

PACIFIC UNION

DECEMBER 2022

Recorder

We Have Seen His Star





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BevenGreg Delos Reyes, is an RA and dorm worship leader for PUC’s Newton Hall. He strives to be a disciple for Christ by working to make new connections with others every day.



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The Spirit is constantly showing to the soul glimpses of the things of God. A Divine Presence seems to hover near, and then if the mind responds, if the door of the heart is opened, Jesus abides with the human agent. The Spirit's energy is working in the heart and leading the

inclination of the will to Jesus by living faith and complete dependence of Divine power to will and to do of His good pleasure. The Spirit taketh the things of God, just as fast as the soul resolves and acts in accordance with the light revealed.

—Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, p. 46

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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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He is

By Bradford C. Newton



As a child I joined other church members in Orange, California, to participate in Harvest Ingathering. We gathered in the fellowship hall, chose a colorful donation can and a stack of brochures, divided into small groups, and then dutifully piled into a car to head to our “territory.” Exiting the warm vehicle, I was met by the chill of the night air. The King’s Heralds Christmas songs boomed out of the loudspeaker on top of the car, and I started ringing doorbells. When the door opened, I would nervously announce, “I am collecting Christmas dollars for the poor and needy.” I was always hopeful when I walked up to a home decorated with colorful lights.

Worthy



In my memory I still see myself standing at the door of a smiling lady who graciously went to get her purse for a donation. Peering inside the open door like any curious kid would do, I noticed the flickering screen of a color television. Since my family didn't own a television, the image was mesmerizing. Filling the screen was the recently released "A Charlie Brown Christmas." In my short time at the door, I watched Linus quote the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2 and close with, "And that's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." The nice lady returned to the

door and placed her dollar in the colorful donation can. I thanked her and dashed off to the next house.

Harvest Ingathering is now a long-gone practice, but I return every Christmas season to the angelic testimony on the night of Jesus' birth: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14). What was meaningful to us as children at Christmas can be easily displaced by the complexity of making a living, paying bills, raising children or grandchildren, and coping with life's uncertainties. That angelic song can indeed seem

At this Christmas season, the third song of Revelation provides a lyric of confidence that our God in heaven reaches personally to our present and future with nail-pierced hands of understanding and compassion.

distant when we suffer the loss of someone we love. Some can ask at this Christmas season the question, “What song is there for us now?”

It is a surprise to some that the Bible is filled with an abundance of song lyrics. Excluding the obvious collections in the Book of Psalms, we may pass these songs by with a mere glance, assuming they are just background music to the important history, doctrinal teaching, and prophetic timelines that occupy our attention. Some of the more familiar songs are in the form of prayers like that of Hannah (1 Samuel 2), songs like those of Mary and Zacharias (Luke 1), and a theology of the Incarnation (Philippians 2).

As I read the book of Revelation—so central to our understanding of ourselves and the cosmic plan of salvation—I count 12 distinct songs that amplify and illuminate the actions of God on earth and the wider universe. I have discovered that to study and reflect upon these heavenly compositions brings deeper meaning to the entire message of “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” One of these spiritually rich songs stands out to me for this Christmas season because it provides a deeper meaning to the song that the shepherds heard that night.

In chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation, we read John’s eyewitness description of the center of God’s government and the problem facing the universe. Beginning in chapter 4, John looks through an open door that reveals God’s cosmic work for humanity and all of creation. With him we view God enthroned amidst a whirl of activity—24 “elder” human beings, lamps burning with the “seven Spirits of God,” and

four unearthly creatures. They all join a recurring loop of song that praises the One on the throne: “For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:11). This is a picture of God’s sustaining gift of life to all and His sovereignty over the affairs of the universe.

The throne room now faces a crisis. The scroll with seals is closed, and its contents cannot be known or understood. The future unfolding of human history is in the balance because “no one in heaven or on the earth...was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.” (Revelation 5:3). The entire fate of humanity and the universe itself is on the line, and there is no worthy being to unlock the meaning and future of all creation. John responds with despair: “So I wept much” (verse 4).

It is then with a voice of triumph that one of the human elders testifies, “Do not weep.” The Lion and Root “has prevailed” (verse 5). The sudden arrival of these hopeful words merges with the sight of the slain Lamb. I imagine these simultaneous symbolic representations forming a type of hologram that appears, fades into the next image, and then to the next one, repeatedly (verses 5-7). This is a Lamb on the move! He grasps the scroll and begins to tear off the seals to reveal history that is moving at an unrelenting pace to the endgame of the great cosmic conflict.

At this Christmas season, the third song of Revelation provides a lyric of confidence that our God in heaven reaches personally to our present and future with nail-pierced hands of understanding and compassion. We are not left

with a mere sentiment from the past. This is the new song of a new covenant between heaven and earth, established by the triumphant death and resurrection of Jesus. Then it moves beyond heaven to speak to our daily trials and struggles to both live for God now and to have confidence for an everlasting life with Him.

The song of the Worthy Lamb pushes aside the commercial holiday season to grasp anew the gift of the incarnate Savior. Through eyes of faith, we can join the chorus singing the heavenly lyrics composed in the throne room of God (Revelation 5:9-10). Let us add our voices to this immense symphony of praise:

You are worthy for You were slain, (It's all about Jesus!)

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood (He died and rose for you!)

Having made us kings and queens and a priesthood serving God; (You are transformed by Him!)

And we shall reign on the earth. (You have a boundless future!)

Amen and Amen (So it is and shall be!)

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

All Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version.



DAVIDNEISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS VIA GETTY IMAGES

Black Adventist Women Clergy Advancing the Gospel, Part 2

By Sasha A. Ross

*Editor's Note:
Part 1 appeared in the
September 2022 issue
of the Recorder.*

Ellen White and the Radical Love of Jesus

“**W**e have to be bold and defiant in our process, in our protest. As women in ministry, we reject the negative press and we choose to love in spite of all that’s said and in spite of all the discrimination,” said Dr. Brenda Billingsy, who served as the senior pastor of several local churches in the early 2000s before supporting the recruitment and retention of Adventist women clergy in her capacity as Associate Director of the North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Department from 2015-2020.ⁱ

“Even though the dark [times] come, we must have courage.... Ministry for women is very different as it is for men. We seem to be challenged on every front—from the pews, from the people who are looking on from the outside, even from your leaders who you would expect would be pushing you forward, but that doesn’t always happen.”

Indeed, Black women clergy face challenges stemming from who their congregation is and whether women’s calling as religious leaders is recognized and accepted.ⁱⁱ The degree to which their local church members are aware of early Adventist views on racial and gender equity also affects the level of support they receive. Sadly, many Adventists today are not aware of what made the Millerites and early Adventist leaders unique as Protestant Christians; it was not just their eschatology or soteriology. Early Adventists, and Ellen White in particular, were decidedly abolitionist.ⁱⁱⁱ

In fact, it was because of their beliefs about the Second Coming and salvation that early white Adventists held these views.^{iv} “It was never God’s purpose that society should be separated into classes, that there should be an alienation between rich and poor, the high and low, the learned and the unlearned,” wrote Ellen G. White.^v

Church historians have shown that early 19th-century Adventist pioneers participated in the abolition movement, directly and indirectly, including John Byington, who refused to return runaway slaves and who later became the first president of the General Conference; and John Preston Kellogg (father of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg), a prominent Adventist health reformer who constructed an underground railroad station on his family farm.^{vi}

This was an extremely turbulent period of race relations in the United States, when more than 2,000 lynchings took place, as well as a half-dozen major race riots and the establishment of the notorious Jim Crow legal system of racial segregation that was upheld in the 1896 U.S. Supreme Court *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision.^{vii}

Church growth continued undaunted. Reports of African-American converts to Adventism began in 1875. By the 1890s, Black Adventists numbered



Louise Helen Norton Little

PHOTO: BLACKSANDHISTORY.ORG

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.

Louise Helen Norton Little (1897-1989), the mother of Malcolm X, is another Black Adventist woman whose personal convictions and love of education influenced some of the most pivotal moments in American history. Born on the island of Grenada, biographical and family research indicates that Little was the product of the rape of a young Grenadian girl by an older white man, which informed Little’s political views and emphasis on Black empowerment.¹

Little left her homeland in 1917 and migrated to the U.S. after marriage.² After having seven

children together, her husband Earl was killed in 1931 amid questionable circumstances, and the family plunged into poverty. She moved her family from Nebraska to Michigan, where she was befriended by white Adventists and converted to Adventism in 1934.

Her son Malcolm reflected on his boyhood interactions with church members, noting that “The Adventists felt that we were living at the end of time, that the world soon was coming to an end. But they were the friendliest white people I had ever seen.”³

“The history of Grandma Little is so important to black women,” her granddaughter Deborah Jones says.⁴ Little’s Black empowerment efforts and influence on her son Malcolm also make her a significant figure in the histories of 20th-century America, Pan-Africanism, and diasporic protest. “Passionately committed to black self-determination and fiercely proud of African-descended people, she emerged as an important grassroots leader” according to one historian.⁵

Irene Amos Morgan Kirkaldy (1917-2007), the granddaughter of Virginian slaves, was born into a devout Adventist family in Baltimore, Maryland. Quitting school at age 15 to help support her family in the midst of the Great Depression, she was raised not to question authority. But in July 1944, more than a decade before Rosa Parks’ famous bus protest in Montgomery, Alabama, Morgan refused to give up her seat on a Greyhound bus traveling north from Virginia to Maryland. A young working mother with two small children at the time, she had suffered a miscarriage and was visiting family before returning home to Baltimore on July 16, 1944, for a doctor’s appointment.⁶

On the way, the crowded bus picked up a white couple; the driver then told Morgan and her seatmate to move according to Virginia law at

approximately 50 people and doubled to 100 by the year 1900.^{viii} As of 1918, at the end of the First World War, the number had swelled to 3,500.^{ix}

Black Adventist women were active throughout this era of exponential change, as evidenced in the life of abolitionist and women’s rights activist Sojourner Truth, who eyewitnesses say was baptized into the Adventist church by Uriah Smith before her death in 1883. The activist and writer Rosetta Douglass, daughter of the famed abolitionist and statesman Fredrick Douglass, was also Seventh-day Adventist. (See sidebar for biographical sketches.)

Historian Doug Morgan has noted that the rise of Black Adventists can be attributed to their theology. “For black converts, the race-transcending and race-affirming implications of a pure gospel were crucial,” particularly given Adventism’s claim to have “disentangled pure apostolic teaching and practice from centuries-long corruption in state-established churches.”^x

Historian Benjamin Baker says that Ellen White “was prolific in her writings on slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, segregation, Jim Crow, race relations,



**Irene Amos
Morgan
Kirkaldy**

and the black American experience in general. In particular, White stressed Adventists' responsibility to repair the egregious wrongs and injustices perpetrated on African Americans.^{xvi}

Longtime church administrator, author, and ethicist Calvin Rock also points out that "the list of social evils against which White wrote and spoke included slavery, intemperance, exploitative child labor, gender discrimination, economic disadvantage, dissolved families, educational limitations, and the abuses of organized capital and labor."

Indeed, White gave clear instructions for Adventists to defy the unjust Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, arguing that "The law of our land requiring us to deliver a slave to his master, we are not to obey."^{xvii} Rock says White's concept of "civil disobedience" was in line with other references she made to religious liberty, for example praising the German princes' defiance of governmental authority during the Protestant Reformation.^{xviii}

Without knowledge of this history, it is difficult for Adventists to repair the wrongs, as White advised, or to affirm the "rights"—that is, the vital influence and wise counsel of African American women clergy working for the Lord today.

"It is worth remembering that some Adventist leaders, during the 1950s and 1960s, omitted White's missionary zeal on behalf of Southern blacks and her commitment to racial equality in carving out their official position against involvement in the civil rights movement," explains historian Samuel G. London, Jr.^{xiv}

Because only limited primary source material exists for historians to draw on, one might miss the degree to which Black women leaders were present alongside men and were involved from the earliest beginning of our church, such as when the first Black Adventist local church was established in 1883

in Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, which was also the first Adventist church established south of the Mason-Dixon line.^{xv}

Their influence is also notable in the remarkable life and international career of Anna Rachel Knight (1874-1972), the first female Adventist missionary of color. She was sent to Calcutta (now Kolkata), India, in 1901 as a nurse, colporteur, and Bible worker, returning in 1907 to resume the educational work she had been doing in the U.S. In 1920, she founded the National Colored Teacher's Association of SDAs.^{xvi}

A woman who commanded respect, Knight went on to become the first Black woman conference official when she was charged with overseeing church schools across the American South and mobilizing members for all facets of lay ministry. She nominated and recommended many African American Adventists who cite her influence at the beginning of their careers in the Lord's work. In 1971, Knight was given the Medallion of Merit Award, the highest recognition by the General Conference for extraordinary service to SDA education.^{xvii}

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.

i Brenda Billingsy, quoted from the presentation entitled "Black Female SDA Clergy & Black History Month," The Pastor's Round Table (streamed live on Feb. 12, 2022). Online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSSij9LbHE>.

ii For example, relative to the Pacific Union, see the 2018-2019 National Congregational Study by the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), which asked the general question of religious adherents in America: "Can women be religious leaders?" Just over half (58%) of respondents in the Mountain and Pacific regions of the United States said yes, while two out of every five people said no (41%). Among white conservative, evangelical or fundamentalist respondents, only a third said yes (33%), while two-thirds said no (62%). Among Black Protestants, two thirds (66%) said yes while one third (31%) said no. See https://www.thearda.com/conqs/qs_53.asp.

"It is worth remembering that some Adventist leaders, during the 1950s and 1960s, omitted White's missionary zeal on behalf of Southern blacks and her commitment to racial equality in carving out their official position against involvement in the civil rights movement."

the time. Exhausted, Morgan refused and further objected when a policeman boarded the bus and tried forcibly to drag her off. She was jailed for resisting arrest but refused to plead guilty for violating the “Jim Crow” segregation laws.

The lawsuit that resulted—Irene Morgan vs. the Commonwealth of Virginia—went to the U.S. Supreme Court and was argued by Thurgood Marshall, then-Chief Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Like Sojourner Truth, Morgan won her case. In 1946, the 6-1 decision outlawed racial segregation on interstate buses and passenger travel and made Morgan an Adventist civil rights pioneer.⁷

Morgan’s courage and integrity created legal precedent for the anti-segregation cases that followed. Her victory also inspired the interracial Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to conduct “Freedom Rides” in 1947 and 1961 that challenged discriminatory policies through direct action. In 2000, Bill Clinton awarded Morgan the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second highest honor for U.S. civilians.⁸

1 Julie Wurth, “Activist’s Mom ‘Stood Her Ground,’” *The News-Gazette* (April 7, 2016). Online at https://www.news-gazette.com/news/activists-mom-stood-her-ground/article_69d583d7-329c-5b09-91e8-6d89704bcf0c.html.

2 Erik McDuffie and Komozi Woodward, “If You’re in a Country that’s Progressive, the Woman is Progressive,” *Biography* 36:3 (Summer 2013), p. 513. See also Merle Collins, “Louise Langdon Norton Little, Mother of Malcolm X,” *Caribbean Quarterly* 66:3 (Aug. 26, 2020), pp. 346-369.

3 Malcolm X photograph and quote included online at <https://www.blackdahistory.org/quotes>.

4 Wurth, *ibid.*

5 Erik S. McDuffie, “The Diasporic Journeys of Louise Little: Grassroots Garveyism, the Midwest, and Community Feminism,” in *Women, Gender, and Families of Color* 4:2 (Fall 2016), pp. 146-170.

6 “Irene Morgan Kirkaldy (1917-2007),” Maryland State Archives (Biographical Series).

7 Samuel G. London Jr., *Seventh-day Adventists and the Civil Rights Movement* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009), pp. 105-106.

8 Ansel Oliver, “U.S. Civil Rights Pioneer Irene Morgan Kirkaldy Remembered for Courage,” *Adventist News Network* (Aug. 19, 2007).

iii Michael Campbell, “Adventists, Fundamentalism, and the Second Wave of the Ku Klux Klan,” *Spectrum Magazine* 50, no. 1 (April 26, 2022), footnote 16. Online at <https://spectrummagazine.org/news/2022/adventists-fundamentalism-and-second-wave-ku-klux-klan>. This point was also made by Andrea Trusty King in her oral presentation at Loma Linda University, “I Have Kept Other Vineyards: Black Adventist Women as Healers” (Feb. 16, 2013). Online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ9xgX35Kc>.

iv Roy Branson, “Ellen G. White: Racist or Champion of Equality?” *Review and Herald* 147, no. 15 (April 9, 1970), p. 2. Online at <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19700409-V147-15.pdf>.

v Samuel G. London Jr., *Seventh-day Adventists and the Civil Rights Movement* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009), p. 55. See Ellen White, “An Appeal for the South-3,” *The Southern Work* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1901), p. 37.

vi Trusty King, *ibid.* See also Brian E. Strayer, *First General Conference President, Circuit-Riding Preacher, and Radical Reformer* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 2018).

vii Benjamin Baker, *The Dynamics of Communication and African-American Progress in the SDA Organization: A Historical Descriptive Analysis* (Ph.D. dissertation, Howard University, 1994).

viii George I. Butler, president of the Southern Union, reported in 1903 that in Mississippi “there are nearly as many colored believers as white. The treasurer’s report at the last camp-meeting showed that the colored people, poor day laborers, had paid about half of all tithes that came into the treasury,” *General Conference Bulletin* 1903, p. 131.

ix Benjamin Baker, “Did You Know?” timeline in “Social Justice in the Word of God: 2022 Black History Month Bible Study Guide,” printed by the Office of Regional Conference Ministries (Lincoln, NE: AdventSource, 2021), pp. 8, 15.

x Doug Morgan, “1919 and the Rise of Black Adventism,” *Spectrum Magazine* (June 28, 2019), adapted from a paper presented at the Association of SDA Historians’ conference in Keene, TX, in May 2019. Online at <https://spectrummagazine.org/news/2019/1919-and-rise-black-adventism>.

xi Benjamin Baker, “Ellen White and Black People,” *Black SDA History*. Online at <https://www.blackdahistory.org/ellen-white-and-blacks>. See also Benjamin Baker, ed., “Counsels on Blacks: A Comprehensive Compilation of Ellen G. White’s Statements on Black People,” 2nd ed. (2021). Online at https://www.blackdahistory.org/_files/ugd/dc5cd6_712e6e418cac412a9c6e48cb5a32946d.pdf.

xii Ellen White, “Oath Taking” in *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 1 (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1885), p. 202.

xiii White, *Testimonies* vol. 1, pp. 201-202; see also EGW’s “Slavery and the War” in *Testimonies* vol. 1, pp. 264-268; and EGW’s *Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 68-69, wherein she references Merle d’Aubigne’s *History of the Reformation in the Sixteenth Century*, vol. 1 (London: R. Groombridge and Sons, 1845). Online at https://www.gutenberg.org/files/40858/40858-h/40858-h.htm#Page_48.

xiv London, p. 56.

xv Trusty King, *ibid.* See also Steven Norman III, “The Early History of South Central Conference, 1863-1945,” *SCC Archives* (2006). Online at <http://iamsouthcentral.tv/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/South-Central-Conference-Early-History.pdf>. It is important to point out that a technical reason Adventist women’s work is often unrecognized is that, if they were married, their names were included in the historical record only via their husbands’ name (or initials) and position. For those who remarried, for example after their first husband died, research can be even more tedious.

xvi Carol Hammond, *Precious Memories of Missionaries of Color: A Compilation of Stories and Experiences of Ambassadors for God* (Calhoun, GA: Teach Services, Inc., 2019), pp. 17-19.

xvii General Conference Archives, “North American Colored Department: Highlights.” Online at <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Resources/RegionalConf/RCO-01.pdf>.



DEMS-ARTISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS VIA GETTY IMAGES

We Have Seen



By Alberto Valenzuela

Ah, the holidays! Cookies, pies, pine trees, jingle bells, presents, garlands, mistletoe, nativity scenes, Christmas lights, and caroling! Christmas is usually all of these things. Somehow, they all remind me of home—of all the houses I have called home. I wonder how the people who celebrated the first Christmas would feel if they saw how we celebrate this most Christian holiday.

I particularly wonder how the wise men who came from the East would feel. We all know the story. Three men came from the East to Jerusalem looking for the newborn baby king. The Gospel of Matthew tells us, “After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, ‘Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him’” (Matthew 2:1-2, *The Message*). I like that this version calls them scholars.

Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar are the names traditionally given to these men; the group is also known as the three kings. You’ll find them in every nativity scene. The Gospel tells us that they came from the East. Jerusalem is in the East, so this means that they were from some place even further east, probably Persia. These sages were probably astronomers, men who studied the skies and its infinite stars. The record says that they had seen a new bright star, what we would probably call a comet. Some traditions indicate that the wise men were later named as bishops by the apostle Thomas and that they worked as missionaries. A legend suggests that they were buried in a common tomb and that their bones were found in A.D. 326 and were taken in 1164 to Cologne Cathedral, where they are venerated as relics.

His Star

What I like about this story is that these men were open to new discoveries. They studied the signs in the sky; their minds were open. The Greek word used here is *mágos* (μάγος). The term *magi* is used by Josephus and Philo, referring to those Eastern (especially Chaldean) priest-sages whose research, in great measure as yet mysterious and unknown to us, seems to have embraced much deep knowledge. According to some scholars, there was a close connection between the land of Israel and Arabia, and from about 120 B.C. to the sixth century of our era, the kings of Yemen professed the Jewish faith. That could explain how these men would attach a Messianic meaning to the new “star” that they had seen and studied. Perhaps these men didn’t only study their scrolls diligently but were also open to reading the skies. And the skies led them to Jerusalem in search of the Christ Child.

They came to Jerusalem and went directly to the king. No doubt they thought the king of Israel would employ wise men who were also able to read the signs in the sky and understand their message, as they had. Alas, they were disappointed. Herod was not that type of king, and he didn’t have men like them. He wasn’t even that type of Jew. He was more Roman than Jewish, and he couldn’t care less about any signs in the sky.

Modern history has cases of individuals who went beyond what could clearly be seen. They saw the signs and made a difference in the world.

In a 1943 lecture, Nobel prizewinning theoretical physicist Erwin Schrödinger suggested that genes contained some kind of code—what we now know as DNA. His concept was revolutionary, and his topic was an unusual one for a physicist: “What is Life?” The following year the lectures were turned into a book of the same name. DNA has become very

important. It helps the police solve crimes. It helps investigators get wrongly condemned people out of jail. It helps people find family. I found a long-lost cousin—she and her family had spent World War II in a Japanese concentration camp and had moved to Canada after being liberated. Finding each other through our DNA was a major cause of celebration in my family.

Marie Stodowska Curie was intrigued by the discovery made by physicist Henri Bequerel that uranium salts naturally emit x-rays. She continued working until she discovered radium, which, with its alluring greenish glow, became famous and rather notorious. It’s the element used in an array of applications, such as the illumination of watch faces and as a multi-purpose therapeutic weapon against acne, varicose veins, and epilepsy, among other uses. During World War I, disturbed by the quality of the medical care received by the soldiers, Curie invented and resourced a fleet of radiology vehicles to carry x-ray technology to the front lines. We have x-rays, a name we are so familiar with, all because of her curiosity.

Heinrich Hertz discovered electromagnetic waves, including radio waves, in the 1880s. His discovery was based on the theoretical connection between electricity and magnetism that was beginning to be developed. Oliver Lodge and Jagadish Bose explored the property of those waves and even developed devices and methods to improve the transmission and detection of those waves. But neither Hertz nor Lodge nor Bose saw any practical value in these discoveries. Enter Guglielmo Giovanni Maria Marconi. At the age of 20, Marconi began to put together a device in the attic of his home. He had studied Hertz’s theory and the devices of Lodge and Bose, and he decided that there was more

Modern history has cases of individuals
who went beyond what could clearly be seen.

to it, much more. In 1894, Marconi demonstrated to his mother a radio transmitter and receiver—a simple set-up that made a bell ring after receiving a signal from another room. By the summer of 1895 Marconi perfected his device, and a new era of communication had begun.

We are familiar with GPS, antilock brakes, automatic transmissions, hybrid cars—and they all can be traced to Karl Friedrich Benz. (Yes, the Benz in what we now know as Mercedes Benz.) Karl began toying with the idea of applying the technology used in factories. The industrial revolution had produced the power needed to revolutionize textile, lumber, metallurgy, and even ship production. Could there be a way to apply that power to a cart? However, the factories were run by steam, and Karl needed something much smaller. Nikolaus Otto had invented a piston engine that Karl developed into a two-stroke engine. He then proceeded to design a three-wheeled vehicle with a four-stroke engine to power it. At the time other inventors were also trying to come up with a “horseless carriage,” but Karl’s work stood out because his car was constructed around its engine—he did not just add an engine to a carriage. He patented his car on Jan. 29, 1886. His inventions were the product of considering what there was and what it could become.

DNA, x-rays, radio, automobiles, and the list goes on and on.

As we celebrate the holidays, as we celebrate the most holy of the Christian holidays, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, are our minds open to read the signs? What is it that God is telling you? When you take time to contemplate the miracle of the Baby in the manger and the greatest manifestation of God’s love on the cross, are you open to perceive God’s message for you? Are you willing to allow your mind to be open to the message God has for you in the quietude, the stillness of your soul?

Elijah had been running for his life. First he had faced the priests of Baal, then he had escaped to the desert, and finally he ended up at Mount Horeb.

God took care of Elijah while he hid in a cave. Then Elijah was able to experience something that only Moses had experienced before: the Lord decided to show him His glory.

“A great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper” (1 Kings 19:11-12, NIV). Elijah experienced a powerful wind, an earthquake, and a fire—but the Lord wasn’t in any of those phenomena.

A literal translation of verse 12 reads, “after a fire came the sound of silence” (EXV). Another version translates it as “a sound of sheer silence” (NRSV). That’s where God was. In the gentle whisper, in the sound of silence, in the majesty of sheer silence. Do you want to find God’s message for you during this holiday season? Abide in the sound of silence. Dwell in the sheer silence. And allow the Lord to talk to you. Listen for the gentle whisper.

I’m not saying, “Stop the caroling, don’t exchange presents, put away the pecan pie, you’ve seen *It’s a Wonderful Life* too many times already!” No, all I’m suggesting is that you allow God to talk to you during this blessed season, that you don’t block out the quietness and silence. I’m suggesting that you look for the message He has for *you* during the holidays. I’m inviting you to be wise (a magi), to explore that message that perhaps only makes sense to you.

I invite you to open your mind during this holiday season. I invite you to surround yourself with the presence of the Lord. I invite you to read the signs around you. I invite you to bask in the sound of silence.

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



Loma Linda University Church Dedicates Literature Ministry Distribution and Training Center

One of the most innovative lay evangelism programs in Adventist history moved into its permanent home when Loma Linda University Church formally dedicated the Literature Ministry Distribution and Training Center on the campus of Loma Linda Elementary School on Sabbath, Oct. 15, 2022.

The center, whose steel walls and barred windows resemble an armored fortress, represents the culmination of years of vision, faith, prayer, and hard work on the part of a dedicated lay group eager to share the gospel in the Inland Empire of Southern California.

The method is disarmingly simple. Volunteers stock large metal carousels or small racks with colorful Christian literature in university offices, physicians' offices, clinics, hospitals, and business offices so readers can help themselves to whatever they want. The publications deal with topics of physical, mental, and spiritual health and healing and invite readers to enroll in local Bible study classes.

It has proven highly effective. According to Paul Damazo, the group's energetic 97-year-old founder and executive director, 200,000 pieces of literature were taken from unattended carousels and racks in



The Loma Linda University Church Literature Ministry Distribution and Training Center, which was dedicated on Sabbath, Oct. 15, 2022, is a laity-driven ministry in Southern California's Inland Empire.

2019, and 66 people have been baptized since 2020. He says another 250 individuals are participating in Bible studies at 19 different locations as a direct result of the literature carousels.

Gary Carpenter, who co-chairs the ministry with his wife, Marilynn, said the path to the new center was filled with obstacles.

For one thing, elderly church members who allowed the group to store its carousels, literature, and supplies in their garages kept dying of age-related causes. “We had to move seven different times,” Carpenter reported.

For another, when the group crunched the numbers to see what it would cost to buy land and build a permanent facility, the figure came back at \$685,000. “We didn’t have that kind of money,” Damazo disclosed.

But after reminding God that He had called them to this important work, the group took steps to turn their dream into reality. Three members—Paul McFeeters, Lillian Guild, and Damazo—launched influence campaigns to attract high-level support.

McFeeters lobbied hundreds of people in person, asking them to pray for the project. Guild waged a decade-long letter-writing campaign asking leaders like Richard H. Hart, president of Loma Linda University Health (LLUH), and Randy Roberts, senior pastor of Loma Linda University church, to support the group’s evangelistic efforts. For his part, the human dynamo that is Paul Damazo inspired thousands with his enthusiastic presentations of the group’s method of scattering Adventist literature like the proverbial leaves of autumn.

Although neither McFeeters nor Guild lived to see the results of their efforts, Damazo did. He loves to tell how the seemingly insurmountable obstacles

began to vanish like thin fog when the sun comes out.

To begin with, Hart not only granted the group permission to place literature carousels in the offices of willing physicians, but he also made room for carousels in the Faculty Medical Clinics, six LLUH hospitals, and other locations.

Roberts not only invited members of the group to speak about their dream of a permanent home for their literature ministry during board meetings and church services, he also got the board of Loma Linda University church to approve the appointment of Pastor Miguel Mendez as liaison pastor between



PHOTOS: NOBERT SOO



TOP: The right side of the interior of the Literature Ministry Distribution and Training Center features the main entrance, front lobby, and storage areas. **ABOVE:** Seen from the left, the interior of the Literature Ministry Distribution and Training Center shows the conference room and storage areas.

But after reminding God that He had called them to this important work, the group took steps to turn their dream into reality.



PHOTO: JAMES PONDER

Gary Carpenter (right), co-chair of the Literature Ministry, shares a lighthearted moment with dignitaries at the dedication service

the group and the 6,400 members of the largest Adventist church in the Western Hemisphere.

Eventually, Hart even persuaded the board of LLUH to donate the property on the elementary school campus to the group.

Carpenter, who is a general contractor by trade, quickly rendered a colorful professional appraisal. "It was a dump," he laughed, "but we were delighted to have it."

It didn't remain a dump for long. Carpenter and his team promptly cleared the property of debris. Then they rolled in heavy construction equipment and bulldozed the landscape into the small knoll the center occupies today. He also designed the garden that graces the front of the parking lot, while Marilyn tracked and accounted expenses.

That still left the problem of what kind of building to construct on the site. It had to be strong, and it had to be affordable. Once again, God came through. Someone mentioned that people are turning used shipping containers—the big rectangular boxes that ride on the decks of ships and railroad cars—into housing.

Although a bit skeptical at first, the group toured the headquarters of ITS ConGlobal in Wilmington,

California, and liked what they saw.

Today, the 1,600-square-foot center is made up of four 10- by 40-foot shipping containers welded together with large openings in the middle to allow easy access between rooms. Not only is the building as strong as steel, it's also practical and useful, offering a conference room, waiting area, front lobby, and all the storage space the group is likely to need



PHOTO: JAMES PONDER

Miguel Mendez, liaison pastor for the Loma Linda University church literature ministry, discusses the group's important work in leading people of the Inland Empire to Christ.



PHOTO: JAMES PONDER

Marilynn Carpenter shares the story of how the Lord led her and her husband, Gary, into serving as co-chairs of Literature Ministry.

for years to come. Should the ministry desire to expand in the future, other containers can be added as needed.

In addition to Damazo and the Carpenters, other speakers at the dedication service included Pastor Ernie Castillo from the North American Division, Dale Galusha from Pacific Press, Kurt Johnson from the General Conference and the Voice of Prophecy, Curt Dolinsky from It is Written, Bill Krick from Pacific Union Conference, and pastors Miguel Mendez and Randy Roberts from University church. Since he was out of town, Hart appeared in a pre-recorded video message.

In his introduction to Galusha, Damazo noted that the ministry gets 90 percent of all the literature it uses from Pacific Press, adding that Galusha's support has been instrumental to the success of the endeavor. He said that It is Written and Voice of Prophecy also supply vital resources.

Galusha opened his keynote address by presenting Damazo with a plaque, which now graces the front lobby of the center. The idea proved popular as two other speakers also gifted Damazo with plaques.

Galusha spoke lovingly of Guild and McFeeters and predicted that God will bless the center in remarkable ways. One of the speakers noted that Pastor Ted Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, called the center a model of lay evangelism for the entire denomination. Someone else observed that the Millerite Movement, Adventism's precursor, was also a laity-driven ministry.

Throughout the service, speaker after speaker cited Damazo's indomitable determination to help finish the mission articulated by Jesus in the Great Commission. One of them said it was literally impossible to say no when Damazo asked them to do something, and laughter broke out around the room as others attested to the power of his persistent arm-twisting.

After Pastor Roberts concluded his dedicatory prayer, Marilynn Carpenter gave him a pair of scissors the size of a small bicycle. She also distributed normal-sized scissors to the other speakers and honorary guests, and moments later the ceremonial ribbon fluttered to the floor.

By James Ponder

Readers are invited to visit www.literatureministry.net to learn more about this remarkable endeavor and volunteer or donate to help it reach people with the gospel of grace.



PHOTO: JAMES PONDER

Dale Galusha (left), president of Pacific Press, reads a commemorative plaque given to Paul Damazo, founder and executive director of the Literature Ministry, for bringing the new center from dream to fulfillment.

Arizona Conference Black Ministries Convocation Renews and Inspires Attendees

“After a two-year hiatus from regular in-person convocations, the 42nd annual Arizona Conference Black Ministries Convocation was a smashing success,” declared Tucson Sharon church Pastor Jonathan Smith.

Held at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church—the oldest African American church in Arizona—the two-day event featured Pastor Alexis Madrid from Florida and Southwestern Union Conference Executive Secretary Stephen Brooks, along with several musical artists.

The theme of the gathering was “So Where Do We Go From Here?” which is an appropriate question for churches to ask these days. “With the global impact of COVID-19, the rising fear of political uncertainty, and the mounting threat of civil and religious unrest, many are left with this question,” said Phoenix South Mountain church Pastor Russel Lewars.

Delivering the Friday evening message, Madrid entreated both the in-person and online audiences to go forward by faith in these uncertain times. Using an analogy about a couple who purchased land for a home for a family they didn’t have yet, Madrid declared to the audience, “Go and buy a field!”

“Sabbath morning felt like a good old Adventist

revival,” said Smith, commenting on Brooks’ powerful sermon and call, which was backed up by the keyboardist.

The 200-plus people in attendance were treated to a delicious meal after the Sabbath morning service. Due to the size of the group, the meal was served at both the host site as well as down the street at the Tucson Sharon church. The afternoon program featured more music and another compelling message from Madrid.

“The Black Ministries Convocation was a phenomenal experience and was inspiring and impactful,” commented Lewars. “The spiritual experience renewed and reinvigorated faith in God’s moving over His people, especially coming out of a pandemic.”

Smith jokingly chided fellow Arizona Conference church members: “If you missed convocation this year, shame on you.” He continued, “Though it is a coming together of all the Black churches in the Arizona Conference, all are invited.”

The next annual Black Ministries Convocation is scheduled for Nov. 10-11, 2023, and will be held in the Phoenix area.

By Jeff Rogers





Native Impact 2022: Three Conferences Partner with It Is Written

Six simultaneous evangelistic events, titled “Message from the Metal Man,” occurred across the Navajo Nation in a collaborative effort by three different conferences and It Is Written. Arizona Conference Native American Ministries Director Dale Wolcott reported, “Each of the six meetings was small, but altogether the Lord brought close to 50 community guests out each evening.”

Despite the size of the gatherings, 17 people made the decision to be baptized, and follow-up studies and study groups are still being conducted at the locations.

It is Written’s Curt Dolinsky recruited and coordinated the evangelistic teams, which included two Arizona Conference pastors. Jonathan Chitwood, who pastors the Window Rock church, was the key speaker in his own church, while Phoenix Camelback church Pastor Mark Sulger was the speaker at the Chinle church. The 10-session “Metal Man” series featured images and messages linked to Daniel 2.

The meetings represented a unique collaboration since the Navajo Nation geographically spans four different conferences and three unions. Three of the meetings were held in Arizona Conference churches in Page, Chinle, and Window Rock. The other three meetings included one held at the Waterflow church (New Mexico) in the Rocky Mountain Conference—part of the Mid-America Union—and two held at the Crownpoint (New Mexico) and Gallup (New Mexico) churches in the Texico Conference—part of the Southwestern Union.

Before the meetings took place, a “Walk Across the Navajo Nation” to promote the prophecy revival began in Chinle on July 24 and ended 240 miles later at Waterflow on Sept. 9. It featured a 10-foot banner



carried by walkers, who gave out fliers as they traversed the nation. In addition, a 30-foot-tall inflatable Daniel 2 statue was set up at strategic locations along the route to gain additional attention.

At the Page church, a full-scale free clinic took place just prior to the series. Several attendees from that clinic are now attending the church and a weekly Bible study. The Page church is uniquely situated, as it sits on the edge of the Navajo Nation but also just up the hill from Lake Powell, which brings in tourists from around the world.

Wolcott said, “In a Zoom meeting debrief following the evangelistic outreach, the leadership at all six sites agreed that they need to do something like this again next year.”

By Jeff Rogers



The Washburn Fire Causes Evacuation at Camp Wawona

The Washburn Fire burned for nearly a month this last summer and engulfed the Mariposa Grove area of Yosemite National Park. The fire, which started July 7, also came dangerously close to Camp Wawona, causing an evacuation of the camp and the Wawona area surrounding it. This fire was finally extinguished on August 1, but not until it burned nearly 5,000 acres of Yosemite and the surrounding area.

Damian Martin, caretaker for Camp Wawona, was at the camp when the fire started near Camp Wawona's south entrance. It was already about four to five miles from the camp when it began, and the firefighters began tactical fires on the edge of the camp's property. Because the fire was moving north toward the camp and the Wawona community, the camp would have been the first location hit by the fire.

"They cleared fire breaks all along our perimeter," explained Martin. "So the fire

actually got within about a quarter mile of us, but the tactical burning was right on our property line.”

The fire began on a Thursday, and the camp had a group scheduled to arrive that weekend. On Friday, the local ranger stopped by the camp in the morning and advised the staff that they weren’t under evacuation notice and that the guests could come.

But later in the day the staff noticed a shift in the smoke cloud. “It jumped a ridge they weren’t thinking it would and started coming downhill toward us, and there was a little bit of a wind change. It started making a beeline toward our community,” explained Martin.

At that point, about 4:00 in the afternoon, the firefighters came back to the camp and gave a ten-minute notice to evacuate the camp. “We already had some guests come and check in, and some were on their way,” said Martin.

They didn’t have any time to prepare for evacuation as they normally do. With previous fires, they have been given a potential evacuation warning about a day in advance. “We didn’t get that potential evacuation warning,” said Martin. “It was just a mandatory evacuation warning, right now, giving us ten minutes to get everyone out.”

Martin began their evacuation plan, which involved emptying all the cabins, turning off the gas tanks and collecting some of the major equipment to move out of the camp. Two volunteers, Jose Campos and Alberto Alvarrado, helped Martin clear out the camp and load the equipment. This included moving some of the large equipment, like the skid steer, equipment truck and trailer, and most of the forestry equipment—things that would help recover the camp if the fire did burn through it.

It was already late in the day by the time they were able to leave the camp, and they weren’t able to leave by the south entrance. “We had to go all the way around to the west entrance, and it was slow going because of the equipment,” said Martin. On the way out, one of the trucks even had a flat tire, slowing them down more.

They finally moved all of the equipment to a local church member’s home to store until the fire was contained. But two weeks later, the Oak Fire started about a mile from that church member’s home where the equipment was being stored. “I had to drive up from Southern California while they were under evacuation order. My wife and I were able to get all of the equipment out and back to our facility safely.” While moving the equipment, they were within 200 to 300 feet of the Oak Fire.

Damian said this experience showed him that the camp does have a good contingency plan for moving people and equipment out of the camp. He was happy with the speed in which they were able to execute the plan. He said he did learn that the firefighters are not always going to be able to give them advanced warning before they evacuate. “If the fire is that close, things can change in a moment’s notice,” he explained.

This also reaffirmed his belief that God has a plan for everything. The camp staff asked God to make His guidance obvious. “Even if there is an inconvenience, God has a plan for everything,” said Damian. “He made it very obvious when it was our time to leave. We just have to have faith that it was for a reason. We have to trust that all things work together for good for those who love God.”

By Brennan Hallock





Hawaii Conference Ordains William “JR” Bonilla

He has chosen to passionately live in response to God’s call, connecting others to their fullest identity as belonging to their Heavenly Father and cultivating a culture of service through relationship to others.

A celebration of service was held on August 27, 2022, as William “JR” Bonilla was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Honolulu Central church. Conference President Erik VanDenburg led out in the service, with assistance from Senior Pastor Travis Sager and two of JR’s former pastors, Bill Payne and Tara VinCross.

Pastor JR has served as the associate pastor of the Honolulu Central church since 2016. Service and church involvement have long been a way of life for JR. As a young adult, he served as one of the youngest elders in his conference and helped support various ministry initiatives across New Jersey. While involved in ministry,

he met another influential, service-minded youth leader named Felecia, and God soon brought them together in marriage.

Fully intending to serve God in a lay capacity in the mortgage industry, JR began to feel God impressing his heart to serve in full-time ministry, and in the spring of 2011, the young family moved to Andrews University to attend the seminary. He began his official ministry after seminary in Philadelphia in 2014, working with Pastor Tara VinCross at a new inner-city young adult church plant called REACH Philadelphia. Two years later, Pastor JR received the call to serve as associate pastor at the Honolulu Central church, where the Bonilla family is greatly loved and appreciated.

To JR, ministry is a lifestyle. He has chosen to passionately live in response to God's call, connecting others to their fullest identity as belonging to their Heavenly Father and cultivating a culture of service through relationship to others. He is fully supported in ministry by his loving wife, Felecia, and their tribe of energetic and talented children—Oksana, Uriah, and little Azariah. JR's favorite Bible text of the moment: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35, NKJV).

By Jay C. Warren





HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

A Seventh-day Adventist Boarding Academy Serving Native American Youth Since 1946

Quentina is currently the longest-attending student (eight years) at HIS. She is a testament to the value of whole-person education at HIS. She plans to attend Northern Arizona University to study criminal justice in order to work in law enforcement to help victims of human trafficking.

HIS Life-Changing Impact

Breaking the cycle of generational trauma through whole-person education



2006 HIS graduate Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams eats in the cafeteria with her children. A little over 15 years ago, she ate in this same cafeteria as a student for the first time, relishing her first day receiving three healthy meals.

The partnership between constituents from the Pacific Union (and beyond) and Holbrook Indian School (HIS) has empowered Native American students to overcome distinctive barriers to learning through a whole-person approach.

Many students attend HIS because they weren't succeeding at their previous schools. This is often due to traumatic events they've experienced or their basic needs not being met, such as the need for prescription eyewear, concerns over where their next meal is coming from, or the inability to travel to the dentist to relieve an aching tooth. The effects of generational trauma also impact a child's ability to succeed.

HIS is more than just an institution for learning. It is—in a genuine sense—a home away from home.

HIS provides students with healthy meals, personal care items, transportation to and from school when needed, trips for health care appointments, counseling, and assistance with other basic needs.

Here are the top five ways that friends of HIS have helped to empower Native children and youth through their partnership with the school.

Outdoor School – A Love to Learn and Explore

Last school year, Kaiss attended HIS for the first time. The Outdoor School trip was also his first time going to Grand Canyon National Park. What was his reaction? “If I had the chance to do more outdoor activities, I would go out and explore more,” he said.

Kaiss and other students spent seven days camping and learning at the Grand Canyon. During that time, they participated in several classes of their choice. These outdoor-focused lessons not only taught them specific skills but also gave them a new perspective and appreciation for learning. “A week of doing school at the Grand Canyon opened my eyes to see that there is so much more than what I see on a daily basis,” Kaiss said.

You can watch Kaiss’s Outdoor School experience in the short film “Class by the Canyon” at HolbrookIndianSchool.org/outdoor.

Feeding Our Students – Healthy and Nutritious Meals

Providing students with healthy, nutritious meals is a priority at HIS. Many students come to the school with nutritional deficits that affect their ability to learn.

In March, a 2006 graduate, Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams, returned to HIS as a special guest speaker for



its 75th anniversary celebration. During her speech, she shared how, as a child, she would swallow air in an effort to stop her hunger pains. She spoke about a time when her family would go to the grocery store on “food stamp day” and fill their shopping carts with all the snacks and French fries they could. “We ate like junk food kings for a week,” Poor Bear-Adams stated, “and then the rest of the month, we’d go hungry,” an unfortunate result of poverty.

Poor Bear-Adams described how surprised she was when she came to HIS and saw that students received three healthy meals a day. That was something she only saw on TV. She credits HIS for her ability to provide her children with healthy, nutritious meals.

Meeting Students’ Basic Needs

There are often times when HIS students have basic needs that are not being met. For example, we had two young sisters come with only a couple of pairs of pants and a few shirts between them. They only had one pair of shoes each, and they didn’t fit well. They didn’t have a jacket or bedding. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon.



During Outdoor School, Kaiss and his sister, Alana, take a break during their hike in the wilderness survival class at the Grand Canyon. Outdoor School is one week of classes that takes place in several national parks.



ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Outdoor School at Holbrook Indian School.

Often students need glasses. Although Indian Health Services provides one pair of glasses to each tribal member per year, the services are sometimes backed up for months. Since these students can't do their school work without glasses, we need to help provide them.

Then there are times when families can't afford gas or don't have reliable transportation to bring their children to and from school during breaks. Most students live a minimum of two hours from HIS. Staff members provide students with transportation. These are just a few examples of how our partners make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students.

Counseling

Traumatic life events prevent students from focusing in the classroom. Students have the option to go to Indian Health Services for counseling; however, that takes a lot of time away from their classes, and often a student's ability to cope with his or her specific experience can't be addressed in this setting.

HIS established an on-site counseling program in 2014. Since then, it has transformed the lives of a number of students. HIS licensed clinical

counselor Loren Fish described how one student was demonstrating severe depression and anxiety and scored extremely low in self-worth. "Practically, within three months of counseling, that student was able to show major improvement," Fish said.

Most recently, students who were on the school bus during a deadly August 28 accident reported flashbacks, as well as nightmares. Two students were willing to anonymously share the impact counseling had in helping them work through the trauma. In terms of anxiety levels and ability to cope, on a scale of 1-10, "I went from being at 8 to now being at 0," one student said. Another student shared that they appreciated that this kind of help was available after experiencing this traumatic event.

Since the counseling department was instituted, there has been an increase in students on the honor roll, and the general culture on campus has improved. The impact of the counseling department over the years has more than made up for the investment.

Tuition - A Life-Defining Opportunity

A majority of HIS students' families are at or below the poverty level and are not able to afford tuition.

Since the counseling department was instituted, there has been an increase in students on the honor roll, and the general culture on campus has improved.

The majority of the cost for a student to attend HIS is supported by the school's partners. This enables Native youth, who would otherwise fall through the cracks, to have access to an accredited, Christian education in a safe, healing environment—regardless of their ability to pay.

The effects of generational trauma have caused many Native youth to grow up in broken families. In order to break the cycle, they need opportunity. Consider the value of whole-person education for one youth like HIS senior Quentina.

Quentina came to HIS when she was in the fifth grade. Her lack of academic focus reflected her unstable circumstances. "I grew up with my grandma," Quentina reflected. "My father was not there for me physically, and my mother was not there for me emotionally. The other kids bullied me a lot whenever the teachers weren't looking. I always got caught reacting to the teasing and got sent to the principal's office daily."

Quentina's frustrating experience with school gave her a dislike for reading and learning. "One time I told the teacher, 'Just give me an F!'" she said. Despite her contempt for learning, Quentina said she loved being at HIS: "I liked staying here. Home was a bad atmosphere. It gave me suicidal thoughts from all the negativity."

Through intervention and coaching from her mentor, Quentina's relationships with her peers improved. Through patient help from teachers, she grew an appreciation for reading and learning. Finding something at HIS that was missing at home, Quentina would stay on campus for the entire summer break.

Over the past four years, Quentina has been on the honor roll. There was a time, however, when



circumstances almost forced her to stop attending HIS. "My grandma was going to withdraw me from HIS because of the cost of tuition and travel," Quentina recalled. "I was going to have to change schools, and the day I was waiting for my grandma to come and get me, I was sitting on the side of the curb, ready with my withdrawal forms, and Mrs. Adams [former vice principal] asked where I was going. After I explained the situation, she said I didn't need to withdraw because the school would help."

Quentina reflects very positively on this life-defining moment. She was able to remain at HIS and has had significant academic and emotional growth since then. Many former and current students like Quentina benefit from the whole-person approach to education at HIS.

By Chevon Petgrave and Diana Fish



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

Thank you for your support.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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White Memorial Celebrates Spiritual Roots of Healthcare

A palpable sense of celebration and belonging marked the close-knit community gathered at the White Memorial church on Oct. 8 for the 12th annual Hospital Sabbath. The event brought together nurses, doctors, administrators, and hospital employees from the Adventist Health White Memorial (AHWM) medical center, along with church and community members, to celebrate the unique blend of physical, mental, and spiritual ministry that marks Adventist healthcare.

Hospital employees and administrators led the Hospital Sabbath church service by providing music, Scripture reading, prayer, the children's story, and other special features. This year also featured music by the San Gabriel Academy Chorale and the AHWM Praise Team. The guest speaker for the service was Terry Swenson, director of spiritual care and assistant professor of religion and theological studies at Loma Linda University.

"Hospital Sabbath is a reminder for hospital caregivers of the importance of spirituality in caring for patients and the importance of rest—of a Sabbath when they can rest and recharge their batteries both physically and spiritually. For our staff members who aren't Adventist, it is a reminder of how White Memorial is a place that supports Sabbath rest," said Edgar Urbina, director of Mission and Spiritual Care for AHWM.

The relationship between the medical center and the White Memorial church goes back more than 100 years. The church opened in 1913, the same year the precursor to AHWM, the College of Medical Evangelists, opened a small storefront clinic in the heart of Los Angeles. The hospital—named in honor of Ellen White—opened in 1918. The two entities share a spirit of compassion and a deep commitment to provide healing for the people of Los Angeles.

"There was something special that happened when I first got to White Memorial," said now-retired hospital



AHWM President John Raffoul presents the Christian Service Award to Chaplain James Patterson during Hospital Sabbath.

chaplain James Patterson. "When I got here, I felt like I had just met my family. I love it here and I believe that God put me here because He wanted me to be in the center of loving people." During the Hospital Sabbath service, Patterson was awarded the annual Christian Service Award by AHWM President John Raffoul.

The spiritual care that Chaplain Urbina and his team provide at AHWM is one of the hallmarks of Adventist Health, where healthcare is a humanitarian expression of the Adventist faith and a contemporary expression of the healing ministry of Jesus.

"In the Adventist faith, in our culture, we believe in whole-person care," said Raffoul. "We believe there are three components of every human being—the mental, physical, and spiritual. You need to treat the entire human being—each of those three components—for a person to become well and be healthy. Spiritual care is an essential component. Any hospital that practices caring for all three components needs a church connection to be able to achieve that spiritual well-being. AHWM is very fortunate because of the close relationship we have had with the White Memorial church over the years. We work together very closely, and we're very blessed because of that—and very grateful too."

By Kim Strobel

"There's always darkness before
God shows up."

—Terry Swenson, director of spiritual care
for Loma Linda University



PUC's 2022-2023 School Year Is in Session

The 2022-2023 school year has officially started at Pacific Union College, and the first week was nothing short of eventful as students were welcomed back on campus.

New students arrived on Welcome Day, Wednesday, Sept. 21. Staff and student workers greeted them and their families at the check-in station to register them for orientation and give them their name badges and welcome bags. Dorm workers, resident assistants, faculty, staff, and PUC President Ralph Trecartin greeted them at the residence halls, assisted them in moving in, distributed water, and answered questions. Student Life hosted a prayer station by the Campus Center where faculty and staff could pray for new students and their families.

Classes began on Monday, Sept. 26. As students got back into the swing of a class schedule, they were given a food truck dinner at the Campus Center so they could socialize and take a break from a first busy day of school.

At 10 p.m. on Wednesday, students, staff, and faculty gathered together at the Pacific Auditorium for Pioneer Madness—a pep rally that takes place every year during the first week of school to support the student-athletes. On the bleachers, participants brought out their pom-poms, signs, and school spirit to cheer the Pioneers and pray for them.

A gathering titled Community is held at the church every Thursday morning, when the entire PUC family congregates in worship. During the first Community of the year, the Student Association officers were introduced, the PUC Chorale performed, and Trecartin and some faculty members spoke. After Community, the

Dining Commons treated everyone to some esquites (elote en vaso) outside. On Thursday night at the gym, students had the opportunity to participate in Club Rush—a chance to check out the 30-plus clubs at PUC to see which ones they wanted to join.

The first week of school also included dorm worship, where students could step away from their studies and spend time with God in praise and worship. Department chairs and professors also hosted vespers for their students to welcome in the Sabbath and fellowship with others in their majors and programs.

Kharolynn Pascal Smith—director of orientation, transitions, and retention—played a major role in organizing the week and guaranteeing that new students and their families had a smooth move-in day and start of the school year. “My hope for students is that they will experience PUC as a place of belonging that helps them to grow in the purpose to which God is calling them,” said Smith. “My goal is to do what I can to provide the service, structure, and support that will help them in that pursuit. The first week of school for me actually started last week with Fusion Orientation, and what I enjoyed the most was meeting new students, hearing their stories, and helping them begin to integrate into the PUC community.”

The PUC family was excited to welcome the newest Pioneers and returning students. From student workers to faculty and staff, everyone worked incredibly hard to ease students back to school and plan great events to start the year on a fantastic note.

By Ally Romanes



Adventist School Experiences Stir Student's Faith, Baptism Decision

Christian Figueroa grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist tradition, regularly attended church with his family, and understood Adventist beliefs. But it wasn't until he underwent experiences at La Sierra Academy and La Sierra University that his own spiritual life and identity fell into focus, leading to his decision to be baptized.

The La Sierra University third-year biochemistry/pre-dentistry major and Pasadena native enrolled at La Sierra through the influence of his brother, Jeffery Figueroa, a Riverside dentist and an alumnus of the university.

The window into a deeper and stronger personal faith cracked open during the first chapel service Christian attended after he arrived at La Sierra Academy's high school. He was further influenced through the spiritual support and encouragement of his girlfriend, whom he met at La Sierra University. A religion class last year at the university inspired a flash of divine insight, furthering Christian's journey. He was baptized in June by La Sierra University Chaplain Jason Decena in an outdoor baptistry on the campus's Founders' Green.

"I grew up in the [Adventist] environment. But I never felt that I was fully integrated into it," Figueroa said. "What inspired me was actually coming to the school[s]."

He enrolled at La Sierra Academy for his senior year of high school and attended a Friday afternoon chapel service his first day. "I cried that day because it was so moving for me to see people that were genuinely invested and actually meant what they were doing."

He attended community college for a year then enrolled at La Sierra University, where he met his future girlfriend, Silvana Alborno, whose work organizing a homeless outreach through the campus's Spiritual Life office made an impact on Christian's burgeoning faith. The Wash Project brings food, clothes, toiletries, and other items each Friday to a

large population of homeless families and individuals encamped in a dry riverbed in the region.

"I felt that this program helped me do God's work physically," said Figueroa. "I think that's definitely what got me to that point where I was, like, Jason, let's do this."

He also noted a religion class he took at La Sierra University last year with Dr. Kendra Haloviak Valentine during which she relayed an epiphanic moment experienced by one of her students who likened the choice between good and evil as a choice between someone whose goal it is to destroy human beings and someone who loves and adores them even though they're not worthy.

"So taking ownership of that, that was a huge moment for me because I had never thought of it that way," said Figueroa. "I don't deserve it anyway. But why don't I just treat it like it's mine."

By Darla Martin Tucker



PHOTO: JARED GONZALEZ

La Sierra University Chaplain Jason Decena baptizes student Christian Figueroa.

To read more, go to lasierra.edu/news



\$3 Million Federal Grant Will Help Train Hundreds of Community Health Workers

Loma Linda University's San Manuel Gateway College has received a federal grant of \$3 million to train more than 200 community health workers (CHW), *promotores* in Spanish—liaisons between clinical workers and vulnerable populations. According to school leaders, the funding will provide a significant boost for patients and community members in the region as well as the profession itself.

The grant, awarded in September, is from the Health Resources & Services Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The grant is for \$1 million a year for three years, funding that will enable training for up to 75 CHWs a year—doubling the school's number of current annual graduates.

"This grant is a game changer for this region because the major barrier of the cost of training has now been removed for many people who otherwise wouldn't be able to train to become a community health worker," said Arwyn Wild, executive director of San Manuel Gateway College.

CHWs often serve as health coaches for patients struggling with negative social determinants of health, including unemployment, food insecurity, lack of housing, and safety issues. CHWs also have a deeper understanding of a patient's culture and are able to help both the patient and health care provider determine underlying risk factors in order to create a more comprehensive treatment plan. Payors increasingly recognize the work of CHWs, which often reduces unnecessary hospitalizations and lowers health care costs.

While still a profession gaining recognition, more

health care systems are examining the role that CHWs could play, especially in California. The state recently passed legislation that gives billable hours for CHW services for Medi-Cal patients through Medi-Cal managed care health plans.

San Manuel Gateway College has graduated more than 300 CHWs since it launched in 2011.

For Silvia Ortega, completing CHW training was an extension of the volunteering she was already doing. Upon graduation, she went to work for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and visited the homes of up to five patients a day. She describes CHWs as "rootologists."

"We get to the root of the issue," she said. "If we don't get to the root of the issue, health care is a guessing game."

Ortega came to the CHW training program after suffering her own physical and mental health issues. After graduating, she often shared her life experiences with some of her patients when she felt it could be an inspiration to them.

"We know the community. We know their needs," she said. Today, Ortega is an instructor in the program.

For more information, visit home.llu.edu/communityhealthworker.

By Ansel Oliver

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



John DeGuzman, Sandelle Mancilla, and their daughter, Alliana, join Connie Hall and Neat Randriamialison at the Sparks church celebration.

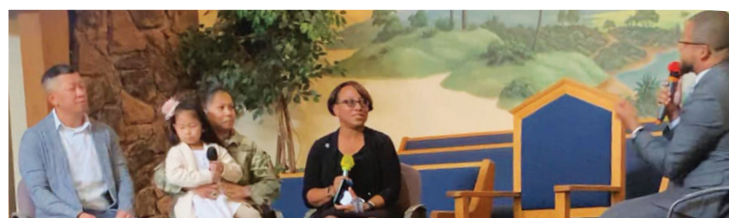
Connie Hall Named Nevada Teacher of the Year

When Connie Hall was named 2023 Nevada Teacher of the Year, it came as no surprise to those that know her. She has been an exceptional example of true education throughout her teaching career. The Nevada Teacher of the Year celebrates excellence and encourages the workforce by recognizing exceptional teachers.

Hall has been teaching since 1994, and she has always taken pride in helping students take their first steps on their educational journey and preparing them for mastery and fluency of complex concepts.

A product of Adventist education, she attended Pine

John DeGuzman and Sandelle Mancilla give a testimonial about what it was like having Hall teach their daughter, Alliana, as Sparks church Pastor Neat Randriamialison listens.



Forge Elementary School and Pine Forge Academy. She earned two bachelor's degrees—in early childhood education and elementary education—from Oakwood University. She then went on to earn a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in Common Core State Standards from Concordia University.

She has served in the Allegheny East Conference, at Andrews University, and in the Nevada-Utah Conference. Currently she teaches kindergarten at Lloyd Diedrichsen Elementary School in Sparks, Nevada, where she is also part of the school leadership team.

Hall is a very active member of the Sparks church and may be found throughout the conference speaking at women's retreats or in a pulpit on Sabbath morning.

Her messages exude the love of God for us and her love for Him. She seems to be able to give praise to God, no matter the circumstances in her life.

On a recent Sabbath morning, Sparks church Pastor Neat Randriamialison recognized her achievements and invited her to share what led to her success in education. Sandelle Mancilla and John DeGuzman, parents of Alliana, Hall's former student, gave a testimonial about what it was like having Hall as a teacher.

At a ceremony in her honor—hosted by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak and Superintendent of Public Instruction Jhone Ebert—numerous people praised her accomplishments:

"In her 14 years of service to Nevada's public schools and her decades of teaching, Mrs. Hall has inspired future leaders through her steadfast belief that every student can achieve," Sisolak said.

"Mrs. Hall has high expectations for herself and her students, and she finds when her students know she expects great things from them, they rise to the occasion. Her classroom has long been a model for her colleagues," said Ebert.

"Mrs. Hall is a passionate educator who puts her students first. She is motivated by student success and is dedicated to creating lasting relationships with every child," said Ryan Doetch, principal of Lloyd Diedrichsen Elementary School.

"She is an extraordinary teacher who represents the very best of this profession. What makes her so special and deserving of this honor is her unwavering belief that every student is special and deserving of her love and attention—which she gives selflessly each and every day," said Susan Enfield, Washoe County School District superintendent.

The accolades didn't end at the ceremony. United States Senator Catherine Cortez Masto posted on her Facebook page: "Congratulations to Nevada's Teacher of the Year, Connie Hall of Sparks! Following in her mother's footsteps as an educator, she has inspired her elementary students for decades."

This is not the first award Hall has received for her exemplary teaching. Several years ago, she was named the 2019 Certified Employee of the Year by the Washoe County School District in recognition of the high expectations she maintains for herself and her students, as well as for her success in creating a welcoming and culturally responsive classroom environment for all children and adults.

Hall's classroom at Diedrichsen was filmed, and it was featured in articles for several districts and national initiatives to demonstrate a culturally responsive



TOP: Nevada's 2023 Teacher of the Year Connie Hall is in the setting where she thrives—her classroom at Lloyd Diedrichsen Elementary. **ABOVE:** Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak names Connie Hall the Nevada Teacher of the Year, while her husband David Solomon Hall Sr. proudly looks on.

environment. She and her students were one of five classrooms chosen nationally to be featured in a project demonstrating what children can achieve when offered challenging, inspiring schoolwork.

Hall's response to the award is just one more reflection of who she is. "It's very humbling for me to have been chosen from some of the finest teachers in the state and to have the opportunity to represent the over 27,000 teachers in Nevada," she said. "My faith in God has been directing me throughout my life, and I'm thankful that He can use me and shine through me so that others can see Him."

Her special duties have already begun, and she will go on as Nevada's Teacher of the Year to represent the Silver State in the National Teacher of the Year competition. Our prayers go with you, Connie!

By Michelle Ward

Celebrating the Reason for the Season

October was busy with three ordinations and many other mission-driven and community-relevant events and celebrations. Northern California Conference (NCC) President Marc Woodson said, "We are proud of our pastors and the diversity they represent. They, along with all our people, are uniting, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, they are connecting people to an abundant life in Jesus Christ and preparing them for the Second Coming." To learn what is happening in the NCC, sign up for Northern Lights by visiting nccsda.com.

By Ken Miller and Laurie Trujillo



Damon Washington Ordained

Damon Washington was ordained on October 8 at the Grand Advent church in Oakland. Washington says his journey to becoming a minister was "born out of Bible studies offered at his place of work and a curiosity about the seventh-day Sabbath."

Earning a Master of Divinity degree in 2018, Washington spent three years as an associate pastor with the Nevada-Utah Conference. He has served in the NCC as a district pastor since January for the Pittsburg

and Oakland Emmanuel Temple churches.

Kevin Robert, church growth and evangelism director, said, "Damon has a deep love for his community and is the first to lead out in any effort—a true shepherd connecting people to Jesus Christ."

Celebrating his 18th year of marriage to Jeanice Warden-Washington, he said about his ordination, "I'm still trying to process the Lord's blessing and faithfulness in my life leading to this event."

Andriy Mykhaylovskyy Ordained

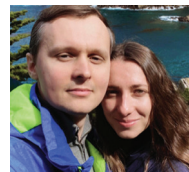
Andriy Mykhaylovskyy, the pastor of the Sacramento Ukrainian church, was ordained on October 15.

He joined NCC in 2018 as a youth pastor at the Sacramento Slavic church. While he was there, the congregation grew and planted the Ukrainian group, which became a church in 2021.

Sacramento Ukrainian church is the only one of its kind in the Pacific Union Conference. Recently, Pastor Mykhaylovskyy has been providing refuge assistance and resources for local Ukrainian families.

Jose Marin, executive

secretary, said, "Pastor Andriy is not only gifted in leading his church congregation but also at engaging the Ukrainian community abroad with his unique skills."



Leif Cano Ordained

Leif Cano, the youth pastor at the Placerville church, was ordained on Sabbath, October 22.

An avid musician and energetic leader, Cano is a passionate, hard worker. According to Jim Lorenz, ministerial director, "One of the neat things about Leif are the kids he has impacted for Christ—turning their lives around and influencing them to attend Adventist schools, colleges, or universities."



Cano said, "The youth of today are tired of religion but have a passion for helping others that needs to be nourished. Our ministry draws about 80% non-Adventists from public schools. We teach them about Jesus Christ, inviting the Holy Spirit to work in their lives."

Leif and Kenia have been married for nine years, and they have two children: Giovanni, 5, and Lyannah, 3.



Woodland Church Celebrates 150 Years

The Woodland church celebrated its 150th anniversary on October 22. Daniel Garza, the district pastor of the Woodland and Vacaville churches, said, "The sanctuary was absolutely packed, spilling into the foyer for the program. Cars filled the parking lot and down the street."

Active since 1872, Woodland has a unique history tracing back to the beginning of Adventism in California. The first church building was built in 1873, and in 1913



the members built a small school offering kindergarten, an academy, and a vocational school.

The Woodland church has a history of being community relevant. It started in 1959 by opening the Community Clothes Closet. Later, it partnered with the county court system to provide supervised visitation for non-custodial parents. During the pandemic, the church members developed an interactive online media ministry for homebound members.

"We were thrilled to have our guest speakers trace the history of the Woodland church and give inspirational messages," Garza said. "Our members were thrilled and honored by this anniversary and are motivated to continue serving their community."





LEFT: Students give a presentation to their classmates. RIGHT: Students enjoy lunch together.

Less Tech, More Talk: La Sierra Academy Implements “No Cell Phone” Policy

Typical academy students will probably groan if a teacher takes away their phones. At La Sierra Academy (LSA), however, this is the norm, and staff and students alike have seen positive effects on campus because of it.

With the continued misuse of phones causing distraction and bullying, LSA administration knew they had to make a change. The K-12 school implemented its policy for the 2022-2023 school year: cell phones, earbuds, earphones, and smart watches are collected at the beginning of the day and are returned to students at the end of the day or when they leave campus.

As with any successful plan, this campus-wide policy did not happen overnight. LSA first tested out the no-tech policy a few years prior in its junior high—with great success. “We finally worked out the details so we could implement it on the high school campus with as little disruption as possible for students who had college classes at La Sierra University or who were in varsity sports,” said Libett Muñoz, LSA principal. “Not creating extra work for everyone, but [developing] an easy way to be consistent across the campus was important.”

For schools who are interested in implementing a similar policy on their own campuses, Muñoz emphasizes that a key component to success is getting your staff on board. Finding a procedure that doesn’t take a lot of additional “work” for them and receiving full support from the administration allows

the policy to be carried out smoothly.

“This is a culture shift,” said Glenn Valenzuela, campus chaplain. “I would suggest that if a school wanted to start that they start in increments.”

It is also important to take into account special and emergency situations. “The drawback of not being able to access your device in an emergency and the inconvenience of having to retrieve your phone mildly annoys me,” said Ian, a LSA junior. “Additionally, another con...is that when trying to log in to websites and emails that require phone verification [such as Blackbaud, an online learning platform that La Sierra University utilizes], the lack of a phone prevents you from accessing these things during school hours.”

Overall, the policy has strengthened community and engagement on campus. Not only is it a breath of fresh air for teachers, who are able to teach with fewer distractions and disruptions, it has also provided an opportunity for class engagement. Students have even created new clubs that meet at lunchtime as a direct result of the policy. “I like that it encourages more face-to-face conversation and removes the temptation to take out your phone in class,” said Ian.

Valenzuela added, “This policy has provided them the opportunity to redevelop communication skills and to have an appreciation for social interaction.”

By Megan Jacobs

SECC Pathfinders Celebrate World Pathfinder Day

Southeastern California Conference Pathfinders gathered to celebrate World Pathfinder Day, which is commemorated each year on the third Sabbath of September.

This year's theme was "Change Your World," and the Pathfinders from San Diego County gathered to do just that. The South Bay, Maranatha, Paradise Valley, La Mesa, and Broadway Spanish clubs came together and prepared 200 care packages for the unsheltered. They also earned their gratitude honor, practiced drills, and held a fundraiser for the International Camporee.

"The highlight of the event for me was the opportunity for the Pathfinder clubs to get a chance to interact with each other and to get to know each other on a more personal basis. It was also wonderful to see them learn about truly being grateful for everything that God has blessed us with," said Rhonda Williams, one of the organizers for this event.

Approximately 75 Riverside County Pathfinders and staff gathered at the Norco church to celebrate the ninth annual Riverside County Pathfinder Day. The Pathfinders worshipped together and were blessed with a message from Jose Juan Martinez, one of the Pathfinder coordinators for teens. The Norco, Kansas Avenue, Moreno Valley, Arlington, and Hemet Spanish clubs all participated in this event.

Many were moved when Erik Fernandez received his baptismal pin. He was one of five young men from the

Norco community that the Norco church sponsored to attend summer camp at Pine Springs Ranch. While at camp, Fernandez accepted Christ and was baptized. All five young men are now active in Pathfinders.

"I was honored to be asked to put the baptismal pin on Erik. Pathfinders is an awesome ministry and a great way to spread God's love to others in our community," reflected Martinez.

At the Victorville church in San Bernardino County, Pathfinders gathered to celebrate and to share God's love. Pathfinders from Barstow, Yucaipa, High Desert, and Victorville joined to celebrate Pathfinder Day together under the leadership of Director Margie Hood. Pastor Eliezer Benavides provided special music during Sabbath School. He brought a rich history to the day because in 1955 he was the pastor of the Santa Ana church—where the first Spanish-speaking Pathfinder Club was born.

Pathfinders from San Bernardino County led out in the service with Scripture reading, special music, and praise and worship. Jazmen Castenada, junior staff Teen Leadership Training leader, sang with the praise team. She was impacted by the support her church showed to the Pathfinders. "It was touching to feel comfortable and supported by my church and to feel God's presence there," she said.

By Andrea King



FAR LEFT: San Bernardino County Pathfinders prepare to march in.

ABOVE: San Diego Pathfinders celebrate in special Pathfinder Day shirts.

LEFT: Martinez presents Erik Fernandez with his baptismal pin.



LEFT: Some of the Light Above church leaders gather for a photo with SCC administrators. (Left to right, back row) Luther Bonagua, elder; Felipe Preciado, member; Pastor Wilson Catolico, member; Ralph June Alabat, elder; Rodrigo Alabat, senior pastor; Bob Cañete, children's ministry leader; Ricardo Gabriza, men's ministry leader; and Ely Cayetona, member. (Left to right, front row) John H. Cress, SCC executive secretary; Kathleen Diaz, SCC treasurer/CFO; and James G. Lee, SCC vice president. RIGHT: SCC President Velino A. Salazar offers words of recognition and encouragement to the congregation on the special day of the official church organization.

Light Above Congregation Is Organized as a Church, Having Come "This Far By Faith"

This October, the Light Above congregation officially became organized as a church, 16 years after it was first formed. The congregation began meeting as a group in October 2006 and was later organized as a company in March 2018.

"Most of the core group members came from one of the islands of the Philippines—Mindanao to be specific," said Rodrigo Alabat, pastor of the Light Above church.

As a Filipino congregation in the Greater Los Angeles area, the Light Above congregation has a unique opportunity and perspective through which to do ministry in the community. On the organization Sabbath this fall, Southern California Conference (SCC) President Velino A. Salazar spoke about the congregation's success. "You have understood your local context," he said. "Most of you and I, we came from another country. Doing ministry in the Philippines is different than here. We need to contextualize our ministry in a way that we can serve God. It doesn't mean one is better than the other; it's different because the context is different."

The congregation has moved a few times from



Diaz offers a dedication prayer at the church's organization.

its founding in Eagle Rock to its current location in Glendale, but its mission and purpose in the community are unwavering. "We hope and pray that by God's mercies and His providences, our presence in the place where we are worshipping can surely be a beckoning light of the gospel to souls who are benighted in sin, and they will see the light of Jesus in us," Alabat said, "that Jesus is Lord, Savior, and Redeemer of the lost."

Themed "This Far By Faith," the celebration included beautiful music showcasing the talents of the members, as well as delicious food. "Faithfulness to Him is the resounding music of each and every heart of the members of Light Above church," Alabat said. "Evidence to this fact is that the theme song adapted by us is 'This Far By Faith.' And by faith in the faithful God, we have come this far."

SCC Vice President James G. Lee challenged the church to partner with God as He works new things in their story. Encouraging those present with various examples from Scripture, Lee spoke about God's immense ability to work new things for His people when they trust Him. Kathleen Diaz, SCC treasurer/CFO, acknowledged the church's work of ministry thus far and presented to the church a check for \$2,500 for evangelism.

"Becoming one of the organized churches of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church is the work and gift of God to us," Alabat said. "We sincerely and genuinely praise and glorify God on this matter. We are not qualified, but God qualified us."

By Lauren Lacson

Temple City Church Health Fair Brings Hope to the Community

This fall, Temple City church hosted its first community health fair in recent history, serving about 70 people. The health fair provided access to various health education services, such as Medicare and Medicaid insurance information, as well as massage therapy, dental care, senior living, smartphone training, haircuts, manicures, and more.

"We looked at the needs of the church and the community," said Patricia Patterson, Temple City church Adventist Community Services (ACS) director. "Being so close to reenrollment for health care benefits, we also wanted to meet the needs of those in the area."

The planning committee, comprised of seven to 10 volunteers, tapped into personal and professional resources to find organizations to partner with, such as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, LA Fitness, Adventist Health, and others.

The team hoped to work with the American Red Cross so people could donate blood, but the organization wasn't available on that date. Yet where one door closed, God opened another. "To our advantage and our blessings, City of Hope became available on the day we were having our health fair due to a last-minute cancellation," Patterson said.

Among the variety of health services, nutrition was an important component of the event. One church member prepared vegan lentil chili samples and provided the recipe. Another church member made homemade granola—recipe available—and gave away aloe vera plants.



An attendee receives a Flowflex COVID-19 Antigen Home Test from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health booth.



Students from UCLA pose at their booth before educating attendees about stroke signs, symptoms, and risk factors.

Hector Muñoz, owner and manager of the Health and Beyond store in El Monte, brought samples of fruit and vegetable juices and a kale salad, with recipes available for each. He played a second role at the health fair by sharing about how he manages his multiple sclerosis and how, after multiple doctor visits and various treatment plans that weren't working, switching to a plant-based diet helped him regain mobility. "He's a walking testimony," Patterson said of Muñoz, who prior to the dietary change was using a wheelchair.

Feedback from attendees and vendors was positive. The City of Hope team said they are excited to work together with the church again. Patterson recalled an attendee who came into the kitchen where Patterson was serving and said, "Wow, I didn't know my cholesterol was high; I need to work on it." Another, who took a recipe after sampling the kale salad, said to Patterson, "I don't know if I can do this, but I'll try."

Though Brett Poynter, Temple City church senior pastor, was the head organizer for this year's event, he is passing the baton to Patterson to lead next year, and she has accepted with enthusiasm.

"I see this position coordinating a lot of different activities," Patterson said. "I'm excited to bring community services to food and health ministry. It's been a wonderful experience being involved and seeing people enjoy learning more about health."

By Araya Moss

Calendar

La Sierra University

75th Annual Candlelight Concert. La Sierra University's Candlelight Concert, featuring various performance groups and soloists, will be held Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively, at the La Sierra University Church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. For further information, email music@lasierra.edu or call 951-785-2036.

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/>.

La Sierra #GivingDay

La Sierra University will hold its third annual #GivingDay fundraiser on Wednesday, Dec. 7. Join hundreds of alumni, faculty, staff and friends in selecting from 15 participating departments and programs in need of support. For more information visit lasierra.edu/givingday, call 951-785-2500 or email advancement@lasierra.edu.

Pacific Union College

PUC Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert. Families, friends, and music enthusiasts are invited to Pacific Union College's symphonic wind ensemble concert on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at Paulin Hall on the college campus. Admission to the event is free for everyone to enjoy.

"Christmas on the Hill." Pacific Union College's music department will present its annual candlelight Christmas program at the PUC church on Friday, Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. They invite the community, family, and friends to join in celebration of holiday music.

Southern California Conference

Piano Concert at Baldwin Park Bilingual church (Dec. 3) 5 p.m. With Jonathan Pontel and special guest Henderson Pontel. Baldwin Park Bilingual church, 13965 Ramona Pkwy, Baldwin Park, CA 91706.

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Information

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

Upcoming Deadlines

These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.
January: *December 1* • February: *January 5*

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.

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Adventist realtor serving North Georgia and Southeast Tennessee. If you want to buy land or a

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

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

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

Would your organization like to use its information more effectively? Sphere Analytics & Design specializes in helping mission-driven organizations remove barriers to becoming more data driven. Founded by two Adventist college graduates with two decades of multi-industry experience. Connect with us at info@sphereanalytics.us and visit us at www.sphereanalytics.us today!

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

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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.

Elderly female needs live-in care provider in her Calaveras County, CA, home. Looking for a mature, Adventist female with a reliable car. Responsibilities include help with housekeeping, meal prep, grooming, and transportation. Please reply to ddannca@aol.com or call 805-237-0062 for further information.

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/>.

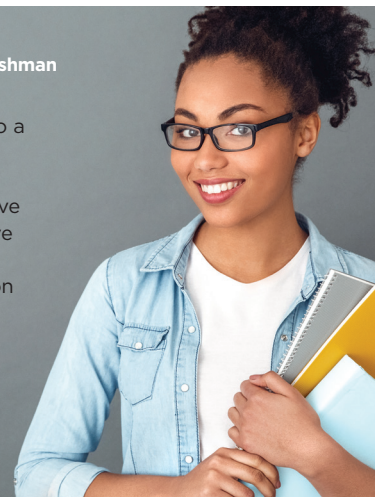
\$2,000 Scholarship Supports In-Union Adventist College Freshman

Incoming freshmen at Pacific Union College or La Sierra University now have access to a \$2,000 scholarship provided by Pacific Union Conference for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

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

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



Holbrook Indian School is currently in need of a Food Service Director and a 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, CA, locations. Competitive pay, benefits, and ministry opportunity. Send CV to Marva at: marva@stallanthealth.com or call 530-637-4025, ext. 263.

Indonesian-American church in Azusa, CA, 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.

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, CA, 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 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 country 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 Kathyr777@gmail.com.

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

ID 83539. Price reduced to sell. For information: bit.ly/3iiG47R 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.



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For Sale

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

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

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.

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.

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

Brackett, Kimberlina (Carter) – b. Oct. 21, 1975, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. Aug. 16, 2022, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: husband, Brian; son, Ryan; daughters, Kourtnee Carter, Elizabeth Kimbrell, Trinity Shepherd, Riley Brackett; two grandchildren.

Castillo, Roy – b. June 27, 1947, Corpus Christi, Texas; d. Oct. 28, 2022, Ontario, Calif. Survivors: wife, Maria; son, Benjamin; daughter, Rachel Ayala; brother, Homer Castillo; four grandchildren.

Edmonds, Christine – b. Aug. 21, 1960, San Bernardino, Calif; d. Aug. 18, 2022, San Bernardino, Calif. Survivor: husband, Patrick.

Eisele, Edwin – b. Oct. 27, 1941, Williams, Minn.; d. Oct. 12, 2022, Felda, Fla. Survivors: wife, Lynn; son, Steve; daughter, Lisa; siblings, Melvin Eisele, Regi Eisele, Allie Eisele Anderson; three grandchildren. Ed served as a pastor in Nebraska and Arizona and as a missionary in Brazil and Africa. He traveled extensively with Gospel Outreach during his retirement years.

Hudson, Mary – b. Aug. 3, 1933, Elgin, Texas; d. July 29, 2022, Redlands, Calif. Survivor: nephew, Earl Mack.

Knoechel, Cathy A. (Loderstedt) – b. March 8, 1949, Brookline, Mass.; d. Sept. 29, 2022, Oak Hills, Calif. Survivors: husband, Kenneth Knoechel; his children, Lance, Richard, Mark; one granddaughter; father, Richard Loderstedt III; sister, Susan Kaufman. Cathy served in many capacities in her beloved church over the years.

Luyster, Wallace Le Roy – b. June 10, 1935, Turlock, Calif.; d. Oct. 11, 2022, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Edna Maye Gallington; son, John T. Luyster; daughter, Jonna Trzcinski. For many years, Le Roy served as an auditor for Loma Linda University and was a head deacon at the LLUC. He had a CPA practice in the Redlands-Loma Linda area.

Mall, Daniel – b. Nov. 8, 1937, Punjab, Pakistan; d. Sept. 8, 2022, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: wife, Violet; sons, Anil, Sunil; daughter, Anila McCullough.

Nelson, Richard Andrew – b. March 2, 1920, Tokyo, Japan; d. Sept. 11, 2022, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carol; son, Jerry; daughters, Carol Rae Kettner, Shirley Ann Wheeker; seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren. Nelson was born of missionary parents, graduated from LLSM, and returned to Japan with his family. He was a caring husband, father, and physician.

Nickel, Virginia (Libby) – b. May 3, 1934; d. June 22, 2022. Survivors: sons, Terri, Bradford; daughter, Heidi McFadden; three grandchildren. She was an RN and graduated from Loma Linda University.

Pihl, Jane – b. Aug. 30, 1917, Lincoln, Neb.; d. March 22, 2022, Beaumont, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Barbara West, Mary Jo Weldon; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Rodacker, Dorothy Pauline (Higgins) – b. March 13, 1928, Joplin, Mo.; d. Aug. 26, 2022, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: husband, Virgil; son, Tom; daughter, Terry Baker; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

Rowett, Donna Lee – b. Feb. 15, 1932; d. Oct. 21,

1922, Las Vegas, Nev. Survivors: daughters, Denise Carpenter, Dawne McAnallen, Danette Packer, Diane Castro; sister, Barbara; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson.

Schmoling, Oskar – b. Dec. 3, 1927, Rastenburg, Germany; d. Sept. 3, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Lilli; sons, Ralph, Gerald; daughter, Birgit Sherwin; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. After coming to America after WWII, Oskar lived most of his life in Michigan where he raised his family and owned his machine shop. He loved to talk about his childhood in East Russia and his experiences as a POW in the United States.

Shankel, Stewart Wilson II – b. Oct. 3, 1931, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada; d. Sept. 29, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joy; sons, Stewart Shankel III, Jeffery Shankel; daughter Martha Ward; six grandchildren, two great-grandsons; brother Clinton Shankel. For nearly 60 years, Dr. Shankel was a highly regarded and deeply loved practitioner and instructor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, University of Nevada School of Medicine, and the University of California Riverside School of Medicine.

Stannard, Lester – b. May 22, 1922, Syracuse, N.Y.; d. Oct. 14, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Chuck Stannard; daughter, Donna Eick; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Les retired after 18 years in administration at LLUMC. He was principal of three academies and several church schools for 17 years in the Florida Conference. He was proud to be a WWII veteran.

Totaro, Larry – b. Nov. 26, 1950, Detroit, Mich.; d. Oct. 17, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ann; daughters, Sara Quayle, Laura Ellstrom; three grandchildren.

Vyhmeister, Edwin – b. June 18, 1939, Los Angeles, Chile; d. Oct. 16, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Nidia; sons, Ewart, Alwin; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren. Before his retirement, he was a doctor at Loma Linda University Medical Center for more than 30 years.

White, Ronald Ashton – b. Aug. 7, 1935; d. Sept. 6, 2022. Survivors: wife, Kay; brother-in-law, John. Ron was a deacon and faithfully volunteered at the Paradise church Community Services upon his retirement.

Wood, Rosamond Howes – b. Aug. 22, 1936, Framingham, Mass.; d. Oct. 13, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: siblings, Marjorie Howes Scribner Pendleton, H. Frank Howes, Charles Dudley Howes; daughter, Della Wood Robertson; four grandchildren.



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Contact your Adventist school with a kindergarten program for more information.

December 2022 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	DEC 2	DEC 9	DEC 16	DEC 23	DEC 30
Angwin	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57
Bakersfield	4:43	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:52
Calexico	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:41	4:45
Chico	4:43	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:52
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:43	4:42	4:43	4:46	4:51
Eureka	4:49	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:58
Four Corners [E]	4:59	4:59	5:00	5:04	5:08
Fresno	4:42	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:52
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	6:10	6:00	5:51	5:42	5:34
Half Dome	4:39	4:39	4:40	4:43	4:48
Hilo	5:40	5:41	5:44	5:47	5:51
Holbrook	5:16	5:17	5:18	5:22	5:26
Honolulu	5:48	5:50	5:52	5:55	5:59
Joshua Tree	4:35	4:35	4:37	4:40	4:45
Lake Tahoe	4:37	4:37	4:39	4:42	4:46
Las Vegas	4:26	4:26	4:27	4:30	4:35
Lodi-Stockton	4:45	4:45	4:46	4:49	4:54
Loma Linda	4:39	4:39	4:41	4:44	4:49
Los Angeles	4:43	4:43	4:45	4:48	4:53
McDermitt [N]	4:20	4:19	4:20	4:23	4:28
Moab	4:57	4:56	4:58	5:01	5:06
Monterey Bay	4:51	4:51	4:53	4:56	5:01
Mt. Whitney	4:41	4:41	4:43	4:46	4:51
Napa	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57
Nogales [S]	5:21	5:22	5:24	5:27	5:31
Oakland	4:50	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:59
Paradise, CA	4:42	4:41	4:43	4:46	4:51
Phoenix	5:20	5:20	5:22	5:25	5:30
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	5:43	5:45	5:47	5:50	5:54
Reno	4:35	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:44
Riverside	4:40	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:50
Sacramento	4:44	4:44	4:46	4:49	4:54
Salt Lake City	5:00	4:59	5:01	5:04	5:09
San Diego	4:42	4:42	4:44	4:47	4:52
San Francisco	4:50	4:50	4:52	4:55	4:59
San Jose	4:49	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:59
Santa Rosa	4:50	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:59
Sunset Beach	4:50	4:50	4:52	4:55	5:00
Thousand Oaks	4:50	4:50	4:52	4:55	5:00
Tucson	5:18	5:18	5:20	5:24	5:28

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

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

January 2023 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	JAN 6	JAN 13	JAN 20	JAN 27
Angwin	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:26
Bakersfield	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:18
Calexico	4:50	4:56	5:03	5:10
Chico	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:21
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	4:47	4:53	5:00	5:08
Eureka	5:04	5:11	5:19	5:27
Four Corners [E]	5:14	5:20	5:28	5:35
Fresno	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:19
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:29	5:35	5:42	5:50
Half Dome	4:54	5:01	5:08	5:16
Hilo	5:56	6:00	6:05	6:09
Holbrook	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:44
Honolulu	6:04	6:09	6:13	6:18
Joshua Tree	4:50	4:56	5:03	5:10
Lake Tahoe	4:52	4:59	5:07	5:15
Las Vegas	4:41	4:47	4:54	5:01
Lodi-Stockton	5:00	5:07	5:14	5:22
Loma Linda	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:14
Los Angeles	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:18
McDermitt [N]	4:34	4:42	4:50	4:59
Moab	5:12	5:18	5:26	5:34
Monterey Bay	5:06	5:13	5:20	5:27
Mt. Whitney	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:15
Napa	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:25
Nogales [S]	5:35	5:40	5:47	5:53
Oakland	5:05	5:11	5:19	5:26
Paradise, CA	4:57	5:04	5:11	5:20
Phoenix	5:35	5:41	5:48	5:54
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	5:57	6:02	6:06	6:11
Reno	4:50	4:57	5:05	5:13
Riverside	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:15
Sacramento	4:59	5:06	5:14	5:22
Salt Lake City	5:15	5:22	5:30	5:38
San Diego	4:57	5:03	5:09	5:16
San Francisco	5:05	5:12	5:19	5:27
San Jose	5:04	5:11	5:18	5:26
Santa Rosa	5:05	5:12	5:19	5:27
Sunset Beach	5:05	5:12	5:19	5:27
Thousand Oaks	5:00	5:06	5:13	5:20
Tucson	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52

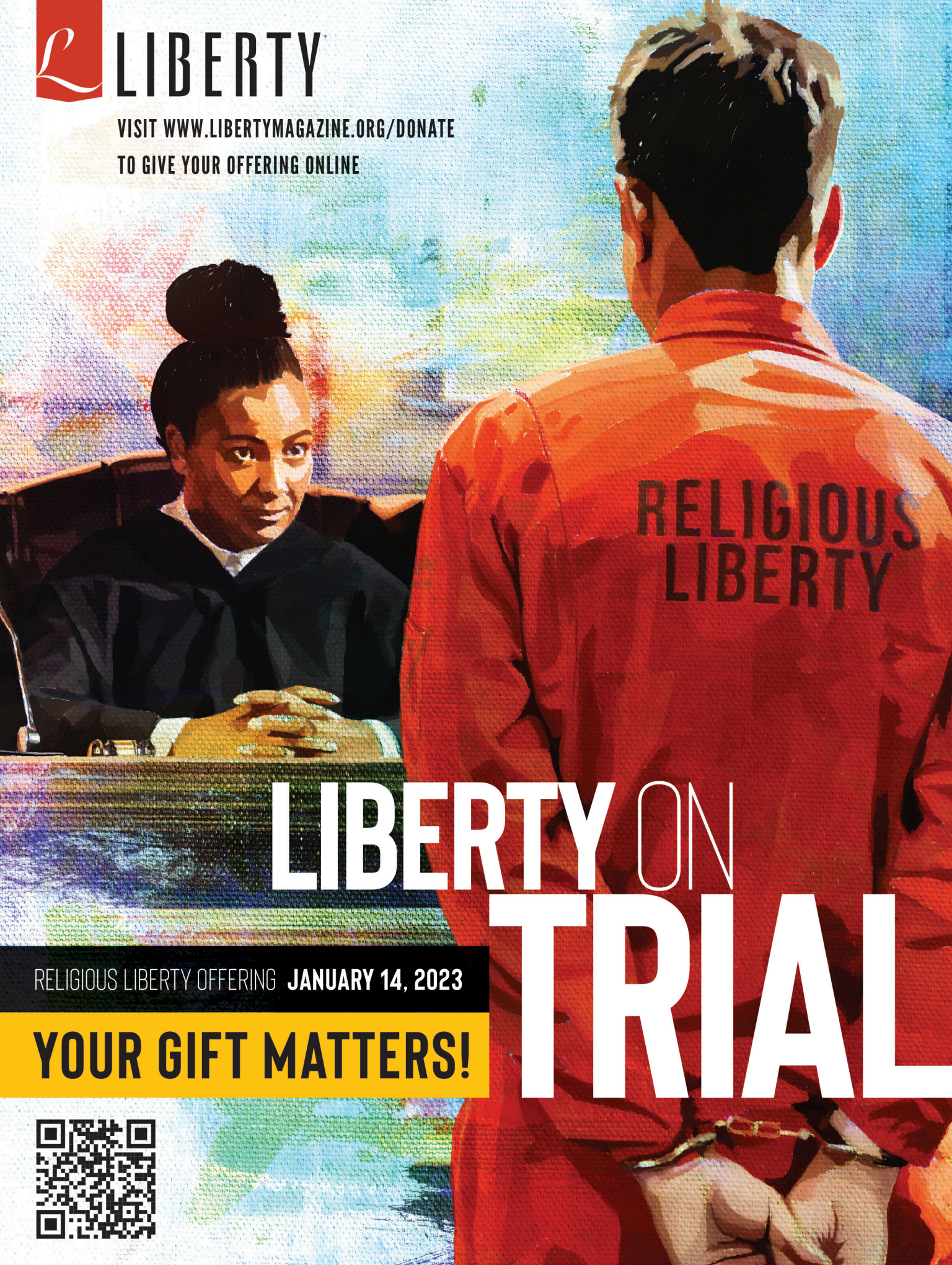
[N]=Northernmost [S]=Southernmost [E]=Easternmost [W]=Westernmost point in the Pacific Union

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



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Photographed above are La Sierra University Enactus students praying in a huddle before their competition.



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