

Recorder

**“Behold, I am coming quickly...
 I am coming quickly...
 Surely I am coming quickly.”
 (Revelation 22)**



10 This shall they have
 and magnified themselves
 and people of the LORD of hosts
 11 The LORD will be terrible unto

...the prophets are light
 ...the sanctuary, they have
 ...the law
 ...the just LORD is in the midst
 ...he will not do iniquity; ever
 ...doth he bring his judgment
 ...he faileth not; but the unju
 ...forming, he shame.
 ...light, no shame.
 ...I have cut off the nations: the
 ...I have are desolate; I made the
 towers are desolate; I made the



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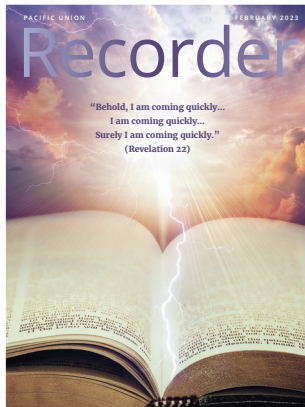


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Christ bears to the church the words of consolation: "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast,

that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh, will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God, and I will write upon Him My new name."

—Ellen G. White, "Lessons From First Chapter of Revelation," *The Signs of the Times*, Feb. 4, 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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Countdown



Time

By Bradford C. Newton



There was a mountain waiting for me to climb, and I decided it was my time to try. At 14,505 feet, Mount Whitney is the highest peak in the lower 48 states, and my goal was to ascend the summit and return in a single day. I read everything I could on training, acquired the right gear, and learned the climbing strategy to succeed safely. My training partner was the principal at the Simi Valley, California, school where I served as lead pastor. We compared notes, hiked the local hills around our community, and planned for the day we would make the climb.

The day arrived. We set up our tents at the 8,360-foot Whitney Portal. Rising well before dark the next day, we started the journey on the Mt. Whitney Trail. Our packs carried food, water and filtration systems, layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a map. Climbing poles and the right shoes rounded out our gear as we started out with lights strapped to our heads to illuminate the trail.

It was a long day filled with challenges of altitude and weariness, which grew the farther we went, and with appreciation for having partners on the trail.

Many hours later, we struggled the final 100 yards to the summit and success. We signed our names at the guest book, soaked up the view, rested, and ate. Downhill had its own unique pain and struggle. After some 18 hours, our Portal campsite was again in view, and I collapsed into my sleeping bag in an exhausted sleep.

The next morning, I ate the most delicious breakfast of my life, bought a commemorative shirt at the gift shop (“I climbed Mt. Whitney in one day”), and drove away. I hugged and kissed my wife and kids (after a shower) and was glad to be home. I never regretted climbing Mt. Whitney, but I never did it again. Yet, I can still rekindle the memory of the sun shining on my face as I saw the world from 14,505 feet. The spiritual lessons of that experience remain as well.

Scripture speaks of a greater mountain than any upon this earth. The spiritual reality for believers is expressed as a mountain destination in Hebrews 12:22-24: “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant” (NKJV). However, there is a physical reality in our future. “Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred forty-four thousand” (Revelation 14:1, NKJV). “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem,

descending out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:10, NKJV).

We are called by Jesus to make the journey to this mountain upon which rests the city. The last chapter of the Bible contains Jesus’ appeal us all. No less than three times in Revelation 22 the Lord reminds us, “Behold, I am coming quickly,” “I am coming quickly,” “Surely I am coming quickly” (verses 7, 12, 20). There’s no time to waste, Jesus seems to say, on the transitory things of life when so much is at stake for the world and for you.

This past fall, the Pacific Union Conference Pathfinders came to Lake Skinner in Southern California. What a scene it was to see thousands of excited Adventist young people, along with the amazing and dedicated Pathfinder leaders, gathering for the opening night. What had been an empty field was soon transformed into an outdoor church of smiling faces looking expectantly at the brilliantly lit stage. The energy of thousands of children and teenagers was a powerful witness to me of both the present and future potential for our Adventist movement in the West. But the true impact on me personally was still to come.

My assignment for this opening night program was to offer the welcome. As I made my way behind the stage, the excitement built. Upbeat music surged to the audience, with inspiring images filling two big screens. The stage manager directed my attention to the countdown clock displayed backstage on a huge monitor. The same numbers soon filled the two screens, with thousands of Pathfinders joining the countdown. Five, four...

We are called by Jesus to make the journey to this mountain upon which rests the city. The last chapter of the Bible contains Jesus’ appeal us all.



Now is the time to put aside the distractions of life deterring us from spending quality time with Jesus every day. During this countdown time we must encourage one another, resist the urge to criticize, find fault, and rush to judgment.

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I moved slowly toward the center spotlight. The music built. Three, two... I was handed the microphone. The crescendo of sound. ONE! The cheers of the Pathfinders surged, and I began speaking, "Welcome Pathfinders!" My eyes saw only blackness as stage spotlights washed out my vision. No matter. I was thrilled along with them to be there and part of this amazing event. Forty-five seconds and I was done. The program marched on. By the time the Camporee closed on that Sabbath, some 65 Pathfinders had been baptized on site, with many more making decisions for baptism at their home church. Praise God!

The countdown clock on the Pathfinder stage that night reminded me that we are living in countdown time today. The great stage of the

great controversy is before us. We all have our part to play in this drama so that Jesus' appeal will be fulfilled: "Let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life" (Revelation 22:17, NIV). Now is the time to put aside the distractions of life deterring us from spending quality time with Jesus every day. During this countdown time we must encourage one another, resist the urge to criticize, find fault, and rush to judgment. All this we do by the grace of God, with an eye upon the countdown clock of Scripture, which closes with Jesus' final appeal, "Surely, I am coming quickly" (Revelation 22:20, NKJV).

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

Black Adventist Women Clergy Advancing the Gospel, Part 3

By Sasha A. Ross

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

In 1943, a turning point came in the intersection between race, gender, and the Adventist Church. Lucille Byard (1877-1943), a Black Adventist laywoman, went to a prominent Adventist hospital in Maryland in hopes of lifesaving treatment but was denied care because of her race and the unjust Jim Crow laws then in effect.ⁱ Refused even the dignity of an ambulance, her husband arranged for a taxi to transport her to a Black hospital in Washington, D.C., where she later died.ⁱⁱ

The Church has attempted to atone for Byard's treatment (or lack thereof), but it was not unique among white-led Adventist health institutions of the 1940s.ⁱⁱⁱ It was rightly met with outrage in the Black Adventist community, as it compounded other injustices Black brethren and their families were enduring—from not being served in denominational cafeterias or allowed to use the same bathrooms as their white counterparts, to segregation in Adventist schools and Black students being denied admission to Adventist colleges in the North.

The racial injustices in the interwar period of the 1920s and 30s led Black Adventist leaders to demand greater autonomy in the management of their institutions, resources, and tithe offerings.^{iv} There were many other injustices Black Adventists endured in the years after Ellen White's death, as the civil rights movement gained momentum and before changes in denominational policy improved the treatment of African Americans and desegregated church institutions.^v

Black Adventist women were at the forefront of efforts to ameliorate these circumstances. A key example is Dr. Eva Beatrice Dykes (1893-1986), the first Black woman in America to complete the requirements for a Ph.D. (Radcliffe, 1921), who was instrumental in proposing changes to church policy to align with biblical values. In 1944, she and seven other prominent Black Adventist

scholars formed the Committee for the Advancement of World-wide Work among Colored Seventh-day Adventists.^{vi}

After extensive deliberations and “heroic efforts,” this Committee issued an eight-page missive showing the many discriminatory and “un-Christlike” policies that Black youth, students, and church workers faced in the educational and medical programs at Adventist institutions in northern U.S. states, as well as in the administrative sphere, employment practices, and lack of spiritual outreach to Black constituencies in the South.

Describing the granddaughter of slaves who worked in cotton fields, Dyke’s biography notes, “She stood with humble dignity, representing not one but two minority groups. Black women in America have always faced the double obstacles of gender and race to achieve their dreams and aspirations.” In 1975, the General Conference aptly presented Dykes with a Citation of Excellence for her outstanding contributions to Adventist education.^{vii}

Other Black women joined Dykes in laboring for greater equity as the Adventist Church moved into the second half of the 20th century. Dr. Valarie Justiss Vance (1913-2015), the second Black Adventist woman to receive a Ph.D. (Ohio State University, 1949), served as the Committee’s secretary. Vance would later teach social work as an assistant professor at the University of California and serve on the Loma Linda University board.^{viii} Dykes and Vance were joined on the Committee by public school teacher Helen R. Sugland and Sabbath School teacher Myrtle G. Murphy, which notably balanced the group with four women and four men.

This group’s advocacy following the pernicious denial of medical treatment for Lucille Byard led to three regional (then called “colored”) conferences being established in 1944, which had long been sought as a last resort to improve the treatment of Black Adventists in light of the intransigence of segregationist whites in America.

By 1945, after regional conferences were created,

Bible Verses Supporting Women Clergy and Diversity in Leadership

So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ~Genesis 1:27

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! ~Psalms 117:1

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my spirit. ~Joel 2:28-29

For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ~Romans 12:4-8

Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister. ~Romans 14:13

There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ~Galatians 3:28

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!” ~Revelation 7:9-10

* All Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE)

Black Adventist women have worked in formal and informal ministerial capacities to advance the gospel since long before the civil rights and women's rights movements of the mid-20th century.

Black Adventists numbered over 19,000 people and comprised about eight percent of NAD membership, contributing significant amounts of tithes and offering revenues (\$1,372,500 in 1945, or over \$22 million in 2022 dollars when adjusted for inflation).^x By 1990, the number grew to more than 200,000 and represented more than a quarter of Adventists in North America.^x As of 2020, Black membership has again doubled in size (400,000) and now reflects more than a third of NAD.^{xi}

Black Adventist women have worked in formal and informal ministerial capacities to advance the gospel since long before the civil rights and women's rights movements of the mid-20th century. We find role models of Adventist women who influenced these movements not only in the life of Sojourner Truth and Rosetta Douglass-Sprague but also the educational advocate and grassroots activist Louise Little and the civil rights pioneer Irene Morgan.

Like Anna Knight, Lois Raymond was another Black single woman who served as a missionary for the Adventist Church. Born in Louisiana, she converted to Adventism in Los Angeles, Calif., and graduated with a teaching degree from La Sierra College in 1949. She served over 33 years in denominational service, including more than a decade teaching as a licensed Bible instructor in the Pacific Union and two decades as a credentialed missionary teacher in West Africa (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Ghana), before retiring in 1982.^{xii}

In addition to Knight and Raymond, the Black SDA History project (*BlackSDAHistory.org*) and the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (*encyclopedia.adventist.org*) profile other notable Black Adventist women who worked tirelessly to advance the gospel, including:

- Maud Elizabeth Brown Strachan (1874-1936), a nurse, educator, and literature evangelist who worked with her husband, Matthew Strachan, in a ministry of 37 years;
- Celia Marie Abney Cleveland (1921-2003), the daughter of early Adventist missionaries of color, who served as a Bible instructor and musician and who partnered with her husband E.E. Cleveland to lead more than 4,000 people to join the Adventist church;^{xiii}
- Amelia Christian Baker (1931-2012), a longtime Bible worker and one of the first women ordained as an elder in California; and
- Margaret Nelda Norman Williams (1938-2015), an educator and missionary to Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kinshasa in Zaire.

Each of these women broke the “stained glass ceiling,” or barriers to advancement in gospel ministry and within Christian communities, notwithstanding their respective credentials or formal employment status.^{xiv}

Other women advanced the gospel through their efforts in youth mobilization and social services. For example, Chessie Harris (1906-1997) supported orphans, unhoused, and marginalized youth throughout her life and received licensing in 1954 for providing childcare and shelter services to children in Madison County, Alabama. She earned numerous accolades for her work, including the President's Volunteer Action Award from George H.W. Bush in 1989. Similarly, Trula Elizabeth Wade (1898-1995), herself adopted by Adventists as a child, became a teacher and served generations of youth in Adventist higher education settings.

Singing and music factor significantly in the Black

experience, as Alma Montgomery Blackmon (1921-2009) explained to her colleagues on the committee that produced the 1985 *SDA Hymnal*. A musician, educator, and humanitarian who directed the Oakwood Aeolians for more than a decade, Blackmon said, "From our slave forefathers we did not inherit houses and lands, for they did not have them to give. However, they gave us a rich heritage of music, a great body of spirituals, which for many years was handed down by oral tradition."^{xv}

Like Dykes and Blackmon, internationally renowned lyric soprano Alynne Dumas Lee (1903-1970) began ministering through music at an early age and led the Aeolians with distinction, ministering through music around the world; Mary Inez Booth (1913-2010) studied music at Pacific Union College and went on to teach music as well as leading a weekly prison ministry in Alabama for 54 years; Eleanor A. Crews Wright (1926-1992) was a prolific gospel music writer, singer, pianist, and arranger; and Joni Mae Pierre-Louis (1927-2009) was a musician and educator who served alongside her husband in Haiti as well as Oakland, California.

Fast forward to 1995, in what many called "the Year of the Woman" because of the historic firsts for women in American politics as well as in the Adventist Church, when local churches began ordaining women following the G.C. Session in Utrecht, the Netherlands. That year, Hyveth Williams became senior pastor of Campus Hill church in Loma Linda, Calif. Serving in that role until 2005, she was the first woman—and the first Black woman—to serve as senior pastor of a large church within the denomination.^{xvi}

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

i. Calvin B. Rock, "The Lucille Byard Affair: When Customs and Law Trumped Compassion," *Adventist Review* (August 1, 2019). Online at <https://adventistreview.org/magazine-article/the-lucille-byard-affair>. Reprinted from Rock's *Protest and Progress: Black Seventh-day Adventist*

Leadership and the Push for Parity (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2018), pp. 42-45.

- ii. Benjamin Baker, "Death by Wasting Away: The Life, Last Days, and Legacy of Lucy Byard," *Journal of Black Studies* 51, no. 5 (July 2020), pp. 391-410.
- iii. "A Conversation on Racism and Adventism within NAD Leadership," featuring Daniel Jackson, Alex Bryant, and Randy Robinson with Mylon Medley, moderator (June 18, 2020). Online at <https://www.nadadventist.org/news/conversation-racism-and-adventism-nad-leadership>.
- iv. Samuel G. London, Jr., *Seventh-day Adventists and the Civil Rights Movement* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009), pp. 97-98.
- v. For the story of how Adventist schools in the United States were forced to integrate by the government and U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach in 1965, see London, pp. 124-125. For the story of difficulties faced by Black Adventist students involved in the integration of white Adventist colleges and universities, see Michael Campbell's "Adventists, Fundamentalism, and the Second Wave of the Ku Klux Klan," *Spectrum Magazine* 50, no.1 (April 26, 2022). Online at <https://spectrummagazine.org/news/2022/adventists-fundamentalism-and-second-wave-ku-klux-klan>.
- vi. Rock, *Protest and Progress*, p. 255 (Appendix 11).
- vii. DeWitt S. Williams, *She Fulfilled the Impossible Dream: The Story of Eva B. Dykes* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1985), pp. 9-10; 65-67. Dyke's 1921 graduation from Radcliffe College, now part of Harvard University, was the basis for her 15-year career on the faculty of Howard University and, later, as chair of the English Department at Oakwood until her retirement in 1975. Her presence helped secure accreditation for Oakwood. She was an accomplished singer who organized the now-famous Aeolians chorale in 1946; she was also instrumental in establishing Pine Forge Academy in 1946, which made Adventist education more accessible to Black youth.
- viii. "Valarie Justiss Vance: Biography," published by the HistoryMakers non-profit oral history project (recorded April 22, 2004). Online at <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/valarie-justiss-vance-38>. Vance was a broadcaster and organizer in addition to her work as educator and social worker.
- ix. General Conference Archives, "Statistics of the Colored Department." Online at <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Resources/RegionalConf/RCO-01.pdf>.
- x. Benjamin Baker, "The Dynamics of Communication and African-American progress in the SDA organization: A historical descriptive analysis" (Ph.D. dissertation, Howard University, 1994), p. v.
- xi. Benjamin Baker, "Did You Know?" timeline in "Social Justice in the Word of God: 2022 Black History Month Bible Study Guide," printed by the Office of Regional Conference Ministries (Lincoln, NE: AdventSource, 2021), p. 22.
- xii. Unnamed author, *North American Informant*, 14, no. 77 (1960) and 16, no. 85 (1962); see also 1952, 1957, and 1969 SDA Yearbooks. The G.C. minutes for August 1982 and May 1983 document Lois Raymond's permanent return, recognition for service, and retirement benefits in the G.C. Archives. Online at www.adventistarchives.org.
- xiii. See also Carol Hammond, *Precious Memories of Missionaries of Color: A Compilation of Stories and Experiences of Ambassadors for God* (Calhoun, GA: Teach Services, Inc., 2019), pp. 24-26.
- xiv. Cyrus Schleifer and Amy D. Miller, "Occupational Gender Inequality Among American Clergy, 1976–2016: Revisiting the Stained-Glass Ceiling," *Sociology of Religion* 78, no. 4 (2017), p. 388.
- xv. Quotation included in the online Black SDA History project compiled by Benjamin Baker. Online at <https://www.blacksdahistory.org/quotes?lightbox=dataitem-klaxor252>. See also Lela Gooding's profile, "Blackmon, Alma Montgomery (1921-2009)," in the updated and digitized Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (published Jan. 29, 2022). Online at <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=CFVJ>.
- xvi. *Redlands Daily Facts*, "Loma Linda Pastor Leaving for Teaching Position" (Nov. 18, 2009).

Sharing Christ No Ma

“Regardless of where God leads me, I know that I want to be an encouragement to others.”

When I’m asked why I chose to become a pastor, I’m not sure how to answer. It’s not something that I chose; rather, it chose me. Up until a certain point in my life, I had never dreamed or even thought of being a minister.

I was a late bloomer in terms of knowing what I wanted to do with my life. But God is patient and longsuffering, not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). He saved me through this work. I said yes to His call because it was the only way I could thank Him for all that He has done for me.

My family came to the United States from El Salvador when I was one. My parents came from a very humble background. My mom finished high school and my dad dropped out of elementary school to work. Without much education, my dad had a desire to come to America, and when an opportunity presented itself, he leaned into it. A chance meeting with an old friend of his at a soccer game led to our family making the long drive from San Salvador to San Francisco. I mention this only to highlight what God has done for me and my family.

The author was ordained at the Gracepoint Adventist Church (Northern California Conference) in July 2022.

(Pictured from left to right): Senior Pastor Walt Groff, NCC Treasurer John Rasmussen, NCC Executive Secretary Jose Marin, NCC Ministerial Director Jim Lorenz, Pastor Marlene Rodriguez, NCC President and spouse Marc K. Woodson, and Pacific Union Conference President Bradford C. Newton.



By Marlene Rodriguez

ttter Where He Leads

I went on to get a good education. I attended San Francisco Junior Academy (SFJA) starting in the fifth grade. At the time, I was not excited about leaving public school, but SFJA really impacted my life. This tiny school was overflowing with diversity. Our teachers treated us equally, and we all had access to opportunities. They poured love and knowledge into us as though we were their own children. Our gender, ethnicity, socio-economic level, or the color of our skin were never a barrier to opportunity; we were all truly equal.

It wasn't until I left SFJA that I was told that I was different, that I was a minority, and that I was poor. I was not aware of any of these things until they were pointed out to me. My desire to go to college was questioned, and I was made to feel I could not aspire to be anything more than a fast-food employee or secretary. Those experiences crushed my confidence, and to this day I have to push past those thoughts.

Nonetheless, I graduated from Pacific Union College and earned a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in order to pursue a career in chaplain ministries. There were too many Black and Brown people incarcerated, and I felt a call to pursue this path. But those careers were hard to come by, and I was limited as to the job opportunities that I could take because my spouse's job has him very anchored in northern California. I quickly realized chaplaincy was not going to be an option for me. My academic advisor mentioned CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) and encouraged me to apply. God opened not one but two opportunities for me

to pursue, which I did by faith.

It was through sitting and listening to people during the darkest and happiest times of their hospital experiences that I felt a pull to share Christ with them. But hospital chaplains are trained to meet people where they are and not impose our ideas or faith into our conversations. My soul longed to share the relief and assurance that is found in Jesus, but I couldn't. Sitting in the silence and shadow of death and pain without being able to offer hope has taught me much of the human experience.

But instead of being sad about it, I began to pray for opportunities to share this God that had captivated my own life and healed me from hurt, pain, and deep sadness. And every day that I prayed for that, someone asked me to tell them about my God. I was blown away!

As I was wrapping up CPE, I felt an impression so deep it was almost audible: "I want you to try a church context." My heart sank. That was such a foreign thought and was not the life I saw for myself. I never felt like I was pastor material. I eventually told my husband, who helped me process all that came with that conversation, and I decided to give it a try.

I started as a volunteer at Pleasant Hill church under Pastor Jim Lorenz, and then I became a local hire. My senior pastor and the church affirmed me and the voice and gifts that I brought to the church, but what mostly made me stick with it is how I saw God do things that I know I was not able to do on my own, like leading someone to Christ. It always blows my mind that God allows me to partner up

with Him to do something as amazing as that.

In 2019, I received an official call to serve as an associate pastor under Pastor Walt Groff at Gracepoint church in Rocklin, Calif. I had been given a grant in partnership with the NAD, PAC, and NCC that would cover my salary for three years, and I was ordained in July of 2022.

In spite of the incredible ways God has worked in my family and in my life, there have also been many challenges and much pain. In 1996, my only brother, William, was murdered at the age of 28. The trauma sent me into a depression for a few years. And while that experience broke me, what I remember the most was how God was working in and through all the pain and trauma.

But through that horrific pain, there has also been a lot of growth and learning. Prior to my brother's death, I had been reading *The Desire of Ages*, a book that changed my life. It led me to the Bible, and it was that Book that helped me to see God in the darkness. Prior to this, I thought that God was in my life when things were good and absent when they were not good.



The author shares a message about grace to the Gracepoint Adventist Church on the last Sabbath of 2022.

My brother's death was the beginning of a journey of understanding that the God of the mountain is also the God of the valley. God is not defined by the circumstances of my situation, nor is He confined to them.

As cliché as it sounds, the Bible really has changed my life. I constantly mess up, but that Book also tells me that I'm no longer defined by my shortcomings but rather by what Christ has already done. As Ephesians 2:6 says, "For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus" (NLT). I try to serve and teach others from this place of certainty because it's what has changed my life.

Regardless of where God leads me, I know that I want to be an encouragement to others. I would encourage young people, particularly young women, to pursue God's calling on their life. There will be challenges, but don't stay in that space. Pray daily for the opportunity to use those gifts, and God will put someone in your path who needs your gift. Trust that God, not an institution, will take you to the place He has prepared for you, and reach out to female clergy and others in the ministry you want to pursue to help process some of your journey.

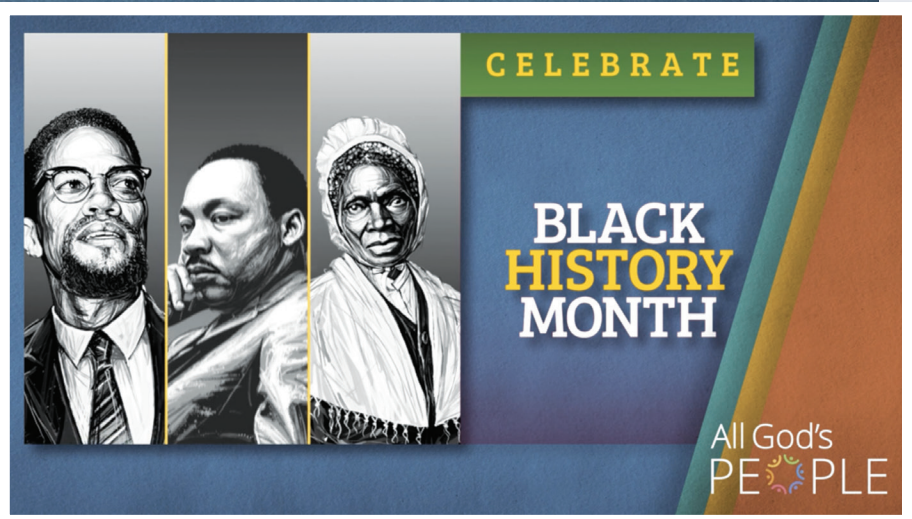
As much as I would like to say I have a clear vision for my ministry for the next few years, I cannot say so definitively. If God shows me too much, I get overwhelmed quickly. Therefore, the way God has worked with me is by showing me small pieces at a time. If I have to offer one thought about that vision, it would be to make God so accessible in my community that they can't say no to Him.

Marlene Rodriguez is the first Hispanic female pastor ordained in the Northern California Conference. She was ordained in July of 2022. She is married to Marc Woodson, NCC president. You may view photos and more details about the ordination service at: <https://www.adventistfaith.com/media/recorder/marlene-rodriguez-ordained>.

All God's PEOPLE

By Connie
Vandeman
Jeffery

My favorite February episodes of All God's People have focused on Black History Month. In the past six years, we have had thoughtful, inspiring interviews with our leaders and pastors about the significance of Black History Month.



From AGP 604—posted Feb. 4, 2022:

February is Black History Month, and it offers an opportunity for Americans to learn details of their nation's history that, unfortunately, are far too often neglected and pushed to the wayside. As the saying goes, Black history is American history—and it's a varied and rich history. A wise nation honors and learns from its past. It refuses to let the important facts about our shared and collective memory disappear into the depths of forgotten history.

The observation of Black History Month dates back to 1915, when Carter G. Woodson, now known as the Father of Black History, created an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1926, Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February. He chose February because it contained the birthdays of Frederick Douglass on February 14 and Abraham Lincoln on February 12.





In this episode of All God's People, I had the opportunity to talk with our union president, Elder Bradford Newton, about his thoughts on Black History Month.

Watch the entire episode at <https://vimeo.com/672632905>

From AGP 605—posted Feb. 11, 2022:

This episode highlights some creative ways to observe Black History Month and concludes with an interview with Elder Leon Brown, executive vice president of the Pacific Union Conference. He ends the interview with this powerful statement: "The struggle is not over, and we must continue now to look to the future, to see how we can be successful in creating true civil liberty for everyone in America."

Watch the entire episode at <https://vimeo.com/675304016>

From AGP 504—posted Feb. 5, 2021

We were delighted to talk with Pastor Lawrence S. Dorsey Sr. two years ago about the importance of Black History Month. He shared memories and insights about the relevance of it today. Lawrence Dorsey Sr. is a native New Yorker and a graduate of Oakwood University. He entered the gospel ministry in 1980 in the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He presently serves in the Southern California Conference as senior pastor of the University Church in Los Angeles. Pastor Dorsey's first love is evangelism, and he is the author of two books, including *Born to Preach*. Because of covid



protocols in 2021, our interview was on Zoom.

Watch the entire episode at <https://vimeo.com/508162257>

At the AdventistFaith.com website, we have gathered Black History Month resources into one dedicated page. You can watch past episodes of All God's People, read articles, and learn about books and study guides on the topic of Black History Month. <https://www.adventistfaith.com/media/black-history-month>

For past episodes of All God's People, go to: <https://www.adventistfaith.com/media/all-gods-people>

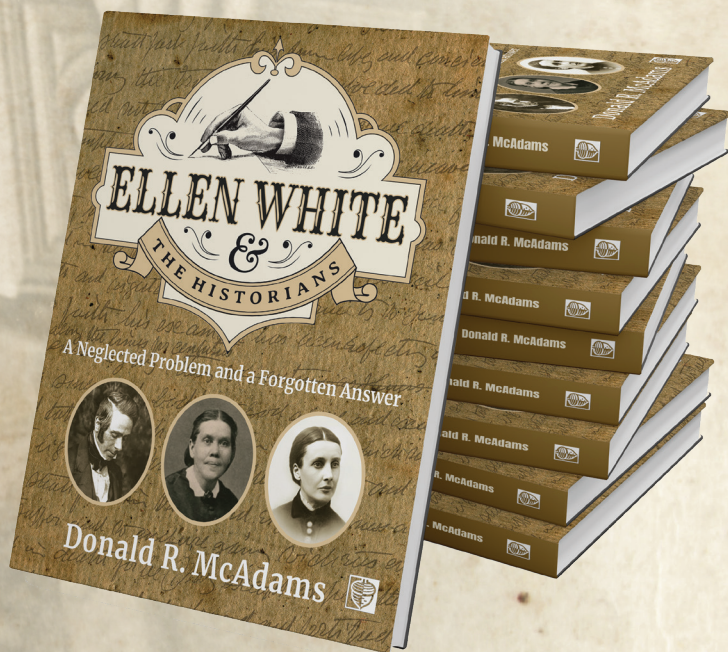


HERE IT IS AT LAST!

Available for Ordering Online Now

Donald R. McAdams' much anticipated *Ellen White and the Historians: A Neglected Problem and a Forgotten Answer* has been published by Oak & Acorn Publishing. The heart of the book is a paper that the author wrote almost 50 years ago. It presents compelling evidence that Ellen White did not just borrow paragraphs from historians to describe what she had already seen in vision. Ellen White's Huss manuscript shows that her history of the Hussite Reformation in *The Great Controversy* came directly from the historian James A. Wylie. Ellen White followed his sequence, used his descriptions, copied his words, and repeated his historical errors. And then she gave her literary assistant Marian Davis the freedom to cut huge chunks from her manuscript and add significant additional history directly from Wylie.

Why, after all these years, publish this? The answer is embedded in the Adventist Church's ongoing struggle to reconcile the evidence from history and science with the belief that Ellen White is authoritative in all matters. The book also reprints articles by McAdams and Ben McArthur and includes new essays by Ron Graybill and Eric Anderson, making it more than a close look at how Ellen White wrote history. It is also an account of the 20th-century church struggling to defend one of its founding myths—not the inspiration of Ellen White, but her authority in all matters.



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Christmas on the Streets



Homeless encampment near downtown Phoenix.

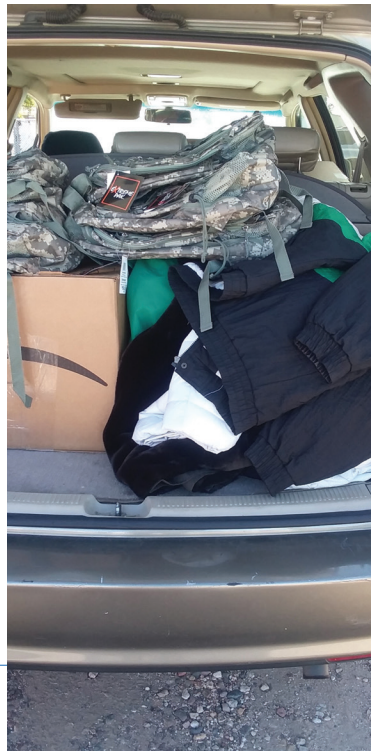
The call went out in the middle of November for volunteers. “We are in need of food donations, servers, and other volunteers,” the request read. “We are also collecting blankets, coats, socks, and hats for all ages to give to the homeless.” As December 26 approached, the planners were anxious to see how the Lord would work in their community as they sought to feed and clothe the homeless on the day after Christmas. Using the Adventist Community Center in downtown Phoenix as a central location, the organizing team invited members of the Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) leadership to participate in the event.

“We served about 250 meals to the homeless on the street and distributed warm clothing items and blankets to them as well,” said Ugonna Woods. Dr. Woods is a pediatrician in the greater Phoenix area who volunteers as the Director of Health Ministries for the Arizona Conference.

With over 50 volunteers from area churches, Woods and fellow organizer April Landeros were thrilled with the turnout. “The event was a great success, and we are looking forward to doing this more often in 2023,” Woods said.

In addition to the meals and clothing, GYC leaders held a special meeting that about 30 guests attended prior to a meal. The cooperation between the community center, local church volunteers, and GYC leaders helped make a difference on the streets of Phoenix, which have seen an increase in homeless encampments in recent years. Serving others with love is a central theme for both the Adventist Community Center and the Health Ministries team.

By Jeff Rogers



LEFT: The Adventist Community Center ministers to and shares God’s love with some of the most at-risk people in the downtown Phoenix area. RIGHT: Volunteers from Arizona churches delivered jackets, hats, backpacks, and socks to the homeless at Christmas time.

“The event was a great success, and we are looking forward to doing this more often in 2023.”

Stronghold Evangelism

Within just a few weeks of becoming an officially recognized group, The Stronghold International Seventh-day Adventist Mission Group in Pearce, Ariz., conducted its first evangelistic meeting, “Our Great Hope Today.” Beginning in August, members of the group conducted house-to-house visits and distributed Spirit of Prophecy books, along with banana cake. The four-month preparation culminated in the Dec. 26-31, 2022, meetings.

“Their determination of sharing the gospel in the community is always burning,” said Elder Villamor Meriales, referring to the members of the newly formed group. Elder Meriales was one of the speakers for the meetings and serves as an assistant to the president for Multicultural Ministries in the Arizona Conference. He continued, “As a result of the meetings, there were 11 people who dedicated their lives to Jesus and were baptized on the last Saturday of the year, on Dec. 31, 2022.”

As with most types of meetings like this, it would

not be possible to manage without volunteers. Members of the Willcox and Benson churches joined the Stronghold group members in supporting the seminar series. JongKeun Han, pastor of the Santa Maria Korean church of the Central California Conference, served as one of the health lecturers. On vacation in the United States, Pastor Edwin Bersabal from Cavite Mission in the Philippines gave in-person Bible studies and helped transport people to the nightly meeting. Mr. Kristino Saltarin and his wife, Ailace, Filipino teachers from nearby Rio Rico, helped with the children's ministry.

“Some of the attendees are members of the Roman Catholic Church, and one was a minister of the Church of Christ who is keeping Saturday as Sabbath,” said Elder Meriales.

VicLouis Arreola, Pacific Union Conference Vice President for Asian Pacific Ministries, joined Elder Meriales as a speaker for the meetings.

By Jeff Rogers





New Church Plantings Create More Opportunities to Spread God's Message

"The purpose of the church planting department of the Central California Conference is to establish new congregations where there is no Adventist presence," explained Ricardo Viloria, director of the ministerial and church planting departments.

But there is a process that must be followed to achieve this goal. It starts with establishing new groups throughout the territory. Over time, these groups grow into companies. With work, worship, and love, these companies continue to blossom until they ultimately organize as a church. These churches are designed to continue to grow so the cycle can repeat.

As more groups, companies, and churches are created, more opportunities to reach people arise. "In a survey sent to our pastors, we found that we currently have 75 groups in our conference. Our goal was to double that number by the end of 2022, then double that amount in 2023 and so on to reach 1,200 groups by 2025," Viloria said.

There are currently 150 churches in the Central California Conference. Using the church planting process, the dream is to add 50 new churches by 2025. The goal is for these churches to thrive at a level that naturally results

in more churches.

The CCC church planting department provides pastors and leaders with motivation, training, and resources. "These groups, companies, and churches will meet well-prepared leaders, thus providing a tremendous opportunity to mobilize and activate them to the mission," Viloria explained.

There are plans to create a digital training center that will help in this process. The training center will be used to train pastors and leaders and provide them with all of the information they need to succeed in creating healthy congregations. "This process has already begun in our conference. We currently have 10 new active church planting projects that are being developed, the newest of them being the Morgan Hill church plant," said Viloria.

Morgan Hill Bilingual Group

According to Gilbert Garcia, senior pastor for the Gilroy Hills Bilingual and Salinas Spanish churches, the Morgan Hill church plant has been an idea for several years. But because of the coronavirus, the timing just wasn't right.



Garcia asked to rent a Jewish synagogue and was given access to it. He expressed the joy that came when the idea naturally came to fruition after finding a place in which to worship. "It's such a beautiful place, and I asked and prayed within me, 'Lord give me this place, it would be such a blessing to worship here.'" This mission group has already grown from 12 to nearly 75 members.

"God is planning something here. The way He has led in the last month and a half is such a clear message that God wants us there and He's opening the doors. And I don't know what else He has planned, but this is the Lord's doing and I am so humbled and grateful to the Lord that He let me have a part of this," expressed Garcia.

Fresno Ghanaian Group

The Fresno Ghanaian group is another new church plant in the Central California Conference. There are more than 50 Ghanaian churches throughout the United States, and this new group in Fresno will work to increase that number.

"This group is made up of people who are originally from Ghana who have moved and made the United



Scan the QR codes to view testimonies from members at each church.

States their home," explained Issac Amo-Kyereme, leader of the Fresno Ghanaian Group. "There are many people from various disciplines, but there's something that binds the Twi people together. They need to worship and to devote themselves to God."

Alonzo Wagner, director of African-American Ministries, is excited to be the first pastor to plant a Ghanaian church in the Central California Conference. "We recognize that people worship more comfortably and effectively when they worship based upon their heart language, and with the Ghanaian community, Twi is the heart language. And they intersperse it, creating a dynamic, exciting enthusiasm and a connection."

There are other church plants in the process, including the Tulare mission group, a Samoan church plant, the first Portuguese church plant in the conference, and the first Haitian church plant in the conference. These continue to create more opportunities to spread God's message.

By Brennan Hallock





A Marathon Friendship



Leila Ventar, a resident of the island of Kauai in Hawai'i and a member of the Kapa'a church, thought Dec. 11, 2022, was going to be the day she carried herself across the finish line of the Honolulu Marathon, her fourth marathon overall. However, on Nov. 22, two days after an 18-mile training run, a medical examination revealed that she had colon cancer. Surgery followed the diagnosis, and in a conversation with a friend after the surgery, Leila seemed to hint that her recent 18-mile run might truly be the last time she'd ever run.

On a Sabbath afternoon, as Leila's church family was visiting with her at the hospital following a surgical procedure, the upcoming marathon—only two weeks away—was on several people's minds: how could Leila miss a race she'd worked so hard to prepare for? Yet the race now seemed to be a distant dream.

The story of Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man in Luke 5

reminds us that sometimes God uses the faith of our friends to carry us through seeming impossibilities—whether that impossibility involves being lowered through a roof in order to be healed or completing a 26.2-mile race before the physical healing has even taken place.

And so, on that Sabbath, in the face of a terrible diagnosis, a terrific plan was born: the Kapa'a church's running group—the Kauai SDA Runners, now dubbed Team Leila—would find a way to get Leila across the finish line. It was two weeks before the marathon. She was still experiencing pain, even when being transported on a wheelchair, and Team Leila didn't know whether they could find a proper wheelchair in which to push Leila through 26 miles.

Through prayer and much coordination, however, everything fell into place: Team Leila found the exact racing wheelchair they needed; a local business printed a "Team Leila" banner for the wheelchair to promote the endeavor; training runs were completed beforehand; and, among other miracles, the weather on race day was the best racing weather Leila had ever experienced.

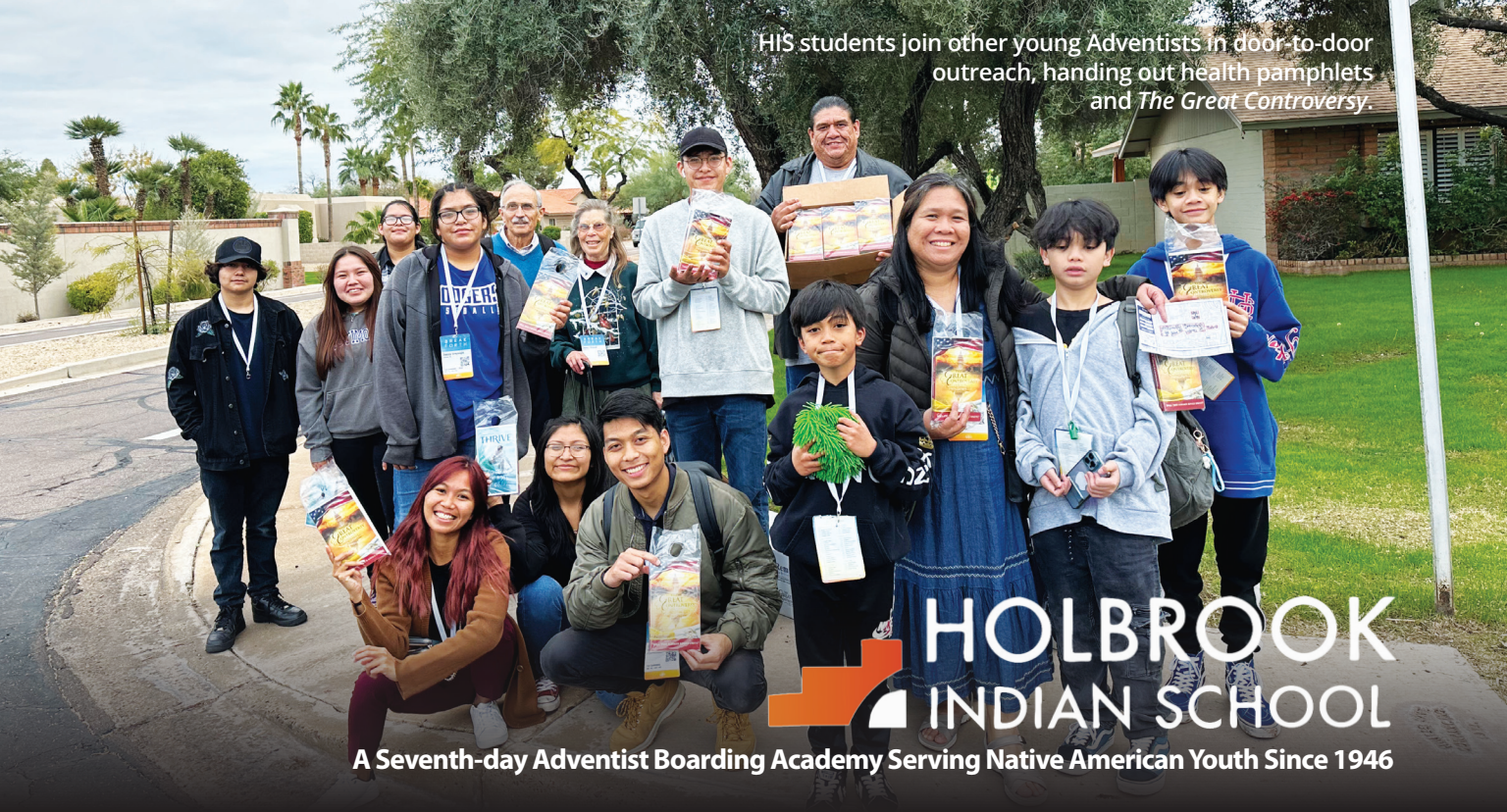
From 5 a.m. until close to 11 a.m., the various members of Team Leila coordinated drop-offs and pick-ups throughout the city of Honolulu, alternating between pushing Leila and running ahead to create a way for their beloved sister to reach the finish line. After more than five hours of running and pushing, Team Leila paused right before the finish line to let Leila stand up and walk across on her own two feet, arm-in-arm with two of her running buddies. And so, at 10:56 a.m. on Dec. 11, 2022, Leila Ventar, in the face of a significant cancer diagnosis, completed a significant race. One could say it was made possible by her church family, but ultimately it was empowered by the love of God—a love that is the start and end of every good endeavor done on behalf of a beloved brother or sister in Christ.

Reflecting on the race, Leila said she experienced the goodness of God. "Truly the good Lord still wanted me to be in this race, but this time in a wheelchair!" Leila's fourth marathon wasn't what she originally had in mind. She thought she was going to run it herself. And yet, despite the challenges that sometimes confront us in this broken world, God worked through Leila's challenges in a way that reminds us that it is always He who carries us, and not we ourselves. And sometimes His strong arms can be seen in the arms of faithful friends behind the push handles of a wheelchair.

By Jaime Vargas



HIS students join other young Adventists in door-to-door outreach, handing out health pamphlets and *The Great Controversy*.



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

Native American Students Attend GYC for the First Time

Attendees at the 2022 Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) conference were inspired by the proclamation found in Isaiah 58:8 to “break forth.” This was the theme for the four-day conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. As a yearly gathering for youth and young adults in the Adventist church who are advancing in their faith, the GYC conference is recognized as an occasion that attracts developing young people. However, for a small group of newly baptized Native American youth attending this

year’s conference, the experience brought exposure to a broader Adventist community.

During their December winter break, seven students from Holbrook Indian School (HIS) attended the GYC conference for the first time. The voluntary trip was organized by HIS teacher and librarian Ana Lopez, who invited baptized students to the event, all of whom rarely travel very far beyond the borders of the Navajo Nation.

There is a solid Adventist presence on the Navajo reservation. Yet, due to poverty and other factors, many Navajo are only able to travel within the four corner regions of northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and the southern border corners of Colorado and Utah. As a result, the spectrum of Adventists among the Navajo is limited to the residents of these areas and those who happen to travel through them. Thankfully, the GYC conference came close to home, providing exposure to a larger—more global—Adventist community.

The GYC conference experience marked a juncture in the personal spiritual journey of these Native youth. The students who attended the conference spoke of the impact that being at GYC had on them. For junior Dakota, the effect was social. Dakota appreciated the opportunity



HIS teacher Ana Lopez and students at the 2022 GYC conference in Phoenix.

to meet new people, “Mainly because I don’t know how to connect to people I don’t know,” she said. “I met amazing people whom I made friends with and who have such lovely voices.”

For others, the deep spiritual yet relatable atmosphere made an impression. “Before going to GYC, I already liked learning about how Jesus and how God helps those who are hurting,” said senior Nathaniel. “After going to the convention, learning about abuse from someone stuck within me for a while.”

Nathaniel recalls another attendee sharing a story of sexual abuse and how abuse can affect your relationship with God. “I learned that asking God for help can make you feel better about yourself and accomplish more than you achieved,” Nathaniel said.

“It was a wonderful experience,” said junior Slade. “When we had the morning prayers, it felt uplifting. Everyone was there for one purpose—to talk to God and praise Him for being so merciful.”

HIS senior Ariana enjoyed the seminar sessions about mental health, thoughts, and the effects of negativity. As the most recently baptized student, she found peace amid the storm through Bible classes and dorm worship at HIS after losing her sibling. Traveling to GYC opened up a new perspective for her. “Plus, I saw Doug Batchelor,” she said. “I wanted to see him, and I finally did and was able to listen to him, strengthening us during the final charge.”

While the GYC trip marked an important moment in the lives of these Native youth, this occasion was also a landmark for the school, its supporters, and the Pacific Union Conference. The existence of HIS has contributed to re-constructing the Navajo-Christian relationship. HIS, a school providing quality, whole-person education



Students join the large gathering of Adventist young people during seminars and prayer sessions.

to Native youth in a safe environment, was established during a time when the Navajo-Christian relationship was tense. Seeing its students find companionship and spiritual connection with a global range of Christians today is a testament to the school's significance.

By Chevon Petgrave

The history of forced exposure to “less than Christian” Christianity leading up to the 1940s left historical wounds that preceded the existence of Holbrook Indian School. Forced boarding schools, which had gone unchallenged in the decades prior, were on the decline. Yet, the effects had left generations shattered and without any way to pick up the pieces. Among other basic needs, unfulfilled promises led to the lingering problem of neglected opportunity for equal education.

Holbrook Indian School started as a mission to help and reach the Navajo. Marvin Walter was a missionary working for the Arizona Conference when he set out to learn about the needs of the Navajo. As Marvin talked with the people, he discovered their desire for their children to receive an education. He and his wife, Gwendolyn, with funding from the Pacific Union Conference, set out to build a school in 1945. With 320 acres of land in Holbrook, the first mission school term started in 1946.

Today, HIS students’ Native spiritual heritage remains respected, and this has been a bridge in areas of common beliefs.

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

Thank you for your support.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

RIGHT: Children from a Masai elementary school watch construction activity at the new Maternal and Women's Health Center.

FAR RIGHT: A nurse from Adventist Health provides a health checkup and consultation for a newborn and her mother.



Global Mission Work Supports Masai Women's Health

A 15-year-old Masai girl stumbles alone through the doors of the Africa Mission Services Clinic in Kenya, her feet dusty red with road dirt. Her eyes fix on the small birthing table across the room. Holly Green, Adventist Health perinatal specialist, helps her onto the table, no sheet between her and the faux leather mattress used in the center's more than 600 deliveries last year.

The patient is in labor. There are no pillows or warm blankets to comfort her. No ice chips. No stirrups to support her. Holly can tell by examining her that scar tissue from a female circumcision will mean a more difficult and painful delivery.

A few years ago, before the single operating room was built, Holly's patient would have had to walk 37 miles to deliver her baby. Now, through the support of local and international partners, a small local clinic with a single operating room stands just off the dirt road. But as the area's population has increased, so has the need for clinic expansion that will allow more women to receive the care they need. Through the support of Adventist Health Global Mission and time and sweat by mission trip volunteers, Africa Mission Services will soon open the doors of a new, larger Maternal and Women's Health Center—a place where local healthcare providers can save the lives of more mothers and babies.

Holly—whose day-to-day office is in Roseville, Calif.—is one of the Adventist Health employees who has helped make the long-term goal of a new birthing

center a reality. In November, she traveled with 49 Adventist Health employees and volunteers to Kenya's Masai Mara, a land known for its wildlife and for being home to nomadic herders of the Masai tribe. The group took 10 days away from their routine jobs to participate in a medical mission trip organized by the Adventist Health Global Mission team.

Their work focused on the local Maternal and Women's Health Center. Holly's small crew led classes with the local midwives, administered immunizations, and helped during deliveries. Others worked in the equatorial heat, stacking bricks on the new two-story birthing center with the Masai construction crew. While Holly and her travel companions gave their time and labor, others are supporting the project from home with donations to the Adventist Health Global Mission Fund.

"Global humanitarian impact is rich in the Adventist faith tradition, and this includes delivery of healthcare. I can't think of a better way to experience a sense of vocation and purpose, a feeling like you are part of something important, than by making a difference for others," said Alex Bryan, Adventist Health Chief Mission Officer, who laid brick at the construction site in Kenya. "It's important to care about local causes, but just as important are global concerns. This work has the power to change the world and to change us."

Find more stories about Adventist Health Global Mission at AdventistHealth.org/Story.

By Lauren Nelson

La Sierra Partners with German Zoo in First U.S. Tiger Gecko 'Ark' Program

Herpetologists from La Sierra University and the Cologne Zoological Garden in Germany embarked on a project last fall slated to take place at La Sierra this school year—a conservation breeding program designed to mitigate the extinction of five threatened tiger gecko species native to Vietnam.

It is referred to as a modern ark by Thomas Ziegler, Cologne Zoo aquarium curator and coordinator of biodiversity and nature conservation projects in Vietnam and Laos. It will function as the first such program in the U.S. for the vulnerable tiger geckos, which have been bred thus far by Ziegler's team and a support station in Vietnam.

The success of the La Sierra University gecko ark hinges on 22-year-old La Sierra undergraduate

Sarah Goymer from Paradise, Calif., whose interest in herpetology, love of nature, advocacy for conservation, and academic acumen made her a perfect fit for the job, say her biology professors, herpetologists Lee Grismer and his son, Jesse Grismer. Goymer's task will be the daily care of 50 beautifully marked tiger gecko offspring. They will arrive to La Sierra's campus this spring from the zoo in Germany.

The ark project's ultimate goal is the successful raising of the threatened species into healthy adults who can then be released into their natural habitat in Vietnam.

In preparation for the geckos' eventual arrival, Goymer spent Thanksgiving break at the Cologne Zoo under the guidance of Ziegler and his team. She learned how to feed adult and juvenile geckos, care for their eggs, and provide appropriate habitat. La Sierra's College of Arts & Sciences dean's office covered all expenses for her trip.

Goymer is a biological science major whose career goal is conservation and exploration to discover new species. "I see it as my role to protect what I can of nature and hopefully encourage others to do likewise," she said. "We are all intertwined in this tapestry we call life. Even in Genesis we are asked to be caretakers of the garden, and so, my career goal really is just that—taking care of our garden. Our home."

"It was a really cool experience," Goymer said of the training at the zoo in November. The tiger geckos are "absolutely gorgeous," she said, and "a little bitey, so you have to be careful. They like to latch onto you."

By Darla Martin Tucker



Vietnamese tiger geckos, courtesy of the Cologne Zoological Garden.

"I see it as my role to protect what I can of nature and hopefully encourage others to do likewise."

Children's Hospital Earns National Center of Excellence Ranking for Treating Sickle Cell Disease

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital's sickle cell treatment program has been awarded network affiliation with a national consortium of centers with a unified mission to improve the care of individuals with sickle cell disease (SCD).

The National Alliance for Sickle Cell Centers identify SCD Centers of Excellence that have the essential components needed to provide full spectrum disease care in their respective geographic regions. The association aims to unify sickle cell centers in their effort to improve access and advance research to cure this painful and deadly disease.

The designation follows earlier recognition from the California state senate for the hospital's establishment of the comprehensive sickle cell treatment center, which was launched in 2017. Loma Linda University Children's Hospital now treats some 300 patients with the condition each year, and doctors have used stem cell therapy to cure more than a dozen sickle cell patients of the genetic disease.

Akshat Jain, MD, MPH, director of the Pediatric Sickle Cell Center at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, called the national ranking a significant step in helping more people understand the resources the Inland Empire has for treating sickle cell patients.

"I am honored to be part of helping create a paradigm shift in providing the attention and respect that this group of society and patients deserve," Jain said. "We are able to keep our patients out of hospitals and in schools—and they can have a shot at a normal life."

Children's Hospital's sickle cell treatment program serves much of Southeastern California, southern Nevada, and most of Arizona. Many patients further away have moved near Loma Linda to establish regular care, Jain said.

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



PHOTO: ANSEL OLIVER

Dr. Jain holds a resolution from the California State Senate commending Children's Hospital for its comprehensive sickle cell treatment program.

Sickle cell disease can cause extraordinary pain, Jain said. The disease causes bone marrow to produce mostly ineffective red blood cells, cutting off oxygen to the body. When a bone starts to die because of lack of oxygen, it causes severe pain. "Imagine a two-year-old going through that pain every single day until they die. It's horrible," Jain said.

Roughly 1,000 babies are born with the disease each year in the United States, according to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. The disease largely affects African Americans. Jain says 1 in 7 Black adults are carriers of the condition, and two people who are carriers becoming parents are likely to have a child with sickle cell disease.

Jain came to establish the program at Loma Linda five years ago after conducting similar work in New York, bringing comprehensive treatment to a sorely needed spot in California.

When the California senate passed a resolution last year to honor Children's Hospital, legislators also passed a concurring resolution honoring Jain. "I've always wanted to live a life of significance, and I think I've found that life in work of this niche that has been created by God," Jain said.

By Ansel Oliver

The Radicals Brings Into Focus the Faith of the Anabaptists

The *Radicals* is a stage production about the Reformation written by Pacific Union College (PUC) professor Laura Wibberding. The play tells the story of early Anabaptist leaders.

Their role in the Reformation was arguably more impactful to the heritage of the Seventh-day Adventist Church than even Martin Luther himself.

In the early 1500s, two Protestant movements were sweeping across Europe. The Magisterial Reformation, with leaders like Luther in Germany and Zwingli in Switzerland, was supported by civil magistrates who enforced conformity to the faith. However, the Radical Reformation shunned state support. The most well-known group was the Anabaptists, who held that Christianity was a personal decision.

The play features a conversation between Menno Simons, a former Catholic priest who became a prominent Anabaptist leader, and a young female character named Rachel. Their conversation frames each of the play's episodes.

"The radical ideas the Anabaptists were promoting—believer's baptism, separation of church and state, freedom of conscience, social equality—don't seem radical to us today," Wibberding said. "They embraced them not as a way out of the endless religious wars of their time but because of their reading of the Bible."

Greg Schneider, professor emeritus of psychology at PUC, played Simons in the production and agrees with Wibberding on the importance of the Anabaptist movement.

"The profound respect for individual conscience, the insistence on a religion that shapes the whole of life and sets believers apart from the world's powers and authorities, the hunger for authenticity and perfection in the service of God's kingdom—all these things are themes found repeatedly in many



American religions," he said. "Adventism not least."

Wibberding, assistant professor of history, said the idea for the play originated several years ago during a Bible costume party held in place of Halloween. "I thought, 'Why not do Reformation Day?'" Wibberding said. She began to create Sabbath programs every year to share some of the stories of the Reformation—focusing on different characters or events.

"At first, it was just church participants in costumes telling a little history," she said. "Eventually, I replaced the narrator with a conversation between two people, and it became a full drama."

PUC Prep senior Lawren Slack played Rachel and connected with the character's journey. "I'm a teenage girl fighting to figure out how faith will guide my future," Slack said. "Rachel was a teenage girl whose faith determined hers."

The Radicals most recently was performed at PUC church on Sabbath, Nov. 5, 2022. Most actors were PUC Prep students, and there were a few PUC professors and students in the production. Along with Wibberding, PUC church student pastor Audry Guzman and PUC Prep Principal Heather Denton helped direct the play.

The Anabaptists were witnesses to the truth that God speaks to each of us directly through the Bible and that the Christian life is a choice. As Simons says in the play, "No one can force you to make it."

By Laura Gang





A Christmas for the Birds

The students in second and third grades at Riverview Christian Academy in Reno, Nevada, got into the holiday spirit in the week leading up to Christmas break by building a special gift for their parents. Ric Beddoe brought precut wooden pieces, hammers, nails, and everything needed—including birdseed. The students enjoyed hammering in the nails and learning the basics of woodcraft under his skilled direction.

The gifts were then wrapped by the students, who were very excited to take them home and place them under their trees as special surprise gifts for their parents. Melissa Stone, mother of second-grader Avery Stone, sent Mrs. Beddoe a photo on Christmas morning, exclaiming her joy and appreciation. Third-grader Molly Hildebrandt was thrilled to report that her dad loved the birdhouse so much that he was going to put it up right away. Evie Osborn, from the second grade, shared, “Dad almost screamed because he loved the gift so much.”

The birdhouses brought joy to the parents of the students, but they will also be a great blessing to the feathery friends at each home.

Many thanks to Mr. Beddoe for providing this wonderful experience for the students! Praise God for all the dedicated and generous volunteers who give so much of their time and resources in support of Christian education.

By Mariann Beddoe



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Mackenzie Silverio, Maia Chambers, and Juniper Stewart pay close attention as Mr. Beddoe demonstrates the next step necessary to complete their birdhouses. Mr. Beddoe assists Declan Lee with his Christmas building project. Teacher's aide Jenny Ouelette gets in the action as she assists Maia Chambers. Second-graders Mia Chambers and Juniper Stewart practice teamwork as they build their gifts. Melissa Stone was excited to receive the surprise gift on Christmas morning from her daughter, Avery. Ric Beddoe, husband of Riverview Christian Academy's second- and third-grade teacher Mariann Beddoe, demonstrates to the class the steps to assemble the birdhouses they will build for their parents. Ric Beddoe admires the labor of love that the students accomplished by making the birdhouses for Christmas gifts.



FAR LEFT: A large load of pumpkins heading out of the field for sharing with the community.

LEFT: Young harvesters are learning the gift of service at an early age and are excited to share freshly picked pumpkins.

The Fruit of the Harvest

The Moab church loves their community and continues to demonstrate it in different ways. Their agricultural ministry, Moab Manna, has now inspired a beautiful new outreach called the Harvest Basket.

Moab church member Valencia Miller was inspired by the Lord with a vision of what this new outreach should be. To make it happen, a lot of preparation needed to take place, making work for everyone in this little group of barely 20 church members to do.

The Lord opened doors for Valencia, encouraging her to network with multiple local farms, collecting donated produce to give away. Mary McElhaney knows a local business owner who agreed to share a corner of their commercial lot for an afternoon. Being a practical fellow, Sonny Ottinger offered to donate the use of his powerful truck and gooseneck trailer to haul the goods. The layout and decorations for the booth were arranged by Bill and Janice Foote, while Dave Seibert worked hours to dig potatoes.

Even the children and youth were involved, meeting together at a farm to harvest pumpkins out of the field. Many other helpers volunteered by preparing produce bags, sending out advertising, organizing and sharing literature and surveys, and filling in to help with numerous other details—especially praying for God’s leading and blessing.

Valencia prayed a very specific prayer, asking, “Lord please send five Bible study contacts from the Harvest Basket outreach.”

When the chilly October afternoon arrived, the final tally revealed that five farms had donated over 7,000 pounds of produce for this wonderful Harvest

Basket giveaway. The advertisements informed the community they could pick up their produce anytime within a designated five-hour window. The variety of farm-fresh produce was impressive, offering nearly anything that a person could desire—including gigantic watermelons!

The community began lining up even before the group was ready to serve them. Each person was given a customized grocery sack (which served to ration the quantities given), a package of sharing material, and a survey. The cheerful, enthusiastic volunteers helped the folks load up their grocery sacks, and within 90 minutes they had run out of food! The Moab church had provided over 7,000 pounds of food to eager recipients.

The folks who came were overflowing with gratitude. There were questions: “How often do you do this?” “Who are you with?” “We can’t thank you enough!” “This is such a blessing!” “This is so inspiring!”

The responsibility for entering the results of the survey data fell to Tiffany. She created lists for follow-up as she processed the surveys, putting the Bible study interests in a separate group. When she finished the entries, she held up the pile and exclaimed, “Hey, look at this! There are five Bible study interests!” Praise the Lord!

We must never underestimate God’s interest in our prayers and His desire to utilize our talents and friendships for His kingdom. What is He calling you to do in your church and community?

By Michelle Ward

Kai' Hodges Installed at Oakland Market Street

On Oct. 29, Kai' Hodges was installed as the new associate pastor of the Market Street church.

The service was moving and overflowing with deep emotions. Pastor Kai' expressed gratitude to her family, her senior pastor Edwin Brown, and the congregation for the opportunity to serve God's people.

According to Rudy Peters, coordinator of African American ministries, "I believe Market Street church has found the right person at the right time for the assignment. It was heartwarming to see the youth conducting the entire service and pledge their support to God and their new associate pastor."

By Yolanda Frazier



Lizeth Momonga Installed at Tracy

On Nov. 5, Lizeth Momonga was installed as pastor at the Tracy church. Before "Pastor Liz" settled in Tracy, she circled the world as a guest speaker in places like Venezuela, Kenya, and the Philippines. She planted a church of 25 in rural Alaska and produced daily live devotionals for the local radio station.

She says her passion is to "demonstrate God's saving grace and love to the world through the living and preaching of the gospel."

Lizeth earned her Master of Divinity in 2022 from Andrews University and shares her life with her husband, Richard.

By Ken Miller

David Peckham Installed at Stockton Central

On Nov. 19, David Peckham was installed as the new pastor of the Stockton Central church.

Peckham joins the Northern California Conference from Valley Center church in San Diego County, where he has been since 2015. In ministry since 1974, Peckham is known for his friendliness and constant activity.

According to Meleseini Tu'itupou, church secretary, "Even before he arrived, he asked us to send out invitations to everybody on our books, attending and not. He wants our membership to be proactive and involved in habits of connecting with our community, both Adventist and not."

Tu'itupou continued, "I think members have been sparked and drawn into a leadership style of energy and action. This will be great as we serve our



neighbors with passionate kindness."

David and Cheryl, his wife of 48 years, have two daughters: Melissa, who is principal of Hilltop Christian School in Antioch, and Janine, associate pastor at Lodi Fairmont.

By Ken Miller

Back from the Ashes with a Win!

Redwood Academy celebrated the opening of its new gymnasium on Dec. 9 by hosting a basketball game. The former gym was burned along with the school during the Santa Rosa Tubbs fire in 2017.

According to Lisa Paulson, principal, "Redwood has so much to offer our community—excellent education, our food farm program, and now our gymnasium, with events lined up one after another. We are so blessed and ecstatic to have it ready!"

Receiving their occupancy permit on Dec. 6, they promptly held their first basketball practice on Wednesday in preparation for a game on Friday. And play they did! The seventh- and eighth-grade boys battled back from a 12-point deficit to win their game against a local undefeated team.



According to Matthew Beehler, financial chair and coach, "We were definitely the underdogs in this game, so winning 42 to 38 may have been sparked by being on our new home court."

Paulson concluded, "It's been an extraordinary week—the end of a long wait. Winning this game was a great way to inaugurate our shiny new home."

By Ken Miller

Pine Hills Academy Choir Sings at State Capitol

On Dec. 6, Pine Hills Academy Choir helped Sacramento Capitol visitors ring in the Christmas season by performing a selection of sacred and secular holiday music.

As part of the Capitol Holiday Music Program, the Choralaires performed in the Capitol rotunda. According to David Carreon, principal, "It is amazing and satisfying to have our talented students perform in such a public setting. It is a privilege to share the story of Jesus' birth

through song in such a secular and traveled setting."

Carreon concluded, "To see our young people minister through music and interact with the community is an exciting part of Adventist education."

By Ken Miller



Mt. Rubidoux Church Wins Grand Prize in Video Contest

If you had the opportunity to talk to your future church, what would you tell them? The Southeastern California Conference (SECC) Communications & Media Department asked this very question to the churches of the conference with their #DearFutureChurch Video Contest. Churches were tasked with creating a two-minute video that shared with the church of the future.

After careful review by the judges' panel and a week-long general public voting period, three prizes were awarded: an Honorable Mention award of \$250, an Audience Choice award of \$500, and a Grand Prize of \$1,000. With beautiful, sweeping drone shots across desert landscapes, the Blythe church took home the Honorable Mention. Corona Main Street Spanish church won the Audience Choice with their heartfelt message narrating shots of their church's community involvement and the recently held Pacific Union Conference Camporee.

Last, but certainly not least, the grand prize of \$1,000 was awarded to Mt. Rubidoux church. Mt. Rubidoux's team presented a quiet, dramatic reflection on the race that is still ahead of them as they hand off the baton to the future church through a poem written by Nadine



(Starting second from left to right) Gabriel Mendoza, Joel Mendoza, Cindy Rivas, and Diego Najera accept the Audience Choice Award from SECC staff on behalf of Corona Main Street Spanish church.



Theo Brown (second from left) and Zannette Ricketts (third from left) receive the grand prize for Mt. Rubidoux from SECC staff.

Lucate. "I think that the theme of reflection really resonated with us," said Theo Brown, Mt. Rubidoux filmmaker and director of the project. "Once we got into the sanctuary to film...[it] felt like this was going to be a piece that represented any one of us just sitting alone with God and our thoughts, talking to ourselves and reflecting on our own spiritual journeys."

With the ecstatic support of Alfonso Greene, senior pastor of Mt. Rubidoux, Brown and Zannette Ricketts, Mt. Rubidoux media leader, worked together to film a gorgeous visual with the poem, starring and narrated by Alexander Archer, Mt. Rubidoux choir director. On winning the grand prize, Brown reflected, "[It is] such an honor to represent our church but also to be a part of an amazing community of creatives in the SECC."

SECC is blessed to be filled with talented church media teams and creative people who use their gifts for God. You can still view all the #DearFutureChurch video submissions on our website at seccadventist.org/dear-future-church.

By Megan Jacobs



LEFT: The Kansas Avenue Pathfinders salute before posting colors. MIDDLE: Marine Chief Warrant Officer Franklin Benjamin (top left), Air Force Colonel Ralph Smith (top right), and Air Force Lieutenant Colonel William Howe (seated), all retired, gather for the NAACP luncheon. RIGHT: Navy Chaplain Kurt King gives the keynote address.

SECC Veterans Lead Out in NAACP Luncheon

This past Veteran's Day, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) honored veterans throughout the Inland Empire. The committee that organized this event was headed by retired Marine Chief Warrant Officer Franklin Benjamin, an elder at Imani Praise Fellowship.

This was a historic event in which veterans of all branches of service in the Inland Empire were recognized and honored. The tradition started 52 years ago, and each year in the 11th month, on the 11th day, at the 11th hour, veterans are celebrated, appreciated, and encouraged. Veterans who attend for the first time also receive an NAACP medal.

There were several distinguished guests at the celebration. Community leaders, clergy, and politicians joined in honoring the veterans. California State Senator Richard Roth and Congressman Mark Takano also shared remarks to recognize and encourage the veterans in attendance.

In a written statement, Congressman Mark Takano,

who also serves as the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said, "I commend the NAACP Riverside Branch for recognizing our current heroes and veterans in present-day military affairs through their work to improve and uplift the lives of Black Americans in our community."

The committee's goal was not just to uplift the community but also to uplift the veterans. "Many veterans were publicly ridiculed when they returned from Vietnam and were not appreciated by the nation," said Benjamin. "One of the committee's goals was to right that wrong."

The Kansas Avenue Pathfinders presented the colors and served as ushers during this event. Navy Chaplain Kurt King, a former Southeastern California Conference pastor, provided the keynote address. He inspired veterans as he encouraged them to keep going despite the difficulties they face. "It can be hard, but do it anyway. We do hard things," reminded King.

By Andrea King



PHOTO: PHIL WHITE



PHOTO: ARAYA MOSS

LEFT: (From left to right) Sveta Gavelo, Jan, Olga, Phil. Phil and Jan's first meeting with Lena (not pictured) and Olga in Saratov, Russia, in April 1993. Gavelo served as the group's translator. RIGHT: (From left to right) Hannah, piano; Lena, violin; and Olga, cello, perform a variety of Christmas songs at the December concert.

Simi Valley Church Hosts Benefit Concert to Assist Russian-Ukrainian Immigrant Family

When Phil White and Jan White, Simi Valley church senior and associate pastors, were called to hold evangelistic meetings in Russia 30 years ago, they did not know the impact that divine appointment would have today.

At that time, Phil and Jan became acquainted with friends Lena, an Adventist student studying violin and piano, and Olga, another Adventist student. Through the years, Phil and Jan visited many times. In 2018, Phil accepted an invitation from Andrew Kovalev, senior pastor of the church in Moscow and husband of Lena, to lead a revival series for young adults. During that time, he reconnected with the Kovalev family, and the friendship between these two families grew stronger.

When Russia invaded Ukraine last year, Phil and Jan immediately thought of their friends. Their communication during the covid pandemic had declined, but the Kovalevs were still in their hearts.

Andrew and his son, Daniel, were being increasingly pressured to join Russian forces to fight against Ukraine. Because of their faith and ancestry (Andrew is Russian and Lena is Ukrainian), they were uncomfortable doing so. Andrew and Daniel quickly decided to flee Russia, with Lena and Hannah soon to follow. The family embarked on a tiring and frightful journey—with no more possessions than what could

fit in a suitcase for each—that took them from Russia to the United Emirates, Turkey, Mexico, and finally the United States last October. Once in America, Phil and Jan became their sponsors, and the Kovalevs have been living with them, becoming not just a part of their family but also a part of the Simi Valley church family.

In December, Simi Valley church hosted a benefit concert to help pay off the debt the family has accrued since leaving Russia. The event featured concert musicians Lena, violin; Olga, cello; and Hannah, piano. Other performances included a trombone quartet, vocals, and the flute.

Friends from far and wide have become a part of the Kovalev story, helping how and when they can throughout their journey. "God sent me all of you so that I will be in His hands," Lena shared at the concert. "Thank you to all of you for being with us on this journey."

"God is in this story," Phil said. "It's a reminder of what God can do when we let Him do it."

If you would like to hear more about the Kovalev family story and view the concert, visit <https://www.simiadventist.org/resources/the-immigrants-concert>.

If you would like to donate, visit <https://www.simiadventist.org/giving> and select "Russian Family Relief Fund."

By Araya Moss

Hollywood Church Finds Creative Methods for Community Engagement

How can churches become involved with already established community events in a way that is meaningful and impactful?

One Sunday last summer, Hollywood church participated with CicLAvia, a nonprofit that “catalyzes vibrant public spaces, active transportation, and good health through car-free streets.” Inspired by Bogotá’s weekly *ciclovía*, CicLAvia temporarily closes streets to car traffic and opens them to Angelenos to use as a public park.

As longtime city bikers who’ve attended CicLAvia events in the past, Kelsy Jarboe and her husband, Alburn, members of Hollywood church, recalled biking past a church where people stood outside to pass out water bottles.

“When I heard the route was coming by our church, I thought we could do something similar,” Kelsy said. “The idea is very simple, but the impact was big—not just for the people we were helping but also for the people who were volunteering.”

The team of two dozen volunteers set up a tent across the corner of the church to hand out free water bottles and stations for cyclists to pump their tires. Church members donated tire pumps, and many had spent the Sabbath before the event creating labels for the water bottles, which highlighted Compassion Connection, Hollywood church’s shower and personal

care ministry. Within two hours, they distributed 500 water bottles and pumped two dozen tires.

“I didn’t want them to just see the church building, because the church is more than just the building—it’s the people,” Kelsy added. “I wanted the people involved with CicLAvia to get connected with the members of our church.”

“These events are held multiple times a year and go by a number of different Adventist churches,” said Branden Stoltz, Hollywood church pastor, “which can be a great opportunity for other churches to reach their community. They’re already coming by our churches, so how can we make use of it?”

Kelsy encourages churches to become aware of community events already taking place and to think of ways the local church can add to the experience. “We handed out water and provided air—something they needed,” Kelsy said. “And for those who wanted to know about our church, they had the opportunity to ask.”

“When God places things like this on a church member’s heart, for the whole church to rally around it and encourage that work,” added Stoltz, “that’s how the church is going to advance.”

To learn more about CicLAvia and how to get connected, visit ciclavia.org.

By Araya Moss



PHOTO: BRIAN SICURELLA



PHOTO: BRANDEN STOLTZ



PHOTO: BRANDEN STOLTZ

LEFT: Alburn (left) and Kelsy (right) bike through the open Hollywood boulevard. ABOVE LEFT: Volunteers stand by their bike stop advertising free water and air. The Hollywood church building did not have the required four feet of sidewalk space, so the tent was set up in front of the fire station on the opposite corner of the church. ABOVE RIGHT: A young biker gets his tires pumped at the Hollywood church station.

Calendar

Central California Conference

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; March 4 at Visalia; March 11 at San Jose Spanish; March 18 at Santa Maria; March 25 at Modesto Parkwood. Go to www.CCCAdventist.org for church times, addresses, and directions.

Save the date! Mountain View Academy Alumni Weekend, April 7-8, 2023. Join us to worship our amazing God and to celebrate MVA's centennial. Call MVA office at 650-967-2324, visit our Facebook Alumni group, or check out our website for updates: www.mountainviewacademy.org.

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.

Payment in advance must accompany all classified advertisements or they will not be published. Display ads for known advertisers will be billed. To pay by credit card, please go to recorder@adventistfaith.com.

How to Submit Advertising

Classified ads must be sent with payment to the *Recorder* office. Display ads should be arranged with the editor (recorder@adventistfaith.com).

Classified Rates

\$70 for 50 words; 75 cents each additional word. Display rates (full color only): back cover, \$4,200; full page, \$3,800; 1/2-pg., \$2,200; 1/4-pg., \$1,200; 1/8-pg., \$700; \$160 per column inch.

Information

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

Upcoming Deadlines

These are the advertising deadlines for the *Recorder*. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

March: February 6 • April: March 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.

Check the Events page online at www.CCCAdventist.org for all the updates.

La Sierra University

An Evening of Opera Highlights. The Department of Music will feature highlights from various operas in performances by its talented students on Wed., Feb. 22. The concert will be held at 7 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. For further information, email music@lasierra.edu or call 951-785-2036. Free admission.

All-Stars Concert. The Department of Music will present an All-Stars Concerto Concert on Wed., March 1, at 7 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. For further information, email music@lasierra.edu or call 951-785-2036. Free admission.

The World Museum of Natural History is open the third Sabbath of the month, 2 to 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 25 guests at a time. Information: Advancement@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2500, or <https://lasierra.edu/world-museum-of-natural-history/>.

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

Pacific Union College

2023 PUC Music Festival Concert featuring academy musicians from across the union in choir, orchestra, and wind ensemble. Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m., in Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center in San Ramon (10550 Albion Rd). \$5 admission.

PUC Homecoming is April 21-22, 2023. PUC has planned an exciting in-person event filled with meaningful programs, class reunion gatherings, and opportunities to engage with old friends, professors, and your PUC family.

Southern California Conference

SCC Spiritual Week of Encouragement (Feb. 4-11) 7 p.m. The Southern California Conference is hosting our next conference-wide virtual week of spiritual encouragement. Themed "To Be Like Jesus," each night will emphasize eight characteristics of Jesus and inspire us to exemplify these characteristics in our lives. Info: scc.adventist.org/tobelikejesus.

Los Angeles Adventist Academy 100th Anniversary (March 9-13). Activities that weekend will include a reunion concert, awards banquet, sports day, career day, and golf tournament on Monday. Los Angeles Adventist Academy, 846 E El Segundo Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90059. Info: laaa-alumni.com.

Classified

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 or 951-509-2351.

Holbrook Indian School is currently in need of a Food Service Director, Cafeteria Assistant, Maintenance Assistant, Grounds/Maintenance Assistant, and a Content Acquisitions/Social Media Coordinator. These are paid positions. In addition, there is an opening for a volunteer married couple to fill the role of House Deans in an off-campus housing capacity at the Eagle's Nest. If you or someone you know are mission-minded and would like to serve Native American children, please see or share our jobs page at HolbrookIndianSchool.org/jobs.

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

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.

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 or contact 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.

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.

Real Estate

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

Choice mountain land inside Cherokee National

The advertisement for California Adventist Federal Credit Union (CAFCU) features a grid of service icons: Savings Accounts (IRA, MMK, CD), Cash Loans, Mortgage Loans, Car Loans, Visa Debit Cards, Visa Credit Cards, Checking Accounts, Christmas Club, Mobile Banking, Billpay, Zelle, and Apple Pay. The CAFCU logo is prominently displayed, along with contact information: 818-246-7241 | 818-240-5809, SDACREDITUNION.COM, and OPERATIONS@SDACREDITUNION.COM. A QR code is provided for mobile access. The text states: "OFFERING ALL YOUR BANKING NEEDS FOR OVER 68 YEARS" and "YOUR ONE STOP FINANCE SHOP!".

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

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

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

For Sale: Amazing California land with water; Incredible Hawaii land; House in mainland; 36' Islander sailboat in Waikiki. Due to covid and Paradise Camp Fire we are interested in exploring options. Facing tax foreclosures. Call us at 209-507-9686, email

us at: health.by.choice.120@gmail.com, or text me at 530-353-5561.

Southern Oregon, country setting, 3 acres, easy I-5 access. Modified A-frame, 3-bdrm, 3-bath, ample living areas, grapes, trees, pool, outbuildings, well, septic. SDA church and school, close to Milo Adventist Academy. 541-430-2710.

Office building for lease in Nashville. Kentucky-Tennessee Conference is leasing a free-standing building ideal for medical, dentistry, or counseling practices. The building was recently renovated and measures 3,000 square feet. It is located immediately off the interstate exit in a highly trafficked upscale commercial area, and it is only 30 minutes from Nashville—a growing city with a booming economy. For more information, contact Terri Jenks at 615-859-1391, ext.1006.

Costa Rica country property with two homes on 16 acres. Several water sources, including a year-round creek, spring, and a well. More than 100 fruit trees, 2 greenhouses, and many additional structures. \$595,000. 760-305-9929.

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 four 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.

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Personal Assistant/Caretaker Needed: Help is needed for a senior citizen in LA. who still drives and functions for themselves but is slowing down. The female assistant needed should have a driver's license (car not necessary) to drive them to and fro for appointments, shopping, etc., along with a willingness to do domestic duties and other miscellaneous necessities. Text/call 909-557-5618, leave a VM and text.

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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, WA. 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

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

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

Steps of Paul 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.

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At Rest

Anderson, Walter Burke – b. May 9, 1933, Santa Barbara, Calif.; d. June 17, 2021, Lompoc, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joan; sons, William Burke, Steven Craig; daughter, Jennifer; three grandchildren.

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

Brewer Bloesch, Gertrude – b. May 30, 1932, Willits, Calif.; d. Sept. 12, 2022, Deer Park, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Sally Beardsley, Margie Penkala, Edith Wharton, and Loretta Bloesch; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Trudy was very active in children's Sabbath Schools for 40+ years at the PUC church.

Brown, James – b. Dec. 22, 1931, La Habra, Calif.; d. Nov. 20, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Diane Cowan; sons, David Brown, Donald Brown; three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

Dayes, Lloyd – b. Feb. 15, 1929, Jamaica; d. Dec. 4, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Thelma; two grandchildren.

Evans, Ronald Lee Jr. – b. March 11, 1964; d. Oct. 11, 2022. Survivors: three children; one grandchild. Ron was active in the Paradise church as a deacon and in building maintenance and grounds. He was also an active member in our shed building project of 422 sheds built for those who lost everything in the Camp Fire in our Paradise community.

Fernandez, Richard – b. July 5, 1935, San Francisco, Calif.; d. Sept. 26, 2022, Tulare, Calif. Survivors: wife, Elvina; son, Michael; daughters, Sandra Patterson, Theresa Paulson; five grandchildren.

Foster, Darrow – b. Oct. 9, 1926, Rochert, Minn.; d. May 3, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Darrow Jr.; daughters, Loretta Magyar, Cynthia Neuendorff; three grandchildren. Darrow served as a schoolteacher and minister for 46 ½ years. He pastored various churches in Arizona, Ohio, and Pennsylvania Conferences. In

retirement he pastored the Tehachapi church and was instrumental in getting their new sanctuary built.

Foster, Patricia – b. Oct. 3, 1934; d. Dec. 25, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Glenn; sons, James, Gary; daughters, Terri, Margaret, Ginger, Gina; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

Heckaman, Jean – b. March 16, 1932, Chicago, Ill.; d. Dec. 30, 2020, Columbia City, Ind.

Hodgkin, Steven – b. May 26, 1964, Pasadena, Calif.; d. Dec. 31, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sheila Hodgkin; son, Alex; daughters, Savannah, Sophia, Summer; siblings, Kathryn Gledrange, Carolyn Bakland, Jon Hodgkin, Jaime Hodgkin; parents, Georgia Hodgkin, John E. Hodgkin.

Lee (Walker), Verna – b. Feb. 14, 1950, Deer Park, Calif.; d. Nov. 14, 2022, Highland, Calif. Survivors: husband, Jerry; daughter, Valinda; one grandchild.

Lewis, Connie – b. Feb. 4, 1949; d. Feb. 26, 2022. Survivors: daughters, Debbie Christensen, Karen Yost; five grandchildren. Ed and Connie, husband and wife, died four days apart. They were active in the fellowship lunch ministry and with a team counting the weekly offerings at Granite Bay Hilltop church.

Lewis, Edward – b. Aug. 2, 1939; d. March 2, 2022. Survivors: daughters, Debbie Christensen, Karen Yost; five grandchildren. Ed and Connie, husband and wife, died four days apart. Both of them were dedicated to serving others through many church ministries throughout their 60 years of marriage.

Munoz, Arturo Soltero – b. April 22, 1948, Juarez, Mexico; d. Oct. 31, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Cynthia; daughters, Dina Silos, Marisa Berg; three grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, three step-great-grandchildren.

Nagel, Lewis – b. Jan. 2, 1944, Camp Cook, Calif.; d. Nov. 26, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marsha; son, Andre.

Paden, Donald Jr. – b. July 14, 1943, Kokomo, Ind.; d. Dec. 16, 2022, Orlando, Fla. Survivors: mother, Rosetta Von Ins; wife, Jacquelynn Paden; sons, Donndalee, Donald III, Michael; daughters, Michelle, Alexandra, Madelynn.

Pittman, Brandon – b. Dec. 18, 1976, Eureka, Calif.; d. Nov. 5, 2022, Eureka, Calif. Survivors: parents, Gail and Chester Pittman; sister, Shelley Chaffin.

Priebe, Kay Yvonne – b. April 13, 1942, Sacramento, Calif.; d. Nov. 21, 2022, Lodi, Calif.; Survivors: husband, Dennis; son, Matthew. She spent the last 36 years traveling with her family holding revival seminars for Amazing Facts.

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

Ruiz-Hall, Tanya Angelina – b. Santa Barbara, Calif.; d. Sept. 22, 2022, Kauai, Hawaii. Survivors: sons, Joshua, Mason; daughter, Kaila; three grandchildren.

Siregar, John – b. July 5, 1930, Tapaktuan, Indonesia; d. Dec. 25, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Erna Siregar; daughters, Sylvia, Tina, Joan, Ellen, Joyce; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters.

Snider, Leslye – b. May 15, 1936, Leona, Kan.; d. Dec. 23, 2022, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Melinda; son, Gregory; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

Soco, Teodora Bastian – b. Dec. 27, 1940, Pandan, Antique, Philippines; d. Nov. 2, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Pol Soco Sr.; siblings, Vicente Bastian Tubieros, Antonieto Bastian, Merly Bastian; sons, Dan, Bert, Rod, Pol Jr., Isaac; daughters, Claire Vicente, Lorna, Esther, Sharon Soco; 17 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren.

Warren, Greg – b. Jan. 1, 1960, Huntington Park, Calif.; d. Oct. 7, 2022, Mountain View, Calif.

February 2023 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	FEB 3	FEB 10	FEB 17	FEB 24
Alturas	5:19	5:28	5:37	5:45
Angwin	5:32	5:41	5:49	5:56
Bakersfield	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46
Calexico	5:16	5:22	5:28	5:34
Chico	5:28	5:36	5:44	5:52
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	5:14	5:22	5:29	5:36
Eureka	5:35	5:44	5:52	6:01
Four Corners [E]	5:43	5:50	5:58	6:05
Fresno	5:26	5:33	5:40	5:48
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	5:56	6:04	6:11	6:18
Half Dome	5:23	5:31	5:38	5:46
Hilo	6:13	6:17	6:20	6:23
Holbrook	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:11
Honolulu	6:22	6:26	6:30	6:33
Joshua Tree	5:17	5:24	5:30	5:37
Lake Tahoe	5:23	5:31	5:39	5:47
Las Vegas	5:09	5:16	5:23	5:30
Lodi-Stockton	5:30	5:38	5:45	5:53
Loma Linda	5:21	5:28	5:34	5:40
Los Angeles	5:26	5:32	5:38	5:44
McDermitt [N]	5:08	5:17	5:26	5:34
Moab	5:42	5:50	5:58	6:05
Monterey Bay	5:35	5:42	5:50	5:57
Mt. Whitney	5:22	5:29	5:35	5:41
Napa	5:33	5:41	5:49	5:57
Nogales [S]	6:02	6:08	6:14	6:20
Oakland	5:34	5:42	5:50	5:57
Paradise, CA	5:28	5:36	5:44	5:52
Phoenix	6:01	6:08	6:14	6:20
Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]	6:15	6:18	6:22	6:25
Reno	5:21	5:29	5:38	5:45
Riverside	5:22	5:28	5:35	5:41
Sacramento	5:30	5:38	5:46	5:53
Salt Lake City	5:47	5:56	6:04	6:12
San Diego	5:23	5:29	5:35	5:41
San Francisco	5:35	5:43	5:50	5:58
San Jose	5:34	5:41	5:49	5:56
Santa Rosa	5:35	5:43	5:51	5:58
Sunset Beach	5:34	5:42	5:49	5:56
Thousand Oaks	5:27	5:34	5:40	5:47
Tucson	5:59	6:05	6:11	6:17

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

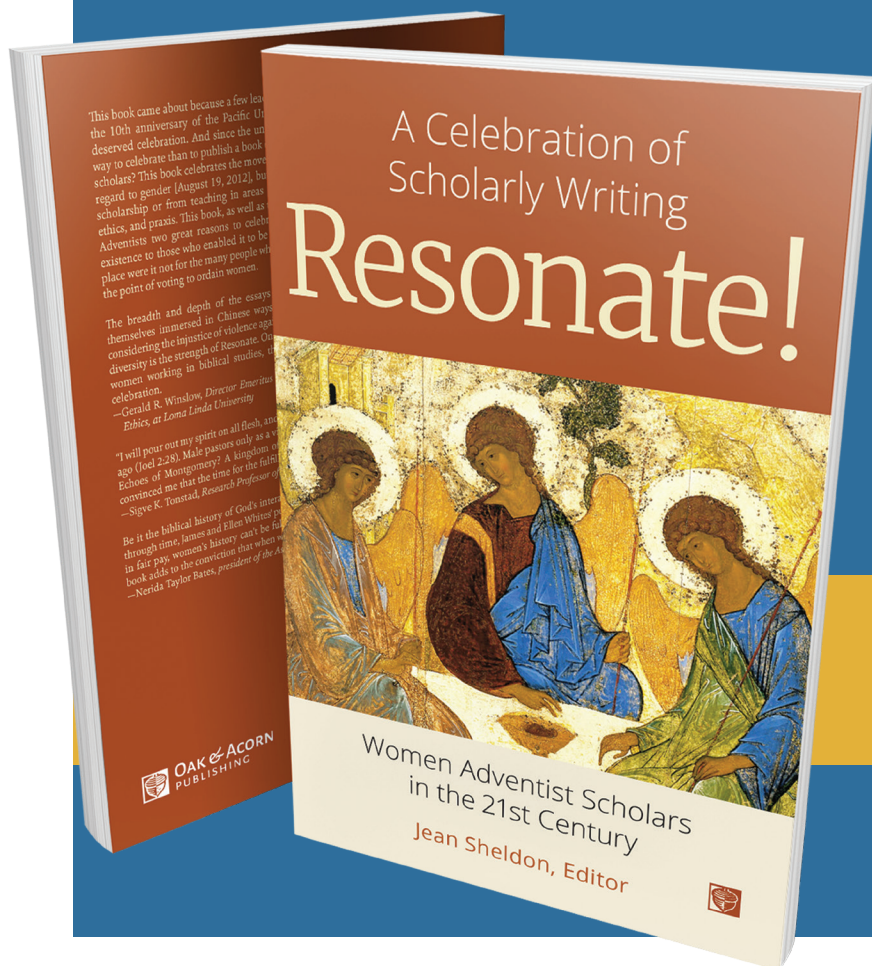
"So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God." Hebrews 4:9

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