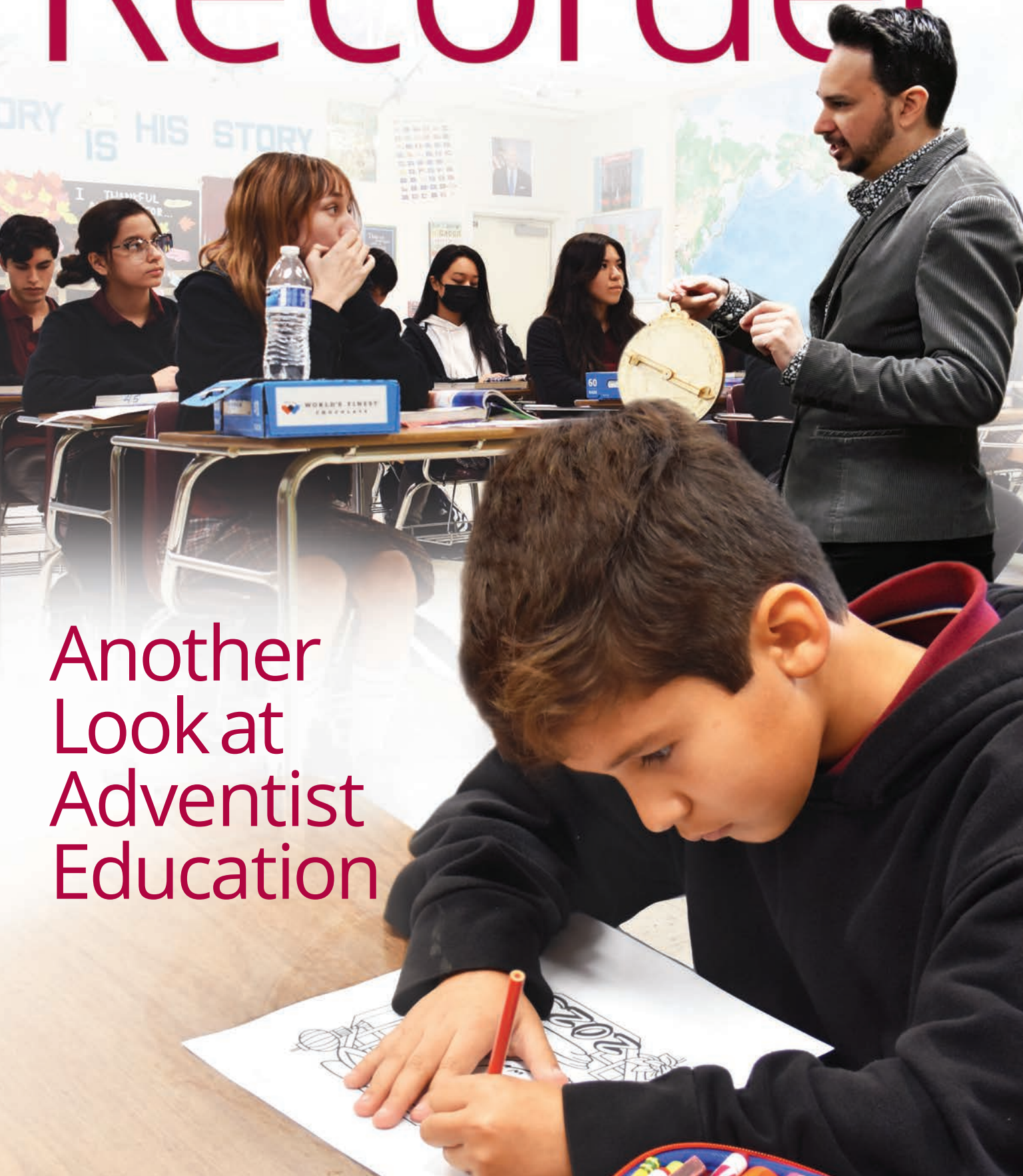


# Recorder



Another  
Look at  
Adventist  
Education

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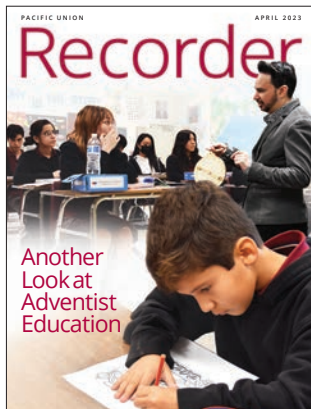
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In preparing for this special issue of the *Recorder*—our sixth annual Education issue—our *Recorder* editor was privileged to visit the Adventist schools featured

in the photographs. We are proud to share photos of students, faculty, and staff from Bishop Adventist Christian School, Calexico Mission School, Escondido Adventist Academy, Laguna Niguel Junior Academy, Vegas Valley Adventist Academy, and Victor Valley SDA School.

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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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# Take a Closer Look at



# Adventist Schools

By Bradford C. Newton



Every year I look forward to the special “Education Issue” of the *Pacific Union Recorder*. Since 2018, the April issue has focused on the ministry and powerful work that takes place in the Seventh-day Adventist schools across the Pacific Union. This includes approximately 1,000 educators serving nearly 10,000 students in 109 elementary, junior academy, and senior academy schools. We have 27 early childhood centers, where about 175 employees are educating nearly 1,000 children. We also operate Pacific Union College and La Sierra University, and we’re proud that Loma Linda University is in our territory. We are blessed each day by the ministry of Adventist education!

Seventh-day Adventist schools are academic organizations that emphasize the importance of educating children and youth through their mental, physical, social, and spiritual development. Our schools seek to provide a rigorous academic program that prepares students for college and beyond, while also instilling a commitment to Christian values and principles.

The academic curriculum taught in Adventist schools includes a strong emphasis on Bible study and Christian values. Instruction is done in supportive and nurturing environments where students can develop a love of learning and grow in their faith. Every one of our schools provide opportunities for students and their families to participate in activities that nurture spiritual growth and the joys of



service to community and those around them. Students may participate in chapel and worship programs, study and prayer groups, and outreach or community service projects. There is also a full slate of other extracurricular activities such as music, outdoor activities, team sports, and drama. It is a wholistic education that prepares students for a life of service to God and others.

This approach is carefully created and nurtured by the dedicated and professionally trained teachers, administrators, and staff. Through school boards that include church and community leaders and that provide oversight for the operation of the schools, the mission and goals of each institution receive careful and persistent review and support.

The faculty and leadership of each school take academic excellence very seriously. The smaller class sizes and personalized attention that are typical in our schools often allow for individual attention and personalized instruction, placing a strong emphasis on values education, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students in Adventist schools develop skills and talents that put them on the pathway to success in their future studies and their lives. They often forge relationships that are valued and appreciated as they go through life. In many cases, students attend the same schools their parents—and even their grandparents—attended, and the values taught are sustained over generations!

In every one of our institutions, the school day

begins with prayer. Adventist education is conducted in an environment where students can grow in their faith and develop a deeper understanding of God and His Word. Students are encouraged to develop and deepen their own individual relationship with our Heavenly Father. Our teachers are role models who personally embrace a Christ-centered life and practice the values they teach. These biblical values and principles are integrated into every aspect of the curriculum and activities of the school.

One of the most important benefits of being a student at an Adventist school is the nurturing and supportive community they become a part of. Adventist schools provide a warm and positive environment where students can develop meaningful relationships with their peers, teachers, and other members of the school community. This is where a love of learning is affirmed and where excellence in the pursuit of life goals is prioritized. These are the places where the friendships that last a lifetime are forged and where students discover mentors whose impact goes well beyond the schoolhouse door.

If you are the parent or grandparent of a school-aged child, I encourage you to consider the ways in which Adventist education might enrich and impact the lives of your children and grandchildren. I know that it requires financial resources, but I also believe that when we prioritize Christian education for our children, the means and support for their education



If you are the parent or grandparent of a school-aged child,  
I encourage you to consider the ways in which Adventist  
education might enrich and impact the lives of  
your children and grandchildren.

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and training may be found through our own means, support from family, financial aid, and other sources. I encourage you to visit your local Adventist school and speak to the principal and faculty. Tour the classrooms and attend a chapel or a music program.

Jennifer and I were committed to a Seventh-day Adventist education for our two children from their birth. From kindergarten through their college years, we viewed the financial expense as an investment in their eternal future with Jesus Christ. We committed the funds for their education as second only to returning tithe and offerings. The result was that God miraculously provided each year and blessed our children with a love for God that endures in their lives as adults. For this we praise God!

If you do not have school-aged children, you can still be involved in the ministry of our schools. Volunteers are often welcomed. Attendance at concerts and programs is valued. Your financial support for the operation of your local school is greatly appreciated and may just be the blessing that our leaders are praying for.

Join with the those who pray for our schools each day. Make the ministry of Adventist education a part of your daily conversations with God. Pray for the teachers, the administrators, and the staff, who serve with consecrated diligence and dedication. Include our school boards in prayers for wisdom and leadership.

And please pray for our students in all our schools across the Pacific Union. In my own prayer life, I hold up before the Father the young ones who are just beginning to develop social and life skills in our early childhood centers. I pray for the children

in elementary classrooms and on playgrounds, who are busy discovering their own personalities and interests. And I know that I am just one of many who pray for the students in our academies who are making important life decisions, beginning to take on adult roles, already leading out in church and community activities, and so eager to develop their personal faith and practice.

In the schools across the Pacific Union, we are responding to the words of Deuteronomy 6:6-7 through the ministry of our schools: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up" (NKJV).

Teaching our children about God's love and grace is a ministry for the entire church—it extends beyond just formal education and includes every aspect of life, including church, home, and school. In Adventist education we take this counsel to heart by seeking to create an environment that reinforces biblical values and by finding ways to integrate these values into all aspects of a child's education and development. As you read through this annual issue of the *Recorder* focusing on the work of education within our region, I hope that you will be encouraged by the reports and articles, inspired by the young faces of our students, and challenged by the enduring opportunity for impactful ministry that has been given to God's people through Adventist education.

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

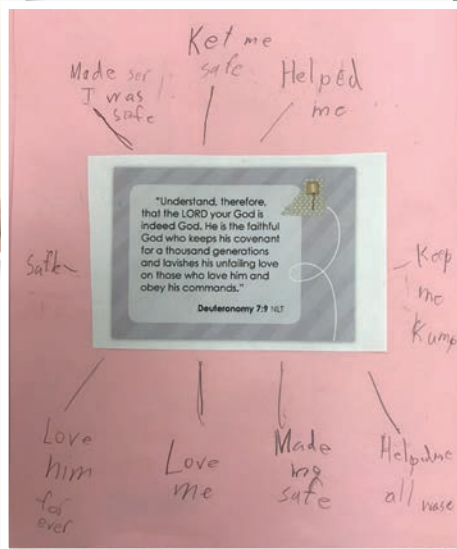
"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:12-13, NIV).

# God Is in This Story

By Lynal Ingham



**ABOVE:** In 2019, Colin dresses up for a "detectives of learning" special day at Foothills Adventist Elementary. **MIDDLE:** Colin writes notes around a Bible verse lesson in 3rd grade. **FAR RIGHT:** Colin is now a 7th grader in this photo from January this year.



**A**s a second grader, Colin moved in with his grandma, Pamela. They lived in Paradise, California, where Pamela worked as a nurse. About that time, Pamela mentioned to a friend that she was looking for a job where Colin could be at school nearby. Her friend suggested Feather River Adventist Health and Paradise Adventist Academy. Pamela is not an Adventist, but she is a strong Christian and felt a real connection to the Adventist community. She was convinced that God had planned the perfect place for her and her grandson.



The morning of Nov. 8, 2018, started like any other, with preparations for school and work. Little did Pamela and Colin know that their lives were about to change dramatically. Within the span of a few hours, Paradise was completely consumed by the fast-moving Camp Fire. Pamela and Colin lost their home with all their



belongings. Additionally, Paradise Adventist Academy sustained damage and loss. The community was devastated and uninhabitable.

Pamela prayed for a situation where work and school could once again be close to each other—a place where Colin would again be surrounded by Christ-like teachers and a community that welcomed him as one of their own. She wanted to continue being a part of Adventist education. The answer came in the form of a job transfer for Pamela from the hospital in Paradise to St. Helena Hospital in Deer Park, California. Foothills Adventist Elementary was a few minutes from the hospital and close to their new home.

Colin started at Foothills in the early months of 2019. With the loss of his home and school, paired with a move to a new community, Colin's quiet nature became even more pronounced. However, as he became familiar with the students in his class and created a bond with his teacher, he began to come out of his shell. He made friends, participated in student-led prayer, picked up where he had left off in his classwork, and enjoyed sports.

Part of his daily classroom studies included Encounter Bible units. One unit emphasized the commitment God makes to His people and how He is faithful. Colin had a testimony to share with his classmates. He had experienced God's faithfulness firsthand. God had led him and his grandmother safely out of the burning town of Paradise and to a new community.

Colin's testimony had an impact on his classmates, especially when he shared his thoughts on what makes a house a home. Colin had learned

that a house is a building and buildings can be replaced, but a home is a place where you're safe with your family. His observations influenced the thinking of his classmates, and they continued to comment during the unit activities that a home is where God and your family reside. A home is where love lives.

In March 2020, the world changed again. Covid lockdowns kept students home and learning by computer. Colin met with his teacher and classmates via Zoom, two times each day. He continued learning from afar but missed the daily connections with his friends.

The 2020-2021 school year started with everyone in-person at school with masks, shields on desks, and students socially distanced. It was different, it was weird, but the Foothills family was back learning together.

And then fire struck again—this time in Colin's new community. He, his grandmother, and all their friends evacuated as the Glass Fire raged through the Napa Valley. On the morning of Sept. 28, 2020, at about 5 a.m., Foothills principal Rob Ingham received a phone call from the Angwin fire chief with these chilling words: "I'm so sorry, but we lost



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“Colin is a very sensitive person as well as a deep thinker. His Adventist education is helping him understand that his relationship with Jesus helps him become a more loving/respectful person to himself and others.” - Pamela, Colin's grandmother

Foothills last night." Fire crews were on scene and made valiant efforts to save the school, but Foothills' main building, Baldwin Hall, was a total loss.

Colin had lost his school again.

In addition to losing his school, Colin had other concerns. Early reports were that Colin and Pamela's home in Deer Park had also burned when the fire swept through the neighborhood. They were once again facing a total loss. Imagine their surprise when Principal Ingham called two days later and asked if they had an update on their home. They replied that they didn't have an update, but they knew it was gone. Mr. Ingham was happy to tell them they were wrong. He was standing in front of their house. It was untouched by the fire, though houses all around it had burned and the fence and trees in the yard showed heavy fire damage.

When the danger was over, the community returned to what the fire had not destroyed. In



the true spirit of love, sister school Pacific Union College Elementary (PUCE) provided classrooms for Foothills students and staff. Families, students, and teachers were in shock, but they gave praise to God for their safety and the ability to be together.

Adventist groups from all over the division sent gifts, school supplies, and funds to help set up classrooms for the Foothills students. On the first day of school following the fire, students were welcomed by therapy dogs. Gifts from PUCE and across the country were on their desks, and notes from other schools were on the walls. The students spent the first morning thankful for the opportunity to be together.

One of the discussions on that first morning found the students thankful that God had kept them safe. As the conversation went on, Colin reminded the group of the Encounter Bible lesson when they discussed the difference between a house and a home. And they understood that God is in their story.

God is in Colin's story, Foothills Adventist Elementary's story, and your story. God is in each of our stories. This is true education. This is Adventist education.

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*Lynal Ingham is associate director for elementary education for the Pacific Union Conference.*

## God Is in This Story

*Katy Nichole, Ethan Hulse, Jeff Pardo*

God is in this story  
God is in the details  
Even in the broken parts  
He holds my heart, He never fails  
When I'm at my weakest  
I will trust in Jesus  
Always in the highs and lows  
The One who goes before me  
God is in this story

So if the storm you're walking through  
Feels like it's too much and you  
Wonder if He even cares at all  
Well, hold on tight to what you know  
He promised He won't let you go  
Your song of healing's written in His scars



**Adventist Education**  
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

When I grow  
UP . . .



Do you enjoy helping others?

Are you interested in learning new things?

Do you like having fun?

You may want to be a **TEACHER!**



# An Adventist School



• **Youth are immersed in the Word of God and are taught the real gospel.** They get a true picture of the character of God as a loving heavenly Father, come to understand the plan of salvation, and personally decide to accept God's invitation.

• **Young people are privileged to get a cosmic, eternal worldview.** Such a worldview is anchored in ultimate reality (the best point of reference—where all of life is headed).

• **The principle of a healthy, balanced life is being modelled and taught** throughout the whole school program—work, worship, study, and play come together harmoniously. This contributes immeasurably to molding adult lifestyles.

• **Character development and old-fashioned values are unapologetically pursued,** with emphasis on the personhood of the student. This is in addition to high-quality, relevant formal studies.



# Is A Place Where . . .

By George H. Akers

• **Young people get "inspired" and accomplish great things for God and humanity**—to bless the world and leave it a better place. Inspiration and information go hand in hand in Christian education as young people see and embrace high ideals.

• **Excellence in all its forms is cherished and affirmed.** In our schools, the ennobling, finer things of life are still extolled before our children. In an age when the entertainment industry has so transmogrified the arts, it's critical that they be re-enshrined to nourish the human soul.

• **Work is still a good word.** Youth need to learn how to work and to find personal satisfaction and fulfillment in a job well done. In an Adventist school, this is an important part of the curriculum.

• **Respect for law and order matters,** and discipline is maintained in kindness and Christian love. In a society that has forgotten that freedom and responsibility go together, this brand of reality education is paramount.

• **Cooperation is emphasized over competition;** selflessness and service are idealized. "Getting ahead in life" takes on a whole new meaning in this context, as does the word compassion. Two altogether opposite spiritual kingdoms are represented here, and schools can help our youth to clearly understand this.

• **Small is beautiful.** No more do we hear caricatures of the little one- or two-room

school as a primitive, low-quality throwback to 19th-century pioneering days. Large, bureaucratic teaching factories are restructuring their programs, even remodeling their aging school plants, to achieve a nurturing family atmosphere. Some of the most exclusive educational operations in America are boasting of their "educational intimacy." Just think, Adventists have this atmosphere ready-made in our little one-room and two-room schoolhouses, which constitute approximately 80 percent of our elementary schools in North America! And the small school no longer need feel isolated, since it can connect worldwide through electronic means such as email and social media.

• ***There is a climate of excellence.*** Educational excellence is rather ephemeral, being comprised of a number of critical, interactive components. Much of what is "learned" in school is too global and elusive to be captured by pencil and paper tests. There is far more to the science of true education (after acquisition of the basic reading, writing, and counting skills, of course) than demonstrating mastery of unrelated bits of information. Many curriculum authorities now recognize that this kind of knowledge is quickly outdated and are searching for ways to discover education's "universals" and to integrate them in meaningful ways. Standardized test scores also fail to assess sociological considerations like school climate, which includes excitement about learning and consistent support for high academic achievement by everyone involved in the school—parents, teachers, and students.

However, if national test results have any comparative reliability, it can be safely reported that Adventist schools have consistently scored above average and deserve to be categorized as "quality schools."

• ***Independent thinking is prized.*** Youth are encouraged and taught how to think for themselves, guided by biblical principles. This

means combining critical thinking and moral decision making. (Now there's a brand of "excellence" unknown to secular education!) The goal of an educated mind is to be clear-headed and rational. But in a Christian school, youth come to understand that reason always takes its place under divine revelation, wherever the Word of God has spoken.

• ***Science and religion are in harmony,*** and the Genesis account of origins is not under constant attack in the classroom or laboratory. It's a place where nature is studied as a reflection of God at work, where a human being is not just another animal form, but a very special being, made in the image of God and headed for an eternal reunion with his or her Maker. In our present era of technical pre-eminence, this is a sensitive, influential area, because young people have learned to revere anything labeled "scientific."

• ***Young adults are more likely to find a Christian life companion.*** We comfortably acknowledge that God is just as busy in that department as He is in the classroom. Schools thus form the basis for training the next generation of Christian families.

• ***Young Christians get a glimpse of God's special purpose for their lives*** and God's agenda for them. (As one parent put it: "Maybe Hermie won't graduate with honors, but if he discovers his special spiritual gift and finds his personal mission in life in extending God's kingdom on earth, we figure the honors that are really important the Lord will confer in His own time and manner. We can't think of a better environment for this to take place than at our academy. Just think, the whole place is organized around that objective!")

• ***Committed Christian youth of other faiths are welcome to attend.*** This not only encourages religious tolerance, but also helps teach our own young people to deal with other Christians every day at close range. It has proved to be an excellent way to motivate youth to witness to their peers and



escape the "hothouse Christian" syndrome that besets many religious enclaves. We are just beginning to see the results of this type of evangelism in our church, where whole families have come over to Adventism because of the steady influence of one little church school that refused to keep its light under a bushel.

• **Where faculty as well as students are being nurtured.** A school is a people place, where teachers are the prime movers, the real "change agents." All else is scaffolding and props. Many young people, in later years, declare that the entire course of their lives was dramatically changed as a result of one teacher's influence.

This is the reason that our church conducts regular staff development retreats and conventions for its teacher corps, putting much emphasis on mission and the crucial role of the teacher. These meetings are times of personal and group reflection and rededication, a determined effort by educators and administrators to ensure that our schools will remain on-track. The new commission for teachers affirms what they truly are: youth evangelists in the highest sense.

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*Dr. G. H. Akers was professor emeritus in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Andrews University when he wrote this article. From 1985 to 1990 he served as world director of education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During his four and a half decades with Adventist education, he also served as residence hall dean, academy principal, college/university administrator in several capacities, and graduate school professor. He passed away in 2017. (Reprinted with permission from Journal of Adventist Education, summer 1995.)*





# The “Everything Else” About Adventist Education

By Aimee Leukert

“**W**hy are boys so mean?” “The football teams you picked are unfair. Can you redo them?” “I think Susie’s mad at me. What should I do?” The questions poured fast and furious out of my pen. One of the weekly assignments in fifth grade, alongside handwriting and spelling lessons, was to submit a “newspaper”—a simple, three-column blank sheet that we could fill with whatever we wanted. Current events, sports scores, a weather report—it was all fair game in Ms. Jackee’s eyes and gradebook.

I decided to create an advice column and used it as an opportunity to mine my beloved teacher’s heart for words of wisdom and sage counsel. She dutifully wrote back every single week and took each preteen, angst-filled question seriously, crafting her replies in such a way that they always nudged me toward the high road and encouraged me to see the bigger picture.

We continued writing back and forth even after I moved on from her classroom and the guise of the newspaper assignment had long disappeared. When I was in academy, we drafted my younger brother, still at the elementary school, to be the messenger. When I came home from school, I’d pounce on his backpack, sift through crumpled papers



and soggy sandwiches, and fish out a note from Ms. Jackee. Immediately after reading her letter—sometimes a few sentences, sometimes paragraphs long—I'd write back to tell her all about my week, my teachers, my classes and entrust the folded response back into my brother's care with stern instructions to deliver it straight into her hands the next day.

In many ways, that experience with Ms. Jackee—one that I look fondly back on now 25 years later—epitomizes my years in Adventist education. My teachers were all brilliant educators who treated me with patience and kindness, grace and respect and invested themselves in me. In this awkward child of immigrant parents, they saw a spark and fanned it into flames of confidence and self-assurance and maturity. From elementary school (Simi Valley Adventist School) to physics and P.E. (Newbury Park Academy) to music history (La Sierra University), my teachers were not only consummate experts in their subject domain, they were also masters in the art of mentorship. They taught me how to balance chemical equations (David Pennock), write a clean research paper with arguments and counterarguments (Tracy Harder), and identify wildflowers (Stan Mulder). I learned about compound interest (Harold Crook), Paul's letters (Joelle Reed), and all the shortcuts in Word Perfect (Dennis McKenzie). My Adventist education enabled me to win a coveted Bank of America scholar award, and my SAT and ACT scores garnered me entrance to several top universities. But more than that, the messages that I heard over and over and over from my teachers at every Adventist institution I attended were that I was loved, I had value, I was a child of God, and I would do great things for Him.

I began my college studies as a music/pre-medicine student and endured 8 a.m. general chemistry classes that first quarter. When I came home for Christmas break, I tackled the long overdue task of cleaning out some of the old files in my bedroom and unearthed the faded

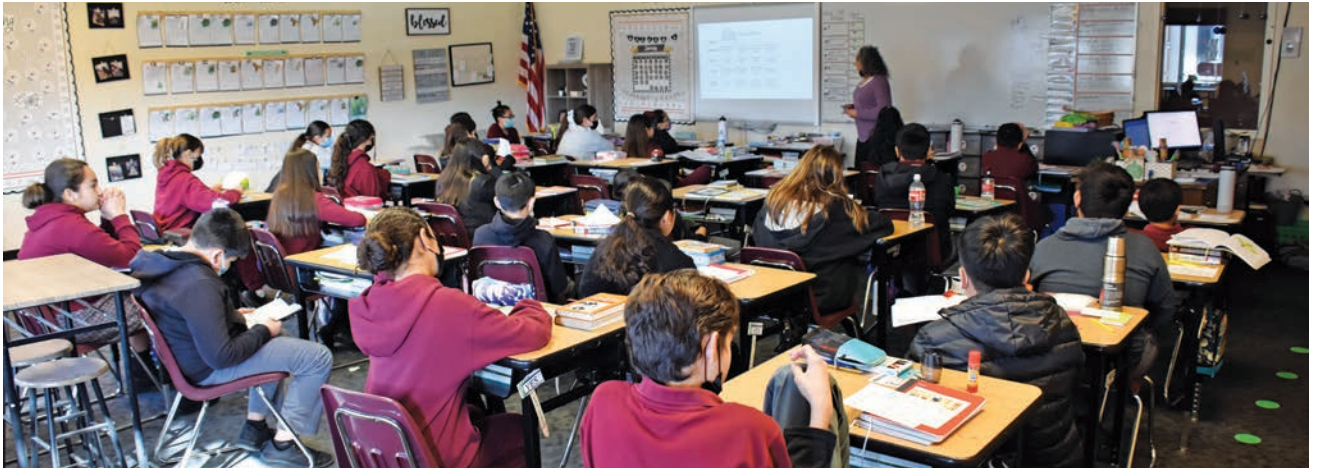
“newspapers” that I'd carefully saved. As I lost myself in reading through my teacher's thoughtful missives to me, I was amazed at how carefully she treated my fragile feelings, how importantly she seemed to regard each of my dramatic concerns. And I decided right then that I wanted to do the same for other students—I wanted to gift them with what my teachers had given me. I returned to La Sierra University in January and headed straight for the registrar's office to change my major.

I've taught at the elementary, secondary, and university levels for just about two decades now, and in each of my roles, I've endeavored to hold true to that original vow to—like my teachers before me—invest in my students' academic, emotional, and spiritual growth. And that, I'd like to think, is the beautiful and immensely profound contribution of Adventist education.

For those of us who have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church all our lives, it is easy to become indifferent or, worse, dismissive of our schools' commitment to wholistic education. We take for granted or feel entitled to high-quality instruction provided by dedicated teachers. We bemoan the price of tuition and demand evidence for how those dollars are being spent.

While I fully support fiscal accountability and best curriculum practices in our schools, I beseech parents to evaluate the measuring stick they are using to make a decision about their child's education. The hours spent in a classroom are devoted not only to a child's academic foundation, but also to...everything else.

I recently wrote a book (*Thriving: Stories of the Adventist Education Effect*, in press) featuring stories about individuals who credit their professional and personal success to Adventist education. I connected with people who had graduated from various Adventist schools across the country—Monterey Bay Academy, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Upper Columbia Academy, and Pine Forge Academy, to name a few—and were now working in



their chosen field, from healthcare to real estate to the arts. And while their stories were unique to each particular context, a theme that quickly emerged from my conversations with them was that the most profound and most influential aspect of their education was not the number of computers in the classroom or the shiny gym equipment or the most up-to-date textbooks but, rather, the everything else.

They talked about the relationships they formed and the identity they developed within an environment that affirmed and nurtured them. They shared of teachers who had dedicated their lives to mentoring teenagers, who generously doled out wisdom, food, money for laundry, and time. They reminisced about life-changing Bible camps, band tours, mission trips, and bonfire vespers. They recalled dormitory deans, librarians, and maintenance staff who modeled Christian living and a vibrant faith. Through laughter and tears, these successful adults with impressive résumés

and amazing life experiences told me how they'd achieved their accomplishments and were blessed beyond measure because they'd been pushed, encouraged, guided, and prayed over while in an Adventist school.

I marveled at how closely my story echoed theirs—because I, too, am a product of Adventist education. I, too, would not be who I am today were it not for a system that weaves together outstanding teachers, a standard of excellence, a shared set of beliefs and values, and a Biblical worldview. For decades, Adventist education has provided a space for children to be educated academically within a framework of God's love and grace. There is simply no better approach for a meaningful and worthwhile school experience.

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*Aimee Leukert is associate director for the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education at La Sierra University.*



By Ellen G. White

## Source and Aim of True Education

**T** rue education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come....

As the moon and the stars of our solar system shine by the reflected light of the sun, so, as far as their teaching is true, do the world's great thinkers reflect the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Every gleam of thought, every flash of the intellect, is from the Light of the world (p. 13).

In a knowledge of God all true knowledge and real development have their source. Wherever we turn, in the physical, the mental, or the spiritual realm; in whatever we behold, apart from the blight of sin, this knowledge is revealed. Whatever line of investigation we pursue, with a sincere purpose to arrive at truth, we are brought in touch with the unseen, mighty Intelligence that is working in and through all. The mind of man is brought into communion with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite. The effect of such communion on body

and mind and soul is beyond estimate (p. 14).

Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. This is made plain in the law that God has given as the guide of life. The first and great commandment is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind." Luke 10:27. To love Him, the infinite, the omniscient One, with the whole strength, and mind, and heart, means the highest development of every power. It means that in the whole being—the body, the mind, as well as the soul—the image of God is to be restored....

The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men. And this service, while making us a blessing to others, brings the greatest blessing to ourselves. Unselfishness underlies all true development. Through unselfish service we receive the highest culture of every faculty. More and more fully do we become partakers of the divine nature. We are fitted for heaven, for we receive heaven into our hearts (p. 16).

Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do. The men in whom this power is developed are the





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A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

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men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions (p. 17).

Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It strengthens the character, so that truth and uprightness are not sacrificed to selfish desire or worldly ambition. It fortifies the mind against evil. Instead of some master passion becoming a power to destroy, every motive and desire are brought into conformity to the great principles of right. As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is re-

created in the image of God...

Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. But his efforts will be directed to objects as much higher than mere selfish and temporal interests as the heavens are higher than the earth (p. 18).

He who co-operates with the divine purpose in imparting to the youth a knowledge of God, and molding the character into harmony with His, does a high and noble work. As he awakens a desire to reach God's ideal, he presents an education that is as high as heaven and as broad as the universe; an education that cannot be completed in this life, but that will be continued in the life to come; an education that secures to the successful student his passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher grade, the school above (p. 19).

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*These excerpts are from Chapter One of the book Education by Ellen G. White (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1903).*



## Prescott Friday Clubs

Something special is taking place on Fridays at Prescott Adventist Christian School in Prescott, Arizona. A Friday Clubs Program that is designed to create partnerships with homeschool families, create opportunities to connect with local businesses, introduce students to various career options, provide service projects for students to give back to their community, and raise awareness of cultural identities is doing exactly all of that.

"A big draw for parents is that we are one of the only schools in the area that is doing this type of program as part of the regular school program," said principal Jennifer Montalban. "We focus on hands-on learning and incorporate career awareness, service opportunities, and cultural learning."

This has gotten the attention of homeschool parents who want their children to have exposure to not only the Friday program but also the weekly chapels and service events. The children enroll in the program and pay a small fee to participate in the activities. "When parents decide that home school is no longer meeting their needs, a relationship has already been established," said Montalban. "Five of the 12 home school students that we have enrolled in the program this year have already enrolled full time for next school year."

As the program developed, Montalban realized there was an opportunity to partner with small businesses as well. The presenters not only teach a skill but also share how they got into this career and what is required to do the career. In turn, the school pays them a small stipend for their time and materials and promotes their business on the school social media. Some of the

programs this year have included a watercolor and acrylic class, a professor from nearby Emory-Riddle University who introduced aerospace with hands-on airplane design, and a jazzercise business that presented students with an alternative way to stay healthy and fit.

"We had an orthopedic technician come to school and put plaster casts on the students, and a physician brought stethoscopes for the students," said Montalban. "These are cool experiences that some of the students have never done and would not experience otherwise."

Incorporated into the Friday program are service projects. The students have visited nursing homes, assisted in a Salvation Army project, and cleaned up around the Museum of Indigenous People in Prescott. Not wanting to miss an opportunity for learning, that service project was coordinated with a tour of the facility, and students learned about cultures and got a hands-on education using a grinding stone.

Each October, Montalban plans an arts and crafts program that will coincide with the Fall Festival. "The students make one item to take home and one item to sell at the Fall Festival," she said. "It makes about \$500 for the program, and we have had bath bombs, tea towels, candles, and baskets."

This past December, the Friday program featured Christmas Around the World. Parents of students at the school created food and crafts that illustrated their ethnic culture's celebration of Christmas. Combining resources from the community to give the students a multi-cultural, hands-on experience is a hallmark feature of this Friday Club Program.

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*By Jeff Rogers*



# Thunderbird CNA Program Introduces Students to Patient Care

**T**he Certified Nursing Assistant course at Thunderbird Adventist Academy encompasses every aspect of the school's mission. "The program was created to give high school seniors an opportunity to gain medical knowledge, develop critical thinking, and experience patient care in a healthcare immersion setting," said instructor Eva Gonzalez.

Begun almost a decade ago, the program went through a hiatus during the covid pandemic and had to be recertified in 2021. The program is now thriving, with a classroom full of students who have ambitions to work in the medical field. For some, it might be an eye-opening experience that shifts their attention away from patient care. However, other students relish the opportunity to work one-on-one with patients in identifying their physical, emotional, and psychological needs.

The course lays the groundwork not only for understanding how the healthcare system works but additionally how they can help others as a Christian care provider. "Students learn to be the hands and heart of Jesus by providing compassionate care for patients at their most vulnerable stage in life," Gonzalez said.

Students who graduate from the program must

pass a state certification exam through the Arizona Board of Nursing that tests both knowledge and skills. This license allows students to work as a CNA in any health care setting, such as nursing homes, hospice, in-home care, and hospitals, and it can also be transferred to other states. Once students pass their exam, they can begin earning income, which can assist them in their college education.

Having an instructor who has real world experience in a variety of health care settings prepares the students for "real world" patient care. "It has been my joy and privilege to impart medical knowledge and my own personal patient care experience with my students," Gonzalez said. One lesson required students to empty a colostomy bag filled with a combination of peanut butter and water. Other lessons are not as vivid but include instructions on how to move and transport patients with professionalism and care.

Gonzalez reflects on her own personal mission for the class. "I pray that the Lord will continue to help me to inspire my students to give the best patient care possible and utilize their knowledge and skills to be an integral part of the health care team," she said.

*By Jeff Rogers*



**LEFT:** CNA Instructor Eva Gonzalez demonstrates the proper way to transfer a patient from a bed to a wheelchair. **MIDDLE:** Seniors Berenice Rwamatwara (left) and Kaitlyn Ordas (right) practice rolling a patient onto their side using the CNA mannequin. **RIGHT:** Senior Natalie Medina (right) practices putting on a compression sock on fellow senior Bianca Fierro.



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Arise & Go Digital Academy: Training seminars for church officers such as deacons/deaconesses, elders, and more are also available.



## Growing God's Kingdom Through His People

The Arise & Go training seminars have taken the next step in focusing the Central California Conference churches on the mission of growing God's kingdom. Each area of the conference was being visited by leaders, and the churches were brought together for a training seminar. This year, the emphasis is on creating new small groups.

Eight to ten seminars were provided each Sabbath, with an emphasis on transforming adult Sabbath Schools, creating digital evangelists in the territory, starting Pathfinder clubs, and more. Seminars in Spanish were provided as well, emphasizing evangelism and outreach.



The goal was to train, equip, and mobilize the people of each community. Training has been provided, but mobilization has been more difficult in the past. "Our new conference president is very focused," said Antonio Huerta, vice president of ministries. "My job is to execute the vision our conference president has provided to us. And by the grace of God, it's working very well."

Baptisms more than doubled in the last two years. In 2021, the baptism number was about 200. In 2022, it increased to about 500. And Huerta said the goal for 2023 is 1,000 baptisms. "I believe we're going to reach that goal," he added.

Six new church groups were planted in 2022, and the goal for 2023 is to plant 10 to 15 more. Huerta said this has already started happening. Some church groups have been planted, and more are in the process.

Huerta added that this is all about the vision. When the vision is clear, people are more willing to embrace it and help make it happen. "So many things can distract us from the real mission," he said. "We exist to grow God's kingdom, to expand, to make disciples, to win souls—that's why we exist. God is good, and we're excited about what's happening in our conference."

*By Brennan Hallock*

# Bible Encounter Experience

## TURNING A CHALLENGE INTO AN EXPERIENCE

For the past 15 years, the education department at the Central California Conference led out in a Bible Challenge, similar to the Pathfinder Bible Bowl. But the coronavirus interrupted this, forcing the conference to pause and rethink the event. The curriculum committee met and discussed the conference's purpose in education, narrowing it to spiritual, academic, physical, and community service.

An idea was presented to the school principals: instead of a challenge, what if the event could be an experience? Brainstorming took place, and a program was created that changed the competition to a time of sharing. Instead of having a specific Bible book to study, a topic was given.

Fresno Adventist Academy hosted the first Bible Encounter Experience on February 22. Nine conference schools attended this new event, bringing approximately 70 students that made up 12 teams.

"We looked at Jesus in the Bible from cover to cover and explored why the different Old Testament characters were selected," explained Sandra Green, associate superintendent for the education department. "Each team of five selected a Bible character they wanted to study, and they looked at that person's life, comparing it to Jesus' life. They saw the areas where this person was foreshadowing Jesus."

Each team was given five minutes to share those areas. They presented their research and were given certificates and pins for their participation. The presentations included reports on Samson, Noah, Esther, Ruth, Abraham, Nehemiah, and more.

Mark Howard, a local pastor, talked in the morning to set the tone of the day. The groups then went to offer community service. Each team had selected a location they wanted to support. They were able to deliver their donations and meet the people.

The physical part of the event included four different areas. The students were separated by grade level, then each went to a station. They participated in interactive physical activities that required the groups to communicate in order to complete the assignment.

Green says they are planning to repeat this event next year. "We're looking forward to going forward with it because everyone was really happy."

*By Brennan Hallock*





## STEAM Fair

**H**awaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki has been working to integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) into many areas across the curriculum. The school's STEAM fair showcases student engineering skills across the curriculum in grades K to eight. From building Bible dioramas and solar-powered toys to engineering and testing out homemade arcade games, the STEAM fair this year did not disappoint.

Student projects were showcased at this annual event that allows parents to get a glimpse into the classroom. Most importantly, students could witness to parents and community members using science to show the workings and miracles of God.

Ka Lama Iki staff even hosted a STEAM chapel on February 3. Middle school math and science teacher Kyler Martin gave a demonstration combining the wonders of science and the power of God. In the demonstration, Mr. Martin showed students several wonders—a fiery explosion, a large plastic container crushing itself, and the creation of a cloud—all in one experiment! Mr. Martin related these happenings to the students' lives by using this STEAM explosion as an analogy demonstrating a relationship with Jesus.

"Sometimes, people say mean things or sometimes students face struggles in their lives, which are, in essence, invisible (like the isopropyl alcohol poured into the jug that worked as the flame agent)," Mr. Martin explained. "Rumors and problems keep building up. We can act like everything is fine (the alcohol evaporates, filling the container with invisible vapors). But eventually, something small could set us off (like the match) and we 'blow up.'"

"However," Mr. Martin concluded, "if we let Jesus come and fill us, we can be light and happy again." Taking his hand off the top, air rushed into the jug and formed a cloud. The cloud that forms in the bottle serves as a reminder that even though students may face tough things, Jesus can use everyone to create something beautiful! Staff hope that, even though recent events feel crushing at times, programs like these can help students feel understood.

*By Kyler Martin and Sarah Traczyk*

"Sometimes, people say mean things or sometimes students face struggles in their lives. ... However, if we let Jesus come and fill us, we can be light and happy again."

# REACH Hawaii

**R**EACH Hawaii continues to provide specialized services to students in Adventist education in Hawaii schools. Influenced by the North American Division's REACH (Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven) initiative, REACH Hawaii provides support and resources to students, educators, and parents; increases identification of students with disabilities; allows for intentional collaboration between specialists and classroom teachers; and provides avenues for direct services for students.

Caitlyn Ingham, the conference intervention specialist and a certificated speech-language pathologist (SLP), is in her second year as the director of REACH Hawaii, providing support and services for each of the conference's nine (K-12) schools on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii Island. Over the last two years, Ingham has conducted 43 individual student assessments, identifying language disorders, speech-sound disorders, auditory processing difficulties, pragmatic disorders, evidence of dyslexia, and others. Overall, Ingham provides



REACH Hawaii provides support and resources to students, educators, and parents.

services to 55-85 students every week. Learning assessments indicate that students who receive direct services are growing at the same rate or faster than 64% of peers in reading and 66% of peers in language. Approximately 40% of students who receive direct services scored at or above the 85th percentile for growth on reading or language tests, indicating an above average rate of growth.

A major focus of REACH Hawaii is the education and collaboration between educators. REACH Further, a new continuing education series, was developed to provide opportunities for educators to learn and collaborate with each other. A wide range of topics—including discussions on school environment, accommodations, various disabilities, and assisting in specific academic areas—is covered and discussed on a weekly basis.

REACH Hawaii is possible because of the financial generosity of the local schools, Versacare Foundation, and Archie Tonge Education Fund.

*By Miki Akeo-Nelson*





# HOLBROOK INDIAN SCHOOL

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

## All Things Working Together for Good

If you have been following Holbrook Indian School (HIS), you know that at least once a year a student makes a very significant spiritual decision. On Sabbath, February 11, fifteen students gave their hearts to God in baptism. The following Sabbath, six more students were baptized. Both of these occurrences followed another special baptism of one student in December 2022, bringing the total number of students baptized this school year to 22.

God is moving on the hearts of the students at HIS. These decisions are also a testament to the efforts being put forth by the faculty and staff. Human effort and divine power—all things are working together for good.

The decision by HIS senior Ariana to give her anger

and pain to God came as she discovered the character of God in dorm worship and Bible class. Ariana said that after losing her little sisters in a tragic car accident, what brought her hope was hearing about the promise of the resurrection in Bible class. And she formed a beautiful image of Jesus after hearing His life and character portrayed in dorm worships. With all the emotions that linger after such a loss, Ariana experienced reservations even as she felt inspired.

“Last year I just felt tired of being angry and all of the emotions,” she said. “So I decided to try praying to God. I felt I was getting answers to my prayers, which made me feel comforted and OK in trusting my life to Him.”

The February baptismal decisions came during a





weeklong evangelistic series with guest speaker and director of Youth and Children's Ministries at the Arizona Conference, Pastor Manny Cruz. The month before that, another guest speaker, Eddie Turner, had arrived to share in a week of prayer with the students and staff; he also connected deeply with many of the students. The personal influence of both Pastor Manny and Pastor Eddie planted seeds that soon bore fruit.

God continues to lead at Holbrook Indian School. Thank you for your continued support as we provide the whole-person education, love, and care that helps students learn to know the love of their Creator.

*By Chevon Petgrave*

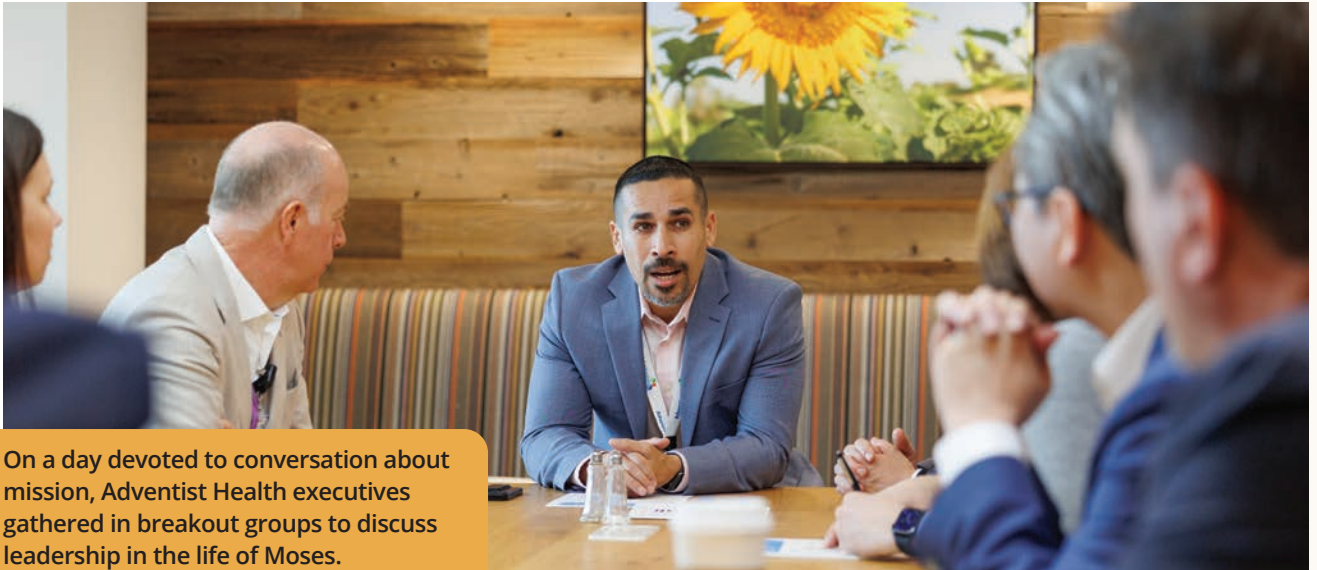
*Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is a first- through twelfth-grade boarding academy operated by the Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. HIS also manages a first- through eighth-grade day school on the Navajo reservation in Chinle, Arizona. Eighty-seven percent of funding comes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

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

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On a day devoted to conversation about mission, Adventist Health executives gathered in breakout groups to discuss leadership in the life of Moses.

## Leadership Lessons from the Story of Moses

“Where there is risk, where there is unknown, where there is great venture and opportunity, smart leaders frame their work, think deeply about, the story of Moses,” said Alex Bryan, chief mission officer for Adventist Health, as he spoke to Adventist Health executives who gathered in Roseville, California, last month for a day of conversation about the mission of Adventist Health.

The gathering focused on “Leadership Lessons from the Story of Moses” and featured speakers Alex Bryan and Sam Leonor, mission identity and spiritual care executive for Adventist Health, who presented four sessions about Moses titled “A Humble Leader,” “A Wise Leader,” “A Constructive Leader,” and “A Prophetic Leader.”

Bryan spoke about the advantages of leading with humility like Moses, including unlocking the power of team collaboration and making space for work that transcends our own lives. Breakout sessions followed for executives to discuss what humility can look like in their personal leadership experience.

Leonor spoke about how, like Moses, wise leaders talk with God and seek mountaintops where their hearts are so captivated by the transcendent experience that it changes the way they lead. “Everyone knows when you’ve been with God,” said Leonor. “Everyone knows when you’ve been to your mountain because your face shines.” In response, executives reflected on their own mountaintop

experiences and the resulting practical benefits, including being prepared to care for their teams by practicing mental, spiritual, and physical self-care.

The leadership gathering was part of the Executive Mission Formation (EMF) program at Adventist Health, which focuses on developing organizational leaders grounded in the unique mission of Adventist healthcare as a living expression of the ministry of Jesus.

“Our mission at Adventist Health is: ‘Living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness, and hope.’ That mission is a unique identifier of why we do healthcare,” said Kristine Johnson, director for executive mission formation at Adventist Health. “Our mission is what sets us apart from other nonprofit health systems. We are living and breathing our mission every day for communities across the West Coast as an example of Jesus’ ministry of showing love and compassion to everybody. It’s important that we spend time cultivating and building a culture that helps our mission thrive and carry on to future generations.”

At the end of the day, Leonor turned the attention of the group back to trusting God. “God’s goals don’t hinge on any one person. We will come and go, and the mission will continue,” said Leonor. “You and I will be part of the story, but it’s not our story. It’s way bigger. God gave a challenge and a promise that appear in the life of Joshua repeatedly. The challenge: ‘Be strong and courageous.’ The promise: ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

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By Kim Strobel



## Inspired Journey: Director Santos Makes International Inroads as Composer, Conductor

An early career experience performing the original music of a noted director struck a chord with a young Giovanni Santos—20 years later, he has forayed into the world of composition, where his works have been rapidly gaining attention across the United States and Europe.

As director of wind and percussion studies at La Sierra University, Santos leads the La Sierra University Wind Ensemble, Chamber Winds, and Big Band and teaches various courses. He joined La Sierra's faculty in 2015. Two years later, he completed a first major composition, which La Sierra's wind ensemble played in televised music festivals in the Czech Republic and the Republic of San Marino, the only college-level performers to participate. "That was the beginning of my composition career," Santos said.

In January 2018, he directed his work "Voyages," written for the U.S. Naval Academy Band Brass Ensemble, in the group's performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. That March, he led the university Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Hall.

Over the past four years, Santos has composed over 30 works for solo winds, chamber ensemble, and for large ensembles. Last summer, his work "Passionately Curious" was performed under direction of his USC graduate school mentor and renowned conductor H.

Robert Reynolds in a concert at the famed Tanglewood Music Center, home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Last October, a piece titled "Chavez, 1927," commissioned by a consortium of universities and colleges, premiered at the University of the Pacific under Santos' direction. A companion piece, "Symphony for Band," recognizes Cesar Chavez's fellow activist Dolores Huerta. It debuted this February 2023 at one of the nation's largest gatherings of music educators, the Texas Music Educators Association convention in San Antonio.

Santos is a graduate of San Diego Academy and of La Sierra University. He received a doctorate in 2021 from Florida State University. His teaching experiences include several years as director of bands at Loma Linda Academy.

Santos' impact as an educator led to his selection last summer for the quarterfinal round of the 2023 Music Educator Award presented by the Recording Academy and Grammy Museum. He also recently received a meritorious award by the National Association of Minority Band Directors.

The progeny of a musical family with roots in Cuba and the Dominican Republic, Santos' early years were immersed in a rich cultural musical heritage. "I think in

Hispanic cultures, music is really important," he said. "It was always a part of my life."

*By Darla Martin Tucker*

**Giovanni Santos leads the La Sierra University Wind Ensemble in a 2018 performance at New York City's Carnegie Hall.**



PHOTO: NATAN VIGNA

# School of Behavioral Health Receives \$3 Million State Grant to Support Social Work

*Funds will be used to offer full tuition, recruit those from underserved communities*



**L**oma Linda University School of Behavioral Health was awarded \$3 million in state grant funding to increase its number of social work graduates as part of California's effort to expand the number of professional social workers providing services in underserved regions.

The five-year grant—from the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)—will provide tuition and fees for 25 new Master of Social Work students who meet eligibility criteria of being economically disadvantaged, from under-represented populations, and residing in underserved communities.

Funding will also support the addition of faculty and staff positions, marketing and recruitment, supervision and mentoring, and the development and retention of quality internship sites in underserved areas.

"This grant is an indication that the state of California values Loma Linda University as an important institution within this region, and that the links we have between the university, community, and our healthcare put us in a good position to support this expansion initiative," said Beverly J. Buckles, DSW, dean of the School of Behavioral Health.

The grant is part of the Social Work Education Capacity Expansion program, which is issuing nearly \$60

million in awards to support social work education at 23 schools.

"Supporting and protecting our youth's behavioral health is a top priority for Governor Newsom's Administration," HCAI Director Elizabeth Landsberg said in a release earlier this month. "Thanks to this new grant program, we are able to help grow this vitally important sector in the health workforce and get children, youth, and adults the care they need, when they need it."

School leaders say the grant's support for internships is particularly valuable, as many practicum sites have shut down or been slow to reopen following the pandemic. They also believe the grant's support of online education will be a tipping point for numerous students who otherwise wouldn't be able to drive more than 100 miles to attend classes.

"It can be hard to get graduates to work in remote, underserved areas, but if we can recruit individuals from those communities who are already embedded there and have strong connections, it will be a powerful way to increase capacity in some of those regions," said Kimberly Freeman, PhD, MSW, program director and associate executive chair of the school's Department of Social Work and Social Ecology.

The field of care for mental health has experienced sharp growth in recent years. School leaders say enrollment is now at more than 450, up from less than 360 five years ago, which is in line with the growth of behavioral health degree programs at other institutions.

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*By Ansel Oliver*

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

# Better Together: Adventist Colleges and Universities See Rise in Enrollment Through Joint Efforts

**S**eventh-day Adventist higher education is facing challenges. Lack of affordability. Mounting student debt. Emerging college alternatives. These are just some of the unprecedented difficulties colleges and universities nationwide have been grappling with.

"Then the pandemic hit," said Tony Yang, vice president for strategy, marketing, and enrollment and chief communication officer at Andrews University.

But leaders at Adventist colleges and universities—including Pacific Union College—are working to change that, setting aside their competitive differences to further the mission of Seventh-day Adventist education.

The Adventist Enrollment Association (AEA) is a group of enrollment administration officers and representatives from all 13 Adventist colleges and universities in North America. It was created to position the institutions together and expand access to Adventist young people.

Recently, PUC leaders traveled to Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, for an AEA meeting to evaluate and plan joint marketing and enrollment efforts.

"Meeting in person humanizes the competitiveness," said Marc Grundy, vice president of marketing for the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities. "It makes us all realize we're doing this for the same reason—to bring students to a closer walk with the Lord."

In the 1990s—as the booming college enrollment of the 1970s and 80s began to wane—administrators and enrollment representatives from Adventist colleges began to meet more regularly to address enrollment competition and discuss how to support Adventist

higher education. By 2000, the Adventist Enrollment Association had been officially established.

Grundy said research showed that students who didn't attend Adventist schools knew very little about what Adventist colleges had to offer. "Competition can certainly be healthy, but collaboration can save us money and raise our overall awareness throughout the North American Division," he said.

The AEA created a joint website, [adventistcolleges.org](http://adventistcolleges.org), where prospective students and families can explore the 13 Adventist colleges and universities and their programs. Information about admissions, scholarships, and financial aid is also centralized on the site.

Edelbach, even before the AEA's formation, established the current college fair system in which every Adventist college is invited to each Adventist academy once a year. Once the organization drew up its constitution, it "allowed for controlled but recognized access" for each college to go throughout North America and recruit outside their designated territory, Edelbach said.

Recent successes include a 10% increase in enrollment directly tied to the AEA's joint marketing efforts, said Grundy, a former vice president of enrollment services at Southern Adventist University.

Yang, who is also the president of the AEA, sees hope for the future of Adventist higher education. "Now, perhaps more than ever, we have an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with a world that's facing increasingly challenging times," he said. "Our individual stories are part of God's bigger love story."

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*By Laura Gang*



# Missionaries to North America

*God could have chosen angels as His representatives here on earth. Instead, He chose to give this privilege to His human family. "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life" (Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 195).*

The dictionary defines a missionary as "a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country." Typically, the idea of a missionary causes us to imagine travels to distant lands—with thoughts of people who are thirsting for the Word of God or a mental picture of a land set in poverty with minimal education opportunities and a comparatively substandard lifestyle.

But here is the twist—a Messianic Jewish Adventist family was called by God to leave Israel and travel to North America as missionaries to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Netan family is 10 strong with siblings, children, in-laws, and parents ranging in age from 8 to 45. They are self-supporting missionaries here in the United States. Over the last four years they have been to 49 states, witnessing in snow, rain, and heat to bring

the gospel to Americans. At one point, they were

asking for prayers for their young son to have relief from the pain in his legs caused by the 21 miles of walking he had done that day, sharing the gospel with the community.

In the Reno/Sparks area alone, the family has given away over 5,000 pieces of literature and books over the last six weeks. The majority of the publications they distribute are *Steps to Christ*, GLOW tracts, and *Sign of the Times* tracts. In *Testimonies for the Church*, they read: "There are whole families who might be missionaries, engaging in personal labor, toiling for the Master with busy hands and active brains, devising new methods for the success of His work" (vol. 9, p. 40). This family has taken this challenge from Ellen White to heart.

As they give testimonies in churches, their faces beam with the love and glory of God as they count it a privilege to be co-laborers with Christ.

They will be heading home to Israel soon. To the Netan family, we say thank you for coming to America and bringing the gospel in a way no others can. May there be many more who catch the vision as you have. God bless you.

*By Brian Bilbrey*

Elijahu, Kefira,  
Rachel, Na'tan,  
and Lydia





From the youngest student to the oldest, skiing/snowboarding is the highlight of their winter physical education experience.

PHOTO: CRISTINE LISTA

# PE Program Takes Kids to the Snow

Every winter, students at Riverview Christian Academy (RCA) have the opportunity to participate in a snow skiing/snowboarding PE program at Tahoe-Donner Ski Resort. "The ski resort provides an affordable way for our students learn how to ski/snowboard, while at the same time fulfilling the requirements of the physical education class" said principal Glenn Bentjen.

Furthermore, the RCA student are not the only students who are currently attending the 4-day PE sessions in the snow. Students from the neighboring Adventist schools of Fallon and Susanville have also been invited to join in this great opportunity to enjoy nature during wintertime.

These opportunities have provided the Adventist schools of Northern Nevada and California with the chance to make important connections and grow as a part of the larger community of fellow Adventist students.

*By Fernando Lista*

**ABOVE:** Happy skiers and snowboarders gain skill and confidence in a well-run ski school in the Tahoe-Donner ski area.  
**LEFT:** The ski program is also a great opportunity for families to spend quality time together.



# Pastors in Northern California Conference

The Northern California Conference (NCC) is pleased to announce changes with three pastors in 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 Ken Miller

## Wai (Larry) Chu Ordained

Larry Chu was ordained at the Alameda East Bay Chinese church on January 28. Chu has served as the full-time pastor of the Alameda East Bay Chinese church and with a Chinese language group from Stockton Central since 2016.

Chu stated, "This ordination gave me encouragement from the NCC and church members, strengthening my faith to share the great news of Jesus. My goals are to continue sharing the gospel among my members but also increasing ministry to young people, bringing more of that age group to church and connecting them with Jesus." Jim Lorenz, NCC ministerial director, said, "Pastor Chu is a kind and gifted pastor dedicated to his church community and serves them well."

Wai and his wife, Zi Yang, married in 2015 and have served God together. They welcomed daughter Dorcas into their family in 2020.



## Josie Asencio Installed at Antioch Church

Josie Asencio was installed as the head pastor at the Antioch church on February 25. She is very excited about this new chapter, especially the opportunity at Antioch. "Our church shares its name with the city where followers of The Way were first called Christians," she pointed out. "It is where Paul and Barnabas first worked together, and I look forward to continuing the model and mission in the book of Acts."

Most recently, she was the associate pastor of the Vallejo Central church, where she had been since 2021. Asencio received her M. Div. from Andrews University and is working on her doctorate in pastoral care and counseling. She enjoys adventuring and has participated in skydiving, surfing, and scuba, and she is training for her first 10K run.



"This ordination gave me encouragement from the NCC and church members, strengthening my faith to share the great news of Jesus."

## Nate Furness Installed at PUC Church

Nate Furness was installed as head pastor of the Pacific Union College church on February 4. Furness stated, "My family and I are excited to join the PUC church family. I believe God has called us to be part of the life-changing work happening on campus and in the community. We are so impressed with the talent and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students here."

Garrison Chaffee, Napa youth and associate pastor, said, "It was a pleasure to work with Nate; he is one of the most inclusive pastors I have ever worked with. He genuinely cares about each person and will be a great minister to his new church and community." Jim Lorenz, NCC ministerial director, stated, "Nate has an

uncommon pastoral sense that is perfect for the PUC church community and students."

Furness shares his life with Jennie, his wife of 17 years, and sons Alex, 14, and Anders, 11.



## Tongan, Fijian, and Samoan Church Convocation

On February 25, the Sacramento Samoan church hosted a combined service, inviting the Sacramento Tongan and Fijian churches to join them. Michael Harpe, director of stewardship for the NAD, presented to over 200 people. Piano, ukulele, and acapella music were abundant. Each church participated by providing two songs and one testimonial.

According to one member, "The message Pastor Harpe shared hit the point that God is Lord of the universe and that our faithfulness in giving back is a privilege and one way to honor God."

Pastor Tui Finau of the Tongan church stated, "Bringing the church families of Tonga, Samoa, and Fiji together was a 'High Sabbath' for us. We share a

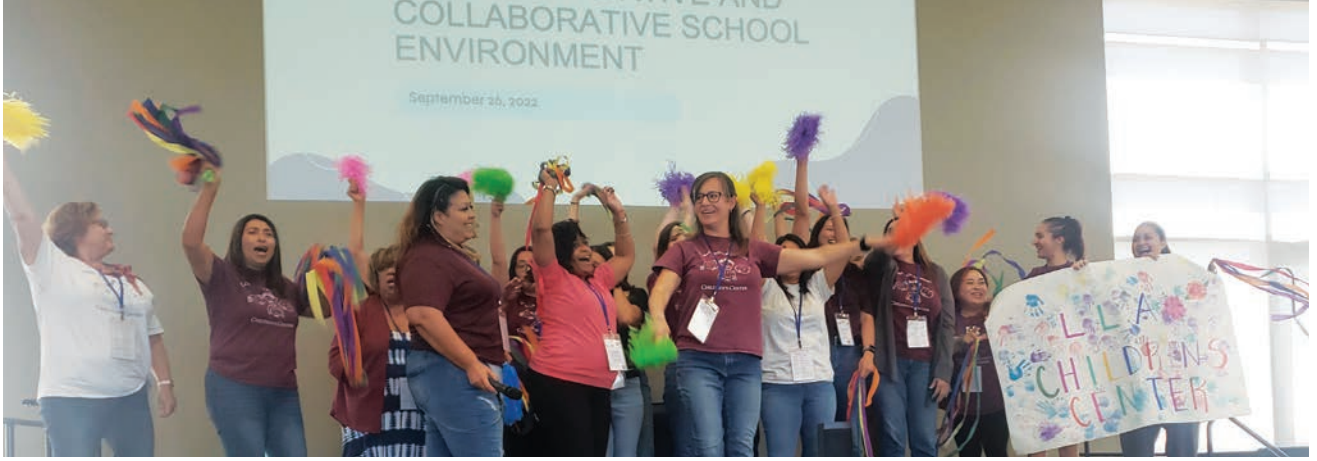
part of the South Pacific, each with distinct cultures, but all loving Jesus. This celebration weekend was inspirational; our three churches are planning similar events regularly."

*By NCC Communication and Development Department*



Pictured from left to right, Joseph O'Connor, Ulisese Mataafa, James Lim, Michael Harpe, Tui Finau





# State of Our Schools

**I**t was like a family reunion. To see friends in person and without masks evoked smiles, laughter, hugs, and excitement! In September of 2022, the educators of the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) were able to have a teacher in-service together in one place for the first time in a couple of years. A positive vibe was in the air.

The start of the 2022-2023 school year felt like coming out of a deep fog and finding that sunshine was finally upon us. Though we still had some protocols in place following the pandemic, this year felt more “normal” than the last two years.

Teachers came to the in-service dressed in their school colors, and the theme of the day was collaboration, which included a pep rally during lunch. They also split into groups by grade or subject area for collaborative sharing and planning.

“It was so much fun to see people in person again, and I really loved getting to know other sixth-grade teachers from other schools. We wanted to keep meeting to share ideas throughout the year,” said Penny Richards, Loma Linda Academy sixth-grade teacher.

After surveying educators in our conference in the fall of 2021, our team sat down to “review and reset” our vision for the future with a new mission statement and set of core values. We were able to implement action steps to help our educators be more effective.

We hired a new staff member with expertise in special education to assist teachers by providing tools, resources, and trainings to serve special needs students. We created Professional Learning Community groups for subject areas and grade levels. Experts in mental health and trauma-informed needs of students conducted four trainings for our educators this school year. We also have a full-time person in our office who is assisting schools in marketing and enrollment strategies.

We are excited about the future of Adventist education in the Southeastern California Conference. We have more initiatives we are working on and are blessed to have supportive conference leadership and involvement as we look to “face the future with courage as we adapt to our changing world.” To read more about our mission, values, and schools, visit [secceducation.org](http://secceducation.org).

*By Datha Tickner*



**TOP:** Teachers show their school spirit. **ABOVE:** Teachers across SECC collaborate at in-service.





FAR LEFT: Johnston and former student Ernie Valadez embrace.

LEFT: Johnston with former student David Zapian.

BELOW: Johnston in her first year of teaching.

## The Heart of Calexico School: Teacher Celebrates 50 years

**Y**olanda Johnston teaches history at Calexico Mission School (CMS), but what her students may not realize is that Johnston herself *is* the school's history—or at least a significant part of it. Yolanda Johnston has been teaching at CMS for 50 years.

"The first day I ever went to school as a kid, I knew I wanted to be a teacher," Johnston recalled. "As I grew older, I decided what I really wanted was to be a missionary. And here I am, doing both. I am so privileged."

Since she arrived as a brand-new teacher in 1973, Johnston—or "Mrs. J." as she is affectionately known—has seen the school shift focus from being primarily an English as a second language school for grades 1-10 to the full K-12 all-subject school it is today. She has taught everything from history to English to art to economics, from fourth grade through high school. Two of her current colleagues and a former principal were students of hers, and now she's even teaching the children of former students. (She says that when grandchildren of former students start arriving in her classroom, that will be enough!)



Johnston has pictures of former students on her desk—at graduations and weddings, with babies and families. CMS alumni regularly call or stop by to visit, and they always seek out Mrs. J. and give her a hug. Johnston's students have gone on to become doctors, pastors and priests, lawyers, missionaries, and teachers.

"I cannot take credit for anything," she insisted. "All of us teachers have our little bit of influence, and perhaps some of what we did has made these kids into adults who are serving their communities. I'm proud of that."

"Mrs. J. is the heart of Calexico Mission School. As an Adventist educator, we know the most important thing we do is connect students with God," said Theresa Alvarez-Diaz, principal of CMS. "This is Yolanda's legacy—being that connecting point. I pray that even when she is no longer here, we will continue to follow her example of making CMS a place where students know they're loved."

By Becky St. Clair

# Kindergarteners Are Authors and Illustrators at GAE

**E**ach year, the Glendale Adventist Elementary (GAE) kindergarten classroom hums with the sounds of young authors and illustrators talking to their peers about writing or simply stretching out words so they can write the sounds they hear to compose a sentence. Markers, pencils, paper—all the necessary tools are scattered about as the students think, write, and sketch. “I have always held the belief that even young students can write to tell a story, entertain, communicate, and inform,” shared Rayan Abdul-Karim, GAE kindergarten teacher.

This year, Karim used mentor texts (examples of good writing) and created a unit of study to further the students’ abilities to be authors and, in particular, illustrators. She began a writer’s workshop by studying the illustrations of several books, learning how an illustrator creates pictures and explores elements that can complement the text. The students then read a mentor text and discussed questions about the meaning of the story. Finally, they went page by page, observing, comparing, and studying the illustrations and supporting sentences. Lastly, the students wrote silly stories and sketched pictures related to the story.

“My kindergarten students made progress through several stages of writing development,” Karim recalled. “They began to write with a sense of purpose while playing with words and pictures. I also allot more time for sharing their writings and illustrations; students share with a partner, with a small group, and with the class. When students talk with their peers about their illustrations and stories, they are inspired and motivated to continue their own journey through the writing process.”

“Teaching my kindergarten students how to be authors and illustrators can be both fun and challenging,” Karim continued. “One thing that makes it easier for the children to learn about authors and illustrators is if they get to meet and interact with them.” This year, the class met real author and illustrator Ellis Flores, pastor at Ebenezer Spanish church and Highland Park Spanish company. Flores read his first self-published book, *The First Man on Earth: A Creation Story*, with the students.

Flores shared the process of creating his book and noted that technology has made self-publishing easier.

He stated that with basic drawing abilities and access to modern technology, anyone can write and illustrate a book using just a personal computer and online programs like Canva. The students asked questions about the time it took to write the book, the software used for illustration, and the steps to publish the book and make profits. The book was originally intended as a personal devotional for Flores’ two sons. It was later published on Amazon KDP and is currently available for free via Kindle Unlimited.

“I was surprised at all the questions they had,” Flores shared. “These little friends were not only thinking of the process but also asked me about marketing and getting the best return on investment. My hope and prayer is that they understand that they, too, can share their story, message, or idea with the world.”

*By Rayan Abdul-Karim and Ellis Flores*



Flores is pictured with the kindergarten class for the reading of his self-published book, *The First Man on Earth: A Creation Story*.



PHOTO: LIZELLE OREÑO



PHOTO: SIMI VALLEY CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE

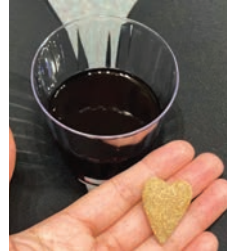


PHOTO: LIZELLE OREÑO

FAR LEFT: Phil (left) joins the youth praise team by playing the cajón during the week. LEFT TOP: During his message, entitled “Lord, I Will Go! Free Me,” Garcia (center) demonstrates the power of temptation by at first resisting, then climbing into a trash can—and the difficulty that may come with getting stuck. LEFT BOTTOM: The heart-shaped bread during Friday night communion reminds participants of God’s love for them.

## Week of Renewal and Revival Impacts Youth at Simi Valley Church

The Southern California Conference (SCC) Literature Ministries and Youth Ministries Departments collaborated for a week of renewal and revival at Simi Valley church this January.

The week of renewal and revival has been a reoccurring event hosted by Simi Valley church for many years, bringing in speakers from throughout the North American Division. As the church has adopted the growing young initiative, this year Pastors Phil and Jan White wanted to be intentional about reaching a younger demographic and decided to make it a youth-focused event.

With this focus, Phil and Jan invited Sal Garcia, SCC youth ministries director, and Lizelle Oreño, SCC literature ministries assistant coordinator, to lead. Together, after much prayer, Garcia and Oreño selected the theme “I Will Go,” which puts spiritual renewal and revival into action.

Phil emphasized that this week was not only for the younger generation but for everyone. “It’s something we all need to do,” he said. “We need to come around the youth of our church and embrace them, but we all need to go. God is calling all of us to go.”

Leading up to the week of renewal and revival, the church participated in 10 days of prayer. The week was filled with youth-led music, Bible games, interactive activities, encouraging messages from Garcia and Oreño, and opportunities for Simi Valley church to connect and engage with its youth.

“Heart-work is hard work,” Oreño said. “You can never tell what’s going on in their hearts and minds. All you can do is work on changing their perception about God to have a lasting effect on their life for the better.”

Friday night included a special communion service in which foot washing was replaced with hand sanitizing. Attendees prayed with one another before partaking in the drinking of juice and eating of bread, which was in the shape of a heart to remind participants of God’s love for them.

This collaboration is a first for Garcia and Oreño, who are both new to their positions. Oreño, a former Bible worker at Ojai church and a youth rush leader and participant for many years, began working at SCC as the literature ministries assistant coordinator at the end of last summer. Garcia was appointed youth ministries director last November after having previously served as a pastor of 12 different churches within SCC for many years. Garcia and Oreño look forward to future collaboration between both departments and local churches to reach young people for Christ.

“Growing churches should invest their resources, time, and efforts in their youth and young adults,” Garcia said. “When such a spirit of teamwork exists between adults and the youth of the church, the Holy Spirit can bless the church tremendously.”

*By Araya Moss*



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**Fresno Adventist Academy (K-12)**  
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miramonteschool.org

**Monterey Bay Academy (9-12)**  
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needlessdaschool.adventistfaith.org
- Oceanside Adventist Elementary School: myoae.com
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- Loma Linda Academy: lla.org
- Mesa Grande Academy: mesagrandeacademy.org
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Calexico Mission School emphasizes the development of a character that is loyal to God and country identified by integrity through self-discipline, understanding and respect for others, civil responsibility, and good work habits. CMS prepares students to seek further education and joyfully serve in this world and for eternity.



# Enroll Now



601 E. FIRST ST. CALEXICO, CA. 92231 | 760.357.3711



## Central Valley Christian Academy

Our Mission is to provide an education of the highest quality within a Christ-centered environment. It is dedicated to developing the whole person by fostering growth in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and by promoting academic excellence, emotional responsibility, physical well-being, and social responsibility.

- Christ-Like
- Values
- Citizenship
- Academics



Ceres, CA  
www.cvcaonline.net  
(209) 537-4521

# Escondido Adventist Academy

EDUCATING THE HEAD, THE HAND, AND THE HEART SINCE 1903



**Escondido Adventist Academy**, a TK through 12th-grade school, provides a welcoming community in a small, nurturing environment.

Offerings include Advanced Placement courses, art, music, community/global missions, and a strong athletics program.



## Fresno Adventist Academy

**Now Offering  
\$1000 Scholarships  
for all new students\***

\*K-12 students only

- Biblical Values
- Career-Based Stem Lab
- AP Classes in High School
- K-12 Music Program
- Competitive Athletics
- Financial Aid Available



**ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!**

5397 E. Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727  
Phone: 559-251-5548 | Fax: 559-252-6495 | office@faa.org | www.faa.org

**GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY**  
Grades TK-12

**NOW ENROLLING**

**APPLY NOW FOR FALL 2023**  
Scholarships Available



There is no greater gift to the future than a generation of young people who are empowered with spiritual commitment, strong academic preparation, leadership skills, and a social awareness and sensitivity. Glendale Adventist Academy (TK-12) is at the forefront of developing such young people.

**New families receive 50% off first month's tuition for the 2023-2024 school year! (with ad)**



700 Kimlin Drive, Glendale, CA 91206  
(818) 244-8671  
[www.glendaleacademy.org](http://www.glendaleacademy.org)

**HAWAIIAN MISSION ACADEMY**

**MAKIKI:**  
9-12 CAMPUS  
808.536.2207

**MAKIKI:**  
K-8 CAMPUS  
808.949.2033

**WINDWARD:**  
K-8 CAMPUS  
808.261.0565

*Educating the Head  
Educating the Hand  
Educating the Heart  
Educating for Human Relationships.*



**Holbrook Indian School (HIS)** is a first- through twelfth-grade Christian boarding

school for Native American children and youth. Located in Holbrook, Arizona, just a few miles from the Navajo Nation, HIS serves indigenous youth from many tribes: Navajo, Hopi, Apache, Havasupai, Lakota, Pima, Crow, and Micmac, to name just a few.

**PO Box 910 • Holbrook, AZ 86025**  
**2001 McClaws Rd. • Holbrook, AZ 86025**  
**928-524-6845 (Ext. 109) • [holbrookindianschool.org](http://holbrookindianschool.org)**

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



## La Sierra Academy

A Seventh-day Adventist College Preparatory School  
 Riverside, California • [www.lsak12.com](http://www.lsak12.com)

**Accepting K-12 Applications for 2023-2024**



**Grades K-6**



**Grades 7-12**

Apply online: [lsak12.com/admissions/](http://lsak12.com/admissions/)  
 Phone: (951) 351-1445, Ext. 509 \* Email: [dbrown@lsak12.com](mailto:dbrown@lsak12.com)



(district code LS-CA)

**Experience LSA for a day!** | Contact us for a campus tour | Sign up for Shadow Fridays (grades 7-12)



# LODI ACADEMY SCHOOLS



Lodi Academy is focused on providing the best possible experience to our students. We offer a complete program centered on academic achievement, spiritual development, and co-curricular opportunities. We invite you to tour our campus, talk to our staff, visit our websites and learn more about how we can partner with you in the education of your child!

Adventist Education Since 1908 ~ Offering K-8 & High School ~ [www.lodiacademy.net](http://www.lodiacademy.net) ~ 209-368-2781 ~ [www.lodisdaelem.org](http://www.lodisdaelem.org)

Our prayer  
is that each  
student  
leaves our  
campus with  
a deeper  
relationship  
with God.

## LOMA LINDA ACADEMY

909-796-0161  
[www.lla.org](http://www.lla.org)

Grades TK-12  
and Children's Center

Grow in God's Grace  
Thrive Intellectually  
Develop True Friendships  
Embrace Healthful Living

*Eternal Principles, Intelligent Choices*

small school **big opportunities**

- WASC Accredited / UC Approved Classes
- Secure and Friendly K-12 Campus
- Low Student / Teacher Ratio
- Technology Program & Industrial Arts
- CIF Interscholastic Sports Program
- K-12 Music & Fine Arts Programs



975 Fremont Street  
Calimesa, CA 92320

909.795.1112 • contact@mgak-12.org

www.MesaGrandeAcademy.org

MESA GRANDE ACADEMY



Any school can have a College Preparatory program, but ours doesn't stop there: We offer a spiritually focused education, intentional field trip program that includes history tours, an inquiry-based science program that includes agri-education and an orchard, fun-filled spirit days, elective activities including industrial arts and fine arts programs, and our recognized and award-winning sports program. All this, and more, uniquely prepare our students for life.

**Currently enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year.**



Monterey Bay Academy is more than an education,  
*It's an experience!*



*Challenging academics*

*Life-changing spiritual growth*

*Friendships that last a lifetime*

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831-728-1481







**MLAJA**  
Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy

At Mother Lode Adventist Junior Academy, we aspire to nurture a love for God and a Biblical worldview. We seek to develop lives that are balanced academically, spiritually, socially, and physically. Our students are prepared to achieve excellence in their service to God, the church, and their community.

**Mother Lode  
Adventist Junior  
Academy**

80 N. Forest Road  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 532-2855  
[www.motherlodeja.org](http://www.motherlodeja.org)



**Mountain View Academy**  
Educating the Whole Student for Eternity

Leading students to love learning, serving,  
and living for Eternity.



CELEBRATING



CHRIST-CENTERED CAMPUS - SMALL CLASS SIZES - FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

**SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN ABOUT US**



[mountainviewacademy.org](http://mountainviewacademy.org) - Mountain View, CA - (650) 967-2324

# HAPPY CHILDREN *Learn Best*

"The Napa Christian Campus has a wonderful blend of academics, art, and nature. The staff and students are like family. It is truly a magical place." - PARENT

Schedule a visit and your child's personal kindergarten readiness evaluation.



Our curriculum is dynamic and diversified, offering humanities, mathematics, science, language, and the arts. Mastery of the traditional academic disciplines is interwoven with artistic and practical activities to provide a dynamic and engaging educational experience for every student.

Central to our K-12 educational program is a recognition of and a respect for the child's unfolding God-given individuality. Our education values difference and strives to support children in such a way that each child's unique gifts are utilized and challenges are faced.

- 1:10 Student-Teacher Ratio
- Daily Activities in Our Farm/ Garden
- Fully Accredited
- Student Aid Available
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Project-based Learning



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The mission of NPAA is to develop Christ-like character, gain wisdom through Biblical principles, and foster unselfish service.



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- Boarding School With Dorms
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- WASC Accredited & UC Approved
- Caring and Dedicated Faculty
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A Seventh-day Adventist Preparatory School

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Preschool–12th Grade


13732 Clinton Street | Garden Grove, CA 92843 | 714-534-4694  
info@orangewoodacademy.com | orangewoodacademy.com


*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14*

Growing the whole person

We believe that God has created us to flourish, to contribute to a world in need. We strive to build an encouraging community for you to grow to your full potential—spiritual, physical, academic, social—to find your voice and embrace your authentic self.

Schedule a visit today

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 (707) 200-2648



Pacific Union College  
Preparatory School



# Paradise Adventist Academy

An excellent choice for Christian high school education set in beautiful Northern California. PAA is a WASC accredited high school, with fully credentialed teachers to meet high standards of academics, athletics and emotional well-being. Here's why Paradise Adventist Academy is the perfect choice for your family!

- PAA provides an array of student leadership opportunities
- Competitive individual and team athletics in the CIF league
- Robust musical programs and development of music appreciation
- Academic standards to qualify for private universities and colleges nationwide.
- Mentoring students to seek God in establishing fundamental Christian ethics

(530)877-6540    [mypaa.net](http://mypaa.net)  
5699 Academy Drive, Paradise, CA 95969



**Do Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with God**



# Pine Hills Adventist Academy



**A GRADUATE FROM PINE HILLS WILL BE PREPARED FOR:**

### College

College prep curriculum with A-G approved classes, AP and dual-credit classes taught by certified teachers.

### Careers

Career-focused class offerings, career shadowing, and wide range of subjects including Art, Drama, K-12 Music, Orchestra, and Strings.

### Community

Small class size fostering close relationships, team-building and collaboration, community service and involvement.

### Life with Christ

Daily Bible classes, small group ministry, church music outreach, community service, Christ-centered teachers and a dedicated chaplain.

**Pine Hills Adventist Academy** • 13500 Richards Lane • Auburn, CA. 95603 • [office@phaschool.org](mailto:office@phaschool.org) • [www.phaaonline.com](http://www.phaaonline.com)

# PLEASANT HILL ADVENTIST ACADEMY



Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy offers a quality, preschool–12, Christ-centered education, preparing students not only for college but for eternity. In the heart of the San Francisco Bay Area, we promote Christian values in and out of the classroom—especially through service to others as modeled by Christ who inspires, transforms, and serves.

Our WASC-accredited academic program is focused on college readiness, and all high school classes meet the A-G requirements for the University of California and California State University systems, with PHAA graduates attending Stanford, UC Berkeley, Pacific Union College, La Sierra University, and numerous other in- and out-of-state colleges and universities.



## K-12 Christian Education

(925) 934-9261 • [office@myphaa.com](mailto:office@myphaa.com)  
[www.myphaa.com](http://www.myphaa.com)

796 Grayson Road • Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
[www.facebook.com/PleasantHillAdventistAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/PleasantHillAdventistAcademy)

Christ Followers.  
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 Experiential Learners.

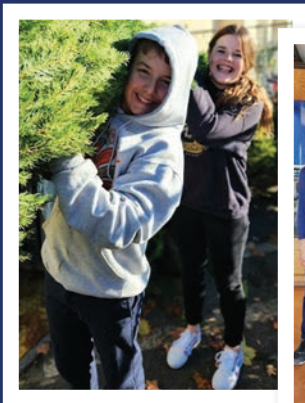


Redding Adventist Academy

**530-222-1018**

[www.ReddingAcademy.org](http://www.ReddingAcademy.org)

1356 E. Cypress Ave.  
 Redding, CA 96002





# Redlands Adventist Academy

A TK-12 Christian School



### At Redlands Adventist Academy We Offer:

- A Christ-Centered Education
- A Tight-Knit Community in Which Classmates Become Family
- Full-day Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten Program
- S.T.E.A.M.-Focused Curriculum
- Advanced Placement Classes
- Electives
- Educational Field Trips
- Varsity Athletics
- Choir, Band, and Handbell Ensembles
- Service-Oriented Activities

*Educating Students to Make a Positive Difference in the World!*

130 Tennessee St., Redlands, CA 92373

# Live the Rio Adventure!

*A boarding school experience that prepares you for Life!*

Living at Rio is more than exciting; it's life changing. The classroom is just the beginning. Much of your learning at Rio takes place outside your classes as you immerse yourself in the numerous activities that help you grow and discover who you are. Make friends, flex your leadership muscles and push your academic potential to learn more than you ever thought possible.

*Located in beautiful Sonoma Valley, northern California, serving students in grades 9-12.*



*"Rio is by far one of the most diverse schools. I have friends from literally all over the world. Having this social experience while growing my faith has changed my life."*  
-Graduating Senior

**FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE**



Watch our video, filmed by students!



▶ SCAN ME



ADVENTIST ACADEMY

3200 Rio Lindo Avenue  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

[www.RioLindo.org](http://www.RioLindo.org)  
(707) 431-5100





## SACRAMENTO ADVENTIST ACADEMY

5601 Winding Way  
Carmichael, CA 95608  
(916) 481-2300  
office@sacaa.org

[www.sacaa.org](http://www.sacaa.org)

Sacramento Adventist Academy educates students in preschool through twelfth grade, offering opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, and spiritual life. SAA is a private Seventh-day Adventist Christian school, fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. As such, the faculty and staff work to provide a strong understanding of the Bible as well as tools to become lifelong learners and critical thinkers.



## SAN DIEGO ACADEMY

2800 East Fourth Street, National City, CA 91950

619.267.9550 | Fax 619.267.8662

[www.sdacademy.com](http://www.sdacademy.com)

[www.facebook.com/SanDiegoAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoAcademy)



San Diego Academy, founded in 1899, welcomes a diverse population of students from a variety of backgrounds. Here, students are challenged to reach their full potential through body, mind, and spirit. Fully accredited, San Diego Academy features an engaging University of California "a-g" approved curriculum taught by 100% credentialed teachers. With AP courses, leadership building clubs and the Student Association, students learn and achieve the highest level of success.





## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY ACADEMY

### What We Offer

- Christ-Centered Curriculum
- Caring and Dedicated Staff
- New STEM program for the Elementary
- Multi-Cultural Learning Environment
- Opportunities for Leadership
- Service-Oriented School

**Contact us:**  
**Phone: 818-349-1373**  
**17601 Lassen St.**  
**Northridge, CA 91325**  
**www.sfva.org**

## OUR MISSION

San Fernando Valley Academy provides a Christian education that is based on four foundations: Spirituality, Family, Values, and Academics. Our goal is to educate students who are productive citizens and who actively spread the gospel to the world through the four foundations they have been taught.



SERVE OTHERS  
 GROW IN CHRIST  
 ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE

*God has a plan for your life.  
 Prepare for a future with Christ at the center.  
 Join the family of San Gabriel Academy.*

 (626) 292-1156

 [WWW.SANGABRIELACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.SANGABRIELACADEMY.ORG)

 8827 EAST BROADWAY, SAN GABRIEL, CA 91776



# SIERRA VIEW JUNIOR ACADEMY

*A TK-10 Grade Seventh-day Adventist Christian School*



Grounded in the Seventh-day Adventist Christian faith, we are a close-knit community enriched by a diverse group of students, teachers, board members, and parents working together to nurture student minds and hearts.

**1993 Avenue 256  
Exeter, CA 93221-9648  
office (559) 592-3689  
[sierraviewjunioracademy.org](http://sierraviewjunioracademy.org)**

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ADVENTIST EDUCATION SINCE 1920



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## Ukiah Junior Academy



**"Ukiah Junior Academy provides the best education for the money in the Ukiah area."**

PARENT

### School Highlights:

- **Christ-centered education**
- Grades K-10
- ACS-WASC Accredited
- School-wide music program, including choir, orchestra, and a spring musical each year
- Field trips to Washington D.C., science camps and trips, forty-niner camp for grade 4.
- Gardening projects
- Community service for all students, all grade levels, with projects at the community food bank, Plowshares (feeding the homeless), community garden, visiting the assisted living communities to share music, and more.

180 Stipp Lane, Ukiah • [www.ukiahjracademy.org](http://www.ukiahjracademy.org) • 707.462.6350

## Come to Valley View Adventist Jr. Academy!

At Valley View, students are encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, socially, and physically. Our students test above average grade equivalent, receive individualized math programs, art, music: choir and handbells, robotics for grades 3-8, and Spanish language class in all grades from K-10.

*It's a great place to learn!*



# Vegas Valley Adventist Academy



Our classes are sized to allow one-on-one attention to specific areas of need and to motivate the student to think outside the box when approaching an assignment.

We offer classes ranging from K through 10th grade. The entire academic program is well-rounded and balanced, giving your child a great education.

**We honor God** by striving for academic excellence, character development, and positive relationships with our community and each other.



6059 W. Oakey Blvd.  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
89146

(702) 871-7208  
www.vvaa4u.org  
info@vvaa4u.org



# VICTOR VALLEY SDA SCHOOL



## MULTIGRADE K - 8

ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN  
17137 CRESTVIEW DRIVE  
VICTORVILLE, CA, 92395  
BOOK A TOUR (760) 243 - 4176





# STRENGTH

## IN EDUCATION



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UNIVERSITY

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To learn more, visit [LLU.edu](https://www.llu.edu).



# 10 REASONS TO BECOME A TEACHER

(and there are lots more...just ask a teacher!)

1

To share your faith by sharing Jesus with your students

2

To inspire and mentor others to be their best

3

To share your love of learning and your subject specialty

4

To fulfill a deep sense of purpose

5

To work with children and young people

6

To have opportunities to be creative

7

To serve the community around you

8

To keep learning and growing professionally

9

To have a blend of independence and collaboration

10

To experience diversity and promote inclusivity

# Calendar

## Central California Conference

**Mountain View Academy** rejoices as we continue our yearlong centennial celebration! Our first centennial celebration took place on Nov. 5, 2022, with a traditional birthday party with cake, ice cream, and food booths. We also held an auction and hosted a current team vs. alumni basketball game. Our second celebration will take place on alumni weekend, April 7 and 8, 2023. It would not be a celebration without you! Friday evening begins at 6:30 with a light dinner, followed by vespers at 7:15. Alumni Sabbath will begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast, followed by "MVA Today" and the main session. Lunch will be provided afterwards. Honor classes: 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, 2018.

## La Sierra University

**Homecoming 2023.** La Sierra University's Homecoming will be held April 13, 14, and 15. Events will include a Young Alumni Networking Mixer, Brandstater Gallery exhibit, Woodpecker Walk, Recognition Banquet, and more. For information, an event schedule, and registration, visit <https://lasierra.edu/alumni/homecoming/>, call 951-785-2500, or email [alumni@lasierra.edu](mailto:alumni@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.  
May: April 6 • June: May 5

### Contributions

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

**All-Stars Specht-Guy Concerto Concert.** A performance with the La Sierra University Orchestra and featuring winners of the All-Stars and Specht-Guy concerto competitions, Sat., April 15 at 7 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. Free admission. For further information, email [music@lasierra.edu](mailto:music@lasierra.edu) or call 951-785-2036.

**Little Women: The Musical.** A musical based on the life of *Little Women* author Louisa May Alcott, the performance follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy. Sat., May 20, 7 p.m. and Sun., May 21, 3 p.m. at Hole Memorial Auditorium. Tickets: <https://music-events.lasierra.edu/calendar/2022-2023-season/>. For further information, email [music@lasierra.edu](mailto:music@lasierra.edu) or call 951-785-2036.

**World Museum of Natural History.** The World Museum of Natural History is open the third Sabbath of the month, 2-5 p.m. Next open 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).

## Northern California Conference

**Hispanic Men's Retreat** (May 19-21) Leoni Meadows Retreat and Conference Center. Sponsored by NCC Hispanic Ministries. For more information, contact Paul

## 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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[www.SilveradoOrchards.com](http://www.SilveradoOrchards.com)

FULL SERVICE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



Guevara: paul.guevara@nccsda.com; phone 916-886-5600.

**Filipino Campmeeting** (May 26-29). For more information, contact James Lim: james.lim@nccsda.com; phone 916-886-5600.

**Korean Campmeeting** (July 23-29). For more information, contact James Lim: james.lim@nccsda.com; phone 916-886-5600.

**Redwood Campmeeting** (July 23-29). For more information, <https://redwoodareacamp.com>. Email: redwood@NCCSDA.com; phone: 707-946-2452.

## 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.

**Paulin Center for the Arts Open House** (Sunday, April 23, 12-2 p.m.). Explore what Paulin Center for the Arts offers, including private and group music and instruction for all ages, arts enrichment activities, and performance opportunities. Meet the teachers, sign up for lessons or classes, and enter a drawing to win cool stuff!

**Golden State Choral Competition** (Tuesday, April 25). PUC will be hosting the Golden State Choral Competition on April 25. The public is invited to their showcase concert at the PUC church at 6 p.m. For further information, email [music@puc.edu](mailto:music@puc.edu).

**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

### NAD Children's Ministries Certification Track 3:

**Child Evangelism** (Apr. 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/3l873da>. San Gabriel Academy, 8827 East Broadway, San Gabriel, CA 91776.

## Classified

**PUC Commercial Space for Rent.** Pacific Union College has commercial real estate space available for lease. The spaces are in various sizes and functionality and are available for inquiries. For additional information, please email Sam Heier at [sheier@puc.edu](mailto:sheier@puc.edu).

## April 2023 Sunset Calendar

| City/Location             | APR 7 | APR 14 | APR 21 | APR 28 |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Alturas (Modoc Cty.)      | 7:34  | 7:42   | 7:49   | 7:57   |
| Angwin                    | 7:38  | 7:45   | 7:52   | 7:58   |
| Bakersfield               | 7:23  | 7:28   | 7:33   | 7:39   |
| Calexico                  | 7:06  | 7:11   | 7:16   | 7:21   |
| Chico                     | 7:37  | 7:44   | 7:51   | 7:58   |
| Death Valley (Furnace Ck) | 7:14  | 7:20   | 7:26   | 7:32   |
| Eureka                    | 7:47  | 7:55   | 8:02   | 8:09   |
| Four Corners [E]          | 7:38  | 7:45   | 7:51   | 7:58   |
| Fresno                    | 7:26  | 7:32   | 7:38   | 7:44   |
| Grand Canyon (South Rim)  | 6:55  | 7:01   | 7:07   | 7:13   |
| Half Dome                 | 7:26  | 7:32   | 7:39   | 7:43   |
| Hilo                      | 6:36  | 6:38   | 6:40   | 6:42   |
| Holbrook (Navajo City)    | 7:33  | 7:41   | 7:45   | 7:56   |
| Honolulu                  | 6:48  | 6:50   | 6:52   | 6:55   |
| Joshua Tree               | 7:10  | 7:15   | 7:21   | 7:26   |
| Lake Tahoe                | 7:29  | 7:35   | 7:42   | 7:49   |
| Las Vegas                 | 7:07  | 7:13   | 7:19   | 7:25   |
| Lodi-Stockton             | 7:33  | 7:40   | 7:46   | 7:53   |
| Loma Linda                | 7:14  | 7:19   | 7:25   | 7:30   |
| Los Angeles               | 7:18  | 7:23   | 7:29   | 7:34   |
| McDermitt [N]             | 7:23  | 7:30   | 7:38   | 7:46   |
| Moab                      | 7:47  | 7:53   | 8:00   | 8:07   |
| Monterey Bay              | 7:34  | 7:40   | 7:47   | 7:53   |
| Mt. Whitney               | 7:13  | 7:18   | 7:23   | 7:28   |
| Napa                      | 7:37  | 7:44   | 7:51   | 7:57   |
| Nogales [S] (Los)         | 6:46  | 6:51   | 6:56   | 7:01   |
| Oakland                   | 7:37  | 7:43   | 7:50   | 7:56   |
| Paradise, CA              | 7:36  | 7:43   | 7:50   | 7:57   |
| Phoenix                   | 6:53  | 6:58   | 7:03   | 7:08   |
| Pu'uwaiau, Ni'ihau [W]    | 6:57  | 7:00   | 7:02   | 7:05   |
| Reno                      | 7:29  | 7:36   | 7:43   | 7:50   |
| Riverside                 | 7:14  | 7:20   | 7:25   | 7:30   |
| Sacramento                | 7:34  | 7:41   | 7:48   | 7:55   |
| Salt Lake City            | 7:58  | 8:05   | 8:13   | 8:20   |
| San Diego                 | 7:12  | 7:17   | 7:22   | 7:28   |
| San Francisco             | 7:37  | 7:44   | 7:50   | 7:57   |
| San Jose                  | 7:35  | 7:41   | 7:48   | 7:54   |
| Santa Rosa                | 7:39  | 7:46   | 7:53   | 7:59   |
| Sunset Beach              | 7:34  | 7:41   | 7:47   | 7:53   |
| Thousand Oaks             | 7:20  | 7:26   | 7:31   | 7:37   |
| Tucson                    | 6:47  | 6:52   | 6:57   | 7:02   |

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

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

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