

PACIFIC UNION

JANUARY 2023

# Recorder

## A Higher Walk with God

The Priceless Bargain    In Grandpa's Shoes  
Helping Families    The Important Rules





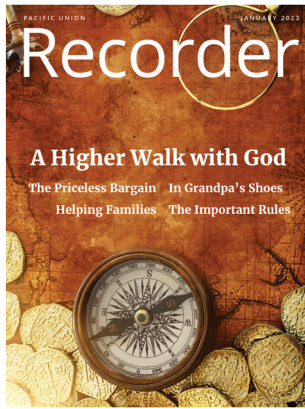
Since graduating from PUC, Mary Johnson, '99, '01, has devoted her life to spreading the gospel, serving on nearly 70 mission trips worldwide. In faith, she even left her job for a year and volunteered on 18 mission projects. Mission work has changed the lives of others and hers as well. She invites others to answer the same call.

*"If you want to have a revival, if you want to have meaning in your life, if you want to grow closer to God and hasten His soon coming, then what are you waiting for?"*

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Let us humble ourselves under the hand of God, that He may lift us up. If the uplifting is done by Jesus Christ then it is a pure, clean, holy uplifting. I cannot endure the thought of carrying along such a bundle of self, which is a terrible load. If we have Christ's presence we shall walk as He

walked. The speech will be after the divine similitude. There will be revealed the gentleness of Christ, a purity of speech, a moral elevation in all our service which is beyond all price.

—Ellen G. White, *Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 18, 1903

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PACIFIC UNION

# Recorder

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

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# The Priceless

By Bradford C. Newton



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# Bargain



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Jesus told two little stories in Matthew 13:44-46 about men who unexpectedly discovered something, which they then gave up everything to obtain—a treasure in a field and a pearl in the market.

Hidden treasures in a field were probably not unheard of in ancient times when people feared their assets could be stolen by an invading army or local thieves. It was indeed a surprise for your plow to thud against a box of gold as you tilled another's property.

The pearl on the other hand was on display for everyone to see, but the merchant perceived value that eluded others.

Both parables remind us that God's kingdom is both surprising and precious. The truths of His teaching throughout Scripture remain beyond price to those inclined to faith. Both the farmer and the merchant sold everything they had for what they found. Jesus' question, both then and now, is, "Will you give up all for the kingdom and for truth?"

As we begin a New Year, we can reflect on what could be. Your family may expand. You hope for a new job or relocation to another city. Are you retiring?



## The God of new beginnings places before us the opportunity to experience new blessings this year.

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Perhaps there is a “bucket list” experience that you will surely accomplish in 2023.

The problem is we all have memories of failure, disappointment, and simple procrastination as we reflect on the previous year. But we need not remain trapped by the past. The God of new beginnings places before us the opportunity to experience new blessings this year. In Psalm 37:4-5 we read, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass” (NKJV).

What are the “desires of your heart?” I remember walking many times along solitary wooded pathways at Andrews University in 1979. In the quietness of those leafy trails, I would speak aloud to God the promise of Psalm 37:4-5 many times in my prayers. To my young eyes, everything appeared unclear about my future as a junior theology major. Would I find work as a pastor? Was there a young lady who would want to share the life of a minister with me? Could I find meaning to my life, which was so important to me? The desires of my heart were clear and equally matched by the uncertainty of their fulfillment. Yet in my simple faith I clung to that promise (and others) that spoke of the care of my Friend Jesus and His plans for me.

The speed of life when you’re 21 years old is remarkable. Some months after those walks in the summer of 1979, the answers to my woodland prayers were given in a single afternoon. My call to ministry and talking with the young woman who would become my wife and partner for over 41

years happened on one day. A letter from Elder John Hayward, president of the Illinois Conference, and a phone call with Jennifer Christian were God’s answer to the prayers of a young man who asked God to fulfill His promise.

I can say that since college God has shown up with answers to countless other prayers. Not everything in my life has been easy, pain free, or even obvious about God’s will in every instance. I also recognize that not every story has the same “happy” ending. Many are those who pray as earnestly as me and still await “the one” with whom to share a life. Did God not listen? There are others who have heard God’s call for pastoral ministry and never received the invitation for employment. Where was God then? These fair and legitimate questions humble me and raise a caution flag about answering too quickly about what God is doing. Quite simply, I do not know all the reasons for why life proceeds as it does for any of us.

One place to find answers to these questions is in the words embedded in the promise of Psalm 37:4-5. These are the crucial words: “Commit your way” and “Trust also in Him.” These are words speaking of an ongoing relationship. This truth is amplified in the whole of Psalm 37. David starts by naming the problem: the bad guys seem to win in this world. But this isn’t the last word for God’s children. Stitched throughout this Psalm of David are words of hope such as “The Lord knows the days of the upright” (verse 18), “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and He delights in his way” (verse 23), and “He is their strength in the time of trouble”

(verse 39). And David closes with the final declaration: “they trust in Him” (verse 40).

What I concluded was that “the desires of my heart” are transformed in God’s unfolding pathway through the years of my life. The desires of our hearts are indeed assured when we choose to trust in the ways and leading of God. Our happiness is guaranteed by Him.

Which brings us back to Jesus’ parables of the treasure and the pearl. What would you give to have happiness, purpose to life, and assurance of a great future? The good news heralded by Jesus is both a challenge and an opportunity. The opportunity is that it’s the gift of God’s grace that makes it all possible.

“Come to me, all you who are laden down with the cares of life and uncertainties of the future, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28, my paraphrase). We can never add to it by our own efforts or diminish it by our neglect.

It is also paired with the challenge. Jesus wants all of us. Not one day out of seven. Not merely a quick check-in at bedtime. We must empty the bank of our own self-determination to buy in utterly to His kingdom. But what an amazing bargain! My brokenness for His healing. His perfection for my sin. A future with God that dawns anew every day.

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

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# The Comrades: Runni

By Raewyn Orlich

**S**omehow, the marathon, that iconic race of 26.2 miles, hadn't been enough. I was running in the Comrades, the oldest ultra-marathon in the world.

This race would be two marathons back-to-back, plus another mile and a half or so, for a total of about 54 miles, and we had to be done within 12 hours.

It had taken a lot for me to get here: planning the trip to South Africa, buying the tickets, getting the time off from work. That's not to mention the training that was involved.

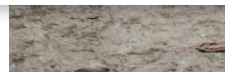
We had lined up way before the 5:30 start that morning, 17,031 of us, from 73 different countries.

I knew I needed to go slow for the first 25 kilometers. I'd read that many lose the day by how they treat those first few hours. I was watching the pace and feeling pretty proud of just how slow I was going.

Relaxing into running down a hill, I heard a voice behind me saying, "Raewyn, slow down. It's a long day and you need to save your energy." The voice came from a random middle-aged man who was running past me, reading my name on my bib as he ran by.

I saw his bib too. He had a green number on his back, given to those who've finished the Comrades 10 times or more. I slowed down. (Although, I may have taken his well-intentioned advice a bit too far. Along the race, there are 6 cut-off points—if you don't get there by a certain time, you're blocked from continuing and put on a bus to the finish line. Later, I was shocked to find that if I had decreased my speed any further, the race would have ended for me at the first cut-off at 8:10 a.m. I had passed it at 8:06.)

The Comrades Ultramarathon alternates





# ng the Race Together



directions each year, affectionately called the “Up” run or the “Down” run, depending on if you’re starting in Durban or Pietermaritzburg. I was running the “Up” run, from Durban on the coast to Pietermaritzburg, northwest and inland. I was prepared to face five legendary hills, but there are plenty of ups besides the Big Five. At the end of the race, Garmin reported I had run 5,600 feet up in elevation (more than a mile) and another 3,700 feet down.

Whenever I walked, I counted steps, willing myself to run once I had reached a certain number. First, I walked while I counted to 100, then to 200 or 300 later in the race. When I got to the predetermined number, I forced myself to run, looking down at my feet, counting again, first to 300, then to 200 or just 100 later in the race.

The crowd was amazing. Lots of people lined the road in certain spots along the way. I waved and gave the kids high fives. Later in the race, I was just putting my hand up and dragging it through a dense sea of hands. Eventually even that took too much energy. I kept my hands down, except for grabbing edible handouts.

After several experiences of having food slip out of my hand, I learned to be more decisive with the grab. I was hungry! Even with the four gel packages I had brought, and rejecting water in favor of energy drinks at most stations, I couldn’t find enough calories to consume.

Another source of energy came not through the mouth but the ears. I usually wait until a certain

point in a race to reward and distract myself with music. This time I started at about 11:30 a.m., just after the halfway point. “Happy,” by Pharrell Williams, could make me feel like dancing even after 30 miles. After 42 miles of running, even the Beach Boys’ “California Girls” made me cry, never mind “Hero” by Mariah Carey.

I had just made it past the Umlaas Road intersection and to the highest point in the race when I saw someone in a referee shirt motioning at me angrily. A short while later, another referee gestured toward me. This time it was clear. I had to take out my headphones. The runner near me said I wasn’t allowed to wear them, for safety, and I could be disqualified.

I couldn’t believe it! I had carefully read all four pages of the “Final Race Instructions and Information.” I could have been disqualified for a rule that was a norm so widely accepted that they hadn’t even thought to mention it!

I took them out reluctantly, knowing the race was about to get harder.

Going into this, I knew a race set up as a war memorial was not going to be easy. The Comrades, first run in 1921, is the brainchild of Vic Clapham, a World War I veteran who wanted to remember his fellow South Africans killed in the war with a race that aims to “celebrate mankind’s spirit over adversity.”<sup>1</sup>

The word *comrades* was increasing in its popularity in the early 1900s. The word reached its pinnacle in the late 1930s, then usage plummeted

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as it became associated with the Soviet Union and spread of communism. *Comrades* literally means *roommate* (from Latin for *chamber*) but can refer to someone committed to the same space, group, or goal as you. In this case, we were all running the same race.

I looked down at my feet, willing them to keep going. I took turns focusing on my knees instead, moving them back and forth and back and forth. Everything else blurred into the background, and running felt easy and natural, almost trancelike. I was on a high. I could run forever.

Except for the fact that everything hurt. Surprisingly, running uphill was less painful than walking flat. To keep going on the flats after water stations, I had to tell myself that pain was good, that I enjoyed it, that nothing beautiful comes without suffering.

I had recently been listening to *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*,<sup>2</sup> published from conversations between two Nobel Peace Prize recipients, the Dalai Lama—called His Holiness by the Tibetan people, living in exile in India—and Desmond Tutu, the first black Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town and a strong opponent of apartheid. I loved hearing these two senior spiritual leaders laugh together and share the insights they've gathered along the way.

I was running this race because of another

man, an elder who stands with them in the same sage position in my life. He had encouraged me, celebrating my successes along the way, advising me to rest and make sure I took good care of my body, modeling the importance of a positive mindset.

My grandfather has been a runner for as long as I can remember. He first ran the Comrades in 1989 at the age of 61 when I was almost seven. He linked up with a man running his tenth race and, in his words, he put himself “into his hands.” The stranger turned comrade had knee problems, and they finished with just 30 seconds to spare.

I ran because I wanted to run the race Grandpa had run while he would still be there to cheer me on and greet me at the finish line.

I ran because I want to run, to press on in Grandpa's shoes.

Not his actual shoes, of course. I've actually had a terribly hard time finding running shoes that work. My first pair was an exception. With a bit of beginner's luck, I found them on the discount rack at a running store. They happened to be a men's size 8.5 wide.

In any narrower shoes, my left foot throbs with Morton's Neuroma (a swelling of the plantar nerve, usually between the second and third toes). This is common for women, due to the unfortunate prevalence of narrow shoes that squeeze our toes

together, plus the heels that put pressure on the balls of our feet. I boycott those shoes. Mostly.

After that first pair, my luck ended. I could only tell whether shoes would work or not after the first few miles, when they had already become “used.” I rejected three pairs as unworkable. From then on, I only bought from stores that had lenient return policies, mailing back three more pairs. Finally, a sports podiatrist compared the bottom of my shoes and suggested I needed ones with more traditional flex grooves, and I found a pair that worked.

I wouldn’t run in Grandpa’s actual shoes. No, the “shoes” I’m talking about here are what I’ve learned from my grandfather’s ways of engaging with and being in the world. I want to follow him because I see him doing his best to “follow the example of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV).

We all carry certain biological traits from those who have come before us. These are with us, no

matter what. But other traits, other characteristics, we pick up along the way. Once we’re aware of them, like shoes, it’s possible we can intentionally choose them, or choose to switch them out for a different pair. By God’s grace, we can choose to live out the best of the legacies we’ve been given—and prayerfully leave certain aspects behind.

When I was born, we were living with my mother’s parents in Cape Town, South Africa, where we stayed until I was almost four. Grandpa let me “help” him with the gardening and pushed me on the swings at the park just down the street. During family worship, I would lie on his chest and feel the warm words of Scripture rumbling within. I watched him kneeling by his bed in the mornings, talking to his best friend, Jesus, and said a happy “yes” whenever he invited me to pray with him.

And the prayers together continued. Grandpa dedicated me as a baby, baptized me when I was 11,



## “Grandpa, what do you think I should do as I face this conflict in the church? How do I step back into the situation?”

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prayed for me at my ordination-commissioning into pastoral ministry in 2011, gave the dedicatory prayer for Mike and me at our wedding in 2016, prayed over our firstborn, Eleanor, in 2018, and our son, Eric, in 2020. Along with the prayers, the questions and conversations continued too.

“Grandpa, do you think I need to be re-baptized?” He was visiting from South Africa and we were walking down the street of my American Adventist childhood, Grove Street in Berrien Springs, Michigan. My teenage self wondered whether I had really known what I was getting into, because I felt I knew Jesus so much better at 14. Plus, I hadn’t lived up to all the daily devotions I thought I ought have been engaged with and was going through a spiritual revival. Grandpa asked me some good questions. “When you got baptized, were you making the decision to give your life to Jesus?” “Yes.” “Well, you will always get to know Him better.” That settled it for me.

“Grandpa, what do you think of my boyfriend, Mike, and our relationship?” We were walking together again, this time doing laps on the top deck of a small cruise ship, with miniature golf in the middle and the ocean on all sides. “He’s sincere, authentic, open. He cares deeply for you and would take good care of you. I’d say go for it.” I’m so grateful I did. His blessing mattered to me.

“Grandpa, what do you think I should do as I face this conflict in the church? How do I step back into the situation?” This time we were walking in Michigan again as I prepared to travel back home to California. “Listen carefully. Respond humbly. Then trust the Lord to give you all the wisdom and the

courage that you need.” An elder and I were able to have a tearful heart-to-heart, and the conflict disintegrated. His counsel worked wonders for me.

My relationship with my grandfather has enabled and inspired me to run this race called life with more peace, grace, and courage. He has helped me better understand and experience the abundant goodness of God. Perhaps there is a person in your life who has done the same for you. If no one springs to mind, you may have an unmet longing for such a relationship. You wouldn’t be alone. So many are running without the benefit of such encouragers. I pray one will come your way. In the meantime, you can be that person for someone from a different generation.

In Psalm 145, David sings of the greatness and praiseworthy goodness of God. It’s a marathon song, not in terms of length but of comprehensiveness. It’s an acrostic. Each line starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This method symbolized the comprehensive nature of God’s goodness, from A to Z as it were. It also made the song easier to memorize and pass along to the next generation.

Psalm 145:4 says, “One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts” (NRSV). The New International Reader’s Version assumes one direction, “Parents praise your works to their children. They tell about your mighty acts.” But I love the ambiguity in the Hebrew. It literally says one generation to another. Sharing God’s goodness doesn’t only go in one direction. Children can tell their parents about God’s mighty acts. Younger generations can inspire older ones with their trust in God’s abundant goodness.

When I got a call to leave youth ministry for a lead pastor role, I was torn. A wise counselor asked me, "Have you completed your mission there?" As I reflected, it became clear to me that one of the young adults in the youth ministry had the necessary gifts and connections to lead the community in the next season. His dedication and fearlessness inspired me. I learned that we could trust next generations to hear and respond to God's relentless call. I passed on the baton to the runner best suited for the next leg of that race and got ready for my next one.

The summer my grandfather turned 90, I took a 12-week sabbatical from pastoral work to run the Comrades and have a series of intentional conversations with him about legacy.<sup>3</sup> Granny and Grandpa were considering relocating to a different continent, moving to Michigan, in the United States, to be closer to family.

What would they choose to bring or leave behind? What about my Granny's mother's piano, or her father's paintings, or the stool from the 1820 settlers who had come from Britain to South Africa? What would happen to all of Grandpa's books, photo albums, furniture, clothes, and papers? Beyond all the stuff, what would they hope to pass along to us? And what would I choose to hold onto or let go of?

My grandfather is not perfect. But in the slip-ups I come across, I'd like to emulate the way he recovers after he falls. As Proverbs 24:16 says, he will "get up again" (NET).

I want to be a runner, a follower of Jesus, a pastor, a friend, and human being, like my Grandpa.

Growing up, whenever anything exceptionally exciting, unusual, hilarious, or downright challenging happened, someone would often say, "This is a story you will tell your grandchildren one day." Now, as a pastor, I often find solace in awkward or ridiculous moments by saying, to myself or out loud, "At least this will make a great sermon illustration."

So far, those theoretical grandchildren haven't materialized. Nor do those messy moments always

make it into a message. But whether they do or not, saying, "I'll tell this to my grandchildren," changes my perspective. We look at life differently when we're thinking of the next generation, our future listeners and leaders. We make choices differently too.

Running the Comrades is definitely something I will tell my grandchildren about, and the experience has already made it into a sermon or two. Did I make it before the 12-hour cut-off? I guess you'll have to read the book to find out.

Your race isn't over. If you're reading or listening to these words, you're still running or walking, crawling or trying to catch your breath. The final chapters of your book are yet unwritten.

Today is not just yours or mine—it's ours. How we run our race impacts those running with us and after us. We're comrades. We're all in it together.

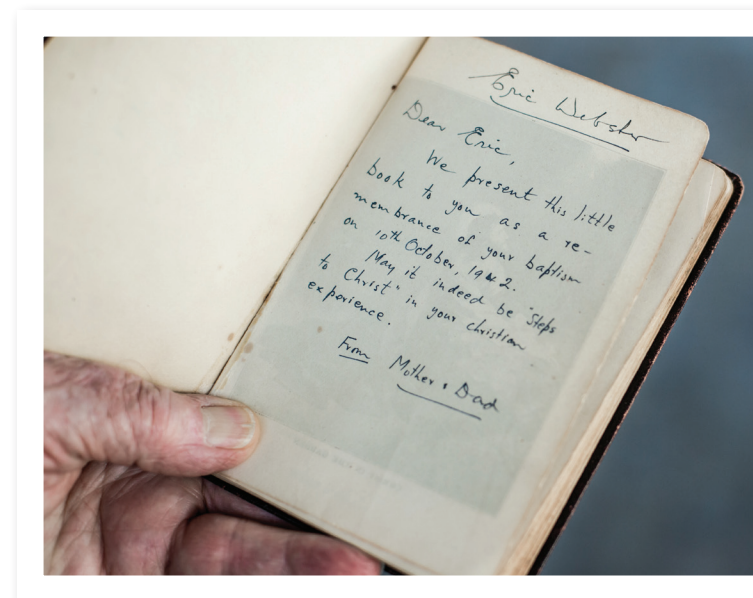
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*Raewyn Orlich is associate pastor for discipleship and nurture at La Sierra University Church. Her book, In Grampa's Shoes, from which this article is adapted, will soon be released by Oak & Acorn Publishing.*

<sup>1</sup>Stated purpose in the Comrades Marathon Association's Constitution.

<sup>2</sup>Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* (New York: Penguin, 2016).

<sup>3</sup>Thank you, Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, for your exceptional, proactive sabbatical policy that encourages pastors to do this once every seven years.







## FAMILY MINISTRIES: Helping

**M**y first exposure to what we would call family ministries was observing my father conducting pastoral visits when I was a young boy in Venezuela. Sometimes a couple would be having marital issues, and my father would try to help resolve them. Before these home visits, my father would tell me, “Son, don’t be scared by what you see. Just watch and pray.”

My father was one of the biggest influences in my life, both as a pastor and because he was passionate about family ministries. I saw how he handled sensitive family situations during home visits, even though he was not formally trained in this area. My father’s example gave me the foundation for learning how to manage family dynamics with biblical knowledge.

As a young man later in life, my personal faith was further strengthened as a colporteur. It was stressful work and required strength and

endurance. The colporteur experience taught me what it means to live by faith and that every new day is truly a leap of faith.

Learning from my father and my own early personal experiences have greatly shaped me and informed both my personal faith and my public ministry. I became interested in family relationships and integrating theological and doctrinal teaching with personal and family dynamics. We often view theology and doctrinal teaching as important, but we forget that as people we also need training in healthy relationships.

This is why I felt called to equip families with tools for happy relationships and homes. When my wife, Mary, and I moved to the United States in 1985, I earned my master’s in church ministry from Loma Linda, as well as a master’s degree in counseling and eventually a doctoral degree in ministry and family relations from Andrews.





# Families and Marriages Thrive

I could not do the work I do without my wife. I often say she is the key to my ministry. She is dedicated to children's ministry and enjoys teaching them. As parents, we are very happy to see our adult children thriving in their own respective families and ministries.

Eight years ago, the Pacific Union asked me to coordinate family ministries. We have enjoyed many family-focused activities and educational events over the years, such as family weeks of prayer, hosting NAD family and marital relationship seminars, and presenting certification programs for local church leaders. During the pandemic we presented readings of *The Adventist Home* on YouTube.

Most recently, in October 2022, Pacific Union Family Ministries hosted a couples retreat in Hawaii. It was well attended and gave couples the opportunity to relax away from the busyness of daily life and, most importantly, to reconnect with each other.

I am passionate about helping marriages and families thrive and be happy, and this is the primary goal of family ministries. I believe there are three keys to a happy family life: 1) humility, which is demonstrated by treating spouse and children with kindness; 2) honesty, which is shown through integrity, transparency, authenticity, and treating everyone equally; and 3) respect—above all, respect for God's law, but also self-respect and respect for spouse and children.

There are no perfect relationships, but by the grace of God and a willingness to learn and grow, you can have happy and healthy relationships.

---

*By Edwin Mendoza*

***For more information on Family Ministries in the Pacific Union, email Edwin Mendoza at [edmengo53@yahoo.com](mailto:edmengo53@yahoo.com).***

# The Important Rules

By Connie  
Vandeman  
Jeffery

**I** am a compulsive list-maker. To-do lists cover my refrigerator and are stuck on my laptop via Post-it Notes. There is always a grocery list and various permutations of to-do lists stuffed in my handbag. These include, but are not limited to, lists of items to do for other people, appointments that require some form of doing, and other assorted lists.

I have a list of the “Top Ten Happiest States in the U.S.”<sup>1</sup> (I was pleased to discover Hawaii, Utah, and California made it in the Top Ten) and the famous list from *U.S. News & World Report* published in March 2012: “11 Health Habits That Will Help You Live to 100.”<sup>2</sup>

What was significant about this list 10 years ago?

Number 8 on the list was “Live Like a Seventh-day Adventist.” I was always so proud of this list. Our lifestyle made it in a Top 11 list! Here is how author Deborah Kotz defined living like an Adventist:

“Seventh-day Adventists have an average life expectancy of

My dad always told me that there is “tremendous power in prayer.” He was right, of course. Prayer is my daily connection with God.

89, about a decade longer than the average American. One of the basic tenets of the religion is that it’s important to cherish the body that’s on loan from God, which means no smoking, alcohol abuse, or overindulging in sweets. Followers typically get plenty of exercise, are vegetarian, and make family and community a focus.”

We believe “it’s important to cherish the body that’s on loan from God.” I love that she put this in her definition of what it means to live like an Adventist.

In January of every year, I used to make a list of New Year’s resolutions, but not anymore. I always failed at specific goals, like losing a certain number of pounds and walking a certain number of miles. Ever since I received “The Important Rules” by email years ago, this is my go-to list for living my life—not just as the New Year rolls around, but every day. It is a way of life, not a series of items that need to be checked off a to-do list.

Its origin is unknown, but the message uplifted me then as it continues to do so now.

## The Important Rules

### 1. Pray daily.

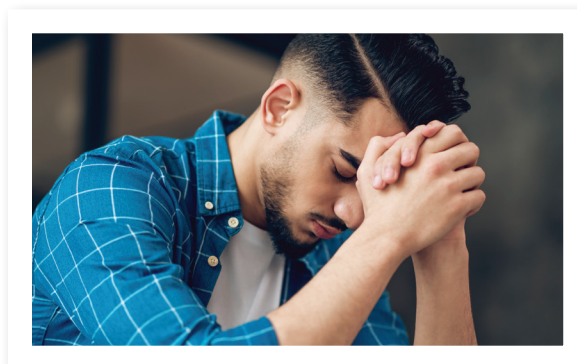
My dad always told me that there is “tremendous power in prayer.” He was right, of course. Prayer is my daily connection with God.



KUPODIE - VIA GETTY IMAGES

**2. Preserve the family at all costs.** When it comes to making decisions, small or large, after I’ve prayed about it, I’ve learned that putting my family first has always been the right choice.

**3. Care for and gain the respect of women, children, and old people.** I have been a caregiver for children and for the elderly. I have a network of women friends who are truly my “village.” One way to show my care and respect for all humans is to listen to them—truly listen to their stories. Many of these stories and many of these people have changed my life.



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**4. Strive for balance and wholeness in your life.** Ahhh! Balance and wholeness. Two things we all strive to achieve. Remembering that our body is on loan from God and doing things like eating healthfully, getting exercise, staying connected, and focusing

on our family and community goes a long way in

achieving balance and wholeness.

**5. All work is honorable work; always do your best, and not just because someone is looking.** No work is beneath me. From washing dishes in a nursing home to secretarial work to office management to writing and producing religious media, I've always believed all work is honorable and have been grateful for every job I've been given the opportunity to do.

**6. Seek truth in all your dealings.** John said it best: "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32, ESV). Always seek the truth—in all your dealings.

**7. Care more than others think is wise and love until it hurts.** Can you care too much and love too much? Some would say yes; you can get hurt if

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IRINA VOONEVA/ISTOCK / GETTY IMAGES PLUS VIA GETTY IMAGES

you invest too much energy caring and loving people. I say care and love anyway! It's what Jesus did for us. Let's extend a portion of that love to others.

**8. Plan to leave a legacy.** Webster defines *legacy* as "something bequeathed by will; something handed down from one who has gone before or from the past."

I love this list because it begins with daily prayer

and ends with leaving a legacy. In between it is filled with other concepts that we, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, need to pray for daily: respect, family, truth, balance, caring, and, most importantly, love.

What kind of legacy do you plan to leave? If you have charitable wishes and intend to care for your loved ones, if you want to "set your house in order" this year, I encourage you to follow #1 on the above list—pray daily. And then, follow the "rules" all the way to #8. My rather meaningless to-do lists pale in comparison to the significance of these items from The Important Rules list! Happy New Year!

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

<sup>1</sup><https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/happiest-states>

<sup>2</sup><https://health.usnews.com/health-news/living-well-usn/slideshows/in-pictures-11-health-habits-that-will-help-you-live-to-100?slide=9>

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## PACIFIC UNION CAMPOREE:

# Hundreds of Pathfinders Give Their Hearts to Jesus



Approximately 3,700 Pathfinders descended on Lake Skinner near Temecula, Calif., for the Pacific Union Conference Pathfinder Camporee the first weekend of October 2022. Since Camporee happens every five years, the last one being held in 2017, the event was not directly impacted by the pandemic—other than perhaps the added excitement of enjoying a large in-person gathering once again after a long while.

This was the second time that the Pacific Union Camporee was held at Lake Skinner. “We love that the Lake Skinner site is so close to that which is familiar and well known, but it feels remote,” said Eddie Heinrich, youth director for the Pacific Union. “It is safe, easy to use, and the rangers are very helpful.”

The event, which officially began on Thursday morning, included many physical activities—such



as ziplining, large inflatable jumpers and play areas, and a climbing wall—as well as a host of educational activities, such as the opportunity to earn honor badges in panning for gold, travel, nutrition, physics, laundering, animal tracking, and many more. To earn badges, Pathfinders engage in a two-hour class about the subject to learn as much as they can about it. There were also several sporting activities and friendly competitions, such as flag football, basketball, soccer, and co-ed volleyball matches.

Camporee also included the opportunity to visit the Pathfinder Museum, which contains a lot of historic paraphernalia—such as uniforms, honor patches, curriculum, and more—dating back to the very early days of Pathfinders.

The theme of the 2022 Camporee was “Identity in Jesus,” and the keynote speaker was pastor Damian Chandler, pastor of the Capitol City church in Sacramento, Calif. On Friday night, many young people came forward to give their hearts to Jesus. Over 64 kids were baptized.

“We were overwhelmed by so many kids being willing to let God lead in their lives,” Heinrich said about the hundreds of youth who dedicated their lives to Christ, including those who did not get baptized on site. Heinrich added that some kids wanted to study more before getting baptized, but many of those who got baptized had already been studying.

The Pacific Union Conference Pathfinder Camporee 2022 concluded on Sunday, October 9.

“One great thing about being youth director for the Pacific Union is the fabulous network of youth directors,” Heinrich concluded. “We work well together, and without them this camporee could not happen.”

The next big event Pathfinders are looking forward to and preparing for is the International “Believe the Promise” Camporee scheduled for August 2024 in Gillette, Wyoming.

*By Cynthia Mendoza*



Visit [camporeepucpathfinders.com](https://camporeepucpathfinders.com) for more information on the Pacific Union Camporee. For more information on the Believe the Promise Camporee, visit [www.camporee.org](https://www.camporee.org). For information on local Pathfinder clubs, contact your church's Pathfinder director or your conference's youth department.

“We were overwhelmed by so many kids being willing to let God lead in their lives.”

- Eddie Heinrich

## Executive Committee Focuses on Mission Initiatives

*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"*  
(Matthew 18:20, KJV).

The Lord's presence was felt as leaders from across the Pacific Union gathered for the Pacific Union's quarterly Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 17.

Energized by a powerful devotion from Pastor Rochelle Webster, which declared that God's steadfast love endures forever, and then uplifted by a season of prayer led by Pacific Union Conference President Bradford Newton, the committee embarked on the agenda of the day.

To ensure that the Lord's guidance was continually with them, Elder Newton invited Edwin Mendoza to volunteer as prayer leader. As prayer leader, he was asked to call for a break in proceedings when he felt the attendees should pause, reflect, and pray together to refocus hearts and stay in connection with the Savior through the entirety of the meeting.

### The next generation leading the church

The resounding theme for the meeting was the revitalization of our youth and young leaders to take up the mantle and continue the great work and mission of our church.

To begin, in his report, Elder Newton spoke on how he is witnessing a stirring of the Holy Spirit among young people. "Dr. Newton's president's report set the tone for today's meeting," said Pacific Union Executive Vice President Leon Brown. "His focus on youth and young adults centered our hearts and thoughts on the fact that the present and the future leadership needs of our churches



and our schools required our focus on our young people."

Two of the practical ways our union hopes to harness this focus is to appoint a union youth director and to create a new position whose main objective is to foster the growth of young leaders in our church. The feeling in the air was energetic and electric as Elder Newton asked the committee to break into groups for a brainstorming session to formulate what the union youth director and the new position (whose title is to be determined) would involve. Jenni Glass, communication director for Sacramento Adventist Academy, stated, "I appreciate the group taking time to focus on the future and



looking at ways to minister to our future leaders."

The overwhelming consensus is that we need leaders to foster, develop, and grow the connection of youth and young adults to God and our church—helping them find a calling to work for the church in their area of talent, skill, and profession.

The energy and hope that filled the room was revitalizing as the union looks to the future and envisions a young, innovative, and groundbreaking church led by the next generation.

### Special guest from NAD

The committee welcomed special guest North American Division President Alex Bryant. Dr. Bryant gave an update on NAD's vision of how to maximize the assets the church currently has at its disposal. The answer to this goal was explained by three M's: Multiply, Media, and Mentorship.

- **Multiply** the ministries of Christ.
- Use **Media** to further the mission and cause.
- Through **Mentorship**, build up the next wave of young leaders.

It was reaffirming to see that the last M—Mentorship—demonstrates that not only the union but the division as a whole are both focused on the development of youth and young leadership.



### Continuing business

New leaders Daniel Bodega and Edwin Mendoza from Central California Conference, Kyler Martin from Hawaii Conference, and Jose Diaz from Northern California Conference were welcomed into the committee.

As always, there were reports from each of the union executive officers. Executive Vice President Leon Brown presented on the activities of our volunteer-led ministries, Treasurer Stephen Mayer gave the financial report, and there were reports from both Hispanic and Black Ministries from Vice Presidents Alberto Ingleton and Virgil Childs, respectively.

Reinforcing the idea of the Holy Spirit leading our young people, Virgil Childs announced the upcoming 2023 West Coast Influencers Youth Conference to be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Their goal is to gather over 1,000 youth, empowering them to be leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ who influence their communities through service.

### E-Adventist

The committee was excited to hear about the possibilities of the e-Adventist app. Executive Secretary Sandra Roberts reported on this tech tool for churches. The committee learned how it supports the mission of integrating media to foster the connection among the global Adventist community. It also can be used as an organizational tool to move forward with the church's mission.

### Looking to the future

It was evident that God had led this meeting and that the committee was focused on their strategic mission initiatives. "The energy and passion expressed in the conversations on how we best collectively encourage, involve, and mentor youth and young adults in our union was palpable throughout the meeting. The ideas for next actionable steps flowed freely and with enthusiasm," said Executive Secretary Sandra Roberts, "I love meetings where you see God tangibly at work through a prayerful conversation that led to bold decisions."

By Yara Enamorado

# All God's PEOPLE

CONNIE VANDEMAN JEFFERY

January 2023 begins with our 263rd episode of All God's People, the video blog launched in May 2017 as an experiment in weekly, short, newsy, inspirational videos. Now in our seventh season, we will be highlighting some memorable stories from the videos in this column of the Recorder.

## **In December, we posted AGP 640:**

On Thursday, November 17, the Executive Committee of the Pacific Union Conference convened in Westlake Village, Calif., for the fourth quarterly meeting of 2022.

As the official representatives of the nearly 220,000 Adventists in the seven conferences of the Pacific Union, the committee members heard reports and acted on the business of the church in our region.

Dr. G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division, brought greetings and a report from the division. "The Pacific Union has always been an innovator and a creative leader in the North American Division," he said.

As president of the Pacific Union Conference, Elder Bradford Newton leads this committee, and he is deeply focused on both the day-to-day work and the development of long-term strategies that will impact our future. His president's report was full of inspirational stories and a call to prayer. Several times during the day-long meeting, members stopped and prayed—in groups of two or three, silently, and as a group.

You can watch the entire episode of All God's People at [vimeo.com/777225160](https://vimeo.com/777225160)

### Another story from AGP 640 was an interview about Adventist education:

Aimee Saesim Leukert has been an educator at the elementary, high school, and university levels for almost 20 years. She is currently the associate director for the Center for Research on Adventist Education and an assistant professor at La Sierra University in the Curriculum & Instruction department.

Aimee has a passion for Adventist education and is collecting stories for a brand-new book. We had the opportunity to sit down with Aimee a few weeks ago and ask her how she got started on this project.

**Aimee Leukert:** This project has been simmering in the back of my head now for ages. I am a product of K-16 Adventist education. I went to Simi Valley Adventist School, Newbury Park Adventist Academy here in Southern California, and then La Sierra University, and since then I taught in the elementary and academy settings. I have a number of former classmates, colleagues, and students who have gone on to do amazing things in their lives, and those of us who have been



working in the church system for years now, we all have the same stories. We know of people who have done amazing things who are contributing and, rather than just having these as anecdotes, I wanted to collect these stories and turn them into a book.

I have interviewed a number of individuals now, and I have been so inspired by their stories. I've interviewed an epidemiologist, a realtor, an architect, an F-16 fighter pilot. So many in so many disparate, various, diverse fields, and they're so enthusiastic—not only about what they do but about how Adventist education has led them to this point in their lives, to this career, and also how Adventist education continues to influence the decisions that they make in their job, the way they treat people, the way in which they view the world. It's been so inspiring to hear their stories and to see where they are now from where they were back in their K-12 years.



To watch Aimee's inspiring interview, go to [vimeo.com/777225160](https://vimeo.com/777225160)

If you have an Adventist education story to share, go to [adventistedstories.com](https://adventistedstories.com)

If you are not yet receiving All God's People in The Bulletin each week, sign up at: [www.adventistfaith.com/engage/subscribe](https://www.adventistfaith.com/engage/subscribe)

And you can watch past episodes at: [www.adventistfaith.com/media/all-gods-people](https://www.adventistfaith.com/media/all-gods-people)

Saesim Leukert Ph.D.  
Director, Center For Research on Adventist Education

# Fanning the Evangelism Flames: 2022 Year of Evangelism

2022 was designated as a Year of Evangelism. Over half of all Arizona churches participated in the evangelism effort. "Praise God that our church leaders and members are uniting their efforts to reach their communities with the gospel of Jesus," reflected Arizona Conference Executive Secretary Ray Navarro. "We give all the glory to God and encourage every single pastor and member to fan those evangelism flames!"

Conference-wide, there were over 60 evangelism events that took place in the various churches, including some innovative long-term projects.

In March, the Yuma Spanish church district offered guitar, ukulele, and piano lessons to community members. The students learned worship songs as part of their lesson and then participated in a Bible study afterwards.

In the Chinle church on the Navajo Reservation, JA Kids was a program for children of recovering alcoholics. While the parents attended a 12-step support group, the children participated in a VBS-style addiction prevention program. Once a month, parents were invited to family nights, where they heard their children recite "The Twelve Steps for Kids" and joined in songs like "With Jesus in the Family, Happy, Happy Home."

The "Renewing Home" evangelistic meetings at the West Valley Spanish church in April and May focused on strengthening homes and families. Several baptisms

took place as part of these family-centered meetings, which culminated in a renewal of marriage vows by couples in attendance. Some commented that, after the pandemic, dedicating time for families provided a lot of spiritual strength to their church and family.

The Chandler Brazilian church celebrated Dia do Amigo or Friend's Day in October. Every church member was challenged by the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Department to invite one friend to a special day. Nearly 20 visitors enjoyed the worship and fellowship that included delicious Brazilian cuisine.

Traditional evangelism also made an impact across the state and resulted in scores of baptisms in Arizona churches.

Both the Tucson Fil-Am and Chandler Fil-Am churches were active all year as they each held several evangelistic meetings resulting in baptisms after each event. Pacific Union Conference Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Alan Reinach led out at the Chandler Fil-Am church in an October series entitled "How Liberty Dies."

The Chandler church held a baptism in the Salt River following their community evangelistic series in May. Thirteen people made the decision to be baptized, with 11 entering the river waters on the afternoon of May 21. "We had an 81-year-old marine vet, a former mafia member, an online watcher, and several Pathfinder members who gave their lives to Jesus through baptism," said Pastor Ed Anderson.



LEFT: Elder Villamor Meriales baptizes a new member in a specially designed baptismal tank to accommodate their disability. RIGHT: Members of the Oracle Church prepare to pass out household items to families in need.



**LEFT:** Chandler Brazilian Church potluck on Dia do Amigo. **RIGHT:** Elder Ed Anderson baptizes a young man in the Salt River.

The Phoenix Central Valley Spanish church held simultaneous events in September. One meeting was directed toward the adults while the other was held in the gym and geared toward children. A spiritual party took place on September 10 as eight adults and 10 adolescents were baptized.

Phoenix South Mountain church held “Something Better 22” meetings in October, featuring music, health checks, Bible studies, and food baskets. Several were baptized and several more continue their studies.

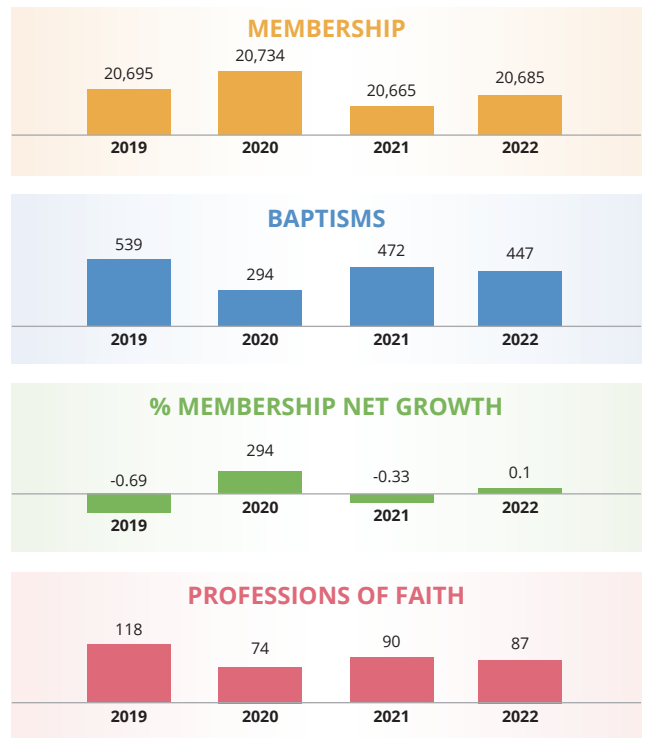
Other groups sought to minister to the physical needs of their community. The Casa Grande church district held a community service event, handing out free household items. They also conducted a health expo, which trained community members in healthy lifestyle practices.

The Camp Verde church offers food and clothing distribution every Wednesday. Thirty volunteers, of which 25 are community members, help to distribute items to hundreds of people each week. The Payson church distributes food on Tuesday evenings. “It’s an amazing economic and spiritual outreach, where people are helped physically, socially, and spiritually,” said Pastor Mike Ortel. Referring to the church members’ renewed focus on evangelism, Pastor Ortel commented, “They think it, pray it, sleep it, eat it, smell it, and talk it.”

But sometimes it is simply a one-on-one ministry that draws people to God. At the Grace in the Desert church, a young lady living in the apartments next to the church was invited to attend a morning prayer meeting. Seventeen years old and pregnant, Ceanna was living in fear and anxiety. She returned several times to church, and the church hospitality team organized a baby shower for her. Her family attended the event, along with a good number of church members. After having her baby, she continues to stay in contact with church members.

During the month of December, several more churches conducted evangelistic events. After December 31, when the final membership and baptism numbers are submitted, 2022 will be listed as having one of the largest increases for the Arizona Conference. With over 60 applications for 2023 evangelism events submitted to Arizona Conference administration and four separate project funding proposals for creative evangelism approved by the Pacific Union Conference for 2023 evangelism, church leaders and members are continuing to fan the evangelism flames in Arizona.

*By Jeff Rogers*



Note: December 2022 data not included in membership statistics.



## Fresno Westside Church Does Not Allow Barriers to Become Walls

**M**any barriers exist that can prevent churches from working together to spread God's message—language and culture barriers are some of the most common. But these barriers can be crossed when planning and support come together from both sides. The Fresno Westside church, located in a multi-ethnic neighborhood of Fresno, Calif., started an evangelistic initiative alongside nearby Hispanic churches. They created an opportunity for Spanish and English speakers to worship together and spread the word of God.

"With God, all things are possible. Seemingly impossible obstacles can be overcome with God's help," said Elder Banks of Fresno Westside church. "Our church was willing to address the fact that in our neighborhood there were those who spoke another language, and we took the challenge to learn the basics of the language so we could communicate with our community."

Pastor Alonzo S. Wagner III, of Fresno Westside church, explained that they had had an English-speaking meeting and a Spanish-speaking meeting

going on at the same time, and then at the end of the event they fellowshiped together, baptized together, had a fellowship meal, and held a social afterward. "Even though we're going to two separate churches, we have become much closer," explained Wagner. These events have been so impactful, they are planning to continue them in 2023.

The church members and pastors that worked hard planning this initiative, including Pastor Edgar Sanchez and Pastor Eddy Perez, were inspired by the possibilities. They started offering Spanish classes, evangelism classes, plant-based cooking classes, and other initiatives to bring the community together. They passed out bilingual flyers, encouraging more people from the community to join.

This strategy had not been a part of their church in the past, but those who have experienced the addition have felt the impact. Through determination and focused teamwork, they made this dream a reality. They credit this heightened level of unity between congregations to God.

This method has allowed them to reach more people through joint evangelistic meetings, and it's a tool

that can be used in other churches. “The impact was astounding as the congregation participated in learning basic Spanish phrases and terms,” explained Elder Banks.

When a church of one ethnicity attempts to reach those in a church of another ethnicity, things can be complicated. While they may share their love of God, other barriers hold them back. Where they do connect, things could always be stronger. That’s why this partnership that started at the hands of a few pastors has quickly inspired the community.

Beyond language courses, the plant-based cooking classes were also enjoyed by many. These bilingual classes were met with high attendance. The community came together to learn how to cook in healthy ways, which brought new habits and a lasting impact.

The team behind this outreach approach was able to create traction in their area and bring more people together than they otherwise could have. This also encouraged assistance from those who had not been involved in previous church activities or had been absent. Many came together to help with language and cooking classes.

“When they came together during the evangelistic event and saw the different communities worshipping and working together, they seemed to sense a spirit that was very unifying, impactful, and drawing,” said Wagner. There was a sense of oneness in the room.

The church has continued to be blessed. The Spanish classes are still a part of what they do. Having church members learn Spanish and encouraging them to

“When they came together during the evangelistic event and saw the different communities worshipping and working together, they seemed to sense a spirit that was very unifying, impactful, and drawing.”

become bilingual has allowed the pastors to minister to their community more effectively.

Pastor Wagner explained that this was not always his vision, but as the demographics in the community began to shift, it was clear there was work to be done. “The church began to pray about it, and we came up with the prayerful vision to minister where we’re planted,” he said. “So if God has given us a diverse community, then He will give us the ability to minister to our diverse community with the diverse cultures.”

Through this outreach approach, Fresno Westside has had the opportunity to perform nine baptisms, and seven more were planned to take place by the end of December. And this doesn’t include the additional baptisms by Pastor Sanchez.

“If you allow what you perceive as barriers to not to be walls that prevent you from getting to know your community and ministering to them, the power of God is able to do a powerful thing,” concluded Wagner.

*By Brennan Hallock*





# God's Gold in Sonora

**A**ccording to the sign that greets people coming into town, Sonora is considered the Queen of the Southern Mines in Gold Rush Country. Starting in 1848, panning and mining gold brought people to this foothill area, about one hour from Yosemite. A little over 70 years later, on April 23, 1921, an Adventist church was established. Continuing to “pan for God’s gold” over 100 years later, there are over 900 members in Sonora’s Discover Life church, with Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy (MLAJA) adjacent to the church building, and Adventist Health Sonora, a 152-bed hospital, not too far away. On October 14-15, 2022, the Adventist community was finally able to celebrate the blessings that God has poured out in Sonora over the last 100 years.

The pandemic was a factor in the delay for the 100th anniversary celebration. Because the facility was

basically closed to in-person services during this time, it became an opportunity to completely renovate the church. When Nathan Renner, the senior pastor for the last 13 years, left for his new assignment in Tennessee in the fall of 2021, Danita Rasmussen, interim pastor, relied on social media to provide church services. As was often said during this time period, the church wasn’t closed, just the building.

In April of 2022, just about the time that things were opening up and church services could once more be held, Pastor Jim Berglund and his wife, Shelly, came from Texas to be the new senior pastor. Changes also included Tyson Kahler and his family, who arrived in September from Minnesota to be the youth pastor. Both pastors can testify that Sonora certainly does “pan for God’s gold,” and they are delighted to begin plans for some very important church activities.

Although Pastor Berglund is noted for his illustrated and thoughtful sermons, the students at MLAJA will tell you that he can beat them at four square. They also know him as the train conductor at the well-planned, youth-directed summer VBS program. Reflecting on how Sadie Gomez, a senior in high school, led out in VBS, Berglund said, “The VBS was so exciting. I loved seeing our own youth leading out. They took responsibility, and

“The VBS was so exciting. I loved seeing our own youth leading out. They took responsibility, and it is amazing how well it ran. I feel like God reached the community through the kids.”



it is amazing how well it ran. I feel like God reached the community through the kids.”

### 100-Year Celebration on October 14 and 15

In October, 100 years could finally be celebrated, recognizing the three very important ways God brought “gold” to Sonora: the church, the school, and the hospital. On Friday night, the school, Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy, was highlighted. Although a school was started in 1921, it was during the 60s and 70s that the school really started to become what it is today. The history of how the school was purchased and built was shared, and in the “Tell Me the Story” section, former students shared the impact of Christian education on their lives. Back for the weekend, Renner shared in his message how the school and the church have worked together through the years.

On Sabbath morning, the celebration continued with the story of the impact of the hospital, now known as Adventist Health Sonora. Hospital administrator Michelle Fuentes explained that the medical facility had changed ownership several times since 1900 but was finally given to the Adventist Church in 1961. The hospital’s “Tell Me the Story” section was presented by former patients, medical personnel, and chaplains, who testified to the influence the medical work has had on “God’s gold.”

During the packed worship service, the 100-year history of the church itself was celebrated. Ron Rasmussen gave special greetings from the Central California Conference, and Bradford Newton delivered a message by video from the Pacific Union Conference. Pastors who have served over the years were recognized, and several of them were in attendance. Former Pastor Jim McMurry shared in his sermon how he saw God bless the work in Sonora. He also invited

Renner to join him in a dedicatory prayer for Pastor Berglund, who now takes up the mantle of spiritual leadership.

After a potluck extraordinaire, an afternoon memorial service was held for John Mooy, a former teacher at MLAJA and a longtime member of the church. It all ended with a gym night that provided the opportunity for people to gather and share their memories. There were many who volunteered and contributed to the weekend celebration, but a special thanks goes to the planning committee composed of the two pastors, Pam Palmer, Ruth Caldwell, Cheryl Calderaro, and Arnold Trujillo.

*By Deloris Trujillo*



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## Andre Weston is Ordained on the Big Island

Pastor Andre has a desire to reach hearts with the same simple message of the Savior's love that he received as a child. God has opened doors for him to faithfully serve in both unique and traditional ways.

Pastor Andre Weston was joined by his wife, Nicole, on November 5 as he was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Kurtistown Samoan church. The event was the culmination of the Big Island's yearly convocation. In celebration of God's calling on Pastor Andre's life, the special service was attended by many other ordained pastors who serve across the Hawaiian Islands. Even a few special relatives and friends from the island of Jamaica and the mainland were present, as well as friends from the local Hilo community.

The service began with Mark Watanabe, an elder of the Hilo church, giving a biographical sketch of Pastor Andre's life. He then relayed messages from many of the elders Pastor Andre previously served alongside; they took the time to write encouraging notes confirming Pastor Andre's call to ministry and adding words of hope and advice. Hawaii Conference President Erik VanDenburgh shared an inspiring message of what it means to be called by God, and Ministerial Director Jay Warren challenged

Pastor Andre to live to the fullest of his sacred calling.

The entire service was wreathed in beautiful music; Nicole even joined a trio to sing the compelling message of "Lord, I'm Available to You." A slide show displayed memories of Pastor Andre and Nicole's ministry so far. In the end, Pastor Andre humbly recounted with thanks all of those who

have stood beside him in service to the Lord, giving special mention to his wife, Nicole. More music was led by pastor-in-training Matthias Bernard. Elder Ben Supit, Hawaii Conference treasurer, closed with prayer. Following the service, a wonderful reception dinner was presented to all the guests.

Pastor Andre's family was brought into the Adventist Church during his growing-up years. The beautiful simplicity of Jesus's love and soon coming touched his tender heart. In his teenage years, Andre continued to be expressive about his faith. He was known in high school as the quiet kid and the religious kid, and he easily made friendships from every segment of the public high school social spectrum. After attending Andrews University, he met Nicole in Maryland, where he felt the call to ministry while completing his master's degree in public communications. They were married and began a new life together while Andre completed his Master of Divinity at the seminary at



Andrews University. Andre and Nicole have served in the Gulf States Conference in both Florida and Mississippi. They joined the team in Hawaii in 2020, where he has served as the lead pastor of the Hilo and Puna congregations.

Pastor Andre has a desire to reach hearts with the same simple message of the Savior's love that he received as a child. God has opened doors for him to faithfully serve in both unique and traditional ways. He has participated in weekly prayer-walking through communities, community clean ups, summer camp, Pathfinders, academy ministry, and evangelistic campaigns. He listens, connects, and values people as the precious souls that Christ came to save.

Elder Andre Weston's signature verse is found in Exodus 14:14, which says, "The Lord will fight for you, while you keep silent" (NASB).

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*By Jana VanDenburgh*





# HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

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

## Like Family



HIS students Abbi and Toni browse Christmas-themed pajamas as they plan their “family” photo with their faculty “mom” and horsemanship teacher, Ms. Newhart. Faculty families are an initiative of Holbrook Indian School to supplement family needs for its students.

**O**n a cold winter evening after school, Abbi and Toni arrive “home” to the delightful smell of cookies and hot chocolate.

This home isn’t far away from school; in fact, it’s less than 500 yards from the main school campus. It’s a frequent place for them to unwind and chill outside of school hours. The “mother” of this home also happens to be their horsemanship class teacher, Ms. Newhart, one of the faculty members at Holbrook Indian School (HIS). She is affectionately referred to as “faculty mom” by the two students.

While Abbie and Toni settle in, another member of the family, Dalariyn, is back on campus at the gym watching the home basketball game. She had already informed her faculty mom that she would be missing today’s get-together at the house, which is an almost daily custom for this particular family. Abbi, Toni, and Ms. Newhart grab the snacks from the kitchen and settle in on the living room couch as they look over matching Christmas-themed pajamas for their family holiday photo.

The family had all decorated the home Christmas tree just two weeks before. As they spend another

evening together, the smiles and laughter reflect a sense of joy and belonging. These school-based households are known as faculty families, and, as the name suggests, these groups are extended families made up of students and staff.

The general atmosphere at Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is much like a family. The resources and programs that are invested in creating this environment only add to this. As a boarding school that serves Native American students who travel hundreds of miles away from home, supplementing the family atmosphere is important—especially for the students who are the caretakers of their Native families. One of the ways the staff at HIS accomplishes this is through the faculty family effort.

The normal monthly faculty family gatherings are essential to creating a family atmosphere for the well-being of our students. Faculty families like Ms. Newhart's, which love to meet more frequently, demonstrate that this importance stems from a natural desire given to us by our Creator.

Imagine what it might feel like to be the caregiver of your siblings at the age of 12 or even younger. You would end up missing out on your childhood, which causes emotional damage as you grow older. For many children around the world, these scenarios are realities, and the same can be said for a number of our students.

But where darkness is at its deepest, light is able to shine all the more brightly. Holbrook Indian School provides students who are far away from home the experience of home life through the loving support of extended families at the school where they live, learn, and grow.

The words of Ms. Newhart are a brilliant summary of the impact for both student and teacher.

"My house is a place of safety and comfort. It is important for me that the girls can feel that by how my place looks. We have a pretty close relationship. I didn't expect to feel so close to them so soon in the school year. If any of them are having a really hard day and they need a place to take a break, they know that my house is their home."

"I want to be as supportive of my faculty family girls as my parents were of me, but I also connect and empathize with their need for togetherness at home.

While faculty families do not replace students' biological families, I want my home to be a place where any missing pieces can be found."

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By Chevon Petgrave



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

***Thank you for your support.***

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A photograph of The Wave sandstone rock formation in Arizona by Dr. Friedbert Ninow.

To read more, go to [lasierra.edu/news](http://lasierra.edu/news)

## Divinity School Unveils Nature Photography Creation Wall

**T**he burnt orange hues of Antelope Canyon in Arizona, mountain reflections in Germany's Lake Sylvenstein, and the billowing, star-studded clouds of Orion's Horsehead Nebula—these are among 14 breathtaking photos installed along a lobby wall of La Sierra University's La Sierra Hall, home of the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School.

Called the Creation Wall, it is the conceptualization of Divinity School Dean Friedbert Ninow, an avid amateur photographer who desired to commemorate the Creator's work through a display of photographs from among hundreds taken over the past three years—representing just a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands Ninow has taken over a lifetime. The Creation Wall photos depict in vivid color exquisite natural scenes, including celestial realms captured through astrophotography.

On Nov. 7, the Divinity School unveiled the Creation Wall installation. The montage stands opposite a glass-walled meeting room, where a large painting of Jesus and the disciples partaking in the Last Supper is displayed.

A handout for the unveiling that gives information about the photographs describes the wall's purpose. "We believe that this world we live in, the world around us, and the world beyond our reach has been called

into existence by a gracious God.... As you enter the La Sierra Hall lobby, this Creation Wall stands juxtaposed to the wall to your left, which reminds us of God our Redeemer in the Eucharist," the statement reads.

"This wall was empty. So two years ago or so, I got the idea since I have a hobby called photography to create what I will call the Creation Wall," Ninow said. "I placed some of my photo work here and tried to honor God's creation."

"This is exciting for me because I haven't seen it before this moment," said La Sierra University President Joy Fehr, who attended the ceremony. "To realize the ways in which God works in our lives from the very beginning through to the gift of life eternal as is illustrated here is amazing."

Ninow's interest in photography was piqued in adolescence. Many years later came astrophotography through the influence of a friend, and Ninow delved into a world that required a telescope, a tracking mount, computer programs, and loads of patience.

The concept for a photographic commemoration of God's created world was inspired through astrophotography, Ninow said, "noticing the vast spaces and the awe what is out there."

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*By Darla Martin Tucker*

# Loma Linda University International Heart Institute Sets Precedent for Cardiogenic Shock Programs

Care teams at Loma Linda University International Heart Institute have fine-tuned various aspects of its cardiogenic shock program, making the program the first in the Inland Empire and one of the few on the West Coast to offer such comprehensive services to cardiogenic shock patients.

Aditya Bharadwaj, MD, an interventional cardiologist at LLU International Heart Institute, says the cardiogenic program has expanded to include interventional cardiologists, heart failure cardiologists, and cardiothoracic surgeons.

"More than one specialty needs to be involved in the care of cardiogenic shock patients," said Bharadwaj. "Multiple disciplines must come together right from the beginning to treat these patients. Other leading centers across the country and the world are beginning to recognize this."



LaCresha Bell arrived at LLUMC for a higher level of care when she went into cardiogenic shock after having given birth to her second son. Bell's two sons and younger brother visited her during the three-month hospital stay.

Cardiogenic shock, also known as cardiac shock, is a life-threatening emergency that occurs when the heart cannot pump enough blood and oxygen to the brain and other vital organs. The condition can be fatal or lead to organ failure or brain injury if not treated quickly, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

"Timely treatment is of the essence when facing this critical condition where the heart is unable to keep up with the demands of the body," Bharadwaj said.

For this reason, Bharadwaj and his colleagues have worked to streamline the transfer process for patients incoming from nearby hospitals, reducing delays in their care. Once a patient is transferred to or arrives at Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC), Bharadwaj says highly skilled care teams work to identify signs and symptoms indicating cardiogenic shock. Bharadwaj says these new approaches prioritize the timely delivery of care to patients experiencing cardiogenic shock.

Causes of cardiogenic shock include heart attacks, infections, blood clots, and heart failure. In addition, the condition can be caused by a distinctive form of heart failure called peripartum cardiomyopathy that can occur during the last few months of pregnancy or up to five months after giving birth.

Such was the case for 31-year-old LaCresha Bell, who was transferred from a nearby hospital to LLUMC for a higher level of care when she went into cardiogenic shock after having given birth to her second son.

"Those doctors fought for my life," said Bell, who has since reunited with her two sons. "I didn't believe in miracles before, but being alive seven months later, I do now."

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By Lisa Aubry

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



**LEFT:** Julie Washburn enjoying the fruits of her labors, bringing the membership of the West Jordan Adventurer Club from zero to 23! **MIDDLE:** Micah and Eriana Washburn, the charter members of the West Jordan Wildfire Adventurer Club, proudly wear their uniforms and display the multiple honors they have earned. **TOP RIGHT:** Erianna Washburn enjoys the many crafts and activities of the Adventurer Club. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Micah Washburn, although loving the activity, appears a little hesitant to display the final product of his craft time with the Wildfire Adventurers.

## West Jordan Adventurer Club Grows Like Wildfire

**I**n 2016, the West Jordan church had only four children. Nevertheless, the Sabbath School Kindergarten teacher, Julie Washburn, decided to start an Adventurer Club. She felt as if God was impressing her to do so, even though there was such a small population of children in the church. She believed that if she built it, they would come.

Her two children, Erianna and Micah, were the initial members of the West Jordan Wildfire Adventurer Club. The church board was fully supportive and started praying for the club to grow. For three years the club membership consisted of just these two children. Washburn may have been discouraged, but she trusted in God’s promises. As more children began coming to the church, Julie tirelessly put out flyers and bulletin inserts, along with personally inviting parents to consider putting their children in this wonderful program—a program that would enrich their lives and be such fun!

No one seemed interested. She prayed and prayed and nearly gave up hope of a growing club. While she was teaching the Kindergarten Sabbath School class,

she befriended a couple from Tobago. Their son, Nathan, was very shy, but he soon loved Miss Julie. She once again invited Nathan’s parents to enroll him in the club. Nathan did join the club, and now there were three. As others saw the club growing, their interest in participating grew as well.

Pastor Adriano Liessi and his family answered God’s call to serve the West Jordan church, and soon there were an additional two children joining the club. During the next two years, more families came. Washburn’s prayer was being answered in big and wonderful ways.

“The wise man built his house on rock” (Matthew 7:24, ICB). Miss Julie has built it, and they are coming! Currently the club has a membership of 23 children and teachers.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has wonderful programs for kids and adults. You too can build it, and they will come. God is waiting for His people to reach out in love and faith. Find your passion and He will bless.

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*By Robyn Cordova*



# My Father's World

A series of paintings called “My Father’s World” was highlighted at a recent art exhibit. The exhibit took place at the Millcreek County Library, located in the suburbs of Salt Lake City, Utah. The artist, Nancy Schafner, a member of Wasatch Hills church, created paintings that invited viewers to focus on God as our Creator.

When Nancy discovered that she had been selected to prepare the exhibit, she wondered how, through her love of God’s creation, she could use this opportunity to share the gospel with the public. Many people don’t believe God created the heavens and the earth or understand His character of love. In answer to her prayers, she was strongly impressed to do a series on Creation. She didn’t view herself as an accomplished artist, so this task seemed intimidating.

As she spent more time in nature, hiking and praying, she became more convinced that God was directing in this endeavor and would be there to guide and assist. A search on the internet led to inspiring ideas of how to portray her beliefs on canvas. Sometimes the ideas seemed daunting to try to represent, and she had no clue how or where to begin.

Bible study also helped Nancy gain confidence. “I read the section in Exodus 35:30-35, which tells about the artisans being called by God,” she explained. “I kept telling myself God had called me to this and He would see me through by giving me the ability to do it.” Indeed, God faithfully led through the entire process, and she was left feeling that the exhibit happened through faith and prayer.

Consisting of 34 acrylic paintings, the exhibit included a series of eight creation pieces. The first one was entitled “In the Beginning God Created the Heavens and Earth Genesis 1:1.” The remaining seven paintings in the series beautifully portrayed the seven days of creation.

Almost by accident, Nancy discovered that painting eases her chronic pain. In the spring of 2020, she was asked to volunteer to team teach an online acrylic painting class for the Millcreek Senior Center. Although she’d had experience with artistic painting in the past, it

had been decades since she’d picked up her brushes.

In the process of preparing, leading, and participating in the “Love to Paint” class, she discovered that the pain subsided while she was absorbed in the creative process. Painting continues to provide therapy, making her grateful she has picked up her brushes once again.

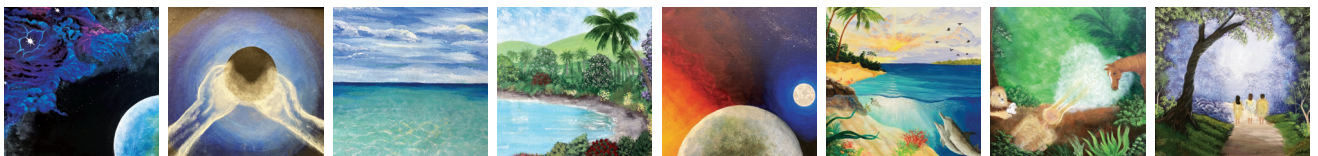
Of this experience, Nancy shared, “Not only is painting good for my body, it is also good for my soul. Being outdoors and spending time in God’s creation soothes me. The farther I am from manmade structures and the closer I am to God’s craftsmanship, the better I feel.” She continued with a message for all of us: “In the singing of the birds, the whispering of the trees, and the music of bubbling brooks, we can all still hear His voice. As a line from one of my favorite hymns says, ‘This is my Father’s world: He shines in all that’s fair; In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.’”

When she is immersed in nature, Nancy knows she is better able to see God’s goodness and power, to feel the symbiosis of the natural world with all its creatures, to recognize that the world is a brilliant and extravagant place. Utah does not lack for diverse, jaw-dropping scenery. Beholding the dramatic and breathtaking landscapes is an awe-inspiring experience. Nancy continues to share her delight in the natural world of God. “When I spend time in creation, I want to create. I want to share the wonder of God’s creation through my artwork—especially with those who can’t get out and see it for themselves.”

At the exhibit, “Day Six” and “Day Seven—The Sabbath,” received the most questions. People asked, “Tell me what’s happening in this painting?” and “What’s going on in Day Seven?” These questions provided opportunities for the artist to share Bible truths with attendees of the exhibit.

God has gifted us all with unique talents and ways of sharing our faith. Find your niche for spreading the gospel and let the world know!

*As told to Michelle Ward by Nancy Schafner*



# Every Member Involved



October was a busy month at the Sacramento Spanish church. Twenty-eight people gave their lives to the Lord in baptism. According to Jaime Calvo, district pastor for Sacramento, North Highlands, and Woodland Spanish churches, “There is one more person who wants to give his soul to the Lord, and we are excited for that day.”

Since the pandemic, Sacramento Spanish has been preparing for this evangelism outreach with an interconnecting system, which Calvo calls Every Member Involved (EMI). The church created small groups, learned to give Bible studies, prayed, and prepared each member for evangelism. Calvo said, “We have created a network where we become responsible for new members, creating a spiritual home that is contagiously kind and community relevant.”

Calvo continued, “It has been a privilege to work with church leaders and church members that have real compassion for people, showing that they have experienced the love of Christ. Through all of this, I have seen a real transformation in our church body, and it is wonderful to see the results.”

*By Ken Miller*

# A Bounty of Canned Food

The Pleasant Hill Pathfinder Club recently participated in its annual canned food drive. According to Adan Martinez, area coordinator, “The Pathfinders really enjoy going through the community collecting food, and the community looks forward to the Pathfinders coming.”

Pathfinders canvassed the local community, knocking on doors. Many residents know of this annual event and have pre-packed boxes ready. Counselors and parents followed behind in vehicles to collect the donations.

The collected food was brought back to the church, sorted, and re-boxed. Pathfinders, parents, church members, and tiny tots all helped in the sorting process. The packages were then given to Pleasant Hill Adventist Community Services.

*By Brenda Parker Brandy*





## A Call to Sore Arms...And Backs

On November 14, as part of its journey toward organizational health and its commitment to serve the local community, most conference office staff, directors, and leadership met at Mahany Park in Roseville to help revitalize and beautify the park.

The day had three main jobs: painting two equipment sheds, planting approximately 25 shrubs and flowers, and spreading 130 cubic yards of forest mulch in the flower beds. Staff members shoveled the ground cover into two-wheeled garden carts and moved material to flower beds around the two-acre parking lot. By 2:30 p.m., all the flowers were in the ground, the painting was done, and the mulch was distributed. Denise Brummund, an accountant clerk at the conference office, said, "I was so amazed at how much fun we had with each other and the amount of work we accomplished."

Brian Castelluccio, Roseville Parks, Recreation & Libraries Superintendent, wrote, "Your team jumped right in, and I was blown away by how efficient they were. Mahany Regional Park looks refreshed, and we are already receiving great compliments. You have a great group of people working there."

Marc Woodson, NCC president, exclaimed after the workday, "I am so proud of our conference staff and their hard work today. They exhibited our core values of passionate hard work and a servant's heart, and I saw many acts of kindness. Many hands indeed make light work."

*By Ken Miller*

## Oakland Street Ministries Gain New Building

On November 12, The C.O.R.E. (Community, Outreach, Resources, and Education) celebrated its grand opening at the Market Street church in Oakland.

At the opening ceremony, local dignitaries and community partners expressed excitement about The C.O.R.E and its positive impact on the people of Oakland.

The building, initially constructed in 1911, was purchased by the church many years ago and was recently renovated into a facility to provide relevant support services to its neighbors, friends, and all those who seek to know more about Christ.

Located next door to the church, The C.O.R.E. is an expansion that will add to the 100-year legacy of the Market Street church in Oakland. As its first order of business, The C.O.R.E. hosted the Oakland Free Health Clinic on November 19. Dentists, hygienists, eye doctors, and mental health professionals were on-site to provide services to anyone in need.

According to Theresa Patterson, director of The C.O.R.E at Market Street, "We look forward to working with our neighbors and agency partners to spread the love of Jesus Christ throughout our community!"

*By Ken Miller*



# Students Choose Their Mission Field

**O**n October 7, students from Chico Oaks school served their community in unique ways. Each class team chose an act of kindness for someone in their community.

The kindergarten class collected donations for the Butte Humane Society and delivered them to the animals. Students in first and second grade gave out flowers and appreciation letters around the neighborhood. Third- and fourth-graders picked up trash while grades five to eight tidied up a local park and wrote letters to neighborhood veterans.

Principal Leslie Bartsch said, "These service opportunities set Adventist education apart from the rest. When academics and acts of service show love to our neighbors, we can foster an atmosphere of quality instruction and spiritual growth."

*By Yara Enamorado*



# 25 Countries in a Single Church

**C**apitol City church always looks for ways to interact, help, and engage the local community. On September 10, the church held its annual international day church service and potluck, which recognizes and celebrates the more than 25 countries represented in their church body.

Members and guests representing 25 nations were dressed in colorful attire from their respective countries. The potluck dinner was akin to an international bazaar with ethnic foods from the Caribbean, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, and the Americas. According to one attendee, "I was blown away by the friendliness of the staff and all the diverse clothing of their home countries. The food was phenomenal, and I can't wait for next year."

Carol Herbert, church member and mission council leader, said, "This year's international day was one of our best celebrations. We received compliments on everything, from the program and the set-up to the food. Praise God!"

*By Ken Miller*



# Active Church Reaches the Community

It has been a year of spiritual and relational growth for the Anderson church, and they are preparing for what comes next. As the fellowship strengthens, members have begun to anticipate opportunities to share faith and truth and to form intentional relationships with people to introduce them to Jesus. "Our church has changed so much," one church member explained. "We are busy, busy, busy! All good stuff! It's hard to capture the sense of optimism, growing closeness, and interest in growing spiritually that is evident now."

One intentional opportunity involved a lively and excited group of Adventurer Club members. Along with parents, friends, and other supporters from the church, they participated in the annual parade and Christmas tree lighting in downtown Anderson.

The Adventurer Club children were featured on the main stage, where they beautifully and confidently sang several familiar Christmas carols. Perhaps the most exciting thing for the kids was riding in the parade on a beautiful light-covered float. The kids sang and waved as they rode the parade route along with many other floats and lighted cars.

The Anderson Adventurer Club was organized earlier this year by Jennevi Yabut, wife of Anderson church pastor Ron Yabut, and it quickly grew in membership to more than 20 children. Before the club's launch, there were around five children in this age group at the church.

After the parade, everyone gathered at The Annex, a supporting ministry of the Anderson church, just two blocks from the town's lighted Christmas tree, where tents and tables were set up on the sidewalk. Parade attendees returning to their cars were offered free hot soup and crackers, fruit, cookies, and hot cocoa, with coloring books for the children.

Another intentional opportunity took place on



the Sunday before Thanksgiving when the Anderson church held a Thanksgiving dinner to which community neighbors were invited. The expectation was that around 50 to 60 people would attend the event, which was planned and beautifully executed by the church social and special events committee. Carol Hodges, the special events coordinator said, "To our surprise, actual attendance topped 160 people!"

Hodges and her helpers planned, prepared and served a complete holiday dinner menu. Mae Reyes and members of the social committee beautifully decorated the room. Pastor Yabut started the festivities with a brief but profoundly reflective talk on giving thanks. Upbeat music, humor, and a gift raffle added to the overall celebratory feel of the event.

One member stated, "The highlight of the evening was engaging with current friends, meeting new people, welcoming the community members who attended, and sharing Christ's love."

*By Adeline Jackson*





## PUC ALUM'S LIFE OF SERVICE: "There Has Always Been a Place for Me in Missions"

**M**ary Johnson's first international mission trip to Mexico led her to change her major—and marked a turning point in her life.

During spring break of her freshman year at Pacific Union College, Mary and the Korean Club partnered with Maranatha Volunteers International to help build a church in Guamúchil, Sinaloa, in Northwestern Mexico. She said she had several "real conversations" with local residents about how wonderful it is to work for God and decided to switch her major from liberal studies to Spanish.

Another memory from the trip made an indelible impact. "I will never forget that last night, as we fellowshiped together in the newly built church. A young girl came up to me and said in Spanish, 'There will always be a place for you in Guamúchil,'" Mary recalled. "While I have yet to return to that little church we built, there has always been a place for me in missions."

Indeed, since that trip nearly two decades ago, Mary has served on almost 70 mission trips locally and worldwide. She first graduated from PUC in 1999 with a degree in Spanish and later earned her master's degree

in education in 2001. After college, she spent a year as a missionary in Puerto Rico as a fourth- to sixth-grade social studies teacher. Mary even took a year off from her career as a high school Spanish teacher to go on as many mission trips as possible. She went on 18 trips in just 13 months.

Nearly half of Mary's trips and projects have been with Maranatha, and she's come to feel like the members—from all over the world—are family.

The leadership of Steve Case, the longtime director of many multi-group and summer family projects for the organization, has particularly impacted Mary. She described Case as organized, patient, congenial, and composed—but most of all, submissive to the Lord's will. Through his example, she learned that God is the true leader of any mission trip, and it's most important to surrender to His leading.

Case says Mary's strong commitment to Christ stands out. Mary "devotes her life to loving God and serving others," he said. "She's a woman of conviction and action that matches her conviction."

One of the best things about Mary is that she makes things fun. Ask anyone what's most memorable about

Mary, and high on that list is her wonderful laugh.

"It's spontaneous," Case said, "and it jump-starts a group or changes a potentially tense moment into a fun time."

Mary loves mission work for many reasons—for the people she meets and the experience of being in other cultures and countries. But, she said, there is one sole purpose for all of her trips—spreading the gospel around the world to hasten Jesus' return.

For Mary, mission trips remind her that everywhere she goes is a mission field. While doing errands near her school in Brentwood or home in Antioch, California, she leaves tracts and magazines at gas pumps, ATMs, or on car door handles.

Along with her sister, Angel Johnson, '93, who has also served as a missionary on nearly a third of her trips, Mary enjoys volunteering locally. They've worked at the Concord church food bank, sent shoe box gifts through Operation Christmas Child, and prepared care packages for delivery to missionary friends in the Philippines.

Mary's mission work has ranged from construction projects and landscaping to translating and even preaching. In addition to Maranatha, she's worked with Build and Restore, The Quiet Hour, Broken Chains for

Humanity, and Amazing Facts, among many others.

But where she finds the most joy is working with children's ministries.

Children's ministries usually include leading Vacation Bible School, which Mary does, but Case said she does so much more. She has the "attitude and practice of jumping right into things," which he said results in lots of "activity and progress." Mary always immerses herself in neighborhoods, schools, homes, and parks—wherever there are kids.

Mary's last meeting with every group of children—no matter what country she is in—is the same. Together, she and the children make crowns and talk about heaven. She reminds them that no matter where they are in the world—be it Zambia, Mexico, or the Philippines—they will all see Jesus coming at the same time.

With tears in her eyes, Mary tells them she looks forward to meeting them in the air on that glorious day—a day when her lifelong mission is fulfilled and she and so many others she's ministered to will go home to live with Jesus forever.

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*By Laura Gang*

*Here are three of Mary's favorite memories, in her own words, from her children's ministries around the world:*

**INDIA:** "I led children's ministry there for hundreds of kids at a time—ranging from preschool to sixth grade—all in the school auditorium. I taught them about the power of prayer—that it's a two-way street. It's not just us talking to God; we need to listen too. So when we prayed, we had some moments of silence to hear God speak. Even with hundreds of kids, you could hear a pin drop as we listened for God's voice."

**MEXICO:** "I did a children's program while the adults were in the evangelistic series. I had a small group, so I could get to know the kids. At the end of the week, a child gave me a teddy bear. At first, I did not want to accept the gift, but the child insisted. I didn't want the child to miss out on the blessing of giving, so I finally accepted it and have kept it to this day."

**PHILIPPINES:** "I just fell in love with this little 3-year-old boy. He loved to sing with me and sit on my lap at church. However, I do not speak Visayan, and he didn't know very much English. He would talk to me in Visayan, and I would talk to him in English. Then one day, an older child told him, 'Teacher Mary only speaks English.' His eyes brightened, and he began exclaiming 'Dolphin!' 'Doggie!' and other words he knew in English. I long for the day when I will see him again, and we will speak the same language—the language of heaven."



# CELEBRATING A CENTURY: Three Churches Honor Their History

On October 22, 2022, three churches in the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) celebrated big-number anniversaries with special services, events, and guests.

## 31st Street church: 100 years

"It's the mother church," commented Rashad Burden, lead pastor of the 31st Street church in San Diego. The two other predominantly Black Adventist churches in the city were birthed from 31st Street. "There's something special about being the place where so many people met Jesus."

The 31st Street church has been celebrating their 100th anniversary all year, starting in March with a series of sermons presented by former 31st Street pastors. They also started a Friendship Walk, in which, one Sabbath a month, members walk a mile or two around the neighborhood after church and engage with their neighbors. A 100-mile walking challenge over the year emphasized the church's health ministry program, and several members have already surpassed the 100 miles.

During what the church called "Homecoming Weekend" in October, beloved former pastors spoke

and provided music for services, and the congregation enjoyed a special gala Saturday night at the Legacy Center in downtown San Diego. The culminating event was a field day on Sunday, complete with food, games, and community.

"Looking into the future, we are truly focused on manifesting our mission through our ministries," Burden said. "We're not a megachurch, but that doesn't mean we can't do mega-ministry."

## Crestline church: 107 years

Originally, this congregation thought they were celebrating 100 years in 2020. As they waited out the pandemic, however, further research revealed that the church was actually founded in 1915, making their eventual celebration in 2022 their 107th anniversary.

"This building was actually once the local bar," shared Pavel Rudoy, pastor of the Crestline church. "Our Sabbath service speaker, SECC President

Jonathan Park, talked about churches that have become other things, like libraries and restaurants. He pointed out how wonderful it is that within the walls where people used to imbibe alcoholic spirits, it is now the Holy Spirit filling those here."

Rudoy feels Crestline church is unique in the sense that it gives the favorable impression of being far removed from the city, with 88 curves leading up the mountain



31st Street church members gather for the Friendship Walk.





Crestline members gather for a group photo in celebration.

road to the town's forested, lakeside surroundings.

"We often get young adults visiting from Loma Linda University," he commented. "They want a break from city life, and they like our family atmosphere."

As for the near future, the church has successfully raised enough funds to hire a Bible worker to go door-to-door within the community, inviting neighbors to Bible studies and church services.

"We pray always to grow," Rudoy said. "We are a small, friendly church, and we think many others would like it here, too."

### La Sierra University church: 100 years

Though now known for being the large, diverse congregation next to the university campus, La Sierra University church was originally made up of the founders of La Sierra Academy in 1922, and in October, the church, university, and academy all celebrated their 100th anniversaries.

"One fun thing we did for the Sabbath service was experience how worship has adapted over time," explained Raewyn Orlich, associate pastor at La Sierra University church. "To illustrate this, we sang

along to worship music in three different styles, utilizing organ, piano, and band."

The service included a fun segment on what life was like in 1922. An additional highlight was an interview with Kevin Olusola of Pentatonix fame, who shared about his spiritual journey, his mess-ups, and what God was teaching him through it all. Former pastors were invited to attend. Over a dozen did, with some spanning as far back as

the 1980s. The mayor of Riverside also said a few words, thanking the church for being truly present in and supportive of the local community.

At the end of the service, the children led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer—part of La Sierra's weekly liturgy—representing the generation who will continue to lead long after those currently leading are no more.

"What's ahead of us now is to keep in tradition with what is behind us," said Iki Taimi, La Sierra church senior pastor. "This is to say, to clearly live, love, and teach the ways of Jesus for as long as we can to as many as we can, striving to be authentic, transparent, inclusive, and compassionate."

*By Becky St. Clair*



Kevin Olusola of Pentatonix shares his testimony at La Sierra University church.



LEFT: Filip Milosavljevic and Kelly Lin lead a breakout session. RIGHT: Jo Amaya and Laia Amaya worship with song.

## Pass the Baton: SECC Youth Ministry Convention

The Southeastern California Conference (SECC) Youth Ministries Department hosted a one-day leadership convention at the Loma Linda University church on October 30, 2022. The youth ministries department had worked tirelessly on a weekend leadership convention to be held earlier in October, but the Hemet fire changed their plans. With much thought and prayer, the youth directors decided to cancel that gathering. Even though this was the right decision to make, there was a bit of disappointment. The youth team still wanted to put on a convention, so this one-day leadership event was born.

Attendees from all over the state checked in at the registration table, received their badges, and walked into the auditorium ready for the first general session. Worship team members, Jo and Laia Amaya, led the attendees in praise and worship. SECC Youth Director Aren Rennacker delivered the first general session address. Attendees had time to share what they took away from the first address. One attendee shared that she had desperately wanted to attend the convention and prayed for the dates to get changed. She was only able to attend

because the earlier one had been canceled.

Throughout the day, attendees were able to attend breakout sessions to attain new skills for their ministries. Mark Ricalde, Calimesa associate pastor and breakout presenter, shared tips on how to have proper organizational skills in ministry. He showed attendees different planning apps and tools. Ricalde shared, "It was inspiring to see the people who are interested in our children and youth come from all backgrounds and ages. I personally learned about scaling up my youth ministry teams from Pastor Jo Cordero!"

After the breakout sessions, everyone gathered for one last inspiring message from Meshach Soli, SECC Associate Youth Director of Club Ministries, who reminded leaders to continue to pass the baton to the youth, the future of our church. The convention ended with an anointing service for the youth leaders across the conference. This convention was a learning experience for many leaders, and it ignited hope to see people still passionately serving our church's young people.

*By Alexy Montenegro*

# Pablo Santos and Gatra Suhari Ordained to the Gospel Ministry

**T**he Southeastern California Conference (SECC) ordained Pablo Santos at La Sierra Spanish church and Gatra Suhari at the Azure Hills church.

Born in Ijuí, Brazil, Santos grew up ministering through music with his family. Alongside his father, mother, sister, and brother, he traveled all over the world sharing the gospel.

At age 11, Santos and his family moved to Riverside, California. The music ministry remained active as he finished high school and later obtained a B.S. in electronic engineering technology.

While working as an engineer and singing with his family, Santos felt a calling from God to become a pastor.

"I enjoyed being an engineer," said Santos. "But when I got the call to ministry, I knew I had to listen and pray about it carefully with my wife."

After much prayer, Santos and his wife put their plans aside to answer God's call. In May 2011, they moved to Andrews University and began a new chapter where he completed his Master of Divinity. In 2015, they returned to California, where Santos served as a youth pastor at Panamericana Spanish church in Los Angeles.

"Now, as youth pastor for La Sierra Spanish, I get the opportunity to focus on ministering to the youth in our church," said Santos. "It's a privilege to work with young people and show them how God can move in their lives."



Officers present gifts to the Santos family.



The Suharis bow during the ordination prayer.

Gatra Suhari serves his congregation as youth pastor at Azure Hills church.

Originally from the islands of Indonesia, he migrated to the U.S. as a teenager and attended Redlands Adventist Academy. He then went to La Sierra University, where he earned a B.A. in religious studies.

As early as his senior year of high school, Suhari recognized God's call to ministry.

"God planted a desire in me to serve," said Suhari. "At the time, I wasn't sure what direction life would take me or the timing. One day after meeting with a few spiritual mentors, I was encouraged to enter ministry full time. Through much prayer and meditation, I decided to answer God's call to pastoral ministry."

Suhari recently earned his Master of Divinity from Andrews University, rounding off his lifelong education in Adventist institutions.

"Now I get to serve our youth in this next chapter of my life," said Suhari. "I sense God using me to engage and cultivate our next generation of leaders in uncommon spaces. I'm excited to see how God is going to continue to grow and lead me."

SECC is blessed to have Santos and Suhari, both of whom are dedicated to enriching the spiritual lives of the youth they serve.

*By Danni Thaw*

# Russian-American Church Celebrates Harvest Program With Baptisms

Each year during the fall, the Russian-American church celebrates Harvest—a tradition with roots in Central and Eastern Europe signifying the end of the harvest season—with food, music, stories, and praises to God for His provision throughout the year. This year’s celebration was made memorable with the baptisms of four people.

Holding the baptisms during the harvest celebration was especially meaningful. “We understand that these baptisms are like a harvest too,” said Anatoliy Gurduiala, senior pastor of the congregation for 12 years. “It’s harvest for God and new souls.”

Ruslan, a young adult, moved to the United States from Russia about a year ago. At that time, he was hoping to make new friends. Six months later, he connected with a young adult church member who invited him to visit—and he’s been attending ever since.

Ludmila was attending a Baptist church in Fresno when she met an Adventist person who introduced her to the faith, prompting her own Bible studies. When she moved to the Los Angeles area, she found the Russian-American church and began attending, soon making her decision for baptism.

Violina and her family moved from Ukraine to the United States several months ago. She and her family were previously part of an Orthodox church. For years, the young girl had wanted to be baptized. She

quickly became active in the Russian-American church, reaffirming her decision.

Oleg left the Adventist church four years ago. Originally from Ukraine, he recently moved to the United States. Upon his arrival, he decided he was ready to come back to the faith. His decision for baptism has, in many ways, marked a new beginning for him.

While baptisms are not new for the congregation of 100, and more people still are preparing for baptism, Gurduiala recognizes the unique position his church is in to help refugees from Ukraine and Russia. “God is sending new people to our church,” he shared. “Every Saturday, we have at least 10 new people. When they come to the U.S., they have no place to stay. They go to local shelters, which have our information, and then they come to our church.”

The church’s 12-year food ministry has been especially impactful during this time, providing food, clothing, shoes, and additional resources to the families and groups who have been displaced by the war.

“We are wanting to start a new ministry for the refugees who have come from Ukraine and Russia,” Gurduiala added. “I understand this is the time to work with them, help them, and introduce Jesus to them.”

By Araya Moss



LEFT: (From left to right) Gurduiala, Oleg, Ruslan, Violina, and Ludmila pose for a photo before the baptisms. ABOVE LEFT: Gurduiala (left) presents the newest members to the rest of the church family. ABOVE RIGHT: Oleg and Gurduiala embrace following Oleg’s baptism.

PHOTOS: RUSSIAN-AMERICAN CHURCH FACEBOOK



PHOTO: STEVE FUJITA

PHOTOS: ARAYA MOSS

**ABOVE RIGHT:** During the service, Southern California Conference Treasurer/CFO Kathleen Diaz presented a check to the church for \$7,500 in recognition of this milestone anniversary. **BELOW RIGHT:** The CJACC ukulele group played an acoustic rendition of “The Old Rugged Cross” for special music.

## Central Japanese-American Community Church Celebrates 75th Anniversary

**I**n November, the Central Japanese-American Community Church (CJACC) celebrated 75 years of ministry.

The history of the Japanese Adventist church in California can be traced back to a man named Teruhiko Okohira, who accepted the Adventist message in 1892 as a Japanese student in Paso Robles, Calif., becoming the first Adventist of Japanese ancestry in the Pacific Union. After completing studies at Pacific Union College (PUC), he followed a calling to share the message and continue his ministry in Tokyo, joined by PUC president William C. Grainger. Okohira and Grainger today are known for starting the Adventist movement in Japan.

Years later, his son, Alfred T. Okohira, became the first pastor of the Japanese church in Los Angeles (today CJACC) upon its organization as an independent church on January 26, 1946.

With 26 pastors and four different moves between facilities, CJACC has seen God’s leading throughout the past 75 years. Many ministries have begun, and traditions have stayed strong through the years: children and family ministries, Sansei day camp, junior choir, Pathfinders, celebration of Keiro No Hi (Respect for Elders Day), the tradition of mochitsuki (pounding sweet rice), and more. The 2022 celebration service was a recognition of all that brought the congregation to this point.

“As Adventists of Japanese culture or descent in the greater Los Angeles area, it’s our unique mission to destroy cultural barriers against the gospel for people

identifying with Japanese culture,” Patty Hokama, CJACC head elder, said. “Only one percent of the population in Japan are Christian, so when families come from Japan, we have the opportunity to introduce them to Christianity. It’s also important to preserve Japanese culture in the new generations who are not familiar with many of the Japanese traditions.”

Pastor Dean Horinouchi (CJACC associate pastor, 1980-1991) shared the morning’s sermon, using the following quote as an outline for his message: “Anniversaries are celebrated to mark significant events which could be happy, sorrowful, personal, or cultural.”

“Our celebration is for a church, and although the Japanese gathered weekly—they spoke Japanese, they ate potluck, with probably sushi—church is not a kenjinkai, or a cultural meeting, for Japanese people,” Horinouchi said. “And although we had many fun activities, all kinds of socials, the church is not a social club. Church is a place where people meet God and learn about His love and His salvation.”

“This 75th anniversary, we celebrate how Japanese immigrants were able to persevere and survive, but most importantly finding hope in Jesus Christ,” Horinouchi continued. “We also praise God that, because this church has been faithful in preaching the gospel, you and I and many Japanese will be included in that great multitude in God’s eternal kingdom.”

*By Lauren Lacson*



**ABOVE:** One attendee is baptized at the Memorial Day weekend retreat at Camp Cedar Falls. (Left to right) David Solis, Pasadena Bible instructor; Cynthia Calderon, baptismal candidate; and Pastor Michael Johnson. **RIGHT:** New members gather following their baptism at the conclusion of the Seeds of Truth Bible series.



PHOTOS: DENISE JOHNSON

## Pasadena Church Celebrates 30+ Baptisms After Year of Evangelism

**2**022 was an eventful and rewarding year for Pasadena church.

At the start of the year, the church began planning for their yearly evangelistic community effort: the Seeds of Truth Bible series to take place in the fall. An evangelism committee was developed, a team of Bible workers was trained and established, and a calendar of pre-work activities was set. Three major community events were scheduled and organized: a youth conference in May held at Camp Cedar Falls, a community baby shower in July, and a health fair in October.

At the close of the May retreat, 13 souls were baptized as a result of the preaching and seminars during this event. Others were scheduled to be baptized following the completion of Bible study courses provided by church members. Many young people also reconsecrated their lives to Jesus on the mountaintop and began attending the Pasadena church.

When summer came, it was time for the community baby shower. The church welcomed 21 expectant moms referred by various organizations, including GenerationHer for teen moms, Door of Hope Shelter for single moms, and the Pasadena Chapter of Black Infant Health. Women from the church exchanged contact information with the moms and have developed friendships with them, inviting them to future events.

Each of these three events functioned as bridge

events leading up to the evangelistic series. “We know that we can’t initially reach everyone with an evangelistic series alone,” said Michael Johnson, Pasadena church pastor. “Today, we find that people are interested in healthy living, hence our health fairs. Health is truly the entering wedge to the gospel.”

The health fair with a blood drive was the last major community event, taking place during the Seeds of Truth Bible series. “Seeds of Truth is the name of the 21-guide Bible study series created by End Times Like These Ministries,” Michael Johnson explained. “We believe that seekers can best understand and accept God’s Word by covering many fundamental truths in a short, condensed-style series—seeds—rather than full extensive messages.” At the conclusion of the series, there were more than 20 baptisms.

“Our plans for 2023 will be a repeat of 2022, as we have found our youth conference, community baby shower, and health fair to be of great interest to our community members,” shared Denise Johnson, Pasadena church evangelism coordinator. “We plan to focus more on children’s ministries, such as Vacation Bible School and Pathfinders, encouraging our children in the community of Pasadena to attend while providing women and men support groups for parents and others seeking love, acceptance, and support.”

*By Denise Johnson and Lauren Lacson*

# Sylmar Church Welcomes Eight Young People Through Baptism

Last fall, Sylmar church celebrated the baptisms of eight children, youth, and young adults.

While working out at a local gym, Adrienne Loaiza overheard a personal trainer, Rick Ballestero, member of Sylmar church, commenting about his belief in God to one of his clients. As Adrienne, a Cal State University Northridge student, listened, he became curious and did not delay asking questions when the opportunity arose. In turn, Ballestero was quick to answer his questions.

"I never hesitate to share my faith in my workplace," he said. Sensing Loaiza had a lot more questions, Ballestero invited him to join a small study group meeting at a local park. Loaiza responded to the invitation, bringing two university friends with him, Destiny Fuentes and Michael Duarte, who also had been studying the Bible.

Soon Ballestero invited all of them to attend church with him. Near the close of the service on their first Sabbath visiting the Sylmar church, Senior Pastor John Aitken Sr. asked if anyone in the congregation would like to follow Jesus by taking the step of baptism. Loaiza, Fuentes, and Duarte responded and began taking Bible studies at the church.

On Sabbath, October 29, Loaiza, Fuentes, and Duarte were baptized along with five others, including Mitchell Won, a student at Loma Linda University.

"The Holy Spirit had truly led these young adults on a unique journey and a desire to study the Bible," Aitken



PHOTO: HARRYETTE AITKEN

said of the baptism, "including a fascination with how archaeology perfectly fits into the sweep of history, proving the Bible's accuracy."

Duarte truly represented all the candidates as he shared his thoughts while he was in the baptistry. "Today is the day I have decided to follow the Lord, walk in His truth, and abide in His Spirit," he said. "Thank you, Jesus!" Each of the young adults echoed the strong leading of God's presence in their lives.

Not long ago, Sylmar was a small church with an older population and few children. Today, the church rejoices over the leading of God's Spirit in the influx of families and young adults now a part of the vibrant church family!

By *Harryette Aitken*



PHOTO: JASMIN BASE

TOP: Newly baptized members of Sylmar church gather for a photo with Aitken (center), holding their new Bibles and certificates. (Left to right, front row) Mitchell Won, Tiffanie Pham, Joash Adlawan, Zyana Juan, Kysha Lastima, (left to right, back row) Destiny Fuentes, Adrienne Loaiza, and Michael Duarte. LEFT: Candidates are seated before baptisms begin. Additional robes were borrowed from Living Stones church.

# Chaplaincy Training Center Opens at Adventist Health White Memorial

**T**he new center for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Adventist Health White Memorial (AHWM) has enrolled three full cohorts—24 students—since opening in August 2022.

The center provides in-person and online professional chaplaincy training in English and Spanish for individuals from a variety of faith traditions.

“We were working very hard to launch the program and praying as a team that God would bless the center. Before we finished producing informational materials about the program, God sent us the people,” said Roberto Vizcaino, CPE supervisor and AHWM senior chaplain.

CPE training includes in-depth study of ethics, psychology, sociology, family and group interactions, trauma and crisis management, and more. Faculty come from diverse backgrounds, including professional chaplains, doctors, nurses, and psychologists. The AHWM CPE center is currently in a pre-accreditation process and will be considered for seven-year accreditation by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy.

Each of the four CPE units offered at the center involves 300 hours of clinical visitation in the hospital and 100 hours in group dynamic meetings. At the end of each unit, participants receive a certificate. To qualify for the program, participants must have a bachelor’s degree; most participants have a master’s degree in theology or similar area of study and many years of experience in pastoral care.

The center has attracted students from across the country and from a variety of religious cultures. Current cohorts include pastors from a variety of denominations and graduate students from Azusa Pacific University and Fuller Theological Seminary. “They come from all areas,” Vizcaino said. “Part of CPE training is about how we can understand other faiths and religious cultures. CPE is about respecting the religious culture of different people and how they can receive and provide support using their own faith and religious culture.”

“Every hospital needs people to provide spiritual care who are trained in how to listen to the patient, how to identify their concerns, how to respect their religious culture, how to be a facilitator in the spiritual process



AHWM staff attending the dedication ceremony included, from left, Simulation Center Coordinator Nestor Mondragon; CPE Supervisor and AHWM Senior Chaplain Roberto Vizcaino; Senior Administrative Assistant Karla Chicas; and Bioethicist Michael Jordan.

of dying, how to help them manage the crisis of their situation. Chaplains need to be trained in order to provide this care,” said Vizcaino.

Prior to joining the AHWM team, Vizcaino established a CPE center at Bella Vista Hospital in Puerto Rico and supervised the program for more than 10 years. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theology, a Master of Ministry degree, and is working on a doctoral degree. He was a pastor for eight years before becoming board certified as a chaplain, counselor, and CPE diploma supervisor.

Chaplains carry heavy responsibilities to provide emotional and spiritual support and to help alleviate fears during some of life’s most difficult moments. Vizcaino says the most important thing about the new AHWM CPE center is that the training he and his team provide will help develop chaplains who will in turn provide excellent spiritual care for patients, their family members, and their healthcare providers.

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*By Kim Strobel*

Learn more about spiritual care at [Adventist Health at AdventistHealth.org/services/spiritual-care](https://AdventistHealth.org/services/spiritual-care).



# Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

## The Nondiscrimination Statement is as follows:

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

## Nondiscrimination Listing 2022-2023 School Year

### Arizona Conference

Adobe Adventist Christian School  
Cochise SDA Christian School  
Glenview Adventist Academy  
Prescott Adventist Christian School  
Saguaro Hills Adventist Christian School  
Thunderbird Adventist Academy  
Thunderbird Christian Elementary  
Verde Valley Adventist School  
Yuma Adventist Christian School

### Central California Conference

Armona Union Academy  
Bakersfield Adventist Academy  
Central Valley Christian Academy  
Chowchilla Adventist School  
Dinuba Junior Academy  
Foothill SDA Elementary  
Fresno Adventist Academy  
Hollister SDA Christian School  
Los Banos Adventist Christian School  
Miramonte SDA Christian School  
Monterey Bay Academy  
Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy  
Mountain View Academy  
Peninsula Adventist School  
San Francisco Adventist School  
Sierra View Junior Academy  
Templeton Hills Adventist School  
Valley View Junior Academy  
VHM Christian School

### Hawaii Conference

Adventist Malama Elementary School  
Hawaiian Mission Academy (9-12)  
Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki  
Hawaiian Mission Academy Maui  
Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward  
Campus  
Kahili Adventist School  
Kohala Adventist School  
Kona Adventist Christian School  
Mauna Loa School

### Nevada-Utah Conference

Bishop Seventh-day Adventist  
Elementary  
Fallon SDA Elementary School  
Riverview Christian Academy  
Summit Christian Academy  
Susanville Seventh-day Adventist School  
Vegas Valley Adventist Academy

### Northern California Conference

Adventist Christian Elementary School of  
Red Bluff  
Adventist Christian School of Yuba City  
Chico Oaks Adventist School  
Clearlake SDA Christian School  
Crescent City SDA School  
Echo Ridge Christian School  
El Dorado Adventist School  
Feather River Adventist School  
Foothills Adventist Elementary School  
Fortuna Junior Academy  
Galt Adventist Christian School  
Hilltop Christian School  
Humboldt Bay Christian School  
Lodi Academy  
Lodi SDA Elementary School  
Middletown Adventist School  
Napa Christian Campus of Education  
Orangevale SDA School  
Pacific Union College Elementary School  
Pacific Union College Preparatory School  
Paradise Adventist Academy  
Paradise Adventist Elementary School  
Pine Hills Adventist Academy  
Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy  
Redding Adventist Academy  
Redwood Adventist Academy  
Rio Lindo Adventist Academy  
Sacramento Adventist Academy  
Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School  
Ukiah Junior Academy  
Vacaville Adventist Christian School  
Westlake SDA School  
Yreka Adventist Christian School

### Southeastern California Conference

Calexico Mission School  
Desert Adventist School  
El Cajon SDA School  
Escondido Adventist Academy  
La Sierra Academy  
Laguna Niguel Junior Academy  
Loma Linda Academy  
Mentone SDA School  
Mesa Grande Academy  
Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian  
School  
Needles SDA School  
Oceanside Adventist Elementary  
Orangewood Academy  
Redlands Adventist Academy  
San Antonio Christian School  
San Diego Academy  
Valley Adventist Christian School  
Victor Valley SDA School

### Southern California Conference

Adventist Education Simi Valley  
Adventist Union School  
Antelope Valley Adventist School  
Conejo Adventist Elementary School  
East Valley Adventist School  
Glendale Adventist Academy  
Linda Vista Adventist School  
Los Angeles Adventist Academy  
Newbury Park Adventist Academy  
Ridgecrest Adventist Elementary  
San Fernando Valley Academy  
San Gabriel Academy  
South Bay Christian School  
West Covina Hills SDA School

### Pacific Union Conference Operated School

Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian  
School

# Calendar

## Central California Conference

**Abide Forever Christian Women's Retreat** (Jan. 27-29) at Tenaya Lodge, featuring keynote speakers Sandi Colon and Deann Bragaw. They will share on how to spread the love of Jesus. You will be uplifted, encouraged, and hopeful on this journey. Find registrations details at [www.CCCAdventist.org/events](http://www.CCCAdventist.org/events).

**Arise and Go training** is coming to areas across Central California. You'll learn that developing a small group is easier than you think. Come find out how you can make a difference. Meetings are held in the afternoon. Locations as follows: Feb. 4 at Monterey Bay Academy church; Feb. 11 at Bakersfield Hillcrest; Feb. 18 at San Francisco Filipino; Feb. 25 at Fresno Westside; Mar. 4 at Visalia; Mar. 11 at San Jose Spanish; Mar. 18 at Santa Maria; Mar. 25 at Modesto Parkwood. Go to [www.CCCAdventist.org](http://www.CCCAdventist.org) for church times, addresses, and directions.

## Advertising

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

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### Information

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](mailto:recorder@adventistfaith.com).

### Upcoming Deadlines

These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.  
February: *January 5* • March: *February 6*

### Contributions

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

**Check the Events page online** at [www.CCCAdventist.org](http://www.CCCAdventist.org) for all the updates.

## La Sierra University

**Faculty Recital Series** (Jan. 15) 5 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. Featuring a French period piano, violinist Ken Aiso and pianist Valeria Morgovskaya will play a repertoire of works written for their instruments. Admission is free. For further information, email [music@lasierra.edu](mailto:music@lasierra.edu) or call 951-785-2036.

**Orchestra Concert.** The La Sierra University Orchestra will give a performance on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. Admission is free. For further information, email [music@lasierra.edu](mailto:music@lasierra.edu) or call 951-785-2036.

**World Museum of Natural History.** 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](mailto:Advancement@lasierra.edu), 951-785-2500, or <https://lasierra.edu/world-museum-of-natural-history/>

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

## Pacific Union College

**Color & Light: Paintings and Pastels by Dan Scannell** (Jan. 14-Feb. 12) at Rasmussen Art Gallery. Dan Scannell, an award-winning artist from Sonoma County, will showcase his artwork of vibrant colors and cool shadows. Free admission.

**College Days** (Feb. 5-7). Pacific Union College will host its College Days for high school juniors and other students interested in visiting. This is the perfect opportunity to see college life at PUC, get to know professors and department heads through classes and worship, and have your questions answered. PUC would love to have you visit campus and meet the Pioneers family. Sign up on [www.puc.edu/visit](http://www.puc.edu/visit), contact PUC by emailing [visit@puc.edu](mailto:visit@puc.edu), or call 800-962-7080, option 2, to learn more.

## Classified

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**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](mailto:info@sphereanalytics.us) and visit us at [www.sphereanalytics.us](http://www.sphereanalytics.us) today!

## Employment

**Southeastern California Conference is seeking a full-time Associate Treasurer for Risk Management and General Services.** This position works under the direction of the conference treasurer to plan, direct, and coordinate risk management programs, with churches, schools, and conference office, to control risks and losses. This position also directs the general services of the conference, which includes moving, maintenance, warehouse, security, safety, and switchboard oversight, as well as custodial and grounds/landscaping and security services contracts. For information and a copy of the job description, please contact the SECC Human Resources Department at [humanresources@seccsda.org](mailto:humanresources@seccsda.org) or 951-509-2351.



The poster features a watercolor background with the text "inspire | 2023" in a stylized font. Below it, "Here By Design" is written in a large, purple, outlined font. The event details are: "February 17-19, Phoenix, AZ" and "Adventist Worship Center" at "15220 N. 39th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85053". A central text block reads: "If you have a passion for bringing good to life through the arts and creative expression, join us for this unique experience that is free and open to all!" Below this is "More Info: VisitInSpire.org". The poster includes several portrait photos of participants: Alfred Lee, Milton Coronado, Alan Lacy, Antoine Augustus, Duane Calkins, Jonny & Stephanie Wilczynski, and Mark Kibble. The background also features faint musical notes and a stack of books.

**inspire | 2023**

**Here By Design**

**February 17-19, Phoenix, AZ**  
**Adventist Worship Center**  
15220 N. 39th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85053

If you have a passion for bringing good to life through the arts and creative expression, join us for this unique experience that is free and open to all!

**More Info: VisitInSpire.org**

Alfred Lee  
Milton Coronado  
Alan Lacy  
Antoine Augustus  
Duane Calkins  
Jonny & Stephanie Wilczynski  
Mark Kibble

A collaborative effort of the Arizona Conference and Pacific Union Conference Creative Ministries

[f](#) [p](#)

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

**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 ddannal@aol.com or call 805-237-0062 for further information.

**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](http://HolbrookIndianSchool.org/jobs).

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

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

**Camp Cedar Falls positions available immediately.**

### 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.

Assistant cook, general kitchen worker—full time. Cafeteria, weekend staff—part time. Please visit the Southern California Conference website ([www.scc.adventist.org](http://www.scc.adventist.org)) and click on Human Resources (under the "Departments" tab) for information and job descriptions. Please contact Jesse Guardado, camp manager, at [campcedarfalls@sbcglobal.net](mailto:campcedarfalls@sbcglobal.net) or call 360-823-3932 or 909-805-4104 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

**Pacific Union College is seeking a full-time Housing Coordinator.** Major duties include coordination of

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

**Marketing & Communication at Pacific Union College is seeking a part-time Front-end Web Developer** to assist the webmaster. Duties include general website updates, preparing analytics and SEO reports, and building HTML emails. This person should have proven experience in web development, including in-depth knowledge of HTML, CSS, and javascript. They should be skilled in modern responsive design practices, know SEO and accessibility, have graphics skills, and have a marketing mindset. Position open until filled. Apply at [puc.edu/current-job-postings](http://puc.edu/current-job-postings) or contact [webmaster@puc.edu](mailto:webmaster@puc.edu).

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

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

**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](mailto:liz@impact-hope.org). [Impact-hope.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:HR@htipllc.com).

## Real Estate

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

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

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

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**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.

**6+ acres of beautiful land** that is attached to our homestead. We're located rurally, 1 mile north of the Prescott National Forest in north-central Arizona. The land is a mix of native grasses and juniper and pinyon pine trees. Several super building sites give 80-mile views of the San Francisco Peaks, north of Flagstaff, AZ. The property is completely fenced. Good soil, and unlimited water (30 GPM natural hydrostatic pressure) from an underground aquifer, make it an extremely valuable location in terms of growing gardens, fruit trees, or keeping animals. Our 5,300 ft. elevation and low humidity give you 4 seasons that are very livable! We're offering you off-the-beaten-path seclusion and safety! So if you're ready to act on the counsel given to us by Sister White, give us a call! Mike and Karen Craig, 928-607-4674, livingforHim@gmx.com.

## For Sale

**Houseboat at Lake Don Pedro,** Fleming Meadows, 35 minutes east of Modesto, Calif. Master bedroom with bathroom and shower, guest bathroom, living room with hide-a-bed and two recliners, TV, gas fireplace, full kitchen with two refrigerators/freezers covered upper deck for family, Pathfinder events, etc. Can sleep 20 in sleeping bags. Twin engine power and Sea-Doo personal watercraft. \$110,000 for 1/3 ownership, plus monthly dues of \$375 to cover slip rental, insurances, taxes, and routine repairs and maintenance. Call: Dan Garcia 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. Retail new 5 years ago for \$68,400. Asking \$32,900. Contact Andre van Niekerk @ 949-338-8865 or email docandrevan@gmail.com. Serious inquiries only, please.

**Piano for sale by owner:** \$29,999 or best offer. 1926 Steinway Model M 5'7" ebony with original ivory. Completely restored in 1990. 2005 appraisal for \$25,000. Looks brand new. Please call 209-931-9619. Email: bhbm1959@gmail.com.

## 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

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

**Health food store:** 37 years in great small-town location. Owners retiring. Looking for mission-minded entrepreneurs seeking quiet country living in Goldendale, Washington. Vibrant SDA school and church in town. Easy access to Portland and Walla Walla. Contact: Willard 509-250-1188 or 509-773-4176. Email: thegristmill121@gmail.com

## 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 Bible Tour** 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. 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

**Anderson, Ralph** – b. Apr. 13, 1935, Stanwood, Wash.; d. Oct. 6, 2022, College Place, Wash. Survivors: wife, Marlene; son, David; daughter, Sheryl; five grandchildren. Principal/ teacher in Sacramento, Sutter Creek, and Mt. Shasta Elementary schools from 1986-1997.

**Beardsley, Linden** – b. July 12, 1951, Watervliet, Mich.; d. June 13, 2022. Survivors: wife, Sally; daughter, Cyndee Beardsley; son Joe; sister, Kimber Beardsley. As a longtime member of Pacific Union College church, he made many backdrop pieces for the Children's departments and VBS.

**Dirksen, Daniel Lee** – b. Feb. 6, 1943; d. Nov. 22,

2022, San Diego, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Lauren Munoz, Kristin Varanini; sister, Kathy Dirksen; four grandchildren. Dan taught music and English in Adventist schools but was best known as a church organist and songwriter. Many of his songs were included in Adventist hymnals and songbooks. He created inspiring music for Voice of Prophecy, Faith For Today, and It Is Written. His music lives on in two albums: Paul Johnson Singers Perform the Music & Lyrics of Dan Dirksen and The Dan Dirksen Project, both available on Amazon. As the words of his beautiful hymn proclaim, "Oh How Wonderful Heaven Will Be."

**Fitzgerald, Marianne** – b. May 12, 1927, Nuremberg, Germany; d. Nov. 10, 2022, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Nicolett Fitzgerald; son, David Fitzgerald.

**Iverson Beardsley White, Gladys** – b. July 32, 1931, Mich.; d. Feb. 14, 2021. Survivors: son, Linden; daughter, Kimber Beardsley Wilcox; five grandchildren; stepsons, Barry, Brad, Brian White. Many great-grandchildren.

**Krohne, Rozella Jean** – b. Oct. 28, 1927, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Nov. 9, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Ted, Dave, Scott; daughter, Julie Evans; siblings, Brenda Butka, Gary Butka; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

**Revel, Grace Joan** – b. Jan. 10, 1925, Lincoln, Neb.; d. Oct. 11, 2022, Ontario, Calif. Survivors: sons, Jim Harlow, Richard Revel; daughter, Janice Wilber; five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild. Joan taught at Loma Linda Elementary and was principal there when she retired in the 1980s.

**Rowett, Donna** – b. Feb. 15, 1932; d. Oct. 21, 2022, Las Vegas, Nev. Survivors: daughters, Denise Carpenter, Dawne McAnallen, Danette Packer, Diane Castro; sister, Barbara; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson.

**Scott, Ronald** – b. Dec. 27, 1916, College Place, Wash.; d. Nov. 9, 2022, Rocklin, Calif. Survivors: sister, Norma Momb; children, Ronna Witzel, Bill Scott, Karyn Neal; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; five stepchildren. Dr. Scott practiced OB/GYN for 39 years in the LA area before retiring to Porterville, Calif.

**Taylor, William James** – b. Sept. 27, 1947, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Feb. 8, 2022, Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ernestine; sibling, Calvin Taylor; nine nieces and nephews. William served as head deacon at L.A. University church and worked tirelessly as school board chairman for many years for L.A. Adventist Academy. Through active city-wide community outreach, his life touched untold citizens of Los Angeles and beyond.

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