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Evangelism team member Judy Gilbaugh at a Quiet Hour Ministries construction project site.

PHOTO BY DIGITAL PARADIGM

# PACIFIC UNION recorder

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



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# Second Coming, Second Coming, Second Coming!

Several years ago, when I was a pastor in the Lake Region Conference, I happened to hear Elder Ivan L. Warden, recently retired from the General Conference Ellen G. White Estate, preaching at the youth tent at the Lake Region camp meeting in Cassopolis, Mich.

It was a weekday, and Warden, who was teaching at Andrews University at the time, was prompting the youth to a "call and response" feature to be used in his upcoming Sabbath sermon, when several hundred more youth would assemble in the tent.

Warden directed the young people in attendance, "When I ask, 'What time is it?' you are to respond by saying, 'Second Coming, Second Coming, Second Coming!'"

It was thrilling to hear them practice throughout the week, and more impressive when the smaller group responded to his query on Sabbath morning. The enlarged crowd quickly caught on, and later in his sermon, Warden had the entire youth tent attendees repeating loudly, "Second Coming, Second Coming, Second Coming!"

Warden wasn't setting a time for Jesus' Second Coming or Advent. Nor was he using the message to prompt people as a fear tactic. He was reminding the youth that Jesus could return at any time; and that is still true. Jesus could come at any time, because God cannot and will not lie; and throughout the Bible this Blessed Hope is repeated over and over again.

Certainly, we believe that we have moved closer to the end; as Paul said, "The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers" (1 Peter 4:7, ESV).

As we examine the world around us, we cannot escape the fact that we are living in momentous times: our religious liberties are slowly being eroded and in some sectors, under direct attack; Christians are being compelled by law to choose between violating their conscience and going out of business.

Justice, a consistent concern of Jehovah as articulated through His prophets in the Old Testament (see Micah 6:8 and Habakkuk 1:4), is daily denied to people even in the United States of America.

The current campaign for the U.S. presidency reveals surprises every day, and the choices seem to be between bad and worse, with the contestants being rated as the two most unlikeable nominees ever.

Even though we realize political parties can't fix the world or save souls, we want the values enshrined by our Constitution to be upheld by those running for the office. It truly is a time to sing the prayer enshrined in the words of the song "God Bless America." We need His blessing, at such a time as this.

We understand that Jesus is not waiting on a list of world events to be completed before His return trip to planet Earth. At the same time, value the signs He gave us to remind us of the nearness of His return in total and complete triumph.

We are Christ watchers, having our "faith eyes" fixed on Him. "Neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee" (2 Chronicles 20:12).

Hebrews 12:2 reminds us; "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

For such a time as this, we by faith focus on Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, as we live in a time so demanding of us individually and corporately, a time that demands heaven's best blessings.

At such a time as this, we advise total member involvement in reaching the cities, suburbs, towns and villages in the Pacific Union territory with the life-transforming message of the Three Angels. Our greatest untapped resource is in our people, all of us together, returning our gifts to God for His work.

It may be teaching in Sabbath school or serving the Pathfinders. It may be in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned as Jesus identifies in the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25. It may be in holding Bible studies in our homes or volunteering to tutor people to read (many public libraries have literacy programs), volunteering on mission trips to places far and near. But at such a time as this, we all can find something to do to advance the cause of Christ.

There are many around us in our neighborhoods and communities that may be "lost." We must go and reach somebody for Jesus. Someone asked the question, "If not now, when? If not you, who?"

While the events referred to above are sorrowful, they also present an open door to reach others for Christ. Many may reject the message, but who knows who will accept truth, when rightly presented, with the loving Jesus portrayed at the center of the message.

The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The time is always right to do what is right."

What time is it? Second Coming!

*Elder Ricardo Graham, D.Min.*





# Paying It Forward

Like clockwork for the past three years, Dave (pictured right) starts his Tuesday mornings at the Farmer's Market before he heads to Paradise Hospice in Paradise, Calif., where he delivers bouquets of flowers, smiles and words of good cheer. Like the actions displayed in the movie "Pay It Forward," Dave's weekly visits create a similar ripple effect all its own.

Dave's routine originated when his wife was receiving chemotherapy treatments at the Feather River Hospital Cancer Center. Bringing flowers gave Dave something to do and something to bring. When his wife transitioned to hospice and later the Hospice House, he continued the ritual as a gesture of gratitude and appreciation.

"I've been impressed with hospice care from the moment Dianne, my wife of 50 years and two months, began receiving care," said Dave. "It's simply my way of saying 'thank you' to the entire hospice staff for the relentlessly positive attitude they display each and every day."

For patients faced with a life-limiting illness, hospice care is available and tailored to meet the individual needs of the patients and families. An interdisciplinary team provides "whole-person care" which includes nursing, counseling, spiritual care, bereavement support and volunteers.

Across America, more than a million people are served by hospice agencies each year. Volunteers are a valued and integral part of the hospice team, providing important services to the patients and families served. Adventist Health hospice volunteers donated more than 7,300 hours of service in 2015.

Typical volunteer duties include listening to a patient's concerns and being a supportive presence; letting hospice staff know the needs of the patient and family; providing respite for the caregiver to take care of him/herself; and providing socialization and companionship.



## Benefits of volunteering include:

- Volunteers have less depression, better weight control, improved sleep and a stronger immune system.
- Volunteers are well-rounded and learn skills they can use on the job, at home or in communicating with others.
- Volunteering gives you the opportunity to work with people from all walks of life and backgrounds.
- Volunteering shows your commitment, dedication and interest and may inspire that passion in others, too.

## Volunteer Testimonials

**Sharee Gray:** "At first my mother was in complete denial, but as the result of our honest and positive communication she was willing to consider staying at home and have help come to her. The Paradise Hospice nurses, health aides, social workers and doctors delivered the kind, caring support that my mother needed and even looked forward to, with just one rule: my mother would have to have her make-up on before they arrived. The staff always got a kick out of this and followed the rule! Today I am a volunteer at Hospice House doing my very best to 'pay it forward.'"

**Catherine "Cat" Pagel:** "I have been volunteering at Feather River Hospital for more than eight years and began my volunteer work as a mail messenger, as well as working in the hospital gift shop. Liking both positions, I expanded my involvement to include serving on the hospital volunteer board as secretary, vice-president and ultimately president. Seven years ago while reading the volunteer newsletter, I saw a volunteer opening at hospice. I often refer to it as "my second home.""

Adventist Health hospice locations in California include the Central Valley Region, Mendocino County, Paradise and Sonora.

Visit [Hospice.ah.org](http://Hospice.ah.org) to learn more about hospice services and volunteer opportunities.

Denise Smith



# Many Find Healing and Hope at “Straight 2 the Heart” Seminar

**W**hat do you say to a teenager who has been abused? A man whose addiction controls his life, no matter how many times he confesses and promises to stop? A woman whose guilt and shame convince her she is worthless?

In 1990, Pastor Paul Coneff asked himself the same questions. Through much prayer, God revealed what Coneff calls the “hidden half” of the gospel: Jesus’ suffering.

His resulting ministry, Straight 2 the Heart, takes people’s brokenness and connects them with Jesus, focusing on where He suffered to identify with them. In September, Coneff provided training at San Gabriel Academy in collaboration with Pastor Ben Guerrero, Temple City church. Coneff spoke to the students for their week of prayer and conducted a free seminar for school staff and church members in the evenings and through the weekend, featuring Bible study, small group prayer time and testimonies.

During the week of prayer, students began to see the ways Jesus can identify with their experiences through His suffering. “Once I

PHOTOS BY LIZEL OLIVIA



Throughout Coneff’s presentations, small groups engaged in discussion and study. (L to r.) David Fernandez, Vanessa Fernandez, Kevin Mejia and Lenny Bechet.

realized that God can actually identify with me, I started crying,” said Joanna Martinez, SGA senior. “They were tears of amazement and wonder that Someone so powerful experienced the same lies and was tempted with the same horrible thoughts I have, just so I could be able to seek love and freedom from Him.”

“When you walk away from this training, it’s not only about teachers being equipped,” SGA principal Paul Negrete explained. “It’s really students being equipped.” For example, students who had experienced great pain were comforted to have their classmates join them in prayer so they wouldn’t be alone.

“I was deeply saddened to hear of the hurt that some of my peers have in their lives,” Natalie Negrete, SGA junior, noted. “Praying together was a simple and moving experience. Each time we ended a prayer session, the individual was able to find peace in understanding that there was hope of healing.”

As Coneff put it, “We’re not a stand-alone ministry. We’re a come-alongside ministry. We all need each other.” Although the week of prayer is over, students are still prayer partners. They share with each other about their brokenness, but more importantly, they bring it to Jesus together.

The seminar also made a powerful impact on school staff and church members. “I

thought, ‘Oh, this will be a great tool to use when students come into my office,’” recalled Bonnie Iversen, SGA director of advancement. “But I found it to be so much more than that. It impacted me in a way I didn’t expect. Life changing!”

Another seminar attendee and church member, Rachel Minor, shared how the experience would affect the way she witnesses. “This will change the way I minister because it brings out the importance of uplifting Jesus,” she explained. “I noticed that, after praying about Jesus’ suffering, people have more peace — their facial expressions change.”

One prayer can provide healing, but it’s not the end of the person’s journey. “It gives me the hope that God really is working on me,” Toni Canlas, SGA senior, said, “that He doesn’t just want to show me the way, but also guide me along my journey. It encourages me in the fact that this isn’t the end, that I can still help myself and others find Him.”

San Gabriel Academy, Temple City church and Norwalk church are hosting ongoing follow-up training to continue introducing church members to this transformative prayer process and multiplying disciples.

*Lauren Armstrong*



Paul Coneff says that thoughts like, “I’m alone” and “I’m not good enough” are lies planted in our hearts by the devil.



# Faith Unites for a Peaceful Community

**A**t the Downey church on Sabbath, Sept. 24, the theme of the day was community; it was clearly a theme that members knew well. From welcoming hugs and friendly conversation to presentations from the pulpit, the atmosphere was a spiritual comfort zone.

The day's Sabbath School lesson capped studies on reaching out in the community. Gerard Kiemeney, L.A. Metro Region director, led a discussion focused on how to wait for the Lord's return. "We wait for His coming, in relationship with Him," he said. "There are a lot of ways we can interact on the internet, but to really reach out, we need flesh-and-blood contact. We wait for His coming, investing what He's given us; we wait in relationship with the community."

The children's story by teacher Annie Mendez wove together slides and fun facts about the city of Downey with information about the church's beginnings. "Downey is called 'The Little Town That Could,'" she said. "The first Taco Bell was in Downey. Do you know why they named it Taco Bell? It was because Mr. Bell started it. An Adventist couple that owned a local diner helped raise donations to start building the church. This is a house of worship that faith built," Mendez concluded.

Pastor Cary Fisher then invited a number of guests to join him at the front of the church: Downey Police Sgt. Terry Geckner; Sam Aispuro, a deputy sheriff in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department; retired police detective Mario Delgado, also a church member; and Ricardo Gonzalez, a firefighter and a church member.

While introducing the guests, Fisher noted that he had had trouble finding a parking space earlier that week. "I found one free spot," he added on a serious note, "but it had candles for a fallen police officer. We are so grateful for all that you do to protect our community. We know that

you have a Police and Firefighters' Fund to help with expenses when these men or women lose their lives. The Downey church wants to give a gift of \$3,000 to the fund, because we appreciate what you do for us. Thank you for keeping our community safe. May God protect you as you protect us."

A prayer for the awardees followed. "We strongly believe the Bible teaches that You appoint those in authority," SCC President Velino A. Salazar prayed. "We ask that You protect them. They are brave, but they need Your protection."

After receiving a plaque for the city, Mayor Alex Saab explained, "Downey has 92 churches serving a population of 114,000. We want to make sure that we are always mindful of our beliefs."

In his message highlighting Bible texts on principles of faith and peaceful communities, Fisher also reported on "a review of 273 studies on religion and crime that found that 247 out of the 273 studies found increasing religiosity to be associated with decreases in various measures of crime and delinquency."\*

A final quote underscored the review's findings: "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." (George Washington)

"With faith, you always have hope," Fisher added. "In impoverished neighborhoods, you can keep moving forward if you have this hope. People of faith get involved in volunteering. If the Creator thinks we are important, we are. We live with that sense of importance."

\*Excerpted from an article in the July 24, 2011, *Houston Chronicle*.

*Betty Cooney*



(L. to r.) Pastors Velino Salazar and Cary Fisher; Sgt. Terry Geckner, Sam Aispuro, Mario Delgado, Ricardo Gonzalez and Bill Aumack, elder.





*A large tree with colorful flowers planted at its base serves as a focal point for the garden, inviting prayer and meditation.*



*A stream spanned by small bridges meanders through the garden.*

# La Voz Sylmar Spanish Church Celebrates Grand Opening of "Getsemani" Prayer Garden

On Sabbath afternoon, Sept. 24, the La Voz Sylmar Spanish church celebrated the inauguration and grand opening of "Getsemani," a prayer garden that is their newest addition to their church premises. In June 2015, a group of members had the idea and vision to utilize an empty space that the church had never used. The space, an open area measuring approximately 6,000 square feet, was filled with rocks, dead vegetation and trash accumulation from several years.

More than 20 volunteers worked to clean up the area and begin the process of preparation and renovation. About 80 percent of the church members were involved in one way or another throughout the project preparation and construction. For many months, this same group continued to work, mainly on Sundays. Some were hands-on during all phases of the project, while others helped with cooking and serving meals to the volunteers. The group gathered donations of all kinds. Some 60 people donated more than \$35,000 to complete the project. Gifts ranged from \$15,000 given by a single individual, to a bag of pennies.

The garden consists of a gazebo, four olive trees reminiscent of those on the Mount of Olives, a stream that runs through the whole garden, two small bridges and a sunken baptismal pool. A month following

the inauguration service, the church invited community residents to enjoy the garden for prayer and meditation. "Getsemani" garden will also be used for Bible study.

After the idea and purpose for the land was first announced, a community resident named Arcadia Valencia began to use the empty space for prayer. Valencia's first encounter with La Voz Sylmar Spanish church was through the food bank program two years ago. Every Thursday, she not only came for food but also for a community Bible study program. She recently made her decision to keep the Sabbath holy and become a church member through baptism. At the inauguration ceremony for the garden, Arcadia was one of six baptismal candidates.

Special guests contributed music, testimonies and prayer during the inauguration ceremony. Luis Peña, the SCC Hispanic Region director, presented a special message for the attendees and a dedication prayer for the garden.

"Our church is rejoicing for the opening of our prayer garden," Pastor Carlos Ramirez said. "I personally don't know of any church that has a prayer garden, a stream and an outside baptismal pool within our area. This is a one-of-a-kind project."

Omar and Lita Villaroel were involved with the garden project from the beginning. The day before the inauguration, both prayed

and thanked God that the project was finally complete. As they watered the plants in the garden and talked about the work project, they said they felt the peace of heaven.

"One of the greatest moments in this project was when I heard a young man say, 'I want to be the first to be baptized,'" Omar said. "We will open this place, not only for our church members to be baptized but for any church that requests the use of our baptismal pool. We are thankful that this piece of land went from being a deserted place filled with rubbish to a place where people surrender their lives through prayer and baptism."

*Jesus Flores*



*Pastor Carlos Ramirez baptizes Arcadia Valencia in the baptistry that is part of the garden project. Jesus Flores, associate in pastoral care, assists.*



# Adventist Teachers Incorporate Robots and QR Codes in the Classroom

In August, teachers in the Southern California Conference were invited to attend a workshop to learn strategies for bringing technology into the classroom.

The two-day workshop took place at San Gabriel Academy during “Pre-Week,” the week prior to start of the new school year. Approximately 20 teachers attended the event, which was led by technology consultant and education innovator Warren Dale. Attendees learned several different techniques for using technology to improve classroom learning, participation and efficiency.

“It’s in our DNA that the only way a child can learn is by pen and pencil,” said Dale in an interview, “but the rest of the world is doing something completely different. People play games on their phones and order from Amazon. Now we ask: How can we incorporate this technology into the classroom?”

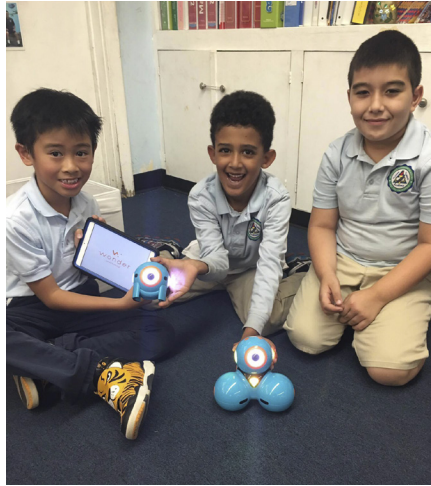
Dale has more than 30 years of experience in teaching. Currently, he spends his time consulting all over the world, educating his clients on classroom and technology integration.

One section of his workshop focused on using QR code technology to share student projects on the internet in a controlled and secure manner. A student could create a movie on an iPad for a class project and upload it to the internet, assigning it a QR code. If the student or parent wanted to view the project again, they could scan the QR code with their smartphone or device to access the project online.

Lisa Molina, second grade teacher at San Gabriel Academy, attended the August workshop. She expressed interest in incorporating the technology she learned about at the meetings into her regular curriculum.

“QR codes are used to display finished student activities online for parents to view,”

Molina said. “Once the code is created, students and parents can always have access to that project.”



*(L. to r.) Caleb Flores, Ryland Pittman and Armen Nalbandyan work in a team to learn about how to use technology to program the robots to complete tasks assigned by the teacher.*

Molina believes that teaching her students to use technology in different ways around her classroom can open their minds to technology’s many uses.

“My hope is that my students will realize what technology is available to them,” she commented. “Instead of using their iPads to watch videos or play games, it can be educational. Also, what’s great is that technology helps hold their interest.”

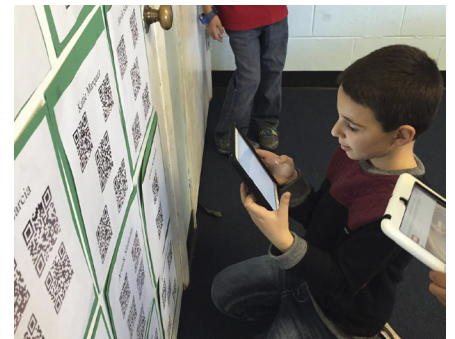
Judy Nunez, second grade teacher at Glendale Adventist Academy, purchased six robots for her students to work with in the classroom. The robots operate with applications such as Blockly by Sunburst, an app that students use to create coding to control the robot.

Nunez’s second graders will often break into teams to work with the robot. One student will be assigned as the group leader to manage the day’s project. Then, the students will work together in their groups to figure out the problem, devise a solution and execute a plan.

Sometimes the coding will work, and other times they will have to try again, using a different method.



*Jazmin Wong and Mallory Canas are learning, even though it feels like play.*



*Hovik Sukiasyan explores QR codes.*

“The students are learning teamwork,” said Nunez. “They are learning to work with someone else; they are learning action and consequence. Another benefit is the impact it is having on the girls. At this age, they are really open to it, and they are learning important skills. Technology is opening doors for all my students.”

Teachers at the workshop were also taught skills in using various applications, virtual reality simulators and robots to help teach students important skills in collaboration, leadership and teamwork. “Oftentimes, the students don’t even realize they’re learning,” said Dale. “They’re just having fun.”

*Rachel Logan*



# Soquel Camp Meeting Expands Participation Via TV, Internet



*Ramiro Cano and Ken Bullington congratulate theme winners.*



*Carlton Byrd makes a passionate appeal.*

## An Inspiring Theme

The Central California Conference once again brought to life its picturesque Pacific Coast campus on July 14-23, 2016, to host the conference's 136th camp meeting season.

This year's camp meeting theme, titled "Transformed: Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow," centered on education. Throughout the 10-day event, Central celebrated its commitment to all aspects of transformational education through all life stages.

"We wanted to emphasize the important role that education plays in every believer's life," explains Ramiro Cano, president. "Whether we are enrolling students in Adventist educational institutions, engaging with them in public or homeschool settings, or simply encouraging all believers to have an ongoing posture of learning, we are preparing effective leaders for both today and tomorrow."

Speakers and seminar presenters discussed what education means and how a commitment to excellence and education today will produce leaders for tomorrow.

"If you are content with the best you have done, you will never become the best you can be, because excellence is not an option," said Carlton P. Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life Ministries, who delivered Soquel's first weekend keynote address. "Why, then, should we strive for excellence? We should strive for excellence because we serve a great God, and our God deserves our best."

Onstage discussions naturally included the Adventist educational system. Central operates 29 schools throughout its territory and works closely with both Pacific Union College and La Sierra University in the education of its students. Special guests, including Dr. Heather Knight, president of PUC, spoke on critical aspects of Adventist education. "The fantastic thing about schools like PUC is that we integrate faith and learning, so you have the best of the academic world integrated with our Adventist worldview," emphasized Knight.

Perhaps the most exciting part of this year's theme was the process by which it was chosen. The conference organized a contest through which all Central schools were encouraged to submit student entries for a theme based on education. Hundreds of entries poured in. The resulting theme, "Transformed: Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow" was the combination of two entries, submitted by Lana Kidwell, a fifth-grader from Fresno Adventist Academy, and Ahmiyah Hudson, a fifth-grader from Bakersfield Adventist Academy. Both students received a cash gift of \$100, \$500 toward tuition, with an additional \$500 for their respective classrooms.

"It was a blessing to have Adventist education featured throughout the 2016 Soquel camp meeting. The theme provided an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of educating our young people with Christ as the foundation," says Ken Bullington, Central's vice president for education.



*Steve Green hits a high note accompanied by the camp meeting choir.*





*Anil Kanda, conference evangelist, embraces a newly baptized high school student.*



*Pastor Eddy Pérez captivates the crowd in the Spanish tent.*

## Memorable Programming

As in the past, Soquel camp meeting featured a compelling lineup of speakers and musicians to inspire attendees and viewers. In the main auditorium, Byrd, a gifted evangelist, opened the season with a stirring series of messages, culminating each evening in an altar call. Hundreds of people flooded the front of the stage in response, signifying a desire to serve God and respond to His call on their lives.

Meanwhile, in the Spanish tent, Eddy Pérez, an evangelist who was born blind and received his sight as a child, inspired attendees with his life story and with passionate appeals.

Midweek speakers included Mike Tucker, speaker/director of Faith For Today, who spoke about the character of God, and Ranko Stefanovic, professor of New Testament at Andrews University Theological Seminary, who presented leading insights into the biblical book of Revelation and current events.



*Larnelle Harris passionately sings a gospel hymn.*

“Camp meeting 2016 was a great event,” said Shawn Rusk, a member from the Fresno area. “My wife and I have three kids attending one of our schools, and the theme of education was refreshing to hear. The theme song was wonderful and the speakers were relevant for the times in which we are living.”

The event culminated in the main auditorium with Dr. George Knight, renowned Adventist thinker, historian, author and former professor at Andrews University. Knight, in his unabashed style, challenged listeners to live out their Adventist identity only as they are grounded in Christ and in the incomparable love of God. Similarly, Dr. Peter Simpson, a native of Central America, motivated Spanish tent attendees by emphasizing personal evangelism.

Meanwhile, across campus a host of speakers, including Anil Kanda, Alvin Maragh, Leah Jordache, Ivor Myers, Maurice Graham and David Solomon Hall — among many others — inspired audiences in tents and halls catering to various age groups from kindergarteners to young adults.

Soquel 2016 also featured noteworthy musical guests. Among them was Larnelle Harris, a Grammy Award-winning Christian artist known for his remarkable tenor voice and soulful arrangement of old gospel hymns. Harris headlined the annual African-American sponsored program, during which Ivan Williams, ministerial director for the North American Division spoke.

“Both Mr. Harris and Pastor Williams were filled with the Holy Spirit and brought us spirit-filled music and message,” remarked Frederick Anderson, Central’s director of African-American Ministries. “They were able to resonate with Soquel’s worldwide audience and those present.”

In addition, Steve Green, internationally acclaimed vocalist, presented a full concert on July 23 to a standing-room only crowd of attendees in the main auditorium. An adult choir, as well as a children’s choir





*Central California and Pacific Union Conference leaders join hands in a show of solidarity as Ricardo Graham offers a dedicatory prayer.*

composed of camp meeting attendees sang several songs with Green, who was accompanied by Grammy Award-winning pianist Dick Tunney.

“Steve Green was fabulous,” said Ruthie Milburn, a member from Visalia, Calif. “I so appreciate Adventist Health for sponsoring that concert for us. It was really great that Steve let the children sing with him. My granddaughter was singing a song the other day that I didn’t recognize. When questioned, she proudly announced, ‘I sang it with Steve Green.’”

## A Global Camp Meeting

Among other milestones, the camp meeting reached more viewers via television and the internet in 2016 than the event had previously. As in years past, primetime programming from the main auditorium was broadcast live on the Hope Church Channel, the denomination’s official channel for worship and event-oriented programming. Hope Church Channel is distributed around North America via satellite, on Roku, as well as online. The partnership has allowed the Central California Conference to share the full 10-day camp meeting experience with those around the nation and around the world that may not have access to camp meeting in their area.

In addition to the Hope Church Channel, programming was streamed live and archived on LiveStream.com. A leading site for global streaming content, LiveStream reported that Soquel camp meeting content was viewed by a total of 45,866 unique viewers from 96 countries, 40 percent of which viewed content strictly on mobile phones and tablets.

Another significant development was a new partnership with Esperanza TV, the Hope Church Channel’s Spanish-language channel for North America. For the first time, Soquel’s Spanish tent programming was viewed live around the country, creating a broader community of attendees who were able to take advantage of the quality programming.

## A Moment of Solidarity

One of the most meaningful moments of this year’s camp meeting was a solidarity segment presented on the first Saturday. The short feature,



*Central City is the center of Soquel’s campus. RV dwellers share fellowship with close neighbors.*

which took place during the Sabbath morning worship service, brought attention to various tragic deaths both in Central and around the country. In the shadow of several notable shootings being grieved nationally, as well as the death of the Camp Wawona staff member, Cano spoke briefly about the hope professed by Christians.

“The world has been snake-bitten, and you and I have the antidote: Jesus Christ,” Cano shared. “How long will we keep the antidote to ourselves? It is time. It is time to get out and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities.”

The segment concluded with Central California Conference officers holding raised hands together with Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union president; Tony Anobile, Pacific Union vice president; and Carlton Byrd.

The congregation was encouraged to do the same during a dedicatory prayer. “We ask that you would preserve life, that you would light up not only Central California Conference, but the Pacific Union, the North American Division, and every Seventh-day Adventist church and home, that we might carry the light into the darkness,” prayed Graham on behalf of the congregation and all leaders present.

## Campus Life

Weekends, however, are not the only highlights at the Soquel camp meeting. Throughout the week a number of enjoyable educational opportunities were available to the campers, including early morning exercise classes, education on stewardship concepts, healthy cooking classes, ham radio training and a host of seminars.

Among this year’s seminar presenters were Shane Anderson, a celebrated author on the topic of Adventist education; Cindy Tutsch, former associate director of the Ellen White Estate, who spoke on various topics associated with Ellen White; Lee Gugliotto, award-winning author on the subject of Bible study; Rico Hill, a health revivalist who addressed issues of personal health, and many others.

Meanwhile, younger attendees were treated to hours of exciting programming every day. Teams of children’s ministry leaders prepared





*Sixteen-year-old Noah-Hans Reindl tells the story of Samson in the Kindergarten tent.*



*Young Adults transform a storage barn into a unique place to gather.*



*Camp Wawona's rock wall was on hand as one of the many activities available.*

games, activities, devotionals and songs for kids of all ages. Some groups even enjoyed fun and supervised outings to places such as Monterey Bay Academy.

Soquel's campus also buzzed all day with a plethora of activities. From volleyball games to football scrambles, to women's tea, table games, rock wall climbing, and hikes to the top of the hill, campers enjoyed each other's company, filling the day and the campus with the pleasant sounds of community.

## Miracles Abound

As a testament to the presence of God on Soquel's campus, organizers ended each day by telling a series of stories that demonstrate God's activity among the ministries and members of the Central California Conference. These stories have come to be known as Miracle Roadways. Among the three dozen stories told this year is the remarkable teamwork of Javier Yopez, pastor of the Fresno Sequoia Spanish church, who, together with members like Ismael Teron, have developed a Spanish radio station that ministers to listeners in both Fresno and Hanford, Calif. Attendees also heard about CROSS trainer (formerly Bible worker) Phillippe Buttin, who told about 10 soldiers studying the Bible with him on the Monterey military base. Three of them visited Soquel one evening and shared their spiritual journey.

Most of these ministries are in some way funded by Central's evangelism offering, taken up every year at Soquel to fund next year's outreach activities. This year's offering totaled \$760,827 in gifts and pledges, which will allow dozens of evangelistic outreach programs and ideas to reach residents in Central's territory for Christ.

## A Preview of 2017

As Central's leaders look to 2017, excitement has already invaded the halls of the church's Clovis headquarters. Next year's theme focuses on Central's Life Hope Centers initiative, which emphasizes each member's role in reaching out to communities with tangible humanitarian services such as health clinics and home improvement projects. In addition to annual features, 2017 will allow camp meeting attendees to sign up for various service projects, organized throughout the 10 days of the event.

"We can hardly wait for the months to pass," concludes Cano. "We are eager to serve and to celebrate the ways in which God is empowering all of us to reflect Christ, while transforming communities."

More information and all camp meeting sermons are available at [SoquelCampMeeting.org](http://SoquelCampMeeting.org).

*Costin Jordache and Sue Schramm*



# Salvador Alvarado Named New ABC Manager for NCC Stores

**O**n Sept. 14, the Northern California Conference Executive Committee voted Salvador “Sal” Alvarado to be the new manager of the NCC Adventist Book Center (ABC) stores, located in Pleasant Hill and Sacramento.

Alvarado comes to the job with more than two decades of sales experience in the Bay Area, including more than seven years as general manager of a successful company. Of all his responsibilities, he enjoys working with people the most. “My favorite part is talking with people and communicating with them,” he said.

One of Alvarado’s goals for his new position is to attract community members to the stores. “The ABC has been devoted to church members, but I feel there is a missing group of people we need to reach out to. We’ll start with the neighborhoods around the stores.”

He also wants to stock more items for Spanish speakers. “Since my roots are Hispanic, I want to provide more material to the Spanish-speaking community,” he said.

NCC administrators look forward to supporting Alvarado in his new position. “Sal’s commitment to our Church and to outreach — as well as his many years of managerial and sales experience — make him a great asset to our ABC stores,” said NCC President Jim Pedersen.

Alvarado has been married to his wife, Sonia, for almost 32 years. They have two adult sons: Salvador Jr. and Gabriel. He is a long-time member of the Hayward Spanish church, where he currently serves as head elder.

A native of El Salvador, Alvarado came to the United States in 1988. He was raised as a Catholic, even though his mother had grown up as an Adventist. Many years later, his sister and mother were baptized into the Adventist Church. When his sister invited him to attend her church, he declined because he didn’t want his young son to be torn between two religions. His wife, however, was interested in attending. “When was the last time we went to church?” she asked, and he agreed to go.

After attending church and Pathfinders, Alvarado’s wife and son were baptized, but Alvarado was troubled because his job required him to work on Sabbath. One day, his boss told him that he could have one Saturday off a month. A few weeks later, Alvarado was told he could have every other Saturday off. He realized that the Holy Spirit was at work. “That was my call,” he said. “God had got me up to this point. From this point on, I needed to make the move.”

Alvarado told his employer he couldn’t work on any Saturdays. When his boss refused to give him the time off, Alvarado put his work keys on the table and said he would resign. “Hold it!” said his surprised boss. After discussing the situation, his employer gave him every Sabbath off. Alvarado went home and called his pastor: “Be ready, because I’m going to be baptized next Sabbath.” He was baptized at the Hayward Spanish church in 1999.

As he takes over his new responsibilities, Alvarado is eager to serve alongside ABC employees and the NCC administration. “I am looking forward to working with the team,” he said. “I’m a 100 percent team player.” Find out more about the NCC ABC stores at [nccsda.com/abc](http://nccsda.com/abc).

JULIE LORENZ



**Salvador Alvarado is the new manager of the NCC Adventist Book Center stores.**

GABRIEL ALVARADO



**Sonia and Sal Alvarado are members of the Hayward Spanish church.**

*Julie Lorenz*



# New Singles Ministries Chapter Organizes in NCC

Single Adventists in Northern California now have a new opportunity to find community with other singles. In April, a new local chapter of Adventist Single Adult Ministries was organized. Valley ASAM Fellowship is a joint ministry of the Galt, Lockeford, Lodi English Oaks and Lodi Fairmont churches. Each church has a representative on the chapter's leadership team.

ASAM is a ministry of the North American Division, with chapters throughout the division. Its mission statement is: "Reaching and empowering single adults to create Christ-centered safe places for fellowship, nurture and service." ASAM ministers to single adults, whether never married, divorced or widowed, including single parents.

Sometimes single adults experience loneliness in their church community. "Many of the church's social activities are centered around families, and a lot of singles feel they are left out," said Daniel Yim, Lockeford/Sutter Hill district pastor. "Many find their spiritual fellowship is lacking because there is not support for singles. Our goal is to reach out to singles for fellowship and spiritual growth."

Galt church member Mary Dybdahl currently serves as the chapter's coordinator. Before she married her husband, Curtis, Dybdahl led a singles ministry and experienced the benefits of fellowshiping with other singles. "You make great friends you'll have the rest of your life," she said. For quite some time, Dybdahl had

been thinking about starting a ministry for singles in the Delta area. When she was appointed to the outreach committee at her church, she decided, "Let's get busy and do it."

The chapter's first event was a Singles Sabbath at the Galt church, attended by more than 60 singles. The morning speaker was Yim, who serves as representative for the Lockeford church. Activities since then have included a bowling tournament and brunch, hiking, kayaking, a luau, a weekend retreat and more. The group sometimes divides up for smaller events that cater to specific age groups. People do not need to be members of the four churches to attend the events. All single adults are welcome.

The leadership team is learning the best ways to reach out to the singles in the area. "Realizing the needs of our community of singles is a process," said Dybdahl. "We are stepping out in faith. There has been a wonderful response."

Deborah Schmidt Pellerin, representative for the Lodi English Oaks church, hopes to see the organization reach the needs of singles in several ways. "My main goal is to provide a sense of belonging [through] activities for singles that make them feel truly a part of something without feeling like a third wheel," she said. Her other goals are for members "to gain

VALLEY ASAM FELLOWSHIP



*A spring trip to Lake Hogan provides an opportunity to kayak.*

JESSE MALIN



*Guests try out their ukulele skills at the luau held at the Lodi Fairmont church.*

friendships and camaraderie, to find effective ministries to others, and finally, to find that special someone, should God ordain it."

Find out more about Valley ASAM Fellowship events, including upcoming holiday activities, at [nccsda.com/valleyasam](http://nccsda.com/valleyasam).

JESSE MALIN



*A photo station helps guests get into the Hawaiian spirit at the September luau.*

*Julie Lorenz*



# Campus Outreach Shows Support at UC Berkeley

In mid-September, CRAVE Campus Outreach, a program of Adventist Christian Fellowship, reached out to students on the UC Berkeley campus with The Solidarity Project. At the invitation of CRAVE, hundreds of students wrote words of hope and encouragement for victims of sexual assault on a Solidarity Wall at the center of campus.

The local NBC affiliate featured the ACF students on its evening news broadcast, and they were also featured in the campus newspaper, *The Daily Californian*.

Students were also invited to attend a screening of the documentary film, "The Hunting Ground," focusing on the issue of campus sexual assault, at Life Adventist church of Berkeley.

"On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, students were invited to CRAVE Conversation



*The Life Adventist Church of Berkeley serves as an outreach to the nearby UC campus.*

meetings at the David Brower Center next to campus, to further the conversation about intimacy, relationships and ultimate life meaning," said Life church Pastor Ron Pickell, who serves as ACF volunteer ministry coordinator for the North American Division.



*Life church Pastor Ron Pickell (third from left) and members of Adventist Christian Fellowship stand in front of The Solidarity Wall.*

"We connected with hundreds of students and developed new relationships with students that are now joining weekly CRAVE Life Groups as an ongoing semester follow-up."

*Julie Lorenz*

# Church Members Express Appreciation to Napa First Responders

The Napa Community church set aside a Sabbath in September to honor the area's first responders during the worship service and at a fellowship meal. "We were so blessed to be able to express our thanks for the ministry that each of them provides," said Senior Pastor Marvin Wray.

Guests included the Napa chief of police, the Napa County sheriff, the Napa County police and fire chaplain, along with two assistants, a CHP officer and a fire captain. The church shared gift cards with them and gave them extras to take to their colleagues. The congregation also presented each department with a picture of the church signed by many of the members expressing their appreciation.

Wray's sermon was tailored for the day. "I reminded everyone that coming to church doesn't make you a Christian and putting on a uniform doesn't make you a hero," he said. "It's what is in your heart and what you allow to live in and through you that determines who you really are."

A particularly moving moment came after Wray told the congregation that church treasurer, Sharon Ketelsen, had been married to a CHP officer who was killed in the line of duty and how the CHP has stood by her side through the years. (A memorial sign at the junction of I-80 and Hwy 37 stands in his honor.) After the service, each of the first responders took the time to give Ketelsen a hug and acknowledge her sacrifice.

*Julie Lorenz*



*Associate Pastor Glenn Gibson speaks with some of the guests.*



*Senior Pastor Marvin Wray welcomes the first responders to the Napa Community church.*



# NCC Adventists Share the Good News in Petrolia

Not all mission fields are overseas. “Petrolia is as truly a mission field as China, Russia, Africa and South America,” said Terry Gustin, volunteer leader of Petrolia’s small Adventist group. “It is the mission I have been called to serve.”

Located more than an hour’s drive from Fortuna, along a bad (sometimes dirt) road, Petrolia has an estimated population of 300-500 people within a 15-mile radius. There’s no cell phone service. Adventists were once a large presence in this remote settlement on California’s Lost Coast. In fact, for a while there were more Adventists in Petrolia than any other denomination. But the village and its economy dwindled through the years, and the church closed for a time.

Gustin and his wife, Gina, are re-igniting the Adventist work in this mission field. Gustin has presented several ShareHim evangelistic seminars in Petrolia, and he and his wife are active friendship evangelists. As a result, six people have been baptized since 2014. “I love evangelism and feel privileged to watch people grow in their love of God and their knowledge of His Word,” said Gustin. “The Petrolia community is so caring and loving that it is a pleasure to work and worship here!” The Adventists meet in a church built in the 1860s — purchased from the Methodists more than 90 years ago.

Originally called New Jerusalem, Petrolia received its current name after an oil company started drilling nearby in 1865. An Adventist evangelist first presented meetings there in

1882. Word spread, and a number of people were converted during the next 30 years. In 1912, J. Adams Stevens came to Petrolia to conduct an evangelistic series. He reported to the *Pacific Union Recorder*: “An unruly element gave us trouble from the beginning; but no serious disturbance occurred, until the night the tent was saturated with kerosene and burned. The meetings were continued in the Methodist church for two weeks, without any further disturbance, and six persons took a definite stand for the truth.”

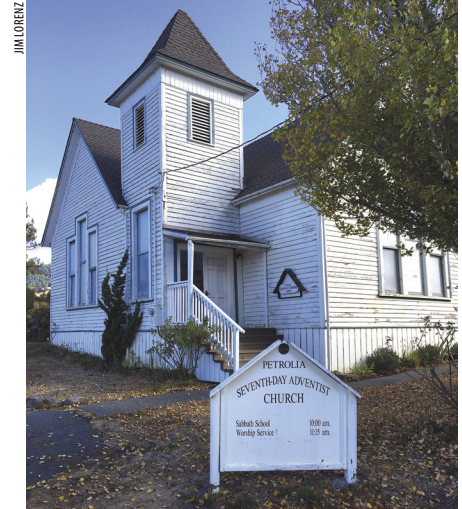
Stevens’s great-grandson, NCC Ministerial Director Jim Lorenz, preached in the same building during a Sabbath worship service this October. “I was surprised to learn that my great-grandfather preached at the church,” said Lorenz. “What a neat heritage to share!”

The Petrolia group was officially organized as a church in 1917, but the members continued to meet in a home. In 1923-24, three Adventist women — Martha Hunter, Addie Clark and Minnie Rackliff — purchased the Methodist church for \$1,000 and gave it to the Adventists. The pump organ and pulpit that came with the church are still there today.

In the 1940s and early 50s, an Adventist-run sawmill operated in the area, and a number of employees attended the church. But by the mid 1970s, the church was inactive. However, for a time a few families still met in the building, ringing the bell on Sabbath mornings. Then, beginning in 1989, Jan and Loneva Doward committed themselves to the work in Petrolia and drove there every Sabbath from their home in Ferndale.

The Gustins also attended the church for five years before moving out of the area. After Terry’s retirement, they returned, and in 2013 he took over the leadership from Doward. Petrolia is a “daughter” group of the Fortuna church, and Gustin greatly appreciates the support of Fortuna church Pastor Dave Perry.

Petrolia members are currently making plans to start a health outreach in their community. “Please keep Terry, Gina and this faithful group in your prayers,” said Lorenz.



**In the 1920s, three Adventist women purchased the Petrolia church building from the Methodists for \$1,000.**



**Terry Gustin is the volunteer leader of the Petrolia group.**

Learn more about the Petrolia church at [petroliasda.org](http://petroliasda.org). If you are ever in the area, make plans to worship with fellow believers in the historic building. “The church is small and rustic,” said Gustin, “thus a very quiet and restful place to worship and a place where you truly feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.”

*Julie Lorenz*

*Historical information for this article was compiled by Terry Gustin from many sources: Merlin Anderson, Jan Doward, Dorothy Price, Jeannie Buchanan, Sennis Edeline and Sandra Weeks, with editing by Gina Gustin and Andrea James.*



**Cindy Lyman, Gina Gustin, Susan Radebaugh, Dawn Posh, Terry Gustin and Judy Lorenz enjoy a potluck meal.**



# PUC Ranked #1 in the Nation for Ethnic Diversity by U.S. News & World Report

While many institutions around the country are struggling to diversify their campuses, Pacific Union College has been named the most ethnically diverse National Liberal Arts College in the nation, according to the new annual rankings of best colleges released by U.S. News & World Report. PUC has previously ranked second and third in this category.

“Pacific Union College is honored to be recognized as the Number One most diverse national liberal arts college in the entire country,” said PUC President Dr. Heather J. Knight. “We believe that we have achieved this exemplary level of diversity because we are privileged to be part of a dynamic global church whose message is relevant and attractive to all kindreds, tongues, and nations. Furthermore, we highly prize our very special young people who are truly living out the vision of the Beloved Community as they study, worship and play together. In this diverse setting, they are also learning the essential skills of intercultural competence and global understanding, which is so highly valued in the workplace today. Therefore, we fully expect our graduates to go forth as successful peacemakers and light in the world.”

The 2017 rankings are based upon information submitted by colleges for the 2015–2016 academic year. For the diversity category, the ranking calculates the proportion of minority students within the student body, omitting international students, and awards institutions a score ranging from 0.0 to 1.0 on the diversity index. The index measures the probability that any two randomly chosen students from a given school are of different races or ethnic groups. The closer a school is to 1.0, the more diverse the student body. PUC scored 0.76, with the largest minority population being Hispanic. Tied for second place were Salem College in North Carolina and Soka University of America in California, both of which received a score of 0.72.

According to Serhii Kalynovs'kyi, PUC's director of institutional research, assessment and planning, for the 2015–2016 academic year, PUC's student body was 28 percent Hispanic/Latino, 26 percent Caucasian/non-Latino, 19 percent Asian, nine percent black or African American, and two percent Pacific Islander, with the remaining 16 percent being multiracial or unknown.

The college sees its ethnic diversity rating as a unique educational advantage for students, providing them with an environment where



*Students at Pacific Union College form a diverse community that values the contributions of all its members.*

they are able to both live and learn together with students different from themselves, from a variety of cultural backgrounds, helping to prepare them to work in today's global, multiethnic society.

In large part, the college's diversity ranking is due to more than 80 percent of the students at PUC being Seventh-day Adventist. According to a 2015 study by the Pew Research Center, the Adventist Church is the most racially and ethnically diverse religious group in the country. On a diversity index scale of one to 10, Adventists scored a 9.1, with 37 percent Caucasian/non-Latino, 32 percent black or African American, 15 percent Hispanic/Latino, eight percent Asian, and eight percent another race or multiracial.

Historically, PUC has always been committed to diversity. In 1883, just one year after its founding, the college admitted Charles Kinney, a young black man who, for two years, studied on the Healdsburg campus at a time when such things were unheard of. Kinney would go on to be the first ordained black minister within the denomination, and helped start five of the first six black Adventist churches in the U.S.

Today, as the latest ranking from U.S. News & World Report shows, the college continues to have a multiethnic campus, as a reflection of the world church and ultimately God's Kingdom, while seeking to produce Christ-like men and women to lead productive lives of useful human service and uncompromising personal integrity.

*Larissa Church*



# Advénte

## The Positive Alternative for Young Adults in Logan, Utah

Two years ago Pastor Ryan Hablitzel challenged the Logan Seventh-day Adventist Church to think creatively in order to cash in on creative evangelism funds available through the Pacific Union. After a couple of months of contemplation, the church came up with the idea for Advénte, a young adult program targeting students at Utah State University.



Pastor Ryan Hablitzel

The concept was to become the positive Friday night alternative for young adults in Logan, Utah. In order to realize this, the church tore into their newly remodeled building to install a smoothie bar and creperie. On opening night, Advénte hosted 35 university students for TGIF – Food, Friends, and Fellowship.

International university students were especially attracted to the program and easily bonded with church members through in-home Sabbath afternoon lunches and wilderness campouts. Advénte continues to attract new students and has built partnerships with other collegiate ministries at Utah State University, Logan.

**Read full article:**

[churchsupportservices.org/advente](http://churchsupportservices.org/advente)



## Stories of Faith

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a video is worth a million! Check out the inventory of short stories about Adventists in action throughout the Pacific Union Conference.

**Visit:** [vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith](http://vimeo.com/channels/storiesoffaith)



# Finding by Karen Spruill the Lost

I absolutely hate losing things and especially my Bibles and books. Yesterday my husband came home from his job and handed me a Bible. "Did you lose this — back in October?" he asked. I welcomed back my favorite go-to-church Bible that I had lost months ago. He found it under the seat in his car. I had searched all the lost and found spots at church, both family cars, my office, our bedroom, the bookcases and had finally given up on finding the Bible.

I am blessed to have a large collection of Bibles and many have their various purposes. I have a morning devotion Bible, several New Testaments that I read from at a support group, a well-worn Bible by my computer, several serious study Bibles, three or four paraphrases, my high school Bible, and the Jewish holy scriptures.

Read full article:  
[AnswersForMe.org/lost](http://AnswersForMe.org/lost)

Answers **for Me**

For the last eight years, Answers for Me has consistently offered support and encouragement for everyday life. The content is derived from people from all walks of life who struggle to put meaning and purpose into their lives. Hundreds and thousands of users have taken advantage of its helpful articles on family life, health, spiritual growth, and more. Over 35,000 users have downloaded the SpiritRenew app, which broadcasts content from Answers for Me. The feedback we've gotten is encouraging:

*"I love this app; it inspires me. I like to hear that people go through the same hardships as I do journeying in this life and find it encouraging, especially love the health topics. Thank u for creating this app." —by K-1000A*

*"I really enjoy this app because the devotional thoughts presented really give you something to think about. Several of the devotions provide great medical as well as psychosocial information. Others provide the right spiritual thought to carry you through the day. God bless you for this!" —by MinnieJD*

*"Uplifting for folks who need a quick reminder of how close God is to us. Fabulous testimonies of His faithfulness." —by MCBuss*

On October 17, 2016 Answers for Me unveiled a new look and infrastructure that is more social media and mobile friendly. This is a great way to share positive information and stories with friends and family. Contact us for a supply of free sharing cards.

Email: [css@puconline.org](mailto:css@puconline.org)



**inspire**  
2017 Writing Contest

Adventist members are invited to participate in the inSPiRe 2017 Writing Contest. Submission dates are Feb. 3 - Mar. 2, 2017. Creative writing has inspirational value that can turn readers' hearts to God, reminding them of what an awesome God we serve. We know there are a lot of great stories out there and we're eager to share them. Check out the guidelines below and have fun writing! Awards will be given!

This event is sponsored by Pacific Union Conference Creative Ministries, but is open to Seventh-day Adventist church members throughout the Pacific Union Conference and the North American Division.

For details visit:  
[visitinspire.org/writing](http://visitinspire.org/writing)

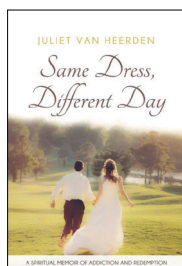




# Resources You Can Use

**Ministry Tool Kits** – AdventSource offers tool kits for every significant area of ministry in the local church. Now every church ministry leader can find idea-support for their area of ministry. **Available at** [AdventSource.org](http://AdventSource.org). If you have questions, call 800-328-0525.

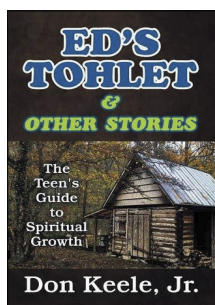
**Bicycle Burritos** – Here’s an interesting outreach idea. An ecumenical group of Jesus followers in Memphis, Tennessee, deliver burritos to homeless people all over Memphis on their bicycles. Learn more about it here: [ubfm.org](http://ubfm.org).



## Same Dress, Different Day

by Juliet Van Heerden – This book is a spiritual memoir of addiction and redemption. Heerden writes, “People affected by a loved one’s addiction suffer silently in church pews. I was one of them. I’m Juliet. Sometimes I wish I could be someone else, with another name altogether, someone whose life is more comedy than tragedy. During the 12 years I was married to a cocaine-addicted Christian,

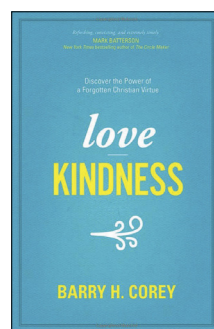
I was overwhelmed with isolation and shame as I sat next to my ex-husband in church week after week. No one fathomed our family skeletons. How could I tell anyone?” For more information about this visit: [julietvanheerden.com](http://julietvanheerden.com). **Price:** US\$20.00. Kindle version US\$9.99. **Available at** [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



## Ed's Tohlet & Other Stories

by Don Keele, Jr. – Stories are the fabric of our lives. They make us laugh. They make us cry. And they bind us together through shared experiences and adventures. But stories can have a higher purpose if we look at them through the lens of what God wants to teach us. Just as

Jesus taught great spiritual truths through parables, we can learn about God’s character and His purpose for our lives through our everyday experiences. From childhood bullies and horrible school pictures to rappelling through the ceiling in the college cafeteria and fixing Ed’s tohlet, Pastor Don Keele, Jr. is an amazing storyteller with a heart for God and a desire to remind you of how much God loves you. “Ed’s tohlet and Other Stories” will keep you laughing while challenging you to go deeper with Jesus and trust Him no matter where you are. **Price:** US\$14.30. **Available at** [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



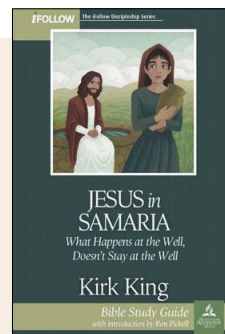
## Love Kindness

by Barry H. Corey – Kindness is not what we have been taught it is. It isn’t a soft virtue, expressed only by sweet grandmothers or nice Boy Scouts. Kindness is neither timid nor frail. Instead, it is brave and daring, willing to

be vulnerable with those with whom we disagree. It is the revolutionary way that Jesus Himself called us to live. The way of selfless risks. The way of staggering hope. The way of authenticity. Barry shows us the forgotten way of kindness. It is a life that calls us to put ourselves at risk. A life that calls us to hope. A life of a firm center and soft edges. It is the life Christ invites us to follow, no matter what the cost. **Published by** Tyndale. **Price:** US\$9.03. **Available at** [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

**Jesus In Samaria,**  
iFollow Bible  
Study Guide,  
by Kirk King  
– Just like

the woman at the well, we cannot see who Jesus really is until we let Him break down our personal barriers. But if we give Him that trust, He will open our hearts and minds to the transformative power of His love. That’s what this book is about: welcoming Jesus into our lives and proclaiming His saving grace. Jesus in Samaria looks at the process that transforms skeptics into believers, moving from an initial connection with Jesus, through a conversation with the Word, and into His community, where they feel called to share their conviction with others—the conviction that Jesus is the Savior of the world. **Published by** AdventSource. **Price:** US\$5.99. **Available at** [AdventSource.org](http://AdventSource.org) 800-328-0525. Online: [AdventSource.org](http://AdventSource.org).







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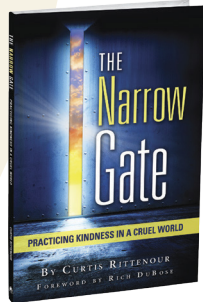
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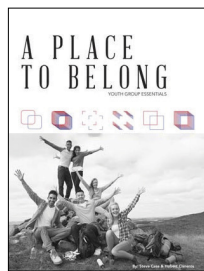
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# inSpire 2017 Innovator's Conference

inSpire and Big Umbrella Resources are joining forces in 2017 to sponsor the inSpire Innovator's Conference in Loma Linda, California, on April 21-22, 2017. If you are an Adventist creative with a passion for using media (music, visual art, writing, videography, drama and more) to tell God's story in compelling and relevant ways, plan to be with us. Mark your calendars! For details, [visitinspire.org/2017news](http://visitinspire.org/2017news).



**The Narrow Gate**, by Curtis Rittenour – Kindness is a lost commodity in our culture. The drive for success, for significance and survival leaves compassion floundering by the wayside. Talk radio engenders combative dialogue that leaks into our churches. Members get inflamed at one another in “hot talk” over politics, pop culture, and church issues and the message of the gospel is neutralized. Defending truth without showing love weakens our mission. *The Narrow Gate* reveals a countercultural path in a world of selfishness. This book shows the power of a courteous life and guides Adventists to authentically demonstrate compassion within the church and in the community. Paperback: 151 pages. **Available at** [AdventSource.org](http://AdventSource.org). **Price:** US\$8.99. Churches within the Pacific Union Conference who wish to order quantities can get a discount through Church Support Services at [css@puonline.org](mailto:css@puonline.org).



**A Place to Belong**, by Steve Case and Hubert Cisneros – *A Place to Belong*

is the first in a series of five books outlining the essentials for creating a vibrant, spirit-filled youth group. Each book builds on the foundation principles of: Building a Great Team, Positive Transformations, Making Good Choices and Growing Great Relationships. The chapters provide helpful insights for youth leadership conventions or training in the local church. **Price:** US\$9.95. **Available at** [AdventSource.org](http://AdventSource.org).



## 2017 Songwriting Contest

Start writing and recording your songs now. Submissions will begin January 5 and end March 23, 2017. Songs should have a spiritual message and be culturally relevant. The preferred recording mode is a singer/songwriter style that is simple and acoustic based! Imagine sitting in a coffee shop or small concert venue and hearing someone share their heartfelt songs. As always, the judges are looking at the integrity of the songs, but the better the performance and recording, the greater the chance that your song will stand out. For more details, [visitinspire.org/2017songwriting](http://visitinspire.org/2017songwriting).



# The Miracle School Reboots Adventist Education

In perhaps one of the most unlikely places, Adventist education is getting a reboot. A new school dedicated to following the blueprint — the foundational principles of the Adventist church — has sprung up almost overnight in a small southeastern Arizona town, grabbing the attention of everyone in the community.

Cochise Seventh-day Adventist Christian School, known to local residents as “The Miracle School” because of its unprecedented creation and rapid growth, is turning the heads of many in churches throughout the Arizona Conference, and endeavoring to bring Adventist education back to the forefront in the lives of local children.

The effort involved three churches and began with a mere idea. While speaking with Susan Suntag, the head teacher at an Adventist school in Tucson, superintendent of education Gus Martin casually suggested the idea of opening a K-8 school in Sierra Vista, a rural community of less than 45,000 near where she planned to retire in 2015. She mentioned the idea to her husband, Arnie, who was in the process of setting up their new home. A spark was kindled. Neither the Suntags, Martin, nor anyone else in the Arizona Conference could have anticipated the events that would follow.

“We were going to retire after years of ministry efforts,” said Arnie, head elder of the



*Today, Cochise SDA Christian School is an example of a faith-based effort that has inspired an entire community.*

Bisbee church. “The idea of starting a school in such a small rural community at first seemed implausible. When I was impressed through prayer that it had to be done, my initial reaction was, quite honestly, ‘Please Lord, not that!’ I knew how difficult it would be to undertake such an effort, particularly at a time when many of our schools are closing.”

As he pondered the idea, Suntag encountered Phil and Audine Dieter, members of the Bisbee church. The chemistry was just right for the next step in what would become a major undertaking. “We were excited about the prospect of bringing Adventist education to our community,” said

Audine, school board chair. “The idea came at just the right time for us.”

The Dieters suggested using the Bisbee church fellowship hall to get the school started. With space and funding options questionable and the new school year less than three months away, the obstacles seemed insurmountable.

Undaunted by the obvious, Suntag began to network with local churches. “Much to my chagrin, the feedback was that they tried to do it before and failed,” said Suntag. “Ironically, the more discouraging the responses, the harder I tried.”

Instead of relying on encouragement, they chose a name for the school and printed enrollment applications.

Suntag and the Dieters then began recruiting students. “It seemed unlikely that anyone would enroll in a school that scarcely existed on paper,” said Suntag. “Surprisingly, within less than three weeks, 20 students had enrolled, including two from a town nearly 70 miles away.”

It quickly became apparent that the school could reach an entire county. Considering the



*Bisbee Mayor Ron Oertle cuts the ribbon at the school dedication, accompanied by Phil Dieter, left, and Gus Martin, right.*





*Students examine the earth-moving equipment during the groundbreaking for their new school.*

space constraints at the Bisbee church, they needed a new building. On faith, the Dieters purchased land adjacent to the Bisbee church. “We had no idea at the time as to how large this project would become,” said Audine. “We just followed the path the Lord had carved out, and the doors kept opening.”

With a new building for the school on the horizon, funding became paramount. “That’s when something really amazing happened,” said Suntag. “Scholarship funds from third-party organizations that normally evaporate by that time of year were still available. We were able to acquire full scholarships for most of our students.”

As others began to catch the vision that had taken root, volunteers stepped forward. A school board was formed. Permits were acquired. Planning for the school’s future began. A search for a modular building uncovered an unlikely prospect — a former border patrol detention facility for sale at a low price. They bought it and began moving it to the newly acquired land. Unbeknownst to those involved,

a million-dollar project that would awaken an entire community had begun.

The school board hired Suntag as principal/head teacher. “We were determined to develop a Bible-based curriculum with extensive hands-on activities, such as gardening and food preparation,” she said.

“We wanted to set ourselves apart from all other schools,” she said. “Following the blueprint and reaching the entire community was going to be our primary focus.”

As classes began with pioneer students in the Bisbee church fellowship hall, groundbreaking for the new building began. Everyone watched eagerly as sections of the modular were moved into place. A metamorphosis quickly began as the structure was renovated and expanded to become a modern school building with state-of-the-art classrooms.

The building design was the handiwork of Phil Dieter, who worked alongside the construction crew. The fast-moving project made a striking impression on the local community, where the landscape hardly

ever changes. Immediately catching the eye of passersby, inquiries about the school started and stories began to appear in local newspapers. Cochise SDA Christian School had been born.

It did not take long to realize that transportation for students posed a challenge in a county that covers more than 6,200 square miles. The Suntags had been using their own van to transport students until volunteers stepped in. But with the prospect of further expansion, they needed busses. The group prayed for an answer to the dilemma.

Within days, a local non-profit organization that had closed due to cuts in state funding donated shuttle buses and a van to the school. The vehicles were in excellent condition — one with only about 26,000 miles on the odometer.

“The Lord once again answered prayers and opened another door,” said Audine Dieter. “We were amazed at how quickly the problem was solved.”

In May 2016, just a year after the school’s inception, three students graduated from



eighth grade. It was standing room only at the graduation ceremony in the Bisbee church that evening — the first time a crowd of that size occupied the church. The camaraderie of the families and staff was readily apparent to all attending, as the new school made its first major impression on a community that had watched it evolve in record time. The personal growth of each graduate was a testimony to the whirlwind effort that put this school on the map.

The new classroom building was completed in July 2016, just in time for the new school year. A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 31, with guest speakers that included a county supervisor, the county sheriff, a representative for the congressional district and the mayor of Bisbee, who cut the ribbon. Arizona Conference Treasurer Reggie Leach and Gus Martin also addressed the large crowd.

“It was refreshing to see government leadership support our efforts and offer such earnest commentary about bringing back education the way it used to be,” said Arnie Suntag. “It was a rare event and perhaps the best opportunity we’ve ever had to let an entire community know who we are and that we are here to help.”

Cochise SDA Christian School began the 2016-17 school year with 22 students. The school does not plan to accept additional students until next year, when the new infrastructure is fully



*Class begins in the Bisbee church fellowship hall.*

deployed. The campus includes a multipurpose building to help support vocational programs such as woodworking and automotive, as well as a greenhouse, gardens, a field track, and a fully-equipped playground. The school also plans to have a television ministry.

What has happened in the little town of Bisbee in just over a year’s time may well represent a rebirth of Adventist education. The school’s founders believe the effort will be replicated throughout the conference. Calls are already coming in from other churches.

“We truly hope and pray the story of Cochise SDA Christian School will inspire others to do the same thing,” said Arnie Suntag. “There is not much time left to reach our children and to make a difference in our communities. We need Adventist education, and efforts like this one can only happen if people are willing to step out in faith.”

For more information about Cochise SDA Christian School, visit [www.cochisesda.org](http://www.cochisesda.org).

*Phil Draper*



*After a brief enrollment period, 12 students were registered, becoming the pioneers of the new school.*



# High School Student Takes Initiative

## *Sarah West Rallies Church to Donate for Kids in Need*

One young church member went on her first mission trip last year to the island of Roatan, returning with a goal. This past June, she and 22 other Calimesa church members went again, this time bringing even more resources than before. It all started with Sarah and the water bottles.

Sarah West is a student at Beaumont Senior High School and attends Calimesa church with her family. Last year was the first time she went on a mission trip, taking her to Roatan, an island near Honduras. This is an annual trip organized by the Calimesa church and Loma Linda University Service Learning department.

The focus of the eight-day trip was to provide medical services to the area, such as dental care, health assessments, minor surgical procedures and counseling. West's mother, Liza West, also went. Pablo Ariza, young adult pastor at the Calimesa church and organizer of the trip, had them help lead the programming for the local children.

"There was activity all day long; we were constantly working. This really made me notice a need that the children had," West said. "It was extremely humid. We were drinking water constantly. But when the locals came to our programs, they didn't have anything to carry water in. Most of their drinking water was imported in big water cooler jugs, so they didn't have access to it when they were outside."

Others noticed children carrying small amounts of water in small plastic bags or anything else they could find.

After returning from the trip last year, West kept thinking about those children and their limited access to water. She brought this need to her church. "I thought maybe we could find a way to help," West said.



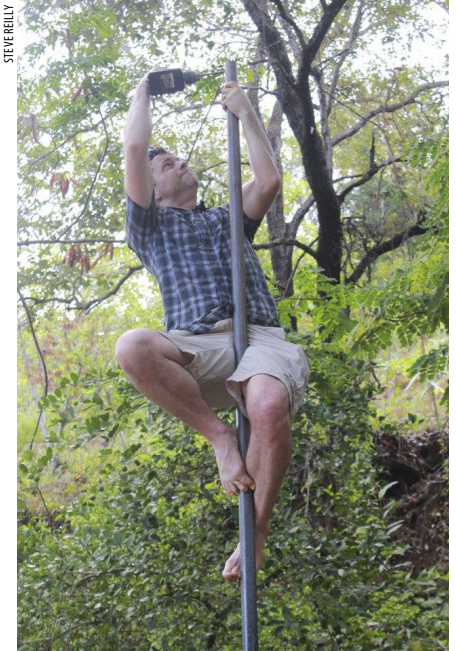
**Sara West gathered 165 water bottles back home to distribute on her second mission trip to Roatan.**

She knew that the Calimesa church includes a community service project for children and families to participate in during their week of Vacation Bible School. Through the years they have collected soccer balls, mosquito nets, jump ropes, etc.

"I talked to Pastor Pablo about asking for donations of water bottles, and he talked to Pastor Isaac Kim, who runs our VBS. They devised a plan to have a station set up where families could bring water bottles for the children on Roatan.



**Medical and dental teams work every day to have as many locals as possible get the help they need.**



**The community improvement team spent day five of their mission trip working on a fence, setting up a flagpole and painting tables and chairs for Camp Bay, a small nearby public school.**

"When VBS was over, we had filled three 18-gallon bins with water bottles — 165 total!" West reported. "When I went on the Roatan mission trip for the second time, this past summer, we distributed the bottles. The children were so excited."

"Suddenly, our children's program had to include more bathroom breaks," Liza West added.

Aside from spearheading an entire project for a mission trip, Sarah West grew personally and spiritually, as well. Others who know her well have observed this growth as a result of her participation.

"It was eye-opening to see her focus right onto the needs of people," Liza West said. "I saw that it affected the way she behaved in her own life as well, making sure she didn't waste food or throw away things she might still be able to use. She is more appreciative of the privileges she has in life."

"I've seen that when young people return from mission trips, they come back with greater evidence of the difference that the life of Jesus makes," Aren Rennacker, youth pastor at Calimesa church, added. "It's much more powerful than sitting in Sabbath school or listening to a sermon. It's a concrete experience that shows why He called us to service."

"Going to Roatan made an incredible difference for me," Sarah West said. "I feel so lucky to have all the things I have. Everyone on Roatan is so grateful for anything they are given. I can't wait to do more."

*Amy Prindle*

# Tara VinCross Installed as Senior Pastor at Azure Hills

Ask Tara VinCross about her recent installation as senior pastor of the Azure Hills church, and chances are you will find her answers hold a common theme: God has been leading in her life.

When the call for a new senior pastor at Azure Hills came, VinCross, her husband, Caleb, and their 2-year-old son, Josiah, were fully settled into their Philadelphia community. Since moving there from Seattle, she had pastored the Chestnut Hill church, planted Reach Philadelphia, and opened the Urban Evangelism School through a partnership with Washington Adventist University. Despite initially having her name added to the original list of potential pastors for Azure Hills, she soon asked to have it removed. Things were going too well to leave Philadelphia.

VinCross took a day for prayer and fasting — as she often does — and it was there that plans began to change.

“God said, ‘When they call you back, stay open,’” VinCross said. “I said, ‘They’re not calling back, but You’re God so I’m willing to stay open to what You’re doing.’”

Not long after that, she received a call: the Azure Hills search committee wanted her to reconsider and they would fly her out to interview. She and her husband agreed to the visit. It soon became clear Azure Hills church was exactly where God wanted them. “We saw God leading in so many different ways,” she said.

The installation became official on Sept. 17 in two separate services at the Azure Hills church. The conference welcomed VinCross as senior pastor, and she and the congregation made a covenant. After preaching her first sermon, she and her family joined the church for a fellowship dinner and get-to-know-you session.

For VinCross, this is just the latest in a lifetime of God-led happenings. She was not raised Adventist, but came to Christ through a friend’s church. In high school, her mom found an Adventist academy and she became involved in summer ministries. It was there she felt the call to pastoral ministry.

VinCross believes strongly that the gospel is not good news until it is lived out. Urban evangelism is based on this idea, and it is a ministry she hopes to continue in California. “I’m excited there’s a legacy of grace at the



VinCross speaks on “*Too Small a Thing*” and following the example of Jesus together.

Azure Hills church,” she said. “We can not only share the good news, but be the good news in the community.”

In her first sermon as senior pastor, VinCross spoke on Isaiah 49:5-6.

“I was sharing the dream of what we can be together, what we were called to be together,” she said. “This life is messy and imperfect, but it is a life following after the example of Jesus.”

This is the call VinCross answered and, right now, it has placed her at Azure Hills church.

*Julia Bonney*



Elders, pastors and families gather around to pray over the VinCross family on Sept. 17 at Azure Hills church.



# One Life With Jesus Retreat Draws Students to Cedar Falls

**M**ore than 200 high school students from around Southeastern California Conference chose to begin their school year with Jesus as they gathered for a “One Life” retreat this summer from Aug. 19 to 21 at Camp Cedar Falls, located in the San Bernardino Mountains.

The One Life was born out of a larger movement in which Adventists from all over the world met in Atlanta, Ga., in February 2011, for “the One project,” a ministry committed to providing a space for young people to come together to make Jesus the center of their spiritual life.

The success of the One project inspired a group of dedicated pastors and teachers to continue to build on the Jesus-first concept, and organized the first One Life gathering for high school students in Aug. 2011. Its huge success enabled it to grow into an annual event, marking its sixth time this year.

Adult ministry leaders help to facilitate the event, but it is primarily led by high schoolers reaching out to their peers. The three-day event encourages teenagers to end summer and begin the new school year with Jesus in mind.

Through nature excursions, community outreach endeavors, question-and-answer panels and powerful, spirit-filled prayer and worship gatherings, organizers brought the youth together for a time of personal spiritual revival and solidarity as they focused on making Jesus first.

Among the dozens of teens, ministry leaders and speakers who gathered at Camp Cedar Falls was Sara-May Colon, youth pastor at Garden Grove church; Filip Milosavljevic, youth pastor at Loma Linda University church; Austin Nystrom, youth pastor at La Sierra University church; Lemar Sandiford, Bible teacher at Redlands Adventist Academy; Rahshan Wall, youth and young adult pastor at Kansas Avenue church; Jessica Williams, religion teacher at Loma Linda Academy; and Pono Lopez, associate pastor at Eagle Rock church and trainer for the youth leaders.

“The youth are taught the value of principles like safety, unity, respect and the importance of developing a personal relationship with Christ,”

ISRAEL GIBREIDS



**Todd Rosspercer, youth pastor at Redlands church, refs a game of “Trout Toss” during Saturday night games. Players who toss the trout the farthest — without using their hands or feet — win.**

Milosavljevic said. “One Life has had such a profound impact on the young people that some are returning to give back, like Daniel Mirasol, who is a college freshman now, but attended The One Life this year and served as media director.”

This year’s event ended with a powerful, soul-stirring appeal from Wall, and plans are already underway for the next One Life meeting, which is scheduled at Camp Cedar Falls in August 2017. For more information about the next event, visit The One Life website at [www.the1life.com](http://www.the1life.com).

*D’Borah Green*

TAYLOR PITTEKGER



**Over 200 high schoolers gathered for the three-day event at Camp Cedar Falls on Aug. 19-21.**

AREN BEN MACKER



**Kids enjoy some downtime and enjoy talking and hanging out together.**



# Quiet Hour Ministers in Cuba

Since 1959, Cuba has been under communist, totalitarian rule. The construction of new churches is typically prohibited, and for years it was difficult for evangelism to be carried out. But with political shifts in 2008 and 2015, it has become easier for volunteer-based groups such as Quiet Hour Ministries to conduct outreach. The red tape that used to hold back progress for construction projects and evangelistic meetings has lessened, and opportunities for mission work continue to grow.

As Cuba has not had a great deal of external aid before, current Seventh-day Adventist evangelism efforts are making up for lost time. Working with local Cuban conferences, QHM holds evangelistic series and children's programs, runs free medical clinics and helps build house churches. Since new churches cannot be constructed, the local conferences purchase old homes that are renovated into buildings of worship.



*Kids work on a Bible story craft during a children's outreach program. People in Cuba are very poor and having Bible story felt sets, crafts and other materials for children is something they cannot afford.*



*A volunteer administers a health exam at one of the clinic sites. While Cuba does restrict what health services QHM can offer, team members are still able to give basic health screenings, provide medicines and give vision exams and free eyeglasses. Thousands of people have been served in QHM Cuba clinics over the last year.*

"Since November 2015, we've held 24 evangelistic series that have reached more than 3,500 people. From this, more than 200 people have been baptized," said Steve Hamstra, executive director for QHM marketing. "In November 2016, we'll be holding five more evangelistic series in and around the city of Camaguey."

Due to Cuba's strict regulations and socialized medicine, clinics that can provide quick service are few and far between. QHM, which focuses on following Jesus' example of meeting physical needs as well as spiritual ones, fills this gap by partnering with local clinics to provide health screenings, health education and eyeglasses.

"Because resources are limited in Cuba and the people are told we are bringing glasses, some will even bring their optical prescriptions to our clinics," said Linda Davis, executive director of international evangelism for QHM.

Jimmy and Diana Oei, members of Mission Road church, joined QHM in August 2016 for their first mission trip in Cuba. Along with 11 other volunteers, the Oei family worked at five sites, four of which were existing house churches.

"Members of the church invited their friends and neighbors to come to the evangelistic meetings," Diana Oei said. "One of the members invited her neighbor, a 17-year-old young man, Emmanuel, who came every night carried by his mother, Maria. Emmanuel was born with a congenital defect that left him



*Friends and neighbors of church members receive Bibles and study for baptism.*

disabled. But he is so full of joy, thanking God for his life!"

Since the evangelistic meetings, Emmanuel and Maria have both decided to continue studying the Bible with a gospel worker.

During the next year, QHM hopes to expand its evangelism, health clinics and renovation projects to the eastern part of the island.

"I would like to encourage you to join a mission trip," Diana Oei urges. "People are hungry and thirsty for the word of God. You can go to [www.qhministries.org](http://www.qhministries.org), choose the location that interests you and sign up for a mission trip. Your life will never be the same."

*Natalie Romero*



*A family is baptized together at the close of the evangelistic meetings.*



# Hispanic Women Meet for Retreat, Work Year-Round

In September, more than 150 Hispanic women from around the Nevada-Utah Conference met at the Hyatt Place in Lehi, Utah, for the annual Hispanic women's ministry retreat, themed "Transformed by His Power." This year, the women heard from two speakers.

The main speaker was psychologist Cinthia Riffel, who helped the attendees through prayer and seminars about positive thinking and instilling confidence that God has each life in His hands. She also counseled as many attendees as the activity-packed schedule allowed.

Janeth Camacho, M.D., offered presentations about cholesterol, diabetes and high blood pressure. She also held private consultations with participants throughout the day on Sabbath and on Sunday morning.

"I know God talked to us through the speaker," said Mary Espinoza, "and thanks to the presentations of the doctor, many of us have made the decision to make changes in our lifestyles."

Women from all the corners of the conference decided to rededicate their lives to Christ and commit to live a life of faith and hope, as well as to honor God with their health. "It was a great blessing. I felt a great energy — very beautiful," reported Avecita Vidrio. "The Lord was with us the whole time, plus we had the best fellowship ever."

A Saturday evening talent and runway show entertained attendees. More than 15 women modeled clothes created from newspaper, caution tape, trash bags, plastic shopping bags, etc. The presenter made the comparison to what God does in our lives, using His divine power to make

beautiful things out of the garbage in our hearts.

"It is incredible how much we can learn from a retreat, but this one especially, thanks to the practical counsels of the doctor, the teachings of the speaker, and the testimony of the ladies attending, who have felt the power of God work in their lives," Norma Lujan said. "I now feel happier and thankful and trusting God. Thanks to Noreen and the team who made this possible."

At the end of the retreat, Vargas announced that she planned to step down from the leadership position to concentrate on other areas of her life. A nominating committee met and voted Veronica Carballo as new director. Carballo currently serves the Maranatha Spanish Church in Las Vegas, where her husband, Benjamin, is senior pastor.



**Noreen Vargas, outgoing Hispanic women's ministry director.**



**The Nueva Esperanza church women's ministry participants enjoy the retreat.**



"It has been a great blessing to serve this wonderful conference as the associate director of women's ministry for the Hispanic women," said Vargas. "It is our prayer that the Hispanic women's ministry continues to grow, educate, empower and support the Hispanic women from our conference, now in the leadership of my friend Veronica Carballo."

#### Year-Round Ministry

Earlier this year, more than 120 women from the three different geographical areas of the Nevada-Utah Conference received their Level I Leadership Certification.

Also, three of the Hispanic churches conducted English as a second language classes as part of an evangelistic effort that the Hispanic women ministries sponsored.

For two consecutive years, all 13 Hispanic churches in the conference participated in 10 days of prayer, and 10 hours of prayer and fasting.

Every single Hispanic congregation from the Nevada-Utah Conference has developed an active women's ministry. "I am very pleased with the outcome of the retreat and all the other events we did this year," said Vargas. "The response and support of the Hispanic ladies from across our conference has been amazing. I am also very thankful for the hard work and the love of the directors from the different churches. They have done a great job and nothing would be possible without them."

*Noreen Vargas*



**Veronica Carballo was voted associate director of women's ministry for Hispanic women, effective Jan. 1, 2017.**





# Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center Celebrates 25 Years

Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center recently celebrated 25 years of serving the community's mental health needs.

The Aug. 31 celebration included speakers, a memory wall, refreshments and a photo booth, and took place in the facility gymnasium.

During the event, an entire wall was set aside for a display of a timeline that depicted the history and evolution of the LLU-BMC, which began in 1989. Drs. David Hinshaw and Richard Griffen supported the purchase of Charter Hospital, an 89-bed psychiatric hospital that was for sale at that time. One year later, B. Lyn Behrens, MBBS, called a group together to create a mental health council. Then, in 1991, the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center opened its doors.

Groundbreaking for the Behavioral Health Institute was a highlight during 2008, and more

than \$600,000 in grants from the Riverside Community Health Foundation and Unihealth were received for the Shield Program for Adolescent Self-Injury at the LLU-BMC.

When the LLU-Behavioral Health Institute opened in 2010, youth beds expanded to 41, and several programs began, including the MEND program (Mastering Each New Direction for medically complex youth), a multidisciplinary treatment approach for children suffering from significant medical illnesses. The adolescent program was so successful that in 2014 an adult partial MEND track was started.

In 2012, the program expanded to Murrieta. The Murrieta BMC Partial Hospitalization Program - Intensive Outpatient Program opened its doors in 2012, beginning with its Insight track. It later expanded to include Serenity, Focus, and Discovery tracks.

In 2015, LLU-BMC completed 4,628 inpatient discharges and 37,473 outpatient visits. More than 700 patients are being treated for chronic pain and medication dependency. LLU-BMC is one of only five facilities in the United States to offer chronic pain treatment.

Speakers at the event reflected on the history of the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center and the importance of addressing behavioral health as part of Loma Linda University Health's goal to continue Christ's teaching and healing ministry to the whole person. They included Edward Field, MBA, vice president and administrator, LLU-BMC; Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president and CEO of Loma Linda University Health; Lyndon Edwards, MBA MHS, senior vice president of adult hospital services; Roger Hadley, M.D., executive vice president, medical affairs, Loma Linda University Health; Kerry Heinrich,

J.D., chief executive officer of Loma Linda University Medical Center; and William Murdoch, M.D., medical director, Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center and chair, department of psychiatry.

B. Lyn Behrens, MBBS, was a surprise guest and speaker. Behrens was invited by Hart to reflect on her years of dedicated support and leadership; she served as president of the system from 1999 to 2008.



During a special event celebrating Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center's 25 years of providing help, healing and hope, B. Lyn Behrens, MBBS, who served as president of the system from 1999-2008, speaks about the importance of the services provided by the center. A surprise guest, Behrens was invited to speak by Richard H. Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president, Loma Linda University Health (beside her at the podium).

Susan Onuma

# Loma Linda University Health Recognizes Outstanding Nurses

When nurses exceed the expectations of their leaders, co-workers, patients, and families, it's important to recognize their efforts in specific and tangible ways, according to Helen Staples-Evans, DNP, chief nursing officer for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. "The DAISY Awards," she says, "are one way to help us celebrate what is going right."

Those who nominate exceptional nurses are asked to describe why they've selected an individual to receive the award. "Providing specific details reinforces their exceptional care and encourages their co-workers to do the same," Staples-Evans says.

The acronym, DAISY, stands for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. The DAISY Foundation was founded in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died in 1999 at age 33 of a rare autoimmune disease.

His family felt blessed by the nurses who had cared for him during his last weeks of life. To recognize their kindness and compassion — as well as their clinical excellence — the family established the DAISY Awards.

Twelve nurses at Loma Linda University Health were honored: Lucinda Esparza, unit 5700; Joanna Yang, DNP, advanced practice registered nurse; Rozann Causey LLUMC-East Campus; Heather Blaine, LLU Surgical Hospital; Luchia Hansen, unit 8100; Sarah Gregory, LLU Behavioral

Medicine Center; Dawn "Ru" Kirk, unit 5700; Tad Worku, emergency department; Carl Santos, LLUMC—East Campus; Janelle Warren, LLU Surgical Hospital; Bryan Billedo, LLU Behavioral Medicine Center; and Patricia Radovich, Ph.D., advanced practice registered nurse, Loma Linda University Health.

*Larry Kidder*



**Dawn "Ru" Kirk (with award), a member of the nursing team on unit 5700 in Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, holds her DAISY Award and certificate. She is joined by Helen Staples-Evans, DNP (left of banner), chief nursing officer for LLUCH, and nursing colleagues.**

# Doc Honored Through Healing Hands Inspires Patient Trust

George Anderson is well and thriving, thanks to successful treatment — for two cancers — by Ivan Namihas, M.D., radiation medicine physician at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Anderson is not the first patient to acknowledge Namihas' exemplary service. In fact, Namihas' recent gold pin recognition through the Healing Hands grateful patient program at Loma Linda University Health means that 10 patients have given back to the organization in thanks for his service.

George and Joyce Anderson said in making their gift, "He is the first doctor we've ever trusted. Dr. Namihas' ability to listen and talk 'with you' at your level instead of 'at you,' along with his deep patient caring, and his expert yet flexible medical and creative protocol skills, set him apart."

Patients and families are at their most vulnerable when they're ill. Their caregivers provide for them emotionally, spiritually and physically. At Loma Linda University Health, that speaks to doctors and caregivers continuing Christ's ministry of teaching and healing — being His Healing Hands to those they serve.

The Healing Hands grateful patient program provides patients and their loved ones with an opportunity to make a gift to Loma Linda University Health in honor of the physician or staff member who helped make their treatment easier.

If you or a loved one have been blessed by staff or alumni of Loma Linda University Health, we invite you to share your story by sending an email to friends@llu.edu.

*Heather Reifsnnyder*



**Ivan Namihas, M.D., shows his gold Healing Hands pin, signifying 10 grateful patient donations made in his honor. He is pictured with fellow radiation medicine staff members and Judy Chatigny, M.S.N. (far right), executive director of Loma Linda University Cancer Center. George Anderson and Steve Kayne were two of the patients who have honored Namihas.**



# U.S. News Ranks La Sierra on Best Value List

La Sierra University is listed among the nation's best western regional universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual guide released Sept. 13, and has landed among the top 10 universities in that region for best value.

The university is tied for 50th place in the 15-state western region in the 2017 Best Colleges rankings, seven placements higher than last year's ranking. The university is also ninth in that region for best value based on academic quality and the net cost of attendance last school year for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

*U.S. News* classifies universities that offer a full range of undergraduate and master's programs, but few, if any, doctoral programs, into North, South, Midwest and West regional lists. For the general Best Colleges listing, the 653 universities that meet the criteria as a regional university are ranked against their peers in their respective regions on a weighted

scoring system that compares average first-year student retention rates, 2015 data for graduation rates, percentage of classes with fewer than 20 students, student-faculty ratios and other factors. In this year's western regional rankings, La Sierra moved up seven spaces from last year's 57th placement, and is tied for 50th with Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas. There are a total 93 first-tier spots on the Best Regional Universities-West list, with some schools tied in various ranks.

"Our continued rise in the *U.S. News* ranking for western universities is a testament of our university's ability to continue to seek effective strategies to serve our students with commitment and passion," said university President Randal Wisbey. "This has occurred because our university family — faculty, staff, administration, and trustees — have all focused energy on creating a climate that is effective for student learning and growth.

"I am also grateful to be part of a learning community that is recognized by the value we bring to student's lives," he said. "We serve many first-generation students, and it is particularly heartening to understand that their university education at La Sierra will not only be transformative for them, but also for their families and for their communities."

La Sierra's ninth-place ranking falls on a best-value list composed of 15 western regional

universities lauded for offering quality education at a lower cost. La Sierra was the only Seventh-day Adventist school to make any of the best-value lists, and the only western regional university in California's Inland Empire to make the cut.



Music students participate in a music technology lab with music department Chair Elvin Rodriguez (center, back).

*U.S. News* used only those schools in or near the top half of their *U.S. News* ranking categories in creating the best-value rosters. "*U.S. News* considers the most significant values to be among colleges that perform well academically," the report stated.

"La Sierra's ninth-place ranking in the best value category speaks to our continued commitment to provide a transformative educational experience for our students, their families, and their communities," said Provost Joy Fehr. "Students who invest in their futures by earning a La Sierra degree are well equipped to make a positive difference in their world."

In addition to these strong placements, La Sierra also tied with three other universities for third place on a list of 11 western regional universities for the largest proportion of international undergraduate students in 2015-16. La Sierra tallied 11 percent.

The university also tied at 27th with Texas Wesleyan University on a list of 2017 Best Colleges for Veterans in the western region.

The 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings can be accessed at [www.usnews.com/colleges](http://www.usnews.com/colleges).

The *U.S. News* best value ranking follows La Sierra's recent number one national ranking for diversity by the *Wall Street Journal* and its high placement in *Money Magazine's* Best Colleges lists published in July 2015. The university ranked eighth in the nation on a list of 50 universities and colleges around the country lauded by the magazine for adding the most value to students' education by helping them exceed expectations.

*Darla Martin Tucker*



Associate professor Jennifer Helbley leads students in a chemistry lab exercise.



Students have some fun during a science lab.

**CALENDARS**

**Arizona**

**REGIONAL MINISTRIES**

**CONVOCATION** (Nov. 11-12) "This Means War" 7 p.m. Friday, Tucson Sharon church, 955 N. 10th Ave.; Sabbath, 9 a.m., Leon Rich Theater (Tucson Convention Center), 260 S. Church Ave., Tucson. Speaker Dr. Gene M. Donaldson; youth/young adult speaker, Rahshan Wall. Info: Chauve, 480-991-6777.

**WINTLEY PHIPPS CONCERT** (Nov. 12) 6:30 p.m. Camelback church, 5902 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix.

**ADVENTURERS' FUN DAY** (Nov. 13) Indian School Park, Scottsdale, Ariz. Info: Evelyn, 480-991-6777, ext. 125.

**Central California**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES TRAINING**

(Nov. 4-5) "Meeting the Spectrum" Mountain View Central church. Registration recommended. Contact Lisa: 559-347-3181, childmindirector@cccsda.org, ccchchildren.adventist.org.

**GLOW LEADERSHIP TRAINING** (Nov. 5) CCC office, Clovis. Learn how to activate and integrate GLOW into all of

your church ministries. Register: 559-347-3150 or glow@cccsda.org.

**YOUTH PRAYER CONFERENCE** (Nov. 10-12) Monterey Bay Academy. Must pre-register at ccscdayouth.org or 559-347-3174.

**ASAM SINGLES' VICTORIAN SOCIAL** (Nov. 11-13) CCC, Clovis. All Pacific Union singles are invited to join in the fellowship. RSVP to singles@cccsda.org, 903-594-8868 or ccscsingles.adventistfaith.org.

**La Sierra University**

**HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL** (Nov. 2-5) 200 academy choir students performing under guest clinician Dr. Jeff Brooker in a free vespers performance, Sat., Nov. 5, 4 p.m., LSU church. Info: music@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2036, lasierra.edu/music.

**CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL SERIES** (Nov. 6) 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient Kristin Lee on violin with La Sierra director of String Studies Jason Ueyama, violin, and Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians Ben Ullery, viola, and Robert deMaine, cello. Tickets: music@lasierra.edu, 951-785-2036 or lasierra.edu/music.

**ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERY WEEKEND** (Nov. 12-13) LSU's Center for

Near Eastern Archaeology's 8th Annual Archaeology Discovery Weekend themed, "A Man's World? Queens, Goddesses, and Mothers in the Ancient Near East." Lectures by world-famous experts, kids' archaeology dig, hands-on labs, teachers' workshop, Middle Eastern banquet, and Bedouin hospitality tent. Info: lasierra.edu/archaeology or call 951-785-2632.

**Northern California**

**TEEN PATHFINDER CAVING** (Nov. 11-13) Lava Beds National Monument. Info: Youth Ministries Department, 925-603-5080.

**WESTERN BARN PARTY** (Nov. 12) 4-9 p.m. Galt Adventist Christian School gym, 619 Myrtle Avenue. Valley ASAM Fellowship for all singles. Vespers speaker Pastor Daniel Yim at 4 p.m., party at 5 p.m. Dinner, professional yodeling, music, comedy, grand march, hay ride. \$15 at the door. Info: 209-747-5366.

**CHURCH TREASURER TRAINING** (Dec. 4) 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. NCC Office, 401 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Presentations by NCC Human Resources and NCC/Pacific Union Conference Stewardship Director Gordon Botting. Bring your computer. Lunch will be served. Info and RSVP: 888-434-4622, ext. 209 or ingrid.wray@nccsda.com.

**Pacific Union College**

**FALL FESTIVAL** (Nov. 6) 4 p.m., Pacific Auditorium. PUC's student clubs host a variety of booths and exhibitions at this annual autumn celebration for the whole family.

**COLLEGE DAYS** (Nov. 6-7) High school students experience classes and college events at PUC. Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080 or puc.edu/admissions/visit.

**TRANSFER STUDENT VISIT DAY** (Nov. 11) College students interested in transferring to PUC learn about academic programs, campus life, the admissions process, and financial aid opportunities. Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080 or puc.edu/admissions/visit.

**LIGHT AND COLOR** (Nov. 12) Watercolors by Sally Baker, 7 p.m. Rasmussen Art Gallery. Inspired by her travels, Baker's works explore themes that include Asian and Italian pottery, as well as fabrics from Japan and Hawaii. She is best known for her still life series that focuses on Asian artifacts, kimonos, and bamboo. Show runs through Dec. 10. Info: 707-965-6303.

**COLLOQUY SPEAKER SERIES** (Nov. 17) John Bradshaw, director of "It Is Written," 10 a.m. PUC church. Info: 707-965-6303.

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**SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT** (Dec. 4) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall. Artist in Residence Asher Raboy conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble in their fall concert. Info: 707-965-6201

**PUC CHRISTMAS CONCERT** (Dec. 10) 4 p.m., PUC church. The holiday season is not complete without the joyous sounds of this annual Christmas celebration for the whole family. Info: www.puc.edu or 707-965-6201.

**LOOKING TO FURTHER YOUR CAREER IN NURSING?** (ongoing) PUC offers three ways for California nurses to expand further their careers through its RN to BSN programs. To learn more, visit www.puc.edu/rn-to-bsn.

**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.

**Southeastern California**

**PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** (Nov. 3-6) Rancho Jurupa Park, 4800 Crestmore Rd., Riverside. The camporee allows Pathfinders to expand their personal friendships, meet young people from other clubs and demonstrate their special skills and achievements. All clubs are

encouraged to attend. Info: Judi Jeffreys, 951-509-2265; bit.ly/NovPath.

**MARRIAGE SEMINAR** (Nov. 11-13) Riverside Marriott at the Convention Center, 3400 Market St., Riverside. Asian/Pacific ministries and family ministries are holding a marriage seminar, presented by Alanzo Smith from Greater New York Conference. Info: Juliana Moon, 951-509-2339, asian.ministries@seccsda.org.

**FILIP MILOSAVLJEVIC ORDINATION** (Nov. 12) 4 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Please join us as we celebrate the ordination of Filip Milosavljevic.

**SHINE: HARNESSING THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD. SHINE MINISTRIES 10TH ANNUAL EVENT.** (Nov. 11-13) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center. Girls ages 13 and up. Eric Penick, associate youth director, will be the speaker. Registration/info: bit.ly/NovShine. Info: Marvella Garcia, 951-509-2333, shine@seccsda.org.

**HE SAID GO MISSIONS CONFERENCE** (Nov. 18-20) Sheraton Hotel Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Dr., San Diego. The 2016 missions' conference presented by the North American Division Registration includes three ticketed meals, all resources and materials and full access to the conference. Info: hesaidgo.org.

**Southern California**

**GLENDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY DAY** (Nov. 1) 8:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Students are invited to spend the day on campus for special presentations and class visits. Light breakfast and lunch provided. Parents are welcome. Location: 700 Kimlin Dr. Info/reservation: 818-244-8671.

**COOKING DEMONSTRATION** (Nov. 5) Presenter, Wes Youngberg, Dr.P.H., M.P.H. All day, starting at 10:45 a.m. and concluding with a 3 p.m. cooking demonstration and Q&A. Dr. Youngberg will speak on preventing and reversing diabetes. West Covina Hills church, 3536 E. Temple Way, West Covina 91791. Info: 626-915-7819.

**SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT** (Nov. 12) 5 p.m. featuring Kemp Smeal, resident organist for the Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. A reception will be held following the concert. Info: 818-244-7241.

**WELLNESS COACHING TRAINING SEMINAR** (Nov. 12) 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Live and video presentations. Instructor, Lorayne Barton, M.D., Pacific Union Health Ministry director. SCC Office, 1535 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Learn to assist in following up with patients health events. Online registration: eventbrite.com/e/wellness-coach-intensive-training-workshop-

tickets-27897444006. Questions? Email bcooney470@gmail.com.

**SUNDAY BRUNCH SEMINAR, "THE NEWEST CHANGES IN GIFTING LAWS AND GIFTING TO SAVE ON TAXES"** (Nov. 13) Presenter, Jonathan Cherne, Esq., a private practice and religious liberty attorney. Q&A session. 9 a.m. Scholl Canyon Estates, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Reserved Seating/Info: 818-546-8421; email, gpark@seccsda.org. Walk-ins welcome.

**MEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT** (Nov. 18-20) "Empowering Men of Faith." Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 State Highway 38, Angeles Oaks 92305. Speaker, Virgil Childs, Pacific Union Regional Ministries Director. Registration/Info: Oscar Sainturi, 626-905-4677, Romeo Flores, 626-688-5240 or Charles Dolcey, 323-734-1276.

**TOUGHEST 10K IN THE USA** (Dec. 4) Newbury Park Academy campus, 180 Academy Dr. Open to the community and draws people from all over the country. Info/registration: toughest10k.com.

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**Bulletin Board**

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**Employment**

**ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** of Health Sciences (ADU) seeks a full-time library faculty to head library liaison and information literacy/instruction services. The optimal candidate will be an Adventist with a Christian world view who embraces the mission and ethos of ADU; has an ALA-approved master's degree in library and information science; a strong history of health sciences library instruction and scholarship; and be available to work beginning January 2017. Send CV to Deanna Flores, at [deanna.flores@adu.edu](mailto:deanna.flores@adu.edu).

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, LOMA LINDA** University School of Religion is seeking a professor to begin the winter 2017 quarter. This is a tenure-track position in which candidates should possess clinical ministry training and a completed Ph.D. (preferred). Please email a cover letter, curriculum vitae and three professional references to: Dr. Erik Carter, [ecarter@llu.edu](mailto:ecarter@llu.edu).

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	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/25
Alturas	5:51	4:44	4:38	4:34
Angwin	6:04	4:58	4:53	4:50
Calexico	5:47	4:42	4:38	4:36
Chico	6:00	4:53	4:48	4:44
Eureka	6:07	5:00	4:54	4:51
Fresno	5:57	4:51	4:47	4:44
Hilo	5:44	5:42	5:41	5:40
Honolulu	5:52	5:50	5:48	5:48
Las Vegas	5:40	4:34	4:29	4:27
Lodi	6:01	4:54	4:49	4:46
Loma Linda	5:52	4:46	4:42	4:40
Los Angeles	5:56	4:51	4:47	4:44
Moab	6:11	5:05	5:00	4:57
Oakland	6:05	4:59	4:54	4:51
Phoenix	5:31	5:26	5:22	5:20
Reno	5:52	4:46	4:40	4:37
Riverside	5:52	4:47	4:43	4:41
Sacramento	6:00	4:54	4:49	4:46
Salt Lake City	6:18	5:11	5:05	5:01
San Diego	5:53	4:48	4:45	4:42
San Francisco	6:06	5:00	4:55	4:52
San Jose	6:04	4:58	4:54	4:50
Tucson	5:29	5:24	5:21	5:18



**ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** of Physics. La Sierra University Physics Department invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position in the assistant to associate professor level to begin in Fall 2017. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in Physics, Biophysics, Optics/Photonics or a closely related field. ABD candidates will be considered if the anticipated degree completion date is before July 2017. Please send a CV and a statement of research and teaching interests to Dr. Elvis Geneston, Chair, Physics Department, egenesto@lasierra.edu.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM** and Instruction at La Sierra University invites applications for a full-time, tenure track faculty position. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree with Curriculum and Instruction as the preferred specialization, and must have taught for at least five years in a K-12 classroom setting; be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church; and have demonstrated effectiveness as a teacher and scholar. Additional details and application instructions available at lasierra.edu/jobs.

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks committed Adventist to establish and direct an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program effective summer, 2017. Essential qualifications include a master's degree in Occupational Therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered, and five years of professional experience.

Email letter of interest and C.V. to Rick Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, r2young@ucollege.edu.

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** has two faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology. For details and to apply, please visit: [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://jobs.wallawalla.edu). We invite you to share this announcement as you deem appropriate. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: [wallawalla.edu/](http://wallawalla.edu/).

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**Missing Members**

**OAKHURST.** *Chris Olson, Clerk, chrisolson1966@yahoo.com:* Van Contero, Denise Delashmit, Andrew DePaz, Helen Donley, Steven Duke, Brandon Freeman, Daniel Gaylord, Shiela Gaylord, Richard Hayes, Margaret Irwin, Bob Lewis, Cheyenne Mangan, Daniel Marin, Conner Marshall,

Debra Morgan, Ryan Taylor-Wada Morton, Robert & Wanda Nelson, Sandra June Ruiz, David Earl Tolbert, Jr., Debbie Wilson, Cassandra Wires.

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**Reunions**

**ALUMNI REUNION** La Sierra Academy 95th Year Celebration (April 28, 29) 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside. Honor Classes '02; '07. Welcome Reception, Fri., 7 p.m.,

LSA Library; registration, Sab., 9 a.m., worship and potluck lunch to follow. Alumni/Varsity Basketball 8:30 p.m. Sat. evening. Please update your contact info. [JNelson@lsak12.com](mailto:JNelson@lsak12.com); 951-351-1445 ext. 244; [www.lsak12.com](http://www.lsak12.com).

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**AT REST**

**BABCOCK, VINCENT DUANE** — b. Jan. 31, 1935, Charleston, New Brunswick, Canada; d. July 19, 2016, Mesa, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Terri; former wife, Nelrene Julie; son, Steven; daughter, Cindy; six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren. Served U.S. Navy and in data processing at Kettering Hospital and as a computer software engineer.

**BARTELL, M.D., SILAS** — b. April 22, 1932, Contamana, Peru; d. July 14, 2016, Hughson, Calif. Survivors: son, Bruce.

**BECKER, DOROTHY ONEDA (TERRY)** — b. May 23, 1927, San Pedro, Calif.; d. Sept. 16, 2016, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: sons, Larry, Robert Jr.; daughter, Karen Kaatz; four grandchildren.

**BLANES, JAMES K.** — b. Jan. 20, 1963, Central Point, Ore.; d. Aug. 13, 2016, Redcrest, Calif. Survivors: sons, Matthew, Sevyn, Logan; daughters, Morgan Blanes; sister, Mary Valentine.

**BOYLES, ALTON REED** — b. July 4, 1921, Pittsburgh, Pa.; d. April 15, 2016, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: son, James; daughter, Andrea Terry; two grandchildren.

**BOYLES, DORIS MAE (WALTH)** — b. Feb. 7, 1923, Fairfax, S.D.; d. Feb. 29, 2016, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: husband, Alton; son, James; daughter, Andrea Terry; two grandchildren.

**BROWN, EUGENE N.** — b. Dec. 3, 1925, Honolulu, Hawaii; d. Sept. 9, 2016, Honolulu, Hawaii. Survivors: wife, Ida; daughter, Melanie.

**BUTOY, ALEXANDER** — b. Feb. 5, 1927, Merigoala, Teleorman, Romania;

d. Jan. 7, 2016, San Bernardino, Calif. Survivors: wife, Regina; sons, Hendel, Henry, Haydn; daughter, Erica Vaughn; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**CONTRERAS, PETER** — b. Jan. 18, 1938, Van Nuys, Calif.; d. June 30, 2016, Montrose, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sylvia; son, Benny; daughter, Sandy Moreno; three grandchildren; brothers, Ruben, Sam; sisters, Corina Cage, Minnie Martinez.

**DHARMARAJ, PAUL JEYAKUMAR** — b. March 8, 1949, India; d. Sept. 20, 2016, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: wife, Emmalein "Emily"; son, Tony; daughter, Flora Perez; two grandchildren.

**DITTBERNER, LARRY DEE** — b. Aug. 27, 1941, Sweetwater, Texas; d. June 12, 2016, Sedona, Ariz., Survivors: wife, Lois; son, Jason; two grandchildren, sister, Ginger Nicola. Served as pastor in Arkansas-Louisiana, Texas and Arizona conferences.

**EBERLE, LARY STEVEN** — b. Oct. 28, 1946, Fairfield, Calif.; d. Sept. 12, 2016, Fairfield, Calif. Survivors: father, Clyde; mother, Dolores; brother, Gary; sister, Patty.

**FROELICH, LILLIAN OLIVE (WETMORE)** — b. Nov. 25, 1922, Port Allegheny, Pa.; d. Aug. 4, 2016, Lincoln, Calif. Survivors: son, William; daughters, Carol Pearson, Mary McClay; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. Served at the General Conference, Voice of Prophecy, Amazing Facts; as manager of the campus store at Madison Academy; managed Wachovia Credit Union for Madison Hospital.

**HAMILTON, JAMES ELLERY** — b. Feb. 15, 1943, Stockton, Calif.; d. Aug. 5, 2016, Ukiah, Calif.

**JOHNSON, BEVERLY** — b. March 25, 1939, Milton, Ore; d. May 8, 2016, Ceres, Calif. Survivors: husband, Clair; sons, Trent and Ryan; daughter, Belinda Boldman; six grandchildren. Served as dean of women at Rio Lindo Academy; taught kindergarten at Central Valley Christian Academy in Ceres, Calif.

*Correction:* **MCBRIDE, DALE** — b. July 16, 1926, National City, Calif.; d. April 8, 2016, Alpine, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ann; son, Jose Dominguez; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

**MEADOWS, HERMAN ROGERS** — b. Dec. 17, 1945, Milan, Mich.; d. June 8, 2016, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: son, Kyle; daughter, Kristen McCallum; one grandchild.

**NICHOLS, DELBERT FRANCIS** — b. March 1, 1936, Flint, Mich.; d. Aug. 19, 2016, Citrus Heights, Calif. Survivors: wife, Jan; son, Mark; daughters, Cynthia,

Theron, Lisa; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**PAYABAN, JULIA JEAN SILCOX** — b. March 20, 1960, South Korea; d. Aug. 21, 2016, Oceanside, Calif. Survivors: husband, Ruel; daughter, Angela. Served as both principal and teacher of Oceanside Adventist Elementary school for 21 years.

**PIERCE, SANDRA J. (BRAND)** — b. July 3, 1948, Sacramento, Calif.; d. Aug. 24, 2016, Napa, Calif. Survivors: son, Steve Proffitt; daughters, Tamie Proffitt, Kristi Miller; nine grandchildren.

**SCHAPANSKY, ROSEMARY** — b. March 13, 1924, Little Rock, Ark.; d. Aug. 8, 2016, Tulare, Calif. Survivors: sons, Eddie, Daryl; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

**SMITH, PHYLLIS ANNETTE (SIDLE)** — b. June 14, 1921, Minneapolis, Minn.; d. June 16, 2016, Angwin, Calif. Survivors: sons, Gary, Galen; daughter, Sherrilyn Roth; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

**SODERBLOM, ALICE** — b. April 16, 1938, Central Square, N.Y.; d. Sept. 12, 2016, Yucaipa, Calif. Survivors: husband, Robert; sons, Douglas, Alan; daughters, Sheryl Sokolies, Debra Vickers; nine grandchildren. Served on Southeastern California and Pacific Union conference executive committees.

**VAN WAGENEN, MARIAN ELIZABETH** — b. Sept 8, 1925, Aberdeen, Wash.; d. July 16, 2016, Mesa, Ariz. Survivors: daughters, Linda Temple, Cheri Kennedy, Merilu Saunders, Lois "Polly"; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. Served as a teacher in a one-room school in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**VAN WAGENEN, RICHARD KEITH** — b. Dec 2, 1925, Salt Lake City, Utah, d. Sept. 7, 2016, Mesa, Ariz. Survivors: son, Stanley Keith; daughters, Linda Temple, Cheri Kennedy, Merilu Saunders, Lois "Polly"; 13 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren. Served as teacher at Thunderbird Adventist Academy, Phoenix, Ariz.

**WALKER, MERVYN ELERY** — b. March 30, 1935, Masque, British Columbia, Canada; d. Aug. 28, 2016, Napa, Calif. Survivors: wife, Ann; sons, Murray, John; daughter, Shauna; seven grandchildren; brothers, Lyle, Allen.

**WHITE, JOYCE BEATRICE (GILLAN)** — b. March 5, 1917, Visalia, Calif.; d. May 7, 2016, Fort Bragg, Calif.

**WILCOX, SUSAN FOLKENBERG** — b. 1937, Hollywood, Calif.; d. Sept. 2, 2016, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Deanna, Lisa Butler; two grandchildren; sister, Diane Cummings.

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