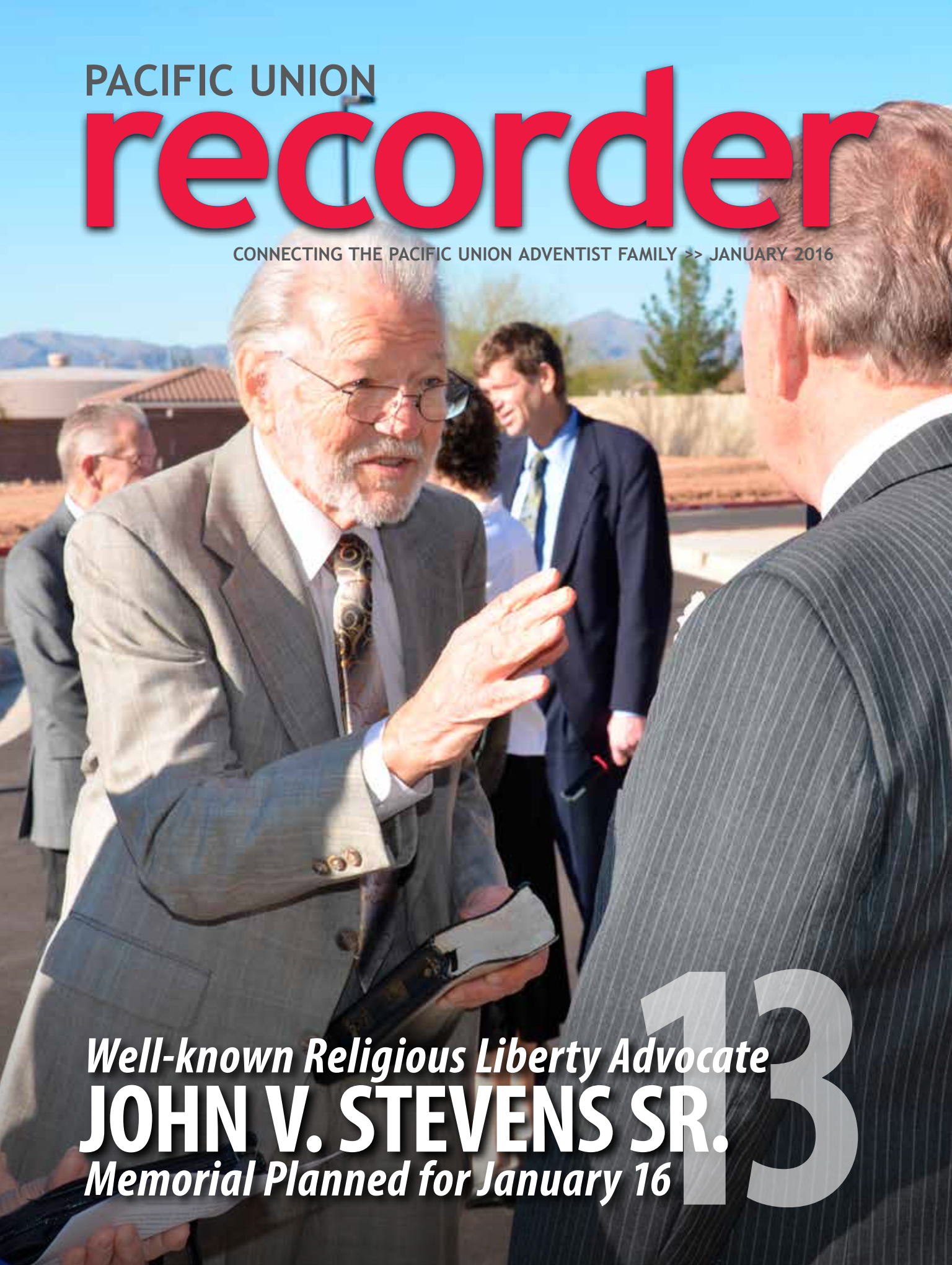


PACIFIC UNION

recorder

CONNECTING THE PACIFIC UNION ADVENTIST FAMILY >> JANUARY 2016



Well-known Religious Liberty Advocate

JOHN V. STEVENS SR.

Memorial Planned for January 16

13

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Elder John V. Stevens Sr., a well-known religious liberty advocate, greets visitors at the Clearview church in 2013, which he helped design and build.

PHOTO BY PHIL DRAPER



PACIFIC UNION recorder

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Welcoming the New Year

The year 2015 has gone into “eternity past.” The passing of time leaves its marks, however; we are a year older and (we hope) a year wiser.

Memories remain: some good, some not so good, and some horrible — such as the mass murders that have gripped our nation, even within our union territory. With regularity we hear of another atrocious event that overwhelms our minds, hearts, and souls. The 24/7 news cycle keeps them ever before us.

Then there is the “natural” passing away of our loved ones and friends. I have lost two of my precious relatives to cancer in less than a year. Many of you have lost close friends and relatives during 2015.

These sad events are interwoven with many joyous occasions: the birth of grandchildren (Audrey and I are still waiting for ours); the healing of loved ones; watching others grow closer to God; seeing new member-disciples joining churches throughout the Pacific Union Conference; and much, much more.

We press on into the unknown future with hope. As is oft said, “Hope springs eternal.” We hope our marriages are happy and that our children will do well. We hope our retirement funds and Social Security will be there when we need them.

The mixture of joy and sadness and the hard realities of this life can point us to the only real Hope of the world: Jesus Christ. It is our grand hope that one day soon Jesus will come and rescue us from these sinful surroundings that invade our lives with shock and sorrow.

It is only in Christ that we have hope of escaping the sin and sadness that Satan has perpetrated on this world. With regularity we are reminded of the power of evil around us. Yet the Bible tells us we can be saved from the evil that seems to press us at all times.

The apostle Paul reminds us of several facts: “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:4-10, NIV).

First, as we go into the year 2016, we know that God loves us dearly and that He is rich in mercy. Over and over and over, the Bible tells us of God’s great love for us. He gives us a new life, taking away the spiritual death of our transgressions; through new life in Christ we are seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).

Second, we know that God’s gracious salvation comes to us from His love, and it is actuated by our faith, our trust, and our belief in Him and His meritorious life. He gives us His grace as a free gift. And gifts are not earned.

While we are not required to work for our salvation, it is demonstrated in good works — unselfish works, godly works that start and end in with Jesus, who said, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16, NIV).

Yes, we are to do good works, but we don’t take credit for them; they originate with our kind, generous, magnanimous God. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17, NIV).

As we move into the year of 2016, we don’t know what will happen in this unstable world. Despite our best hopes, there will be trial, trouble, and tribulations in the new year. But there will also be joy, and peace in Jesus. As we act on the principles God has articulated to us in the Bible, we will see the outworking of our faith rewarded. And we will remember what Ellen White wrote years ago:

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (*Life Sketches*, p. 196).



Ricardo Graham

Oakland Spanish Church Presents Outreach Television Programs



Jose Marin preaches during the series.

This fall, an evangelistic series held at the Oakland Spanish church used the power of television and the influence of friendship to reach people for Christ, resulting in the baptism of 19 people.

Held Oct. 17-24, the meetings were broadcast live on 25 Spanish channels of Better Life TV, reaching people throughout Northern California and much of Oregon. In addition, hundreds of people viewed the meetings on YouTube.

Rather than film a standard church meeting, “we wanted to give the programs a television format,” said Jose Marin, NCC Hispanic ministries coordinator, who served as the series evangelist. Thus the series was titled “Jesus and the Revelation for the End,” and each evening was billed as a new episode of season one. (Next year the church hopes to produce season two.)

Before every meeting, two young announcers welcomed the television audience, followed by an interview with someone from the Northern California Conference office and then a testimony from a recently baptized person. After that, Marin gave a one-minute advertisement for his upcoming message. Then, musical guests — such as renowned mariachi singer José Ocampo — presented a selection before Marin gave his sermon. “God used and inspired Pastor Marin in the preparation and presentation of each message, bringing it to the heart of everyone present,” said Marco Molina, pastor of the Oakland Spanish church.

The programs ran smoothly and professionally — even though the church had never used cameras to broadcast anything before. Nine months earlier, 30 young people had formed a new ministry, called The Media Center, to begin training for the series — with help from Haroldo Poiret, a producer with Poiret Creations. “How a church with no experience in video ministry was able to prepare themselves was phenomenal,” said Marin. “Those watching the show couldn’t believe that the people running the program were amateurs.” Dozens of the young people advertised and reported on the meetings via numerous social media outlets.

In addition to the television audience, about 200 people came to the church each evening as a result of friendship evangelism. For the previous six months, Oakland Spanish church members had been inviting their friends to small group meetings. The congregation also hosted a community fair, attended by 300 people, in order to invite their neighbors to the series.

So far, 19 people have been baptized, including one man from Colombia who was visiting relatives and another man who serves as a leader for a community Bible study group.

Doralicia Aguilar chose to follow Jesus. “Some time ago, I heard the messages from Elder Alejandro Bullón through the internet,” she said. “Then I began to attend the church and receive Bible studies. But this week God confirmed



Oakland Spanish church Pastor Marco Molina celebrates with two newly baptized members.

His call to me, and I accepted Him as my Lord through baptism. I am full of joy to be a part of the church.”

Jose Dimas Alvarenga also made a decision. “Even though I had received Bible studies and had been attending church for a year, this week I decided to be baptized because, through the messages, I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit calling me.”

Julie Lorenz



Celene Fernandez and Ruben Vargas interview NCC President Jim Pedersen for the television audience.

NCC Asian/Pacific Convocation Focuses on Teamwork

“Use Me, Oh Lord” was the theme of the fourth annual Northern California Conference Asian/Pacific Convocation. About 450 people attended the event, held at the Antioch church on Sabbath afternoon, Nov. 14.

A unique feature of this year’s convocation was a formal recognition and appreciation of local church elders. About 50 elders came forward to receive commemorative pins, created especially for the occasion. “The elders are surely the backbone of the growth of our churches — and they’re all volunteers,” said James Lim, NCC Asian/Pacific ministries coordinator. “Without their support and commitment for the church of God, our churches would not be here.”

One of those honored was Alameda East Bay Chinese church head elder John Chen, who is 92 years old. “My favorite part of being an elder is

being able to come to church and share ideas with church members and also help each other to grow faith in Jesus Christ,” he said through an interpreter (Alameda East Bay Chinese church Pastor Larry Wai Chu). “I love to share the message of SDA doctrines with others — especially those who have not yet understood the SDA doctrines like Sabbath.”

Rogelia Gayoba Swaim was also recognized for her service. Now 80 years old, she has served as an elder at the American Canyon Fil-Am church since 2008. “It’s a calling,” she said. She likens the elders’ service to the support provided to Moses during Israel’s battle against the Amalekites. “The pastors can be weary and tired, and the elders can be like Aaron and Hur, supporting the pastors’ arms,” she said.

Several of the convocation’s popular features have already become an annual tradition. Each year, musicians from a variety of congregations

participate in the popular MusicFest. And each year a different group serves a meal to everyone after the meeting. This year the Stockton Fil-Am church prepared a Filipino dinner.

Marc Woodson, NCC executive secretary, presented the afternoon sermon to the congregation, which was made up of members from 12 churches, three companies and numerous smaller church plants representing many nationalities: Cambodian, Chinese, Fijian, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, Tongan and Vietnamese.

Many of the members of NCC Asian/Pacific congregations are immigrants to the United States, and they do not share a common culture or native language with each other. “But in the work of God for His kingdom, everybody is on the same team,” said Lim.

Julie Lorenz



Singers from the Sacramento Hmong church plant perform during the MusicFest.



About 50 local church elders receive commemorative pins in recognition and appreciation for their service.



Members of the Oakland Vietnamese church plant sing.



Attendees go through line before enjoying a Filipino meal together.

Lorenz Named New NCC Ministerial Director

On Nov. 10, the Northern California Conference Executive Committee voted to approve James "Jim" Lorenz II as the new NCC ministerial director. Lorenz has served as senior pastor of the Pleasant Hill church since 2008. He will begin his new, full-time position on Jan. 1, 2016.

Lorenz takes over the responsibilities recently held by Walter Groff, who returned to serving as full-time senior pastor of the Gracepoint church in Rocklin. "Walt brought new insights, fresh ideas and empathy to his role as ministerial director," said Lorenz. "I want to do likewise."

Lorenz has spent his entire pastoral career in Northern California. Before coming to Pleasant

Hill, he served as pastor of the Sacramento Woodside church for four years; as associate pastor of the Roseville church for seven years; and as pastor of the Antelope Hills/Rio Linda district for three years. "Over 20 years in the NCC, I've experienced many of the facets of ministry — solo, team leader, associate, district — and I'm hoping to use those experiences to help other pastors," he said.

In 2014, Lorenz received a Doctor of Ministry in leadership from the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He also holds a Master of Divinity from the seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in theology from Pacific Union College.

In his new role, he plans to place a major emphasis on teamwork. "One of my goals is to continue to facilitate cooperation among our pastoral team," he said. "Rather than seeing the local Adventist church down the street as our biggest competition, we need to collaborate together to further the gospel commission."

He has been married to Julie, NCC assistant communication director, for 23 years. They have two teenaged children, James and Judy, who are students at Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy.

Growing up, Lorenz lived in various places in California, Virginia, Mexico and Maryland. However, he prefers Northern California because



The Lorenz family: Jim, Julie, James and Judy.

it allows him to pursue his outdoor hobbies — cycling, hiking, and golfing — year round.

Lorenz looks forward to assuming his new job this month. "The ministerial director is often called 'the pastor to the pastors,'" he said. "I am excited to serve and support the excellent group of men and women we have on the NCC pastoral team."

NCC President Jim Pedersen is glad to see Lorenz in this leadership role. "I'm thrilled to have Jim taking on this new opportunity," he said. "I'm confident that the Lord will bless in many wonderful ways."

Stephanie Leal



BRENDA BRANDY

Jim Lorenz preaches at the Pleasant Hill church.

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New NCC Church and Company Organized



The Lincoln Amazing Grace church is a remodeled bank building.

In 2015, the Northern California Conference welcomed a company and a church into its sisterhood of congregations.

The Weimar Campus company was officially organized during a mid-week service on May 26, with campus chaplain Don Macintosh serving as the congregation's pastor.

For many years, students and staff at Weimar Institute attended several local churches in the area. However, their growing numbers were overwhelming the small churches, and the school's schedule of weekend events (vacations, mission trips, etc.) often kept the students from attending regularly.

The new congregation now can fashion its own programs and activities with an emphasis on its nearby community. "A big need of students is to have them leading people to the Lord — as they go to school. This can't be done if there is not a focus on the people that live near the campus," said Macintosh.

Church and school are now working closely together to prepare students for outreach. Macintosh cites the book *Counsels on Health*: "The education of students in medical missionary lines is not complete unless they are trained to work in connection with the church and the ministry" (pg. 557). The young company is already very active, presenting numerous Bible studies, running a community services center, as well as hosting two dental clinics and one eye clinic.

On Sabbath, Sept. 19, the Lincoln Amazing Grace church was organized as the conference's 142nd church, led by Pastor Rob Kearbey.

After a 2001 evangelistic series, 16 people started meeting together at a rented church in Lincoln across the street from the city's Spanish Adventist congregation. The group grew quickly, moved several times, and was organized into a company in 2006.

By 2008, the membership had reached about 110. Eager for a place of their own, they found a bank building for sale. "We needed to raise about \$375,000 for our down payment," said head elder Jerry Rowan. "With much prayer and faith that God would bless our efforts, we raised

the needed amount in about three months time!"

"We had many members helping remodel it from a bank building into a church," said church clerk Polly Rowan. "God blessed us with many miracles in the process of getting the church ready to move in." The congregation began worshipping there in Oct. 2009.

As the result of a recent evangelistic series, five new members have joined the church through baptism, and others are continuing to study. "I've really appreciated that church members are very warm and receptive to members and visitors," said Kearbey. "They're an extremely supportive church."

Julie Lorenz



Weimar Campus company members serve a meal as part of a community outreach.



Leaders of the Weimar congregation's 12 mid-week discipleship groups gather together.

South Bay Churches Reach Souls in the 1:1,004 Bay Area Window

“I’ve been a Seventh-day-Adventist all my life,” commented a host-church member, “and I have never seen such a comprehensive evangelistic plan executed in our church before.” The Central California Conference continues to forge ahead with its commitment to proclaim the gospel in the Greater Bay Area, which has the nation’s lowest ratio of Seventh-day Adventist residents to those who are not Adventist (1 to 1,004).

As a follow-up to last year’s Operation Blueprint evangelistic thrust in the City of San Francisco, reaching the South Bay region (also known as Area 2) was this year’s focus under CCC’s Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus initiative. Dr. Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI), along with an evangelistic team, was invited to present a series of practical evangelism training seminars and three introductory meetings followed by the main evangelistic series, all of which spanned a 13-month period.

Clouzet offered a comprehensive plan that would provide ongoing training for pastors and their lay leaders on effective approaches to evangelism. While the Mountain View Central church served as the main hub and host church,

18 Andrews University seminarians accompanied Clouzet to the Bay Area to hold coordinated evangelistic meetings in the 13 participating South Bay churches.

Area 2 pastors and lay leaders first met with Clouzet in August 2014 to listen to and engage with NADEI’s vision for reaching residents in their communities. Planning, preparation and promotion seminars followed in November 2014 and January 2015 with the purpose of engaging and rallying the various participating congregations in the NADEI evangelism process.

Clouzet, along with seminary professor Ed Schmidt, returned two months later to lead a weekend evangelism rally, which included friendship evangelism and prayer warrior training. The primary objective of the weekend was to inspire and empower the participating church lay leaders to effectively reach out to their neighbors, friends and relatives. Clouzet next held a week of revival meetings, which began the evening following the weekend rally. Multiple Area 2 churches joined the events via livestreaming.

Clouzet once again returned to the Bay Area in April 2015 to hold *Uncommon Insights on Jesus the Savior*, the first of three public

introductory meetings, while NADEI instructor Don James provided practical training on missional small groups. Attendees were able to gain specific and helpful skills on creating and maintaining small groups in their local churches as a way to support the discipleship process with attending and new members alike. Over the next few weeks, additional preparatory meetings were held in the Bay Area on topics including interest follow-up and Bible-study methods.

The second introductory meeting for the general public was an apologetics meeting entitled *Why God?*, which was preceded by a Forty Days of Prayer campaign intended to seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those attending the meeting. One of those guests was Yesenia Melgoza. Her uncle had received an invitation in the mail for the *Why God?* series and asked Melgoza to accompany him. Both enjoyed the meeting and attended the subsequent



VICTOR CARREIRO

Dr. Ron Clouzet, director of the North American Division Evangelism Institute, presents Prophecies Decoded meetings, which were broadcast to the participating churches.



CESAR DELON

A study in archeology revealed "Astonishing Discoveries in the Land of"

Astonishing Discoveries in the Land of the Bible lecture series two weeks later.

Astonishing Discoveries was the third general interest meeting focused on remarkable discoveries in archaeology. The series was co-presented by Clouzet and Southern Adventist University professor Michael Hasel and sought to make a case for the authenticity of Scripture based on the findings of archeologists through the centuries. The series involved guests and members of all ages. "While the adults were enjoying their archeology lectures," shares Janet Abbey, Mt. View's children's evangelism coordinator, "the children assumed the role of mini-archeologists as artifacts had been hidden around the church grounds." Abbey and her team created biblical and life applications for the artifacts as they traveled back in time.

On Sept. 10, 2015, Clouzet began the long-anticipated five-weekend *Prophecies Decoded* reaping meetings at the host church, along with 12 Area 2 churches that joined the effort either via a guest seminarian speaker or by web streaming Clouzet's meetings.

As a result of much prayer, work, study, coordination and cooperation, 47 attendees made the decision to follow Christ, as demonstrated by baptism, while 10 signified the same

decision by profession of faith. In addition, Abbey reports that, of the 15 children who were not Adventist, two were baptized, while four continue to attend church on a regular basis. "It was a joy to witness our Area 2 pastors coming together throughout the year to pray, dialogue, fellowship and plan together to make this South Bay area evangelistic thrust a success," reports Cesar De Leon, Central's ministerial/evangelism director.

Melgosa, a single mother of three, was baptized, along with her two of her children. Throughout the series, she not only brought two of her close friends to the meetings, but she also navigated the sudden death of her former husband — the father of her children — and invited his girlfriend to attend the meetings; she also made a commitment to follow Christ at the close of the series.

Another group also benefited from the comprehensive approach — Bay Area Adventist members. "Evangelism, in all its forms, is and must always be the life blood of any church," shares Kenny Fraser, pastor of the Mountain View Central church.

Clouzet agrees. "Their own hearts are transformed for the same reason the hearts of our guests are transformed: exposure to the Word of God," explains Clouzet. "Every Adventist that comes . . . ends up being revived. It never fails."

"I praise the Lord for the churches that came together in the spirit of the Bridges initiative," concludes Ramiro Cano, Central's president. "Our prayer is that the seeds sown as a result would bear much fruit for the Kingdom."

Carolann De Leon



of the Bible."



Attendees at a live-streamed location study intently.

Churches Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries

Over the last year, three more Central California Conference churches have reached historic milestones — 50- and 100-year anniversaries. The conference now has 25 churches that are at least 100 years old and 46 that are between 50-99.

The Clovis church held its 100th anniversary on Oct. 2-3, 2015, with a two-day program honoring the milestone. The event committee gathered a wide range of special guests and musical performances that highlighted the history and impact the church has had on its members and wider community.

Arthur Dahl, who served as pastor from 1957-1959, taught the Sabbath school lesson, drawing from his years of denominational work and his 97 years of life experience. The church service began with a welcome from conference president Ramiro Cano, followed by a time for testimonials from long-time members of the church. Joy Hiten-Kiser honored her father, Stanley Hiten, who pastored the church from 1969-1976, through an uplifting testimonial about their life together. Cheryl Walker-Robley and Clark Boone also shared cherished memories from their more than 60 years of membership.

No celebration is complete without musical performances, and the Clovis church offered a full cadre of music throughout the afternoon. The program began with a special performance from the mayor of Clovis, Nathan Magsig, and consisted of church musicians from throughout the decades. Most notable was organist Joy-Leilani Garbutt, an accomplished musician and a graduate student in music who, a few weeks

earlier, had played during Pope Francis' visit to Washington, D.C.

While 306 attendees signed the guestbook, it is estimated that more than 400 attended the event. As the Clovis church looks to the future, Lois Lee-Currier, a member for 45 years, reflects that while she may "have seen many changes and transitions throughout the years, Clovis church remains my extended family."

Porterville church also reached their 100th anniversary. More than 350 celebrated the historic event on Oct. 24, 2015, with a morning worship service conducted by former Porterville pastor Gerald Lutz. "He wove philosophical theories, church history and the Adventist message together to illustrate how our relationship with Christ is truly 'The Way Forward,'" said Karyn Neal, reflecting on the morning message.

Following the sermon, Cano spoke on the future of Porterville and its place in community outreach. Other former pastors who participated in the celebration included Sam Rutan, Joe Mallinson, Douglas Motsenbocker and Ken Lockwood.

After the morning program, Maribel and Raul Buenrostro provided a home-cooked Mexican meal, with the help of other members. The afternoon program commenced with Motsenbocker, Shirley Tiffin, and Stanford Wolfe, who also served as part of the celebration planning committee. They recounted the long history of the Porterville church, from its humble beginnings in private homes and its official construction in 1964, to its remodeling in the '90s. Accompanied by musical performances, the

afternoon celebration was a reminder to all those in attendance that their church has evolved over the years, creating a culture and community that is unique to Porterville. Ron Rasmussen, Central's executive secretary, emphasized this message and its importance, but also urged church members to focus on the future of the church and its work for God.

Lindsay Hispanic church celebrated 50 years on Sept. 5-6, 2015. As with Clovis, Lindsay put together a two-day program for this occasion. Cano was among the special guests and presented the sermon during the Sabbath program. Antonio Huerta, Central's director of Hispanic ministries, expressed appreciation to the Lindsay Hispanic church for the 50 years of dedication and hard work.

Cano invited several young people who want to go into pastoral ministry for a special prayer. Former pastor Victor Collins dedicated their work to the Lord. Other former pastors in attendance were Rueben-Dario Sanchez and Antonio Romero. Dr. David Zincke was honored for major contributions during the past 50 years. He helped found the church and is remembered by former patients as a kind and loving man.

Along with Zincke, 83-year-old Margarita Lapostol, who is considered the "mother of the church," was also honored for her years of dedication and love. Attendance for the event was around 300 people from across the Central Valley. When asked about the future of Lindsay Hispanic, Pastor Ricardo Wainz made it clear that evangelism through their worldwide Internet station — Radio Lindsay — and community outreach would be the areas of focus during the next 50 years.

"What a blessing it is to rejoice in God's leading during these many years. The sacrifices of time, talents and treasures from consecrated members have proved to make positive contributions in building God's kingdom," concludes Rasmussen. "Let's continue to reflect Christ and transform our communities."

James Montague and Karyn Neal



Aspiring pastors receive a special dedication prayer at Lindsay Hispanic church's anniversary celebration.



The Porterville church congregation celebrates 100 years.

WENDELL PAYPA

Gisella Montana Commissioned to the Gospel Ministry

Pastor Gisella Montana was commissioned to the gospel ministry at the Desert Palms church Sabbath, Nov. 21. The church was filled with people impacted by her 11-year ministry in Tucson.

"I have watched Gisella's ministry for many years and truly believe God has called her to do a special work for Him," said Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile. "We need more women in ministry like Gisella!"

Retired Desert Valley pastor Helmer Heghesan and his wife, Lanny, presented the candidate; Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile presented a special homily in her honor; Desert Valley senior pastor Jim Brauer gave the commission challenge; Arizona Conference Executive Secretary Mike Ortel offered the commission prayer; and Lynn Ortel and Myriam Salcedo Gonzalez welcomed Montana.

Montana was born in Glendale, Calif. As a pastor's and principal's kid, she says she was "PK squared." She remembers learning about Jesus from an early age and believes this foundation was crucial in taking her to where she is today.

Montana's call to ministry came gradually. "God knew exactly how to speak to a quiet girl," she remembers. "If God had told me in high school I would be preaching to 200 people on any given Sabbath, or I would get involved in a church planting project, I might have run in the opposite direction!"

Instead, God started gently speaking to her in Bible classes. Montana knew early in high school that becoming a Bible teacher was something God was putting on her heart as she felt a burden to connect with God at a deeper level.

Her junior year, she participated in an exchange program to River Plate Adventist Academy in Entre Rios, Argentina. While living away from the comforts of home, she was drawn closer to Jesus. By the time she finished the year abroad, she knew she would be studying theology in preparation for a career teaching high school Bible.

Montana completed her degree in theology at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif., graduating in December 2003. Somewhere along the

way, during homiletics, Romans and systematic theology, and after the first hurdle of preaching a sermon in front of her class, gentle nudging came. God seemed to be pushing her toward serving in a church setting.

She interviewed at Desert Valley church in Tucson, Ariz., and was hired as associate pastor.

Montana worked with Heghesan for eight years, gaining experience in a variety of areas of ministry — preaching, mission trips, school chapels, visitation and giving Bible studies. She was also heavily involved in a church-planting venture — an experience of a lifetime.

For the past three years, Montana has worked with Brauer. During this time, she has developed her

passions in ministry — children, outreach and education.

"What a blessing to be prayed over and have God's call affirmed," said Montana.

Phil Draper



Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile presents Pastor Gisella Montana with her commissioning certificate.



Pastors surround Gisella Montana in prayer during her commissioning service.

Well-Known Religious Liberty Advocate John V. Stevens Sr. Passes Away

Elder John V. Stevens Sr. was born Velimir Bogdanovic in 1928. He and most of his family became Seventh-day Adventists in 1942. Having a deep love for God and desire to share Jesus, he took theology at Union College where he graduated in 1949.

Stevens attended the seminary at Washington Missionary College, graduating in 1951 with a Master of Divinity and a master's in speech. After graduation, he married the love of his life, Wyn McKee. They moved to New York to intern at the Brooklyn church.

The couple welcomed their son, Johnny, in 1954 and daughter, Linda, in 1955. After New York, they pastored in Greensboro, N.C. Next they moved to Atlanta, Ga., where Stevens helped build a church and a school that later became Atlanta Junior Academy.

In 1963, Stevens became pastor of the Phoenix Central church. He was elected president of the Arizona Conference in 1968. During that time, he enjoyed preaching at many churches in the state, and working on building projects,

such as a hospital in Tempe, a new conference office, schools and churches, and renovations at Thunderbird Adventist Academy and Camp Yavapines in Prescott.

An avid writer, Stevens published a religious events newsletter, *Undercurrent*, for many years. He contributed to numerous church papers and authored the book, *The Abortion Controversy*, in 2008.

In 1974, he became the religious liberty director of the Pacific Union. He had always been a strong advocate for the oppressed and a believer in separation of church and state. For 20 years, Stevens preached within the Pacific Union about freedom, God's love and church-state issues. He worked with government officials and employers, defending those whose religious convictions conflicted with their livelihood.

His wife was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1993 and he

retired to be a full time companion and later, care giver. She lost her battle in 1994.

Stevens went to sleep in Jesus on Nov. 27, 2015, with his family by his side. He is survived by Johnny and Linda and granddaughter Savannah Stevens; Bob and Linda Stevens Spady and grandchildren Jeff and Julie Spady and Heidi Spady.

Stevens awaits the happy reunion with his wife and speaking with His Lord face-to-face. He tirelessly gave of all he had because of His love for God and others.

A memorial service is planned for Jan. 16 at 3 p.m. at the Clearview church, 19554 N. Papago Dr., Surprise, Ariz.

Phil Draper



Stevens welcomes visitors at the grand opening of the Clearview church.



Stevens speaks at the Clearview church in 2013, which he helped design and build.

Two SECC Churches Provide Fun, Safe Events on Halloween Night

"It's better than Halloween," 8-year-old Abigail DeLaRocha said of the Loma Linda Korean church's Fall Festival on the evening of Oct. 31. And this was exactly what the church had in mind when putting together this safe, family-friendly activity for their church family and the Grand Terrace community.

The church has hosted a Fall Festival for several years now, as part of its emphasis on children's ministries. "We have such a vibrant family ministry and small group ministry focus here," said Richard Lee, senior pastor. "I'm proud to see so many parents and students help make this happen."

This year's event brought a total of 200 participants, along with elaborately decorated car trunks for Trunk or Treat, carnival games with prizes, a bounce house and delicious treats ranging from candy to fair food to Korean street food (kimbap, ddukbokki, mandu, odeng and soup) made by the Korean women's ministries team.

"It was great to see everyone working together," said children's ministries coordinator Jane Kim, who organized this year's festival.

"It's our goal to have all the different ministries come together to create something meaningful for the kids in our church and community. No matter what age we are or culture we're from, we worship the same God and we all care about our kids."

It was evident that church unity was an underlying theme of this event. Apart from the sentiment expressed from ministry leaders, other participants also had plenty to say about the church's collaborative spirit.



Adrienne Jean-Marie and her son, Ashton, hand out treats from their trunk at Juniper Avenue church's Trunk or Treat event.



One of the most popular booths at Loma Linda Korean church's fall festival was the Pie the Pastor booth. Richard Lee, senior pastor, appreciated the protective goggles.



Juniper Avenue church's men's ministry booth (l. to r.): Micha Brooks, Dillon Thomas, Marcus Mitchell, and Jonathan Jean-Marie.

“It was so much fun interacting with all the adorable, costumed children and seeing how other people got creative with their trunks,” said Michelle Cho, a member of the campus ministry group. “All in all, it was great to see our ministries come together to provide a fun and safe atmosphere for the children of our church and neighborhood.”

One child even questioned why others would go trick-or-treating in the first place. “Fall Festival is way better,” said 8-year-old Micah Song. “It was epic!”

Juniper Avenue

For Juniper Avenue church in Fontana, this was their first time hosting a “Trunk or Treat” event. Juniper’s family life leader, Lajona Allen-Cooper, suggested this event as an effective method of outreach to the community, as well as a way to get families out together on a Saturday night in a safe place.

Church members passed out 500 flyers to the surrounding area, and more than 60 people came by to enjoy the candy-filled trunks, live gospel music, sweet treats and a variety of activities.

“I was so happy to see so many of our members assist in this event,” said pastor Delroy Brooks. “And two community families said they appreciated the safe environment for their kids.”

Aside from costumes and candy, participants also had a chance to play games such as a bean

bag toss, wheel of fortune and arm wrestling. Other booths included face painting, food such as popcorn and cotton candy, a snow cone machine, and an educational booth about the roots of Halloween.

“Kids kept asking me, ‘Are we doing this next year? Are we doing this next year?’” said

Allen-Cooper. “Even my teenager wanted to know!”

The Juniper Avenue church hopes to continue this trunk or treat tradition next year.

Amy Prindle



The Treehouse, a campus ministry small group at Loma Linda Korean church, celebrates after winning second place in the trunk decorating contest. (From left: Gregory Jeon, Noah Kim, Michelle Cho, Emily Kim, Jane Kim and Daniel Yu).



Young warrior Aiden Baek uses his might to knock over milk cans and win tickets for prizes at the Loma Linda Korean church.

SECC Ordains Two Pastors

Gilberto Del Vecchio, associate pastor of Corona church, was ordained May 30, 2015.

Del Vecchio has long held a passion for youth and young adult ministry. After serving as ministerial student intern at the Chino Portuguese Speaking church during his education at La Sierra University, he was called to be the chaplain

at Calexico Mission School. He served seven years there as a spiritual mentor for kids, teaching Bible classes, organizing chapel programs, visiting families and giving Bible studies. He also began pastoring part-time in a four-church district in the cities of Brawley and El Centro.

Now at the Corona church, he enjoys working with Pathfinders, high-schoolers and young adults. He has spearheaded several youth and young adult Bible studies and recruited volunteers to help with Sabbath school classes. "I love building teams and watching people work together. It's great to watch people get to know each other, finding out what they're good at, and what they like to help with and then growing that with the right placements and training."

Del Vecchio also enlisted the assistance of a professional vocal coach to help kids' confidence in singing. As a result, Corona has a tribe of enthusiastic kids who love to worship God.

"A group still meets on Friday evenings for voice lessons and singing, many times with guitars and ukuleles as well," said Del Vecchio. "We have an amazing group. They have already recorded in a studio."

In addition to his church responsibilities, Del Vecchio has a deep passion for his chaplaincy training.

He has been pursuing his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and has been very active at the Loma Linda University Medical Center.

"As I started this level of chaplaincy training, I was hooked," he said. "[The students] meet together as a group with professionals to discuss our learning goals, and if you're serious about making your ministry better and let yourself be vulnerable, you can have a customized program to your strengths. I'm almost finished, and it's been one of the greatest gifts the conference has given me, to have this opportunity to work in chaplaincy. It's not easy to consistently be the bearer of bad news, and to see the worst of physical and mental health. But it strengthened my spirituality.

"I want to mention one of my mentors, Alfred Kambaki, the ACEPE supervisor for the chaplaincy department at LLUMC," Del Vecchio continued. "During a tough time in finding my spiritual stride, I credit him with saving my ministry. He challenged me, never judged me, and took time to entertain any questions I had. He was so calm and gentle, and helped me explore ideas and start connecting the dots to where I am now."

Looking forward, Del Vecchio also aspires to continue integrating technology into the worship services at Corona to streamline the operation of each worship service. The church has wi-fi, Apple TVs and iPads for use in Sabbath school classrooms, and attention is being given to servers and websites as well.

"The Corona church both recognizes and appreciates the ministry of Gilberto," said Corona's senior pastor, Gary Taber. "His ministry is an outflow of his love and relationship with God and his love and compassion for people, both church family and in our community. He has a desire to continue growing in his understanding and relationship with God. This is evident in his willingness to share his journey with others."

"He has a passion for the youth and young adults in our church, as evidenced in his advocacy on their behalf with the pastoral staff and church board for their inclusion in the worship, events and leadership positions. Gilberto has a compassion for those with needs, whether physical, emotional or spiritual. We are grateful for his ministry to our church."



Gilbert Del Vecchio, associate pastor at Corona church, shares how he was led to ministry.



Gilbert Del Vecchio, associate pastor at the Corona church, with his wife, Renata, and their two children, Gabriella Raen (11) and Allan Joshua (6), who attend La Sierra Academy.

Darren Miles Carrington

Darren Miles Carrington, pastor of the San Diego South Bay church, was ordained Oct. 17, 2015.

After becoming an Adventist at the age of 15, Carrington was told by the pastor who baptized him that he saw him becoming a pastor. This inspired Carrington to pursue a degree in theology, though his first career efforts were in social services. From 1998 to 2005, Darren worked in the public sector with at-risk youth and their families in the City Heights, East County and South Bay communities through the San Diego State University Foundation.

In 2001, he received a distinct call into full-time ministry. During a trip to Dallas, he was impressed that becoming a pastor was his goal, and before he could even pursue a job, he was interviewed by two different churches for full-time ministry opportunities.

He began pastoring the Paradise Valley church as an associate, focusing on youth and young adult ministry. He carried with him his compassion for inner city youth and families and for involving youth and young adult efforts to reach out to this demographic.



Darren Miles Carrington, pastor of the San Diego South Bay church, spends time with his son, Drew, at a baseball game.

He then went on to work at Azure Hills church in Grand Terrace. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and enjoyed working with the pastoral staff."

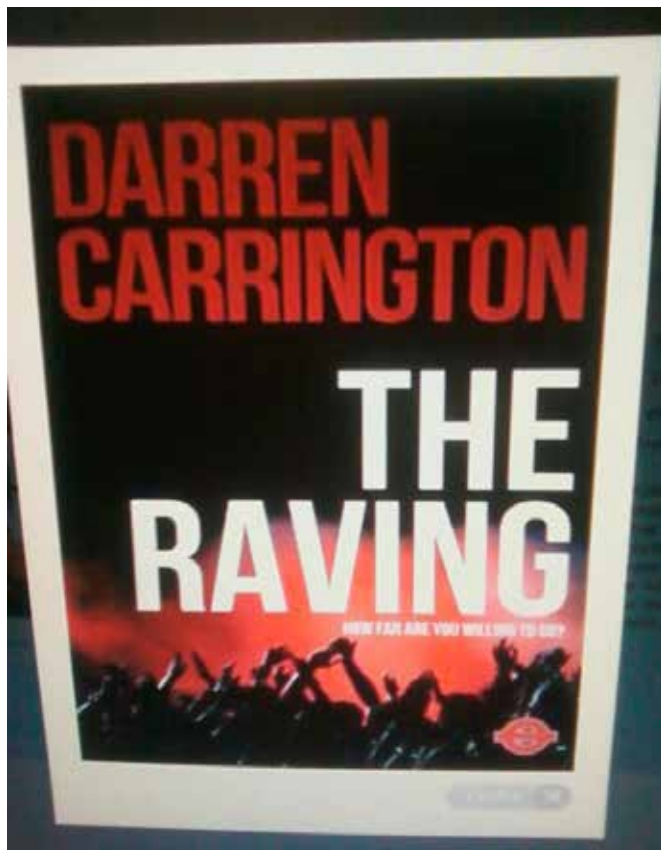
Carrington then returned to Paradise Valley church and began working with refugees as part of the Refugee Assimilation Project (RAP) ministry. He was then called to pastor the San Diego South Bay church in January 2014.

Looking back, Carrington appreciates both his undergrad and grad work at La Sierra. He particularly enjoyed classes by Ginger Hanks-Harwood. "Her classes were instrumental in teaching me the ties between Adventist history and the issues in our communities today, and how to continue the historic Adventist desire for social justice and to help our communities."



Darren Miles Carrington is the pastor of the San Diego South Bay church.

Carrington also enjoys sports such as football and baseball, and loves attending games with his son, Drew, 17, a senior at The Learning Choice Academy. But his number one hobby is writing. In 2012, he even published a novel, *The Raving*, about a Christian athlete facing difficult decisions. He used the funds earned to help further youth ministry in the San Diego area. (This book is available on Amazon.com.)



Also an avid writer, Darren Miles Carrington published a book in 2012 about a Christian athlete facing tough choices.

Amy Prindle

SHINE Girls Retreat Inspires Young Women Across the Conference

The largest slumber party of Southeastern California Conference's year took place in Riverside as 52 young women gathered at the Hampton Inn and Suites near the conference office for the annual SHINE girls retreat on Nov. 6. Girls enjoyed a relaxing weekend in their pajamas while they played games, made friends, took wacky pictures in a photo booth and participated in a spiritually enriching program.

The SHINE girls retreat has been an annual SECC event since 2005, organized by the Hispanic ministries department. After 2010, it became open to girls from the entire conference.

"The whole idea behind SHINE is to cater to young women's needs, encouraging them to allow God to enrich their lives and in turn be able to 'shine like the stars in the heavens' [see Phil. 2:15] so that others may see their living testimony," said Marvella Garcia-Mijangos, administrative assistant in Hispanic ministries and organizer of the retreat. "The event was a success, and I'm so grateful for my team members: Judith De La Rosa, Vanessa Jara and Liz Fonseca."

SHINE's theme this year was "Jars of Clay: Allowing Yourself to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit," presented by Anthony Penick, associate

district pastor. Many attendees remarked at how humorous and dynamic the program was while also encouraging a deep, ever-growing relationship with Jesus.

"It was such a wonderful message," Garcia-Mijangos continued. "Spirituality is a journey we're constantly on, no matter what stage of life we're in or how old we are."

"I really loved the music," said attendee Sharon Romero. "I felt so connected to God and disconnected from all the usual distractions. The program was powerful and the drama [presented by La Sierra University's Roots Ministry] was amazing. I like how they acted out Bible stories as if they were taking place now."

Teresa Alvarez Diaz, a regular SHINE attendee and chaperone, agrees that SHINE's program is always powerful with lasting effects. Each year Alvarez Diaz brings a group of girls from Calexico Mission School, several of whom do not have a regular church home to go to. "I've always enjoyed watching them come alive at this retreat," she said.

"And for me," Alvarez Diaz continued, "it's so nice to have a break in the routine where I can recharge and focus on my own spirituality. And I love how the gospel is made so relevant to everyone, no matter who you are or what you do. I don't feel like a chaperone — I feel like one of the girls!"

Providing an event that is appealing across a wide age range is a central goal for the event, according to Garcia-Mijangos. "We especially want to emphasize how this event is for girls age 13 to no age limit! We try to treat everyone like an adult, like a peer, without talking down to anyone. The program is general, with principles relevant to everyone, whether you're 13 or 20 or 50. It's a time to look at how far you've come, where God has brought you and where He's still leading you."

The SHINE girls retreat will continue to take place the second weekend of each November. Next year it will return to its usual location at Pine Springs Ranch.



The praise team leads attendees into worship on Sabbath morning.



Marvella Garcia-Mijangos, organizer of the event, announces and celebrates the birthdays of several of the attendees.



Anthony Penick, associate district pastor, preaches and prays during the SHINE girls retreat.

Amy Prindle

The Narrow Gate

A study guide to help individuals and churches grow in their understanding of the Kingdom (Matthew 7).

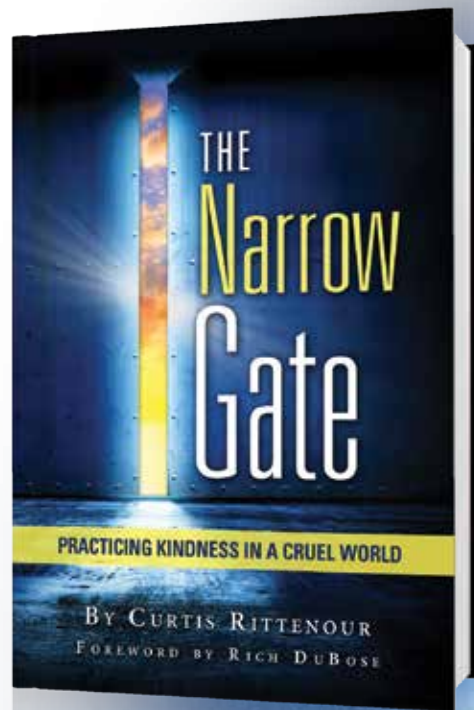
Author, Curtis Rittenhour (Foreword by Rich DuBose). Published by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services, 2015.

We live in an increasingly divided age where political parties refuse to dialogue and govern for the common good; where cultural issues become incendiary weapons that inspire conflict and confrontation; where religion is mocked for its inability to effect change; where war is touted as the best way to resolve differences; and where many churches manifest the same divisions and hatreds within their own ranks that are in the world. Is it any wonder that so many question if there really is a God? They haven't seen Him manifested among those who profess to know Him.

In a familiar, universally acclaimed passage of Scripture, Jesus said that all who enter His kingdom will have traveled over a difficult road that eventually leads through a narrow gate. But the road to hell is broad, smooth and easy to travel.

Read full article:

www.whenpeoplearekind.org/kindness



Stories of Faith

The Forty-Five Year Dream – One of the longest and most successful music ministry ventures within Adventist circles has been the Heritage Singers. For 45 years, more than 300 singers have passed through and participated in a ministry that has been revolutionary and inspirational in many ways. In this short video, Max and Lucy Mace reflect on what it's been like to travel with Heritage on this journey.

The Pacific Union Conference produces short videos for inspirational and ministry purposes. They can be downloaded and shown in various settings. Visit: www.vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith



inspire

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Christ Culture

inSpire 2016



The inSpire weekend (**April 15-17, 2016**) at Carmichael Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sacramento, California, is an inspiring weekend that focuses on using the arts to communicate God's message of hope and healing with our world. It is FREE to all and takes place Friday evening, all day Sabbath, and Sunday morning. If you are an Adventist creative (artists, musicians, photographers, poets, songwriters, videographers and writers, etc.), you are invited to join us for a compelling and creative experience.

For more details visit: www.VisitinSpire.org

Enjoy a mix of dynamic presentations, music, visual media, interviews, an open mic and more. If you are an Adventist creative, consider joining our online database so you can be part of the discussion and we can find out about you.

Find us at: www.VisitinSpire.org/artist/inspire

Tired of Trouble

by Rich DuBose



We spend a lot of time trying to eliminate life's problems. Isn't that what we all dream of — a trouble-free life? The problem is, that's a fantasy! There is no such thing as a trouble-free life. Trouble and life go hand-in-hand. If you have one, you have the other. Job said, "People are born for trouble as readily as sparks fly up from a fire" (Job 5:7). Again, "How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of trouble! We blossom like a flower and then wither. Like a passing shadow, we quickly disappear" (Job 14:1-2). Jesus said, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows" (John 16:33).

Even though we don't like to think of it, eventually our troubles will mushroom into a final

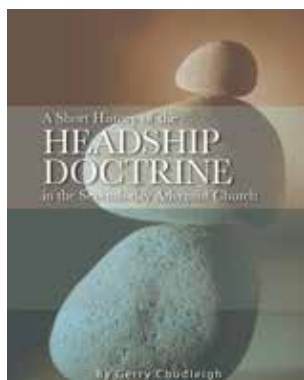
illness, or we will experience a tragic accident that results in our death! That's a morose thought, but it's true.

When trouble comes our way we should not think it strange or believe that we are being singled out. It happens to everyone. Some people increase their troubles by making poor decisions that affect their health, relationships or economic well-being. No one is handed a manual at birth that details all of life's potential pitfalls and problems. We must learn as we go.

Read full article at: www.whenpeoplearekind.org/trouble

Resources

You Can Use



Headship Doctrine, (*A Short History of the Headship Doctrine in the Seventh-day Adventist Church*), by Gerry Chudleigh

In the late 20th century, many Seventh-day Adventists adopted the “headship principle,” a doctrine which attempts to establish a biblical basis for excluding women from leadership positions in the home and the church. This book defines headship theology, explains why it was Calvinists who developed it, and outlines

how and why it was adopted by some Adventists.

Published by Gerry Chudleigh, 2014. Paperback.

Available from: AdventSource.org **Price:** US\$3.95

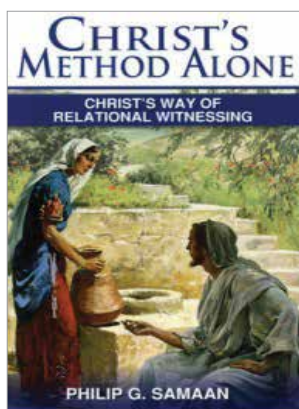
Christ’s Method Alone

by Philip G. Samaan

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’ . . . “Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit” (*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 143, 144).

Published by Review and Herald Publishing.

Available from: AdventistBookCenter.com **Price:** US\$3.95



The Media Story, by Dustin Comm

Do you want to be part of community of churches who are innovating, experimenting, failing, and learning how to infuse media into their physical evangelism efforts? *The Media Story* teaches churches how to tell their story (the way they want it received) by creating media in conjunction with their community outreach.



Published by Dustin Comm, 2015. Electronic, 45 pages.

Available at: themediastory.church **Price:** US\$2.99

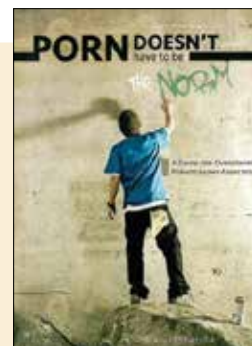
Porn Doesn't Have to Be the Norm, by Omar Miranda

If you think pornography can't be a problem in your church, consider how pervasive it has become, even among professed Christians. A pornography epidemic is infesting American homes via television and the Internet. Whether you are struggling with an addiction to pornography, seeking to help a loved one, or you want to create a change in your church and community, this book can help you get started.

Author Omar Miranda shows a clear path for empowering people to begin the process of overcoming this addiction. It includes information about the dangers of pornography, how to recognize pornography addiction, sample programs for churches, helpful resources, and more.

Published by AdventSource, 2015. Paperback, 29 pages.

Available from: AdventSource.org **Price:** US\$2.95



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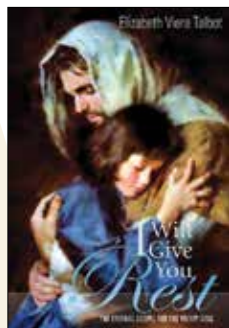
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I Will Give You Rest: The Eternal Gospel for The Weary Soul, by Elizabeth Viera Talbot

When my mother breathed her last, “one reality trumped all my other thoughts, feelings, and beliefs: She was resting in Jesus; evil

could no longer touch her, pain could no longer reach her, the devil could no longer bother her. She was in complete rest in Jesus. And that was true not merely because she had died, but because she had passed away with the full assurance of her eternal salvation.”

This true rest is available to each of us today! The full assurance of salvation can be ours when we accept the rest God offers at the foot of the cross.

When the rubber meets the road, when we are at our wit’s end, when we come to the end of our journey, or when the life of a loved one is about to slip away, we must have a clear, unquestionable, and assured reality: rest in Jesus, because Jesus wins!

Published by Pacific Press, 2015. Paperback, 109 pages. **Price:** US\$2.99
Available from: your local Adventist Christian bookstore or AdventistBookCenter.com

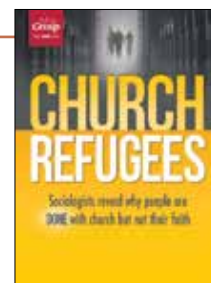
Church Refugees, by Josh Packard and Ashleigh Hope

As millions of church members fall into inactivity each year, they’ve probably also started skipping church.

We need answers — not statistics. We need to understand and hear from people who are leaving church so we can find a way to turn around the trend.

This book uses in-depth sociological research to get to the heart of the issue. The data is collected from interviews with real people about why they left and who they really are. These aren’t the “nones” who have no religious affiliation. They’re the “dones” who’ve been faithfully serving in local churches for years. This is their story.

Published by Group, 2015. Paperback, 143 pages. **Price:** US\$12.98
Available from: Amazon.com



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Produced by Pacific Union Conference Creative Ministries

NUC Hosts Prison Ministry Collaboration

The Nevada-Utah Conference hosted its first prison ministries collaboration between APMOA (Alliance of Prison Ministries Organizations & Affiliates,) a local conference and the Pacific Union. APMOA President Daniel McManus was the keynote speaker with themed talks about “Evangelism Behind Bars.”

Attendees came from the Nevada-Utah, Northern California, Rocky Mountain and Alaska conferences. Steve Steenmeyer, prison ministries leader in the Alaska Conference, shared his personal testimony as well as information about the Bible study program that is thriving with the offenders in his territory.

Other guest speakers included Arnold Trujillo, vice president of the Pacific Union; Ed Keyes, president of the Nevada-Utah Conference; and Pastor O’Neil Madden, pastor of the Abundant Life church in Las Vegas. Presenters combined insightful strategies with compelling personal testimonies.

“I have never heard so many powerful testimonies regarding prison ministries,” said one attendee.

“Prison ministries needs more publicity so that people will see the power of it and get involved,” said another.

Betty Kelley, prison ministries coordinator for the Pacific Union, partnered with Westney White, prison ministries director for the Nevada-Utah Conference, in planning and supporting the event.

Each attendee received certification in nine different areas of prison ministry.



Arnold Trujillo, Betty Kelley, Ed Keyes and Daniel McManus at the first prison ministries collaboration between APMOA, the Nevada-Utah Conference and the Pacific Union.



Westney White Attendees show off their prison ministry certificates.

Elko Church Collaborates with Area Churches for Reformation-Themed Event

In October, the Elko, Nev., church joined with other area Christian churches for a program marking the 498th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Thesis against common church practices. That event, on Oct. 31, 1517, launched the Protestant Reformation.

The Elko event, designed as a Christian alternative to local Halloween celebrations, featured a dramatization of the life of Luther and his faith in “Sola Scriptura” (the Bible alone). Organizers hoped to inspire attendees with stories of people who were willing to sacrifice their lives for the gospel.

Church leaders discovered that most children and many adults didn’t know much about

Martin Luther and the Reformation. They confused him with Martin Luther King Jr., a more familiar name in the current era. A dramatized presentation of the key events of the Reformation shed light on history for both the spectators and participants.

To prepare, actors were required to read four chapters in *The Great Controversy* that cover the life of Luther in addition to memorizing the script. The 2003 feature film “Luther” was also shown during the program.

Roselyne Leon



Participants of all ages worked hard on their costumes.

GLAR Director Royal Harrison and Region Pastors Ramp Up for 2016 Evangelism

In a sense, Royal L. Harrison has been preparing since childhood for his role as pastor and now as Greater Los Angeles Region (GLAR) director — a role to which he was called in June 2015 following the death of the previous director, Anthony J. Kelly. “As a child, I was always fascinated by preachers, in awe of them,” he said. “At the time, I never considered being a preacher myself, but now I recognize that perhaps that fascination was an early sign that God was calling me into ministry.”

Harrison has been in California since he was 5 years old, when his father was stationed at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino. He was 7 when his parents became members of the Adventist church.

Harrison attended public schools during elementary and high school. A year after graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served four years. While enlisted, he married Dominique Cushenberry. She is a graduate of Auburn University in Montgomery, Ala., and Loma Linda University and is a nurse practitioner. The couple has been married more than 34 years, and they have two adult children: Devin, 28, a graduate of Walla Walla University; and Jade, 23, a senior at La Sierra University.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the military, Harrison enrolled at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University). “Through many life-challenging experiences,” he said, “the Holy Spirit began working on my heart until I surrendered and enrolled at Oakwood.” Harrison went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree at Andrews University and is currently working on a Doctor of Ministry at Western Seminary, which he hopes to complete in 2016.

He began his public and professional ministry in the Southeastern California Conference at the Kansas Avenue church, under the guidance of senior pastor Jesse Wilson, D.Min. He went on to become the sole pastor of the Perris Fifth Street church in Perris, Calif. In 2004, he accepted a call to pastor the Sharon church in Portland, Ore. In



Harrison baptizes one of the 400 candidates who chose Jesus as a result of his evangelist series in the Philippines.

2010, he accepted a call to SCC, where he served as senior pastor of the Valley Crossroads church until 2015, when he was invited to direct GLAR.

“Though I don’t consider myself an evangelist,” Harrison reflected, “God has blessed me by allowing me to preach all over the nation and in the Philippines, where God’s Spirit fell and more than 400 people were baptized. He has enabled me to be one of the leaders in baptisms in each of the conferences in which I have served. I am truly grateful for His blessings in this way.”

In his role as GLAR director, he and the region pastors are planning for the 2016 Convocation, and for evangelism in GLAR churches in 2016. Harrison noted that the region also is

planning to plant a church in Carson. Part of GLAR’s evangelism will be participating in the overall Pathway to Health campaign, involving pre-training, the event itself April 26-29, and follow-up health and spirituality outreach afterward.

In addition to evangelism, Harrison has a passion for preaching and for family ministry, a key factor in the region’s decision to call Pastor John Trusty, Ph.D., an experienced pastor and family ministry proponent, to succeed Harrison as senior pastor of the Valley Crossroads church.

Betty Cooney

Hollywood Church Lends a Hand — and Hope — to the Homeless

The homeless population jumped 12 percent in the last two years in both the city and county of Los Angeles, driven by soaring rents, low wages and stubbornly high unemployment (Nov. 23, 2015, *Los Angeles Times*).

Hollywood, a city known more for its multimillion-dollar film budgets, is one of those cities. Pastor Branden Stoltz and members of the Hollywood church are working to minister to homeless people in the church neighborhood each week.

“Hollywood has an ordinance that keeps homeless people on their feet during the day,” said Stoltz. “If they sit down for any length of time, they can get fined.”

To help in providing a place to cool down or warm up — or just a safe resting place where they can sit down or nap, the church opens its doors three days per week, posting the hours when people may come and find temporary shelter. This service has been offered for a number of years, but the church now offers the use of its showers, which were installed when the church was built, for use after baptisms.

“When I came four years ago,” said Andrew Froemming, the church’s director of administration, “the showers were in need of major renovation. Since taking care of that need, we have been offering the showers as part of the

temporary shelter ministry.

“In addition, the Yucaipa church in Southeastern California Conference heard of our ministry for the homeless and donated funds for a washer and dryer. So during shelter hours, guests can also wash their clothes.”

Shelter and shower hours are listed on a sign posted on one of the large windows by the building’s entrance. During Saturday and Sunday hours, the office is closed, but a note on each Sabbath listing includes an invitation to “Join us for worship at 11 a.m.” and some homeless guests do come.

Each month the church provides 300+ showers to low-income residents in Hollywood. The day shelter program also provides clean clothes, GED tutoring, counseling, spiritual support and mentoring. The church works in conjunction with other local Christian churches in ministering to those without homes in Hollywood.

“We also work with a number of service providers in the area to connect low-income guests with essential services,” said Froemming.

“As a result, guests can find free food every day of the week, free medical care, no-cost spiritually-based rehab, and be provided a referral to housing agencies.”

Guests are very grateful for the services offered to them. “When I was cold, you gave me shelter. If my stomach was empty, you gave me food,” wrote one guest in a note. “When

PHOTOS BY ANDREW FROEMMING



Displayed in the church lobby, this serves as a call for members to donate and features a photo taken on a local street corner.

OFFICE		SHOWERS	
Monday	By Appointment	Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10am-5pm	Tuesday	10am-3:30pm
Wednesday	10am-5pm	Wednesday	10am-3:30pm
Thursday	9am-5pm	Thursday	1pm-3:30pm
Friday	By Appointment	Friday	Closed
Saturday	Closed	Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed	Sunday	Closed

Please ring bell for assistance

The office hours sign and other notices let guests know what to expect when they come to the church.

I was dirty, you gave me clean clothes. When we needed friends or family, you welcomed us into your home. What I’m building now is on the foundation you provided.”

While the church and its leadership are committed to minister to local homeless individuals, the work is not without challenges. “One daunting aspect of working with homeless guests is that there is nothing but need,” said Stoltz. “We constantly are praying, trying to figure out the best way to help meet the enormous needs so many here are faced with. While we believe we have succeeded in making a difference in the lives of several, we encounter individuals at times who come to us high on drugs and are difficult to work with. Those persons we have had to ask to leave.

“We are grateful for the ones we can help, and pray for wisdom in working with our community, as God leads.”

Betty Cooney



People queue up for the temporary-shelter ministry, showers and other ministries at the Hollywood church.

Gala Connects and Reconnects with Fellowship

The third annual Black & White Holiday Gala, held Nov. 7 in Los Angeles, drew 347 members and friends. Donald McPhaul, pastor of the Ephesus church, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event, which is organized by Barbara Hubbard Spence and sponsored by the Greater Los Angeles Region.

Gala fundraising opportunities for Los Angeles Adventist Academy included a silent auction in addition to donations for scholarships for LAAA students of single parents. Pastor John A. Trusty, Ph.D., the new senior pastor of the Valley Crossroads church in Pacoima, was the featured speaker.

“God has made us to be connected to somebody else,” he told the audience. “Our survival is based on that fact. Once we are disconnected from God, without face-to-face relationships or touch, the effect is as potent as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. We cannot survive unless we learn how to reconnect.

“It’s a challenge for our churches today. If you have a good relationship with God, He will send people to you with whom you can share.”

A number of individuals were honored during the evening for their ministry:

James G. Lee Jr., SCC vice president, presented a community service award to Inell Carr, who is active in community service work at the Altadena church.

Pastor Michael Jenkins, GLAR youth and young adult ministries coordinator and senior pastor of the Breath of Life church, presented an award to Franklyn Broomfield. Broomfield, though currently living on the East Coast, was recognized for his region-wide “years of mentoring and aiding in the development of Christian character of youth by leadership and Christian example.”



Franklyn Broomfield accepts an award on behalf of his ministry to the region’s youth.



James G. Lee Jr. presents an award to Inell Carr.

Royal Harrison, GLAR director, and Andre Turner, associate pastor of the Valley Crossroads church, gave special recognition to Fred Settle, minister of music for the Valley Crossroads church, for his outstanding choral leadership in the church and region.

Xavier Raines, LAAA senior and associate student body academic vice president, shared with those at the gathering about his experience at the school. “Christian education taught me to trust God,” he said. “The truth of the matter is, when I put God first in my life, nothing else matters. I have learned that He gives you everything you need — not what you want, but what He wants you to have.”

Spence presented an award to Carol Todd, LAAA principal. “Many will say Christian education costs too much,” Todd said. “Our school is in [financial] danger, and we need to come together. Please go back to your churches, look and see if there are young people there who need to see Jesus every day. We are determined to build this school back to what it once was. We need your help and support.”

“Coordinating the gala requires many hours of effort and many people,” said Barbara Spence, “but it gives members a chance to fellowship and engage with each other outside of church. We were thankful to see a number of people at the event whom we hadn’t seen in years, because they haven’t been attending church.”

Betty Cooney



Pastor John A. Trusty speaks to gala attendees.



Xavier Raines represents the LAAA student body at the gala.

Lorenzo W. Paytee Passes Away

Elder Lorenzo W. Paytee, who went to his rest on Nov. 13, 2015, served in Southern California Conference's secretariat for 26 years. He also served as a senior vice president simultaneous with his work as secretary for eight of those years. During his own severe health challenges, Paytee served as president of the conference from 1985-1986.

In addition to his extensive ministry as an SCC administrator, Paytee served in pastoral ministry and held positions in Adventist education in Southern California as secondary teacher and principal. He also served in Northeastern and Central States regional conferences, serving in the latter as director of education and youth activities.

Paytee launched his career as an educator in 1951 at Los Angeles Academy. After teaching at the junior high level, Paytee responded to the call from Northeastern Academy in New York City to teach chemistry and mathematics. During the assignment, he was called into military service, both in the U.S. and in Germany. Upon his honorable discharge from the army in 1956, Sgt. Paytee returned to Southern California as a teacher and then principal at Los Angeles Union Academy (now Los Angeles Adventist Academy) for the next four years.

While on study leave from 1963 until 1966, Paytee was a mathematics and science teacher for the Beverly Hills Unified School District. During this period, he married Phyllis Bryan in 1964. Mrs. Paytee was his faithful companion, supporting her husband in every aspect of ministry. Together, they shared a passion for helping young people flourish.

In 1976, Elder Paytee was asked to serve as associate conference secretary. One year later, he was elected as vice president and executive secretary. He remained in this position until 1985, when he was elected president of the conference. In 1986, he welcomed an invitation to again become conference secretary.

He remained in that role under the leadership of five presidents — Harold Calkins, Ralph Watts, Charles Dart, Bjarne Christensen, and Larry Caviness.

Caviness' tribute perhaps sums up the collective views of his predecessors: "Lorenzo's eyes interpreted our world with wisdom, insight, compassion and love for others, especially those who had been not so favored in life as had others. He was an advocate for all young people: including those who could not afford Christian education but who wanted one, those who showed promise but whose circumstances held them back, and those who had made wrong choices in various

situations and needed support — even in the courtroom."

Throughout his years of service, Paytee worked for a spirit of unity and cooperation among all constituents and nurtured this spirit through his commitment to the Golden Rule, devotion to duty and win-win conciliation. Paytee received countless honors and awards in his 52 years of noteworthy service,

including citations from two mayors of Los Angeles along with presidential citations from Oakwood and La Sierra universities.

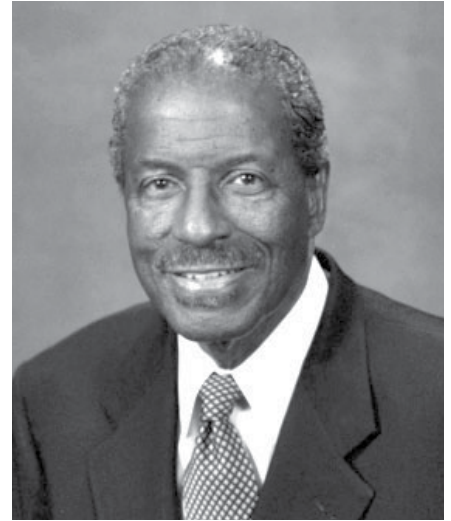
Known as one who loved the human race unconditionally, Paytee in 2002 added to his other conference duties the responsibility for establishing and pastoring the Native American Fellowship.

Most of all, Lorenzo Paytee served the Lord faithfully, with utmost integrity, throughout his career. His memory is revered for the loving and distinguished service he gave to the Southern California Conference.

Elder Paytee served the workers and the membership of the conference as well as community leaders and residents as a highly valued counselor, mentor and friend.

A service of gratitude for God's leading in Paytee's life will be held at 4 p.m. on Jan. 9 at the Vallejo Drive church, 300 Vallejo Dr., Glendale.

Tony Anobile, Jim Pedersen and Betty Cooney



Lorenzo Paytee



The gymnasium at Los Angeles Adventist Academy is named after former principal Lorenzo Paytee.

Glendale Adventist Medical Center Partners with Armenia Fund for Medical Mission Trip to Armenia

With more than 35 volunteer medical professionals, Armenia Fund and Glendale Adventist Medical Center sponsored a successful medical mission trip to the Noyemberyan Hospital, located in Armenia's northeast Tavush region, in October.

The week-long trip is a result of the special partnership between GAMC and Armenia Fund, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for Armenia and Karabakh. Together, the entities aim to establish a sister hospital relationship with the Noyemberyan Hospital.

The purpose of the trip was to offer free medical services and surgeries to the residents of Noyemberyan and 30 surrounding villages. It also provided the opportunity for physicians and nurses to lay the foundation of a long-term

partnership. In May of this year, GAMC and Armenia Fund leadership visited the Noyemberyan Hospital for a needs assessment and to help plan the mission trip.

Led by Kevin Roberts, president and CEO of GAMC, the 31-member medical team performed 35 surgeries. The magnitude and scale of a mission trip like this had never occurred in Armenia's modern history, especially in a rural hospital. The GAMC surgical team, composed of three surgeons, two anesthesiologists, surgical nurses, scrub techs and a biomedical engineer, worked long hours in completing operations.

"As physicians, we went to Armenia to help people who are marginalized and lacking resources," said Simon Keushkerian, M.D. "As an immigrant, the only way you can show

that your heritage is still maintained alive and thriving is by making sure that the people who live in that country are healthy to thrive and to survive."

Children with congenital facial defects were operated on free of charge. Farmers and other rural workers with hernias were able to return to work, thanks to the multiple surgeries performed by GAMC surgeons.

"I performed surgeries on several patients — oral and neck tumors, scar revisions, cleft palates," said Armond Kotikian, M.D. "Patients ranged from a 10-month-old infant to senior adults. Half the patients were under age 5. I won't forget the look of gratitude on faces of the families whose children we helped to finally be able to eat and drink normally."



Volunteers from Glendale Adventist Medical Center, White Memorial Medical Center, Simi Valley Hospital and Armenia Fund traveled to Armenia in October.



Karineh Aboulian, M.D., performs a check-up.

In addition to the surgical team, 10 primary care and specialist physicians examined, treated and provided free medications to twice as many patients as had been planned, bringing the total of the trip's beneficiaries to approximately 800 people. Internal medicine, cardiology, pulmonary, neurology and pediatrics were particularly welcomed, based on the medical needs of the community.

"We felt God's call to expand our Adventist Health mission of 'sharing His love' to Noyemberyan. He then blessed our service with safety, unity and effectiveness," said Roberts, a nurse by training. "Seeing the joy and relief on peoples' faces and hearing them say 'you brought hope to our community' exceeded our expectations and will propel us to return and do more."

Adventist Health donated a brand-new, all-wheel drive ambulance with critical life support equipment, suited to operate on unpaved roads. Armenia Fund U.S. Western Region's president, Antranik Baghdassarian, matched the gift by donating another identical ambulance. Prior

to the donation, Noyemberyan had only one ambulance, which would break down often and was well past its lifespan.

Thanks to the partnership, the Noyemberyan Hospital's surgical capacity was doubled when the procedure room was converted to a complete operating room. Prior to the arrival of the mission trip team, GAMC donated two anesthesia machines, complete with monitors and accessories, and 2.5 tons of medical supplies.

"The biggest accomplishment of the trip was confidence-building for Armenia. GAMC and the Armenia Fund created an important link with the people by being there with so much force to show what we did and what can be done. It was amazing," said Harout Mesrobian, M.D. "I can do only so much on my own, but by doing it under this team, . . . it was a unique opportunity."

Armenia Fund coordinated the mission activities with the Ministry of Health of Armenia. The group was received by the Honorable Armen Muradyan, M.D., who welcomed the efforts of Armenia Fund and GAMC in enhancing rural

medicine in Armenia, especially in the Tavush region.

Upon completion of the trip, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan thanked all the volunteers for their time and efforts in helping this important area of Armenia. Baghdassarian also expressed his gratitude.

"I would like to personally thank each and every team member on this medical mission," said Baghdassarian. "The Glendale Adventist Medical Center, along with its president, Kevin Roberts, wholeheartedly served our brothers and sisters in Armenia. Thanks to the efforts of GAMC and Armenia Fund, the whole concept of a medical mission was really re-defined. It raised the bar for missions in Armenia with a new, higher standard. Whether it was linking Noyemberyan and GAMC via telemedicine or enhancing the surgical capacity of the hospital, this mission has always had an eye to the future."

Greg Boyrazian, Armenia Fund

Astronaut Encourages Students to Reach for the Stars

Pacific Union College welcomed back former NASA astronaut Jose Hernández as guest speaker for the Nov. 5 Colloquy Speakers Series. Students from PUC, PUC Preparatory School, and PUC Elementary were inspired by Hernández's personal journey from the strawberry fields of California's Central Valley all the way to his 5.7-million-mile voyage with the International Space Station in 2009.

Hernández encouraged students to persevere in their lifelong pursuit of ambitious goals. "It's ok to dream big. It is ok to set very high standards, very high goals for yourselves," he said to a packed PUC church.



Jose Hernández, former space shuttle astronaut and migrant worker, encourages students to "dream big" during his recent visit to Pacific Union College.

The son of migrant farm workers who traveled with the growing seasons from Michoacán, Mexico, to the farmlands of California, Hernández grew up picking fruits and vegetables alongside his brothers and sisters. He didn't learn to speak English until he was 12. His parents, despite having only a third-grade

education themselves, did their best to keep the children in school as much as possible as they moved with the crops.

At the age of nine, Hernández discovered his dream of becoming an astronaut when he watched the final Apollo lunar mission on TV. "I would go outside and see the moon in its full glory. Then, I would come back inside and see astronaut Cernan walk on the moon," he said.

He said that is when he made a decision: "That's what I want to be," he said. He shared his newfound dream with his father that night. His father sat him down at the kitchen table and gave him the ingredients to reach his dream. "You follow this to a tee, and I guarantee you will reach your goal," his father claimed. They were:

- Decide what you want to be when you grow up.
- Recognize how far you are from your goal.
- Develop yourself a roadmap to guide you to reaching your goal.
- Stay in school — there is no substitute to your good education.
- Establish a strong work ethic and always give more than what people expect of you.

"I went to sleep so happy that day because I thought, 'Wow! My dad thinks I can be an astronaut!'" he says. "I've never looked back since. I applied that simple five ingredient recipe. The only thing I would add is perseverance."

After graduating high school in Stockton, Hernández enrolled at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, where he earned a degree in electrical engineering and was awarded a full scholarship to the graduate program at the University of California in Santa Barbara, where he continued his engineering studies.

"Perseverance means never giving up," Hernández said. "NASA rejected me 11 times." After his twelfth attempt, he was finally hired by NASA. In 2009, Hernández was the first Mexican-American to travel into space. He was assigned to the crew of Space Shuttle mission and on Aug. 28, 2009, his dream became a reality.

Hernández said his faith in God grew stronger from his experience in space. As he looked out from the shuttle window at the Earth below, he was awed by the vastness of the universe. "People always ask me if I am religious or not. This made me even more so. It's too perfect to for it to be a coincidence. This [experience] certainly made me believe in God more."



Future space explorers from PUC's Discoveryland Children's Center dress in flight suits for their visit with Hernández.

Jennifer Tyner

Kauai Keiki Inspire Churches and Families

In the fall of 2014, Pastor Douglas Na`a and his wife, Meliana, met with the members of Kapaa and Lawai Valley to see how they could involve their children in ministry. What followed was a plan to form a children's choir.

"I'm no choir director," Pastor Na`a confesses. Yet this did not stop them from moving forward. With Meliana accompanying on the piano, Na`a threw himself into the role with an energy that made up for his lack of directing experience.

"I have a conviction to disciple keiki (children) to enjoy doing service for Jesus," says Na`a. "When they are excited, no one has to force them to do something."

The children began practicing for their first performance: a children's convocation for all the Adventist members on Kauai. On top of the musical numbers, six children began to prepare sermonettes, all based on the theme of unity. When the convocation was over, the children, parents and church members were convinced there was more to do.

Arrangements had been made for hospital and nursing home visits every other Sabbath. Yet Na`a and some parents began thinking beyond Kauai, taking the choir to the island of Oahu.

Na`a reached out to Madonna Tauau, the Hawaii Conference children's ministry director, to see if there was a venue where they could share their music and preaching. Tauau saw this as an opportunity to gather children's musical groups from all around the island of Oahu.

For Tauau, this was just not another program. "Events like this empower children to use their talents while overcoming any fears of being on stage," she explains. "It is our responsibility not only to raise children in the Lord, but to also cultivate their personal growth so that their confidence in God is growing continually."

With growing support for the program, the Kauai group began raising money. They organized yards sales. They harvested and sold

lychee, a seasonal fruit. Church members gave generously.

Their hard work paid off. On Oct. 3, the Kauai Children's Choir led the Honolulu Central church in worship, sharing their songs and sermonettes on unity in Christ. That afternoon, they participated in the Oahu Children's Music Festival. Then on Sunday, the children sang for the memorial service of Robert Nomi, who pastored the Kauai churches in the 1950s.

Not only were parents proud to see their children up front, but many have seen their families' lives changed. One father is currently preparing for baptism. Another family rarely went to church, but now has their children leading them to worship each week.

Tauau recalls, "These children were given the platform, and it proved that God still uses children to unite families and churches."

Jesse Seibel



Pastor Douglas Na`a (front, second from left) and the Kauai Children's Choir stand with other musical groups at the Children's Music Festival.

New Women's Imaging Center Offers 3-D Mammography

The new Women's Imaging Center, located on the first floor of Loma Linda University Health's Faculty Medical Offices building, may feel like a peaceful retreat to patients, but it boasts some of the latest mammography technology available in the Inland Empire for detecting breast cancer.

"The décor is meant to create an environment of calm and peace for women during a stressful time," says Beverly Rigsby, MBS, BSN, "whether they're here for a standard screening exam or follow-up testing for a possible cancer diagnosis." Rigsby is the service line development director for gynecological women's health, and led in the planning and creation of the clinic.

During a recent open house for the center, visitors toured the Asian-spa-themed hallways and treatment rooms and learned about the Hologic 3-D mammography equipment, which uses tomosynthesis software to create a 3-D view of the breast.

Loma Linda University Health offers 3-D mammographies at the Faculty Medical Offices in Loma Linda, as well as at LLUMC – Murrieta, located in Murrieta, Calif. These are the only two places in Riverside and San Bernardino counties to offer this 3-D diagnostic service.

The diagnostic capabilities of the center are further enhanced by the first dedicated breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system in the Inland empire — the Aurora Breast MRI System — which provides bilateral breast imaging, as well as MRI-guided breast biopsies.

In addition to tomosynthesis-based and MRI imaging, which allow physicians to detect breast cancers significantly earlier and more precisely, the center offers a full range of screenings and other diagnostic exams, both breast and pelvic ultrasounds, and a wide array of biopsy services.

The center also offers DEXA scans to measure bone density and has the capability to provide the most accurate type of body-mass imaging for athletes or bariatric patients interested in tracking their progress at reducing body fat.

While the technologies and innovations that allow for improved diagnosis and cancer

detection are impressive, Rigsby believes another innovation is equally important.

"The biggest change," Rigsby explains, "is the presence of a nurse navigator/manager to help patients as they go through the breast diagnostic process at Loma Linda University

Health." This role is being filled by Linda Koh, RN, MS. "Linda coordinates care for our patients and their referring physicians."

Larry Kidder



Beverly Rigsby, MBA, BSN, left, and Roland Rhynus, certified radiology administrator and executive director, department of radiology, Loma Linda University Medical Center, admire the new Hologic 3-D mammography unit that will detect breast cancer at much earlier stages and improve outcomes.

NAD Awards La Sierra Education Professor for Contributions

On Nov. 1 at the North American Division headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., division leaders presented Elissa Kido with an award of excellence for her contributions to Seventh-day Adventist education, the latest recognition for a life's work that results from the influence of an aunt years ago.

Kido, director of the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education at La Sierra University's School of Education, was honored during the meetings where she delivered a progress report on the work of the NAD Education Taskforce which she chairs.

The recognition is the latest of Kido's decades-long career as an Adventist educator who cares deeply about the church's mission to holistically educate its youth. In January 2014, Kido, along with La Sierra alum and former California State Senator Bill Emmerson, were recognized with the Charles E. Weniger Society award for their contributions to their communities, the church and broader world.

Kido was born in Hawaii and grew up in California. When the time came for her to attend college, an aunt who was Seventh-day Adventist thought Kido would benefit from attending an Adventist school in northern California, and Kido enrolled. "I'm here because of an Adventist aunt who thought I should go to Pacific Union College," she told NAD administrators upon receiving her award. Her parents, who possessed

high school educations and supported their five other children, paid for Kido's college tuition. "I think they saw what an Adventist college did for my aunt, who went on to medical school at the College of Medical Evangelists (Loma Linda University) and wanted the same for their eldest daughter," said Kido.

Her background includes a doctorate from Boston University and academic administrative posts at several universities and colleges including St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., and Webster University in St. Louis, Mo. She arrived at La Sierra in 2001, and between 2002 and 2006, she served as dean of the School of Education.

In 2006, Kido, together with statisticians Robert Cruise and Jerome Thayer, launched the groundbreaking CognitiveGenesis study, which, over four years, surveyed nearly 52,000 K-12 students at 800 Adventist schools around the United States, Canada and Bermuda. They compared Iowa achievement tests and cognitive ability tests in grades 3-9 and 11 with public and private school students nationwide and as well as other data. In the face of declining enrollment in North American K-12 Adventist schools, survey results showed that students in Adventist schools outperformed their peers in all subjects, for all grade levels and school sizes, regardless of ability level. In addition, students in Adventist schools performed above expectations in academic achievement based on their individual ability.

The Martin Doblmeier documentary, "The Blueprint: The Story of Adventist Education," which debuted on PBS television in spring 2014, was inspired by a Christian Science Monitor op-ed piece Kido penned about CognitiveGenesis. The film included data



Elissa Kido received an award for her extensive contributions to Seventh-day Adventist education.

and insights from the study as well as a brief interview with Kido.

In 2010, Kido launched the Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education as a base for further studies using the CognitiveGenesis data and other research, and dissemination of findings on Adventist education.

The NAD Education Taskforce, which Kido currently chairs was charged last year with examining and prioritizing eight recommendations that include developing innovative strategies for the delivery of Adventist education and studying alternative funding streams for such education, including for non-Adventist students in the SDA system.

The taskforce will deliver its final report for next year's NAD year-end meetings.

"Many educational systems provide high-quality academic instruction to students," said Kido. "The difference in Adventist education, however, is that the academic excellence is achieved through a Christ-centered, holistic approach, which seeks to nurture and challenge each child's mind, body, and spirit. Adventist education certainly had a profound influence on my life in all of these ways and brought me to a place wherein I can assist in ensuring today's young people have the same opportunities."

Darla Martin Tucker



(Left to right) Dr. Elissa Kido gives a presentation during the North American Division year-end meetings on Nov. 1 as NAD Vice President for Education Larry Blackmer and NAD President Dan Jackson listen.

Benavides Retires, Dena Joins as CSC Associate Director

When I accepted a call to serve as director of the Church State Council, I got a congratulatory phone call from Richard Fenn, then serving in the North Pacific Union public affairs and religious liberty department. He quoted Timothy to me: "Let no man despise thy youth." I was 37.

I was mentored by Mel Jacobson, a tall, strong Swede twice my age, who was serving in his retirement years, assisting church members with Sabbath accommodation problems. Mel taught me the things that law school omitted, practical things, like how to build bridges with employers who were faced with requests for Sabbath accommodation, and how to prune fruit trees, a skill I never acquired in New York City.

Mel continued to serve until the ripe old age of 91. A few months earlier, Mel told me how happy he was helping church members with religious accommodation issues, and that he

wanted to continue as long as the Lord gave him breath. That he did. He died suddenly on New Year's Day, after delivering a bag of groceries to a single mother in need.

Mel continues to inspire me, as do those who have followed in his footsteps. Ten years ago, I had the privilege of meeting a short, quiet gentleman, Pastor Eliezer Benavides. "Pastor Ben," to his friends, opened up the Hispanic work in the Pacific Union, and served as its first director. He was eager to continue serving. In fact, despite his age creeping well into the 80s, Pastor Ben continues to preach, pastor, and, as an associate in the public affairs and religious liberty department, to help members with Sabbath accommodation problems.

Over the past decade, Pastor Ben has enjoyed considerable success helping hundreds of church members facing Sabbath problems at work. He is the first to give credit to the Lord for his success and to advocate the need for prayer. Every Sabbath, Pastor Ben gathers his church together and prays over the names of those he is helping. His deep spirituality has been such a blessing to me and to everyone he ministers to, so it is with sadness that I bid him farewell from this ministry as he retires. He has served with distinction and honor, and he has been a great encourager and faithful friend.

Saying farewell to Pastor Ben means extending a warm welcome to Pastor Richard Dena. Pastor Dena's ministry is no less distinguished. He opened the Hispanic work in the North Pacific Union, and like Pastor Ben, ministered in South America before returning to California. After pastoring churches in Los Angeles, Pastor Dena led the Hispanic ministry work in Northern California for a dozen years before "retiring" after 48 years of pastoral ministry.

Pastor Dena has enthusiastically accepted the challenge of promoting religious liberty ministry in the Hispanic community in the Pacific Union, while assisting church members, both English and Spanish speakers, who have Sabbath problems at work. He steps into big shoes, but his contagious love of Jesus, passion



Richard Dena

for souls, and ready and willing spirit guarantee he will enjoy the Lord's blessing.

For more than 50 years, the Church State Council has been at the forefront of religious liberty ministry within the five state territory of the Pacific Union. The policy of having respected retired church leaders, preferably bilingual, to reach out to employers and assist church members in obtaining Sabbath accommodations has proven a very successful formula. Of course, not all such efforts succeed, and with a staff attorney (me) and other attorneys willing to assist, we retain the ability to pursue such claims in court when necessary. If you or someone you know is having a Sabbath problem at work, reach out to our office: parl@puconline.org, 805-413-7396, or 916-446-2552.

Alan J. Reinach, Esq.



Eliezer Benavides

CALENDARS

Arizona Conference

RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER (Jan. 9) 6:30 p.m. held the second Sabbath of each month at Central church, 777 W. Montecito. Newcomers, please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. Info: 480-430-5492.

HEALTHY FOOD PREPARATION (Jan. 9) 2:30 p.m. Casa Grande church, 1867 Trekell Rd. Held every second Sunday of the month. Info: Sandy, 541-729-6759, or Carolina, 520-876-5240.

THUNDERBIRD ADVENTIST ACADEMY Alumni Weekend (April 2) 6:30 p.m. Open House at the home of Al and Jan Ghelfi, for classmates who attended during the '50s and '60s. Address: 5525 N. Camelback Canyon Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85018. Phone: 602-840-3077.

Northern California

TEN DAYS OF PRAYER (Dec. 31-Jan. 9) Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus initiative presents Oakland "United in Prayer and Mission." For schedule of events, visit: nccsda.com/10DaysofPrayer.

A CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN (Jan. 22-23) Fri. 3-9 p.m. Sat.: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Orangevale church, 5810 Pecan Ave. "Turning Points: Healing Hearts for Ministry." Keynote speaker Shantel Smith, many seminars. Info and registration: Julieta Whiteside, 707-292-1443, fcjwhiteside@gmail.com, nccsda.com/womensministries.

LEADING CHILDREN & FAMILIES to Heaven (Jan. 23) 3-6 p.m. Willits church, 399 West Mendocino Ave. Training for children's ministry, families, Sabbath school and Vacation Bible School leaders. Info: nccsda.com/LeadingChildrenToHeaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

FUSION YOUTH RALLY (Jan. 23) 10 a.m. Skyline High School, 12250 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. Inspiring worship service with guest speaker Elden Ramirez, NAD volunteer coordinator, and Christian musician Tad Worku. Afternoon of community projects with Maranatha Volunteers International. Lunch provided. Info: nccsda.com/fusion.

JUMPSTART MINI-MISSION Trip (Jan. 24) 8 a.m. Golden Gate Academy, 3800 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Church and school renovation, homeless outreach, dental and vision clinics. \$30 registration fee. Registration: maranatha.org/jumpstart.

YOUTH RALLY (Jan. 30) 4 p.m. Sacramento Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Ave. Don't miss the Quiz-A-Rama

and social. Info: African-American Ministries, 925-603-5097.

LEADING CHILDREN & FAMILIES to Heaven (Jan. 30) 3-6 p.m. Red Bluff church, 720 South Jackson St. Training for children's ministry, families, Sabbath school and VBS leaders. Info: nccsda.com/LeadingChildrenToHeaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

CHURCH CLERK TRAINING & Orientation (Jan. 31) 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. NCC headquarters, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Pastors welcome, too. Lunch included. RSVP. Registration: clerk@nccsda.com.

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE RETREAT (Feb. 5-7) Leoni Meadows. Speaker Jeff Deming; Monterey Bay Academy principal. Family groups, games, great food, Bible study and much more. Registration fee, \$80. Info and registration: nccsda.com/frsoretreat.

LEADING CHILDREN & FAMILIES to Heaven (Feb. 6) 3-6 p.m. Santa Rosa church, 840 Sonoma Ave. Training for children's ministry, families, Sabbath school and Vacation Bible School leaders. Info: nccsda.com/LeadingChildrenToHeaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

LEADING CHILDREN & FAMILIES to Heaven (Feb. 13) 3-6 p.m. Roseville church, 914 Cirby Way. Training for children's ministry, families, Sabbath school and Vacation Bible School leaders. Info: nccsda.com/LeadingChildrenToHeaven or alice.merrill@nccsda.com.

Pacific Union College

WINTER QUARTER BEGINS (Jan. 4). Students begin the new academic term. Info: www.puc.edu/admissions.

COLLOQUY SPEAKER SERIES: Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance (Jan. 14) 10 a.m., PUC church. Dr. Norman G. Knight, PUC's outreach oahplain, speaks for a very special colloquy commemorating the life of one of the most influential figures of the civil rights movement. Info: colloquy@puc.edu.

PAINTING WITH FIRE (Jan. 16) Exhibit by John Chambers and Bill Geisinger; Rasmussen Art Gallery. Sonoma County ceramic artists bring insights about their process in creating pieces through alternative firings such as wood firing and salt firing. Chambers specializes in salted, glazed and functional stoneware. Geisinger is known internationally for his ceramics and wood fired stoneware. Info: 707-965-6303.

PUC FINE ARTS SERIES (Jan. 24) 4 p.m., Paulin Hall. American cellist Cicely Parnas who is praised for her "velvety sound, articulate passagework and keen imagination" (*The New York*

Times), performs as guest soloist. Info: Music Department, music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

WINTER REVIVAL (Jan. 19-22) PUC church. Spiritual emphasis led by Jeffrey Rosario, Light Bearers evangelist and revivalist. Info: 707-965-7190.

MUSIC FACULTY RECITAL (Jan. 30) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall. PUC's music professors showcase their talents as soloists, accompanists, and ensemble members. Info: music@puc.edu, 707-965-6201.

ALBION RETREAT and Learning Center (Ongoing) Comfortable lodging for visitors and groups available along the Mendocino Coast. Perfect for classes, retreats, reunions, weddings, or vacations. Info: www.puc.edu/albion or 707-937-5440.

Southern California Conference

GOODBYE DIABETES, Heart Disease, Alzheimers (Jan. 8-9) Presenter: Wes Youngberg, D.P.H. Free. Preventing/reversing disease naturally. Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m., "Unlocking Code for Brain Healing to Prevent/Reverse Alzheimer's, Memory Loss." Jan. 9, 10:45 a.m.: "X-factor in Health & Healing;" 4 p.m., "12 Strategies for Full Health, Wellness Potential." Camarillo church, 3975 Las Posas Rd. Info: 805-482-4632.

LORENZO PAYTEE MEMORIAL SERVICE (Jan. 9) 4 p.m. Public service of gratitude for God's leading in his life. Vallejo Drive church, 300 Vallejo Drive, Glendale 91206. Info: 818-246-2476.

FREE SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (Jan. 9) featuring organist Weicheng Zhao and violinist Fang Gao. Compositions by Schmelzer, King, Chen, He, Zhang, Yuan. Reception follows. 5 p.m. (Note new time) Freewill offering. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Parking, lower level of the Fashion Center parking lot adjacent to the church. Info: 818-244-7241.

GLENDALE CITY CHURCH (Jan. 22-23) 110th Anniversary: Finding God at the Intersection of Our Lives. Special guest, Pastor John Brunt. Fri., 7 p.m., Homecoming Vespers, Pastors Rudy Torres, Smuts van Rooyen; Sabbath, 2 p.m., concert featuring the Glendale Academy, with current students, alumni. Evening vespers, 4:30 p.m. (610 E. California Ave.) Info: 818-244-7241.

NEWBURY PARK ADVENTIST Academy Benefit Concert (Jan. 23) for concert tour to Hawaii in April. Featured soloist, internationally acclaimed violinist Jaime Jorge, proclaiming the love of Jesus with his exquisite musical talent. 6:30 p.m. Camarillo church, 3975 Las Posas

Rd. Free; freewill offering received. Info: Principal Steve Laing, 805-498-2191.

ORCHESTRA BENEFIT CONCERT (Jan. 24) Dean Anderson, director. Proceeds benefit the Caesura Youth Orchestra. Students of grades 4-6 from Caesura will play with full La Sierra University orchestra for the first time. 7 p.m. Glendale City church, 620 E. California Ave. Ticket info: www.mycyo.org. Concert sponsor Churches Without Walls. Info: 818-244-7241.

ADVERTISING

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2016 Advertising Deadlines — February: January 5
March: January 27
April: February 23
May: March 29
June: April 26
July: May 31
August: June 28
September: August 2

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Recorder pages are assigned to the local conferences, colleges and health care institutions, and all content comes through the communication directors in those organizations. If you have a news story/idea, calendar announcement, etc., please contact your local communication director. See page 2 for contact information. Want tips for writing for us? See www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news.

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BOARD AND CARE HOME for age 60 plus in North San Diego. Adventist owned and operated with healthful meals, Christian TV, located in beautiful Bansal with its moderate climate and 10 min. to Oceanside and Fallbrook, Calif. Private and semi-private rooms. Info: backtoedehomes.com, Basil Bell, ptrbell07@gmail.com, 760-532-2073.

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LOLO HARRIS, gospel music recording artist, sharing the gospel through song. CDs and contact info: www.LoLoHarris.com or call 937-545-8227 or write P.O. Box 492124, Atlanta, GA 30349. LoLo is currently accepting ministry requests for concerts, evangelism, AYS, retreats, conventions, and more for 2016 and 2017.

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT, retirement or second home in Hawaii? Full-service real estate company, including property management. Contact Marc Lonnstrom, Realtor, Home Net Connections. 808-227-8310 or Marc@HomeNetHawaii.com. Website: www.HomeNetHawaii.com.

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800-634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

WEB DESIGN! Skyrocket your business profits with an exceptional modern website. Our Adventist agency specializes in giving you instant credibility using our strong internet marketing background and conversion-friendly design skills. View our before/after portfolio, visit discoverpeppermint.com. Located in Oregon

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Bulletin Board

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Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Academy Principal. The principal is Andrews Academy's leader and is responsible for ensuring that the school fulfills its mission and goals. The principal provides leadership for Andrews Academy by ensuring the continuation of Andrews Academy as an excellent Seventh-day Adventist secondary school and positioning the school for a successful future. He/she administers the school consistent with the policies and procedures adopted by the Operating Board and will be responsible for all faculty and staff of Andrews Academy. For more information or to apply visit: www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/743.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Faculty in School Psychology. Responsibilities: Oversee all aspects of the EdS School Psychology program as Program Coordinator,



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as well as performing various duties described in the full position description. Qualifications: Doctorate in School Psychology, Educ Psychology, or a related field; state or national (NCSP) certification as a school psychologist; minimum 3-years working in the field as a school psychologist; as well as sufficient teaching experience at the graduate levels and be actively engaged in research, student advising and supervising student projects. For more information and to apply visit: www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4.

DECATUR, ILLINOIS, CHURCH looking for a Bible worker. Please contact Pastor John Lewis, jelewis727@gmail.com for details. One-year contract, full or part-time. Need resumé and references.

LLU SEEKS PROFESSORS in ethics and relational areas. Loma Linda University's School of Religion invites applications for full-time, tenure-track positions in its bioethics and relational (chaplaincy, whole-person-care) areas, to begin July 1, 2016. For more information, please contact religion@llu.edu.

NOW HIRING EARLY CHILDHOOD Teachers to be based in Chengdu, China. Competitive salary package based on competence and experience. Native English speaker, hold a Bachelor's degree, preferably with early childhood teaching experiences. Education Center opened

by Adventist professionals. Visit: sgg.com.sg/career/jobs.htm or email gateway@sgg.com.sg for more details.

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is looking to fill several full-time tenure-track faculty positions in the areas of Educational Psychology, English Education/Children's Literature, Industrial Design, Nineteenth Century British Literature, Research Services Librarian, Music, Psychology, and Social Work. For a detailed description of each position and to apply, please visit: jobs.wallawalla.edu.

Missing Members

PLEASANT HILL. Contact: *Lisa Moreno, clerk, Pleasant Hill Adventist Church, 800 Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523; 925-934-5803; office@pleasanthilladventist.org*; Nicholas Abston, Kamolani Baroi, Stephanie Bryan, Maria Flores, Cindy Gilman, Eva Becerra, Donald Clark, Jeff Cotta, Andrea Garcia, Sharlene Gutierrez, Carlos Lopez, Carlos Martinez, Dixie Mitchell, Pedro Perez, Odette Ramsay, Anamaree Rea, Elsi Stahlman, America Salgado, Kimberly Salgado, Jazmin Oliveras, Virginia Niblack.

TEMPLETON HILLS. Contact: *Deb Goldsmith, Clerk, P.O. Box 729, Templeton, CA. 93465, 805-434-1710, thsda.clerk@gmail.com*; Florence Capron, Kelley Correa, Lucille Gammon, Janet Gostlin,

Rosalie Herber, Bobby, Dusty, Patricia and Sandra Hopkins, Paulette Jordan, Yesenia Marquina, Brain McKinley, Jeff Mullin, Ana Pilego, Denise Ratzlaff, Lois Robinson, Shari Tunsagate, Sheila Tunsagate, William Van Nuys, Vicki Van Nuys, Gene Weissgerber, Kevin and Irene Wilson.

Real Estate

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Reunions

BROADVIEW ACADEMY Alumni Association. BVA Alumni Weekend (April 30 - May 1) Honor Classes: '46, '56, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96 and '06. N. Aurora church, N. Aurora, IL. Friday night vespers, S.S., church, lunch and afternoon music program. Postage is too expensive. Send it to: [EdGutierrez, edjuly1@att.net](mailto:EdGutierrez_edjuly1@att.net); 630-232-9034.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY Alumni Weekend 2016 (April 22-23) on LSA campus. Please update your mailing address and contact

info: JNelson@lsak12.com, 951-351-1445, ext. 244. Honor Classes '56, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '06 and pre-50 year classes. Info: www.lsak12.com.

CAMPION ACADEMY ALUMNI, Southern California Chapter meeting (March 12) 6 p.m. Shake hands with the new Principal Don Reeder, Double Tree Hotel, 285 East Hospitality Lane, San Bernardino, Calif. Enjoy making new friends and catching up on news with long-time friends. Complimentary dinner will be served so bring your appetite.

CAMPION ACADEMY ALUMNI, Northern California Chapter meeting (March 13) 4:30 p.m. Shake hands with the new Principal Don Reeder, The Old Spaghetti Factory, 731 Sunrise Ave., Roseville, Calif. Enjoy making new friends and catching up on news with long-time friends. Dinner is available.

Vacation Opportunities

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AT REST

ARNOTT, JOAN – b. June 24, 1934, Ft. Frances, Ontario, Canada; d. Oct. 16, 2015, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: sons, Timothy, Kenny; stepsons, Larry, Gary, Randy; stepdaughters, Kerry, Kathy Seiwer, Rhonda Berman, Cheryl Emerson; 15 grandchildren; sisters, Lois Magnussen, Bonnie Henneburg.

BAKICH, CHARLDENE – b. Nov. 8, 1937, Brownsville, Texas; d. Oct. 2, 2015, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: husband, Matthew; sons, Matthew, Peter, Rudy; daughters, Denise Watson, Muriel, Mat-tene, Rosalie.

BARRAZA, ELI GOMEZ – b. Aug. 18, 1938, Valentine, Texas; d. May 13, 2015, El Monte, Calif. Survivors: wife, Mary; son, Anthony; two grandchildren.

BUCK, DONALD – b. Feb. 23, 1923, Detroit, Mich.; d. Oct. 20, 2015, Palm Springs, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joyce; sons, Tom, Mike; daughter, Joyce Cobb; two grandchildren.

CRAWFORD, CARL E. – Dec. 6, 1934, Escondido, Calif.; d. June 4, 2015, Mount Vernon, Wash. Survivors: wife, Donnajean; son, Gary; daughters, Cindra Greene, Lisa Nolen; step-son, Paul Dickson; step-daughters, Tricia

Low, Jill Boudreau; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sisters, Audrey Schippmann, Carol Smith. San Diego County Pathfinder coordinator.

DUARTE, ANTONE – b. March 28, 1926, North Kona, Kainaliu, Hawaii; d. June 29, 2015, Honolulu, Hawaii. Survivors: son, Wayne Leslie; daughter, Monalei Norma (Duarte) Acker; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

ELDER, ELEANOR ESTHER – b. May 31, 1930, Berrien Springs, Mich.; d. Nov. 7, 2015, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: husband, Havey; son, John; daughter, Cheri Gregory; four grandchildren; sister, Caroline Cook.

ENSMINGER, CHRISTIAN G. – b. July 6, 1916, Monango, N.D.; d. Nov. 7, 2015, Tucson, Ariz. Survivors: daughter, Nadine Fork; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

FARVER, WILLIAM "BILL" FRANCIS – b. Dec. 26, 1921, West Bridgewater, Penn.; d. Nov. 6, 2015, Cottonwood, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Irene, daughters, Janis Eileen, Lahna Corinne; brother, Duane; sister, Rosemary. Served as a teacher at Wilson SDA elementary school, Cedar Lake Academy (now Great Lakes Academy) in Michigan and Blue Mountain Academy in Pennsylvania.

FLETCHER, BONNIE LOU – b. July 9, 1929, Enid, Okla.; d. Sept. 30, 2015, San Jose, Calif. Survivors: husband, A. Harvey; son, A. Harvey Jr.; daughter, LuAnne Larson; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

GENN, JUANITA – b. June 30, 1933, El Centro, Calif.; d. Oct. 26, 2015, Modesto, Calif. Survivors: sons, Gerry Green, Bill Genn; brothers, Kenneth DeHart; Gene DeHart; sisters, Helen Parker-Johns, Jeanette Genn.

KEECH, DIXIE JEANNETTE – b. Sept. 25, 1932, Buhl, Idaho; d. Nov. 1, 2015, Palo Alto, Calif. Survivors: sons, Max Nahid, Paul; brother, Sherman Leland; sister, Barbara Ragland.

MCCALL, MARY "ARLENE" (SIBAYAN) – b. Jan. 8, 1948, Santa Maria, Calif.; d. Aug. 15, 2015, Santa Maria, Calif. Survivors: sons, Luis Enrique Jr., Caesar Omar, Israel Amir Espinoza; daughters, Linda Rose Aguilar, Maggie Arlene Woodward, Josie Leonore Lopez; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

PHILLIPS, HAROLD R. – b. Nov. 6, 1928, Savannah, Ga.; d. July 9, 2015, Altamonte Springs, Fla. Survivors: wife, Betty L.; son, Dennis; daughter, Karen Ellis; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren. Served as professor and dean, School of Business, Andrews University and professor, School of Public Health, LLU.

ROCES, CESAR V. – b. Dec. 11, 1933, Dingle, Iloilo, Philippines; d. Oct. 5, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: wife,

Elvira; son, Alejandro; daughters, Maita, Emily, Jocelyn Lopez; 15 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

SAYRE, JEWELL GLOVER – b. Oct. 31, 1920, Stockton, Calif.; d. Nov. 6, 2015, Stockton, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Carolyn Garber, Lynelle.

SCHNEIDER, VIOLA LUTZ – b. April 18, 1929, Melrose, Mass.; d. Nov. 2, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Kenneth Lutz, Sheri Trine, Leonard Lutz; 18 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren.

SCHUMACKER, BONNIE JOAN (SKINNER) – b. March 19, 1933, Stuart, Neb.; d. Nov. 20, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: husband, Weldon; daughter, Cindy; two grandchildren; sister, Connie Salas.

SCOTT, EMMALINE – b. Sept. 20, 1922, Luther, Okla.; d. May 19, 2015, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: son, Michael; and daughter, Melissa.

SHENAR, VARTANU – b. July 7, 1925, Turkey; d. Nov. 15, 2015, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: son, Eric; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

SHERA, DORIS (WILDER) – b. Dec. 21, 1914, Byron, Calif.; d. Nov. 6, 2015, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: daughters, JoAnn Toews, Laurel Dunn; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

SLADE, NOLIA – b. March 3, 1930, Chandler, Okla.; d. May 27, 2015, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Shirley Meyers; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, Oswald, Charles, David White.

STEWART, SYDNEY E. – b. March 2, 1927, St. Helena, Calif.; d. Nov. 12, 2015, Walla Walla, Wash. Survivors: wife, Florence; daughters, Cindy, Debbie, Shari Thompson; one grandchild. Served as academy and junior academy teacher in Oregon and California.

TOOKER, MARILYN M. (DENNIS) – b. Nov. 21, 1924, Weslaco, Texas; d. Oct. 30, 2015, Diamond Springs, Calif. Survivors: husband, Warren; sons, Roger, David; daughters, Tamra Cox, Vikki; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

TRIPP, DARLA – b. Nov. 3, 1955, Indio, Calif.; d. Oct. 31, 2015, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: sister, Gayla Purdy.

WILKINSON, MARY – b. July 8, 1929, Guyana, South America; d. Oct. 28, 2015, Riverside, Calif.

WILLIAMS, JOHN LUTHER – b. July 5, 1931, Kingston, Jamaica; d. Oct. 28, 2015, Corona, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marylyn Joan (Young); son, Roger; daughters, Joni Hollie, Sandy Silvestri; 10 grandchildren.

"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
— Exodus 20:8

SUNSETS

	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29
Alturas	4:42	4:48	4:56	5:04	5:13
Angwin	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:19	5:27
Calexico	4:46	4:52	4:58	5:04	5:11
Chico	4:52	4:59	5:06	5:13	5:22
Eureka	4:53	4:59	5:05	5:12	5:20
Fresno	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:14	5:22
Hilo	5:52	5:57	6:01	6:06	6:10
Honolulu	6:01	6:06	6:11	6:15	6:20
Las Vegas	4:36	4:42	4:49	4:56	5:03
Lodi	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:15	5:23
Loma Linda	4:50	4:55	5:02	5:08	5:15
Los Angeles	4:54	5:00	5:06	5:13	5:20
Moab	5:07	5:13	5:20	5:27	5:35
Oakland	5:00	5:06	5:12	5:20	5:28
Phoenix	5:31	5:36	5:42	5:49	5:56
Reno	4:45	4:51	4:48	5:06	5:14
Riverside	4:51	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:16
Sacramento	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:15	5:23
Salt Lake City	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:34	5:42
San Diego	4:53	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:17
San Francisco	5:01	5:06	5:13	5:21	5:28
San Jose	5:00	5:06	5:12	5:20	5:27
Tucson	5:24	5:34	5:40	5:47	5:53

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