecting on his excitement about Soli joining the youth ministries team, Youth Director Aren Rennacker said, "He brings a heart for young people and a spirit of collaboration that has already impacted our conference. I know Pastor Meshach will continue to impact the young people and the ministry leaders of our conference in tremendous ways."

Soli is grateful to follow his two predecessors, Rudy Carrillo and Patty Marruffo, who helped to shape his ministry. "To follow these two leaders who poured into me, I feel like I have a little bit of both of their leadership and blessings to see where God is leading us now," said Soli.

With all the success that he has experienced, he still has a humble spirit. "Ministry was fine before I got here and ministry is going to be just as fine when I'm gone. I have always held onto success loosely because I realize that it isn't about me."

By Andrea King

Willing: Three Pastors' Stories

Sam Joo

Orange Central Korean Church

“One of the joys I have as a pastor is seeing kids growing up at church and getting them involved in different ministries.”

As a pastor's kid, Sam Joo said he “just always knew” pastoral ministry was what he wanted to do. When he was in high school, his youth pastor offered him the opportunity to teach the youth group at church, and it was a turning point in his life.

“I was scared to get up in front of my friends,” Joo recalled. “But it gave me an idea of what being a leader looks like.”

Today, Joo is assistant pastor at the Orange Central Korean Church in Placentia, where he's been serving for nine years and was ordained in March. And like his youth pastor did for him, Joo makes it a point to find ways to include the youth in church leadership.

“One of the joys I have as a pastor is seeing kids growing up at church and getting them involved in different ministries,” he explained. He views communication and relationship as the top factors keeping young people in the church, and he does what he can to mentor and guide them.

“I start by building a relationship with them as a reliable, trustworthy person,” he said. “From there, I encourage them to be involved—from leading Pathfinders to being part of a praise team. Then I let them do things with me and explore until they feel comfortable doing it on their own.”

Joo feels inreach, such as his work with young people, and outreach go hand in hand. He envisions the church shaping their community and becoming an influential support for the city. Because the purpose of everything they do, Joo added, is “to expand the kingdom of God and invite others to join us.”

RIGHT: Ministerial director Jon Cicarelli gives remarks to Joo and his wife, Ayong Han.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: Eborá gives a response at his ordination.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: Pastors lay hands on Ostrovsky as he is ordained.





Melvin Eborra

Inland Empire Filipino Church

While attending college in the Philippines, Melvin Eborra joined the Young Ministers Club, a group of students who visited different local churches every week to meet and minister to the members. The more churches he visited, the stronger Eborra felt God leading him to full-time ministry.

"That's how it all started," Eborra said.

When he moved to Redlands, he quickly became involved at church, encouraging the young people to do what he did as a student—visit local churches. Because music is highly valued in their church, they started a youth choir and began singing at different churches and nursing homes.

"We only have about 400 members, but we have six or seven singing groups in our church," Eborra said. "I believe music keeps us moving forward—sharing a passion and getting everyone involved."

Because of this passion, music played a large role in Eborra's recent ordination, which he considers more than an affirmation of his calling but also a celebration of his salvation.

"The reason God called me to ministry was not for me to save the souls of others, but to save my own," he shared. "Had I not become a pastor, I probably would not be in the church. I'm not a special person; God simply wanted me to be close to Him, and this was how He made that happen. I just followed His lead."

Ivan Ostrovsky

Fallbrook Church

Ivan Ostrovsky comes from a long line of pastors: His great-grandfather, grandfather, father, and oldest brother all entered the ministry. But Ostrovsky didn't think that role was meant for him.

"I thought as a pastor I'd always have to wear a suit and know everything," he said with a laugh. "That didn't sound fun."

So he enrolled in college as a nursing major. God simply followed him.

"I had just presented an impassioned speech in English class on my favorite topic, soccer, when I heard a whisper in my ear," Ostrovsky remembered. The voice asked, "When are you going to talk about me like that?"

Recognizing it as the voice of the Holy Spirit, Ostrovsky was convicted of his true calling and switched to a theology major. Today, he's the youth pastor at Fallbrook church, where he has served for four years and was ordained this spring.

"I love the young people," Ostrovsky said. "When I empower them to lead, they not only have fun and learn more about Jesus, but they also build relationships with each other and the church and see they're not just needed, they're wanted here."

Ostrovsky knows that when young people have something to look forward to, they keep showing up and they stay excited. So he involves them in activities beyond Sabbath, coordinating various events throughout the week. Recently he and three young people hiked Half Dome in Yosemite.

"I just do things I love and take them with me," Ostrovsky said.

After accepting God's call to ministry, Ostrovsky said he felt like he'd finally stopped running and stepped into his true purpose.

"God chose me," he said. "I let Him lead, He brought me here, and I'm willing to keep going."

By Becky St. Clair



Resurrection: An Oratorio

Performed at Santa Clarita Church

How can we use our God-given gifts to glorify His name? When COVID-19 restrictions began in 2020, Brett Cameron Perry, a composer for TV and film and member of Santa Clarita church, knew he would be out of work for the foreseeable future. However, he soon realized he had been gifted time to develop an idea he had formed previously—a contemporary musical telling of the resurrection.

With a tendency to write complicated music, Perry asked for God's wisdom to guide him. "Almost immediately, I got this response: 'There's little point in creating anything beyond the general audience's ability to understand it,'" Perry shared. He wanted this oratorio to have the "reverence of a modern classical work" and the melodies and lyrics to be understood so that "even the most novice of musical connoisseurs could appreciate it."

For Perry, this was an opportunity to combine his passion for music with his passion for sharing Jesus. "It's really hard to write orchestral music," Perry said. "As long as He kept giving me ideas and a clear path for writing, I kept writing. Through God's grace, I never had any writer's block." The process of songwriting and composing took eight months to complete.

Perry describes this work, *Resurrection: An Oratorio*, as "a large-scale musical composition celebrating Jesus, the risen Savior of the world, and exploring the clash of divine beings trying to convince humanity that Christ has indeed risen from the grave."

This year's Easter weekend performance at Santa Clarita church was not the first; however, this year was



PHOTO: ARAYA MOSS

Attendees gather outside with blankets and warm beverages ahead of the outdoor performance.

the first performance featuring professional musicians from Los Angeles. The oratorio was comprised of vocals, instrumentals, and dance. Michael Stevenson, Santa Clarita church pastor, provided a spoken spiritual contemplation between songs.

"I'm really blessed to be associated with such talent," Perry said. "Performing live compared to a studio is completely different. In the studio, if we mess up, we can go back to fix and adjust. Live, there's no room for mistakes. These singers knocked it out of the park. God really blessed this to be an exceptional performance."

Next year, Perry hopes to take the oratorio to the next level, performed by a full orchestra and choir.

"It was a thrill to be able to write something where I can fully express my faith and my love for our Savior," said Perry. "I am a Christian in Hollywood, and that's not for the faint of heart. I've always thought the greatest testimony for Jesus I can give in Hollywood is to be a total professional in my work."

By Araya Moss



PHOTO: MICHELLE NOLAND



PHOTO: ARAYA MOSS

LEFT: Wilfrido Arroyo (left) and Ingrid Blanco (right), owners of Santa Clarita dance studio D'Wilfri DanceArt and Entertainment, incorporate dance into the oratorio. RIGHT: The oratorio comprised 130 pieces, including orchestra, a full choir, solos, and more.



PHOTOS: ARAYA MOSS

LEFT: First Elder Juventino Vargas (left) and Pastor Ellis Flores (right) are pictured holding the certificate of organization. MIDDLE: The mortgage papers were placed in a container and burned. RIGHT: Salazar (left) shares a message encouraging the congregation to renew their commitment to God and the ministry as Franklin Grant (right) translates.

Ebenezer Spanish Church Celebrates Mortgage Payment and Church Status

The history of the Ebenezer Spanish church began 21 years ago, when a group of members left the Hollywood Spanish church with the purpose of starting a new church. The first item for the new congregation was to find a meeting place. After first meeting in parks, they were allowed to meet in the chapel of the Ethiopian Christian Fellowship church in Los Angeles while they committed to raise funds for their own building.

Fundraising took place over many years, with the sustained dedication of the members. The congregation focused on doing ministry by hosting concerts and evangelistic meetings. At this time, the congregation saw growth under the supervision of the Hollywood Spanish church.

All the while, the search for a building continued. By June 2011, the Lord had led the congregation to a building, they secured a loan, and the building was purchased. The building was not in good condition, however, and two months were spent remodeling the building. In August 2011, the congregation celebrated the inauguration of the temple where they would continue their ministry in Los Angeles. It was at this time they chose as their motto: "Serving the community with joy."

In 2013, the congregation was officially organized as a company with the name Ebenezer Spanish company. The congregation continued to grow as a

company and expand its ministries.

The latest milestone in the congregation's history came this spring: achieving church status. At a special celebration event this June, SCC Executive Secretary John H. Cress spoke about the congregation's growth and evangelistic efforts as observed by the conference, recognizing "what God has done and will continue to do in this place."

A secondary purpose for the event was to celebrate the full payment of their mortgage, for which the last payment was made in January 2022. To commemorate this achievement, SCC Treasurer/CFO Kathleen Diaz burned the mortgage papers. It was also an opportunity to honor the conference's building appropriations commitment by presenting a check for \$40,000 to the church.

SCC President Velino A. Salazar presented a challenge to the church inspired by the great commission found in Matthew 28:19-20. "Jesus gave us the commission," he said, encouraging the members that "people need to hear about Jesus. You are disciples. The passage concludes by saying 'I will be with you.' Only at certain times? No—until the end of the world!"

Learn more and connect with Ebenezer Spanish church at <https://www.laebenezer.com/>.

By Lauren Lacson

James P. Willis II Becomes New SCC Vice President for Education

For James P. Willis II, Adventist education has been the foundation of his career. Since 1978, he has gathered diverse experience within the context of Adventist education, from the classroom, to leadership, to administration.

As an elementary and high school teacher, Willis taught in New York, Nebraska, and California. He has served as assistant principal at La Sierra Academy and principal and business manager at Los Angeles Union Adventist School and Lynwood Adventist Academy (which later merged, known today as Los Angeles Adventist Academy).

Willis went on to become the superintendent of education for the South Central Conference and the Allegheny East Conference Corporation, serving in that capacity for 16 years. In 2013, Willis returned to the Southern California Conference (SCC) to serve as associate superintendent of education. In this position, he has worked with various K-8 and K-12 schools to offer oversight and support.

As of July 1, 2022, Willis transitions into the role of vice president for education, where he looks forward to continuing to serve our schools and families here in SCC.

"What I enjoy the most about education is relationships with students," Willis shared. "It has been satisfying to me that, in all my years of teaching and

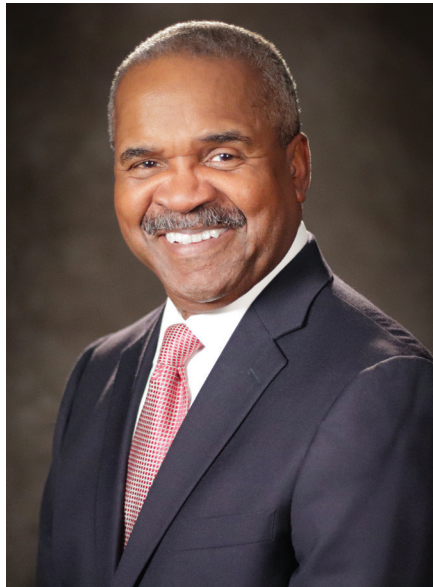


PHOTO: LAUREN LACSON

administrating, I have benefited from those relationships. The key thing that has always excited me about education is seeing young people, who have been my students, continue in their path of faithfulness to God, which I believe has launched them into achieving tremendous heights in their personal and professional pursuits."

When asked about his biggest hope for students in SCC, Willis spoke to the quality and availability of Adventist education. "My biggest hope," he said, "is that Adventist education never becomes an education

of exclusivity for the haves versus the have nots in our denomination." He aims to maintain the commitment of the Office of Education to provide scholarships and ensure Adventist education is available to our members and their families.

"Being with our students, it's more than just math, English, science—it's also the God factor, the Jesus factor," Willis affirmed. "Everything we do should be with the goal in mind that Jesus Christ becomes real to our kids, preschool through 12th grade, and that education under God's banner is exciting, it's fun, it can make for a happy place and an environment they love, which will carry them throughout the rest of their lives."

In this role, Willis also strives to foster greater collaboration with various offices and departments in the conference to advance the mission and purpose of Adventist education throughout our territory. "It benefits all of us when we are more collaborative in our ministry," he noted.

Willis has witnessed countless stories of the life-changing impact of Adventist education during his 44 years of service. "I believe in the power of Adventist education—and that's why I'm in it," he shared.

By Lauren Lacson

"My biggest hope is that Adventist education never becomes an education of exclusivity for the haves versus the have nots in our denomination."

San Gabriel Academy Presents Night at the Museum

This year's Night at the Museum event featured live exhibits related to the qualities found in Philippians 4:8. "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (NIV).

To prepare for the event, each student from TK to eighth grade selected a historical figure they felt embodied one or more of the characteristics listed in that Bible verse. Students planned backdrops, costumes,



PHOTO: SAN GABRIEL ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY FACEBOOK PAGE

Students are organized in "exhibit halls" throughout the campus, where guests heard speeches from a variety of historical figures, past and present.

and speeches to bring this person to life in front of family and friends.

Elementary and junior high buildings stood in for famous locations, such as the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Getty Center, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, etc. Guests were escorted through classrooms transformed into "exhibit halls" to enjoy the presentations. Characters portrayed were inventors, authors, politicians, biblical figures, athletes, activists, and more.

"My favorite thing was researching about my character," said Rianne Yu, sixth-grade student, who portrayed German astronomer Caroline Herschel. "She was sickly but didn't give up and still pursued her dream."

"It's so fun to see the students in costume and watch the transformation of bringing their practiced speeches to life on the actual night," said Lisa Molina, second-grade teacher. "As a teacher, it's great to see students of all ages in the same museum room encouraging each other throughout practices and sharing that sense of understanding and community as they each perform to the best of their abilities."

All who participated were treated to a night of reflection and admiration for all that God inspires.

By Rose Gorospe

Pilot Robin Petgrave Lands at South Bay Christian School

In May, Robin Petgrave, chief pilot and president of Celebrity Helicopters and founder of the Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum, landed his yellow helicopter on the field to bring school spirit to South Bay Christian School (SBCS).

On board the aircraft with Petgrave were Councilmember George Chen of the Torrance City Council and SBCS Principal Deborah Dahl, who together flew from his airport to the school, where students and faculty awaited their arrival.

The students heard encouraging and inspirational advice from both Petgrave and Chen to stay in school, focus on what God has planned, and always find ways to serve others.

During his message, Petgrave called for a student volunteer and handed him \$100 to demonstrate a teachable moment.

"Every day, you're going to meet somebody that has something that you want or need," said Petgrave. "They're prepared to give it to you if you're prepared to accept it. If this young man hadn't showed up to school today, would he have gotten \$100? Being prepared to accept it is sometimes as simple as showing up."

Following the remarks, the students were allowed to board the helicopter, take photos, and get autographs.

To watch the full video, visit <https://scc.adventist.org/petgrave-at-sbcs>.

By Deborah Dahl

Petgrave signs autographs for students.



PHOTO: GEORGE CHEN

Advertising

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

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Information

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Upcoming Deadlines

These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.
August: *July 7* • September: *August 8*

Contributions

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

Calendar

Central California Conference

Check the Events page online at cccadventist.org for all event updates.

La Sierra University

Robotics Summer Camp. La Sierra's 7th Annual Robotics Summer Camp will be held at Price Science Complex July 18-22 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This fun and interactive camp is designed for all robotics lovers ages 10 and up. Information: ehwang@lasierra.edu or visit <http://www.robotsforfun.com>

Southern California Conference

Eagle Rock Church 100th Anniversary Weekend (Aug. 5-7). Join Eagle Rock church for a special weekend celebrating a century of sharing God's love with vespers, an afternoon concert, guest speaker Pacific Union Conference President Bradford Newton, and a Pathfinder international food fair fundraiser. Eagle Rock church, 2322 Merton Ave., Los Angeles, 90041. Fundraiser tickets: n.mature@gmail.com.

San Fernando Valley Academy 120 Year Celebration.

Calling all SFVA alumni, students, families, and friends to join us for a commemoration of 120 years. We will be joined by Elder Tony Anobile, Elder Velino Salazar, Dr. Bradford Newton, and Christian Edition! You don't want to miss this special weekend! Friday and Sabbath, Sept. 23-24, 2022. WWW.SFVA.ORG

Classified

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Shop for New/Used Adventist Books: TEACH Services offers used Adventist books at www.LNFBOOKS.com or new book releases at your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com. Authors, let us help publish your book with editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation.

SDA Immigration Attorney: We handle family and employment-based immigration cases for clients throughout the United States and around the globe. We also provide free immigration law seminars for churches and other groups. Please contact Jason Mustard at 831-249-9330 or Jason@surowitz.com.

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

Adventist realtor serving North Georgia and Southeast

Tennessee. If you want to buy land or a home in this beautiful area, call me. Pierre @ Remax REC 423-987-0831 (cell) or 423-664-6644 (office).

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

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

Employment

Adventist Media Ministries is seeking a full-time Human Resources Director to develop, update, administrate, and communicate human resources policies and programs. For more information, you may email Maurice Valentine at mauricevalentine@nadadventist.org or apply at <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>

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

Central California Conference is seeking a full-time Auditor. Responsibilities include all aspects of accounting and bookkeeping. Prefer a bachelor's or associate degree in accounting. Must be able to communicate comfortably and interact well with people. Benefits include healthcare, retirement, life insurance, long-term disability insurance, tuition assistance, vacation, sick time, holidays, workers' compensation insurance, free stay at camps, continued education, among others. 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



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Central California Conference is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant in the Hispanic Ministries/Religious Liberty Department. The Conference's vision priorities expect that the Administrative Assistant maintain a spiritual environment, contribute in loving fellowship and unity not only with co-workers but also with constituents and/or visitors. Responsibilities include strong computer (MS Office) skills; must be accurate, detailed, and efficient in data entry, processing paperwork, and setting up events. This person must also be courteous in dealing with external and internal customers. Must have personal management and motivation skills to work toward goals. Must be bilingual in Spanish and English. Benefits include healthcare, life insurance, long-term disability insurance, sick, vacation, and holiday pay, 403b. Schedule: Mon.-Thur. 7:30-5:30 (38 hours). Must be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and maintain consistent, active church attendance. Send cover letter, application, and résumé to Human Resources. By e-mail: lbarron@cccsda.org or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Position open until filled. Link for application: <https://www.centralcaliforniaadventist.com/human-resources>

Central California Conference is seeking a full-time Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. The Administrative Assistant/front desk provides the first impression of the Conference to the constituency and the public who visit and call the Conference office. This position requires excellent interpersonal communication skills. The Conference's vision priorities expect that the Administrative Assistant/front desk maintain a spiritual environment and contribute in loving fellowship and unity not only with co-workers but also with constituents and/or visitors. The Administrative Assistant/front desk must be able to work under pressure, with interruptions, meet deadlines, and maintain a positive and cheerful demeanor (regardless of circumstances) and confidentiality. The Administrative Assistant/front desk will need to be calm, firm, and assertive in a crisis situation. The Administrative Assistant/front desk will direct people and calls efficiently and with friendliness and kindness. Benefits include healthcare, life insurance, long-term disability insurance, and sick, vacation, and holiday pay, 403b. Schedule Mon.-Thur., 7:30-5:30 (38 hours). To apply, please send cover letter, application, and résumé to Human Resources. Link for application: <https://www.cccadventist.org/hrforms>. By email: lbarron@cccda.org, fax 559-347-3062, or mail 2820 Willow Ave., Clovis, CA 93612. Open until filled.

The Voice of Prophecy at Adventist Media Ministries is seeking a full-time Manager/Treasurer. The Manager/Treasurer is responsible for managing all hands-on operational aspects of the ministry, which also includes developing and managing its financial wellbeing. Being a fellow administrator, he assists the Speaker/Director in achieving the goals and objectives set for the organization. For more information, you may email Victor Pires at victor@vop.com or apply at <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>.

Holbrook Indian School is currently in need of a

Head Girls' Dean, Assistant Girls' Dean, Science Teacher, Farm and Agriculture Assistant, Cafeteria Assistant, and Horsemanship Program Director. If you or someone you know are mission-minded and would like to serve Native American children, please see or share our jobs page at HolbrookIndianSchool.org/jobs.

Stallant Health Rural Health Clinic is accepting applications for full-time NPs, PAs, or physicians at our Weimar and Crescent City, Calif., locations. Competitive pay, benefits, and ministry opportunity. Send CV to Marva at: marva@stallanthhealth.com or call 530-637-4025, ext. 263.

Southeastern California Conference is seeking a full-time Communications Specialist. Responsibilities include videography, photography, website maintenance, and social media for the Conference. Assists the Communication & Media Director in creating, writing, editing, and producing publications, videos, and online content. Responsible for general communication to inquiries to the office through social media, email, and phone calls. Assists the department with clerical duties, as well as other communication projects. Weekend work will be required. English and Spanish bilingual is preferred. Submit cover letter, résumé, and portfolio showcasing web, video, and photography samples to communications@seccsda.org. To receive a job description or for more information, please contact Human Resources Department at 951-509-2351.

Southeastern California Conference is seeking on-call videographers. Videographer helps shoot and edit videos for various events, interviews, and social media content. Must be able to execute video projects from start to finish: pre-production, production, and post-production. Should be proficient in Adobe Creative Suite applications, including Premiere Pro, After Effects, and Photoshop. Please be prepared to submit a portfolio showcasing videography samples. For more information, please email: communications@seccsda.org.

Loma Linda Academy Children's Center is looking to recruit teachers for their center. Candidates must have completed 12 core units in Early Childhood Education. Teaching experience or a degree in Early Childhood Education a plus. If interested, please send résumé to jbergvall@lla.org.

Azure Hills Children's Center is looking for a part-time preschool teacher. Candidate must have 12 core units in Early Childhood Education (ECE), AA or BA in ECE preferred. Experience in ECE classroom required. Please send résumé to azurehillschildrenscenter@yahoo.com.

Indonesian-American church in Azusa, Calif., is seeking a full-time associate/youth pastor who is

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spiritual, mission-minded, friendly, and passionate about working with children, youth and young adults, and young families to guide them in developing a personal relationship with Jesus. A team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to maintain strict confidentiality. Bachelor's degree in theology/religion from an SDA college/university is required; a master's in divinity is preferred. Minimum of two years' experience as a youth or associate pastor. Detailed job description available upon request. Please submit a cover letter and résumé to iasdacazusa@gmail.com.

Camp Cedar Falls positions available immediately.

Assistant cook, general kitchen worker—full time. Cafeteria, weekend staff—part time. Please visit the Southern California Conference website (www.scc.adventist.org) and click on Human Resources (under the "Departments" tab) for information and job descriptions. Please contact Jesse Guardado, interim camp manager at campcedarfalls@sbcglobal.net or call 360-823-3932 for more information.

Clinical Nurses at Loma Linda University Health.

Hiring on all units for all shifts—20k sign-on bonus with 2 years of recent, relevant experience for all bedside RN positions! Join us as we continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ to make man whole! <https://bit.ly/32CM8Gt>

Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) at Loma Linda University Health.

Also called a Patient Care Assistant (PCA). Hiring on all units for all shifts. Performs designated direct and indirect age-specific and developmentally appropriate patient care under the direct supervision of the Registered Nurse (RN). Utilizes interpersonal skills to maximize customer service in a manner that supports excellence in safe patient care and professionalism. Contributes to a work environment of caring and cooperation among a culturally diverse workforce and patient population. Requires a high school diploma or GED, successful completion of an approved Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program or completion of School of Nursing Fundamentals, and a Basic Life Support (BLS) certification from American Heart Association.

Assistant Professor Nurse Practitioner at Loma Linda University School of Nursing.

Responsibility encompasses education, research, and/or service. Demonstrates loyalty to the mission, policies, standards, and regulations of his/her department, school, and the University, and follows the administrative policies set up by the University and the individual school. Requires a Nurse Practitioner degree from an accredited institution, two years post-master's teaching experience or closely related professional experience and a nationally certified Acute Care Pediatric NP.

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

Pacific Union College is seeking a full-time Housing Coordinator.

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

Pacific Union College is seeking a full-time Associate Vice President of Finance for Financial Administration.

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

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.

IMPACT HOPE is seeking an enthusiastic

Development Director with expertise in fundraising and major donor relationship-building, who can bring creativity and resourcefulness to the fundraising operations of a mission-driven nonprofit that supports refugee youth in Rwanda. Email liz@impact-hope.org. Impact-hope.org

The General Conference of SDA is looking for individuals with work experience at all levels in

Human Resources, software development and technology, and TV and social media. Must be an SDA church member in good standing. For additional information on current openings go to <https://tinyurl.com/gcjobpostings> or contact Johanna Prestol-Dominguez at prestoljd@gc.adventist.org.

Real Estate

Northern California, Manton, country living: 10-acre property, 3-bdrm, 3-bath, 2,100 sq. ft., solar, well and gravity mountain spring ditch water, big garden area, good soil, grape and fruit trees, barn, chicken coop, greenhouse, woodshed, quiet Adventist neighborhood, ideal place for county living or retirement. Call 530-474-3162 email nhutor@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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.

4-bdrm, 3-bath home in the foothills of Central California, in Coarsegold, 60 miles south of Yosemite. Almost 20 acres. Greenhouse, chicken coop, canning/craft room. 74 GPM well. Established fruit trees (apricot, apple, pear, peach, nectarine, plum, pomegranate, olive & lemon) and various types of berries. Second residence on the property 2 bdrm, 1 bath—needs TLC. Horse friendly. \$498,000. Johnny & Darlene Herr, REALTOR®-Associates 559-760 8141, darlene@herrswirealestate.com. CalBRE#02081978 & CalBRE#02071769. Broker: Bass Lake Realty.

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, Pathfinders 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.

Baldwin 7' ebony concert grand with adjustable artist bench. Exquisite condition. Meticulously maintained by professional technician. Looking for a loving home—church, academy, etc. Retailled new 5 years ago for \$68,400. Asking \$32,900. Contact Andre van Niekerk

@ 949-338-8865 or email docandrevan@gmail.com.
Serious inquiries only please.

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.

For Sale 2 plots at Rose Hill Memorial Park, Skyrose Terrace Lawn, Whittier, CA. \$15,000 for each. Contact 559-347-3129.

Vacation Opportunities

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

Angwin home: Five-bedroom, three-bathroom vacation home 2 miles from PUC. Fully furnished, large kitchen, dining room, living room, family room, piano, vineyard views, WiFi, washer and dryer, BBQ, sleeps 10. Call for rates, photos, and reservations: 415-539-7980 or email roger1965@gmail.com.

Steps of Paul and Egypt Bible Tours with Dr. Carl Cosaert, New Testament professor at Walla Walla University. Follow Paul's journey in beautiful Malta, Sicily, and Rome, Aug. 29-Sept. 9, 2022, or to Greece and Turkey, April 18-May 5, 2023, or experience an Egypt Bible Tour, Dec. 11-23, 2022. For more information, email Carl at info@adventtours.org or visit www.adventtours.org

At Rest

Aldrich, Delores Jane – b. Aug. 31, 1966; d. May 5, 2022. Survivors: mother, Joyce Kindig; stepfather, David Kindig; three daughters.

Camacho, Ludim Amelia Guzman – b. June 13, 1953, Cochabamba, Bolivia; d. April 14, 2022, Palm Springs, Calif. Survivors: husband, Elver Camacho; daughters, Melissa Camacho, Meghan Camacho-Culligan, Michelle Camacho Liu; five grandchildren.

Dietrich, Lloyd Reinhold – b. April 29, 1923; d. April 9, 2022. Survivors: wife, LaBreta Dietrich; daughter, Pam Dietrich; son, David Dietrich.

Dunks, Maxine – b. April 13, 1930, Washington; d. May 13, 2022. Survivors: husband, Dolan Dunks; sons, Larry, Jim, John, Dale; daughter, Rita.

Hardy, Gerald R. – b. Aug. 20, 1926, Croscombe, Somerset, England; d. May 20, 2022, Brentwood, Calif. Survivors: sons, Brent, Bob; daughter, Raelene Rasmussen. Gerald served 38 years as a pastor and evangelist.

Kriley, Gwendolyn Musick – b. March 1, 1926, Chester, N.H.; d. May 25, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Ron; daughter, Donna Kriley Becker Lesko; sister, Beverly Musick Hill; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Gwen was a registered nurse at LLUMC nephrology and cardiology.

Kubrock, Gladys Robinson – b. Feb. 7, 1922; d. June 21, 2021. Survivors: 16 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren. Gladys was the oldest living great-grandchild of Ellen G. White. She was a well-known tour guide at Elmhaven for 23 years.

Laudenslager, Evelyn – b. Sept. 20, 1920, Lansingville, N.Y.; d. April 27, 2022, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: son, Eric; sister, Emily Hammond; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

Nwagbara, Joelyn – b. Oct. 31, 1967; d. May 23, 2022, Cerritos, Calif. Survivors: sisters, Edith, Augustine; brother, David. Attended University church and was dedicated to Women's Ministries and the Sabbath School Department.

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Wilcox, Marilyn J. – b. Nov. 28, 1935, Alhambra, Calif.; d. Dec. 9, 2021, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: sons, Karl, Robert, Dan, John; sister, Donna Wolfe; eight grandchildren. She served as a board member at Weimar Institute and later as faculty of Weimar College. She also taught at Griggs University and Newbold College in England. Locally, she served at Groveland church and taught the CHIP Program classes.

Correction: Peterson, Ormand, E. – b. Aug. 24, 1932, Minneapolis, Minn.; d. July 25, 2021, Whittier, Calif. Survivors: wife, Peggy; sons, Michael, Mark; daughter, Katherine Peterson-Acosta; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren.

Correction: Richards, Gwendolyn Maxine – b. Feb. 1, 1925, Prattville, Mich.; d. March 28, 2022, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: sons, Don, Bob; daughter, Tamara; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. She was a member of Loma Linda University church for 42 years.

Correction: Wernick, Barbara – b. Oct. 15, 1926, Des Moines, Iowa; d. May 20, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Gary; daughter, Debra Lund; sister, Bernice Ross; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Barbara was a loving mother who valued education.

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AVAILABLE THROUGH AMAZON

July 2022 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	JULY 1	JULY 8	JULY 15	JULY 22	JULY 29
Alturas	8:41	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:24
Angwin	8:38	8:36	8:33	8:28	8:22
Bakersfield	8:15	8:13	8:11	8:07	8:02
Calexico	7:53	7:52	7:50	7:47	7:42
Chico	8:39	8:37	8:34	8:29	8:23
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	8:09	8:08	8:05	8:01	7:55
Eureka	8:51	8:50	8:46	8:41	8:35
Four Corners [E]	8:39	8:38	8:35	8:31	8:25
Fresno	8:23	8:21	8:19	8:14	8:09
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	7:50	7:49	7:47	7:42	7:37
Half Dome	8:25	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:11
Hilo	7:04	7:04	7:03	7:02	6:59
Holbrook	7:39	7:38	7:36	7:32	7:27
Honolulu	7:18	7:18	7:17	7:15	7:12
Joshua Tree	8:02	8:01	7:58	7:55	7:50
Lake Tahoe	8:31	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:16
Las Vegas	8:03	8:02	7:59	7:55	7:49
Lodi-Stockton	8:33	8:31	8:28	8:24	8:18
Loma Linda	8:05	8:04	8:02	7:58	7:53
Los Angeles	8:09	8:08	8:06	8:02	7:57
McDermitt [N]	9:31	9:29	9:25	9:20	9:14
Moab	8:48	8:46	8:43	8:39	8:33
Monterey Bay	8:28	8:27	8:24	8:20	8:15
Mt. Whitney	8:17	8:15	8:13	8:08	8:03
Napa	8:38	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:23
Nogales [S]	8:04	8:03	8:00	7:57	7:52
Oakland	8:36	8:35	8:32	8:27	8:22
Paradise, CA	8:40	8:38	8:35	8:30	8:24
Phoenix	7:43	7:42	7:40	7:36	7:31
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	7:06	7:06	7:05	7:03	7:01
Reno	8:32	8:30	8:27	8:22	8:16
Riverside	8:00	7:59	7:56	7:53	7:48
Sacramento	8:35	8:34	8:31	8:26	8:20
Salt Lake City	9:04	9:02	8:59	8:54	8:47
San Diego	8:02	8:01	7:58	7:55	7:50
San Francisco	8:37	8:35	8:32	8:28	8:22
San Jose	8:24	8:23	8:21	8:17	8:11
Santa Rosa	8:40	8:38	8:35	8:31	8:25
Sunset Beach	8:08	8:07	8:04	8:01	7:56
Thousand Oaks	8:12	8:11	8:09	8:05	8:00
Tucson	7:35	7:35	7:32	7:29	7:24

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

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

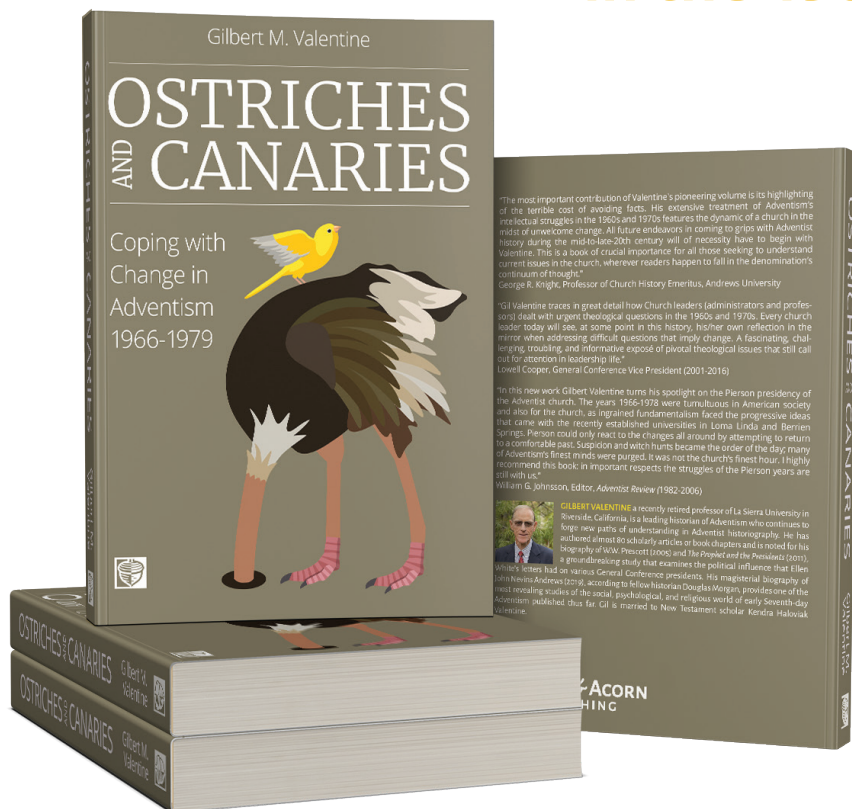
August 2022 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	AUG 5	AUG 12	AUG 19	AUG 26
Alturas	8:17	8:07	7:57	7:46
Angwin	8:17	8:09	8:00	7:50
Bakersfield	7:57	7:49	7:41	7:32
Calexico	7:38	7:31	7:23	7:15
Chico	8:17	8:09	7:59	7:49
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	7:36	7:28	7:20	7:10
Eureka	8:29	8:20	8:10	8:00
Four Corners [E]	8:20	8:12	8:04	7:54
Fresno	8:03	7:55	7:46	7:37
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	7:31	7:23	7:15	7:05
Half Dome	8:04	7:56	7:47	7:37
Hilo	6:55	6:51	6:46	6:41
Holbrook	7:21	7:13	7:05	6:56
Honolulu	7:08	7:04	6:59	6:53
Joshua Tree	7:44	7:37	7:29	7:20
Lake Tahoe	8:09	8:00	7:51	7:41
Las Vegas	7:43	7:35	7:27	7:18
Lodi-Stockton	8:12	8:04	7:55	7:45
Loma Linda	7:47	7:40	7:32	7:24
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