

Connecting the Pacific Union Adventist Family

Recorder

June 2009



**NCC Pathfinders Raise Funds
and Have Fun at Bike-a-thon**

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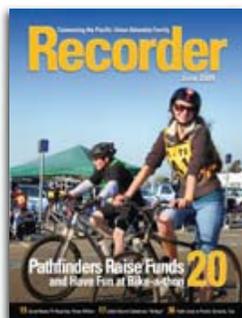
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April 5 was a beautiful day for NCC Pathfinders to ride—without the heavy winds of previous bike-a-thons.

Photo by Grant Gulke

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Our target audience is Adventists within our territory.

Our mission is to inform, educate and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.

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The Third Angel

Singer Bob Dylan, in his Christian phase, sang “Gotta Serve Somebody.” The chorus said, “You’re gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed, you’re gonna have to serve somebody. Well it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you’re gonna to serve somebody.”

This song came to mind as I read the third angel’s message in Revelation 14:9-12: “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

In visionary sight, John sees these three angels flying in the midst of heaven and delivering their messages in rapid succession. The last of the heavenly trio gets straight to the point, and worship is the key.

The universality of the message is inescapable: anyone who worships the beast or his image will receive the undiluted wrath of God and will be annihilated.

The beast in Rev. 14 is the same one in chapter 13:1, with the name blasphemy written on its seven heads.

Blasphemy is the act or offense of speaking sacrilegiously about God. The Greek word blasphemia means railing or slander against God. Since the name is on the heads of the beast in Rev. 13:1, it represents the blasphemous titles assumed by the beast.

Claiming the authority to change what God has written, the Ten Commandments, and/or to exercise the prerogatives of Deity, for instance to designate a day or manner of worship in opposition to what God has commanded, would likewise be blasphemous.

Satan is not concerned if we worship him directly or indirectly through his agents. All he really wants to do is

to get us to worship something or someone other than Jehovah, and He has succeeded.

Humans were built to worship and serve the Almighty God. Designed to worship, we were also created as free moral agents with the ability to choose whom or what we will worship and serve. While God made us to worship Him, He does not employ force or deceit to accomplish that end. We may choose to worship God or not.

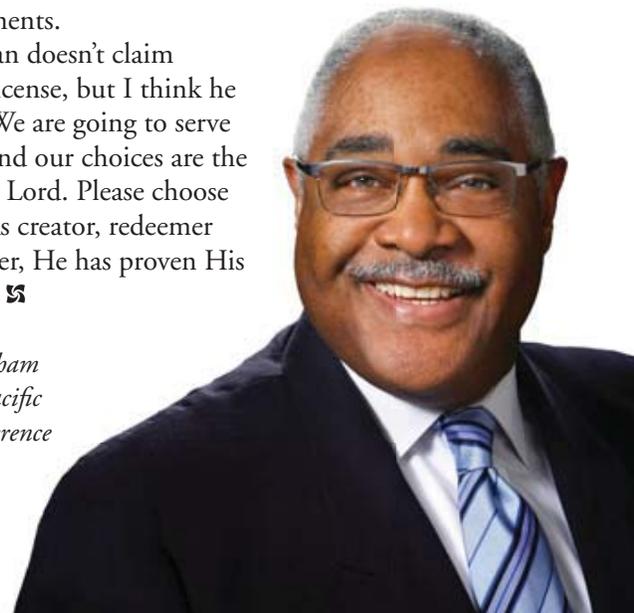
The third angel’s message reminds us that our choices involve consequences. With my imaginative ear, I can hear the urgency in the third angel’s announcement, warning all who will listen of the great consequences at stake. We will answer for our decisions one day.

The Great Controversy is about one pivotal issue—is God worthy and deserving of our worship, or can we give it to someone or something else? There is no third option, no neutral position, no middle ground. We will worship God or the beast or his image. Worshiping the beast involves receiving his mark rather than the Seal of God (Rev. 7).

The alternative to worshipping the beast or his image is to demonstrate the “patience of the saints” by keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Faith in Jesus results in obedience to God’s commandments.

Bob Dylan doesn’t claim prophetic license, but I think he was right. We are going to serve someone, and our choices are the devil or the Lord. Please choose the Lord! As creator, redeemer and sustainer, He has proven His worthiness. ✚

*Ricardo Graham
President, Pacific
Union Conference*





Dinuba Junior Academy Goes to the World Ag Expo



Cheyann Becenti, third from left, wants to share Jesus with everyone she knows. She is pictured with volunteers and students at the World Ag Expo (back row, l. to r.) Cathy Montague, Britney Montague, Becenti, Amber Velasquez, Dee Dee Bindernagel; (front row, l. to r.) Amanda Lozano and Janessa Forbes.

“You’ve got to read this, sir!” insisted Clay Schlund as he handed a small tract on the Sabbath to the tall farmer in a John Deere hat. “I know you’ll like it!” added Jeff Schlund. The seventh-grade twins from Dinuba Junior Academy were persistent, and the man stuck the tract in his shirt pocket. Moments later, Principal Allen Lipps spied the farmer reading the tract while downing a beer.

Students and Orosi and Dinuba church members gave away more than 2,000 GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tracts during the World Ag Expo, Feb. 10-12, in Tulare, Calif. One of the largest events of its kind, more than 100,000 visitors come from all

around the world for the latest and best farming solutions.

“Being able to participate in the expo was an answer to prayer,” says Dee Dee Bindernagel, Orosi church member, volunteer teacher at DJA, and a planner for the event. “But the best thing was being able to give out so many GLOW tracts. We’re praying that some of them will end up in places where there are no Adventists.”

Partners in Outreach

When Lipps applied for the school to be a concessionaire, his initial idea was to serve something different—vegetarian food. The academy was added to the 10- to 15-year World Ag waiting list.

Camp Meeting at Soquel, CA Victory in Jesus! July 16-25, 2009

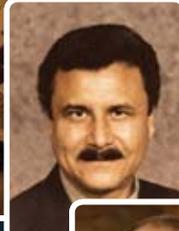
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OPENING WEEKEND with
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SPANISH TENT FEATURED SPEAKER
Armando Miranda Conchos
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FEATURED YOUNG ADULT SPEAKER
Nathan Renner
Pastor

SEMINAR PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS INCLUDE

David Assherick, Vicki Griffen, Dale Leamon, Bill Liversidge, Greg King, Juanita Kretschmer, Don Morgan, Nathan Renner, Clarence and Diana Schilt, *and more!*



Prayer warriors at the school and across the conference began praying. The miracle came this past August with a phone call from another Christian school offering their fair booth to Lipps. With approval of school and church boards, a team of five began to plan.

“Prayer was a really big part of everything we did,” says Bindernagel. “We’ve learned over the past few years that unless we pray, nothing we try to do for God is going to work.”

Even so, there were challenges. The health inspector lost their application, delaying their approval and preventing their menu offerings from being printed in the expo bulletin. Hidden costs inflated their budget. Students, parents and church members joined in to help. They solicited food donations, cleaned the booth, set up the kitchen, prepped food and painted signs.

Twenty volunteers, aged 10 to 70-plus, worked each day. Students passed out vegeburger samples to increase sales, and it worked. The Orosi Prospector Pathfinder Club’s secret recipe was irresistible. Plans

to participate at next year’s expo have already begun.

Reaching the World

All students pre-K through eighth grade passed out literature as they explored the expo. Supervised by adults, they boldly offered this free gift to everyone who would stop and listen.

Students Estrella Martinez, Britney Montague and Cheyann Becenti developed a successful approach while offering food samples and literature. “You really need to try this cause it’s really good, and you really need to read this because it’s good for your heart.”

“Participating in the Ag Expo had many more benefits than just the money we earned,” says Lipps. “It had a very positive effect on the spirituality of the kids.” Eighth-grader Jaquelin Muro wants to do it again. “The ag show was an experience I’ll never forget. It was the best thing. I loved it!”

Jeff Schlund adds, “All the people who accepted the tracts... who knows? Hopefully some will be in heaven.” ✍

One Girl’s Vow

Cheyann Becenti used to fill her days with TV, music and friends. Her schoolwork as a sixth-grader at Dinuba Junior Academy was marginal, and her decision to be baptized had done nothing to change her life.

Then Becenti watched a Battlefield Hollywood* video with her family and vowed to avoid all secular media for 40 days. Within a week, her teachers noticed her school work and influence in the classroom improving. In fact, Becenti and her fellow students did so well with their math that volunteer teacher Dee Dee Bindernagel promised them a party at the end of the week to celebrate.

During the party, Becenti told the class of her pledge and desire to witness to her family. Soon other students starting expressed their own desire to share God with their family and friends. The upcoming World Ag Expo came up, and the students talked excitedly of their plans for giving out GLOW tracts. They ended up spending the whole party talking about God and His kingdom. “All this after one girl made a commitment to leave off the junk!” says Bindernagel.

*For more information about Battlefield Hollywood, go to www.littlelightministries.com.

Shenalyn Page





Badger Donates Proceeds from Train Hobby to Education

“I’m a person who doesn’t have a lot of money, but that hasn’t stopped God from using me and my talent to help His school.”

Jeff Badger left church frustrated. Once again, the urgent needs of the local Adventist school seemed daunting. “Lord, our school needs help. I know some of these people could sponsor a child for an entire year!” his heart cried.

“It was as if the Lord replied, ‘You can do it,’” Badger says.

“Not on my salary!” thought the confused manager of the Soquel Conference Center. One morning, Badger awoke for his devotional time. “It was so clear in my mind — ‘Your resources are in your hands. I will bless you greater than you can imagine if you do this. Begin small,’” Badger explains.

Since he was a child, Badger has loved trains. “It started small and grew to ride-on miniatures. I sold my collection of HO-scale on eBay and moved up to G-scale, then live

steam. I kept trading up,” he explains.

Badger committed his hobby to God’s cause, and from there, things moved quickly. A gentleman contacted Badger asking to trade engines. Badger

rebuilt his “new” one for \$2,500 and sold it for \$10,000.

Shortly after that, a Carmel widow heard about Badger and his knowledge of trains. “She wanted me to help her sell her husband’s trains,” he explains. Badger bought the caboose for \$500 and agreed to find buyers for the rest of her collection. The caboose was still on the trailer next to Badger’s house when a man stopped and offered to buy it for \$2,500. Badger found a buyer for the remainder and was given a finder’s fee of \$1,000.

Then another stranger asked for help selling his trains. Badger told him the value and offered to buy them for much less. The man agreed. Two weeks later, Badger sold them for almost twice the purchase price to a buyer in New York.

His current project cost him \$5,000. Once the engine is rebuilt, Badger estimates it will sell in the mid-\$60,000s. “I have people standing in line when it is done,” he says. His biggest challenge is time.

Dedicating his hobby to God’s work has changed Badger’s life. “I’m a whole lot closer to God,” he says. “I know He is alive. I never know how people hear about me, or when the next opportunity will come. I’m a person who doesn’t have a lot of money, but that hasn’t stopped God from using me and my talent to help His school.” ❧

Caron Oswald

Jeff Badger’s rebuilt live steam engine sold for a \$7,500 profit, which he donated to Adventist education. Since gifting his train hobby to God, opportunities for selling and rebuilding keep coming from unexpected sources.





Harrelson Brings Vocational Skills Training to Fresno Academy

For Steven Harrelson, life began in 2006 at age 52 when he received a 40-year-old heart.

Two years later, Harrelson says, “God has something left for me to do after the transplant. I have a manageable health condition. Pain is inevitable—suffering is optional.”

A hard-working entrepreneur, Harrelson has owned his own businesses since age 19, including the Miracle Maintenance Company, a cleaning business with 125 employees. He specialized in building one-of-a-kind race cars for the rich and famous. His engine design translated into a partnership with Honda Japan.

Along the way, he employed a lot of college and high school students. “I realized that when my son learned welding, his academic scores improved. When a person excels at something, it affects the whole being and translates into the rest of his or her life,” he says.

On Oct. 23, 2006, a heart transplant gave him a new beginning. During his recovery, he rebuilt a 1955 Chevy Suburban and did a lot of thinking.

Adventist Education

Now he could focus on his other passion—Adventist education. “When we really believe in something, we own it. I really believe in Adventist education! It is probably the best in the world!” he says. Harrelson had skills to teach and time.

In June 2008, Harrelson toured the Fresno Adventist Academy campus with Principal Dan Kittle.

He discovered a 2,500 sq. ft. shop space in a 6,000 sq. ft. building and two Quonset huts used for storage. “They were full of stuff from left-over programs of years past,” Harrelson explains.

He and eight friends spent 21 days sorting and cleaning, filled two 40-foot roll-off bins with junk and sold the rest for salvage. The shop space was repaired and painted, the concrete floor floated and sealed. Donated goods from long-time business friendships valued at more than \$107,000 arrived—MIG and TIG welding equipment, 12- to 28-horse power twin cylinder engines, materials for welding and engine tables.

“Steve Harrelson brings a wealth of entrepreneurship and understanding of managerial systems with a dream of providing high quality vocational skills to students and to parents, while increasing our capacity to self-fund Adventist education,” Kittle says.

Seven students enrolled in the first welding class. A car building class is next. A small engine class begins in the fall. Parents are more than welcome to join any class. In fact, another really big dream is to offer the Single Subject Qualified Welder certificate to adults nights and Sundays.

Harrelson believes learning vocational skills expands a student’s ability. “Using the hands with the mind and teaching a functioning skill allows the brain to be more functional. It really helps the individual learn in all educational pursuits,” he says.



Steve Harrelson stands beside one of 12 small Kohler engines donated by H.G. Makelim Corporation. Fresno Adventist Academy has received donated goods-in-kind valued at more than \$107,000 for the vocational arts program, thanks to Harrelson’s passion and commitment to Adventist education.

Some students won’t have the opportunity for college, some have abilities for other career paths. “Someone has to learn how to turn the wrench, repair the world’s machinery,” Harrelson adds.

“When I was in academy, I stood at the cross and said ‘Take my life.’ In my mid-30s, I knelt at the cross and said ‘Take my life.’ In 2006, I wrapped myself around the cross and was covered in His blood,” Harrelson shares. “I am tickled pink every morning to wake up.” ✎

Caron Oswald



SSAS Academy Students Help Build a Church in Trinidad

On Jan. 26, six academy students from Silver State Adventist School, Principal Gary Wilson, and another adult sponsor left Reno to join a building team organized by the Oklahoma Conference. The project, funded by the group, was to complete the second story sanctuary of the Adventist church in Barackpore, a Hindu-Muslim community on the island of Trinidad.

After an all-day trip, they arrived at the site at 1 a.m. and began work that morning at 7:30. Over the next five days, they moved blocks, bucketed sand and gravel, unloaded and moved rebar, put up and took down and moved scaffolding, and laid block on the project.

In addition, they conducted daily evening Vacation Bible School



Academy students and volunteers make support beams for the church.



Principal Gary Wilson baptizes one of his students during the trip.

programs for the children of the area. This activity was so well received that morning programs were added at local public and private schools. Friday afternoon, the pastor requested that another VBS be held Sabbath morning. An adult from the Oklahoma group led out with the VBS programs, and the students, including eight from Parkview Academy in Oklahoma City, were

the working force of the programs.

The good will created by these

programs and the camaraderie of the group as a whole had exciting effects on the entire community. Many came to the nightly meetings conducted in a tent about a half mile from the building site.

“The high point of the trip for me,” said Gary Wilson, principal, “was seeing the changes in the students—with the ultimate high being one of my students going forward for baptism Friday evening. I had the privilege of baptizing him the next day in the Caribbean Ocean.”

“This was a very humbling experience,” said Jose Karry, 10th grade student at SSAS.

After finishing the project, the group spent three days on the small island of Tobago. All the students (including the current eighth-graders) are looking forward to next year’s trip. This trip was made possible by the combined fundraising of the students and the generous support of Reno, Carson City, Sparks, and Reno-Sparks Spanish church members. ❧

Gary Wilson



Students pose by a portion of the church they helped build.



Provo Church Gymnasium Under Construction



Work begins on the Provo church's addition.

“We are eliminating some parts of the project, for instance, the remodeling of the sanctuary, and focusing on the gymnasium, because we want local youth to have a gathering place.

We are working with the Boys and Girls Club,” Pastor J. Andres Flores said. “We also want to have the gymnasium for use in case of a disaster by the American Red Cross, Adventist Community Services and other emergency service agencies.”

The existing building is about 8,500 square feet, and the gymnasium will add almost 7,000 more. The parking lot will accommodate 53 vehicles in an effort to ease street parking in the neighborhood. A playing field will still be available for

neighborhood use, and a new patio will be added.

The gymnasium will house facilities for basketball, volleyball and other sports, large meetings and receptions. The current kitchen will be remodeled and enlarged to accommodate the additional use. In addition, remodeling in the existing building will provide internal access to the new structure, new pastoral offices and storage for ACS supplies.

Although the winter weather has slowed progress, the church hopes to have the project completed by this fall. 📍

Linda Walton

Provo Seventh-day Adventist Church, a part of the community since 1897, has broken ground on an expansion that will nearly double the building and will more than double the parking at the 255 South 700 East location.

Following a \$600,000 fundraising campaign over the past year, the congregation contracted with D.S. Thyne Construction, LLC; InVision, Inc.; Architettura, Inc.; Northern Engineering; Dynamic Structures; and Royal Engineering to proceed with the project.

Many of these professionals and other subcontractors have reduced their fees or donated services to help with the project.

Following a review by the city, additional requirements for new sidewalks around the entire property and a number of other changes, the congregation has been faced with raising another \$150,000, according to Brad E. Walton, building committee chairman.



The Provo church's new gymnasium is under construction.





Family Endowments Aid San Diego Academy Students

*T*wo women recently left generous legacies to the Paradise Valley church in their wills.

Bernice Sheidler, widow of the late George Sheidler, who for many years owned and operated George's Wonderful World of Cakes in National City, left a gift of \$35,000 to establish an endowment at Southeastern California Conference for Christian education at San Diego Academy for students from the Paradise Valley church.

Bernice was a volunteer at Paradise Valley Hospital for many years and a loyal supporter of the Paradise Valley church and Community Services. She faithfully attended the church's rummage sales to see what she could buy to support Community Services. Even when she was too weak to attend herself, she asked others to go and

tell her what was there so she could buy something.

Bernice passed away during one of

Bernice Sheidler

Pedro and Ramona Villanueva



Children who attend the Paradise Valley church, such as these juniors in Hugo and Cindy Suarez's Sabbath school class, are involved in all aspects of ministry in their church. They collect the offering, greet people at the doors, assist in the audio/video ministry, serve on worship teams, provide special music, and even preach. Paradise Valley members support their church's children by giving more than \$3,500 a month to help the children attend San Diego Academy.

the rummage sales. Her daughters donated several truckloads of items she had collected over the years to be sold at the next rummage sale. At that sale, Community Services raised a record of more than \$12,000, a large percentage of which was from Bernice's estate.

Ramona Villanueva, widow of the late Dr. Pedro Villanueva, left the Paradise Valley church \$55,000 in her will, also to be used as an endowment for Christian education. Through the years, the Villanueva family helped many children attend San Diego Academy.

The legacy of these two families will live until the Lord comes as these gifts generate scholarship funds for students at San Diego Academy every year.

In 1995, the Southeastern California Conference established the SECC Education Endowment for all of the schools and child

development centers in the conference. The funds are professionally managed and overseen by the SECC Investment Committee. Each school and center may have its own subfund. In order to stimulate giving to this endowment fund, the conference has been matching gifts given each year. The circumstances during the year these gifts were made, 2008, allowed SECC to provide a dollar-for-dollar match, thus doubling the principal to \$180,000.

The goal of Paradise Valley church members is to establish a \$1 million endowment for student aid at San Diego Academy, thereby guaranteeing that every student who wants a Christian education can be assured of one. Members are giving more than \$3,500 a month in student aid at San Diego Academy and looking for ways to do more. ❏

Will James



Carlsbad 5000 Participation Is Creative Solution in Tough Times



When times are tough, schools are forced to be creative to remain viable.

Providing a way for school supporters to participate in the Carlsbad 5000, a world-famous 5K race, has proved to be a creative and successful fundraiser for Oceanside Adventist Elementary School and the Oceanside Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Last year, parents of schoolchildren, church members and friends considered how to raise needed money for the school, promote health, and make their presence known in the community. The plan they came up with, RUN4OAE, raised \$16,000 in 2008 and probably, when all funds have been turned in and tallied, about \$20,000 this year.

Noting that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has always advocated healthful living, as well as that a new year was approaching, late in 2007 the Oceanside church and school organized RUN4OAE as a joint fundraiser. School supporters would run in the Carlsbad 5000. Team members would register with the school, and the school, in turn, would register them for the 5K race.

Green T-shirts clearly identified race participants who were members of Team RUN4OAE. David and Joey Duran are pictured crossing the finish line, with plenty of green-shirted fellow team members behind them.

By registering, they promised to raise a minimum of \$100 for the school. Some have raised more.

To help participants prepare for the races, training sessions were held every Sunday at a local park. Team members were able to run or walk a three-mile course. After that, they gathered to munch on bagels, bananas and oranges. Events such as a Pasta Burn Party were conducted for the team members, who were treated to a free pasta dinner and a movie.

On April 5, the day of this year's event, all team members wore bright green T-shirts with "Oceanside Adventist Elementary" printed on the back. They were impossible to miss. Several members were asked about the green T-shirts. This gave the opportunity to share about the school. Some members appeared in local newspapers and were interviewed by television reporters.

"It is so cool to be jogging down the course and seeing a wave of green T-shirts everywhere," said participant Angela Payaban. "People are cheering each other on and encouraging each other. It is a lot of fun. I've

Oceanside Adventist Elementary School recruited 188 people to participate in this year's Carlsbad 5000 race. The oldest runner was 62, the youngest 5.

met church members I didn't know before because of the RUN4OAE."

This year, Team RUN4OAE had the most members registered of any group—188. Last year, 150 people registered to run. This year's oldest runner was 62; the youngest was 5.

Eddie Dopp, Oceanside church pastor, is a strong RUN4OAE supporter, in part because of the outreach possibilities.

"Many people forget that an elementary school is the main outreach program a church has," he said. "The school's witness has more long-term impact than an evangelistic series or cooking school. Our churches need to support their local school in every way possible, realizing that it is the best evangelistic tool the church has."

Team member Leslie Salsberry added, "When the church and school work together to raise funds, the element of teamwork is encouraging and heartwarming."

This event has been so successful that it is scheduled as an annual fundraiser. Next year's Carlsbad 5000 is slated for April 11. ☛

Julia Payaban





Loma Linda Spanish Church Experiences Rapid Growth

The Loma Linda Spanish church is experiencing revival and rapid growth, according to Gilbert Vega, pastor. More than 200 people joined the church between Jan. 1, 2007, and Dec. 31, 2008.

Additionally, the church is engaged in a massive building project. (See the March 2008 *Recorder* for the story of the ground-breaking, conducted in December 2007.)

Is there a connection?

“When I arrived at the church about two-and-a-half years ago and assessed the magnitude of the building project—a multimillion-dollar project on nine acres of land—I concluded that church growth would be a key to the overall project,” Vega said. He saw enlarging the membership roster as the primary way to make the project achievable.

But how?

“It would be an all-points approach,” he said. “Every ministry and every individual was made

aware of the overall goal of the congregation to attract new members and to raise funds for the building project.” As a result:

- The church adopted “Warmth, Friendliness and Community” as its motto. The elders and pastoral staff make visitation a high priority.
- Evangelism was given a central role; now two major evangelistic series are conducted every year. Preaching is Bible-centered and needs-oriented.
- The facility was refurbished—painted and given better lighting—and generally made more attractive.
- All components of the worship service were made visitor-friendly and relevant. Planners of all programs were asked to display excellence in their subject matter and execution. The music ministry has been focusing on providing quality, Spirit-filled music for the worship service.

- The technical aspects of worship were fine-tuned so the service would run more smoothly. Services begin and end on time.
- Ushers, deacons and deaconesses were coached on how to be courteous, friendly and helpful.
- The community is being reached through various ministries—tutoring, Community Services, meals, Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, and youth visitation groups.

What has been the result of this all-fronts approach to making the facility, the people, and the service more attractive and visitor-friendly?

“Amazing growth,” Vega responds. Growth for many reasons, ranging from baptisms as a result of evangelistic outreach to baptisms as a result of Bible studies with children in the church family to transfers from local or faraway Adventist churches.

Jackie Rodriguez, baptized last year, joined the church because she liked “the sense of family that one feels upon entering the doors of the church.”

Another new member, Feliciano Palafox, moved into the Loma Linda area from Glendale, Calif., and searched for a new home church for his family of four. “The friendliness” was one of his reasons for joining the Loma Linda Spanish church. “It is a large church, and yet it has the dynamics of a small church—people know each other, and there are programs for every population component of the congregation.” ❧

Jocelyn Fay



Joel Manosalva, left, a retired pastor who is head elder of the Loma Linda Spanish church, asks doctrinal questions of candidates before their baptism in November 2008. Speaker for the meetings that preceded the baptism was Robert Costa, speaker for *Esta Escrito*, the Spanish edition of *It Is Written*.



Mission to Panama Reconverts the Converted

Matt Huss had no idea that he would be one of the baptismal candidates at the end of ShareHim meetings in Panama. He went as a trip sponsor and assistant to Karen Glassford, ShareHim coordinator for the Arizona Conference.

When Glassford realized that one of the sites was without a speaker, she volunteered Huss, and he accepted.

Huss, 20, a graduate of Chandler High School near Phoenix, has

been working as assistant chaplain at Thunderbird Adventist Academy helping Pastor Jay Warren. A natural leader with the youth, Huss has won the confidence and respect of his students.

He plans to begin college in Argentina next year, and during the interim, he's open for anything. Going to Panama was not his first mission experience; he has also been to El Salvador and Peru.

"This Panama trip was a real eye-opening experience," says

Huss. "Every place I go to work or when I do a mission trip, God teaches me a lot. During this trip, He helped me take off a lot of the 'masks' I've worn. He taught me to be something new."

Although Huss was working in a supervisory position, he did not see himself as superior. "We were all in the same boat together," he continued, "and we all had lessons to learn!"

Huss often had little time to prepare for his own meetings as he was continually helping the students

resolve computer issues, technical problems, and their own fears. He admits that he was often not as prepared as he would have liked, but helping the students get ready helped him.

One student was terrified to preach. Huss spent the entire day with her, going over and over her sermon materials until she felt confident.

Huss especially remembers his final Sabbath presentation. "We were talking really intensely about the signs of the end," he remembers. "The power went off four times during a 10-minute period. I felt really harassed. So I explained to the people how the devil obviously didn't want them to hear that topic. I begged them to listen even more intently. They perked up their ears and listened, realizing that they were witnessing a struggle between good and evil. It really kept me on my toes!"

Huss remembers a personal struggle that went on within him. "I truly believed everything I was preaching," he says, "but I knew there was a part of my heart that I had not surrendered. I was giving God pieces of my life. I would go on a mission trip thinking this would keep God from harassing me. Now it was time to give my heart and soul to Him completely!"

Huss was rebaptized in a small pond with a waterfall, along with six TAA students. 

TAA Assistant Chaplain Matt Huss surrendered his life fully to Jesus while preaching in Panama.

Phil Draper





Good News TV Reaches Three Million in Phoenix

*G*ood News TV, a new faith-based, viewer-supported television ministry, reaches a potential viewing audience of three million people in the heart of Phoenix, Ariz., the nation's fifth largest metropolis.

People may ask, why start a television ministry at a time of economic crisis? "How could we afford not to," replies Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile, "when people are becoming more spiritually awakened during times of crisis, seeking to fulfill their own need for a Divine hand for guidance."

Gabe Romero, a layman with 30 years broadcast experience, worked to get the Hispanic Net series with Alejandro Bullón televised in the Phoenix area. During this event, he was approached by station executives who were expanding their digital networks. They made Romero an offer to provide a channel to the Arizona Conference that would broadcast

Adventist programming 24/7. The price would be \$25,000 per month—a fair market price.

Knowing that the Arizona Conference budget would not allow such an expense, but also realizing that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fill the Phoenix airwaves with the gospel, Anobile and Kent Sharpe, treasurer, began their own negotiations with the station.

Eager to work with the Arizona Conference, the station finally negotiated a price of just \$8,500 per month. The concept was approved by the executive committee, and a new station was born—Good News TV.

"There were other start-up costs," explained Sharpe, "We could never have gotten this project off the ground without some amazing and generous laymen. Luke and Susan Skelton have adopted this project as their own and have spent many hours giving it life. Equally involved is Gabe Romero, an unsung hero! We are grateful to Caleb Torres, Bill Alvarez, Oscar Falcon and Carlos Gervasio, plus many other volunteers who are giving of their time."

"We want to use this station to provide the best rebroadcast programming

President Tony Anobile and Treasurer Kent Sharpe negotiated carefully to bring Good News Television to Phoenix.

Ministry volunteers held an open house as the station prepared to go live in March.

from 3ABN, LLBN, and the Hope Channel," Anobile continues. "In addition, we showcase Arizona pastors who do segues and devotional spots between programs. This way their faces become familiar to those who may attend their own evangelistic meetings."

Programming directors Luke and Susan Skelton work to provide Christ-centered, family-friendly messages of hope through a line-up of healthy lifestyle, sacred music, evangelistic and local programming proclaiming the gospel and the three angels' messages.

Good News TV went live March 27. Coverage area includes a 60-mile radius from South Mountain, where the antenna is located. That provides a potential viewing audience of three million people who watch over the air "free TV" with antenna or rabbit ears. In addition, the station may be viewed globally over the Internet.

Good News TV is housed in the old girls' dorm on the campus of Thunderbird Adventist Academy, where students are already actively involved in the ministry.

Phoenix residents may tune their digital TVs to channel 44.3 for English or 44.2 for Spanish. For more information or to view the station from outside the Phoenix area, visit www.mygoodnewstv.com. 

Phil Draper



Volunteer Gabe Romero connects equipment in preparation for broadcasting the new station.





White Memorial Students Take a Break for a Spring Garden



Perry Barlongo

Fourth-grader Alejandro Zamora helps measure off the garden.

During the spring break, White Memorial Adventist School students, along with parents and members of the White Memorial Church, participated in a school beautification project and spring garden bee, preparing and planting a garden adjacent to the school.

The task was tedious and somewhat difficult because a large quantity of asphalt had to be removed from an unused area in order to begin the garden project. Perfect summer weather arrived for this spring event, so Bob Wong and Kevin Morris brought root beer floats to cool down the hard-working students.

“I had fun gardening with my friends and classmates,” said Emily Martinez. “The school looks really

nice with all the plants and flowers, and it makes me feel happy to see a beautiful school.”

“I especially like helping the school to be a better environment for the students,” said Jazmin Diaz. “When the school looks good, the students tend to be a lot happier.”

“I like gardening because it helps the environment,” said Chrystal Lopez. “Go green!”

Alfendy Mamora, fourth- and fifth-grade teacher, affirmed a number of teaching aspects of gardening. “I want our students to take pride in their school and to gain a sense of ownership in the different beautification projects,” he said.

The school was also blessed with some help from academy students from Salem, Ore., who

had originally planned to go to Mexico for a mission trip, but were redirected to Southern California due to safety concerns. “What a blessing it was to have these young people from Salem come to our school,” said Devon Ludwig, principal. “They not only helped with gardening, but they also did some school repairs and painting.”

After one classroom building was painted, a fence was built and school books were rebound, the school beautification project was pronounced a success. “Our children had ownership and took pride in this school restoration. White Memorial Adventist School has been around for many years, and projects like these reaffirm that the school continues to educate our young people for life and for the Lord,” Ludwig added. ✚

Perry Barlongo



Perry Barlongo

Students enjoy a pause while clearing asphalt for the school’s garden.



LAAA Alumni Celebrate “Bridge”

Los Angeles Adventist Academy celebrated its 85th anniversary celebration this spring, but the real celebration was for a reinvigorated Alumni Association bridging a gap from the school's only previous official, full-scale alumni reunion to the present.

“One reunion was held in the ‘80s, when the school was at Lynwood,” noted Principal Lorenzo Paytee. “The 2009 reunion drew alumni from Lynwood Elementary, Lynwood Academy, Los Angeles Union, Los Angeles Academy and Los Angeles Adventist Academy.”

“Now we are trying to ‘take the bridge home’ between our various constituencies, alumni and our school. In 2008, when our school received the vital WASC accreditation, the accreditation board recommended identifying a source of income in addition to churches and tuition — generous alumni,” Paytee explained. WASC is the Western States Association of Schools and Colleges.

“The alumni planning team is looking at ways to help rejuvenate a 60-year-old physical plant; to help with recruitment and our Worthy Student Fund; and with our ultimate goal of getting many alumni in touch again with their Adventist roots.”

“That school was a place of refuge for some of my classmates who came from very troubled homes,” said Jerry Warren, in a comment posted on Facebook. “Those teachers identified students’ emotional challenges and took on the role of parent for so many.”

“Through the Facebook alumni group, a team member reunited with a classmate who had lost his job,” said Benita R. Knight, LAAA resource development director and reunion coordinator. “Because of this friend’s childhood history with the team member, he came to the reunion. Later, he stated that if his classmate

Former principals gathered for the reunion (l. to r.): William Wright, Calvin Lloyd, reunion coordinator Benita Knight, Lilley and Herbert Nelson, Glen McKnight, Eric Todd, Lorenzo Paytee; and the daughter of Virginia Thomas, representing her mother, with a friend.



Fulton Bell Jr.

Verlean Knight, left, accepts flowers presented by her daughter, Benita Knight, honoring her for her 51 years of teaching, 37 of those at LAAA.

had not reached out to him, praying and encouraging him, he would have done something terrible.”

“I had to come back to my L.A. Union roots, to remember why I am a Christian and serving God in the capacity that I am,” said an alumnus who is a university professor in Washington, D.C.

“Many former classmates are reconnecting after 30 years,” added Knight, “including a long-overdue reuniting of classmates from both L.A. Union and Lynwood Academies.”

The Alumni Association formed on the final day of the reunion weekend with 145 charter members. The LAAA Alumni Facebook group has 256 members and is still growing.

For more information, visit www.laadventistacademy.com. 📄

Betty Cooney





San Gabriel Students Learn On Screen and Online

San Gabriel Academy recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and completed its first year of a one-to-one laptop program. Faculty and students in grades six to 12 integrated 330 laptops into the academic program as teaching and learning tools, taking education to the students' computer screens, where most students feel at home.

"We cannot simply do the same things we've always done," acknowledged Principal Dave Gillham, "without recognizing the

expanding role that technology plays in the world around us."

The laptops are used in conjunction with other innovative methods of education to maximize the learning potential of all students. They facilitate the completion of student podcasting, presentations, reports, research projects, as well as online collaboration. "I have become more organized with my school work by organizing it on my computer," commented 11th-grader Monique Bravo.

Teachers assign directed use of the Internet, including online testing from various publishers and a variety of applications.

"Students are more visibly engaged in the learning process," noted math department chair Liezl Quion. "This program has resulted in more positive and excited student involvement."

Both elementary and academy yearbooks are completed online, enabling yearbook staff members to complete their tasks at home, rather than having to wait in the school's technology lab for computer time.

"The laptop program makes it so much easier to research topics required in some of our classes, instead of having to do it at home," said Scott King, an 11th-grade student. "We save paper and can be more efficient by doing our homework online and sending it electronically to our teacher's drop box."

Strict parental controls have been activated on each laptop through the Apple software on the network, which also enables teachers to regulate and monitor website access.

One of the many positive aspects of this program is that it "levels the playing field." Each student has the same equipment and software, the same daily Internet access for research and information, giving every student greater opportunity for reaching their highest potential.

Teachers continually receive refresher workshops and training in order to maximize the uses of the MacBook technology.

"This program has added such a new dimension to learning. It's fun to show students the educational side of computers," a faculty member commented. ❦

Bonnie Iversen

World History student Lyman Yin, and classmates Xichen Wang, Vicky Ho and (left, rear) Ann Yuan place the final touches on a World War II informative brochure.



Bonnie Iversen



Single Mom Partners with God for Her Son's Education

*C*hristian education is not about having the money to pay for it; it's about having faith." Those are the words that Leticia Ramirez has been living by for the past 11 years. Growing up with no education and no family or other support, Ramirez has relied on God to make ends meet and, so far, she has never had a problem meeting tuition costs at San Fernando Valley Academy and other expenses.

An immigrant from Mexico, Ramirez was raised in a time and place where girls were not encouraged to pursue education. When she was four months' pregnant, Ramirez's husband left her to give birth and to care for her son alone. She was left with nothing and had little knowledge of how to raise a child by herself.

"People at church ask me, 'How do you do it?'" said Ramirez. "I tell them, 'I don't know, but God always provides.'"

"I've never blamed God or my husband for my circumstances, but I have questioned Him a few times," Ramirez acknowledged. "I have realized that God allows things to happen for a reason."

"People will never have the extra money," Ramirez pointed out. "There will always be something else for which that money can be used. I've never had 'extra' money. What I do have is faith in God."

With the help of SFVA preschool director Sue Timmerman, and by making the commitment to attend church,

"People at church ask me, 'How do you do it?'" said Ramirez. "I tell them, 'I don't know, but God always provides.'"

Ramirez's faith in God and in herself began to grow.

"When I was looking for a preschool for my son, my pastor recommended SFVA, so I looked into it," recalled Ramirez. "I was so happy with the director there. Ms. Timmerman helped me spiritually and emotionally; words cannot describe her—she was amazing."

For the past 11 years, Ramirez has worked as a housekeeper to support herself, her son Joshua and his education. Joshua knows about his mother's daily sacrifices to send him to a Christian school and is very grateful. "I love the school; it's like my second home and family," he said. "All of my friends are

David Gardner



Leticia Ramirez

here, and I get to learn more, both educationally and spiritually."

"The Lord has helped make it possible for Ms. Ramirez to send her son to our school," said SFVA Principal David Gardner. "We believe He will help any Adventist family wanting their children in an Adventist school." ✎

Maria Revil



Pathfinders Raise Funds and Have Fun at Bike-a-thon

“At the end of the day, I felt good and I felt tired,” said 13-year-old Andrew Dawson of the 2009 annual Northern California Conference Pathfinder bike-a-thon, held April 5.

Thirty-three clubs—with 377 cyclists—rode 20,443.5 miles during the fundraiser, held at the Sleep Train Amphitheatre in Marysville.

Three hundred supporters were on hand to ensure safety, count riders’ laps, hand out water, prepare food, and perform many other tasks to keep the kids on track—including cheering them on.

“I convinced myself that I only had a few miles to go—plus one of my leaders encouraged me a lot,” said Sacramento-Central Pathfinder Pheobe Maciel of her motivation to keep riding.

One contributing factor for the high mileage this year was the absence of the heavy winds that have plagued the event in past years. According to Naomi Amador, girls’ deputy director of the Ukiah club,

April 5 was a beautiful day to ride—without the heavy winds of previous bike-a-thons.



Selling burritos, horchata, teriyaki and wontons, the Hayward Trailblazers work to feed hungry cyclists and raise money.



Three girls from the Fairfield club take a break from riding. “It was really great to see so many kids out riding to raise money for Oshkosh,” said NCC Youth Director Eddie Heinrich. “They rode more miles than usual.”

“It was actually a gorgeous day—not too hot.”

Pathfinders were especially motivated this year because they need to pay their way to attend “Courage to Stand,” the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc., this summer. Admission, food, travel and other expenses add up to more than \$1,000 per NCC Pathfinder, according to NCC Youth Director Eddie Heinrich.

“Oshkosh is really important because it helps the kids get a global picture of our church,” said Heinrich. “They can see that kids from all over the world have similar goals and values that they have.”

The three Dawson kids—members of the Woodside Warriors club in Sacramento—plan to go to Oshkosh in August. Older siblings Sarah and Andrew rode in the bike-a-thon, but their younger sister Priscilla was not able to ride in the fundraiser because she was too young.

“I really, really want her to be able to go to Oshkosh,” said her mother Lianne, who wanted it so badly that she rode in the bike-a-thon on behalf of her daughter last year (when she completed 38 miles) and this year (when she finished 63). “I was just privileged to be a part of it,” she said.

“I cheered her on,” said Priscilla, who promised her mother a foot massage if she rode 40 miles and a clean room if she rode 50. Extra incentive came from a generous church member who promised \$50 to each person in the Woodside club who cycled more than 60 miles. (Fourteen people earned the money!)

People didn’t come to the bike-a-thon only to raise money. “I liked being able to see my friends from other areas that I have gone on mission trips with,” said Xitlali Garcia, a Leader-in-Training from the Yountville club.

“My favorite part of the bike-a-thon is getting to see Pathfinder friends from all over the Northern California Conference,” said area three coordinator Char Novack. **✍**

Julie Lorenz



All photography, Grant Gulke



As He Prepares for Retirement, Dann Dodd Shares Memories and Buses

As he prepares to retire after 41 years in education, Lodi Adventist Elementary Principal Dann Dodd has more than a collection of memories: he has school buses—a whole office full.

Dodd's office neatly showcases more than 500 different school bus items: toys, cookie jars, mugs, pictures, salt shakers, lunch boxes, calendars, stamps and more. One of his favorite items is an intricate toy with five moving parts; another is a pair of school bus high top sneakers.

Years ago, Dodd was browsing through an Illinois antique shop when a decorative metal bus caught his eye. He paid 15 dollars for it, and his collection officially began. After he became principal of Napa Junior Academy in 1991, he started actively collecting—going to flea markets and yard sales and purchasing items for 25 cents or a dollar. Later, eBay expanded the scope of his hobby.

Through the years, gifts from friends, family and students added to the display. “About two to three years ago, I stopped collecting, but I still get 10-15 [gifts] a year,” he said.

Recently, Dodd was surprised and touched when his collection was

able to help a grieving mother. A friend of his knew a woman whose four-year-old daughter had passed away. The mother had been looking for an urn in the shape of a school bus to hold her daughter's ashes, but she wasn't able to find anything. Dodd invited the woman to look through his office and take anything she wanted. Since her little girl had loved Elmo, the lady chose a school bus lunch box with a Sesame Street theme. Dodd calls the opportunity to help her “a nice way to end my collection.”

Although some have encouraged him to sell his school buses, Dodd decided to donate them to the Northern California Conference Education Department, where the collection will be on display at the conference headquarters. “I am honored that it will be there,” he said.

Dodd has served as principal at five Adventist schools. He was a public grade school principal living in Rochester, Minn., when he and his wife, Norma, invited their new neighbors to attend their Lutheran church. The Adventist neighbors offered to study the Bible with the



No two buses in his office are alike.



School bus high top sneakers are one of Dodd's favorite parts of his collection.

couple. Eventually, the Dodds were baptized into the Adventist church, and he started working in Adventist education in 1982.

Now a widower, Dodd plans to live an active retirement life—volunteering, spending time with his children and grandchildren, maybe getting a part-time job. “You need to be mentally and physically active,” he said.

What will he miss most after retirement? “The kids—that's what it's all about. Reacting with them, watching them grow spiritually academically, musically ... just watching them grow.”

“Dann has made a significant contribution to Adventist education,” said NCC Education Superintendent Berit von Pohle. “His years of experience have been characterized by his caring for students, teachers and families. He'll be remembered for all his school buses and so much more.”

Julie Lorenz

Although he is retiring at the end of this school year, Dann Dodd keeps busy interacting with his students during his last few months on the job. “You have to run through the finish line; you don't stop at the finish line.”

All photography, Jenny Silvestri



Rio Students Invite Everyone to Their Open Table



People wait in the food line at Court House Square.

Rio Lindo Adventist Academy students began a new community outreach this school year. After deciding to do whatever they could to answer the call of Jesus to care for the poor and others, students created an event in nearby Santa Rosa called Open Table. To date, students and staff have held two Open Table events, and there are plans for a third one.

Everyone is welcome at this “open” table. Rio students and staff want to celebrate the goodness of God and share what they have with people in the community in a place where as many people as possible can join them.

Rio staff began introducing the idea to the students last October as a way to

take their church service out of the building and onto the streets. Krystalynn Martin, Rio Lindo Academy church pastor, told students: “Since Jesus said, ‘Whatever we’ve done to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you’ve done it unto Me,’ why do we usually give ‘Jesus’ everything we don’t want anymore?”

For three weeks before the first event, students began to donate their nice clothes, their Sabbath clothes, the clothes that they wanted to keep. Students donated everything: suits, shoes, ties, dresses, sleeping bags and blankets, as well as baby clothes and t-shirts, and even leather jackets.

On the Friday before the first Open Table, two vespers services were held: one at the academy and another at Redwood Gospel Mission, a homeless shelter and drug and alcohol recovery center in Santa Rosa. Rio students skipped their Friday dinner in order that the food could be used to feed all the guests that would join them in Santa Rosa.

At the mission, students held the evening worship service and invited everyone there to join them on Saturday for free food, fellowship, a clothing give-away, and a chance to meet

Christine Woods, Emilye Reeb and Abraham Navaro get ready to serve lunch.





Students from Rio Lindo Academy lead worship at Open Table: Adrian Ramirez, Drew Macomber, Yaisi Ramirez, Davey Esquer, Staci Creason and staff member Steven Martin.

new friends and relax. Fliers were placed all over town, and people walking on the street were given personal invitations to join the group for the celebration.

On Sabbath, Nov. 15, students and staff gathered at Court House Square for worship. The student praise band sang songs, and Pastor Jon Montes gave the message. There were racks and racks of clothing available for those in need. Students gave away all the sleeping bags and jackets and over three-quarters of the clothing.

A prayer tent was set up where people could talk about their prayer needs and sign up for a Safeway gift card raffle. (Two \$50 gift cards were given away.) Couches were available from Rio’s student center so passers-by could have a place to sit and relax.

Students served a hot lunch from the school cafeteria, which included baked potatoes, green salad, soup and dessert. One hundred guests were served, including one man in a wheelchair who said that he had not eaten in three days.

The man said he was across the street asking God to help him get something to eat. “All of a sudden,” he said, “I heard a voice saying: ‘We’re serving lunch over here, and

everyone is invited.’” (It was an announcement broadcast over the sound system.) He thanked God, came over and received a hot meal.

The second Open Table was held in mid-March at the end of Student Week of Prayer, and more than 100 guests were fed that day. While some were homeless, others were businessmen and women from around the square or people out enjoying a walk on a beautiful Saturday.

Open Table is becoming a regular event. Rio staff and students are working on creative fundraising ideas and soliciting more donations so they can continue to give more

at each event. Students continually ask when the next Open Table will be. They are passionate about serving their community.

“I met a woman named Grace who came to the Open Table, and she had a huge impact on my life,” said sophomore Zonia Sanchez. “She taught me not to blame God for our problems and not to worry about what others think of you.”

Rio staff and students are excited to see where God will lead and what doors He will open up for them as they continue to offer Open Table. To read more about Rio’s outreach, visit www.riolindo.org. **SM**

Steven Martin



Shannon Pennisi, Davy Esquer and teacher Gottfried Fritz serve up lunch.

David Kabanje and C. C. Siulapwa pass out fresh loaves of bread baked by the students.

All photography, Krysstalynn Martin

Film and Television Students Receive National Recognition

“I found that film is an extremely effective medium to capture the human spirit and the human condition.”

Meet Craig Church. Church is a senior film and television and English major at Pacific Union College who was recently selected from a massive pool of applicants to work as an intern at DreamWorks, one of the leading animation studios in Hollywood.

Meet Peter Han. Han is a freshman film and television and biology major who won first place in the National Geographic “Preserve the Planet” competition for best public service announcement. His work, “Why Would You?” earned him \$3,000 and premiered on the National Geographic Channel during their Earth Day program April 22.

Meet Rodney Vance. Vance, associate professor of visual arts and

director of the film and television program, is actively connecting students to the professional world of film. He’s currently working with three major film projects, including a documentary with what he estimates to be the leading 3D technology company. All three projects will involve students in the rare opportunity to be on the sets observing or even working side-by-side with professionals.

There is a “creative revolution going on at PUC,” says visual arts department chair Milbert Mariano. Church, Han and Vance are figureheads of this revolution and, with other faculty and students, are actively expanding the boundaries in the department.

Church’s internship at DreamWorks is a landmark achievement for the department. His involvement with a feature film (“How to Train Your Dragon” is scheduled to be released in 2010) is unprecedented. Church worked primarily in the Story Department where he assisted the story production supervisor in processing and preparing storyboard panels for editorial. He was also involved with the Character Effects and Modeling Department and Surfacing Department and assisted the script coordinator in prepping scripts and sides for scratch and professional voice recording

Film and television students get hands-on experience in settings from the on-campus studio and college events to professional projects.



Haley Wesley

sessions. Historically, Church was the first intern to be invited to one of the professional voice recording sessions at LA Studios. During his tenure there, Church met Jeffrey Katzenberg, co-founder and CEO of DreamWorks Animation.

Church explains the importance for film and television students to pursue this kind of opportunity: “It’s part of the program to open your eyes to the real world. You get to spend time working with the people who have the jobs you aspire to. You get to see the good days and the bad, as well as what the working environment is like. Basically, it lets you know whether or not this particular career path is right for you while you’re still in school, helping you avoid the situation of graduating into a career you loathe. It’s the ultimate classroom. You can really gauge yourself and see what parts of your skill set needs improvement in order to operate at the level you desire.”

As a freshman, Han is just beginning his exploration of the academic world of film and television production. However, his prowess has already been recognized by the department and National Geographic (Han’s award-winning PSA can be viewed at channel.nationalgeographic.com). “[Han’s] PSA’s strength lies in its single, simple message and economical use of imagery and sound to drive it home,” observes instructor of visual arts Alexander Carpenter. “It builds toward a strong, but light-handed emotional connection with the audience. Han deserves credit for being willing to evoke feeling, a rare, but essential filmmaking trait in our irony-soaked visual culture.”

Interestingly enough, Han’s fascination with film and television production began with the idea of



Student Craig Church (third from left), learned from experts such as story coordinator Scott Sakamoto, story production supervisor David Joyner, and script coordinator Jabari Phillips (l. to r.) during his internship at DreamWorks.

“evoking feeling.” “This is what I am really interested in — provoking emotions in the viewer — whether it be painting, photography or film,” he says. “I found that film is an extremely effective medium to capture the human spirit and the human condition.”

In addition to majors in biology and film and television, Han has also chosen to pursue a minor in drama. “I find that narrowly focusing on one genre, per se, of education, is foolish,” he says. “The sciences are integral for medicine, but science itself does not create a well-rounded person, which is what I aspire to be.”

Han cites the faculty and the opportunity to explore his creative facets as the best parts of the film and television program. Indeed, when Rodney Vance recently became the director of the program, he dedicated himself to giving the department national visibility. That’s one reason he’s gotten students involved in major current film projects.

One of these projects, the 3D “destination documentary,” will focus on the Napa Valley and the people who have come here to establish specific lifestyles for themselves. The documentary will be produced with 3ality Digital. “We will be co-producing a documentary with the best

company in the business!” Vance says with obvious delight.

Vance is also working on “Rainbow Park,” a children’s television series. Zach Dunn, an alumnus of the program, is working on puppet design and will be the human star of the show. Vance is also doing preliminary work on a feature film that he wrote. The documentary, the television series, and the feature film are all professional-level projects that give students an “in” to the real world of their major. As Vance says, this kind of involvement is “a rare thing for undergraduate students.”

With all this happening, PUC film major Timothy Wolfer’s win of the documentary prize at the Sonscreen Film Festival in April was icing on the department’s cake. SONscreen is an annual festival for established and up-and-coming Christian filmmakers to share their creative work. Wolfer’s short documentary was called “Grow Up.”

So it isn’t a stretch to say there is a creative revolution going on at PUC. From projects like the video yearbook and filming PUC programs to participating in professional projects, the film and television students are diving into a hands-on experience in their field. ✍

David Ranzolin

LLU Occupational Therapy Department Celebrates 50th Anniversary

*F*or 50 years, the occupational therapy department at Loma Linda University School of Allied Health Professions has taught its students to lead, heal and serve so their patients can truly “live life to its fullest.”

Occupational therapy was founded in 1917, but it wasn't until the 1940s that the rehabilitation movement hit full force. With the thousands of injured soldiers returning home from the war, OTs were in high demand.

It was during this time that a young high school girl, stricken with polio as a baby, had dreams of becoming an occupational therapist. Not only that, but she wanted to start the first occupational therapy department in the Adventist educational system at Loma Linda University.

“Of course, that was a little bit far-fetched for a person of 18 years old,” says Edwinna Marshall, founder and professor emerita, occupational therapy, SAHP, “but the Lord led me on the way.”

After receiving her graduate degree from the University of Southern California, the board of trustees at the College of Medical Evangelists, now known as Loma Linda University, approved Marshall's proposal to add an occupational therapy curriculum in 1958.

Marshall reminisces, “The controller took me around the campus, and he told me, ‘This space in the old kitchen and cafeteria were going to be demolished the next day for more parking lot.’ So my only response was, ‘Well, I'll take it,’” she smiles.

In the fall of 1959, the first class started in the Sanitarium Annex with three occupational students. Marshall chaired the department, and she was the one and only teacher.

By 1970, the department grew from just three to 60 students. Throughout that decade, Marshall received grant funds for two mobile units to provide occupational therapy services to home care clients. They were the only OT mobile units in the country at that time.

Occupational therapy boomed in the 1980s. OT was a popular

health career with the job market wide open. To meet the growing demand, the department began an occupational therapy assistant program in 1988.

In the new millennium, post-professional degrees were offered—a Master of Occupational Therapy in 2000, and a doctoral degree in 2007. Today, occupational therapy thrives as a highly demanded and diversified profession grounded in scientific and theoretical principles.

Throughout the years, faculty and students have presented at local, state and national conferences; published in peer-reviewed journals and books; and are continuously involved in community service projects, locally and internationally.

“Mission trips really give you a chance to step outside of yourself,” explains Christopher Hoyt, an OT student who recently went on a mission trip to Mexico. “It's something that you go do, and whether you want it to happen or not, you're going to walk away more compassionate.”

The occupational therapy department is creating leaders and innovators who serve in the military to help wounded soldiers or return to their homelands to help their local population.

“I look at occupational therapy as an opportunity to help people figure out not what they can't do, but what they can do,” says Hoyt. ✎



The occupational therapy faculty and staff celebrate the department's 50th anniversary with a commemorative photo.

Patricia K. Thio

New Philanthropy Center Aims to Aid Church, Region

Whether they provide after school programs, adult day care or meals for those in need, nonprofit organizations and their donors play vital roles in the well being of their communities.

But a battered national economy coupled with a lack of know-how on the part of many fundraisers and nonprofit managers can restrict the level of services offered to the public at a time when outreach programs are desperately needed. In an era of limited wealth, this task is daunting. La Sierra University's School of Business wants to help meet the challenge.

LSU launched its new Center for Philanthropy during a kickoff celebration at the university on April 14. Housed in the School of Business, the center will offer free training seminars for local nonprofit organizations, a Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in philanthropy and certificate programs in philanthropy. The center will begin enrolling students in Fall 2009.

"We're creating the center to meet the needs of the community," said business school Dean John Thomas, who spearheaded the project. Education in philanthropy will involve matching donors and recipients, and educating philanthropists about needs the organizations represent, he said.

"The new center upholds and advances the university's commitment to serve," said Thomas. He has served more than 15 years on

many nonprofit boards in Riverside in various capacities.

The university selected Dr. Jim Erickson to serve as the new center's director. Erickson's background includes serving as vice chancellor for advancement at the University of California, Riverside, and UC Merced. He also served as executive director of the UC Riverside Foundation beginning in 1985, where annual private sector support grew from \$1.6 million to more than \$27 million, and over \$100 million in private support was generated with the addition of 26 endowed chairs.

"I hold a high degree of respect for the vision of Dr. Thomas, who really has a commitment, as does the university, to our external publics," Erickson said. "I also have such high regard for [former] President Geraty and President Randal Wisbey, whom I've worked with on other projects."

La Sierra's Center for Philanthropy will provide free educational seminars for nonprofits on donor cultivation and board development. The seminars will help nonprofit leaders formulate a financial assessment and a strategic plan for the organization. "We have to do a better job educating nonprofits and their board members on how to build a sustainable business model that will help them develop a broad range of revenue sources from day one so they can survive the lean years," Thomas said.

The center's academic programs will help business students interested in careers in philanthropy



Jim Erickson, a leader in the field of philanthropy for several decades, will direct La Sierra University's new Center for Philanthropy. The new center will offer education to those interested in working in the nonprofit field, and seminars to church and regional nonprofits to help them with their business models.

understand that giving begins in the heart, and that cultivating such benevolence requires fostering genuine relationships aimed at making the world a better place. The center's academic courses will include "Obtaining Philanthropic Support," "Capital and Endowment Campaigns," "Investment and Portfolio Management," and "Planned Giving."

The Center for Philanthropy is aiming its programs and services at entry-level and mid-career development professionals, Riverside and San Bernardino county nonprofits, leaders of Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions and other religious organizations. ✕

Darla Martin Tucker



NARLA–West and Church State Council Conduct Lobby Day in Sacramento

On April 20, about 35 Adventists, including eight students from Pacific Union College, divided into teams and headed to the state capitol, meeting with legislators and their staffs, and distributing position papers on current bills to every member of the California Senate and Assembly. The effort was heavily dependent on the leadership of North American Religious Liberty Association – West board members, who supplied the expertise to lead the teams.

NARLA is the grassroots religious liberty ministry of the Adventist Church in North America, so it was only natural for NARLA to mobilize members in the Pacific Union to participate in the lobby efforts. Ten teams divided the list of 120 legislators and attended both scheduled and unscheduled meetings to explain the Church’s

interest in bills dealing with liberty of conscience issues.

One bill, AB 66, would permit high school students attending private and religious schools to obtain work permits directly from their own school. This is especially important because Adventist young people are often denied work permits when they have to go to public school districts to obtain them and tell officials that they intend to do church related work.

A second bill would require California to permit unelected officials to substitute an “affirmation” instead of swearing an oath when they are hired. People of various faiths refuse to swear oaths, and should not be denied government employment because of their religious convictions.

A third bill would establish a Harvey Milk Day in public schools to celebrate the accomplishments of the slain gay rights activist. NARLA visitors urged the legislature to respect the diversity of beliefs regarding this subject, and give prior notification to parents, some of whom would not wish their children to participate in activities thought to honor a lifestyle they find

immoral. Staff seemed relieved that the Church was not simply opposing the bill, but advocating a nuanced position of respecting everyone’s liberty of conscience.

Finally, teams offered legislators a position paper on workplace religious freedom issues, highlighting the need for new laws to protect those who are unavailable for work due to religious observance. (If you have ever been denied employment because you told an employer that you could not work on Sabbath, please contact our office. The Church State Council is building a case for a new law to solve this problem. Please e-mail ajreinach@churchstate.org.)

Participants shared the common experience of having the initial nervousness disperse, replaced by the excitement and fun of witnessing for the godly principles of liberty of conscience to secular legislators and their staffers.

In the evening, the lobby day was followed by a banquet celebrating 10 years of religious liberty radio broadcasting by Freedom’s Ring, produced by the North American Religious Liberty Association, and hosted by Alan Reinach. Pastor Ivan Williams, associate chaplain of the California Assembly and ministerial director for Northern California Conference, was the keynote speaker. Banquet sponsors included Adventist Health and Amazing Facts. ✎

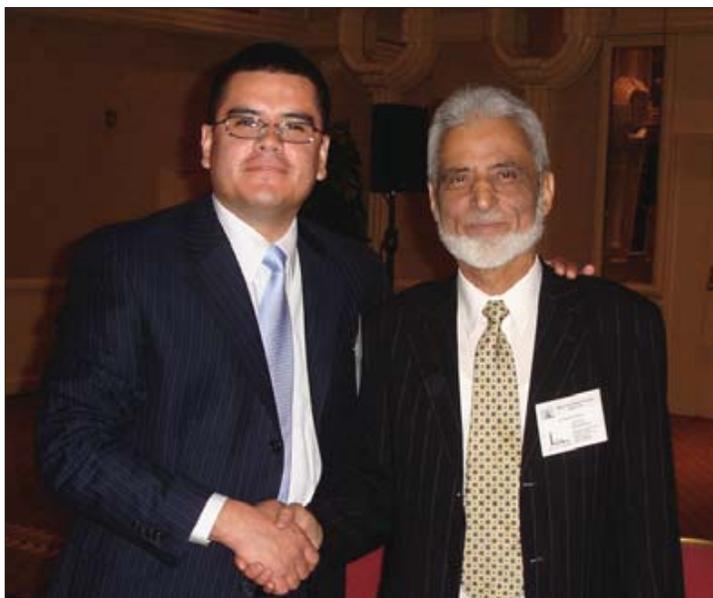
Alan J. Reinach, Esq.



Hector Polo Jr. met with California government officials during the April 20 Lobby Day in Sacramento to discuss important bills impacting the rights of conscience.



North American Religious Liberty Association Organizes First Hispanic “Team” in L.A.



Daniel Rodela, president of the L.A. Hispanic NARLA team, meets with Dr. Sayyid Syeed, secretary general of the Islamic Society of North America.

L.A. Hispanic Team, preached about Esther and how her influence helped save a nation during times of peril; while Rodela likened religious liberty leaders to Paul Revere, spreading light in times of darkness. Materials were distributed

about how to help church members with Sabbath accommodation at work and other topics.

The Los Angeles Hispanic Team consists of Daniel Rodela, president; Hector Polo Sr., vice president; Emma Martinez, secretary; Melina Polo, treasurer; Hector Polo Jr., promoter; and Ricky Ramirez, photographer.

Rodela and his team join a group of Adventist leaders who have championed religious freedom in three centuries. A.T. Jones formed the first religious liberty organization in 1893, then known as the American Religious Liberty Association. Eventually, it was expanded to become the International Religious Liberty Association. Since the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the fall of the Soviet Union, vigorous efforts

have established national chapters in dozens of countries on all the continents. NARLA is affiliated with its International counterpart, and promotes the work of religious freedom both nationally and internationally.

Rodela and Hector Polo Jr. also participated in Lobby Day efforts in Sacramento on April 20. They met with state government officials to discuss important bills impacting the rights of conscience. Their local efforts are focused especially on recruiting young people, more than a dozen of whom have signed on to travel to Washington, D.C., in June to meet with Congress and urge adoption of the Workplace Religious Freedom Act.

“The Latino community plays an increasingly important political role here in California,” said Alan J. Reinach, Esq., director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Pacific Union. “It is imperative that Latino Adventists become educated about the important challenges to religious liberty and do their part to uphold God’s gift of true freedom. The work that Daniel Rodela and his team are doing is extremely important, and long overdue.”

For more information on bringing a religious liberty program to a local church or the NARLA Team – L.A. Hispanic, contact Rodela at RodelaD@churchstate.org or libertadreligiosa@iglesiadecarson.org.

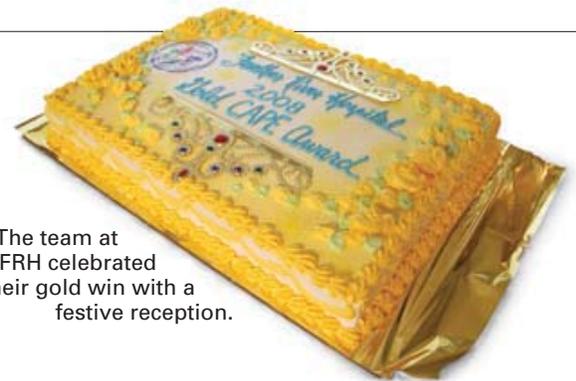
Alan J. Reinach, Esq.

Daniel Rodela, a member of the Carson Spanish church and a member of the board of directors of the North American Religious Liberty Association – West, organized the first Hispanic “team” in the United States to promote religious liberty throughout the Los Angeles area.

On March 1, his newly organized team sponsored a training in Spanish for religious liberty leaders throughout southern California. NARLA–West board member Fabian Carballo spoke about Sunday laws and persecution in the context of Bible prophecy; Arnold Trujillo, Pacific Union vice president, urged religious liberty leaders to reach out to the community as “salt and light” during difficult economic times; Hector Polo, Sr., a member of the



Adventist Health News Notes



The team at FRH celebrated their gold win with a festive reception.



Adventist Health Executive Vice President Larry Dodds congratulates FRH President and CEO Wayne Ferch at the CAPE Gold celebration.

Five Hospitals Win Quality Awards

Feather River Hospital, along with White Memorial Medical Center, Hanford Community Medical Center, Central Valley General Hospital and Selma Community Hospital were recognized for excellence by the 2008 California Awards for Performance Excellence.

Administered by the California Council for Excellence, this recognition for quality is the State of California’s equivalent to the national Malcolm Baldrige Quality award.

FRH won the highest honor, the Gold Eureka award, and was the sole gold recipient this year. It is only the second hospital—the first within Adventist Health—to achieve this high honor. The hospital’s previous CAPE awards include a bronze in 2005 and a silver in 2006.

WMMC nabbed a silver level award

and the Central Valley hospitals collectively won bronze.

“The CAPE awards exemplify our hospitals’ commitment to the mission of Adventist Health and the goal of being recognized leaders in quality care,” said Robert G. Carmen, president and CEO of Adventist Health. “The teams at FRH, WMMC and in the Central Valley have worked very hard during the past months and years to achieve these honors, and Adventist Health is very proud.”

Castle Medical Center Celebrates Completion of Vera Zilber Birth Center

After six months of construction and renovation, the hospital’s new birth center is now up and running after launching with a ceremonial blessing early this year. In the past, CMC has averaged about 500 births annually, but now averages 70 births per month and more than 800 a year—up about 12 percent per year over the past four years. Thanks to a generous gift from the Zilber Foundation; Eleanor Crim, M.D.; other charitable gifts and funds raised at its annual golf tournament, the hospital was able to make improvements to its birth center. The total cost of the project was \$1.2 million.

Castle Medical Center CEO Kevin Roberts (left) accepts a donation from the Zilber Family Foundation. Pictured: Roberts, Dr. Susan H. Chapman (head of OB/GYN at CMC), Joseph J. Zilber and Zilber’s granddaughter, Melissa Jackson.

Clinical Excellence Recognized in Glendale

Glendale Adventist Medical Center recently was given the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence and identified as one of the best-performing hospitals nationwide by HealthGrades. Each year HealthGrades independently assesses the quality of care provided at the nation’s nearly 5,000 non-federal hospitals across 26 procedures and diagnoses and makes specific hospital ratings available to consumers at www.HealthGrades.com.

Simi Valley Hospital Receives Wellness Award

As one of two area businesses lauded by the American Heart Association’s Start! Fit-Friendly Companies program for promoting physical activity and health in the workplace, Simi Valley Hospital provides wellness options for staff including Walk This Way, which provides support and incentives for employees to walk or exercise. SVH also encourages employees to make exercise a part of their daily life. Stairwells, for example, are safe, well lit and marked with messages suggesting that staff take the stairs instead of the elevator. In addition, the hospital offers a wide variety of healthy food choices in its cafeteria, including fresh fruit, low-fat and fat-free salad dressings, whole-grain breads and vegetarian options. A salad bar with healthy options also is available on a daily basis.

Shawna Malvini





Union ASI Chapter Meets

The Pacific Union chapter of ASI International held its annual convention April 23 to 26 in San Jose, Calif. Some asked why—when the national convention is coming up Aug. 5 to 8 in Phoenix.

“At the national conventions we get inspired,” said Lorayne Barton, Pacific Union chapter president. “But at the union meetings, we get to know each other.”

That is what brought Lydia Muwunga to ASI. “I recently moved to Mountain View, Calif., because I am trying to start a new business using art and design to witness,” she commented over the

vegetarian dinner Friday evening. “I knew there were a lot of start-up businesses I could work with in the Silicon Valley. I came to ASI to get to network with Christians who can help me make my business evangelistic.”

When ASI members and guests weren’t networking, they attended inspirational meetings. Featured speaker was Steve Wohlberg, founder and speaker of White Horse Media, headquartered in Newport, Wash. “Time is very, very short,” said Wohlberg. “We need to take advantage of every opportunity to lift up Jesus, and give to the world a clear picture of the character of God.”

Much of the meeting time was devoted to members sharing what they are doing to witness to their neighbors and to people in foreign countries. The Guthrie family, from Mt. Shasta, Calif., told about their plans, well under way, to visit every home in Mt. Shasta. Daryl and Mary Jo Oft described their community service center in Payson,

Steve Wohlberg, founder/speaker/director of White Horse Media, Newport, Wash., lectures on righteousness by faith at the 2009 Pacific Union ASI convention.

Gerry Chudleigh



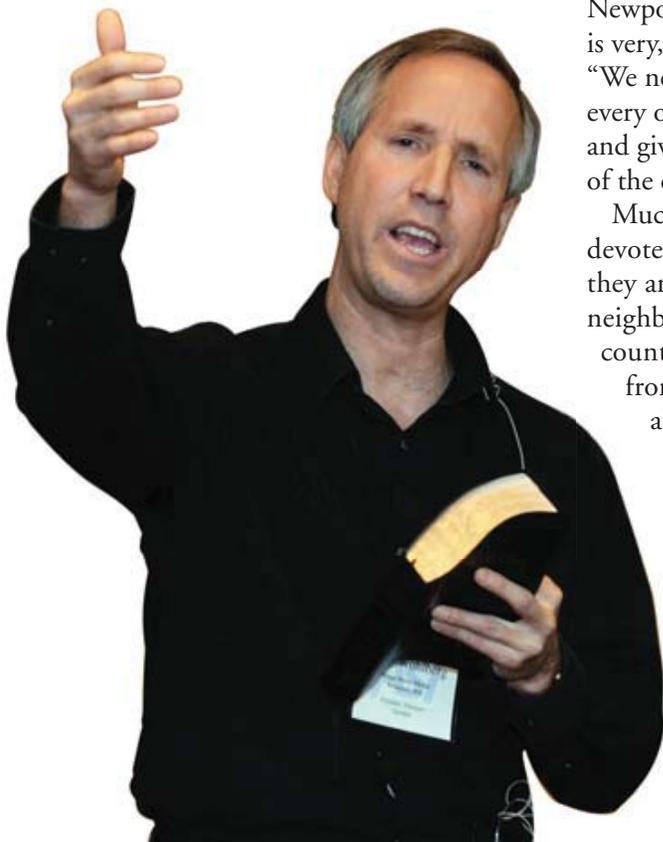
Lydia Muwunga, right, from Mountain View, Calif., shows Joe Garza, from San Diego, Calif., an example of her art that shares the gospel.

Ariz., and their mission to feed hungry orphans in Kenya. Many youth and young adults shared the miracles God has worked through the ministries of “Souls West,” “Finish the Work,” and the Pacific Union ASI’s “Youth for Jesus” team. And many other ASI members talked about mission projects that ranged from health clinics to window decals for automobiles.

Clearly, it was all contagious, as members quizzed each other for details they would need know to start similar projects in their own communities.

For information about the national convention, and about the next Pacific Union convention, go to www.asiministries.org. 

Gerry Chudleigh





Finding Meaning and Relevance in Numbers

Organizations gather statistical data from year to year, and Adventist churches and schools are no different. For the past decade, Adventist academies in the Pacific Union have been asked to “disaggregate” data — analyze the information that has been collected and use the results to influence decisions, especially ones related to curriculum and the allocation of resources.

The basic premise is that “numbers tell a story.” It is up to school personnel to draw upon the information in statistical reports and find meaning and relevance in those numbers. Though this seems simple, it has been a gradual growth process for Adventist educators.

When school opening reports started coming into the Pacific Union Office of Education in September 2008, we were in shock. K-12 enrollment in the union had

gone down significantly compared to the previous year.

I decided to dig deeper to understand what was happening. The task of gathering raw data was easy, thanks to the organizational prowess of the union registrar, Beverly Benson. If schools had submitted data, she could find the information in a matter of seconds.

Upon reviewing opening enrollment data for the past 10 school years, the slide in enrollment became obvious (see Figure 1). In 1999, stats showed: elementary – 12,569; junior academy – 293; and senior academy – 3,937, for a total K-12 enrollment of 16,799.

In 2008, the numbers were down to elementary – 9,493; junior academy – 121; and senior academy – 4,198, for a total of 13,812, a decline of 2,987 students over the last decade.

As conferences and school principals begin making plans for the 2009-2010 school year, they are faced with additional challenges, driven in part by the economic uncertainties facing our nation. Churches and conferences have also been impacted by the downturn in the economy. Will churches continue to support Adventist Christian education or view the school as a competitor for church evangelism funds? Would this perception change if we are able to show that the church school is instrumental in helping students choose to follow Christ and get baptized?

FIGURE 1

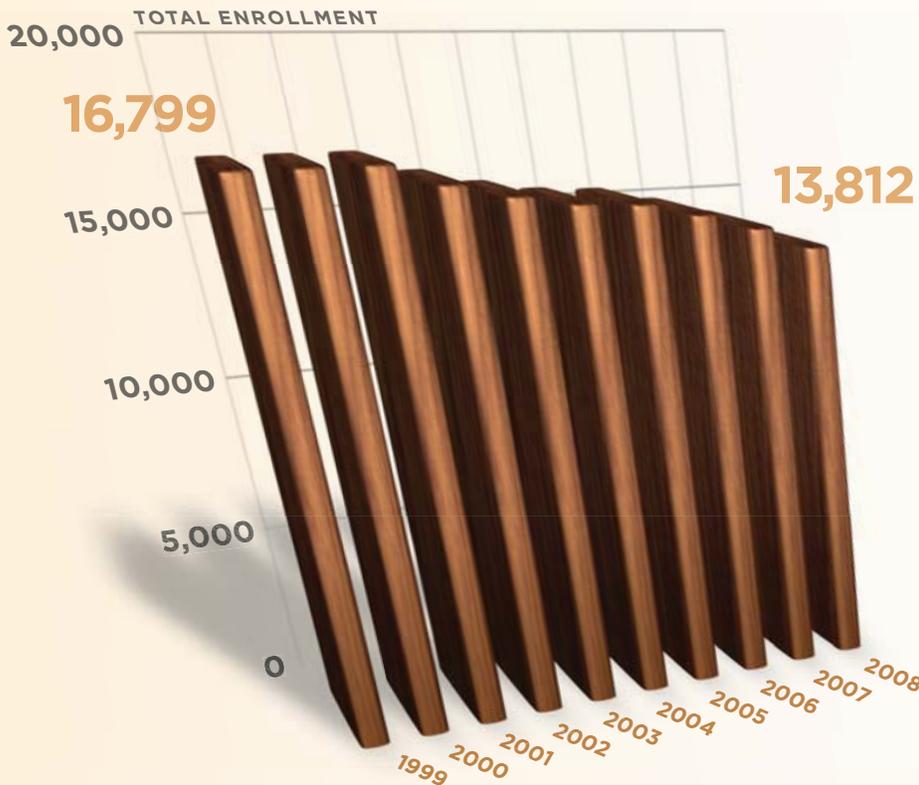




Figure 2 shows the number of schools in a conference, the total baptisms reported by the school for the two years listed, and the number of baptisms reported by each conference. Each year, more than 500 students attending Adventist schools are baptized. Amen anyone? There is evidence to support the assertion that young people who become baptized members of the Adventist Church in their youth continue to support the church in adulthood (see ValueGenesis).

If, as Ellen White said, the “work of education and redemption are one” (*Education*, p. 30) then Adventist educators are in fact ministers in the truest sense of the word, preparing students “for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (*Education*, p. 13). They realize that the most important thing they can do for their students is to present Christ as Savior, Redeemer, soon coming Lord, and Friend. As one principal shared with his colleagues at a recent meeting of educators: “More than anything else, I want my teachers to mentor Jesus Christ to my students.”

Consider the words of another high school student who was so happy to be in an Adventist school that he pleaded, “You must not close this school. Please don’t close this school.” When asked why, he replied, “I would probably be in jail today if it wasn’t for this school. I got baptized last year.”

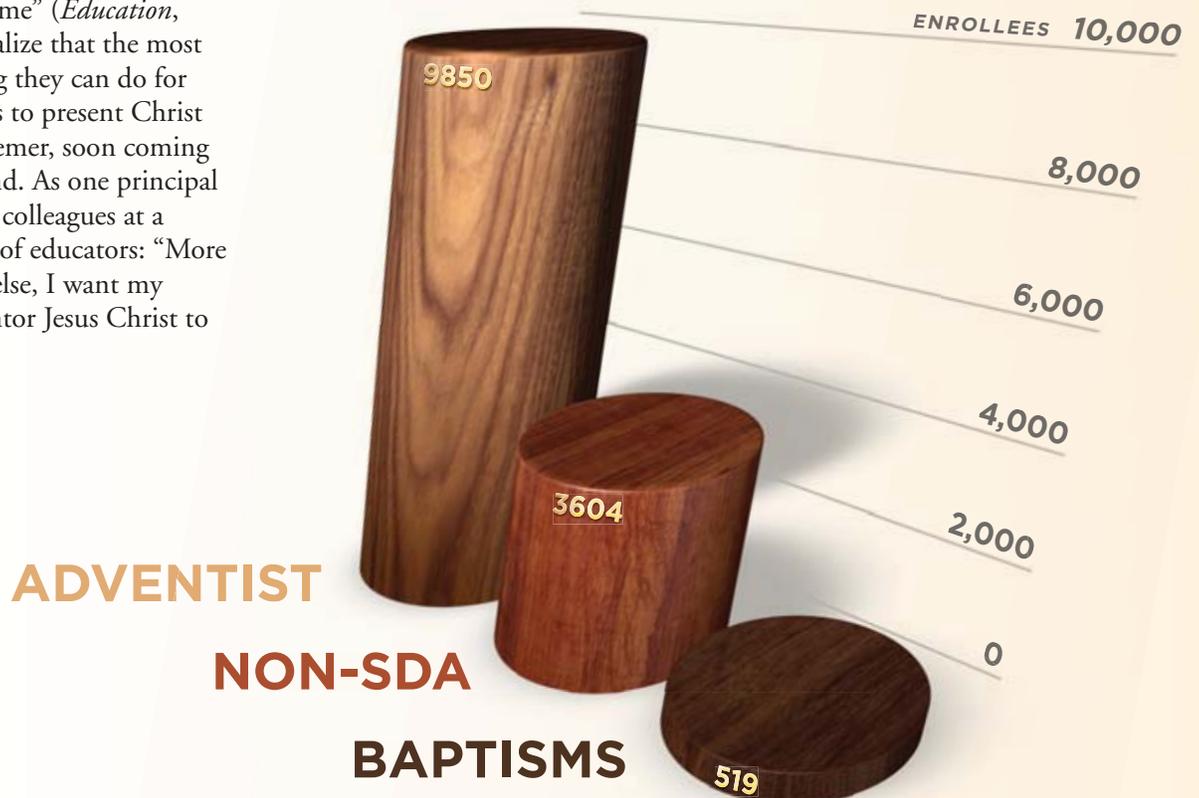
Yes, we in the Pacific Union Office of Education believe that the pioneers of the Adventist Church were wise in heeding divine counsel and visionary in laying the foundations for the educational program that now spans the globe with 15 colleges and universities

and 1,031 elementary and secondary schools in the North American Division alone. Educators minister to the needs of children and young people daily, preparing citizens for worthy service here and now while also preparing souls for heaven.

We are committed to providing quality education in the Pacific Union, and we solicit your prayers and support in helping us reach our goal—Collaborating to Educate for Eternity. ✎

Thambi Thomas

FIGURE 2





Faith Lives in Public Schools, Too

Something is happening on public college campuses across the Pacific Union. Seventh-day Adventist students are forming spiritual communities on campus to grow and share their faith. Pastors and lay leaders are calling students to a deeper spiritual life and an evangelistic lifestyle.

Just a few blocks from the lights and glitz of the Las Vegas strip, a different kind of light has been ignited. Students attending the University of Nevada Las Vegas recently formed the Adventist

This newly formed campus ministry has brought together students from several Adventist churches in the Las Vegas area. Some of them have been students at UNLV for two or three years and were not even aware that there were other Seventh-day Adventists on campus. Already this group has experienced the joy of fellowship and spiritual strength from studying God's Word together. The Adventist Student Association at UNLV is part of a Spirit-led movement to form Adventist-based Christian

communities that engage the public college campus for Christ. For more information, e-mail unlvasa@yahoo.com.

Campus Advent Network is such a group and has been active on the campus of the University of California San Diego since 2006. Pastor Richard Lee felt impressed to meet with a couple of students on campus for Bible studies. They soon formed CAN and became an officially registered campus

student group. Since 2006, their group has grown to more than 25 regular members.

The students enjoy many activities together. Besides the beach, bon-fires, bowling and their Monday night Bible studies, a few students sponsor small group studies in their dorm rooms each week. "At first the roommates left



during the study, but eventually they stayed to participate. Ultimately, several roommates began attending the weekly meetings and began to attend church on Sabbath," said Lee.

Growing Vine Ministries is the name of the church plant where the students attend. Lee was empowered by the San Diego Korean church to plant GVM. "The students are an integral part of this new congregation of around 50 people."

Adventist students attending the University of California at Berkeley can provide a glimpse into the future of these new groups. The Berkeley church was built in 1941 six blocks from the university and has been connected to various Adventist student groups on campus ever since. The relationship between church and campus has deepened in the past eight years. "We consider ourselves a campus church," says Lynn Savedra, a retired college professor and campus advisor to the student group. "Over 50 students participate in weekly events designed by the students themselves. For details, e-mail rpickell@mac.com.

Ron Pickell, pastor of the congregation, formerly served as Campus Chaplain at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where



Public campus ministry leaders and soon-to-be leaders met for Campus Catalyst, an interactive training weekend training event, in Sacramento in early May.

Student Association to be a beacon of light to the UNLV community. According to Meg Cruz, the ASA president, "The mission of ASA UNLV is to support and strengthen its members in their Christian walk through fellowship, Bible study and prayer and to bring others to Christ through outreach activities and witnessing."



Campus Advent Network members meet on the campus of University of California San Diego for Bible studies, small groups and social activities.

he managed Advent House, an Adventist student center on that campus. Pickell was asked to direct public campus ministries for the North American Division in 2005 and currently serves as coordinator for Adventist Christian Fellowship North American Division. Last year Pickell partnered with Kirk King, a former youth and young adult pastor in Boulder, Colo., and Pleasant Hill, Calif., and wrote a book on the topic for the NAD called, *The Word on Campus: A Guide to Public College Ministry*. The book was published in November 2008.

To make the best of the experience of both the Berkeley congregation and their pastor, the Center for College Faith was established in 2008 as a department of the local church. The Center partnered last September with the Pacific Union. King was tasked to help launch two new ministries in each of the seven local conferences in the union. This unique initiative, funded by the Pacific Union’s Creative Evangelism Endowment Fund, has uncovered a wealth of talent and passion on campuses and in churches across the union for this ministry with public college students. This union initiative is very important for the future of the Church, because two out of three

Adventist college students attend public institutions (Jimmy Phillips, “The Invisible Majority,” *Adventist Review*, Sept. 20, 2007, p. 8-13).

“I have been encouraged to see the Church at all levels respond to the needs of Adventist students attending public colleges and universities,” said Pickell. “Continued support for these emerging campus ministries is vital.”

One of the most important aspects of the public college initiative is Campus Catalyst, an interactive weekend training event for campus ministry leaders. The first Campus Catalyst was held in Pasadena, Calif., in March. Eighteen pastors and student leaders attended. The Southern California Conference has empowered a dozen pastors to help launch ministries on a many campuses as possible. They have started with Pasadena City College and the University of Southern California.

The second event was held May 2-4 in Sacramento, Calif. Students and other campus leaders connected to Sacramento State, University of California at Davis, the University of Nevada Reno and the University of Hawaii participated in this event.

Other training events are being planned in Southeastern California and Hawaii conferences for the fall and other events are still being negotiated.

Leaders of the University of Nevada Las Vegas Adventist Student Association meet to discuss plans for the new campus ministry.

While the value of supporting the faith journey of Adventist students attending public college cannot be overestimated, at its core this ministry is not merely about preservation. The ultimate goal is discipleship. The focus of this ministry is proclamation – students reaching students for Christ.

For most people, the first step in a journey to Jesus is becoming friends with a Christian.

Annie, a young Taiwanese student at UC Berkeley, was invited to a Bible study by her Adventist friend, and she never stopped attending. Annie became a part of the Adventist Christian Fellowship community and even joined the praise team at church. During her senior year, Annie joined the group on a mission trip to a Navajo reservation in New Mexico. As her graduation approached, she sent a card to Ron and Carolyn Pickell, the groups leaders. Her words illustrate the value of friendship evangelism: “I can see beautiful things in this religion, and therefore step by step I feel close to God. I have learned the most important idea from Jesus, that is to love and be loved.” 

Kirk King



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