

PACIFIC UNION

MARCH 2023

# Recorder



## The Powerful Name of Jesus



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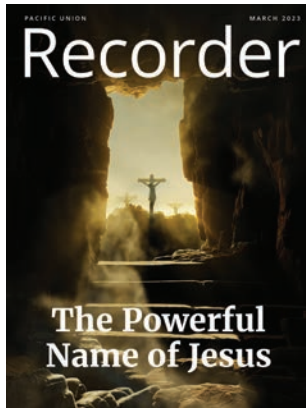


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Let us have more confidence in our Redeemer. Turn not from the waters of Lebanon to seek refreshment at broken cisterns, which can hold no water. Have faith in God. Trustful dependence on Jesus makes victory not only possible, but certain.

Though multitudes are pressing on in the wrong way, though the outlook be ever so discouraging, yet we may have full assurance in our Leader; for "I am God," he declares, "and there is none else." He is infinite in power, and able to save all who come to him. There is no other in whom we can safely trust.

—Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*,  
June 9, 1910, par. 9

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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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**Postal Regs:** The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 123, Number 3, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and is published monthly. Editorial office is at 2686 Townsgate Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361; 805-497-9457. Periodical postage paid at Thousand Oaks, CA, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: No charge to Pacific Union Adventist church members; \$16 per year in U.S.; \$20 foreign (U.S. funds); single copy, \$2. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Circulation Department, Pacific Union Recorder, Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359. Info@adventistfaith.com.

# The Powerful



DUNCAN HERRINGTON/ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

*The Woman of Samaria at the Well.*

# Name of Jesus

By Bradford C. Newton



“If I’m successful I’ll be happy.” A recent article in the *Harvard Business Review* begs to differ. One study finds that 72% of successful CEOs and entrepreneurs are depressed and suffering with mental health issues. An expert on the subject writes, “The insatiable goals to acquire more, succeed conspicuously, and be as attractive as possible lead us to objectify one another, and even ourselves.... Love and fun are sacrificed for another day of work, in search of a positive internal answer to the question *Am I successful yet?* We become cardboard cutouts of real people.”<sup>1</sup>

As a disciple of Jesus and His gospel, I know the other path. Those “insatiable goals” are satisfied by a daily visit to the well of the Water of Life. When our Lord visited with the Samaritan woman drawing water, He offered the antidote to unending striving for meaning through action: “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.... [It] will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13-14).<sup>2</sup> The search begins and ends with Jesus. He meets disciples after this interview and declares, “Look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35).

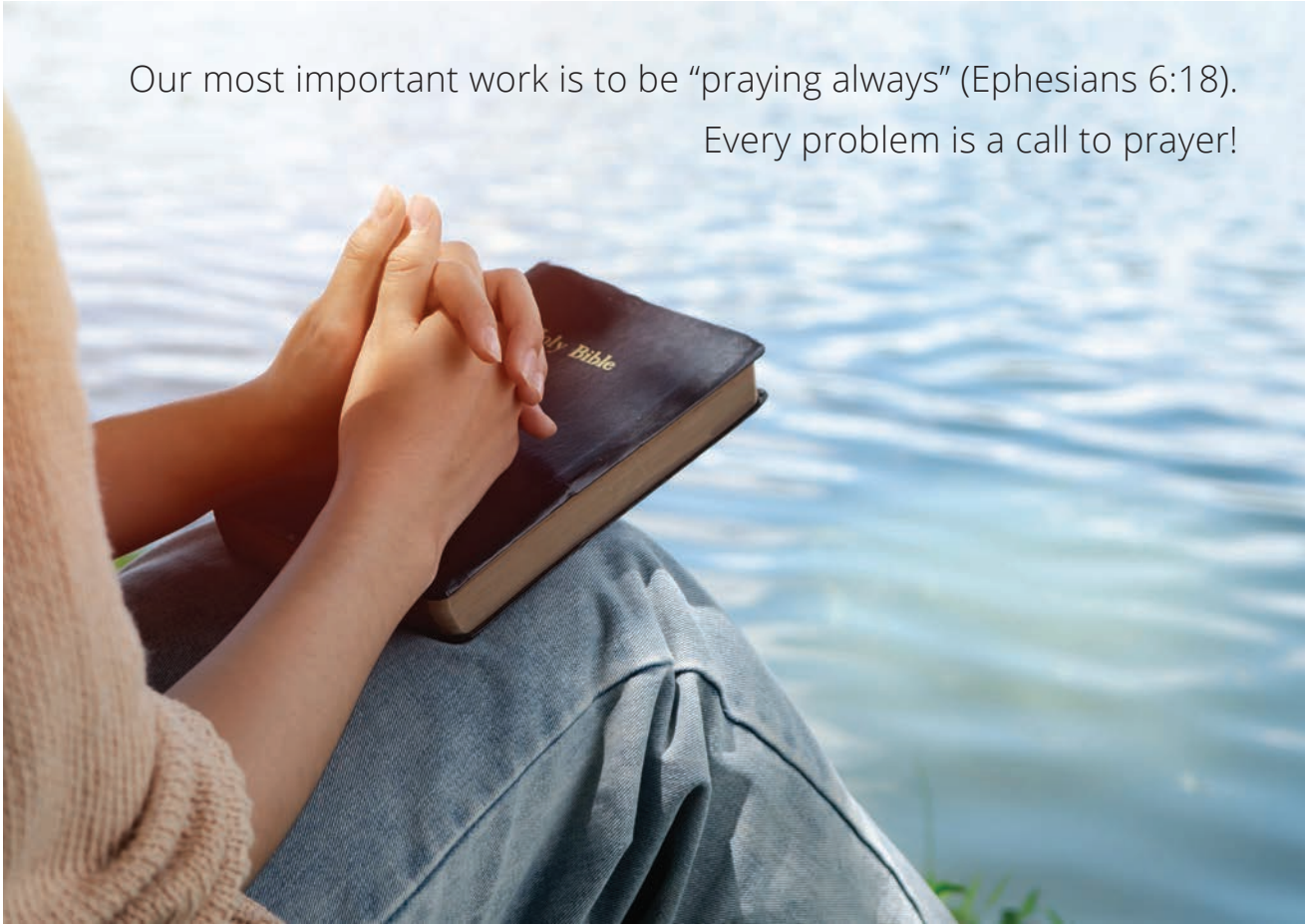
As I consider the mission field of the Pacific Union Conference, my heart races with the words of the Apostle Paul, “Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians

9:16). But there are strong winds blowing against our little boat of endeavors. The cultural barriers of secularism, ever-deepening political divisions, and the growing national consensus that objective truth (you name the topic) is gone. We must certainly continue to use our best thinking to uncover the relevant missional principles and practices to meet our culture. We will not cease to educate, teach Biblical truth, and worship our risen and returning Lord.

These activities on their own will not be enough to turn the tide. Why? Because our mission has never been about simply winning an argument over theology. (Which day is the Sabbath? What happens when you die?) The goal was laid out centuries ago when God told his prophet, "This is the covenant that I will make.... I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

It is the life-altering encounter with Jesus Christ that we are calling the world toward. The Great Commission is "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). Yet progress seems so slow.

I remember a phone call that came into my church office one morning. A woman's voice asked to speak to the pastor. She shared her journey of studying the Bible. As a member of another church, she professed her desire to follow Jesus in every way. Her independent study was yielding new convictions that her pastor could not answer. "What do you believe about the Sabbath?" she asked me. Thus began a month of conversations about her walk with God and her joyful discovery of a body of Christian believers seeking to fulfill the admonition of Jesus, "If you love me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). She and her two children began attending church, made many



Our most important work is to be "praying always" (Ephesians 6:18).  
Every problem is a call to prayer!

# We will not cease to educate, teach Biblical truth, and worship our risen and returning Lord.

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friends in the congregation, and soon became Seventh-day Adventists. Their walk with Jesus continues to this day.

On many occasions in my ministry, I have been awed and humbled by phone calls like this. God reveals Himself as the One who works upon human hearts, and He asks only that I align myself with His plan. As a leader, I daily seek to work sensitively and intelligently to promote the gospel in whatever part of vineyard I find myself. But then the surprising moments burst forth that remind me of an unseen spiritual reality at work. The Holy Spirit's efforts encompass both the individual human heart as well as the collective work done by groups in churches, schools, conferences, and institutions. God shows up and does what cannot be done by human efforts. In fact, when we use methods and means that do not acknowledge the space for God to act, we may make things worse.

My first solo assignment as a pastor was a district that included an elementary school with 10 children in eight grades with one teacher. The church had 70 members and was in debt to the conference for teacher remittances for about \$20,000—a huge sum at the time. The conference would close the school unless the bill was paid off. Members were fighting as their new, young pastor arrived. Jennifer and I worked hard those first months to befriend the families of our little church. My sermons were on Jesus and His grace. Most importantly, I was praying for the softening of hearts, for wisdom, and specifically to save our school. I will always remember a board meeting when the fighting factions united. One patriarch

pledged to pay half the debt if others followed. A Sabbath commitment service followed, and the funds came in. The school was saved.

God reminds us that there is an unseen struggle being waged in this life. It is clear from the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” There is no clever human strategy or missional program that can be successful with all this arrayed against us. However, this same Paul writes of Jesus, “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15). Our Lord has gained victory that we can lay claim to by faith. Paul calls us to “take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day” (Ephesians 6:13).

The powerful name of Jesus is victorious in the unseen spiritual battles. We have the armament from Him to spiritually thrive in the closing days of this fight. Our most important work is to be “praying always” (Ephesians 6:18). Every problem is a call to prayer! What are you facing today? No matter how insurmountable it may appear, the powerful name of Jesus is on your side. What do you need to pray about today? He is listening and ready to act.

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

<sup>1</sup>Ron Carucci quoting Harvard professor Arthur Brooks in “Why Success Doesn't Lead to Satisfaction,” *Harvard Business Review* (Jan. 25, 2023), <https://hbr.org/2023/01/why-success-doesnt-lead-to-satisfaction>.  
<sup>2</sup>All Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version.

# Love in Action: A Story About Families and Healing



By Cynthia Mendoza



Losing one parent when you're an adolescent is devastating, but human words fail to describe the pain of losing both parents nearly back-to-back. Yet that was the harsh reality Fiona and Gared Lin faced at the ages of 13 and eight, respectively, when they lost both of their parents three years apart, in 2016 and 2019.

Ping-Herng 'Denny' Lin was an assistant professor of computer science and senior programmer analyst at La Sierra University when he passed away at the age of 49 of cancer. His wife, Eunice, a teacher at the Loma Linda Children's Center for years, passed away suddenly at the age of 50 three years later. They were a well-known and beloved family in the La Sierra and Loma Linda Adventist communities. The passing of Denny and Eunice left Fiona and Gared without earthly parents but not without their Heavenly Father's loving providential care.

Enter the Leukert family: mom and dad Aimee and Kristian, and their girls Liana, 11 at the time, and Kayleigh, nine at the time. Aimee is an assistant professor in the Curriculum and Instruction Department at La Sierra University and co-director of the Center for Research on Adventist Education. Kristian is the choir director for grades 7-12 at Loma Linda Academy.

The Leukerts knew the Lin family informally from general fellowship and activities at the Loma Linda University church, and Aimee had been Fiona's piano teacher in junior high—the two got to know each over time from their weekly lessons.

Soon after Eunice passed in 2019, Aimee Leukert began to feel a tug on her heart to help Fiona and Gared in a tangible way. Though the Leukerts and Lins hadn't been particularly close, Aimee and Kristian began to discuss the possibility of bringing them into their family.

"We felt that if the kids end up in foster care, it would be a failure on the community. I thought, 'How is it that we are wringing our hands and sending dinners over but not doing anything more?'" Aimee said.

Up until this point, Aimee had considered herself someone who was great at baking cookies for people who were ill or suffering a loss and leaving a plate at

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"We felt that if the kids end up in foster care, it would be a failure on the community. I thought, 'How is it that we are wringing our hands and sending dinners over but not doing anything more?'"



their doorstep but not getting involved much more beyond that. But this situation was different.

“When my husband and I first talked about the possibility of having them come live with us, we both felt convicted this was the right thing to do. We felt we needed to reach out to Fiona and Jared and at least offer them the option,” she said.

It is here that the story becomes a bit longer and nuanced. Many details are left out for the sake of privacy, as one might expect for such a sensitive situation, but suffice it to say that after

a series of events, conversations with multiple players, and carefully navigating ever-changing circumstances, Fiona and Jared became members of the Leukert household about six months after their mother’s passing.

The next few months were a time of growth and adjustment for the entire household. This was during the early days of the pandemic, which meant four kids in one household doing school on Zoom. But being at home during the pandemic also brought its share of providential blessings.

“When we look back at that time, covid was truly the silver lining for our family because all of a sudden everybody was home and everyone’s schedule was cleared,” Leukert said. “We basically played 20 questions every night and really got to know each other.”

Since that time, the newly expanded family has settled into normal family life, taking trips together, getting to know each other and extended families, playing games, and generally doing life, school, and work together as most families do. Now Jared, 15, is in 10th grade and Fiona, 20, is a junior majoring in digital media and communication at La Sierra University.

The timing of Eunice’s passing was really hard on Jared and Fiona, especially because it was at the beginning of Fiona’s senior year in high school; she was sad that her parents wouldn’t be able to be there for her graduation or with her through her college years. The two siblings were also under a lot of stress not knowing where they would end up as far as a permanent home. They welcomed the Leukerts’ offer to join their home, which relieved a lot of that anxiety.

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“When my husband and I first talked about the possibility of having them come live with us, we both felt convicted this was the right thing to do.”

"It was a little awkward at first, but we just needed to spend time together," Fiona recalled. "It was during the pandemic, so we had a chance to do that. Time has been a huge factor in helping us transition together."

Liana and Kayleigh, now 14 and 12, respectively, have also adjusted well to new members of the household and remark that they don't remember life any differently before Fiona and Gared came to live with them, almost as if they'd always been there. And if questioned about their family, they are quick to say that they have an older brother and a sister.

"We're just about three years out now, and the journey continues," Leukert said. "Fiona and Gared are very resilient; I see that every day. The fact that

they came and slept in a stranger's home and went to school the next day just blows my mind."

Though nothing will ever take away the pain of the loss of their parents, Fiona and Gared have found a measure of healing and hope as they move on with their lives.

"Be patient with yourself and ask for help when you need it," Fiona says as encouragement to young people who may be going through painful challenges. "Don't be afraid to talk to someone and try to remain positive. A lot can change in a short time."

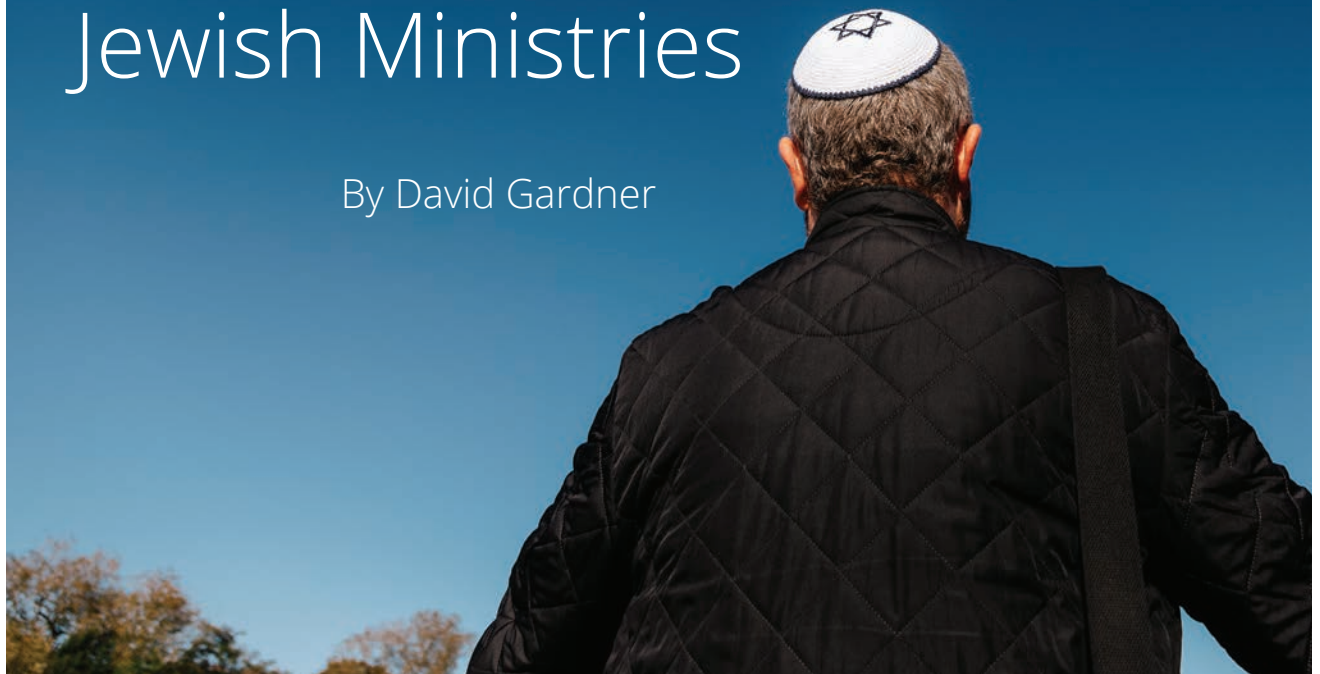
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*Cynthia Mendoza is a freelance writer from Southern California.*



# Ministering to “The Chosen”: Building Bridges Through Jewish Ministries

By David Gardner



COLLORATION/SHARON VALETTI/ALAMY

Sometimes we forget that Jesus' command to share the gospel with "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6, NKJV) includes the very people whom He called His own special people, the Jews.

I am a sixth generation Adventist. I was born in Walla Walla, Washington, but as the son of missionary parents I have lived in South Africa, Lebanon, and Kenya, where my parents served as missionaries for 10 years. I was first impacted by Jewish Ministries as a pre-teen. When I was a student in academy, I had several experiences

with answered prayers and miraculous healing. I was also involved in public ministry and evangelistic work. These experiences shaped my life and career. My direction was always clear, and my calling was always certain. I chose to become a pastor.

When I retired from full-time ministry, I was invited to become the director of Jewish Ministries in the Pacific Union. It has been a joy and a thrill to share in this compassionate burden that many have for Jewish work. A visit to the Holy Land when I was a young boy and later trips to the Middle

East as a theology student all paved the way and placed a burden on my heart—a great passion for "The Chosen."

The importance of the Jewish work in the Pacific Union is immense. "The time has come when the Jews are to be given the light of the last gospel message," Ellen White wrote in *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, p. 327. With over 800,000 Jews just in the Los Angeles basin itself, the opportunities are enormous and compelling. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37, NIV).

Many Jews are now accepting Jesus as the Messiah. Many more, we believe, are just on the verge of the kingdom, but family ties, social pressures, and traditions make it very slow and laborious to win new believers. Sometimes Jews who become Christians are shunned by their families, which is very painful to the new convert. The pain of shunning by family can sometimes be stronger than the threat or pain of physical persecution.

What has been demonstrated to work effectively in Jewish work is to develop friendly relationships, to walk beside them until they can say, "I like you!" Then coming to church is just the next natural step.

In April 2022, Pacific Union Jewish Ministries held a very successful retreat at Camp Cedar Falls. Sixty-five people attended the lectures, worship, and Passover celebration. Despite covid challenges, the event went on as planned and was very inspiring. The title of one presentation alone was captivating: "Passover and the Mark of the Beast."

It is important for pastors to be educated and informed about Jewish faith and culture in order to be truly effective in reaching the Jewish people. For example, many Jews have their main weekly worship on Friday evening, after welcoming in the Shabbat, not on Sabbath morning as Adventists do.

There are many Jews, including rabbis and scholars, who do believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and they have a hard time with that because they fear they must keep Him to themselves or face repercussions. There are others who are very hostile and offended if they suspect that someone is attempting to proselytize.

This is why it is critically important for Jewish Ministries to be as culturally sensitive and aware as possible, through educating pastors and church leaders so they will not be offensive to our Jewish friends. It is essential that we educate pastors and leaders to be bridges. Bridges to faith in Jesus.

In October, we are very excited to hold a training program in Jewish Ministries for pastors. The classes will be taught by Dr. Riveira Siqueira and Dr. Sasha Bolotnikov. Both are seminary professors with many years of passionate work in Jewish ministries. The training program will be free and will take place in Glendale, California, October 23-26. CE credits are available and it applies toward certificate programs.

For more information on Jewish Ministries in the Pacific Union, you may email David Gardner at davidgardnersda@gmail.com.

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*David Gardner is the volunteer director for Jewish ministries of the Pacific Union Conference.*

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# Unto These Hills

By Connie Vandeman Jeffery

*“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord”  
(Psalm 121:1, KJV).*

I am reminded of this text when I look at the hills around me. My Camarillo, Calif., home is surrounded by hills—hills that were dry and brown because of the drought; hills that were scarred by the aptly named “Hill Fire” in 2018; hills that were transformed into lush green landscapes because of the tremendous amount of rain earlier this year. How could hills so brown and barren turn into something so lush—so like the East Coast or Ireland? Rain and more rain! It’s amazing how drought-ridden, fire-scarred hills transform into something marvelous with moisture from above.

All of the rain and the gorgeous green hills take me back to 1968 and my first road trip with my mom. Just the two of us. There had been countless road trips with the whole family—driving across the country multiple times and driving to evangelistic meetings and camp meetings all over the East Coast and the South from my childhood Maryland home. But never just mom and me. That trip was a first. I was 12 years old.

She had heard of a well-known outdoor pageant that had been running since 1950 in beautiful western North Carolina on the Cherokee Indian



THE HILLSHOOT/ISTOCK / GETTY IMAGES PLUS VIA GETTY IMAGES



Reservation. Set against the backdrop of the Great Smoky Mountains, the drama “Unto These Hills” tells the story of the Cherokee people and their tragedies and triumphs.

The trip itself was memorable, partly because we set off on a great adventure, just my mom and me, driving 530 miles through several states just to see the pageant. Dad was away on an overseas trip, and she thought a mother-daughter road trip was just what we needed. So we set off early in the morning, singing silly songs, playing the usual car games, like “20 Questions,” “I Spy,” and my personal favorite, “My Father Owns a Grocery Store.”

If you haven’t heard of that one, it goes like this: “My father owns a grocery store, and in it, he sells something beginning with the letter ‘L.’” Then my mom began to guess. “Lentils,” she asked. “No,” I said. “Licorice? Lima beans? Lollipops?” I giggled and kept saying no. “Lettuce?” she shrieked, and I said “YES!” Then it was her turn. This game can go on for a hundred miles, and I’m sure ours did.

Halfway there, it started to rain. Not drizzle. POUR! We stopped several times. Mom hated driving in the rain. But we literally laughed and sang and played games the whole way there. We checked into our motel and eagerly awaited the next evening’s pageant.

What was even more memorable than our road trip was sitting in the outdoor arena waiting for dusk and then watching the amazing drama unfold. I will never forget the story, the singing and dancing, and the backdrop of the hills. The show portrays the unique story of the Cherokee from a historical perspective. The play traces the Cherokee people through the ages, from the zenith of their power through the heartbreak of the Trail of Tears. It ends in the present day, in which the Cherokee people continue to rewrite their place in the world.

Even at the age of 12, I knew I was witnessing something powerful. It was a precious gift my mother gave to me—opening my eyes to the wonder of another culture and the magnificence of the hills! I will always remember that night and the road trip that got us there.

Whether it’s the Great Smoky Mountains or the familiar hills of Camarillo, I will continue to “lift up mine eyes unto the hills” and remember where my help comes from. It comes from God.

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



# “He Knows Me by Name”

Adventures and Insights from Over 50 Years of Service

By Arnold Trujillo



**I**t was when I was a 14-year-old high school student at Golden Gate Academy in 1958 that I realized that Jesus loves me and knows me by name—including how to correctly pronounce *Trujillo*. I was amazed and overwhelmed! I decided I wanted to follow Him and lead other youth to Him. I felt that being a teacher and a pastor was the way to do it. I have never looked back.

Since then, I have dedicated my entire life to serving God in as many ways as possible—and I have had a few unforgettable adventures along the way. I would like to share a few of the rewarding and memorable experiences I've had in over 50 years of ministry, not only as a pastor and administrator but also as a college student, teacher, and lay person.

I was born in La Jara, Colorado, in 1943. I am a descendant of the Spanish colonists who came with Spanish conquistador and explorer Juan de Oñate and settled in the Española Valley of northern New Mexico in 1598. I am married to Deloris Kinsey Trujillo, my wife of 57 years. We have two adult children, Timothy Trujillo, an attorney in Sonora, California, and Laura Trujillo, the director of the Northern California Conference





Communication and Development Department.

During my childhood, my mother had an Adventist co-worker who witnessed to her. Arrangements were made for an elderly woman, Mrs. Mae Van Horne, a Bible worker, to come to our home for weekly Bible study, which resulted in our family being baptized in May 1953. At the conclusion of a week of prayer at Golden Gate Academy, I recommitted my life to Jesus. The decision to become a disciple of Jesus was transformative in every way.

My educational career includes a diploma from Golden Gate Academy (1961) in Oakland, California, a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific Union College (1965), and a Master of Arts degree from PUC (1970). I majored in religion and history and minored in Spanish for the B.A. The focus of the M.A. was education administration.

As an undergraduate, I studied at Spicer Memorial College in Poona, India, in my sophomore year. I also did graduate study in Latin American history at the University of California, Berkeley (1965-66). Additional study was undertaken at UCB (1971-73) and then at the University of California, Riverside (1973-77) at the doctoral level in the field of education administration.

During my time in India, I was able to travel around the world visiting 28 countries. I saw so many new things and met so many people of different cultures and languages. It was an enriching experience that opened my eyes to so many possibilities for ministry and learning. As a result of the insights gained, I developed an honor's project (Youth for Christ Corps) that became the seed concept that eventually evolved into the Student Missionary program in Adventist colleges that now gives students the opportunity to serve God in many places around the world.

I began my denominational employment in 1965 as a teacher at Golden Gate Academy, where I taught government, history, and Spanish for four

years and then Bible for two years. During my six years at Golden Gate Academy, my colleagues and I developed a curriculum structure that allowed students to provide an array of volunteer services to public schools and community organizations. The students were encouraged, equipped, and mobilized to serve and share their faith. TeeNAct (Teens in Action for Christ Today) was launched to serve churches and the community.

From 1971-73 I took a leave of absence from denominational employment. While I was doing doctoral studies at Berkeley, I was employed in a middle management position by the university. I was also president of Wilshire Heights Homeowners Association, where we lived. Wilshire Heights, in the Oakland hills, had suffered major mud slides, and many homes were destroyed. I became an advocate for my neighbors and helped raise \$1 million to stabilize the hillsides. During this time, I also ran for the United States House of Representatives in the California 8th congressional district. While I lost in the primaries, I gained many insights. It was a great learning experience.

This was during the Vietnam War, and



Berkeley was a focal site for anti-war demonstrations. During one such demonstration, there were protesters trying to burn the American flag outside of California Hall, where I worked. I went outside, confronted them, scuffled with two of them, and took the flag from them. There happened to be a photographer in the crowd who captured the action in a series of photos that appeared in the local paper the following day. The outcome of that event was a letter of commendation from President Richard Nixon.

In 1973, I was invited to become the young adult/youth pastor of the Loma Linda Campus Hill church by my mentor, Elder J. W. Lehman. During my four years of ministry there, God blessed in a remarkable way. Young adult attendance exploded, and numerous churches were planted. We also developed a lay training program was called 3AMEN—3 Angels Message to Everyone Now.

Wednesday evening prayer meeting attendance increased from approximately 50 to 600, comprised overwhelmingly of young adults. This kind of growth was attributable to the amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Elder Lehman, the senior pastor at the time, was a champion of the message of righteousness by faith.

From 1978-82 I served as lead pastor of the Spanish American church in East Los Angeles. This church was the largest Spanish-speaking Adventist church in the North American Division (NAD) at that time as well



as the second oldest Spanish-speaking Adventist church in the NAD. It also had a serious problem: it was housed in a leased building and the lease was expiring. The amount of money in the building fund was minuscule. I tried to find a facility to rent or buy with no success.

But human desperation provides God an opportunity to reveal Himself! The 20,000-square-foot three-story building we were leasing was divided into three sections, relocated to a site, and rebuilt. It was the largest building relocated in the history of Los Angeles.

The historic event was captured by local media. During those four years, God also blessed the church with about 100 baptisms per year, and the number of church





children and youth attending Adventist schools skyrocketed from about 35 to 165.

There are many more stories I could share about my time at the Spanish American

church, but suffice it to say that it was here that the insights gained earlier in my Oakland and Berkeley years were utilized to address immediate issues. It was at the Spanish American church that I experienced the darkest valleys and the most glorious mountain peaks of my nearly 50 years of ministry in the Adventist Church, despite a harrowing experience I faced years later as a pastor in the Southeastern California Conference.

In 1993, I was serving as the pastor of the Moreno Valley church in Riverside County. On Sabbath, August 14, a suspect in an armed robbery took refuge in our church. My greatest concern on that morning was for the safety of all the people, including many children. I was afraid of violence if the police were permitted to enter the church, so I asked them to remain outside and promised that I would, somehow, get the suspect out of the building. By the grace of God alone, I was able to diffuse the situation, and no one was hurt.

My actions that day resulted in two commendations—one from the City of Moreno Valley and one from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. The

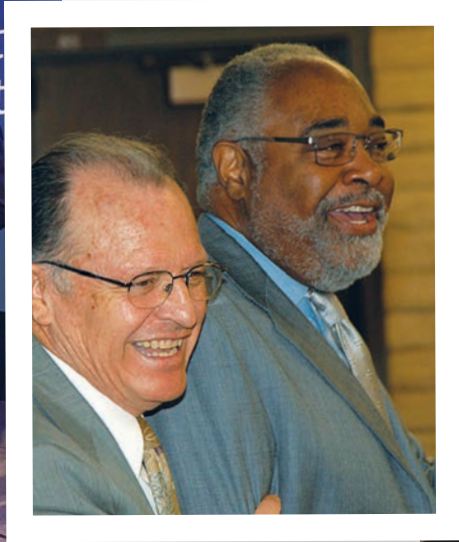


letter from the City of Moreno Valley described the incident this way: "Through his quick thinking and courageous action, Pastor Trujillo was able to isolate the man while protecting the children and adults who were attending Vacation Bible School Graduation and fellowship classes. After ensuring that all the classroom doors were locked and the teachers alerted, Pastor Trujillo engaged the man in conversation. While talking, Pastor Trujillo guided the man toward the north door of the sanctuary where police officers were hiding, and the man was arrested without incident.... His calm and compassionate demeanor averted a potential tragedy, and his actions exemplify the highest level of regard for others." All I can say as I recall this frightening incident is that the Lord's angels were working overtime on August 14, 1993. Praise the Lord!

From 1999 to 2006 I served as president of the Hawaii Conference. The most rewarding experiences of my service there were the

development of small groups (ohana groups) in all of the churches; the yearly youth evangelistic meetings during Easter Week; the mobilization of pastors, teachers, laity, young and old to conduct international evangelistic campaigns; and the development of my own evangelistic series, Waves of Grace—The Life and Teachings of Jesus, which I have





been privileged to present in English and Spanish in scores of churches in North America and around the world.

From 2006 to 2016 I served as the vice president of the Pacific Union Conference. The most rewarding experiences of my decade in union administration are the many friendships formed with dedicated men and women who selflessly serve God and His church at all levels; the scores of evangelistic campaigns I was privileged to conduct in English and Spanish churches in North America and internationally; the advocacy for underrepresented groups; and the mentoring of many clergy and laity.

In retirement since 2016, I continue to find great joy serving in various capacities, including: the NAD as an associate director of Jewish Ministries, an advisor for Muslim Ministries, and a volunteer for Refugee and Immigrant Ministries; the Central California Conference as director of Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Services; the Sonora Discover Life church as a general Sabbath School superintendent and teacher. I also continue to help multi-church district pastors within a two-hour drive with periodic Sabbath morning sermons.

I must confess though, that for all the numerous

and varied life experiences the Lord has granted me in over 50 years in His service, the greatest reward today in retirement is setting my own schedule so that I can enjoy the best adventure of all, the one I look forward to the most: spending most of my time with my wife, our two children, and three grandchildren.

Realizing that Jesus knows me by name changed my life and made me want to follow Him. I continue to be amazed that He still wants me at age 79 to be His follower. I want to encourage everyone, especially young people, to seek Jesus above all else and to realize that He also knows them by name—even if their name is unusual or hard to pronounce! Jesus knows how to pronounce it, and He delights in calling you by that name. Make Him your highest priority in your time, talents, and resources. Embrace His values. Choose unselfish service as a lifestyle. You too may be in for a life of adventure.




---

*Arnold Trujillo is the former secretary of the Pacific Union Conference.*



## Try us for FREE for the first two weeks!

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One of the most exciting moments for every child is that very first day of school! A special scholarship allows families to experience firsthand the value of Seventh-day Adventist education.

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Everyone is covered—some conferences/schools are matching to make it a full month of tuition.

**50% off tuition for the first month of kindergarten**

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## \$2,000 Scholarship

**Supports In-Union Adventist College Freshman**

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

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

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

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





Arizona State University Students gather in the courtyard of the Tempe church on a Wednesday night for food, fellowship, and games. The young adult leaders hope this will be the first of several events for the newly formed ASU Adventist Social Club.

## Tempe Church Creates ASU Adventist Social Club

“This is not a traditional Sabbath School class but a different type of fellowship.”

Opening doors for collegiate young adults is part of the ongoing vision for the Tempe church. Located adjacent to the Arizona State University campus and right across the street from the performing arts center, the church has often been a location for Adventist students to worship. When Pastor Mike Soto became the pastor of the church in 2022, he brought with him a vision of continuing the outreach to the entire student body of the campus.

In November 2022, Pastor Soto started a young adult Sabbath School called “Faith and Culture.”

“This is not a traditional Sabbath School class but a different type of fellowship,” said Pastor Soto. “The discussion in this class is designed to challenge, provoke, and strengthen believers from diverse backgrounds. Difficult questions will be faced without fear or hostility.”

To reach out to young adults seeking community, the church leadership created the ASU Adventist Social Club and held their first meeting in January, with over 35 in attendance. “I am so proud of the leaders who worked to put this event together,” said Pastor Soto. “Twelve of the attendees to the event were non-Adventist. We continue to pray for their [the leaders’] efforts to reach the students on the campus.”

The next event will be a Christian Music Open-Mic Night at the church. The invitation is open to all Christian singers and songwriters on campus. The ASU Adventist Social Club hopes to create community and give a platform to young adults to worship together.

*By Jeff Rogers*

# Serving with a Heart Like Jesus

**S**unday, January 22, was a special day for the women's ministries leadership of the Arizona Conference. Approximately 65 women from around the state convened at the Mesa Palms church in Mesa, Arizona, for a full day of fellowship and training. Lynn Ortel, Arizona Conference women's ministries coordinator, opened the meeting with a welcome for the group. Lillian Keyes gave a devotional, followed by a series of presenters who shared ideas, stories, testimonies, and tips on creating a successful women's ministries program in the local church.

The presentations included ways to develop a women's ministries team through prayer, organizing key members of the church such as the church secretary and head deaconess, and training members. Leadership skills were discussed, including how to define responsibilities, mentor others, and communicate effectively.

How to get organized was another highlight of the meeting, which went beyond the usual calendars, lists, notes, etc. Suggestions for staying organized included

following God's principles of order and remembering who called you into ministry. Mentoring was a topic that crossed over into several of the presentations. Active listening, nurturing, and discovering the needs of various age groups are key components of mentoring members.

The Creating a Stress-Free Environment presentation encouraged participants to laugh, exercise, delegate, unwind, and connect with others. Honoring the Sabbath was the final seminar, which brought together several of the points from the other presentations. A life full of prayer was discussed as being a foundation to any ministry—one which is vitally critical to women's ministries in the local church.

The event culminated with Elisa Navarro anointing the hands of first the conference women's ministries leaders and then every woman who was in attendance. It was a Spirit-filled day, and the leaders of the event were grateful for the volunteers that made the day a joy for all.

*By Alice Ray*





# Interview with Central California Conference President Dan Serns

## How was 2022 for the Central California Conference?

*Dan Serns:* Our mission in the conference is to take the Adventist message to all Central California and the world in this generation. We have 10 million people in our territory. We have about 33,000 Adventists. Our two biggest mission fields are San Francisco and the Silicon Valley. About half of our mission field of 10 million are in those areas, but we only have about one quarter of our members in those areas.

When I began as conference president in September 2021, the office was closed, many of the churches were still closed, and many of the baptistries hadn't been used for several months—in some cases, years. I knew that one of the reasons God brought me here was to reopen churches and baptistries.

When I arrived, we set the date of December 11 as a Fill Every Baptistry Sabbath, asking every church to fill their baptistry and pray for people to be baptized. The year before there had been a little over 200 people baptized. In 2021 up until that point there had been about the same number of people baptized as 2020. But in December alone we had about 200 more people baptized.

With that success we decided that the next few years we are going to have two Fill Every Baptistry Sabbaths. That's not the only time people can baptize, but it's

a time for every church to realize the importance of working to reach people who need to know Jesus.

## Your emphasis is baptism. Why is increasing baptism such an important piece?

Jesus said in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, *baptizing them*...teaching them" (NKJV, emphasis added). If a church is not baptizing, they are not truly making new disciples. Baptism is not the only thing, but if there are few or no people being baptized, there's a good chance the church has lost focus on the mission.

If we are going to accomplish this, what kind of evangelism should we focus on?

In many people's minds, evangelism has become an event or something by a specialist like a full-time evangelist or a pastor. That's not the biblical model. When Jesus said to go make disciples, He wasn't talking to paid people. Everyone should be engaged in the mission, and everyone can find something they can do to share Jesus with others.

## What is the great message we should be sharing?

The three angels' messages are the special message Adventists have been given. Growing up in a pastor's





home, I heard the phrase over and over again, but I didn't grasp what it was until later. Finally I said, "Let's boil it down to 30 seconds." Here's the message in four parts: 1) We believe everybody in the world would be happier and better off if 2) they accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord, 3) embraced the Bible as God's voice speaking to them and asked God to help them follow it, and 4) united with a group of believers who love Jesus, believe He's coming soon, and want the whole world to be invited to take Him seriously and follow Him.

#### **What plans are there for 2023?**

We know what our mission is: sharing the Adventist message with all of Central California and the world in this generation. The three key things we'll be emphasizing are to mobilize everyone; start groups, teams, and clubs; and baptize people. And we're going to be asking each church family to reflect on how they did in each of those three areas in 2022 and to set goals in each area for 2023. We're also asking them to identify a Multiply Project, where they will take the Adventist message to a place or people group that don't currently have an Adventist witness.

#### **How can readers learn more?**

The quickest way is to go to our website, [ccadventist.org](http://ccadventist.org). The next best way is to come to one of our Arise & Go training events held across Central California each Sabbath afternoon of February and March.

*By Brennan Hallock*

# ARISE & GO

## MOBILIZE EVERYONE

### **START**

#### **Groups/Teams/Clubs**

Three leaders (upreach, inreach, outreach) + 1 church board mentor  
+ win 2

### **10**

#### **Mission groups**

#### **New companies**

#### **New churches**

#### **Fill Every Desk schools\***

### **1,000**

#### **Groups/Teams/Clubs**

#### **Digital missionaries**

#### **GLOW missionaries**

#### **Neighborhood pastors**

#### **Baptism coaches**

#### **People baptized**

### **10,000**

#### **Prayer Warriors**

#### **Faithful Stewards**

(Tithe + local budget)

#### **\*Fill Every Desk School**

Enrollment increase of 5+ students  
Every day: Family worship in each classroom

Every week: Two hours of outreach

Every semester: Baptism prep plan

Every year: Mission trip options



Watch the presentations from this year's ministerial retreat by scanning the QR code.



## Ministerial Retreat Includes Elders in Addition to Pastors

The ministerial retreat for the Central California Conference takes place at the beginning of each year to cast a vision for that year. The 2023 ministerial retreat started in a new way, though. For the first time, elders from each church were included in addition to the pastors who normally attend. The event brought together 428 individuals from the conference who were able to spend time together, encourage each other, and grow through learning more about God.

"We realized if we want to mobilize our churches in the conference, we need to have our pastors and our elders working together," explained Ricardo Vilorio, ministerial and church planting director for the Central California Conference.

The goals of this event were based on the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (NIV). The



leaders and speakers at the event encouraged everyone to mobilize the people in their churches, start new groups around the conference, and baptize in the name of Jesus.

Jose Cortes Jr., associate director for evangelism at the NAD Ministerial Association, spoke for the event, encouraging the mobilization of elders and pastors. In addition, Angeline D. Brauer, director of NAD health ministries; Richie Halversen, director of growth and revitalization for the Southern Union; and Sam Neves, associate director of communication for the General Conference, all spoke at the event.

"The retreat was an experience that will not be



easily forgotten for me,” shared Rosa Garza, elder at the Visalia church. “The plan of getting pastors and elders together was a God thing! It is a start to have the conference and lay people working together. May we all listen to the Holy Spirit’s voice to not only transform us individually but as a whole.”

This is a yearly event and will be taking place again next January. It will again include elders in addition to pastors. You can learn more about next year’s event by accessing the conference website at [www.cccadventist.org/ministerial](http://www.cccadventist.org/ministerial).

*By Brennan Hallock*



## San Jose Hispanic Church’s Concert Attracts New and Old Converts

**A**fter three years of suspending its Sacred Christmas Concert due to the pandemic, San Jose Hispanic church brought back this beautiful outreach ministry this past December, attracting non-believers, community members, and past members. Many who had left the church returned so their children could be part of the children’s choir or to join the adult choir.

This concert is an important ministry that not only attracts community members who have never visited the church but also souls who may have an Adventist foundation but have left the faith. The concert brings them back, triggering fond memories of their Adventist roots.

The Sacred Concert is held during the holiday season because San Jose Hispanic wants to take the focus off the commercial and secular aspects of Christmas. They want to thank and praise God who sent His Son. For nonbelievers, it’s a non-threatening event that introduces them to the Adventist faith. As a result, many visitors decide to come again.

Visitors are invited to join the adult choir and have their children sing in the children’s choir as well. The concert has many elements of worship, including a mission report, a Nativity play, a congregational tree offering, and, this year, a wonderful presentation by the president of the Central California Conference, Elder Dan Serns, and his wife, Lois.

This glorious concert attracts so many because its participants reflect the diversity and rich tapestry of our membership and community—from visitors to members, from little children to seniors, all thanking and praising God in various ways. It’s a glimpse of the praises we will be part of in God’s heavenly choir.

*By Gerson Raul Perla*





## Pastors Attend Workers' Meetings in Kauai



Each day, pastors were blessed to hear seminars on such topics as church growth, finding balance in ministry, working with schools, evangelism, and celebrating successes in ministry.

Recently, the pastors of the Hawaii Conference attended the first workers' meetings to be held since January of 2020. They met together on the island of Kauai at the Makanalani Non-profit Camp. It was a peaceful getaway for worship, fellowship, and professional development. There were scenic trails for hiking. Within a short six-minute drive were sandy white beaches where attendees could watch the sunrise and have personal devotions.

Each day, pastors were blessed to hear seminars on such topics as church growth, finding balance in ministry, working with schools, evangelism, and celebrating successes in ministry. Morning and evening worships were presented by our unordained ministers. Each of them shared personal experiences about when they were called to ministry, when they first gave their life to Jesus, and challenges and doubts that can be experienced in ministry. To say that the pastors of the Hawaii Conference are talented and gifted would be an understatement. Pastors were blessed to listen to and grow from one another.

In addition, there were breakout sessions for discussion and opportunities for small group prayer. Elder Erik Vandenburg, president of the Hawaii Conference, opened the first night of meetings with a message of vision, hope, unity, and proclaiming the everlasting gospel throughout the islands of Hawaii. Elder Jay Warren, executive secretary, concluded the meetings with a closing worship.

These meetings provided a long overdue occasion for our conference pastors to get together. Plans are already underway for the next workers' meeting in January of 2024. Keep your pastors in prayer, and thank you for your continued support for the work in the Hawaii Conference.

*By Mark Tamaleaa*

# Kaneohe Women's Ministries Retreat Provides Encouragement

**O**n August 14, 2022, the Kaneohe church women's ministries group, Ladies as Christ Expects (L.A.C.E.), hosted by Elsie Frisbee, held their ninth annual retreat, with the 2022 theme "In My Heart There Rings a Melody." The event, attended by both Adventists and non-Adventists, celebrated the power of God's presence through the ministry of music and prayer. It featured a collection of musical artists such as Shirley Kuma, Zelpher Lilio, and Terry Sheindlin. Guest presenters Lisa Leonardo and Alohalani Hose gave the message through music.

Lisa, an accomplished musician, testified how music has shaped her life and has encouraged her to be more prayerful. She follows Psalm 150:1-5, giving all glory to Him for this musical talent, and she is willing to share His messages in song. Since grade school she has shared this talent, singing for church services and events across the U.S. and in several other countries. She shared three songs that have helped define her daily walk with God: "My Tribute" by Evie, "In the In Between" by Sandi Patty, and her most requested song, "Via Dolorosa" by Sandi Patty. She mentioned that she was inspired by the prayer room that had been recently presented at the Hawaii Prayer Conference held August 4-6. In the prayer room, retreat attendees were able to spend time in meaningful prayer as they experienced each prayer station.

Alohalani shared her testimony and words of inspirational encouragement. She began with her life story, describing how she became orphaned at a young

age but always trusted God's love and direction. She shared a message full of hope, encouraging attendees to live life to the fullest and lean into God's calling, explaining that as we live out God's calling in our lives we experience peace and fulfillment. To illustrate her points, she shared an upbeat local Hawaiian song and used simple visual examples like a mug. Shari Castillo modeled a racerback shirt designed for Alohalani's song "Aloha Sabbath." Shari shared that the design and Scripture, Mark 2:27, attracted people to inquire about it. This opportunity gave her healing and helped her to overcome life's challenges. "Wearing this shirt makes me feel really good and excited, and I really loved her song 'Aloha Sabbath!'"

Alohalani closed her talk with a song that God inspired her to write during an especially difficult time in her life, quoting James 5:13, in which believers are encouraged to sing psalms.

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*By Lisa Leonardo*





# HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

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

## A Plot to Call Their Own Agriculture Director and Teacher Helps HIS Students Grow Their Own Gardens

Students at Holbrook Indian School (HIS) are preparing to plant and cultivate crops in their own small plots of ground later this semester. The project is being led by HIS agriculture director and teacher Daniel Nicholls, who has also shared his wealth of farming knowledge with Adventist agricultural industry associates at the annual AdAgra

convention. Students will be assigned a portion of one of the beds to plan, plant, and maintain for the rest of the semester. By the end of the school year, students will quite literally see the fruits of their labor.

Mr. Nicholls has been using the gardening class at HIS as an opportunity to invest a sense of entrepreneurship and ownership in his students. Students have already been involved in the sale of produce to customers in the local farmers market in Flagstaff. Mr. Nicholls is looking for new ways in which the gardening class can instill students with a certain level of vocational training that builds work habits like perseverance and independence.

At the beginning of a typical school year, when students arrive there are many crops already growing in the garden. Students are introduced to the garden and what is grown. They work in helping to harvest and maintain the crops, but they don't necessarily feel a sense of ownership.

"When we have them work in the garden to tend to crops that they did not plant," Mr. Nicholls explained, "they do not get to appreciate the work it takes to bring a crop to harvest." At the end of the year, they will have





a greater understanding and experience in growing crops that will be ready for harvest before they leave for the summer.

The end goal is to give students a deeper appreciation for the food that they grow. "I believe this will give a level of empowerment by seeing that they were able to plan and execute a garden for themselves," Mr. Nicholls said.

The class is currently in the preliminary stages of this project, and Mr. Nicholls is giving his students the theoretical instruction to complete the planning portion. As the warmer weather approaches, students will begin selecting their seeds and preparing the beds for planting. Seeds will be started indoors in late February through mid-March, with the intention of transplanting outside by mid-April.

Students will have options to plant different varieties of greens (kale, chard, lettuces, spinach) and root crops (radishes, beets, carrots, turnips). The goal is to plant crops that are somewhat frost hardy and that require relatively few days to mature so they will be ready for harvest before the end of the school year. This way the students will be able to see and eat the



results of their work.

Daniel Nicholls has had a keen fascination with the science of farming from a young age. His enjoyment of working with plants and being outside spurred his quest into gardening shortly after high school. After further experience developing a farm in Southeast Asia, and then a brief hiatus from farming, Daniel was called to manage the farm at HIS. He has been working at the school for almost three years, bringing the total time of his farming experience to 13 years.

*By Chevon Petgrave*



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

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

## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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



# Exercise Doesn't Have to Be a Hassle

## Safe stretches at work

Many of us spend long hours each day focused on a computer screen or doing other repetitive tasks. Doing these stretches a few times each day can decrease upper back pain and improve joint health and posture.

- **Shoulder openers:** Sit with both feet firmly planted on the floor. Clasp your hands and extend your palms toward the ceiling. Straighten your arms. You should feel a stretch in your shoulders and upper back. Gently bend to the right and left a few times.

- **Chest expanders:** Scoot to the edge of a stable chair. Keep your feet firmly planted. Clasp your hands behind your back. Slowly draw your shoulder blades together and try to lift your hands slightly away from your lower back. Hold for 10 seconds.

- **Trunk rotations:** Still at the edge of your seat, place your left hand on the back of the chair. Bring your right hand to your left thigh and slowly turn your torso toward the left. You should feel a stretch in the upper back. Hold for five to 10 seconds and repeat on the other side.

**B**eing sedentary is a proven way to increase your risk for disease—in fact, the World Health Organization says a sedentary lifestyle is a leading cause of death and disability. Being sedentary for more than an hour can lower blood sugar levels, boost snack cravings, and reduce blood flow to your extremities, including your brain. But you don't need to run a marathon or hike a mountain to be active. Instead, try these simple, achievable ways to make healthy activity a natural part of your everyday life.

### Go for a walk (and take a friend)

Walking, instead of driving or riding public transportation, is a convenient way to fit low-intensity activity into your day. If a shop is close by, opt to get there on foot. Also, consider taking remote work calls while you're on the go by joining on your phone instead of sitting in front of your computer.

Want to spend time with a friend? Try a walk through the park instead of a sit-down hangout. If you have a dog, take your furry friend out for a longer than usual walk to give yourself extra exercise.

### Try stretching

You don't even have to leave your room for this one. Regular stretching has a number of physical benefits, including improving muscle strength, flexibility, and circulatory health and reducing stress and inflammation. Try a class tailored for your level of fitness and experience. See the sidebar for stretches you can do right at your desk.

### Find active hobbies

A great way to stay motivated to exercise is to make it a part of something you enjoy. Put fun at the forefront by adopting an active hobby that suits your interests. If you love nature, seek out hiking trails nearby or plant a garden. If you enjoy meeting new people, organize a neighborhood walking group. The key is to find ways to be active while doing what you love.

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By Kim Strobel



## La Sierra Alum, NBA GM Inspires Students, Receives Inaugural Award

It was an eye-opener for La Sierra University MBA student Brandhon Thomas—an NBA dream career off the court can become a reality.

"I never really considered the NBA as a possibility [for marketing]," said Thomas, a shooting guard with La Sierra's Golden Eagles basketball team and marketing graduate student. "I saw it as something so far away, but seeing somebody that came from the same school where I'm at kind of made it seem not so far away. It gave me a little bit of confidence and willingness to want to try."

Thomas and his Golden Eagles teammates attended a Business Colloquium Series presentation on Jan. 24 by Brian Wright, general manager of the NBA's San Antonio Spurs and a 2004 La Sierra business graduate. The lecture took place at the Troesh Conference Center in the Zapara School of Business.

Wright gave an inspirational presentation that began with insights into his college career as a La Sierra pre-health pharmacy major turned business major. He also played for and led the Golden Eagles basketball team, earning recognition in the Riverside Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 and 2004.

"It's always good to come to a place that you call home," Wright said. "There are a few of you in this room

who probably remember me in year 2000 when I first stepped foot on campus. It's pretty special."

Wright, who is also an alumnus of Takoma Academy in Maryland, talked about the impact of his educational experiences on the development of networking skills and self-advocacy. He described the importance of mentors, networking, pursuing one's passion, determining success on one's own terms, and being willing to go the extra mile.

"When I was playing, success looked a lot different than it did when I was 25," Wright said. "And when I was 30, and 35, and now 40. It's a constant evolution."

As Wright concluded his presentation, business school dean John Thomas and associate dean Gary Chartier stepped on stage and presented Wright with the inaugural Hall of Fame Award.

"The Zapara School of Business is amazingly proud of the things that a number of our family [members] have accomplished," said Chartier. "The Zapara team has decided this year to create the Zapara School of Business Hall of Fame [to honor] an array of people whose excellence will bring respect to the School of Business."

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By Darla Martin Tucker



Left to right, Zapara School of Business Associate Dean Gary Chartier, San Antonio Spurs General Manager Brian Wright, and business school dean John Thomas.



## Loma Linda University Launches Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program

**A**pplications are now open for Loma Linda University Health School of Nursing's new neonatal nurse practitioner degree, only the second such program on the West Coast.

The program will launch with its first class in the autumn.

### Profession

A neonatal nurse practitioner works as a provider meeting the needs of low- and high-risk neonates and their families in a variety of settings, including neonatal intensive care units, labor and delivery, well-

baby units, outpatient clinics, and during transport services. They provide and manage comprehensive health care to critically ill and convalescing neonates and their families, while collaborating with maternal-child healthcare disciplines.

### Curriculum

Coursework includes advanced pathophysiology, pharmacology, and physical assessment and diagnostic reasoning across the lifespan, meeting LACE requirements for practice. Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Certification Corporation's (NCC) examination to certify Neonatal Nurse Practitioners.

For additional information, please visit [nursing.llu.edu/programs](http://nursing.llu.edu/programs) or email [nursing@llu.edu](mailto:nursing@llu.edu).

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*By Ansel Oliver*

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

# Survivor of 1963 Birmingham Church Bombing Shares Her Story With PUC Community

The sisters giggled as they walked down the avenue to church in their Sunday best. Even the gray clouds couldn't dampen their spirit. It was Youth Day, and they would be singing up front in the choir.

Once they arrived, they slipped into the basement ladies' lounge to freshen up. Then Denise, Cynthia, and Carole came in and joined their friends. At the washbasin, Denise turned and asked if Addie Mae would tie her dress. The last thing young Sarah saw was her older sister's hands reaching out for the sash.

Then the room exploded.

Nearly 60 years later, Sarah Collins Rudolph, the little girl who survived one of the darkest days in civil rights history, told her story to Pacific Union College students at a special Community on Thursday, Jan. 12, to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

With her gentle Southern accent, Rudolph told the students about Birmingham, Alabama, in the 1960s. About the atrocious Jim Crow laws that prohibited nearly every interaction between Black and white residents.

Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights activists often met at 16th Street Baptist Church—one of the largest Black churches in Birmingham—through the spring of 1963. They were met with fierce resistance.

On Sept. 15, 1963, four young Ku Klux Klansmen planted at least 15 sticks of dynamite attached to a timing device in the basement of the church. Right near the ladies' lounge, where the five girls were getting ready to sing.

At 10:22, it detonated.

Despite the force of the blast, Rudolph stood in the jumble of wreckage around her. But she couldn't see. First, she called for Jesus, she said. Then her sister.

The Rev. John Cross ran into the now-gaping hole in the basement, scooped Rudolph up in his arms, and took her to the ambulance.

Four girls died in the blast: Denise McNair, 11; Cynthia Wesley, 14; Carole Robertson, 14; and Addie Mae Collins, 14.

Only "the fifth girl"—as she's often referred to now—survived: 12-year-old Sarah.

She was badly injured but alive. Rudolph's left eye was eventually removed and replaced with a prosthetic, and doctors removed 26 shards of glass from her face.

But worst of all, Rudolph told PUC students, was the realization that these girls had died in a safe place—in church.

She became nervous and fearful of going places. If a car backfired, she'd jump. She'd shake in church.

Later, she said, the pastor called her up on stage to pray for healing for her anxious condition.

"Now," Rudolph told the PUC students, faculty, and staff, "I can go places. I can talk about Jesus."

"I had to forgive the men that bombed that church," she said. "I carried a lot of hate in my heart for what they did to those girls and myself. So I forgave them and really started to live my life again."

PUC senior Keren Castro, a photography major, said she thought it was "encouraging" to hear how "Rudolph went through such a traumatic event but was still able to find peace in her heart and forgive those who did this to her."

"It was a powerful story that really resonated with the students," PUC Vice President of Student Life Ryan Smith said. "It's one thing to read about these types of histories, it's another to hear it from the person live when you can hear and feel the emotions."

The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing was among the most high-profile events of the civil rights movement. In part, it contributed to Congress finally passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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By Laura Gang



# Fight Comes to Bishop Adventist Christian School

**B**ishop Adventist Christian School students worked hard selling holiday wreaths and See's Candy for their winter fundraiser. It was a grand success. With the response from many friends, relatives, and community members, students were excited to see that their school was able to raise \$5,000!

Each year students choose a charity to receive 10% of the profits of the event. This year the students voted for a local organization, Inyo County Animal Services, to be the beneficiary. Officer Richardson, a member of the Inyo County Sheriff's Department, came to a chapel program at the school to accept the \$500 donation, which will go toward their new isolation facility at the shelter.

As a special surprise for the students, Officer Richardson brought along Deputy Noonan with his K-9 partner, Fight. Fight is a 6-year-old German Shepherd who came from Germany to the Inyo County Sheriff's Department at the age of 2. Deputy Noonan thanked the students for the donation because Fight also benefits: he gets his regular baths at the shelter, as well as boarding there when necessary.

Deputy Noonan then demonstrated how Fight responds to several commands, which were in German. Fight was a very good listener and very obedient! Fight recently received a new bullet-proof vest that he wears every day when he goes to work. The students asked many questions and learned a lot about K-9 service members. A real treat was being able

to pet Fight before he left.

Law enforcement friends offer communities a lot to be thankful for. They work hard to keep residents, businesses, and public areas safe. Additionally, they provide local Animal Services that protect and help sweet animal friends. Thank you, Officer Richardson, Deputy Noonan, and Fight for coming to share at the Bishop Adventist Christian school.

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*By Carmen Slavens*



Bishop students and staff were very impressed as K-9 service dog, Fight, shows off his ability to listen and obey when hearing commands from his partner, Deputy Noonan.

# Fallon Adventist Christian School Gets Crafty with Residents at Retirement Center



Residents of a local retirement home in Fallon enjoyed making crafts with the Adventist school students.

**T**he students at Fallon Adventist Christian School had the opportunity and blessing to visit a senior retirement center and work on a craft with the residents there. It was a delight for all involved and was "really fun," according to the students!

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*By Diana Pleitez*



**FAR LEFT:** Nevada-Utah Conference club leaders Jeanie Jones, Iso Vernon, and Hector Vasquez share their excitement with the young leaders of the conference, encouraging them to continue to be tools in the hands of Jesus.

**LEFT:** Dr. Abraham Guerrero asks that leaders not be cookie providers but become disciple-makers.

## Nevada-Utah Conference Training Young Leaders

“I learned that there are people out here who care... and it’s refreshing to see.” This quote from one of the attendees of the annual Youth Ministry Leadership Training encapsulated the effort of the Nevada-Utah Conference’s Youth Department, spearheaded by Pastor Rudy Alvir. The team wanted the leaders from across the three represented states—namely California, Nevada, and Utah—to know that they are valuable and that the conference wants to invest in them, resulting in an event that was full of marquee speakers and skilled workshop presenters.

The theme of the convention was “Be one, make one.” Inspired by the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, each guest speaker stressed the importance of discipleship, not just for leaders but for all Christians. It is each leader’s relationship with Christ that will determine their success in ministry. Without discipleship, Youth Ministry will just be reduced to entertainment or a list of activities. Being a disciple of Christ will keep leaders motivated because they will see each young person the way God sees them.

Joseph Salajan (Pastor Joe) put it this way: “Your spiritual motivation is not found in those you mentor, but in the One who mentors you.” Consistent, enduring care is essential in order to shift the focus back to the primary purpose of the church to “go and make disciples.”

Dr. Abraham Guerrero used this interesting analogy about the main purpose of a plane. Airlines give away free cookies during flights, but giving out cookies is not what planes are made for. Planes are made to fly. He

suggested that we have become too skilled in giving young people free cookies and we have forgotten that our purpose is to make disciples. He ended his presentation by charging the leaders to “stop settling for cookies and start making disciples.”

Our young people need more than great music, they need more than great preaching, they need more than great teaching. They need to grow in Christ and become disciples who are also disciple-makers.

*By Neat Randriamialison*



Pastor Joseph Salajan reminds the listeners that spiritual motivation is not found in those you mentor but in the One who mentors you.



## Love in Action

By engaging their community in a meaningful way, the Pittsburg church demonstrated that love is an action word. Moreover, the church members proved that with the power of the Holy Spirit, they could be mighty in their service to the Master. Under the direction of Joyce Richardson, church coordinator for women's ministry, the members were divided into three teams.

The first team prayed and allowed the Holy Spirit to guide them as they entered a local Walmart. Team members greeted shoppers by expressing how much God loved them, and then they gave them a \$25 gift certificate. The recipients were deeply touched, tears were shed, and some confessed that this was a miracle! A total of 30 gift certificates were given out.

The second team, carrying beautiful fruit basket gifts, visited sick and homebound members. The group prayed with them and provided much-appreciated

fellowship. The message was clear that these people were loved, important, and not forgotten.

The third team remained at church in a season of prayer. There were intercessory prayers for the sick, bereaved, and those in need. Each team member prayed a personal prayer to God, then ended the night with a prayer of thanksgiving.

The following week, representatives enthusiastically shared their experiences during the worship service.

Jeanice Warden-Washington, a member of the Walmart gifting team, told of the reaction of a woman who cried and hugged her "like she was a long-lost relative." Barbara Jones, another team member, said, "One woman confessed she was wondering 'how we were going to pay for all this stuff' and what a blessing the gift was to her."

David Wright of the visitation team said, "If you want to enjoy Sabbath like never before, do something for others. It is like a holiday."

Sharon Evans, a prayer team member, said she could "feel the fire coming from heaven."

Damon Washington, lead pastor, explained, "Our church shows that love in action, fueled by the Holy Spirit, can impact the community and produce great joy for all concerned. To God be the glory!"

*By Leon Richardson*



# Served Meals Yields Baptism

**Y**reka church member Ben Woodruff has been involved in ministry for unhoused people in his community for many years. Through his work with area churches and agencies, it was only a matter of time before he got his home church involved. The Yreka church members committed to taking one night per week to serve hot meals to the unhoused at a local church. According to Woodruff, "We soon realized that not many of them were coming to the church. We started going out to their camps with food to maximize our effectiveness. That decision increased serving from two to four meals in a building to serving 30 to 40 in the camps."

As the collaborative town program ended with the season, the Yreka team didn't see any lessening of the need. The church board then voted to keep assembling meals and delivering them to the camps. According to Bob Mason, district pastor, "We called our new group

Ministry of Mercy, and as the months turned warm, the number of meals rose to over 70."

Mason continued, "Through choosing this act of service, we now know many in the camps by name. We have made our outreach more relevant to the community, and God has opened doors. The Ministry of Mercy team converses and prays with our new friends as opportunities arise. One man has begun coming to church and has requested baptism. Praise God!"

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*By Ken Miller*



"Through choosing this act of service, we now know many in the camps by name. We have made our outreach more relevant to the community, and God has opened doors."

# Pastor Installations in Northern

**T**he Northern California Conference welcomes four new pastors to our territory. These pastors exhibit our core values: They are passionate and hard workers who are contagiously kind and have a servant's heart. Moreover, they are committed to our purpose of connecting people to an abundant life with Jesus Christ and preparing them for the Second Coming.

*By Communication and Development Department*

## **Blake Jones -Orangevale**

Blake Jones was installed at Orangevale Church on Jan. 21. He joins our territory from the Florida Conference. He said, "I wasn't looking to move to California until my friend talked me into it. From there, I felt this is where God wanted me to go."

That friend was Kevin Robert, church growth and evangelism director. "I got him into this," Robert explained. "Blake clearly sees the pastoral ministry and how it is a calling to be an equipper of the saints. He will do a great job!" Jones is passionate about, as he said, "equipping people to be fruitful disciples of Jesus." Blake has been married to his wife, Cris, for 16 years. They have two children, Lucas, 12, and Sofia, 8.



## **Robert Benardo - Sacramento Central**

Rob Benardo was installed as pastor at Sacramento Central Church on Jan. 21. Benardo returned to our territory from the Michigan Conference. He pastored at the Milpitas church in the early 2000s and is pleased to be back in Northern California. His working title for what he hopes to accomplish in Sacramento is S.P.E.C.S.—Strategic Planned Evangelism for the City of Sacramento.

Lynette Stansfield, a church member, said, "Sacramento Central is excited and grateful that God has led Pastor Rob and his wife, Olga, to Sacramento. We are particularly thrilled with his vision to grow our church by reaching out and serving those in Sacramento."

Bernardo shares his life with Olga, his wife of 32 years. They have two grown daughters, Amaris and Alexia, and his life motto is, "God's glory is my greatest joy."





## Keitrich Germany – Rancho Cordova and Stockton Mayfair

In November, the Rancho Cordova and Stockton Mayfair churches welcomed Kietrich Germany as their new district pastor. Both congregations received the Germanys with open arms and excitement. Rudy Peters, African American Ministries coordinator, exclaimed, "I am excited about what God is going to do in the lives and communities of these two churches."

A native of Sacramento, Kietrich shares his life with Teairra, his wife of 13 years.



When asked about his focus, Germany said, "My spiritual gift is public and personal evangelism, and it's nice to be back home in the Sacramento area. I have a lot of friends and community connections here. As I get to know members in my district, I will enjoy researching our community needs."

## Randy Speyer – Sacramento Woodside

Randy Speyer was installed as the pastor of Sacramento Woodside church on Nov. 5. Before joining Woodside; he was the director of mission and spiritual care at Adventist Health. He was also pastor of care and counseling at Loma Linda University church and former lead pastor at Palo Cedro church.

Jim Lorenz, the ministerial director, said, "Randy has so many talents and has worked in health ministry, been a church pastor, a counselor; we are blessed to have him choose church ministry again at Woodside."



Speyers hopes to empower the growth of a loving and healthy community whose joyful pursuit is a spiritual life with God. As he explained, "I have a love for storytelling, music, and art with a passion for shaping people who will go out and shape the communities they are a part of." Randy has been married to his high school sweetheart, Jewel Tryon-Speyer, for 42 years.

# Lodi Schools Avert Disaster

The 22-day storm that recently bombarded California did not leave Lodi Academy and Lodi SDA Elementary School unscathed.

Lance Lemos, the business manager, reported, "We had about nine inches of rain that completely saturated the soil. With that sogginess, the accompanying wind took down about six trees on the two campuses." The more significant trees included mature cedars and spruce that music teacher Jeanine Hanson remembered from the boarding school era decades ago.

After the storm passed, cleanup started immediately. Volunteers and staff began cutting the trees into fireplace-sized wood to sell in a future fundraiser. Elementary principal Lisa Nuss said, "We hated to lose our beautiful trees out in front of the school. But God has a reason. Amazingly, one tree fell

just a foot away from our music building!"

Lemos concluded, "God sent all those trees in the right direction, thankfully avoiding building damage."

By Ken Miller



# Mentone Church Evangelizes in Pakistan

“How many are interested in going with me on a mission trip to Pakistan?” When Rodney Bowes, assistant pastor of Mentone church, posed this question, he was met with a lot of perplexed looks and comments about how dangerous such a trip could be.

At the Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries convention in 2017, Bowes met Amjad Waryam from God of Life International, who showed him photos of Pakistani people hearing the gospel. The Lord put a desire in his heart to go and preach the three angels’ messages in the Islamic country. Although several factors and the pandemic made it difficult, the doors of opportunity finally began to open in the summer of 2022.

Bowes and Jon Opsahl, a medical doctor, applied for visas and were denied, but they didn’t give up. Through a series of providential workings, Waryam met an individual at the immigration office in Los Angeles who got their visas processed just days before their flights were scheduled to leave for Pakistan.

The trip began at the Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College in Farooqabad. Shireen and Daniel Khan, doctors from Karachi Adventist Hospital, and Opsahl provided medical camp advice to the students and staff. Bowes preached evangelistic messages.

They also went to the Northern Pakistan section. Doctors and a local dentist, Dr. Stephen, a Loma Linda graduate, provided much-needed medical services for those who came. Waryam’s wife, Ashee, also provided mental health counseling.



(From left to right) Amjad Waryam, Rodney Bowes, and Dr. Jon Opsahl.

“The people are being blessed by the sermons on Daniel and Revelation and are gaining deep knowledge of the prophecies of the Bible,” said Edwin Bashir, pastor, about the classes.

While there, Bowes had the joy of baptizing 38 souls. The official church membership in Pakistan’s population of 225 million is less than 15,000, so seeing young and old publicly surrender their lives to Jesus in baptism was thrilling.

Bowes and his team plan to return to Pakistan in November of 2023. Pray for their safety and success.

*By Rodney Bowes*



LEFT: Rodney Bowes prays for people who attended the health camp. RIGHT: Dr. Jon Opsahl counsels with some of the students at the Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College.



FAR LEFT: Braden Robinson, John Williamson, and Melvin Owusu-Frimpong enjoy sugary confections.



LEFT: Nadia Brand shares about the Law of Syllogism.

BELOW: Faculty, staff, and students gather to form "100" to commemorate the centennial cohort.

## The Race Marked Before Us: La Sierra Academy Celebrates 100 Years of Adventist Education

On October 3rd, 2022, La Sierra Academy (LSA) celebrated its centennial birthday. Students, support staff, and faculty spent the first hour of the school day reflecting on the milestone.

Iki Taimi, La Sierra University lead pastor, opened with a homily and encouraged students, "You are the dreams of the pioneers of 100 years ago. Be the best 'you' you can be."

LSA opened its doors to 84 students on October 3, 1922. General Conference President A.G. Daniells christened LSA on its first day. "You folks who have established this place have struggled hard, and you have many struggles before you, but you have made a wonderful beginning."

In 1946, a fire brought the elementary school building to ashes. However, through that struggle, LSA was moved and rebuilt at its current location, where it continues to thrive.

Elizabeth Muñoz Beard, principal of LSA, aims to develop the academy with further curricula goals and technological initiatives, such as updating the computer labs, providing laptops to all students, and expanding the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college and career readiness program for all grades.

The true and honest metric of exceptional Adventist education, however, is the institution's impact on its students.

"La Sierra has impacted my life by introducing me



to what Christianity is," said Isabelle Ragsac, class of 2023. "I grew up in a Christian home, but I never truly understood it until I experienced it. The opportunities that LSA has given me have strengthened my faith tremendously."

"It's rare that you find a place where people are genuinely interested in you as a person and take time apart from what they already put into class time and prepare for the students whenever they need it," agreed Miguel Ojeda, class of 2023. "It's an open-door policy, and I like that."

As the program came to its conclusion, everyone in attendance participated in a familiar birthday ritual: the consumption of cake. With one heart and with renewed endurance, they prepared to continue the race marked before them.

\*Sourced from *Higher Ground: A Centennial History of La Sierra University 1922-2022*.

By Israel Carreón Jr.



Mauia (far right) and Toaetolu (second from right) smile with other women in ministry at the DVELiP conference.

## Paving the Way: SECC Celebrates First Two Female Pastors of Samoan Churches



**T**he Southeastern California Conference (SECC) is proud to celebrate the installation of its first female pastors of SECC Samoan churches: Melinda Mauia at Santa Ana Samoan church and New Hope Samoan company and Tala Toaetolu at Yucaipa Samoan church and XCell church group.

Growing up as a Seventh-day Adventist and the daughter of Manuao Mauia, the president of the Samoan Advisory for the North American Division and director of Asian Pacific Ministries in Central California Conference, Melinda Mauia developed a love for God and people at a young age. Her family often volunteered at the Fish Food Bank in Tacoma, Washington, where Mauia grew up. It was at the Fish Food Bank where Mauia found a passion for serving the community.

Mauia heard the call to ministry while serving as part of the Yucaipa Youth Ministries. While serving as a small group leader in Compton in 2008, Mauia decided to return to school. She earned her bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry and her Master of Divinity from Andrews University.

Mauia now alternates between her two churches each week, leading, mentoring, preaching, and teaching. But her father's work as a pastor prepared her for the challenges of pastoral ministry.

"I learned from my father that ministry is not for the faint of heart," shared Mauia. "My dad's ministry taught me that you show up even when it's difficult, continue to pray for the people, and always love them. I didn't fully understand this until I became a pastor."

When Mauia reflects on her and Toaetolu's ministry as the first female pastors for SECC's Samoan churches, she's honored and humbled.

"Tala and I are paving the way for Samoan women in ministry. It's challenging work," said Mauia. "Although I'm one of the first, it's reassuring to know we are not the last. We pray we might mentor the next generation of Samoan women into pastoral ministry without them feeling 'less than' because of society or culture."

Culture has informed a lot about how Mauia guides her congregation. "I focus on serving my flock. A Samoan proverb says, 'O le ala i le pule o le tautua,'" shared Mauia. "It means 'The way to leadership is through service.'"

Tala Toaetolu was officially installed at Yucaipa Samoan church in December 2020. She has been leading the XCell group in Riverside since 2014. Like Mauia, Toaetolu is the daughter of a pastor. Her father, Siieli Puni, served as a pastor for many years and finished his ministry in SECC.

"Along with my *uso* (which means *sister* in Samoan), Melinda, it's truly a blessing and privilege to be one of the first Samoan women to pastor Samoan churches," said Toaetolu. "I feel blessed that the Samoan

"My dad's ministry taught me that you show up even when it's difficult, continue to pray for the people, and always love them. I didn't fully understand this until I became a pastor."

community and the SECC entrusted me to care for my people."

Before becoming a pastor, Toaetolu worked as a registered nurse for 21 years. She earned her associate degree in nursing from Pacific Union College and spent 15 years away from the church. After being invited to a retreat, she renewed her walk with God and earned her bachelor's degree in religious studies in 2017.

"My goal is to point others to Christ," said Toaetolu. "Through collaborating with my fellow Samoan pastors in the SECC, I want to inspire people to follow Jesus and, in turn, make other followers and grow God's kingdom."

Inspiring the next generation matters to Toaetolu. "I'm grateful and humbled to work with Melinda to pave the way for the next generation of Samoan women. I want them to know that if pastoral ministry in a Samoan church (or any church) is the direction God is leading them, He will make a way."

SECC is blessed to have Mauia and Toaetolu, both dedicated to serving their Samoan community and helping to bring people to Jesus Christ.

By Danni Thaw





LEFT: Longtime members review the congregation's history and purchase of the sanctuary. (Left to right) Arline Ordoñez, Manuel Rodríguez, Rocio and Angelita Pulido, and Jannette R. Trance. RIGHT: Pastors of the church through the years join Diaz for a photo: (left to right) Carlos Ramirez, Garcia, Salazar, Diaz, Sam Del Pozo, and Javier Caceres.

## Culver City Spanish Church Celebrates Mortgage Burning and Building Dedication

Culver City Spanish church began the year by celebrating the payment of their mortgage as well as the dedication of their church building—an accomplishment almost 30 years in the making.

When the Culver City Spanish congregation began meeting in 1968, they did not yet have a sanctuary of their own. That milestone wouldn't come until the early 90s, when a church member was walking in the neighborhood and saw a building for sale. This building would become the new home for the Culver City Spanish congregation.

Giddell Garcia, current pastor at Culver City Spanish church, noted that there have been six pastors of the congregation, including him, from the time that building was purchased until today. "When I got there in 2018, I realized we had that mortgage, and we were not too far away from paying it off," Garcia recalled. "We were \$250,000 away from paying it off."

Amid that discovery, Garcia also saw that, at the maturity of the mortgage, a balloon payment of \$60,000 would require the loan to be refinanced if the balance was not paid. So, the church finance committee made a plan to complete payment of the mortgage without having to refinance. According to plan, they paid the mortgage in November 2022, with the final check sent the first week of the month.

"For me, it's a blessing that, in the midst of the pandemic, we were able to continue paying—and

paying extra—so by November, we were able to send the last payment," Garcia said.

The church hosted a week of celebration from January 7-14, 2023. To kick off the week, Jaime Heras, Southern California Conference (SCC) Hispanic Region director, spoke about the purposes of the temple, encouraging members to continue being faithful in this new phase of the congregation's experience. Celebrations were filled with singing and special music. There were interviews with longtime members, plus a review of the church's history. Throughout the week, previous pastors addressed the congregation.

As the week came to a close, SCC President Velino A. Salazar presented the dedication for the building; SCC Treasurer/CFO Kathleen Diaz, four of the church elders, and Garcia burned the mortgage papers; and Diaz presented a check to the church for \$2,500 for evangelism.

Salazar recalled his time pastoring the congregation from 1987-1989 as he encouraged the members of the church today. "Brothers and sisters," he said, "while we are here thanking and praising God for this temple, may God help us to refocus our mission and ministry of making an impact near and far with the gospel of Jesus."

To watch the services, visit Culver City Spanish church on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/culver.spanish.7>.

By Lauren Lacson

# Norwalk Church Builds Community Connections with Food Pantry

It's been more than a year since the Norwalk church began its weekly food pantry. This ministry serves more than 100 families each week with fresh fruit, dry food, bread, pastries, clothing, diapers, and more.

Food comes through multiple partnerships and sources, including the Los Angeles Food Bank, El Camino A Cristo church, and more. Donations of clothing and other items are given by church members. "It's become very, very, very powerful in terms of helping to reduce food insecurities in the neighborhood and community," Peter Baptiste, Norwalk church pastor, noted.

When Peter began serving at Norwalk church as their pastor in November 2021, he and his wife, Melissa, brought experience and excitement to launch this ministry. Melissa serves the church as community services director and oversees the operation of the food pantry. "We're really connecting with the Norwalk community," she shared. "It's given us a chance to meet where there is a need and given us a chance to reach out and invite them to programs."

The majority of people who come to the food bank are from the surrounding community. Some come with children, and Melissa notes that they've made a point to reach out to those in the community with kids to let them know about the food pantry. A single mother and her two children who came to the food pantry from the community have given their lives to Christ as a result. The kids come to Sabbath School every single Sabbath,



Members of the community line up outside to enter the food pantry.

and the mother joined the church's Spanish Sabbath School class.

The food pantry has also been impactful in the homeless community around the church. People have come and received free clothes, water, and food to go. The church also has a shower available when the food pantry is open, providing soap and a towel plus clothes from the food pantry.

The food pantry is supported by about 10 to 12 volunteers each week, mostly from the church with a few from the community. Sometimes the number of volunteers fluctuates by a few, but Melissa isn't worried. On days when more work needs to be done, like when the vegetable truck arrives, more volunteers show up. "God sends according to what we need—that's what I believe," she said.

These efforts aren't the end—far from it. A juicing ministry began to take shape last fall with a seminar that taught attendees how to use fresh vegetable and fruit juices to enhance health, lose weight, reduce blood pressure and cholesterol, and more. Peter makes juice every Sunday, so the food pantry gives people an opportunity to sign up for future seminars.

There are also plans to launch additional ministries through the food outreach program: credit repair ministry, small business coaching outreach ministry for local small businesses, anger management ministry for people ordered by the court to take anger management, domestic violence and marital ministry, as well as Bible studies.



PHOTOS: DOROTHY ANDERSON

Volunteers offer to-go soups to visitors.

By Lauren Lacson

# Evangelism Thrives in the Greater Los Angeles Region

**A**fter meeting with pastors to discuss church growth, Royal Harrison, Greater Los Angeles Region (GLAR) director, challenged the churches to prioritize evangelism last year—and moving forward. “We’re trying to get back to our first love: evangelism,” Harrison said. “We’ve kind of lost that as years have gone by. We want our members excited about evangelism again and to see it not just as something we do, but as who we are.”

Several churches answered this call last year through outreach programs, speaker series, Bible studies, and more.

the church connect with the community in a deeper way. This year of dedicated outreach led to a week-long evangelistic crusade in November during which 12 people were baptized, 10 people scheduled baptism, and several others signed up for Bible studies.

## Valley Crossroads holds Power Weekend speaker series

In a world of endless distractions where attention spans continue to get shorter, Valley Crossroads catered to this growing trend by hosting Power Weekends, themed “Falling in Love with Jesus,” in November and December. Guest speakers and musicians were invited from near and far for weekends of powerful preaching and dynamic praise beginning Friday night and concluding Sabbath afternoon.

“One of our goals was to train the congregation



PHOTO: DEON CHATMAN

Chatman (left) presents to the congregation the revival series at Normandie Avenue church.

## Normandie Avenue church reaches community through impactful service

Last year, Normandie church had I.M.P.A.C.T. Sabbaths once a quarter to reach the community in four areas: Love and Laundry, Parking Lot Prayer, Soap Socks, and Sandwiches, plus the food distribution the church hosts every second and fourth Sabbath. “I believe we have to teach our people how to do evangelism,” said Deon Chatman, senior pastor. “I.M.P.A.C.T. stands for investing in ministry through positive action—acts of kindness.”

Chatman understands the importance of a holistic approach. “People are experiencing emotional trauma, are in physical crisis, have broken spirits,” Chatman added. “We’re counseling them through the Word.” Each of these initiatives were a stepping stone to help



PHOTO: VALLEY CROSSROADS FACEBOOK PAGE

Marcus Harris, senior pastor at Dupont Park church in Washington D.C., shares a message at the first Power Weekend, November 4.



how to do evangelism,” Knight said, “so that we could replicate this on an ongoing basis. We’ve also seen a dramatic increase in attendance!”

These Power Weekends have continued in February and led to a friendship ministry encouraging members to invite friends. “With evangelism, you can promote in many ways,” Knight added, “but the number one reason people come is because somebody invited them.”

### **Miramonte and Maranatha worship experience reaches young people**

November’s evangelistic campaign for Maranatha and Miramonte, two district churches led by Pastor Ira Barksdale, began with an interest in bringing people back to church.

When Barksdale was preaching one Sabbath, he made a call to anyone who wanted to dedicate their life to Christ. A young person, Shamir, enthusiastically said yes. Soon plans were made for baptism during the evangelistic campaign.

“We believed God was going to send us some souls,” Barksdale said. “Before I knew it, Shamir’s siblings said



**Evangelist Marquis Johns was the speaker for GLAR’s fall revival, November 12-19.**

they wanted to be baptized, too.” Twelve people were baptized, eight of which were young people under 18. As a result, a new youth program has started, parents have been bringing their children to church, and a discipleship class has begun for the new young believers.

“God gave us these young people so they can be baptized and we can rebuild our churches,” Barksdale said.

### **GLAR hosts fall revival at Breath of Life church**

In November, GLAR sponsored a revival hosted at the Breath of Life church. The theme, “Coming Out Stronger,” was chosen to represent coming out of the pandemic stronger as people and as a church.

Terrance Taylor, senior pastor of Breath of Life church, saw the revival as a way to gauge interest in meeting together in person, online, or hybrid. “This event gave churches a model of what hybrid church can look like,” he shared. “The production was high, and we’re moving away from what had been done before and trying to move into a bit more contemporary service.”



**Barksdale prays over the baptismal candidates during the November evangelistic series entitled, “It’s Time Thanksgiving Bible Conference,” which means it’s time to get serious about the Lord.**

The evangelistic campaigns at Normandie, Valley Crossroads, Miramonte, and Maranatha churches have set the tone for ministry moving forward as they continue to pursue evangelism. Other churches in GLAR, such as Tamarind, University, 54th Street, and Ephesus, are also planning evangelistic campaigns for this year.

“We hope that this sets a new culture as we move forward in terms of church growth and witnessing,” Harrison said, “and that evangelism is going to dominate the Greater Los Angeles Region.”

*By Araya Moss*

# Calendar

## La Sierra University

**All-Stars and Wind Ensemble Concerts.** The Department of Music will present a Wind Ensemble Concert on Sat., March 11 and an All-Stars Concerto Concert on Wed., March 15. Both events will be held at 7 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. For further information, email [music@lasierra.edu](mailto:music@lasierra.edu) or call 951-785-2036. Free admission.

**World Museum of Natural History** is open the third Sabbath of the month, 2-5 p.m. Next open dates: March 18 and April 15. View amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, gems, mineral spheres, and many other displays. Free. Up to 25 guests at a time. Information: [Advancement@lasierra.edu](mailto:Advancement@lasierra.edu), 951-785-2500, or <https://lasierra.edu/world-museum-of-natural-history/>

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:recorder@adventistfaith.com).

### Upcoming Deadlines

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

### Contributions

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

## Northern California Conference

**How to Revive in a Post-COVID World** (March 16-18). Seminar with Pastor Jose Rojas. St. Helena SDA Church. 1777 Main Street, St. Helena, CA. For more information, visit [www.SHSDA.org](http://www.SHSDA.org) or call 707-963-4461.

**Christian Men's Retreat** (May 5-7). Leoni Meadows Retreat and Conference Center, Grizzley Flats. Sponsored by NCC Men's Ministry. For more information, email [info@nccsda.com](mailto:info@nccsda.com).

## Pacific Union College

**Homecoming** (April 21-22). 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. For more information visit [puc.edu/homecoming](http://puc.edu/homecoming).

**Angwin to Angwish Trail Run** (Sunday, May 7). Set in the richly forested trails of Pacific Union College, Angwin to Angwish offers incredible natural scenery and challenging courses. The trail run offers four different distances: 1-mile kids' run, 10k, half marathon, and 30k. All distances are challenging, but a fun event for runners of all ages. The proceeds from this event will benefit PUC Athletics. To register and learn more, visit [angwintoangwish.com](http://angwintoangwish.com).

**Subscribe to PUC Now Newsletter.** Stay up to date with Pacific Union College by subscribing to their monthly newsletter at [puc.edu/subscribe](http://puc.edu/subscribe). From campus stories and alumni features to student interviews, you'll be in the know with PUC Now.

## Southern California Conference

**Los Angeles Adventist Academy 100th Anniversary** (March 10-13). 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.

**Pie Day Social** (March 11) 6 p.m. Hosted by West Covina Hills church young adult ministries. Join for pizza making, playing competitive games, and a pie-eating contest. \$5 per person. 18+. Bring your favorite pie. Sign up: <https://forms.gle/XypAn8LkwwjPsPAE8>. West Covina Hills church, 3536 E Temple Way, West Covina, CA 91791.

**1960s Hawthorne "Forever Youth Group" Missionary Volunteers Reunion** (March 16-20). For information and registration, call Dave Bostrom 530-737-3210. Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 CA-38, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305.

## NAD Children's Ministries Certification Track 3:

**Child Evangelism** (April 15) 8 a.m.-4 p.m. In order to get certified, you must complete seven classes on this track. Registration and more information: <https://bit.ly/3I873da>. San Gabriel Academy, 8827 East Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776.

# 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](mailto:humanresources@seccsda.org) or 951-509-2351.

**Holbrook Indian School** is currently in need of a Food Service Director, Cafeteria Assistant, Maintenance Director, Maintenance Assistant, Grounds/Maintenance Assistant, a 1st- through 8th-grade Teacher, 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](http://HolbrookIndianSchool.org/jobs).

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

**Loma Linda University is seeking applications for Dean-School of Public Health.** The dean is the chief officer of the school, responsible for maturing and implementing the mission and vision of the University in all aspects of the school's activities. Further, the dean is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the scholastic, moral, and social standards of the University, including the spiritual nurture of persons within the school in harmony with the mission and purposes of the University and the defined goals and objectives of the school. The next Dean should possess a passion for faith-based leadership in a Christian environment, experience in strategic planning for growth and development of academic programs, and strong collaborative and relationship-building skills. Doctoral degree from an accredited school required, experience and/or degree in a public health discipline is preferred. Leadership experience in higher education is preferred, but candidates possessing leadership experience in undergraduate education

will also be considered. Demonstrated experience in teaching, scholarly research, and faculty governance is required. Membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church required. Review of applications by the search committee will begin immediately. For consideration, candidates should complete the online application and upload a copy of their complete CV, including references. References will not be contacted without prior knowledge and approval of the candidates. If interested, apply now at: [careers.llu.edu](http://careers.llu.edu). Documents can be attached to electronic application. For questions regarding this position, please call 909-651-4001.

**Loma Linda University Department of Pathology and Human Anatomy** is inviting applications for two tenure-track Faculty positions. Research expertise in one of the following areas is requested: Neuroscience, including developmental neuroscience; aging and neurodegenerative disorders; neurogenetics; neurophysiology, and/or molecular and cellular neuroscience. Stem cell and/or cancer biology, including epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition; stem cell and oncogenic signal transduction pathways; precision oncology; genome integrity, and/or cancer epigenetics. Developmental biology, including morphogens, embryonic patterning and axis formation; tissue regeneration, and/or molecular mechanisms of tissue formation. The successful candidate is expected to be an effective communicator, establish an independent, extramurally funded research program, and participate in the education of professional and graduate students. The Faculty responsibility encompasses education, research, and/or service. Demonstrates loyalty to the mission, policies, standards, and regulations of his/her department, school, and the University, and follows the administrative policies set up by the University and the individual school. Performs other duties as needed. Ph.D. (or equivalent) in a relevant field, MD, or dual degree; at least 3 years of postdoctoral research experience; record of peer-

The advertisement for California Adventist Federal Credit Union (CAFCU) features a grid of service icons: SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (IRA, MMK, CD), CASH LOANS, MORTGAGE LOANS (house icon), CAR LOANS (car icon), VISA DEBIT CARDS, VISA CREDIT CARDS, CHECKING ACCOUNTS, CHRISTMAS CLUB, MOBILE BANKING, BILLPAY, ZELLE, and APPLE PAY. At the bottom, the CAFCU logo is displayed with the text 'CALIFORNIA ADVENTIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION'. Contact information includes the phone number 818-246-7241 | 818-240-5809, the website [SDACREDITUNION.COM](http://SDACREDITUNION.COM), and the email [OPERATIONS@SDACREDITUNION.COM](mailto:OPERATIONS@SDACREDITUNION.COM). A QR code is provided for mobile access. The text 'OFFERING ALL YOUR BANKING NEEDS FOR OVER 68 YEARS' and the slogan 'YOUR ONE STOP FINANCE SHOP!' are also included.

review original research publications in recognized scientific journals, including at least one postdoctoral publication. Preferred: Experience in applying data science approaches to biological problems, which could include artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, multi-dimensional imaging, or other methods; history of securing extramural funding. Knowledge of current technology and educational media used in teaching and presentations. Able to effectively communicate changes and instructions in a professional, effective, and positive manner. Able to read; write legibly; speak in English with professional quality; use computer, printer, and software programs necessary to the position as well as Canvas and Banner. Able to communicate effectively on the telephone; think critically; manage multiple assignments effectively; organize and prioritize workload; able to relate and communicate positively, effectively, and professionally with others; work calmly and respond courteously when under pressure. Able to distinguish colors as necessary; hear sufficiently for general conversation in person and on the telephone, and identify and distinguish various sounds associated with the workplace; see adequately to read computer screens, and written documents necessary to the position. Email: DSinyard@llu.edu - <http://phxc1a.rfer.us/LLUH80TChY>

**Pacific Union College is seeking a full-time Housing Coordinator.** Major duties include coordination of PUC faculty/staff housing, moving arrangements, and monitoring of commercial leases/master leases and utility charges for all College-managed leases. Must be customer-service oriented and able to multi-task with numerous projects. Must be able to maintain

organization and be team player. Salary position. For more information or to apply, please call Human Resources at 707-965-6231 or visit our website at [www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings](http://www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings).

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

**The General Conference is looking for individuals with work experience at all levels in Human Resources, software development and technology, and TV and social media.** Must be an Adventist church member in good standing. For additional information on current openings, go to <https://tinyurl.com/gcjobpostings> or contact Johanna Prestol-Dominguez at [prestoljd@gc.adventist.org](mailto:prestoljd@gc.adventist.org).

## Real Estate

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

**Choice mountain land** inside Cherokee National Forest in beautiful East Tennessee. Four tracts ranging in size from 10-50 acres. Large creek, cleared land, mixed forest, mature trees. On county-maintained road, utilities on site. 50 miles to Southern Adventist University. 60 miles to Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Near scenic rivers, lakes, trails. Ideal retreat, country living, retirement. Call, text, email for info and pictures. 301-332-8237 or [Kathyr777@gmail.com](mailto:Kathyr777@gmail.com).

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

## Recorder Membership

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

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**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.

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

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

## For Sale

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

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

**Baldwin 7' ebony concert grand** with adjustable artist bench. Exquisite condition. Meticulously maintained by professional technician. Looking for a loving home—church, academy, etc. Retailled new 5 years ago for \$68,400. Asking \$32,900. Contact Andre van Niekerk @ 949-338-8865 or email docandrevan@gmail.com. Serious inquiries only, please.

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

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

## Vacation Opportunities

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

**Angwin home:** Five-bedroom, three-bathroom vacation home 2 miles from PUC. Fully furnished, large kitchen, dining room, living room, family room, piano, vineyard views, WiFi, washer and dryer, BBQ, sleeps 10. Call for rates, photos, and reservations: 415-539-7980 or email nroger1965@gmail.com.

**Steps of Paul Bible Tour** with Dr. Carl Cosaert, New Testament Professor at Walla Walla University. Follow Paul's journey in beautiful Greece and Turkey, April 18-May 5, 2023. For more information, email Carl at info@adventtours.org or visit www.adventtours.org.

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

# At Rest

**Gaio, Joseph Ferry** – b. May 21, 1933, R.I.; d. Jan. 7, 2023, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carolyn Ann Gaio; daughter, Karen Gaio-Hansberger.

**Hansen, Evelyn Mae** – b. Dec. 11, 1924, Blackfoot, Idaho; d. Dec. 10, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, John Christian Holcomb; stepdaughter, Jan Hansen; five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren.

**Harr, Dean** – b. May 17, 1958; d. April 21, 2022. Survivors: mother, Helen Harr; children, Dillon Harr and Lauren Cox; three grandchildren; brother, Dwight Harr; sister, Delayne Rulo.

**Mallory, Bernie** – b. March 3, 1929, Glendale, Calif.; d. Dec. 20, 2022. Survivors: sons, Glen, Bryan, Marlin; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild expected in July. He had a dental office next to his brother's office in Chico for more than 40 years. He was the last surviving member of the Paradise Adventist church building committee for the church structure finished in 1964. He also was a ham radio enthusiast from an

early age and assisted in numerous church members' communications with missionaries overseas.

**McGhee, William** – b. Feb. 14, 1947, Portland, Ore.; d. Jan. 5, 2023, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Julie McGhee; siblings, Caroline Wrightman, John McGhee.

**Miller, Aldene** – b. Feb. 27, 1923; d. Jan. 22, 2023. Survivors: sons, Steve, Fred; daughter, Marilyn Etchell. Worked as a nurse and in retirement as a volunteer in the ER department at Adventist Health Ukiah Valley.

**Mirasol, Art** – b. Feb. 20, 1961, Cavite, Philippines; d. Jan. 3, 2023, Joshua Tree National Park, Calif. Survivors: wife, Karen; sons, Daniel, Aaron; siblings, Rose Mirasol, Mike Mirasol; parents, Tommy and Connie Mirasol.

**Rozema (Mays), Virginia "Avalon"** – b. Oct. 30, 1935, Okla.; d. Jan. 4, 2023, Calimesa, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Traci Lenderman, Terri Fair, Tami Johnston; sister, Maxine Jones; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Avalon graduated from Loma Linda University and was a registered nurse for over 50 years.

**Sabo, Jolon** – b. June 7, 1976, Angwin, Calif.; d. Jan. 30, 2023, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jessica; son, Owen; daughter, Ella; sibling, Melissa Gheen; parents, Victor and Linda Sabo.

**Saesim, Visith** – b. July 1, 1942, Raman, Thailand; d. Sept. 23, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: Danny, Aimee, and Samuel Saesim; seven grandchildren.

**Skeoch (Stoehr), Neusa** – b. Aug. 26, 1934, Brazil; d. Dec. 11, 2022, Temecula, Calif. Survivors: children, Gordon Skeoch, Graydon Skeoch, Judy Willis, Kathleen Durning, Dan Skeoch; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters, Nilza Stoehr Stahlheber, Nileyde Stoehr Christensen. She maintained a deep love for children and had a passion for teaching Sabbath School and organizing VBS programs.

**Wertz-Warner, Charlyne** – b. July 8, 1922, Tacoma, Wash.; d. Jan. 8, 2023, Calimesa, Calif. Survivors: sister, DeNelda Schwartz; children, Larry Wertz, Joyce Harrington, Suzie Corydon; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren. Charlyne served as chaplain secretary at Paradise Valley Hospital for 16 years. After retiring, Charlyne served part-time for 24 more years as the Yucaipa church secretary.

**Zane, Ernest** – b. Sept. 21, 1926, Honolulu, Hawaii; d. Aug. 26, 2022, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Ryan, Allan, Steven; daughters, Sandra Zane, Dusty Summers; seven grandchildren.

## March 2023 Sunset Calendar

City/Location	MAR 3	MAR 10	MAR 17	MAR 24	MAR 31
Alturas (Modoc Cty.)	5:55	6:03	7:11	7:19	7:27
Angwin	6:04	6:11	7:18	7:25	7:32
Bakersfield	5:53	5:59	7:05	7:11	7:16
Calexico	5:40	5:46	6:51	6:56	7:01
Chico	6:01	6:08	7:16	7:23	7:30
Death Valley (Furnace Ck)	5:43	5:50	6:56	7:02	7:08
Eureka	6:10	6:17	7:25	7:32	7:40
Four Corners [E]	6:12	6:18	7:25	7:31	7:37
Fresno	5:55	6:01	7:08	7:14	7:20
Grand Canyon (South Rim)	6:31	6:38	6:44	6:50	6:56
Half Dome	5:53	6:00	7:07	7:13	7:20
Hilo	6:26	6:28	6:30	6:32	6:34
Holbrook (Navajo City)	6:18	6:24	7:30	7:36	7:41
Honolulu	6:36	6:39	6:41	6:43	6:45
Joshua Tree	5:43	5:48	6:54	6:59	7:05
Lake Tahoe	5:54	6:01	7:08	7:15	7:22
Las Vegas	5:37	5:43	6:49	6:55	7:01
Lodi-Stockton	6:00	6:07	7:14	7:20	7:27
Loma Linda	5:46	5:52	6:58	7:03	7:09
Los Angeles	5:50	5:56	7:02	7:07	7:13
McDermitt [N]	5:43	5:51	6:59	7:07	7:15
Moab	6:13	6:20	7:27	7:33	7:40
Monterey Bay	6:03	6:10	7:16	7:22	7:28
Mt. Whitney	5:47	5:52	6:57	7:03	7:08
Napa	6:04	6:11	7:18	7:24	7:31
Nogales [S] (Los)	5:50	5:56	7:02	7:07	7:12
Oakland	6:04	6:11	7:18	7:24	7:31
Paradise, CA	6:00	6:08	7:15	7:22	7:29
Phoenix	6:26	6:32	6:37	6:42	6:47
Pu'uwaiaiu, Ni'i'hau [W]	6:27	6:30	6:32	6:34	6:35
Reno	5:53	6:00	7:08	7:15	7:22
Riverside	5:47	5:53	6:58	7:04	7:09
Sacramento	6:00	6:08	7:14	7:21	7:28
Salt Lake City	6:20	6:28	7:36	7:43	7:51
San Diego	5:47	5:52	6:57	7:03	7:01
San Francisco	6:05	6:12	7:18	7:25	7:31
San Jose	6:03	6:10	7:16	7:22	7:29
Santa Rosa	6:05	6:12	7:19	7:26	7:33
Sunset Beach	6:03	6:10	7:16	7:22	7:28
Thousand Oaks	5:53	5:59	7:04	7:10	7:15
Tucson	6:22	6:28	6:33	6:37	6:42

[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

# Love Became Man

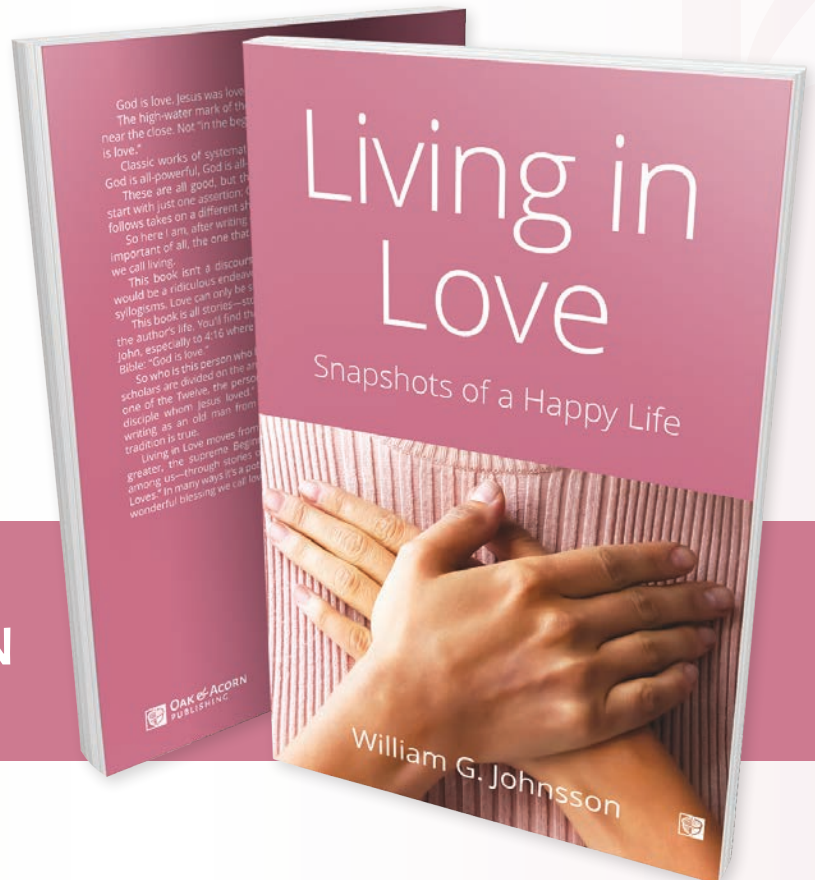
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Jesus was love incarnate. The high-water mark of the Scriptures doesn't come at the beginning but near the close. Not "in the beginning God created heaven and earth" but "God is love."

Classic works of systematic theology start with a series of propositions: God is all-powerful, God is all-knowing, God is all-present, God is Creator.

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# TOUGH TIMES REQUIRE ACTION.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY IS RESPONDING.

The ongoing economic crisis is making attaining a quality Adventist higher education a much more daunting and difficult experience. To help students reach their goals during these challenging months, La Sierra University is offering a one-time additional scholarship to most new freshmen and transfer students for the 2023-24 school year.

We are honored to assist our union's church members in changing their worlds. All dreams need opportunities, especially when times are tough.

Learn more at  
[lasierra.edu/2023-24-scholarships](https://lasierra.edu/2023-24-scholarships)

