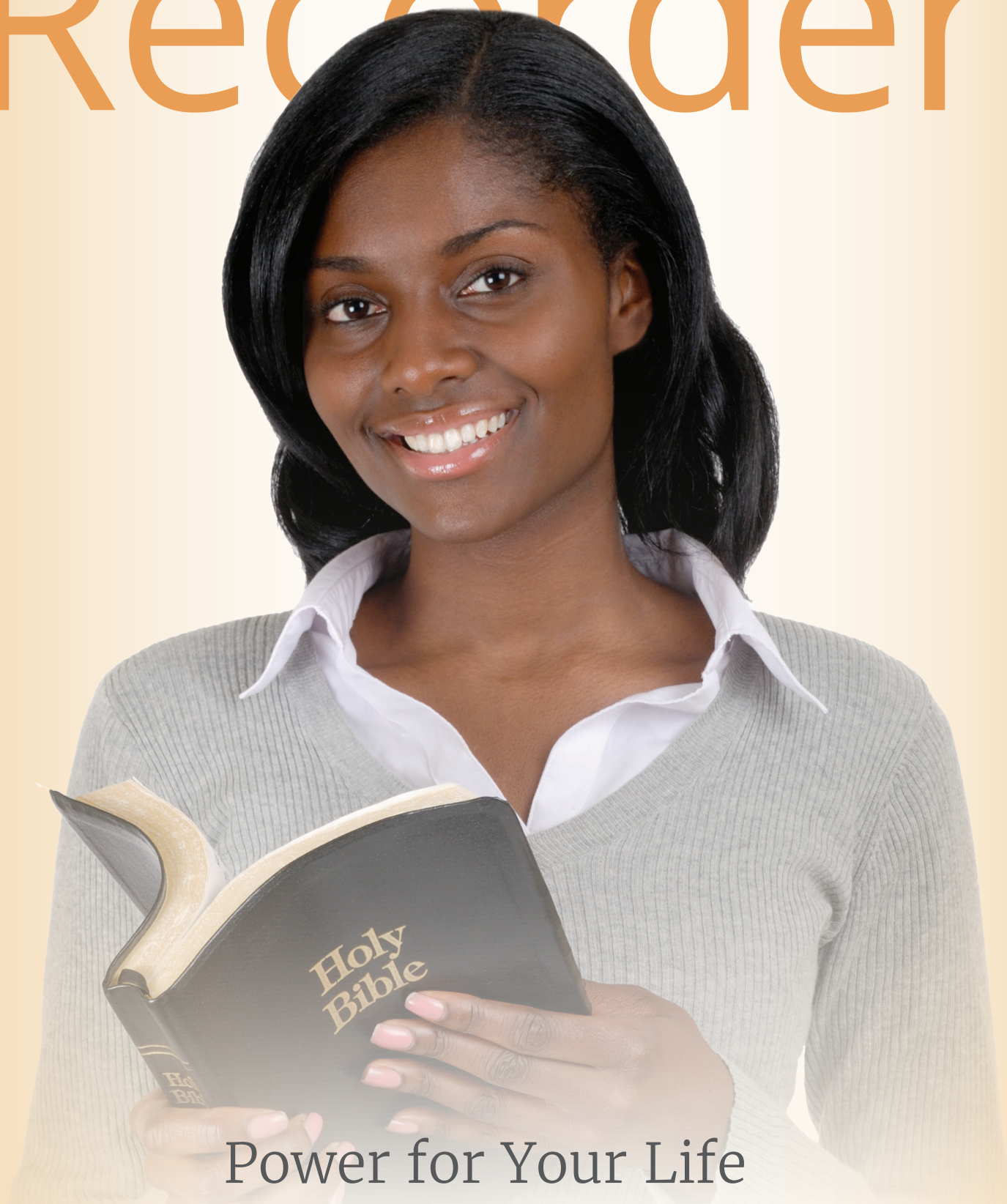


PACIFIC UNION

SEPTEMBER 2022

Recorder



Power for Your Life

A Life of Education and Service | Tell Me The Story

A Love for Children's Ministry | Black Women Advancing the Gospel



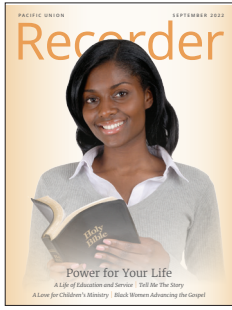
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Those with whom we associate day by day need our help, our guidance. They may be in such a condition of mind that a word spoken in season will be as a nail in a sure place. Tomorrow some of these souls may be where we can never reach them again. What is our influence over these fellow travelers?

Every day of life is freighted with responsibilities which we must bear.

Every day, our words and acts are making impressions upon those with whom we associate. How great the need that we set a watch upon our lips and guard carefully our steps! One reckless movement, one imprudent step, and the surging waves of some strong temptation may sweep a soul into the downward path. We cannot gather up the thoughts we have planted in human minds. If they have been evil, we may have set in motion a train of circumstances, a tide of evil, which we are powerless to stay.

On the other hand, if by our example we aid others in the development of good principles, we give them power to do good. In their turn they exert the same beneficial influence over others. Thus hundreds and thousands are helped by our unconscious influence. The true follower of Christ strengthens the good purposes of all with whom he comes in contact. Before an unbelieving, sin-loving world he reveals the power of God's grace and the perfection of His character.

Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 348

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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 Leader



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Within

By Leon Brown



I have read about and observed leaders my entire life. I promised myself that if I ever became a leader, I would try to be a good one. People often look to others as models for leadership. We have been taught to believe that only educated, talented, successful, and brilliant people can be leaders.

There is nothing farther from the truth.

Here is a bit of news for you: Whether you know it or not, right now someone is observing you. Someone is looking to you as a role model for leadership.

Yes, all you moms reading this article, I mean you. Your daughter is observing how you lead. She is paying attention to how you handle the daily duties of life and learning by watching the way you manage the 15 million things you did today. She is learning how to lead by observing how you lead. She is learning basic people skills by observing how you handle people—especially how you handle your children. She is learning how to lead by watching and observing you.

She is also learning how to lead by observing how you navigate through your most important relationships: your family, friends, coworkers, and acquaintances from church and your social group. You are a very important person. I recognize that you've known this all along—you didn't have to read this article to realize that. I just thought I would remind you.

Your son is also watching, mom. He is also watching to see how you love him and how you relate to his father and other men and women in your life. There is

You

often a very strong bond between a mother and her son. You are teaching him how to be a good son and an even better man.

And mom, if you have another job outside the home, your children are watching and listening to discover how you handle those responsibilities as well.

Dad, your daughter is watching you. She is watching how you care for the family. She is watching how you care for her mother. She is watching how you care for the women in your life. She is watching how you care for her.

Men, please take great care to love and cherish the women in your world. Your daughter and your son are both watching you.

Dad, your children are watching. They are observing how your family handles personal finances. They are paying attention to how you communicate with each other, and they are observing how you connect with the world.

Here is one I am still struggling with. They are watching to see how you and your wife take care of yourselves: how you sleep, exercise, eat, hydrate, and handle stress. And most importantly, they are observing your relationship with God. Those little eyes are peeled on you.

Most people are intuitive enough to know that no one is perfect—not even those who

pretend that they are. Your children's eyes are not necessarily looking for perfection. They are observing to see how you do it—how you are handling life at its best and its worst.

If you have taught your children anything, they should know that you are not perfect. They should be told that you are striving every day to be a better version of you. You want them to grow up understanding that they will make mistakes. The best lessons we learn in life are the ones we learn from the errors we have made.

Don't be discouraged. I believe God knew that you couldn't do it on your own, so He promised that He would always be with you. Take heart, my friends—that's why God gave those precious children to you.

And young people, I don't mean to scare you, but the world is watching you as well. You are a leader too. You are a leader at home, with your friends and siblings, and even to your parents. Young lady and young man, each and every one of you is

It really is time to own the power of your life. God has entrusted each of us with leadership skills.





a gift of God. Say it out loud and believe it: “I am a gift of God.”

You are by no means an accident, neither were you a mistake. You are extra special. You are important. You are a leader.

Young lady, young man, promise yourself that you are going to be a good leader.

I want to stress the important fact that many people really don’t realize how much influence others can have over their lives.

My mother drilled these words into my heart: “Show me your company and I will show you who you are.” I heard those words so much it used to annoy me as a child. However, I have lived long enough now to know that my mother was absolutely correct—whether I wanted to hear it or not.

We often receive leadership data without realizing it from family, friends, and acquaintances. However, we also receive leadership data from sources that we intentionally seek out. Please take care where you are observing and from whom you

are receiving leadership data.

Constant contact with the wrong people and with inappropriate sources of information, whether consciously or unconsciously, can produce unintended consequences in your heart. It can also give you improper input. We need the very best input for the development of our own leadership skill set.

A chance meeting with a total stranger can have a significant impact on your life as well. A simple conversation, a word of encouragement, or a negative encounter can have a massive impact on your life for good or ill.

It really is time to own the power of your life. God has entrusted each of us with leadership skills. You are a leader, whether you know it or not. Accept it, declare it. Don’t run from it, run toward it. But whatever you do, promise yourself to be a good leader.

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



By Josh Anguiano

I was recently asked to share a testimony of how I'd seen a young person's life transformed by Adventist education. I did not hesitate to answer: *my* life was turned around through Adventist education.

When I was a student at Orangewood Academy, my teacher, Robert Behr, was someone who believed in me. When I became a teacher myself, I wanted to be the kind of teacher who made a meaningful difference in the lives of his students.

Though education was not my original career choice, it is where I found my true calling. While I now serve as chair of the Administration and Leadership Department in the School of Education at La Sierra University and am also an associate professor of administration and leadership, my



Building Life Around Education and Service

undergraduate degree is in journalism and mass communication from Fresno State University.

At one point early in my career when I was between jobs, a friend suggested I try substitute teaching for a while. I gave it a shot, and I loved it. That first experience was teaching first grade. I saw the impact good teaching had on children. I was really moved, and I gave serious thought to pursuing education as a career.

Shortly thereafter, an opportunity came my way to teach at an Adventist academy. I then transitioned to public school, where I taught Spanish for several years. It was during my time in the public school system that I realized how

working in education was very much a form of ministry—simply by being the dedicated and encouraging teacher every student deserves. I realized that as a teacher I represent so many things to the students. It's very humbling to have that kind of impact on a young person's life.

I continued to pursue my own education, earning my Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and State of California single-subject credential in curriculum and instruction, Education Specialist (Ed.S.), and Ed.D. (Doctor of Education) from La Sierra University in order to keep better serving not just students but fellow educators too.

In summer 2022, I spent two weeks teaching

at Union College, getting to know fellow teachers. I enjoy the opportunity to interact and get to know other educators and help spread good ideas and practices, all with the goal of better serving students.

Why is education so important? Why am I so passionate about it? Because education is the core building block to get you where you want to be no matter what profession you are in. My father worked in the fields, and I work in a university. The difference is education.

Specifically, I am an ardent believer in Adventist education because I believe it is one of three key points of contact young people have with Adventism, the other two being home and church. When all three points of contact are a part of a student's life, their chances of remaining in the church later in life significantly increase.

However, I am concerned that many students are missing out on the Adventist education point of contact, often because of finances. I believe Adventist schools are the most important and viable evangelistic tool the church has. This challenge invites us to re-examine the existing

structures to make Adventist education more accessible for all students.

Despite the challenges, I want to encourage parents who desire to provide their children with an Adventist education to not give up. There is power in being creative and prayerfully seeking solutions.

I built my life around education because not only did I find my place in the world, but I believe it is life changing. I try to work with a deep sense of contributing to my community. I did that in journalism, and I carried that ethos with me into education: I'm here to serve and give my best to these students. This mindset has helped carry me through challenging times. Education is where I feel most at home, most authentic and, most importantly, it is where I serve God.

Joshua Anguiano has served as an associate professor and chair of the Department of Administration and Leadership at La Sierra University since 2018. He and his wife, Ruth, are the proud parents of three adult children: Jacob, Zachary, and Rachele.

I am an ardent believer in Adventist education because I believe it is one of three key points of contact young people have with Adventism, the other two being home and church.





By Connie Vandeman Jeffery

*Tell me a fact and I'll learn.
 Tell me a truth and I'll believe.
 Tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever.*

I heard this on *60 Minutes* one Sunday night, and I've never forgotten it. Stories are so powerful; many are life changing. In public relations and communication, we often say, "Facts tell; stories sell." Or "The story is king." Narratives and personal stories are so much more compelling than mere facts.

Scott Pelley, *60 Minutes* correspondent and CBS Evening News anchor from 2011-2017, discussed "Issues vs. Stories" several years ago and said this:

"We think of issues in terms of stories people can relate to. Steven Spielberg didn't do a movie called the Holocaust—he did *Schindler's List*. He didn't do a project called D-Day—he did *Saving Private Ryan*. We go out and find a story that makes issues come alive for the audience. So when a producer rushes in and says, 'Let's do a story on climate change,' I say, 'That's an issue; tell me the story.' Don Hewitt the executive producer of *60 Minutes* used to say, 'We aren't looking for the news of the day, but rather the stories of our time.'"

Tell me the story

I love the hymns in our church hymnal celebrating “the story.” “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations,” “Tell Me the Old, Old Story,” “I Love to Tell the Story,” and my personal favorite, “Tell Me the Story.” That’s right—we sing about the story all the time. Why is it difficult sometimes to tell it?

Psalm 107:2 says, “Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story” (NIV).

The Bible, from the first pages of Genesis through Revelation, has plenty of lessons and concepts and proverbs and amazing facts. But when Jesus came along, He was the God who told stories. Moses delivered the tablets that began with “Thou shalt not,” but Jesus sat down with an expectant crowd gathered around Him and began, “A farmer went out to sow his seed...” He told parables and stories that would stir the hearts of His listeners and stay with them always.

Matthew 24:14 is all about “the story.”

There are many signs that we are nearing the end. But there is only one sign of the end. It’s found in Matthew 24, and it’s about “the story.” The disciples came to Jesus on the Mount of Olives and asked Him, “What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3, KJV). He answered that there would be “wars and rumours of wars” (verse 6). He said that there would be famines and pestilences and earthquakes, and that many would come in His name and deceive many. But He said that even with all these things that would happen, “the end is not yet” (verse 6). Jesus told them about nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom. He warned of all the signs of the end, but He said that there was really only one sign of His coming, and it’s in verse 14:

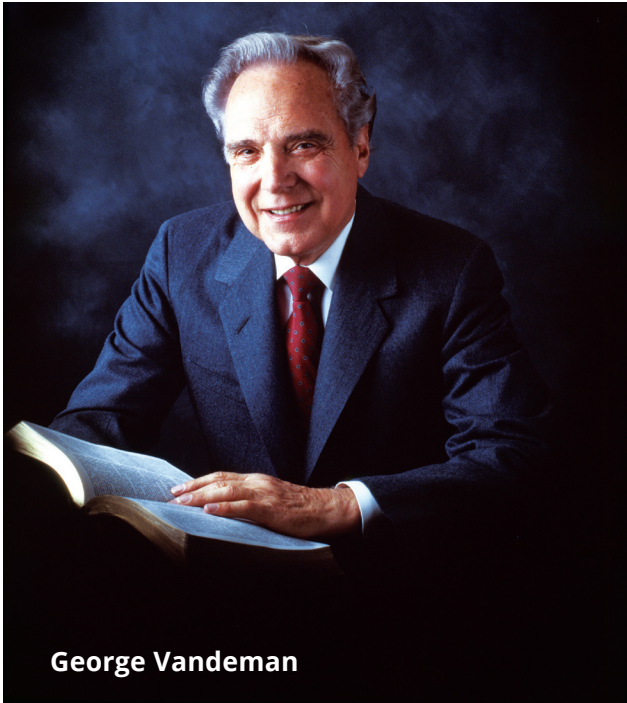
“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (KJV).

When this gospel—this story of Jesus—is taken to all the world, as a witness to all nations, then shall the end come, and Jesus will return to take us home.

That is why the story, His story, is so important, so vital. I’m encouraged to report that I believe we now have the technology in place to take the story—the saving, life-transforming story of Jesus—to the entire world. Through the internet, through mobile phone technology, through traditional media of radio and television, through social media. And through traditional evangelism. We need every tool—traditional and new—to tell the story.

There are some great storytellers—people who have made it their life’s work to tell “the story.” There are pastors, teachers, and evangelists. And then there are people like me and like you. We desperately long to tell it and to tell it well, but some of us feel a little inadequate when compared to some of the greats. I’ve been blessed to know some terrific storytellers. My parents were dear friends with Josephine Cunnington Edwards (mother of King’s Heralds tenor Bob Edwards), and I devoured every book she wrote. Eric B. Hare was a frequent guest in my Sabbath School class at Sligo church in Maryland when I was just a little girl. I still remember his exciting mission stories and the way he told them. I knew Aunt Sue and Uncle Dan of Your Story Hour—what wonderful storytellers they were. Then there was Paul Harvey, who passed away over a decade ago. He was a dear friend of my family, and while the world knew him as “the most listened-to newsman in America,” I knew him to be a consummate communicator who always told us “the rest of the story.”

But when it comes to great storytellers, I am related to one of the best. My father, George Vandeman, was a wonderful storyteller. His conversion story entitled “I Met a Miracle” still gives me goosebumps when I read it. A few years ago, Pacific Press compiled a collection of his best stories and sermon illustrations into a book called *Helpings for the Heart*. Over the course of his remarkable ministry, my father used stories to draw people to Christ. He, like Scott Pelley and the late Don Hewitt of *60 Minutes*, knew the power of the story. The only



George Vandeman

difference was that my dad's storytelling always centered around Christ.

Tell me a fact and I'll learn

I love to learn facts: little known facts, famous facts and tidbits, dates—I love knowing the dates of historical events. Sometimes I think I missed my calling and should have been a history teacher. I loved history and English in school. I enjoy watching game shows like *Jeopardy* and, a few years back, *Are You Smarter Than a 5th-Grader?* Sadly, as I played along I realized that often I am not smarter than a 5th-grader! But that's OK. It's fun to play along.

I can tell you every fact and historical date relating to *It Is Written* and most facts about *Voice of Prophecy*, *Faith For Today*, and other media ministries. I pride myself in being quite the expert on the history of broadcasting in our church. For instance, *It Is Written* was the very first religious television program broadcast in color. (This statistic is actually on a trivia website.) But *Faith For Today* was our church's very FIRST television broadcast—May 21, 1950.

Here are some interesting facts about the Pacific

Union Conference: We have approximately 220,000 members spread across seven conferences in five states. We have over 800 congregations and 113 schools; La Sierra University and Pacific Union College are in our union. In the conference where I reside (Southern California Conference) churches share the gospel in more than 30 languages and dialects each Sabbath. These are interesting facts. I like learning them. But I don't just like facts about media ministries and the Pacific Union Conference. I like biblical facts, historical facts, scientific facts—all kinds of facts. So, tell me a fact, and I'll learn.

Tell me a truth and I'll believe

We as Seventh-day Adventist Christians are blessed to have the Bible as our only creed, and we hold certain fundamental beliefs or truths to be the teaching of the Bible. There are now 28 of these fundamental beliefs, and I *believe* every one of them. I can't name them all right now off the top of my head, but they include the Sabbath, the Nature of Man, the Sanctuary, the Trinity—and then three separate ones for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We have Baptism, Stewardship, the Gift of Prophecy, Death and Resurrection, the Second Coming, the New Earth. My two personal favorites happen to be the Sabbath and the Second Coming. I love what we believe about the soon return of Jesus, don't you? And I love the Sabbath! And the single most significant reason I believe all of these truths is that they are wrapped around the story of Jesus.

So, tell me a truth and I'll believe.

Tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever

That is what the story of Jesus is all about—it not only stays with us and lives in our hearts, it has the power to transform us and the ability to make us want to share it with others. Back to my father: I used to go to lots of evangelistic meetings as a child and later as an adult. I watched the way my father skillfully unfolded the truths of Scripture

by wrapping them around the story of Jesus. He would capture the attention of his audiences with a sermon called “The Heavens are Telling,” sharing slides of the stars. Then in night two or three, he’d tell his own conversion story—about the Friday night he marched out of his own preacher father’s service and shook his fist at the heavens and said, “Holy Spirit leave me and never come back.” Then, once he shared his own personal story, he carefully led the audience night after night through the various truths of Scripture. But always, he began and ended with the story of Jesus. That’s what it was all about then. That’s what it’s all about today!

There are two stories I’d like to share with you. Both will “live in my heart forever.”

The first one is about my brother, Ron Vandeman. He passed away in 2010 at the age of 68. Ever since his complete mental breakdown when he was 21 years old, Ron had to live with the mysterious, often frightening illness of schizophrenia. He was in and out of hospitals, institutions, and various mental health facilities for 40 years of his life. I’ve written about him in the *Adventist Review* and shared some of the pain his illness brought to our family.



Over the years, I would visit Ron in a variety of different facilities. Sometimes he would be lucid and able to carry on an almost “normal” conversation. Other times he was non-responsive, sometimes hostile, sometimes he was just quiet. We almost never spoke of spiritual things.

At a visit not long before he passed away, I found Ron to be quite talkative and animated. He was delighted that a visiting clergyman had left copies of the Gideon Bible with patients who wanted a copy. Ron asked me if I had read the Gospels.

“Of course,” I answered. “It’s the best part!”

“But have you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in order—starting at Matthew and reading straight through to John?” he asked.

“Well, no,” I admitted. “I can’t remember the last time I read through all four Gospels, especially in one sitting.”

“You should do it,” he insisted. “The story is so simple.”

“And what’s the story?” I asked, almost hesitantly.

“The story is this: Jesus took our pain!” he declared.

“Jesus took our pain,” I repeated, not believing that my brother, who lived in such a state of mental turmoil and pain, could grasp the story and then describe it in just four words: *Jesus took our pain*. I pointed out to Ron that even our father, a great preacher and evangelist, couldn’t have summed up “the story” as simply and eloquently as Ron just had.

Yes, friend, Jesus did take our pain. He took yours and He took mine. He took my brother’s pain and promised us a day when our pain, our tears, our heartaches, would be no more. If Ron could tell “the story” so beautifully, so simply, surely I could tell it, too. I am committed now more than ever to doing just that.

One more story that will “live in my heart forever.” I heard this on a very hot day in May 2008. My son was graduating from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California, on the hottest day of the year—108 degrees in the shade. I was

Let's fulfill the wish of our Donor and tell the story, the saving story of Jesus, so that He can take us home.

concerned that day because my husband, his father, had been quite ill. He had been diagnosed with cancer just five months before and we still didn't know the extent of his illness—had it spread? Was he a candidate for surgery? What was his treatment plan to be? We didn't know the answers that day, but he was determined to see his son graduate from college, so he went with me to the giant football field. There was no shade; no breeze; only the hot sun beating down on us all.

As I glanced at the impressive printed program in my hand, my heart sank. There were music and prayers and speeches, and then more speeches, and then, finally, the conferring of degrees on the over 400 undergraduates, as well as all the graduate degrees. A local congresswoman was giving the commencement address. It looked like it was going to be a long afternoon. And while I wouldn't have missed that day for the world because my son was graduating from college, I now believe we were all there to hear Don Conley's story.

Don Conley was a 60-year-old man at the time. He was the ADEP speaker—representing all those graduating from the Adult Education Program. As he stood up to speak, he said, "I stand before you today because of a young man I never met." He went on to tell us about himself, very humbly, in a soft-spoken voice. He said that he had always wanted to go to college but never got around to it. He married right out of high school, had three children in quick succession, and he worked hard to support his family. He had worked in the Information Technology field most of his life. Then, tragedy struck. He was diagnosed with end stage heart failure in 2002. In 2003 he was lying in the hospital at UCLA just waiting for a heart transplant, without

which he would surely die. At that same time, a young 17-year-old named Jason died tragically in a car accident. Jason's parents, in the midst of their overwhelming grief, decided to donate all of his organs. Don Conley received Jason's heart. Jason's dream at the time of his death was to graduate from college. Don ended his short speech that hot day in May with these words: "Today, Jason and I graduated from college. I wanted to fulfill the wish of my donor."

There wasn't a dry eye on the football field that day. There was silence, then thunderous applause. His story made our day. It made us forget the heat. And it made us forget everything but the powerful spiritual application of his story. His story will always live in my heart.

Friends, may I humbly submit this thought to you: This planet is in end stage soul failure. We have a Donor; His name is Jesus. He has already died so that we may live—eternally! He is not only willing to give us a new heart—a clean heart—but He also wants to give each person life everlasting. That's His wish for us. He only asks that we "tell the story." Here's the story—you know it by heart:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, KJV).

Let's fulfill the wish of our Donor and tell the story, the saving story of Jesus, so that He can take us home. I am determined, now more than ever, to do just that!

Connie Vandeman Jeffery serves as associate director of communication and community engagement for the Pacific Union Conference.



Bringing Sweetness to Church, Home, and the Kingdom of God

By Manny Cruz

A church without children is like a buffet without dessert—not very fun. Through their energy, curiosity, and laughter, children bring life to any church or family. Children are God’s special people. That’s why the goal for the Pacific Union Conference Children’s Ministries Department is “A children’s ministry in every church.”

When I first became involved in children’s ministries, I wasn’t sure what to expect. However, I have come to love children’s ministries because of its potential to reach the next generation for the kingdom of God.

Because children’s ministries includes activities and events like Vacation Bible School and children’s evangelism, the Pacific Union Conference Children’s Ministries Department serves the entire population of each territory (see box left), not just the children from Adventist families.

In the Pacific Union territory, that’s a total of 12,224,000 children with whom we have the opportunity to share Jesus, both in and out of the church. As a pastor and a father, this

Arizona: 1.6 million
California: 8.7 million
Hawaii: 295,000
Nevada: 700,000
Utah: 929,000

is what I am most passionate about: sharing Jesus, especially with the next generation.

I was born in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, and raised in Los Angeles. My mother grew up Adventist but left the church as a young person and was rebaptized when I was a teenager. Through her influence, I became an Adventist at the age of 17.

I received a B.S. in theology from the Universidad Adventista de Montemorelos in Mexico. I have served the church as a youth pastor, associate pastor, senior pastor, conference youth director, and NAD associate youth director, including in my current position as director for youth and children's ministries for the Arizona Conference.

Throughout my life I have had a few experiences and interactions that influence my faith and work to this day.

My wife, Pastor Melanie M. Cruz, and my four daughters, Carmen, Carolina, Caryn, and Soleil, have always been my inspiration and motivation. They teach me many things about life and inspire and challenge me to be the man God wants me to be. I can't imagine my life and ministry without them.

In college I had the privilege of listening to Pastor Alejandro Bullon during a week of prayer. He presented Jesus as a friend, and he shared the gospel in a way that was theologically sound, easy to understand, and not at all "preachy."

My "Compas," a group of fellow pastors and ministry colleagues with whom I have prayed, laughed, and cried for many years, has been instrumental in my faith journey as we all support each other in our personal and ministry lives. "Compas" is short for *compadres*, which means "close friends."

Early in my ministry my then-conference president, Jim Stevens, made a meaningful difference in my life, and to this day pastor Jose V. Rojas is a good friend and mentor.

All these relationships and experiences have grounded and strengthened me in my faith and

ministry, and I am excited about bringing this wealth of collective experience and spiritual blessing to children's ministries.

Despite the many blessings children's ministries has enjoyed, it has not been without challenges. During the pandemic, as churches closed their doors, many of them were barely able to livestream their worship service.

The majority of our churches did not have the necessary resources to provide something for the children. We are blessed in the Pacific Union to have excellent children's ministries leaders, who continued to serve to the best of their abilities in spite of these challenges.

There were several churches and children's ministries leaders in our union who used Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and other platforms to continue providing Sabbath School, Bible studies, children's stories, and other material.

In the Central California Conference, for example, Children's Ministries Director Lisa Plasencia created a YouTube channel during the pandemic to offer parents and leaders resources for their churches. You may view that channel and the great content here: https://sdawest.pub/CCC_childmin. This content was a blessing to many children even beyond the Central California Conference.

This is just one example among many of children's ministries leaders who go out of their way to serve. I am proud to work with many creative, innovative, and dedicated ministry leaders who believe in children's ministries. Together, we strive to share Jesus with as many children as possible through our various activities, programs, and outreach.

For more information on children's ministries in the Pacific Union, email Manny Cruz at MannyCruz@azconference.org.

Manny Cruz is the children's ministries director for the Pacific Union Conference.

Black Adventist Women Clergy Advancing the Gospel, Part 1

By Sasha A. Ross

Women have worked to advance the gospel from our earliest days as an organized church, yet when discussing their role, an important sub-group is often excluded from the story. White women are often overrepresented, while the accomplishments of Black women and other trailblazing women of color are less recognized.ⁱ

The legacy of women who have helped build the church, literally and figuratively, needs greater attention if we are to fully herald the Second Coming. Women pastors must be put on a more equitable, secure footing with their male counterparts in keeping with their divine calling.

Continued support for women's ordination as elders is needed according to biblical precedent. And women's presence in directorship, board-level, and other decision-making positions of leadership better reflects our heritage as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.ⁱⁱ

Church members must gain awareness of the dauntless efforts made by African American Adventist women, in particular, to fully appreciate the foundation from which they work today and the depth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in America as a whole.

Church leaders have noted the importance of speaking out against injustice in order to live out our calling as followers of Christ, and Adventists in North America and elsewhere have

turned the corner in recent years toward greater diversity and inclusion *as a policy*.ⁱⁱⁱ

An increasing number of women pastors are employed and ordained, even in conservative congregations. Ethnic and racial diversity also appears more frequently now in the leadership of non-regional SDA conferences, even in historically segregated parts of the United States.

These changes must be celebrated. Yet, despite the historical diversity and greater equity on the West Coast, Black Adventist women clergy in the Pacific Union continue to face compounded, unique challenges to answering and living out their calling in ministry.

Biographical Sketches of Adventist Women Civil Rights Pioneers

Black Adventist women are as integral to the early history of Adventism as to the histories of the civil rights movement, the women's rights movement, and the United States itself. This is exemplified in the stories of Sojourner Truth, Rosetta Douglass-Sprague, Louise Helen Norton Little, and Irene Amos Morgan Kirkaldy.

Their witness and legacy draws on the connection between their lived experience, their religious belief, and the social contexts in which they lived. None lived for herself alone; each looked for practical solutions that would improve the plight of others and named the social ailments that confronted her respective generation.

The theology, social ethic, and worldview of each of these remarkable women can teach us new ways of seeing God, living out our calling, and advocating for the important work that Black Adventist women are doing in America today—both in the pews and behind the pulpit.

Sojourner Truth (née Isabella Baumfree) was born into slavery in 1797. She survived a difficult childhood and many atrocities, including forced separation from her parents and most of her children before reaching freedom in New York. Newly free with an infant daughter, she became the

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



Sojourner Truth

One basic reason for this is that many Adventists remain unaware of early Adventists' abolitionist views and how vital Black women were to ministry and church growth, long before the civil rights and women's rights movements of the 20th century.

Multi-faceted solutions at the congregational and denominational levels are needed, therefore, to enable Black Adventist women clergy's advancement, retention, and well-being in gospel ministry today. Raising awareness and improving Adventists' understanding of our church history is a first step in this important work.

Surveying the ministerial landscape

The historical nexus between race and Adventist Christian theology in the 20th century demonstrates the crucial importance of Black Adventist women clergy's work today.

However, Black Adventist women clergy face a unique bind.^{iv} They are doubly integral to the Church's mission as they carry forward the gospel in a hurting and troubled world, yet they face increased risks and operate in a more complex environment because of the intersection between their race, gender, and religious profession.

Statistics about Black Adventist women clergy in America are limited. Four recent studies discuss key challenges they face in living out their calling and flourishing in ministry.

A 2013 study of ordained clergy in America—Adventist and otherwise—found that race correlated with decreased health for clergy, such that Black clergy reported lower levels of physical health than other respondents. Those with higher levels of education had increased levels of work and boundary stress, and the presence of children in the home

related to poorer levels of emotional health when compared to clergy who did not have kids living in their home.^v

A 2016 study described the unique burden Black women clergy carry:

Many African American women were socialized to espouse the “strong black woman” motif, which is attributed to their survival during slavery. The problem is [that] this tends to make them over function in their personal and professional relationships. When this tendency toward over-functioning occurs in the lives of African American female pastors, it produces women who are besieged by familial, communal, and religious responsibilities and this can often lead to depression.^{vi}

These findings align with a 2017 research study that looked at the common challenges facing all 5,400 Seventh-day Adventist pastors then employed in North America, including men and women. It identified the three greatest stressors as experiencing stress from undefined or excessive role expectations; frequent moves; and congregants impinging on family time.^{vii}

Adventist clergy experiencing chronic stress suffered negative consequences to their physical health (e.g., sleep deprivation, increased blood pressure and heart rate, inhibition of the immune system), which then impaired their relationships with family members and parishioners.^{viii} The study also found that Adventist clergy working in the field longer report higher levels of burnout, which significantly correlated with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

Finally, a 2022 study on women clergy in America

We infer from the data that Black Adventist women clergy face greater health risks and job insecurity than their white female counterparts—and greater administrative challenges in balancing their time and family demands than Black brethren.

showed that female clergy encounter specific barriers that can negatively impact them as well as the churches and congregations they serve:

While many churches and denominations express willingness to ordain women, they do not encourage women to seek leadership, place them in thriving churches, or pay them as well as their male counterparts. Just as in other sectors, the appointment of the first woman to a position of power rarely leads to consistent appointments of women to powerful positions.^{ix}

We infer from the data that Black Adventist women clergy face greater health risks and job insecurity than their white female counterparts—and greater administrative challenges in balancing their time and family demands than Black brethren.

One final caveat: all people in ministry need the opportunity to serve, to respond to their calling, to challenge themselves, and to contribute to church life through progressively advanced levels of responsibility. Yet in this, Black women in particular are often expected to be “twice as good” or have multiple credentials and additional certifications just to be given equal footing for leadership positions with other, less-qualified candidates. Statistically, they also face over-scrutinization by their bosses.^x

These social factors create additional barriers that worsen the higher risks and reduced well-being described in the studies above, and which highlight the urgency for greater social, financial, and administrative support. In light of the centrality of the health message to Adventist beliefs and practices, renewed efforts are needed at minimum to reduce healthcare disparities as a key way to reduce stressors for Black women in ministry specifically.

Sasha Ross served as director of the La Sierra University Women's Resource Center from 2013–2016. She lives in Riverside, California, with her husband, Harold Thomas, and their daughter, Madeleine.

first Black woman to sue a white man in a U.S. Court in 1827. She won, prevailing over her previous slaveowner Dumont's illegal sale of her five-year-old son Peter.¹

Truth lived with Millerite groups after her emancipation and spoke, sang, and debated at two Millerite camp meetings in 1843. In 1857, she moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, and was reportedly baptized by Uriah Smith.² Her 1850 autobiography describes her work as a social reformer, her religious conversion, and her life as an itinerant—or traveling—preacher during the 1840s. It includes an extended section entitled “The Second Advent Doctrines.”

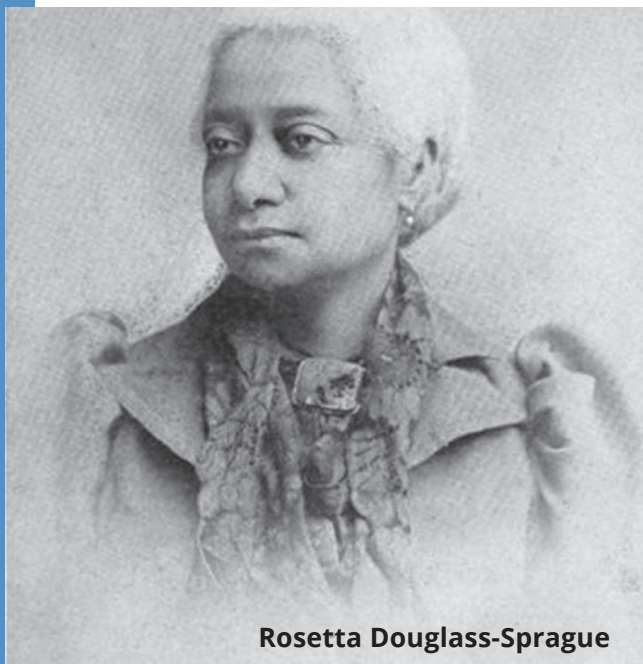
Her 1851 speech “Ain't I a Woman” at a convention of mostly white suffragists in Ohio famously suggested that the early women's rights movement had marginalized African American women. She continued to speak passionately and with great wit against discrimination and in favor of women's suffrage until her death in 1883.³ She is buried in the Oak Hill cemetery in Battle Creek, Michigan, alongside Ellen and James White and other early Adventist leaders.⁴

Rosetta Douglass-Sprague (1839-1906), the eldest daughter of abolitionist Fredrick Douglass, embodied the social reform ideas of early 19th-century Adventism. In 1845, when she was six, the Rochester Board of Education closed public schools to Black students. Tutored instead by two cousins of the famous Quaker abolitionist and feminist Lucretia Mott, she became the only African American student at a prestigious private school for girls.⁵

She converted to Adventism around 1889 and worked as an assistant to her father, who was known for opposing the use of Christianity to justify slavery and advocating for desegregation throughout New England.⁶ Douglass-Sprague

attributed her father's aspirations and career to the "unswerving loyalty" of her mother, his first wife Anna Murray, who dedicated her life to the cause of equal rights for all.⁷ Anna is described by her family as someone who "worked early and late by the sunlight of day and the burning of the midnight oil at her duties of the household," and whose lifelong activism and liberationist work motivated the passion of her five children for social justice and human rights.⁸

As Rosetta's daughter noted, "Too often are the facts of the great sacrifices and heroic efforts of the wives of renowned men overshadowed by the achievements of the men and the wonderful and beautiful part she has played so well is overlooked." Yet Rosetta's mother's conviction was simple: "Why not we endure hardship that our race may be free?"⁹



Rosetta Douglass-Sprague

- 1 "Isabella (Sojourner Truth)," in *The Missing Chapter: Untold Stories of the African American Presence in the Mid-Hudson Valley*. Published by the Hudson River Valley Heritage and Southeastern NY Library Resources Council.
- 2 Patricia Humphrey, "Pioneer of Freedom," *Columbia Union Visitor* (Feb. 15, 1989), p. 4.
- 3 Sojourner Truth with Olive Gilbert, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth* (first published in 1850; republished by Dover Publications, 1997), online at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/truth50/summary.html>.
- 4 "Famous Blacks and Adventists," compiled by Benjamin Baker, Black SDA History. Online at <https://www.blacksdahistory.org/famous-black-adventists>.
- 5 "Rosetta Douglass Sprague," University of Rochester Frederick Douglass Project, online at <https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/2662>. For an account of the school controversy, see John Blasingame, ed. *The Frederick Douglass Papers, vol. 2 1847-54* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982), p. 534.
- 6 Benjamin Baker, "Civil Rights Pioneer: Rosetta Douglass Sprague," Black SDA History. See also "Rosetta Douglass" in the New Bedford Whaling Museum project, *Lighting the Way: Historic Women of South Coast*, online at <https://historicwomensouthcoast.org/rosetta-douglass>.
- 7 Rosetta Douglass-Sprague, "Anna Murray-Douglass: My Mother as I Recall Her," *Journal of Negro History* 8:1 (Jan. 1923).
- 8 Celeste-Marie Bernier, "Why not we endure hardship that our race may be free? The Anna Murray and Frederick Douglas Family Papers, vol. 1 and 2, and Douglass Family Lives: The Biography," *New North Star* 3 (2021), p. 60.
- 9 Bernier, p. 59.

- i While editorial usage of the terms "Black" and "White" differ, they are increasingly capitalized. However, for the purpose of clarity, the term "white" is not being capitalized herein so as to disambiguate it from references to the person, Ellen Gould Harmon White.
- ii Currently there are approximately 100-150 Adventist women employed as clergy in North America, across all ethnic and racial backgrounds, according to the NAD Ministerial Department (2015). This is down from more than 1,000 women church workers a century ago, as documented in Michael Campbell's "Adventists, Fundamentalism, and the Second Wave of the Ku Klux Klan," *Spectrum Magazine* 50:1 (April 26, 2022), footnote 16. Online at <https://spectrummagazine.org/news/2022/adventists-fundamentalism-and-second-wave-ku-klux-klan>.
- iii This is a key theme of church discussions following the death of George Floyd, entitled "A Conversation on Racism and Adventism within NAD Leadership," featuring Daniel Jackson, Alex Bryant, and Randy Robinson with Mylon Medley, moderator (June 18, 2020). Online at <https://www.nadadventist.org/news/conversation-racism-and-adventism-nad-leadership>.
- iv Calvin B. Rock, *Protest & Progress: Black Seventh-day Adventist Leadership and the Push for Parity*, p. 8. Rock discusses W.E.B. Du Bois' concept of the "twoness" of African American citizenship, or the thesis that Black Americans live a double existence—one within the Black community itself and the other in broader society.
- v C.R. Wells, "The effects of work-related and boundary-related stress on the emotional and physical health status of ordained clergy," *Pastoral Psychology* 62:1 (2013), pp. 101-114.
- vi Wynnetta Wimberley, "Depression in African American Clergy" in the *Black Religion / Womanist Thought / Social Justice Series* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), pp. 3-12.
- vii A. Heck, R. Drumm, D. McBride, D. Sedlacek, "Seventh-day Adventist Clergy: Understanding Stressors and Coping Mechanisms," *Review of Religious Research* 60 (2018), p. 116. Online at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13644-017-0312-7>. NB: data is not disaggregated by race, gender, or age.
- viii *Ibid.*, p. 117.
- ix Heather Matthews, "Uncovering & Dismantling Barriers for Women Pastors," *Priscilla Papers* (Feb. 3, 2022). Online at <https://www.cbeinternational.org/resource/article/priscilla-papers-academic-journal/uncovering-and-dismantling-barriers-women>.
- x Gillian B. White, "Black Workers Really Do Need to Be Twice as Good," *The Atlantic* (Oct. 7, 2015). Online at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/10/why-black-workers-really-do-need-to-be-twice-as-good/409276>.

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- Ralph Trecartin, PUC President



TOP RIGHT: A volunteer conducts an eye exam in the vision department. BOTTOM RIGHT: Medical volunteers check vitals before guests enter the facility. FAR RIGHT: Volunteers at the healthy living booth. BELOW: The event would not be possible without the help of the many volunteers.



Arizona SonShine

Arizona SonShine held its seventh annual event in Prescott Valley, Arizona, on June 16 and 17, 2022. The organizers and volunteers believe that to reach people's hearts with the love of Jesus, their physical needs must be met first—then they are able to hear about Jesus. Known as “Christ’s Method Alone,” this is what Arizona SonShine is all about. “We believe it, we live it, and we see the results!” is part of the motto that drives the efforts of the organization.

Dental services like fillings, extractions, and cleanings were offered. In the vision section, doctors and technicians offered eye exams and glasses for those who needed them. In the medical department, people were treated by general practitioners, nurse practitioners, diabetes counseling, naturopathic care, and foot care specialists. A healthy living booth offered counseling for various health aspects, which include the Eight Laws of Health. Yavapai County also brought a large group of volunteers who offered WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), family planning, vaccines, etc.

One of the biggest concerns this year was getting enough volunteers, both professional and non-professional, to sign up to help. Organizers prayed and placed the concern in the Lord’s hands, and by the time of the event they had everyone they needed to make it successful.

At the Prescott Valley event, 308 guests were served. Exit surveys revealed 29 requests for programs on plant-based cooking, 25 for healthy diet, 20 for depression recovery, 20 for stress management, 17 for grief recovery, 13 for cardiac health, 12 for aging gracefully, 11 for money management, 10 for children’s activities, 10 for estate planning, nine for Bible study, eight for diabetes reversal, seven for stop smoking, and five for addiction recovery. Follow-up programs by the local church are an essential part of reaching the people for Jesus.

Arizona SonShine is a non-profit entity of the Arizona Conference that is funded by donations. Because of the support of the Arizona Conference, the Pacific Union Conference, the North American Division, and numerous grants and donations by individuals who believe in the mission, they have been able to continue this ministry. This has allowed the organizers to provide free services and follow-up programs to those who need it.

There will be other events each year throughout the state. To see what future events are coming up, visit www.arizonasonshine.com.

By Cathy Fields



Learn and Grow

The Seeds for Life Community Garden at the Page All Nations church in Page, Arizona, offers a creative evangelism approach that centers around connection and education. Pastor James and Nancy Crosby are finding new ways to connect with the community through an attractive garden greenhouse on a street corner—in the middle of town. Addressing a need for activities in Page for families with younger children, the idea of a gardening class for children ages two to six was born.

Starting on April 22, 2022, the Learn and Grow Gardening Class began under the shaded pavilion at the All Nations church. Every Tuesday afternoon during the following eight weeks, from six to nine toddlers with one of their parents gathered for some outdoor education and fun. Each class began with a short lesson about a garden topic, continued with crafts and hands-on activities in the garden, and ended with an upbeat goodbye song with motions that the children learned by heart. The first week in the garden, the children learned about tools and safety in the garden. They were able to hold different tools that were just their size and take a nature scavenger hunt through the garden.

At the next class, each child had the opportunity to pick out their own seeds and get their hands in the dirt to plant a little pot. The children examined different kinds of soil to determine the best kind for their plants.



The children learned more about germination and the parts of a plant as they looked at seedlings and small plants already growing in the garden. By the end of the next class, the children could identify the parts of a plant and were eagerly watching their plants germinate.

In the following weeks, the children learned about different kinds of fruits and vegetables that grow in the garden and how to take care of their plants. They learned about how different weather affects the garden and how God sends the sunshine and rain to help our gardens grow. During the classes, the children were able to enjoy baby chicks in their little cage and cautiously look at the beehive where bees swarmed in and out, pollinating plants in the garden. The children learned that chickens help to scratch up the soil for planting and keep away bugs.

After nine weeks, the little group left with many happy memories from their time in the Learn and Grow program. The All Nations church looks forward to building on these relationships and new connections in their community. Their prayer is that the seeds of truth will blossom in the hearts of these children as they continue to learn and grow.

By Anne Crosby





Soquel Camp Meeting Restarts with Prayers and Impact

Where we've been

In 1873, at a camp meeting in Yountville, California, the Central California Conference (CCC) was officially organized with seven churches and 253 members. John N. Loughborough was elected the first conference president. The conference has since grown and changed, and it is now made up of nearly 34,000 members and 148 congregations. But the camp meeting continues to be one of the many beloved conference traditions.

Despite being canceled due to COVID in 2020 and offered online in 2021, Soquel Camp Meeting has remained an important part of the conference. This

year's Soquel Camp Meeting showed how committed the conference and the members are to continuing this impactful piece of our history.

Where we are

This year's Soquel Camp Meeting brought together members from the CCC and numerous other areas for a powerful two-weekend event. It included a speaking series from Carlton Byrd in the English tent alongside a series from Jose Esposito in the Spanish tent. These resulted in about 15 baptism requests and 11 baptisms, respectively.

Recently elected CCC President Dan Serns was able to share his vision for Central. The camp meeting was themed "Arise and Go: The Story Begins," and Serns highlighted this with his own dream of getting every church and member in the conference involved in outreach.

"Around 2,000 people came to each of the two Sabbaths," said Serns. "They enjoyed beautiful music; testimonies; baptisms; fellowship; interviews with church planters; mission trip opportunities to Silicon Valley, Ireland, and the Middle East; an interview with the new principal and the new pastor at Monterey Bay Academy; free food; prayer; children's stories; and powerful preaching in the three tents: English, Spanish, and Young Adults."



The evangelism offering, which is taken up at every Soquel Camp Meeting, focused on four projects this year: Fill Every Baptistry, Start New Groups, Send Every High School Senior, and Fill Every Desk. This offering typically collects between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 each year, funding projects like these plus evangelism for the churches, Bible workers, youth evangelism, and more. This year was no different. In fact, one of the donors was able to give a gift of over \$500,000 at this year's offering call.

The Soquel Camp Meeting usually involves nearly two years of planning and preparation, but this year's camp meeting was organized in a matter of months. COVID and construction delays made it uncertain whether the camp meeting was even going to happen, but at the last minute the conference administration decided to push ahead and make it happen.

"We encountered huge obstacles trying to reopen the [10-day] Soquel Camp Meeting, but we were prayerfully persistent and God blessed," explained Serns. The numerous obstacles included determining and getting approval for the location, making sure building projects were completed on time, ensuring security was available, obtaining a sound system, and more.

Where we are going

The CCC plans to continue the Soquel Camp Meeting as an important piece of evangelism in the coming years. Those who attended were impacted in powerful ways and want to share this impact with others.

"Attending even one day on the Soquel campgrounds was truly a blessing. Hearing God moments—how He moves into the hearts of families—is always a favorite time for me. There was even a baptism as a result of one pastor's humbling testimony," said Sue Schramm, administrative associate for the CCC Creative Arts department.

Anil Kanda, Youth/Young Adult director

You can make a difference.

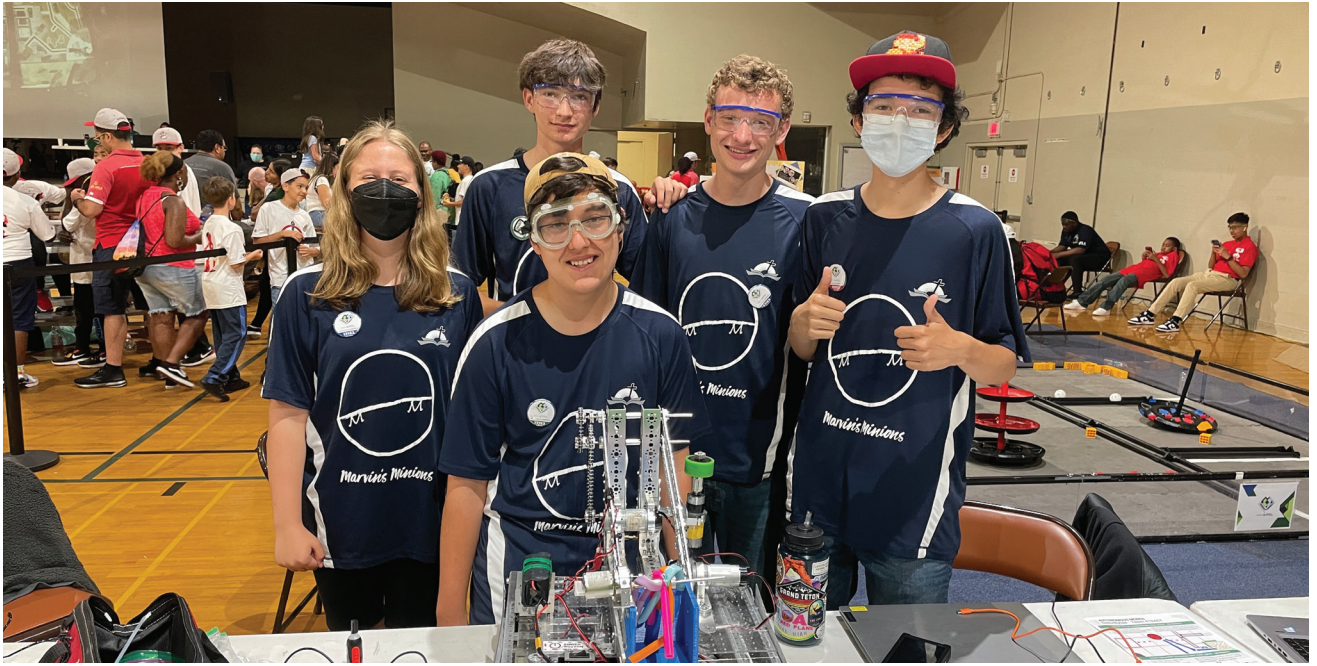
We invite you to give a monthly pledge or a one-time gift to the "Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering." Whether your donation is \$50 or \$500,000, your gift will move the mission forward in the CCC and the world. We all have gifts to share as we break new ground for God's work.

for the CCC, added, "The youth and young adult tent was blessed by great music and powerful preaching. Lots of young adults want to get involved in serving others."

Just like it did at the first camp meeting nearly 150 years ago, this year's camp meeting has brought positive forward momentum to the conference and its members—and it continues to be one of the many beloved conference traditions. Because of what the last two years have been like, the people who were able to make it to the event were blessed by being back together. "I hope you join us in person next year, July 13-22, 2023, for another spiritual feast," added Serns.

By Brennon Hallock





CCC Schools Win at the Adventist Robotics Challenge

Three of Central California Conference's schools participated in the FIRST Adventist Robotics competitions this last school year in Orlando, Florida. This competition, which was held May 1, 2022, included schools from across the North American Division (NAD). Valley View Junior Academy, Miramonte Christian School, and Central Valley Christian Academy were each able to send a team to the event. T-Wave Tronics (from Valley View Junior Academy) won first place in robot performance and second place in robot design; T.A.K. (from Miramonte Christian School)

won the Motivate Award; and Marvin's Minions (from Central Valley Christian Academy) won the Innovate Award.

Donna J. Baerg Entze, associate superintendent of schools for the Central California Conference, served as a judge for the local tournament.



She explained, "This is an opportunity to broaden the students' horizons. It is a lot more than just building a robot. Part of it is the opportunity to do things outside the classroom. And so much of it is about teamwork. To me that is a very valuable skill for students to learn." The students also are required to do a presentation of their research

and ideas to a panel of judges, teaching them skills in communication, research, presentation, and writing.

Incorporating STEM

Adventist education is continuing to shift and adapt as the world around us changes. One of these constant changes is technology. One of the ways schools continue to adapt is by embracing technology and incorporating it into school programs.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, and schools are finding innovative ways to interest students. STEM is a critical learning area for students of all ages, as our society relies more and more on technology created by people working in these fields. But it can be difficult to motivate students to learn these skills.

One way schools involve their students in STEM is through the Adventist Robotics competitions. This program, which began in 2004 and is sponsored by the NAD as well as the Florida Conference, operates FIRST robotics tournaments and STEM engagements throughout the United States for students in pre-K through 12th grade.

Brian Snarr, Central Valley Christian Academy vice principal and mathematics/science teacher, is also the Adventist Robotics league sponsor for the high school team, Marvin's Minions. He saw a presentation by Mel Wade, director of Adventist Robotics, at a teachers' conference several years ago. This made him think it would be an engaging program to add to his school.

"Before that, I was teaching a robotics class but not participating in competitions," he explained. "The first year was a learning curve, but we went to the finals in Sacramento and made it into the final round, so we were pretty proud; that was 2018. The next year we went to Florida and again made it to the final round." The following year was 2020, and the competitions were

anceled for two years.

This past year, the Marvin's Minions team made it to the semifinals and won the Innovate Award, which celebrates a team that "thinks outside the box and has an innovative and creative robot design." The theme for the competition was Freight Frenzy, and it involved delivering three different kinds of freight: cubes, balls, and rubber ducks. These had to be moved to depots and shelves of different heights.

The Marvin's Minions team created a robot with an arm mounted on a track. This arm was able to pick up the objects and move them to the specific locations, placing them at different heights. The team created this robot through brainstorming and research. "You have all the different aspects of STEM," explained Snarr, "but what I really like about this program is it goes beyond just the basic science fair project."

The students build their idea and then discover it has some weaknesses or it doesn't do exactly what they anticipated. This causes them to go back to the drawing board and refine their product. The students continue in that engineering loop, making their product better and better.

This program can be incredibly beneficial to schools and their students, but it requires someone at the school who has the passion and motivation to start it. "Just jump in," said Snarr. "The first year is a learning curve, but after that first tournament everyone is so excited."

Baerg Entze added, "I think it's a fabulous school program, and there are kids who have gone on to work as engineers, lawyers, on communications teams—it teaches them skills for any area they're going into. They learn how to present, how to do research, and how to think outside the box." And this is in addition to the STEM skills learned in the program.

By Brennan Hallock





Volunteers Revitalize Camp Waianae



As I write, there are currently 50 volunteers energetically wielding shovels, rakes, and power tools—all with the purpose of revamping Camp Waianae for the continued use and enjoyment of our community. Their current assignments: to renovate our amphitheater, plant palms on our new campground space, and put the finishing touches on our new low ropes course.

Camp Waianae is in the first few phases of a much-needed revitalization—the first of its kind since it was built in the late 1960s. Situated up against the towering peak of Mount Kahala, Camp Waianae exists as a sanctuary for people, particularly our young people, to come and connect and fall in love with Jesus. It is a well-used and greatly loved space in our Hawaii Conference, and it is exciting to see so many people coming alongside us to improve our camp.

Since January of this year, we have been gifted with more than 11,500 hours of hard work from varying groups of volunteers. Each group brings their own skills

to help with projects such as refurbishing our cafeteria, staining fences, building rock walls and beautiful new gates, building low ropes elements, clearing land for our new campground, gardening, electrical work, and the list goes on. The tasks are all different and yet equally vital for providing the best place possible for our campers to be blessed.

Camp Waianae is what it is today because of the generosity of people who know how important camp is for spiritual growth and community. Where else can young people play games, cool off in the pool, and then praise Jesus and learn of His awesome love for them? Not only that but Camp Waianae also seeks to serve our homeless community by providing opportunities for homeless kids to attend summer camp for free. Our mission groups have also had opportunities to serve

within this community, which has been a welcomed blessing.

With more work to be done, we look forward to welcoming future volunteers who hear God's call on their hearts to bless our Hawaiian community by helping us realize our plans—one of which is to build a new bathhouse. To which we always respond with an enthusiastic, "Yes! Please! Amen!"

We have a lot of Aloha for our volunteers, many of whom come to Camp Waianae for the very first time to serve. Thank you again for all the time, hard work, donations, and skills that you have bestowed on us. It is not only because of you but also for you that we have Camp Waianae.

By Krystle Maddox





The Greyeagles pose with a group from Chinle near the starting point of Metal Man run.



Healed to Help

The date was May 1, 2021. Twenty-six individuals stood in the pastor’s study at the Holbrook church, preparing for baptism. Of that number, three were Navajo parents, ready to be baptized along with their children who attended the Holbrook Indian School (HIS). Just a few weeks previously, they had learned of their children’s decision to be baptized due to their Bible classes at school. The parents also asked for Bible studies so they could be baptized with their children. They watched as their children entered the water and smiled as they came up with a new-found commitment. When they entered, they were equally overjoyed as they came out of the water, renewed.

Fast forward a little over a year to July 2022. The family was now helping to plan a unique run/walk across the Navajo Nation to promote a major evangelistic event, “Message from the Metal Man,” by the broadcast ministry It Is Written. Not only was this family heavily involved, but many more students from HIS were participating in the event across the Navajo Nation. It is a typical example of healing to help others, blessed to be a blessing. Their story is one of many, representing the ripple effect of God’s work through one small school in the desert.

The Greyeagles

Clarisse and Rudy Greyeagle have three children who have attended Holbrook Indian School: Dakota, Nathaniel, and Jameslyn. Before the family baptism, Rudy says he participated in a 12-step recovery program to break his drug addiction. The



program was a ministry of the Chinle Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Navajo Nation. It was their first exposure to Adventism. They heard about HIS through the suggestion of a family member, Clarisse said, and the school became a place of recovery for one child who was suffering academically at the time. An academic turnaround would not be the only benefit they would receive. The family found hope and inspiration through the children's decision to be baptized. "It was Jameslyn who told us, 'I decided to get baptized,'" Clarisse said. "I asked if it was OK if we got baptized too."

Various parties organized the Metal Man Run, as this event spanned four different conferences. In the Chinle region of the Navajo Nation, the Greyeagles were instrumental in organizing and recruiting. They had experience participating in the walk for Missing Murdered and Indigenous Women in honor of Jamie Lynn Yazzie in September 2021. That experience was vital to the planning team and gave insight into obtaining an escort from Navajo authorities. More than half the people who showed up for the event in Chinle came because of the Greyeagles.

HIS students

HIS student Kaiss was giving out flyers on the Chinle segment of the run. As cars drove past, he would wave and hand a flyer to them, said Pastor Wolcott, Arizona Conference Native ministries director.

Former HIS student Neilsen Begay is only nine years old, but he was out in front, running and walking. "I was amazed at his endurance," Pastor Wolcott said. "Kallie [another HIS student] was also out there with them."

Mr. Hubbard

Sam Hubbard teaches Navajo language, history, and government; math; and maker space classes at HIS. When he moved to Holbrook in 2006, he first worked as a dean and Bible teacher, and he has since been a beacon for the Navajo community on the school's campus. Mr. Hubbard had a struggling past of his own before he found hope in God. He often helps many of the non-native staff connect and better relate to Navajos and other Indigenous nations.

Mr. Hubbard and his wife were runners in the Metal Man Run for the Kinlichee to St. Michael segment. Despite the higher elevation, he and his wife completed the noble trek along this part of the reservation. Although this segment did not have any HIS students participating, he and his wife could be seen with other Adventist Navajos running behind a banner promoting the upcoming prophecy event.

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

Thank you for your support.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

Regarding Adventist evangelistic efforts on the reservation, Mr. Hubbard said, "There's generally a good turnout." He continued, "The main thing to remember is you have to build trust." Many Indigenous peoples, including the Navajo, have been poorly treated and deceived by government and religious entities. It is very difficult for the Navajo to forget this traumatic history, and building trust is essential in any relationships sought.

Hence the wisdom in using a run to promote the event. It promotes healthy living and is an accepted means of gently catching attention. "I think that was part of the reasoning behind the Metal Man Run. People like the idea of a walk for a great cause," said Mr. Hubbard.

The Metal Man Run will go until the evangelistic series begins on September 9.

It's wonderful to hear the stories of how God continues to work in the lives of our students and beyond. Your support of Native Americans through Christian education continues to make a difference. Thank you for your support.

By Chevon Petgrave



PHOTO: JEFF ROGERS

Kateryna's Story: Last-Minute Miracles and God's Provision

Kateryna Vechkanova tried not to text Katya too often as the weeks went by. But it was hard not knowing her childhood friend's fate as 22-year-old Katya fled from Kyiv, Ukraine, in March under a hail of Russian rockets that destroyed her apartment.

Vechkanova, who completed her freshman year at La Sierra University in June, watched in horror along with the rest of the world as Russia's unprovoked military invasion of her Ukrainian homeland unfolded on Feb. 24. After several anxious weeks during which she was also fearful for her family living in eastern Ukraine, Vechkanova was finally able to greet Katya with a hug on April 6. The two connected at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Diego where Katya arrived with a couple of Ukrainian friends among hundreds of fleeing Ukrainians.

That Vechkanova, a Seventh-day Adventist and native of Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine, was in Southern California at that crucial time was in itself a miracle. Over the past three years she had experienced a series of last-minute providential opportunities and interventions that landed her at Milo Adventist Academy in Oregon in 2019 and then at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, just months before Russia began its attack.

Vechkanova's hometown of Simferopol lies in Crimea in the eastern section of Ukraine, which in 2014 fell under illegal Russian control. To allow for higher education options outside of Russia, Vechkanova took online classes at a high school across the border in mainland Ukraine while attending the Russian-controlled high school nearby.

In 2019 Vechkanova, with two high school diplomas under her belt, was accepted into the Adventist college in Bucha, Ukraine, near the capital Kyiv. That summer she traveled with her family to the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where she was placed on the camporee program to deliver a prayer in Ukrainian before the crowd of many thousands.

While there, a chance meeting with a man whose daughters attended Milo Adventist Academy in Oregon and Andrews University in Michigan resulted in a conversation about the advantages of a high school diploma from a U.S. Adventist school. A subsequent connection with Milo principal Randy Thornton, who



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KATERYNA VECHKANOVA

Katya, left, and her friend Kateryna Vechkanova after Katya arrived in the U.S. Katya's father was pastor of the Adventist church in Ukraine that Vechkanova's family attended, and the two girls became lifelong friends.

was also at the camporee, led to the securing of tuition sponsors that same day for Vechkanova's enrollment in classes that started within a couple of days.

Vechkanova graduated from Milo Adventist Academy in 2020. She now had three high school diplomas and had been accepted to Adventist colleges around the U.S. While she worked as a food service intern over the next year, many prayers and efforts ensued to secure tuition for an Adventist college in the states—but without results.

In early 2021, the academy campus chef suggested she write a letter to a former boss of his, but again there was no response. The school year drew to a close. "I said, 'Jesus, today's the day; if you're not going to show me what I'm going to do next, I'm going to buy a ticket to go back to Ukraine tomorrow,'" Vechkanova recalled.

Later that same day she received a call from the school's secretary about a letter that had arrived. It was a check for \$30,000 to cover the first year's tuition at La Sierra University, sent by the chef's former employer.

"And the secretary just started crying and I was like in shock," Vechkanova said. "I could not even like realize what is happening."

Says Vechkanova, "I don't know where I would be today without my mighty and gracious God. He never failed me. And I trust and know that as He provided for me before, He will do it again."

By Darla Martin Tucker

U.S. News & World Report Gives High Ranking to LLUH Hospitals

Loma Linda University Medical Center has been recognized as the 2022-2023 No. 1 hospital in the Riverside and San Bernardino metro area and No. 12 in California by *U.S. News & World Report*. The Medical Center earned “High Performing” marks in 22 types of care, including a national ranking in pulmonology and lung surgery.

Trevor Wright, CEO of Loma Linda University Health Hospitals, said this was a remarkable achievement made possible by every member of the healthcare team and their extraordinary efforts to provide compassionate, quality care to each patient.

“These rankings offer evidence to our patients that Loma Linda University Medical Center is a place where they and their families will receive excellent healthcare when their need is the greatest,” Wright said. “Though we’ve faced persistent challenges during the past two years, each of our employees has substantially contributed to our significant achievements in quality. Their efforts were key to this national recognition.”

Six of the Medical Center’s adult specialties were recognized as High Performing, including cancer, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology and GI surgery, geriatrics, orthopedics, and urology.

Loma Linda University Medical Center – Murrieta was named a 2022-2023 High Performing hospital for five procedures and conditions. This is the highest award a hospital can earn for U.S. News’ Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings.

LLUMC – Murrieta earned High Performing ratings for treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart failure, kidney failure, pneumonia, and stroke in recognition of care that was significantly better than the national average, as measured by factors such as patient outcomes.

Jonathan Jean-Marie, senior vice president/administrator for LLUMC – Murrieta, attributes the hospital’s success to the employees and their excellence.

“In the midst of an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our hospital has endured one of its most challenging years,” Jean-Marie said. “To

receive these High Performing marks is a testament to the level of dedication and commitment to quality that each and every member of our employees has. And for that I am grateful and proud.”

Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital was recognized as a 2022-23 Best Children’s Hospital by *U.S. News & World Report* for cardiology and heart surgery, neonatology, and nephrology.

“We are so proud of our hospital’s continued innovative and dedicated strides in pediatric cardiology and heart surgery, neonatology, and nephrology,” said Peter Baker, senior vice president and administrator of Children’s Hospital. “This recognition belongs to our incredible pediatric healthcare teams, and we celebrate their unwavering commitment to quality healthcare of children in our community and beyond.”

For more information on services available at Loma Linda University Health, please visit llu.org.

By Sheann Brandon Edelbach, Briana Pastorino, and Molly Smith



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

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT;
Pastor Rudy Alvir,
Jovismar Rangel,
Ligia Diaz, Pastor
Benjamin Carballo,
in recognition of the
courage to invite a
friend to church.



Courage Should Be the Norm

Typically, Pathfinder investitures are similar in every church. The club members march down the aisle in their neat uniforms, carrying the flags. There are recognitions and awards. The events tend to follow the expected routine.

But this year at Nueva Esperanza in Salt Lake City something was out of the ordinary. Two Pathfinders were being recognized—again. This is not unusual. What was extraordinary is the comment made by Pastor Benjamin Carballo. “Ligia [15 years old] was invited to the club by her best friend Jovismar Rangel [14 years old]. Ligia came, she liked the club, and today she is participating in the investiture, but that’s not the whole story.” Pastor Carballo continued, “Some months ago Ligia came to an evangelistic series, and she was baptized, the only one in her family.” Her baptism was the result of an invitation from her Adventist friend, Jovismar.

Friends, this should not be unusual; this is the

reason the church exists. This is why Club Ministries exist. Can you imagine what the result would be if every Pathfinder invited one friend to the club and eventually to the church?

Recently a pastor asked online, “Who is the most courageous person you have met lately?” The answer? Jovismar. This is a kind of courage that you don’t often see these days. Courage to be bold enough to invite your friend to an activity you know is going to bless her.

When Jovismar was told that NUC Youth Director Rudy Alvir wanted to write an article on this “miracle” she was surprised. She did not think that what she had done was out of the norm. She genuinely loves her friend.

It should be natural for us to want to share what we know with our friends, with the people we love, but often we are hesitant and timid. Some of us believe that the church exists solely to take care of our needs and our Pathfinder clubs are here to exclusively serve our young people, but that is not the case. We exist to advance the kingdom—wherever, however, and with whomsoever. Courage should be the norm! Let’s pray for courage and reach out to those whom God places in our sphere of influence.

By Rudy Alvir

The Pathfinder investiture recently held at Nueva Esperanza church in Salt Lake City.



Oh, How I Love Jesus

As an individual in church leadership, I get caught up in the daily to-do list of “the job.” Since I’ve worked for the church for more than 20 years, I’ve shied away from becoming involved in local church ministry—because of potential conflict of interest, my schedule isn’t consistent enough to be reliable, or I just didn’t know where I could be of use. This past summer it helped to hear of a last-minute need that I could fill.

My daughter and granddaughter were attending Vacation Bible School (VBS) at the Sparks church. I was informed that the drama rotation was looking for actors to play Bible characters. The scripts were written, costumes were available, and I would only be needed for two nights. I said yes. It seemed easy enough. Then I read the script for the first night. I would be playing Mary Magdalene as she shared her sadness at watching the trial, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus.

I invited my mother to dress in costume, weep in sorrow, and ask my character for tissues as I told the story to each of the four age groups of children. Mom really added to the emotional depth and was a hit with the kids. Was my performance perfect? No. But then, we are our toughest critics and Satan loves to use our insecurities to discourage!

However, as with the crucifixion, those insecurities and negative thoughts were not the end of the story. During the second night, my character announced

that Jesus had risen—a much more positive part that I could play with enthusiasm.

Karen Schneider, NUC treasurer, portraying Mary Magdalene, relates the story of the crucifixion to the children at the Sparks VBS as her mother, Ardith Schneider, conveys the emotion of the story.



That evening as we drove home, my granddaughter sang in her sweet voice, “Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.” I don’t know how lyricist Frederick Whitfield imagined the song to be performed, but let me tell you, I have heard the best rendition coming from the voice of a little one.

To those who use their time for the ministry of VBS, thank you! I know that after weeks of planning, exhaustion from being mindful of every detail, and using all your energy to keep up with the children, you might never want to do it again. But don’t give up! Keep planting the seeds of Jesus’s love in those little hearts and minds. Your efforts will make sure there is a large heavenly choir belting out songs to honor the One who loved us first, Jesus.

By Karen Schneider

Notice of 35th Constituency Session for the Nevada-Utah Conference

Notice is hereby given that the 35th Constituency Session of the Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene with registration at 9:00 a.m. PDT and the meeting at 10:00 a.m. PDT on Sunday, October 2, 2022, at the Hampton Inn Tropicana, 4975 Dean Martin Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the quadrennial reports; to elect conference officers, ethnic coordinators, and the Executive Committee; and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session.

According to the constitutional provision, each organized church is entitled to two delegates and one additional delegate for each seventy-five (75) church members or fractional majority thereof.

35th NUC Constituency Session

Hampton Inn Tropicana | 4975 Dean Martin Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89118-1656

Carlos A. Camacho | NUC President

Chanda M. Nunes | NUC Executive Secretary



A Church Built for Service

Focusing on love is how the Paradise church engages its call to ministry in Butte County. They have three focused and community-relevant ministries: Love Paradise, Love Gives, and Love Builds.

All three ministries are coordinated by Joelle Chinnock, disaster recovery and development director. In 2018, the Camp Fire destroyed Paradise, including the Adventist church. However, as Chinnock explained, "It's an amazing opportunity for us. No church building? No problem! Church ministry didn't stop because members continued to focus on helping neighbors rebuild before addressing their church facility needs."

Through Love Paradise, they coordinated community service days, such as a community clean-up on Earth Day. The school participated with community service groups to plant flowers and fruit trees, designed and built garden beds, conducted weed abatement work, and created a horse corral for a local program that

supports emotional wellness and healing for trauma survivors. Moreover, sophomores from Paradise Adventist Academy painted a mural at Feather River Adventist School in Oroville to improve school visibility from the main highway.

Through a partnership with Adventist Health,* Love Gives receives items such as furniture, household appliances, and other items that are then given free to applicants affected by the wildfire. Operated out of the Center Street Warehouse in downtown Paradise, Love Gives has touched the lives of more than 1,200 adults and 550 children since the program began in June 2021. An estimated total value of \$1.2 million in essential goods has been shared.

Love Builds was developed to help residents rebuild their lives. In 2021, program volunteers coordinated a home rebuilding project for an 83-year-old widow who was uninsured and unable to rebuild on her own. Chinnock noted, "We were so happy to be able to make this happen, but the project was much larger than we expected. As we move forward, we are reassessing how we can continue to make Love Builds effective and efficient."

Chinnock summed it up, "These ministries are truly a church without walls. Sharing love has been the primary focus of Paradise Adventist church, and now the love is coming back to us. Plans are being made for our own church home!"

*Adventist Health partners with World Vision, which obtains the donated goods from large retailers, then ships them to their partners for local distribution through organizations such as Love Gives.



By Ken Miller

“Why Are You Doing This?”

In 2021, as part of the Northern California Conference’s journey to organizational health, and thanks to a generous gift, the conference directors and officers were able to fund seven community-relevant and mission-driven proposals, thereby helping to create engaged and enthusiastic members and employees.

As a result of the approved funding, in partnership with local churches, James Lim, director of Health Ministries, can offer 10 medical and dental clinics in which services are free to the community.

Fifteen miles northwest of Sacramento, the Woodland church was the first to host one of these clinics in July. Based on community needs, they focused on three main areas of service: dental, vision, and stress management.

With almost 80 volunteers, the church united to serve the community. Daniel Garza, the pastor, explained, “People lined up as early as 4:30 in the morning. They came from all faiths and walks of life. Of the 175 patients we saw that day, 16 were Afghan refugees.”

Garza remembers, “Leading up to the event, it was exhilarating to see the smiles on people’s faces when they found out about the clinic.” That joy continued throughout the day as Russ Ryan, dental volunteer, recalled, “It was nice to see patient smiles, especially the children, after being seen.” Brian Radut, church media director, added, “The health clinic was a great blessing to the city of Woodland and the Woodland Adventist church. You could see the joy on each volunteer and visitor’s face as they witnessed God’s love in tangible form. I am so happy we were able to host this clinic and

hope we can do many more in the future!”

As reported by other volunteers, many community members asked, “Why are you doing this?” One of those served stated, “We cannot imagine a world where services like this are provided free with no strings attached.”

Vitaly Polovin, traffic flow director for the day, explained it best, “The clinic was a success in that it got down to the core of Christian ministry: Uplifting humanity by helping those in need and pointing to Jesus. Even those who didn’t respond to the invitation to attend communicated respect for the work. It appears that selfless acts, like this clinic, get people’s attention and cause them to stop and think: Why are these people giving of themselves to others so freely?”

The Woodland church members and pastoral staff enthusiastically engaged their calling to ministry and community with compassion. They embraced a project that made their church relevant to the community. As a result, and with the Holy Spirit’s leading, they connected people to Jesus.

As Northern California Conference President Marc Woodson explained, “I am excited to see an example of where our journey toward organizational health is taking us. We have clarified the conference’s purpose, values, strategies, and objectives. As this example proves, our new focus is helping us become more effective in our mission to connect as many people as possible to an abundant life in Jesus and prepare them for His second coming.”

By Laurie Trujillo



Chico Church Welcomes New Pastor

Cherise Gardner was installed as the new pastor of the Chico church on May 7, 2021. Gardner is a native of the Bahamas and has served in some aspect of ministry for most of her life. She explained, "I have dedicated my life to empowering others, especially young people. I was drawn to serving the Lord in some aspect of ministry around the age of five when I decided to become a pastor like my grandfather."

Gardner earned her bachelor's in religion and business administration from the Northern Caribbean University before serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve. She earned a master's in theology from La Sierra University. In April 2013, Gardner was ordained to Adventist ministry. She spent 14 years pastoring in the



Southern California Conference, including the Long Beach church and as an associate pastor of the Eagle Rock church in Los Angeles. On her move to a quieter Chico,



Gardner said, "I couldn't have imagined a more loving church. The Chico members have been very generous. They mobilized the food train the day I arrived and accepted me into their family!"

Jim Lorenz, ministerial director, stated, "Pastor Gardner is a motivated and dynamic leader and will serve the Chico church well in its call to ministry."

By Ken Miller

The Haven Church Welcomes New Pastor

Vince Saunders was installed as the new pastor of The Haven church, located on the campus of St. Helena Hospital in Deer Park, on July 1, 2022. The Haven church and its ministry were heavily impacted by the Glass Fire in fall 2020 and still face unique challenges as the community rebuilds.

Saunders graduated from Southern Adventist University in 2005 and received a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Andrews University in 2011. He has been in pastoral ministry since 2006 and the Northern California Conference since 2015. As part of his ministry, he is a natural church development coach and a North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) leadership coach. One of his guiding Bible verses is "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30, NKJV).

On the day of his installation, Saunders stated, "I am excited to be guiding and nurturing a church that is known for its loving spirit."

By Laurie Trujillo





Marlene Rodriguez Ordained

Marlene Rodriguez, the associate pastor of the Gracepoint church, was ordained on July 9. A graduate of Pacific Union College, she earned a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary to pursue a career in chaplain ministries. She joined Gracepoint church in 2019 and continues to engage her call to ministry there.

Jose Marin, executive secretary, explained, "The service was simple and a beautiful affirmation of God's calling of Pastor Rodriguez, the first Hispanic woman to be ordained in our territory."

As the associate pastor at Gracepoint church, she has found unique ways to connect the community to an abundant life with Jesus Christ.

Jim Lorenz, the ministerial director, said, "It was great to see Marlene ordained. She is gifted in helping churches connect to their community, an important quality in our territory."

It is also notable that Rodriguez utilized the NAD's women in leadership scholarship on her journey to ordination. The scholarship was established for women committed to serving the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When asked about her favorite reflection on the service, Rodriguez said, "We worshipped the One who calls us by name, and to see the diversity in God's kingdom was magnificent."

By Ken Miller

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

Life-Saving Generosity: Money for Swift Water Rescue Equipment Donated to PUC



PUC recently received a gift of \$40,000 to purchase swift water rescue equipment, thanks to Angwin Community Ambulance (ACA), a local ambulance service that was recently dissolved.

The organizations' money made it possible to purchase new gear for the program. The gear included wetsuits, helmets, gear bags, life jackets, and more, as well as technical rope, rescue gear, and rescue-specific personal protective equipment.

Before being dissolved, ACA served the Angwin community for more than 40 years. During that time, many of PUC's emergency services and emergency management students volunteered with the organization, providing emergency medical services throughout Angwin.

The ambulance service donated equipment to PUC in addition to sharing assets with other local groups that serve the community of Angwin.

"Though ACA has dissolved, they still wanted to further their mission and serve the community," said Matthew Russell, assistant professor of nursing and emergency services. "The donation of swift water equipment and technical rope rescue equipment will allow the emergency management program to continue to provide excellent training opportunities to our majors who in turn will use these skill sets to serve the Angwin community."

The new equipment was put to use in early July when students attended a swift water rescue course on the south fork of the American River near Coloma, California.

Rescue courses are a requirement for emergency services students, but they are also available to all PUC students as general education courses. By the end of July's course, students from emergency services,

emergency management, nursing, pre-med, and psychology programs were conducting rescues in class 3 whitewater conditions using a variety of techniques that included ropes, boats, and contact swimming.

"Students loved the new wetsuits, helmets, and personal flotation devices," said Russell. "They wore them every day in the water. They provided protection from the environment and were very professional."

Emergency management and rescue are fields that face rapid changes and require consistent innovation and creativity in the way they are taught. Quality, up-to-date equipment is a crucial part of that.

"This generosity will allow our emergency services and emergency management students to receive cutting-edge rescue courses and certification," said Matthew Russell, assistant professor of nursing and emergency services. "It increases our margin of safety and allows us the ability to show emerging rescue techniques with cutting edge equipment. Without quality gear we could not offer these courses. We are very thankful for the generosity that has been extended to us."

By Ashley Eisele



A Triumph of Teamwork on the Mendocino Coast

The Mendocino coast winds along the edge of Northern California and is home to the rural communities surrounding Fort Bragg. This beautiful, highly remote area depends heavily on technology for communication. Recently, the area hospital—Adventist Health Mendocino Coast—faced a test of teamwork when those lines of communication were unexpectedly disrupted.

When fiberoptic cable lines were damaged by an independent contractor drilling near the intersection of Highway 20 and Highway 1 in Fort Bragg, the Adventist Health Mendocino Coast hospital and thousands of coastal residents were sent off the grid for more than 20 hours. Cell phones, landlines, internet access, faxes, online health information services, employee timeclocks, and television service all went down—even 911 was not available.

Patient care continued without disruption at Adventist Health Mendocino Coast as hospital staff took swift action. An incident command center was immediately established at the hospital, harnessing the expertise of city, fire, police, and school district leaders who gathered to share resources and information.

“Our teams performed with incredible precision while helping alleviate community anxiety,” said Adventist Health Mendocino Coast President Judy Leach. “Several of our team members took on additional shifts, and some even spent the night at



the hospital, knowing that when phones don't work, there is no way of calling in extra help.”

A single satellite phone and radio service in an Adventist Health Mendocino Coast ambulance helped provide safety for navigating patient care needs. The satellite phone could only be used outside the hospital building under clear skies, but it allowed hospital staff to connect with their sister hospital Adventist Health Howard Memorial, located one hour

away on Highway 20. The partnership provided a way to coordinate patient needs and bring in essential supplies, even making possible a late-night patient transfer by helicopter.

All communication channels were restored in the area the following day. “It was beautiful to watch neighbors take care of neighbors,” said Leach. “The world is filled with good people, and we happen to have a lot of them on the Mendocino coast.”

By Hallie Anderson

Adventist Health Cares for California Coastal Communities

Adventist Health Mendocino Coast serves the rural area with primary and specialty health services that include a 24-hour emergency department, medical imaging, cancer care, pain management, orthopedics, urology, cardiac care, and more.

In Mendocino County, Adventist Health provides care at three hospitals and more than 30 clinics. Adventist Health hospitals in the county are:

- Adventist Health Mendocino Coast (Fort Bragg, California)
- Adventist Health Howard Memorial (Willits, California)
- Adventist Health Ukiah Valley (Ukiah, California)

By Kim Strobel



ABOVE: Hospital staff used a satellite phone and radio service to communicate outside the region. **INSET:** Adventist Health Mendocino Coast President Judy Leach congratulated her team on their precision and commitment.



Trevino with husband, Jacob Cuevas, and children, Liam, Noah, and Emma.

Monique Trevino Appointed as Coordinator of Special Education and Early Childhood Education

This past June, the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) Office of Education appointed Monique Trevino as the first-ever coordinator of special education and early childhood education. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and a Master of Arts in teaching with an emphasis in applied behavior analysis from La Sierra University.

Last year, the Office of Education surveyed conference educators and discovered a great need for more resourcing and support for students with special needs. Datha Tickner, SECC superintendent of schools, shared that her primary goal was to respond to this need by finding the right person to best support teachers across SECC.

"Monique fits in well with the education team, and we value her input," said Tickner. "Monique is already reaching out and meeting with school administrators. She's currently developing timelines and goals for the best ways to cultivate successful learning experiences for special needs students, their families, and teachers."

Trevino's career began with an internship in a special education classroom where she had an opportunity to serve students with diverse needs, including autism and speech impairment.

"I finally learned my calling," said Trevino. "After that, I began searching for jobs where I could serve individuals with diverse needs full time."

Trevino has more than 13 years of experience

working with and supporting non-traditional learners. Of those 13 years, six were dedicated to supporting affected individuals and their families in their homes, communities, and school settings.

In her work, Monique supports children by using evidence-based instructional and behavioral strategies to increase any skill deficits and decrease behavioral excesses. She also provides training to parents and staff and collaborates with teachers and other service providers to help children live meaningful lives and become contributing members of society.

Trevino draws daily inspiration and motivation from the children and families she has partnered with and helped in the past. Before starting her role in the Office of Education, Trevino attended a celebration honoring a young autistic man she supported during the early stages of his diagnosis. Following the celebration, Trevino was deeply moved when he approached her, hugged her, and thanked her for helping him reach his goals.

"There aren't words to describe what I felt. I just thank God for the opportunity," shared Trevino. "As I observed him with his family, it was evident to me that I had taken the right position at the SECC Office of Education. I look forward to working alongside educators to support students as they strive to attain their goals too."

By Danni Thaw

SECC Pastors Featured at CALLED Convention

The North American Division Ministerial Department hosted its second CALLED Pastors' Family Convention in June of this year. CALLED was more than just a conference. It was a gathering of friends, a retreat, a place of learning, and most of all, a space to connect with God. This year's conference featured and impacted many Southeastern California Conference (SECC) pastors.

From the music team to the keynote speakers, SECC was well represented. Andrea King, communications director, kicked things off by being a co-host of the convention. Keynote speakers, like Adriana Perera, worship pastor at Loma Linda University church, Tara VinCross, Azure Hills senior pastor, and Tim Gillespie, Crosswalk senior pastor, shared messages that challenged audiences and pointed them to Jesus.

CALLED also provided an uplifting space for worship that allowed pastors to leave all their struggles and cares at God's feet. It gave pastors front row seats to a spiritual feast that lasted for days. Amazing musicians, like David Hernandez, Escondido associate pastor; Isai Moran, Crosswalk associate pastor; Jason Decena, La Sierra University chaplain; and K.C. Hohensee, Loma Linda University chaplain, led the audience to the throne

of God through worship. The praise team embodied the church's diversity in providing different worship styles. They did a fantastic job covering the spectrum of music that SECC churches enjoy.

There were inspiring seminars to help pastors become better equipped to serve this generation. There were dozens of seminars that provided professional and relevant information on topics such as mental health, ministering in the cities, and technology.

For some, reconnecting with old friends was one of the best parts of attending this convention. Pastors rarely get the opportunity to connect with colleagues, so they enjoyed touching base with colleagues and catching up on each other's families and ministries. It served to remind pastors they are not alone but are part of a more significant movement.

Melinda Mauia, sole pastor of the Santa Ana and New Hope Samoan district, was also blessed by the experience. "CALLED was meaningful, especially as a new pastor. We are called and worthy to serve in spaces that are uncomfortable and different. Praise God for the CALLED Convention. I am looking forward to the next one."

By Robert Abdul-Karim



LEFT: SECC pastors reconnect. Left to right: Ivan Ostrovsky, Joseph Santos, Steven Sigamani, Hector Vivanco.

ABOVE: Adriana Perera shares a keynote address.



LEFT: The Jacobo family listens to the ordination charge. RIGHT: Otis Coutsoumpos shares a word at his ordination.

Who We Serve: Two Recently Ordained Pastors Share Their Stories

Isaac Jacobo

"It's hard to pinpoint the exact moment I knew I wanted to be a pastor," said Isaac Jacobo, who was recently ordained to pastor at the San Diego Broadway Spanish and Betel Adventist Group churches. "But I always knew I wanted to serve."

Even as a child, Jacobo knew he had to stand for the oppressed and fight for those who couldn't. That's why he fits so well at his churches, where giving a voice to the voiceless is vitally important.

"Evangelism and talking through doctrine have their place and purpose, but I firmly believe we do the most good when we help people with real life issues," Jacobo explained.

Jacobo greatly appreciates his current churches. Betel, he said, is the church that serves. They regularly provide meals open to the community on Saturday afternoons, and many times neighborhood homeless persons join them.

He also notes the dedication of members of San Diego Broadway Spanish, which has a thriving children's ministry, a valuable food bank, and youth who are mentored into positions of leadership.

"We need to be open-minded about who we can truly serve," Jacobo said. "We need to be humble and do our best to see the other side of the coin, no matter our own perspectives, and in everything we do, act in service."

Otis Coutsoumpos

Otis Coutsoumpos has been pastoring for 22 years, but he never wanted to walk this path. Though he comes from a long line of pastors, Coutsoumpos expected to become an architect. When a pastor who was a family friend called and asked Coutsoumpos to serve as youth pastor, Coutsoumpos hesitated.

"I told him I'd help direct the youth program but that I didn't want to be a pastor," he recalled. Though the pastor agreed, Coutsoumpos was introduced to the entire church as their new youth pastor, and the title has stuck. This summer, Coutsoumpos was ordained at La Sierra University church.

"Even throughout seminary I thought someday I'd get my architecture degree," he said with a laugh. "Apparently my plans were different from God's."

What he loved about that first youth pastor role is the same thing Coutsoumpos loves about his current role: working with the community.

Coutsoumpos says La Sierra University church has been putting its money where its mouth is for over 40 years, providing no-strings-attached services to their neighbors.

"We'll share our time and resources with others because we are a community that simply desires to see everyone be well," he said. "And that, I believe, is the foundation of Christ's ministry."

By Becky St. Clair



MyRon Edmonds inspires audience.

SECC Launches Winning Circle Men's Ministry

Men throughout the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) gathered for an area-wide men's conference on July 16-17. More than 80 men participated in the activities sponsored by SECC Black Ministries. This event featured the Winning Circle ministry with MyRon Edmonds and Kymone Hinds, who serve as both pastors and coaches.

That weekend launched a new chapter of the Winning Circle ministry in SECC. The Winning Circle is an online community of men who want to grow and invest in themselves and win in the things that matter most. This program teaches practical steps to being well-rounded, balanced men of integrity who are building healthy relationships. Participants are learning to **SHIFT** their perspective on winning and focus on achieving success in the following core areas: **S**piritual life, **H**ealth, **I**ntegrity, **F**amily, and **T**ribe.

Building this community for men is so important. Even Jesus enlisted the help of others. In the Garden of

Gethsemane, He took people with Him. He pleaded with others to pray with Him. God never meant for humanity to be alone.

Among the first words of the Bible are, "It is not good that man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18, NKJV). It is evident that doesn't just mean marriage, but also life. Men need other men. And the Bible makes it clear that as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17), so tough men sharpen tough men.

Consequently, in addition to the online component, Alfonzo Greene, pastor of the Mt. Rubdiox church, and Delroy Brooks, pastor of the Fontana Juniper Ave. church, have worked together to include an in-person component for the men of Black Ministries.

Greene, who served as the host pastor for the event, was impacted by the gathering. "God really showed up in a powerful way over the weekend. Pastor MyRon Edmonds and Pastor Kymone Hinds really spoke powerfully about men's need to win in the things that matter," said Greene. "We need a community of brothers who are willing to enter into authentic relationships to help us get to where God wants us to be. It was a powerful kickoff to the launching of those communities."

As a result of the inspirational presentation and stalwart challenge, over 40 men registered to join the Winning Circle community. Over the next year, these men will make the SHIFT in their lives as they become "men who win."

By Robert Edwards

Ronald Goldsmith (left) and Malik Mayne connect during men's lunch.





TOP LEFT AND MIDDLE: Students and teachers from Professional Institute of Beauty School gave free haircuts and offered free nail care services. **TOP RIGHT:** In addition to volunteers from West Hollywood Spanish church, City of Hope brought no less than 40 volunteers. Here, a volunteer demonstrates the eye exam. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Two women speak to a representative at the COVID-19 vaccination and booster station. **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** Guests pick up food donated by the church, part of its twice-monthly food bank. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A volunteer from West Hollywood Spanish church prays with an attendee.

West Hollywood Spanish Church Serves 230 People at Health Fair

This summer, West Hollywood Spanish church partnered with City of Hope to host its first large-scale health fair. The day-long event provided care for 230 people in the surrounding community.

Health stations lined the fellowship hall where volunteers administered free medical services such as blood pressure readings, glucose tests, diabetes screenings, footcare, ultrasound checkups, and more, plus vision tests and dental cleanings. Outside, haircuts, nail care, food, and clothing were also offered. Lunch was provided for all in attendance.

“We wanted to make an impact in the community and serve as many people as possible,” said Franklin Grant, West Hollywood Spanish church pastor. “The mission of our church is to serve. Jesus gave us the mission to teach and preach in His ways. We take this seriously because that’s the reason for our existence. Otherwise, why are we here?”

Church members advertised the event weeks in advance by sharing announcements on social media and distributing flyers in the neighborhood, the latter being most effective. Prayer was at the heart of this event from beginning to end. A faithful team prayed every morning in the weeks leading up to the health

fair. During the event, prayer was offered with those who wanted it.

Feedback from attendees reaffirmed the church’s commitment to serve as God has called us all to do. “We saw such joy and gratitude on the faces of those who attended,” said Grant. “People were so grateful to us just for being there. We are simply doing what God asks of us: to be kind, compassionate, and tenderhearted.”

This health event has prepared the way for building and maintaining relationships with the community. A few weeks after the health fair, West Hollywood Spanish church’s Vacation Bible School program welcomed back to the church many of the same families served at the health fair. The church’s fall revival this October is another way to remain connected to and meet the spiritual needs of this growing community.

Plans for another health fair are already in motion, and Grant hopes the church will be able to host health fairs like this twice yearly.

“We’re here to help in whatever way we can; we have to just get up and do it,” Grant shared. “I think our problem sometimes is we’re afraid of challenges, but the joy we experience serving far outweighs the fear.”

By Araya Moss

Joint Vacation Bible School Results in Eight Baptisms

Los Olivos Spanish church in Van Nuys and Shalom Spanish company in Northridge, two district churches led by Rolando Rivera, collaborated for a joint Vacation Bible School (VBS) program this summer that resulted in eight children making decisions for baptism.

This unique collaboration required a dedicated team of volunteers from both churches. It had been several years since Los Olivos had a VBS, and Shalom never has.

Rivera and his wife, Yahaira Batista, who together spearheaded this initiative, anticipated that committed volunteers would be difficult to find. However, they were excited and encouraged to see so many people willing not only to help but also to work together. "God did a miracle," Rivera reflected. "We had about 30 volunteers from both churches."

To prepare, one representative from both Los Olivos and Shalom attended the VBS training hosted by Southern California Conference Children's Ministries earlier this year. They chose the theme "Jasper Canyon: Where Every Kid is Treasured by God."

Rivera, who is an experienced evangelist, also wanted

to shape the VBS program as a children's ministry evangelism effort. Before VBS began, parents were given take-home booklets for Bible studies with their children. "My hope was that if they prepared the kids before," said Rivera, "they'd have a better understanding to make the decision to give their lives to Jesus."

With this evangelistic framework, the VBS program was hosted at Los Olivos church in late June from Sunday to Thursday and concluded on Friday with baptisms. After the program ended, more children expressed interest in baptism. "It's all by God's grace," said Rivera. "Our main goal is for people to have a relationship with Christ. The rest will come after that."

This joint VBS program has opened the door for both churches to work together in the future, such as the upcoming week of evangelism planned for October. Then those children who want to get baptized will have another opportunity to do so. "Unless they ask to get baptized before," Rivera said. "I'm willing to get in the water every day if they're ready now."

By Araya Moss



PHOTO: ABEL ROSARIO



PHOTO: ROLANDO RIVERA

LEFT: Rivera baptized eight children on the final day of VBS. **RIGHT:** Children sing along to the interactive music. Of the approximately 60 kids who attended VBS each night, 15 were new to the church from the neighborhood.

Leadership Summit Equips Local Churches for Digital Ministry

There is no denying the impact technology has played in the way we communicate. In a world where communication methods are constantly evolving, how can we effectively share the gospel message with our local communities?

On July 17, the Southern California Conference (SCC) Senior Youth & Young Adult (SYA) Ministries Department, also known as ONE House, collaborated with the SCC Communication & Media Production Department for a leadership summit to equip local churches for this current age of digital ministry.

“Our hope was to give resources to churches and leaders to learn more about digital evangelism and be prepared for future evangelism,” said Kevin Camato, Upper Room Fellowship church senior pastor and ONE House core team member.

Attendees registered by choosing four out of eight available breakout sessions. Presenters, who are lay leaders, pastors, and staff from SCC, spoke on a variety of topics, such as church websites, video production, social media, software resources, graphic design, storytelling, church apps for ministry, and in-church tech.

“The Leadership Summit helped me to see how we can best utilize the resources we already have to ensure that we are blessing as many people as possible,” shared Christian Botello, associate pastor at Eagle Rock church.

In between morning and afternoon breakout sessions, Tim Cress, North Hills church senior pastor, presented on communication strategy. He emphasized the importance of creating and following a strategy to inform all church communication efforts and offered counsel on how to put a team together at the local church.

Throughout the day, attendees had opportunities to win small and large giveaway prizes, such as gift cards, a SanDisk portable external SSD, and a TourBox NEO controller. The event concluded with a question-and-answer panel, where attendees asked presenters additional in-depth questions about the topics they presented and more.

“It’s really encouraging to see so many people eager to learn,” said SCC Associate Director for Media Production Michelle Noland, who presented on video production and storytelling. “A few people came up to me and told me this will help them tell more relevant stories and sermons that people will understand and be emotionally engaged in. I just hope they can take the tools that I presented to them and start their journey into filmmaking and storytelling in a way that touches people’s lives in their communities.”

The ONE House team has hosted quarterly leadership summits for the past five years, but this is the first collaborative event.

“This collaboration with the Communication & Media Production Department is indicative of what we want to do moving forward,” added Camato. “We want to work with other departments and churches, and we need to have more of a collaborative presence. I pray that this event will encourage people to build network and community.”

Presentations from the leadership summit are available at <https://scc.adventist.org/LS722>.

By Araya Moss

RIGHT: Attendees collaborate during a breakout session discussing ProPresenter. **FAR RIGHT:** From left to right: presenters Emmanuel Olguín, Jesus Noland, Lauren Lacson, Jon de la Paz, Michelle Noland, and Tim Cress answer questions during a panel discussion.



PHOTOS: ARAYA MOSS



PHOTOS: LAUREN LACSON

PHOTO: MICHELLE NOLAN

LEFT AND MIDDLE: The studio today has been painted and set up with multiple sets, with work still to be done on soundproofing, electrical, and more. RIGHT: A still from a video recorded in the studio.

SCC Builds Media Production Studio for Ministry

Years before the COVID-19 pandemic, many companies were already noticing the impact of video. As early as 2013, global marketing agency Insivia reported, “Viewers retain 95% of a message when they watch it in a video compared to 10% when reading it in text.” The method in which we share our message impacts both engagement and retention.

Ellen White also encourages us to be creative in our methods. “Let every worker in the Master’s vineyard, study, plan, devise methods, to reach the people where they are. We must do something out of the common course of things” (*Evangelism*, pp. 122-123). The goal remains reaching people for Christ, even if the way we do that changes over time.

Southern California Conference (SCC) leadership saw the need to invest in this area. “Our audiences and communities are used to using media as their lifestyle for everything,” said Velino A. Salazar, SCC president. “We need to be close to what their interests are.”

By 2019, all the officers’ reports for the 65th Constituency Session were presented with video for the first time. In late 2019, we began work on a small studio. In early 2020, we used that space to record the annual State of the Conference meeting, which would be via video for the first time. When COVID hit, timely messages for the SCC constituency were recorded there.

“For years, SCC had a very active print shop,” recalled John H. Cress, SCC executive secretary. “However, we are well into the digital revolution, and the print shop

became a relic of the past. Technology and social media have moved us toward communicating via video. So, it makes sense to develop a studio in the place of the printing press. These considerations were the basis for our original thought of creating a studio, but COVID-19 solidified and amplified the need of moving in this direction.”

In 2021, the studio moved to a new spot behind the Glendale Adventist Book Center, across the parking lot from the conference building. In this short time, this space has served for countless videos and virtual events. The goal is for our conference departments and local churches and schools to schedule times to come use the space as well. “We built this studio to communicate better the gospel to our constituency and community—local and global—in a relevant way,” Salazar shared.

However, the space is still an ongoing work in progress. Soundproofing is our greatest need, along with electrical and more. “When the studio is finished and fully operational, I believe it will become a powerful tool to attract people to Jesus Christ and empower our churches in reaching their community,” Cress said.

As we continue building out this studio for mission, you can support this project by praying for the impact of our content and by contributing financially. Donations should be marked “SCC Studio” and can be given via check or online through <https://www.adventistgiving.org/?OrgID=ANPPPP>.

By Lauren Lacson

Calendar

Arizona Conference

Clearview Church Dedication Weekend (October 14-15). Join Clearview church for a special weekend celebrating the dedication of the church, beginning with a musical vespers on October 14. Sabbath morning activities begin at 9:30, with the church dedication service at 2 p.m. 19554 N. Papago Drive, Surprise, AZ 85374.

Central California Conference

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

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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.
October: *September 6* • November: *October 3*

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.

African American Convocation (Sept. 16-17) will feature Dr. Emil Peeler for the two-day event at the Fresno Westside church, located at 2750 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Fresno, Calif.

La Sierra University

Centennial Gala. La Sierra University will cap celebrations of its 100th anniversary with a Centennial Gala on Oct. 3 at the Riverside Convention Center. A full program will showcase renowned creative powerhouse and classical pianist Alpin Hong and include anecdotes from the university's rich history. Information: advancement@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2500, <https://lasierra.edu/centennial/>.

Adventist Education Success Stories. Dr. Aimee Leukert, assistant director of the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education, seeks interviewees for her book depicting the influences of Adventist education on successful careers. Individuals who credit their success to SDA education, or who can suggest others, may find information and a submission form here: <https://forms.gle/tCjKuhXAFypdzCG6>.

Archaeology Discovery Weekend. The Center for Near Eastern Archaeology will host the 14th Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend on Nov. 12-13. Learn about the ancient pharaohs of Egypt, including the iconic King Tut, from international scholars. Enjoy a Kids' Dig and other family activities. Presented in person and online. Info: archaeology@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2632, or <https://lasierra.edu/cnea/discovery-weekend/>.

World Museum of Natural History. The World Museum of Natural History is open the third Sabbath of the month, 2-5 p.m. View amphibians, birds, mammals, gems, American Indian artifacts, and many others, including one of the largest collections of mineral spheres. Free. Up to 10 guests at a time. Information: Advancement@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2500, or <https://lasierra.edu/world-museum-of-natural-history/>.

The La Sierra Report. Stay in the know and sign up to receive The La Sierra Report, a monthly e-newsletter of the interesting news and events of La Sierra University. To subscribe, send your email address and subscription request to pr@lasierra.edu.

Pacific Union College

Publication Workshop. Pacific Union College will be hosting the 32nd Annual Publication Workshop from Sept. 11-13. The workshop is back in-person and will offer hands-on training and useful tips from college educators, student leaders, and industry professionals for jump-starting school yearbooks, newspapers, or video yearbooks. For more information and registration, visit <http://pubworkshop.puc.edu>.



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Published by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services

Instruction Begins. Pacific Union College will begin the 2022-2023 school year on Monday, Sept. 26. Faculty and staff are looking forward to welcoming new and returning students to campus. Stay up-to-date with PUC news, stories, and events by following the college on Facebook, Instagram @pucnow, or blog <https://blog.puc.edu>.

Southeastern California Conference

Wedgwood Trio and Friends in concert on Saturday, Sept. 17, 5:00 p.m., at Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus Street, Loma Linda, California. For more information, email Darold Retzer at dretzer@verizon.net.

Southern California Conference

San Fernando Valley Academy 120th Anniversary Weekend (Sept. 23-24). Calling all SFVA alumni, students, families, and friends together for a commemoration of 120 years. Special guests: Pacific Union Conference President Bradford Newton, Southern California Conference President Velino A. Salazar, Pastor Tony Anobile, and Christian Edition. San Fernando Valley Academy, 17601 Lassen St., Northridge, CA 91325.

Children's Ministry Training (Sept. 24) 2-8 p.m. NAD Certification Track II: Teaching Children. This one-day intensive training is for anyone who works with children. Completion of the eight 35-minute classes are required

for certification. Training will be in English. Light refreshments and dinner will be provided. Cost: \$20 per attendee. Temple City church, 9664 Broadway, Temple City, CA 91780. Info and registration: <https://scc.adventist.org/childrens-ministries>.

Missing Members

Paradise Valley Spanish SDA Church, P.O. Box 757, Bonita, CA 91908, 760-755-5325. Adame, Socorro; Arangure, Cecilia; Ayala, Jesus; Barraza-Muro, Lourdes; Bartolo, Maria Dolores; Castillo, Lucero; Castillo, Toribio; Cervantes, Carlos; Cervantes, Elida; Cervantes, Herman; Cervantes, Hernan; Cervantes, Irene; Cervantes, Martha; Cintron, Doris N.; Cisneros, Lilianna; Covington, Yvonne; Dominguez, Brenda; Elguea, David; Estremera, George; Flores, Dergui Jehie; Flores, Ramiro R.; Fuentes, Alex Enrique; Fuentes, Jose Eduardo; Fuentes, Monica L.; Gallagher, Angelica; Garcia, Carmen; Garcia, Elizabeth; Garcia, Klyria; Garcia, Sarah L.; Garcia, Veronica; Garcia, Xiomara; Gomez, Alfonso; Gomez, Sabina; Gutierrez, Bryan I.; Gutierrez, Ignacio; Gutierrez, Juan Manuel; Gutierrez, Rosa; Lovato, Jorge; Marcos, Gladys; Marcos, Grace; Marmolejo, Guadalupe; Martinez, Antonio; Martinez, Berenice; Martinez, Felipe; Martinez, Jonathan; Martinez, Santiago Jr.; Mascorro, Consuelo; Mendoza, Concepcion; Oramas, Josefina; Ortega, Diana; Ortega, Radames; Palacios, Miguel; Perez, Ariana Patricia;



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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 hr@sdamedia.com or apply at <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>.

Caregiver needed, as soon as possible: We are asking the Lord to send us a kind, healthy, strong woman with a good sense of humor who has experience caregiving for the very feeble elderly requiring 24/7 care; who knows proper body mechanics to prevent self-injury; who is looking for a place to live out of the city; who is interested in working for room and board plus \$2,500 a month, with 10 days off a month; who feels called to provide spiritual care along with caregiving for an elderly Adventist couple so they may have their wish to die in their own home. If this is you, please call Lalita Brinckhaus at 707-671-5086 or email: amanecer.rl@gmail.com.

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 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 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



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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>

Adventist Media Ministries is seeking a full-time IS Department Director to oversee the daily operation of the Information Systems Department and support the IS functions of the various ministries served by AMSS. For more information you may email hr@sdamedia.com or apply at <https://www.adventistmediaministries.com/available-positions/>.

Holbrook Indian School is currently in need of an Agriculture Assistant and an Agriculture/Cafeteria Assistant. These are paid positions. 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@stallanthealth.com or call 530-637-4025, ext. 263.

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

The advertisement for CAFCU includes several service categories: SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (IRA, MMK, CD), CASH LOANS, MORTGAGE LOANS, CAR LOANS, VISA DEBIT CARDS, VISA CREDIT CARDS, CHECKING ACCOUNTS, CHRISTMAS CLUB, MOBILE BANKING, BILLPAY, ZELLE, and APPLE PAY. It also provides contact information: 818-246-7241 | 818-240-5809, SDACREDITUNION.COM, and OPERATIONS@SDACREDITUNION.COM. A QR code is present, and the text states: OFFERING ALL YOUR BANKING NEEDS FOR OVER 68 YEARS. YOUR ONE STOP FINANCE SHOP!

preferred. Experience in ECE classroom required. Please send résumé to azurehillchildrenscenter@yahoo.com.

Indonesian-American church in Azusa, Calif., is seeking a full-time associate/youth pastor who is 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, camp manager, at campcedarfalls@sbcglobal.net or call 360-823-3932 or 909-805-4104 for more information.

Director of University Records for Loma Linda University. Responsible for maintaining the academic records of students, including those concerned with admissions and registration, and for coordinating the registration process. The director also cooperates with the individual schools in carrying out functions of a joint nature for which the schools are primarily responsible. Position requires a bachelor's degree and five (5) years of related work experience. Apply at <https://lluh.referrals.selectminds.com/jobs/director-university-records-27376>.

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 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 Adventist 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.

Creations Northwest, a regional construction company

of multi-family housing and commercial space. We are looking to hire talented and motivated individuals for the following positions: Construction Superintendents, Project Managers, Project Coordinators and Project Engineers. We are hiring for projects located in Central Oregon; Eugene area; Medford; Salem; Vancouver, Washington; and Auburn, Washington. Projects average from \$20 to \$50 million in size. Compensation based on experience. Benefits: health and dental insurance, life insurance, paid time off, retirement

Recorder Membership

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

plan, employee assistance program. Projects are located close to primary and secondary Adventist education. For more information, please email HR@htipllc.com.

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, and 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@herrssrealestate.com. CalBRE#02081978 & CalBRE#02071769. Broker: Bass Lake Realty.

Ready for REAL Country Living? We are offering 6+ acres of beautiful, unimproved land that is attached to our little homestead. We're located just 1 mile north of the Prescott National Forest in north-central Arizona. Some of the land is native grasses and some is treed with juniper and pinion pine trees. There are several super building sites that give 80-mile views of the San Francisco Peaks, next to Flagstaff, AZ. The property is completely fenced around the outside perimeter. Fertile soils, and unlimited water from an underground aquifer, make it an extremely valuable location in terms of growing gardens, fruit trees, or raising animals. Our 5,300 ft. elevation and low humidity give you 4 seasons that are very livable! We're offering you off-the-beaten-path seclusion and safety! So if you're ready to act on the recommendations given us in Countryside Living, give us a call! We'll talk you through all of the details and share photos and OUR testimony. We've lived here for 20 years and would really love to have some like-minded neighbors! Our contact information is: Mike and Karen Craig, 928-607-4674, livingforHim@gmx.com.

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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. Retailed 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: bhbm1959@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 nroger1965@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 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.

Truckee cabin at Donner Lake: Three bedroom, 2.5 bath cabin at Donner Lake. Perfect for retreats, family time, reunions, or relaxing. Access to private beach on lake. Fully furnished, can sleep up to 10 in beds with loft for kids. Email for rates, photos, and availability: jake@jscheideman.com.

At Rest

Aldrich, Delores June – b. Aug. 31, 1966; d. May 7, 2022. Survivors: mother, Joyce Kindig; stepfather, David Kindig; three daughters.

Almazan, Calixta – b. April 25, 1914, Ilocos Sur, Philippines; d. Sept. 25, 2019, San Jose, Calif. Survivors: son, Gaudencio; daughters, Relita Mendoza, Julie Agcaoili; seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren.

Ayers, Kathy – b. July 10, 1949; d. April 25, 2022, Placerville, Calif. Survivor: brother, Keith Ayers.

Ayers (Smith), Delberta – b. June 21, 1929, Hawthorn, Calif.; d. June 11, 2022, Placerville, Calif. Survivor: son, Keith Ayers.

Baldwin, Barbara – b. Aug. 3, 1928, Haddon Heights, N.J.; d. May 12, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Duane Baldwin; daughters, Cheryl Goyne, Yvonne Foster; brother, Harold Britton; eight grandchildren. Barbara loved the musical community in Loma Linda and promoted its development as a piano teacher.

Christensen, Thomas – Oct. 2, 1942, Orange County, Calif.; Sept. 17, 2021, Carmichael, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nileyde; son, Todd; daughter, Tracy Fanselau; five grandchildren. Tom was very active in the support of his children as they attended SUA. They traveled on all the field trips and mission trips with the school and Carmichael church. He taught in all the children's Sabbath School departments, was a deacon, and helped run the sound system in the Carmichael church for many years. He became a dedicated member of the

Granite Bay Hilltop church, helping with the childcare programs for evangelistic meetings and VBS programs, and building many props for the programs.

Condon, Stanley Charles – b. Feb. 1, 1931, Glendale, Calif.; d. March 10, 2022. Survivors: wife, Vaneta; sons, Brian, David; daughter, Lori; three grandchildren. He graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists (now LLU School of Medicine) in 1956. His internship was at the Los Angeles County Hospital. From 1957 to 1959 he served as a U.S. Army Captain in Germany. In 1965 the Condons accepted a mission call to Manila Sanitarium and Hospital, where Stanley served several years as the Director of the Intern-Resident Program and later as the Medical Director. Dr. Condon served as a faculty member of Loma Linda University School of Medicine for more than 38 years, beginning as an instructor in Internal Medicine and retiring as Assistant Professor of Gastroenterology in 2010. He founded and directed the Enteral Nutrition services at both LLU Medical Center and the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Loma Linda.

Cox, John – b. Sept. 9, 1941, Phoenix, Ariz.; d. Feb. 7, 2022, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: daughters: Che're Liu, Julie Goodwin; stepson, Ron Anderson; brother, Leonard; four grandchildren. John lived his whole life sharing his love of Jesus and in service to others. He would help anyone he could who was in need.

Cwiakala, Robert – b. Nov. 9, 1945, N.J.; d. Aug. 26, 2019, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Jessica; son, Andrew; three grandchildren; brother, Brent. Robert faced his death with peace because he knew Jesus and looked forward to seeing Him face to face. He was a member of the Community Adventist Fellowship church.

Davidson, Charles – b. June 17, 1923, Petaluma, Calif.; d. April 10, 2022, La Sierra, Calif. Survivors: wife, Irma Jean; son, Jerry; daughter, Nancy Chadwick; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. Charles built over 60 homes in Santa Rosa and Loma Linda. He was a dedicated member and elder at the Sebastopol church and loved to tell the story of how a colporteur sharing the gospel led to his entire family being baptized.

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

Fashauer, Alice Lorraine – b. June 23, 1933; d. July 11, 2022. Survivors: daughter, Anne Fashauer; sons, Tim Fashauer, Todd Richter; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Alice was a bookkeeper who spent many years with the Mendocino School District. She had a great faith in God and was very active in her church.

Foldvary, Fritz – b. Jan. 28, 1936, Guatemala City, Guatemala; d. May 25, 2022, Tujunga, Calif. Survivors:

wife, Miriam; daughter, Sherry; sons, Fred, Franz; three granddaughters. He was an active church elder since the age of 27; served as a deacon, Pathfinder leader, Youth leader, and Sabbath School teacher; shepherded the Spanish language group at the La Crescenta/Living Stones church for over 10 years.

Goodin, Jan Pierre – b. Feb. 13, 1952, Willits, Calif.; d. May 20, 2022. Survivors: sons, Jesse, Chad; sisters, Jessie Jane, Jeannine, Josette; brother, Joel; companion, Angela. He worked in maintenance at Ukiah Adventist Hospital for 34 years. He professed his life to Christ at an early age and found fulfillment in helping others.

Gramlich, Samuel V. Jr. – b. Oct. 1927; d. March 23, 2022, Placerville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marlene; four adult children; 10 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren. Beloved ordained minister and educator, Sam spent the majority of his lifetime serving in various capacities for the church.

Hagen, Bruce Richard – b. Mar. 24, 1978, Marshalltown, Iowa; d. Sept. 25, 2021, Chico, Calif. Survivor: sister, Joan. He was a longtime member and gifted musician in the community and for the Paradise Adventist Church.

Heinz, Phoebe A. – b. Feb. 3, 1935, Curtis, Neb.; d. Mar. 30, 2021, Grass Valley, Calif. Survivors: husband, Dennis; daughter, Raelene; son, Rindon; three grandchildren. 45+ years of nursing, OB to hospice, doing what she loved: serving mankind.

Hillman, Colleen – March 26, 1930, Okla.; Nov. 3, 2021, Orangevale, Calif. Survivors: husband, Harold; two granddaughters; five great-grandchildren. Colleen attended the school of Nursing at LLU, receiving her Master's of Nursing degree, and was Alumna of the Year for Loma Linda University in 2004. She was a longtime supporter of Adventist education, especially the Orangevale SDA school. She was the parish nurse for the Orangevale church for many years and was a member of the Granite Bay Hilltop church prior to her passing.

Krueger, John L. – b. Dec. 16, 1940, Township 147, Range 88 on an Indian Reservation in North Dakota; d. Oct. 9, 2021. Survivors: wife, Harriette; stepchildren, Marla Martin, Anthony Benick; four step-grandchildren; one step-great-grandchild.

León, Ner M. – b. Dec. 20, 1961, El Callao, Peru; d. June 6, 2022, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Conchita Portilla, Angela Yeager; son, Carlos; sister, Mara Ramirez; five grandchildren. With his sister, he helped to build Adventist churches and schools in his beloved Peru.

Lopez, Francisco – b. Oct. 4, 1966, Santa Ana, El Salvador; d. May 1, 2022, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patricia; son, Moses; daughter, Lynn.

Montney, Nolan – Dec. 22, 1942, Ben Salem, Penn.; Nov. 19, 2021, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sandra; son, Jared; daughter, Kim Wright; brother, Steve; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Nolan was very involved in ministry in the Sacramento area, serving as a deacon at the Carmichael church, elder at Meadow Vista church, and teaching Adult Sabbath School at Roseville church. He was a dedicated member of the Granite Bay Hilltop church.

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

Oseña, Armen – b. Dec. 23, 1949, Pasay City, Philippines; d. June 22, 2022, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: former spouse, Judy Oseña; son, Dennis; daughters, Faye Peterson, Kate Martell; siblings, Earla Napod, Emma Lynn Francisco, Alwyn Oseña, Asher Oseña; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

Pearson, Martin – b. March 19, 1943, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. May 11, 2022, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Survivors: wife, Sharon Gardiener Pearson; sons, Brad Pearson, Stacey Pearson; daughters, Kim Pearson Shinn, Marcie Pearson Nielsen; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; four sisters. Martin worked for several SDA institutions over the years.

Pudewell, Alyce J. – d. March 19, 2022, Woodlands Creek Senior Living facility in Clive, Iowa. Survivors: three children; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren. She had a long career in education, including as the former Superintendent of Elementary Education for the Pacific Union Conference and former president of the Association of Adventist Women.

Pulley, Dorothy – b. Dec. 29, 1929, Santa Cruz, Calif.; d. Jan. 4, 2022, Kirkland, Wash. Survivors: sons, Dennis Pulley, Samuel Thomas, Negussie Sado, Gudata Hinika, Amjad Waryam; daughters, Carolanne Miller, Ashee Waryam; sister, Marlene Thelander; brother, Gleason Appling; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Taught at SDA elementary schools in Idaho, Washington, and Colorado. Served as a missionary teacher in Ethiopia, Taiwan, Philippines, Pakistan, and Thailand.

September 2022 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	SEPT 2	SEPT 9	SEPT 16	SEPT 23	SEPT 30
Alturas	7:35	7:23	7:11	6:59	6:47
Angwin	7:39	7:28	7:17	7:06	6:55
Bakersfield	7:23	7:13	7:03	6:52	6:42
Calexico	7:06	6:57	6:48	6:38	6:29
Chico	7:38	7:27	7:15	7:04	6:52
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	7:15	7:05	6:54	6:44	6:33
Eureka	7:48	7:37	7:25	7:13	7:01
Four Corners [E]	7:44	7:34	7:23	7:13	7:02
Fresno	7:27	7:17	7:06	6:55	6:45
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	6:56	6:45	6:35	6:25	6:14
Half Dome	7:27	7:16	7:05	6:54	6:44
Hilo	6:35	6:29	6:23	6:16	6:10
Holbrook	6:47	6:37	6:27	6:17	6:07
Honolulu	6:47	6:40	6:33	6:27	6:20
Joshua Tree	7:11	7:01	6:51	6:42	6:32
Lake Tahoe	7:30	7:19	7:08	6:57	6:45
Las Vegas	7:08	6:58	6:47	6:37	6:27
Lodi-Stockton	7:34	7:23	7:12	7:02	6:51
Loma Linda	7:14	7:05	6:55	6:45	6:35
Los Angeles	7:18	7:09	6:59	6:49	6:39
McDermitt [N]	8:23	8:12	7:59	7:47	7:35
Moab	7:48	7:37	7:26	7:15	7:04
Monterey Bay	7:35	7:25	7:15	7:04	6:53
Mt. Whitney	7:21	7:11	7:00	6:49	6:39
Napa	7:38	7:28	7:17	7:06	6:55
Nogales [S]	7:13	7:04	6:54	6:44	6:35
Oakland	7:38	7:27	7:16	7:05	6:55
Paradise, CA	7:37	7:26	7:14	7:03	6:51
Phoenix	6:53	6:44	6:34	6:25	6:15
Pu'uwaiaiu, Ni'ihau [W]	6:37	6:31	6:24	6:18	6:12
Reno	7:30	7:19	7:07	6:56	6:44
Riverside	7:09	7:00	6:50	6:40	6:31
Sacramento	7:35	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:51
Salt Lake City	8:00	7:48	7:36	7:24	7:12
San Diego	7:13	7:04	6:54	6:45	6:35
San Francisco	7:38	7:28	7:17	7:06	6:55
San Jose	7:34	7:24	7:13	7:02	6:52
Santa Rosa	7:38	7:28	7:17	7:05	6:54
Sunset Beach	7:34	7:23	7:13	7:02	6:51
Thousand Oaks	7:19	7:10	7:00	6:50	6:40
Tucson	6:46	6:37	6:28	6:18	6:09

[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

October 2022 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	OCT 7	OCT 14	OCT 21	OCT 28
Alturas	6:36	6:22	6:11	6:01
Angwin	6:43	6:32	6:23	6:14
Bakersfield	6:31	6:21	6:13	6:05
Calexico	6:18	6:10	6:01	5:54
Chico	6:39	6:29	6:19	6:10
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	6:22	6:12	6:03	5:55
Eureka	6:48	6:37	6:27	6:17
Four Corners [E]	6:50	6:40	6:31	6:22
Fresno	6:33	6:23	6:14	6:06
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	6:03	5:53	5:44	5:36
Half Dome	6:31	6:21	6:12	6:03
Hilo	6:03	5:57	5:52	5:48
Holbrook	6:13	6:04	5:55	5:48
Honolulu	6:13	6:07	6:02	5:57
Joshua Tree	6:21	6:12	6:03	5:56
Lake Tahoe	6:32	6:22	6:12	6:03
Las Vegas	6:15	6:05	5:56	5:48
Lodi-Stockton	6:38	6:28	6:18	6:10
Loma Linda	6:24	6:15	6:07	5:59
Los Angeles	6:28	6:19	6:11	6:03
McDermitt [N]	6:22	6:10	5:59	5:49
Moab	6:51	6:41	6:31	6:22
Monterey Bay	6:42	6:32	6:23	6:14
Mt. Whitney	6:25	6:16	6:08	6:00
Napa	6:42	6:32	6:22	6:14
Nogales [S]	6:45	6:51	6:56	7:02
Oakland	6:42	6:32	6:23	6:14
Paradise, CA	6:39	6:28	6:18	6:09
Phoenix	6:04	5:55	5:47	5:40
Pu'uwaiaiu, Ni'ihau [W]	6:04	5:59	5:53	5:49
Reno	6:31	6:21	6:11	6:02
Riverside	6:25	6:16	6:08	6:00
Sacramento	6:39	6:28	6:19	6:10
Salt Lake City	6:59	6:48	6:38	6:28
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Tucson	6:00	5:52	5:44	5:37

[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

Reddell, Robert C. – b. Aug. 24, 1935; d. Dec. 13, 2021. Survivors: wife, Gail; sons, Corey, Les; daughter, Deena R. Lucas; five grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. Robert was an active church elder for 60 years as well as a Pathfinder leader in St. Helena, California.

Rizzo, Kay Darlene (Hancock) – b. Aug. 12, 1943, Troy, N.Y.; d. June 22, 2022, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: husband, Richard; daughters: Rhonda Rizzo, Kelli Wheeler; sister, Valerie Hutchinson; two grandchildren. Kay was a teacher, beloved author, public speaker, and woman's ministry leader. She left teaching to pursue her writing career, eventually producing more than 50 books and appearing as a public speaker throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Australia. Kay believed in the transformative power of Christ's love to heal and redeem.

Rockwell Klotz, Evelyn – b. June 17, 1926, Provo, Utah; d. April 17, 2022, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: children, Gerald, Rosalyn; stepchildren, Dwayne, Vonnett, Darryl, Myron; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Evelyn was a nurse for over 35 years in Provo, Utah and in National City, Sonora, Magalia, and Paradise, California.

Sheldon, Thomas H. III – b. Sept. 17, 1942; d. Feb. 17, 2022. Survivors: son, Donald; daughter, Jean; three grandchildren. Tom taught music at Armona, Fresno, Laurelwood, and Thunderbird Academies. He also taught music at Canadian Union College (now Burman University).

Smith, (Kelly) Barbara – b. Aug. 13, 1940; d. Apr. 2, 2022. Beloved wife of 64 years and precious mother of five. Died peacefully at home with her family at her side. She spoke much about meeting in heaven with her family and taught them this song: "Be loving, be kind, be gentle, be true; I'll meet you in heaven and live up there with you."

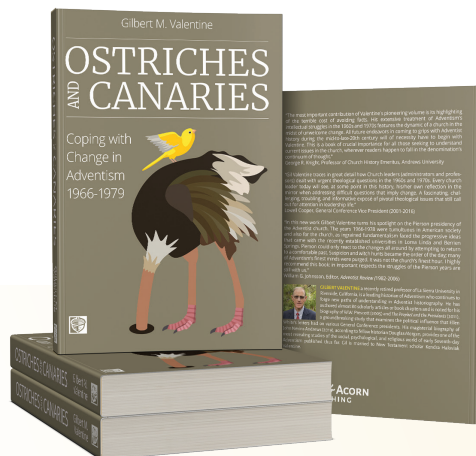
Thorn, Verla Jane Schlenker – b. Jan. 6, 1930, Harvey, N.D.; d. July 16, 2022, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: son, Robert; daughter Alayne Wait; five grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

Whited, Yvonne – b. Nov. 2, 1936, Escondido, Calif.; d. July 21, 2022, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Rebecca Martin, Christie Shine; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

Wright, Eleanor – b. Dec. 3, 1934, Meridian, Miss.; d. June 12, 2022, Meridian, Miss. Survivors: brother, Earl Mills; sons, Aaron Wright, Darryl Wright; daughter, Charlotte Wright. Seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

A N E X T E N S I V E T R E A T M E N T O F

Adventism's intellectual struggles in the 1960s and 1970s



"Its detail and comprehensiveness is astonishing, and a gift to the Advent Movement for all time... At last, it's all out there and maybe, just maybe, we can usher in a new aeon for the church."

—James J. Londis, Ph.D., evangelist, evangelist, pastor, professor, college president (retired)

"In *Ostriches and Canaries, Coping with Change in Adventism 1966-1979*, Gilbert Valentine turns his spotlight on the Pierson presidency of the Adventist church. The years 1966-1978 were tumultuous in American society and also for the church, as ingrained fundamentalism faced the progressive ideas that came with the recently established universities in Loma Linda and Berrien Springs. Pierson could only react to the changes all around by attempting to return to a comfortable past. Suspicion and witch hunts became the order of the day; many of Adventism's finest minds were purged. It was not the church's finest hour. I highly recommend this book: in important respects the struggles of the Pierson years are still with us."

—William G. Johnsson, editor, *Adventist Review* (1982-2006)

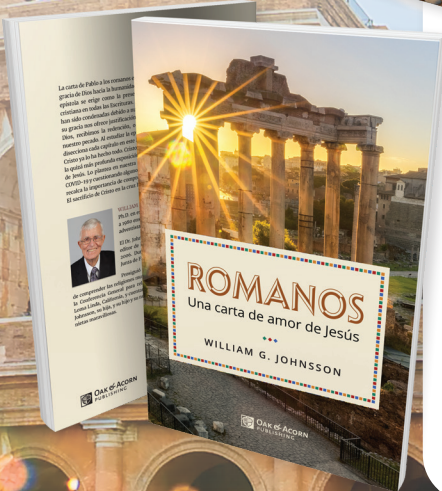
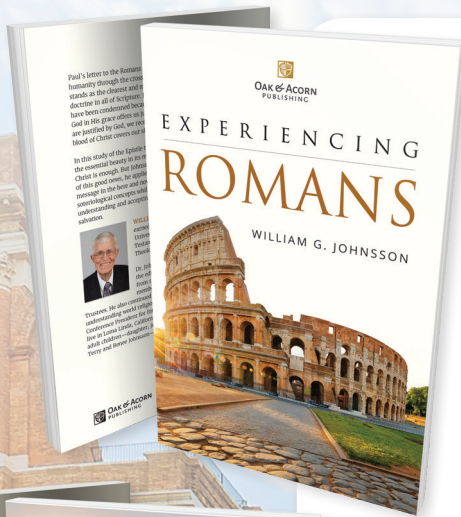
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Paul's letter to the Romans is known for his vision of God's grace toward humanity through the cross and the resurrection of Christ. The epistle stands as the clearest and most systematic presentation of Christian doctrine in all of Scripture. Paul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

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

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