

PACIFIC UNION

# Recorder

OCTOBER 2017



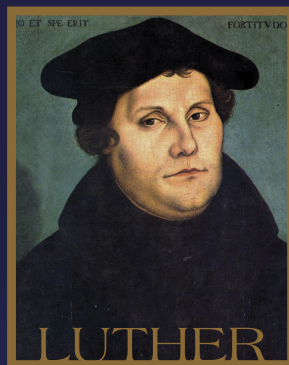
Miracles Abound at  
*Camp Wawona*

6



IT IS WRITTEN PRESENTS  
THE CHRISTIAN TELEVISION  
EVENT OF THE YEAR

# 500



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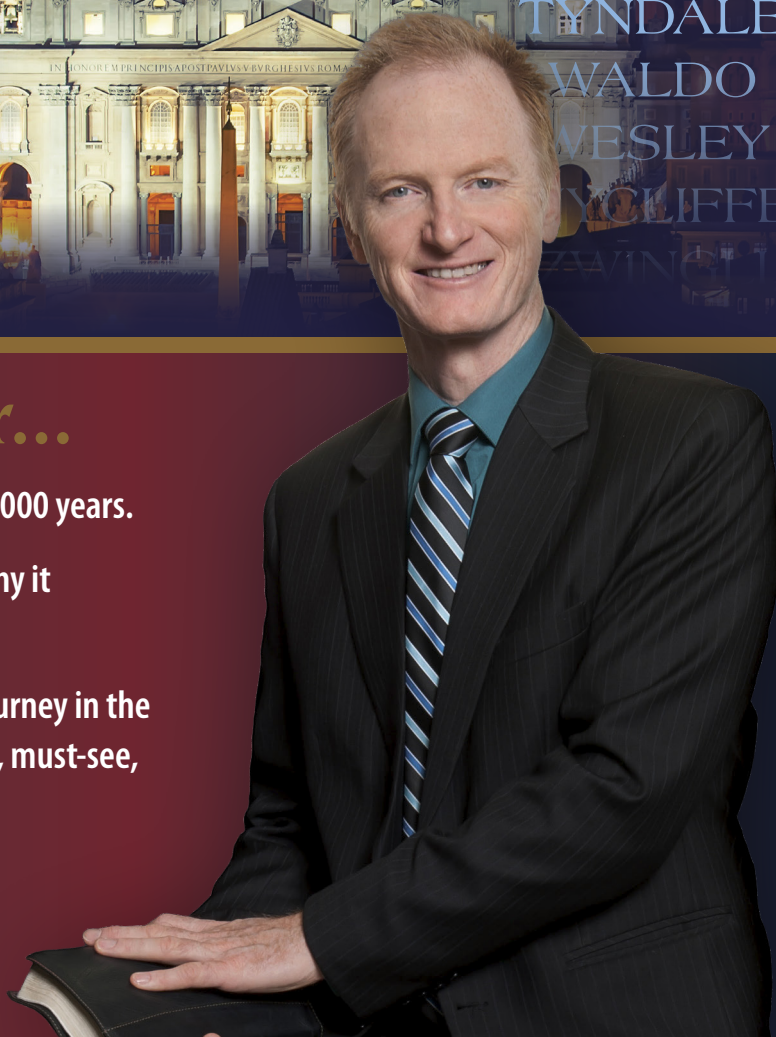
## 500 years later...

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# Thoughts on Faith

**F**aith is central to the Christian life. It is the currency of our spiritual experience. Faith in God and in His work is the foundation for all that we do. Our entire relationship with God is based on our faith.

Our world is changing drastically. All around us we find problems, challenges, and difficulties. They are increasing even as I write these words. Jesus asked the disciples a question in Luke 18:8: "Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Apparently, there is a danger that we who await the second coming of the Lord may grow faithless. We may forfeit our faith as we capitulate, give in, and surrender to the allurements of Satan. He appeals to our falleness.

The word "faith" comes from the Greek *pistis*, which means "trust" or "confidence." To have faith is to trust and to have confidence in and to rely on God. Hebrews 11:1 says it is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Faith — an attitude of the mind resulting in a pattern of conduct.

Substance — the "essence," or "nature," or "actual being" or the reality of a thing. It is what makes one thing different from another thing.

Saving faith never exists in a vacuum. It is not a blind faith. God does not call us to believe in Him and trust Him without cause. Genuine faith always rests upon sufficient evidence to warrant confidence in what is not seen. Faith is the substance of our hope for a heavenly home and the vindication of God's name. My faith is the reality of my promised eternal life. My faith is the reality, the nature and the essence of my over-coming victory in Jesus Christ.

Faith is also evidence. Evidence is proof or conviction. You see, faith is not an abstract idea or belief, it is a settled assurance based on confidence that God will fulfill His promises. I have never seen the generator that produces the electricity which powers the lights in our office. But when I flip the switch, the lights come on. The presence of the light proves there is electricity in the building, which is evidence that there is a generator, somewhere, providing power.

I have never seen God. But when I fall on my knees and plead for strength, I get stronger. When I prayerfully open the Bible and study it, I gain wisdom and insight.

All of this and more leads me to believe that there is a prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God Who is providing power for me to live by. We can't see Him, but we know, by faith, He sees us. The Bible tells us that the elders, by faith, gained a good report. It is faith working in us, stimulating us to good works, that results in a good report, or a good report card, in the eyes of God.

True faith always results in obedience. Don't tell me you love God and have faith in Him, and yet live a life of disobedience and doubt. Faith, when it is mature and fully operational, always results in unyielding

obedience to God. That is why Paul tells us that, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God."

Additionally, Paul wrote in Romans 14:23: "For whatsoever [is] not of faith is sin." We can attempt all manner of good works, but unless they are motivated by faith in God, they will not be acceptable to God. Only that which is motivated by faith pleases Him. If we are motivated by fear or anything else, our obedience is not meaningful. Without faith, it is impossible for an imperfect human being to please a holy, perfect God.

Faith is the transaction which makes us acceptable to God. Faith, invested in God, secures an accounting of righteousness. When God sees that we have faith in Him and his promises, He gives us credit where none is due. He gives us righteousness for the faith that we have.

Romans 4:3: "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

James 2:23: "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

When we take God at His word and act in faith, God responds in many ways, one of which is that He will account us righteous. Let us not confuse belief and faith. James 2:19 tells us "the devils believe and tremble."

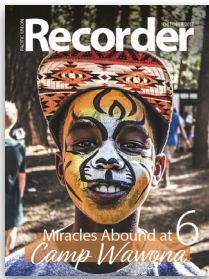
Paul is talking about a faith that goes beyond intellectual acceptance of the fact that God exists to faith of a committing nature. It causes us to be committed to a proposition bigger than we are.

Jesus asked the question in Luke 18:8: "Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" How will we answer the question?



*Ricardo Graham, D.Min.*





## ABOUT THE COVER

Camper Gabriel Olango shows off his fancy face paint during the Cub Camp Fair at Camp Wawona, Central California's summer camp inside Yosemite National Park.

PHOTO BY ELENIE RAMIREZ



## Pacific Union Recorder Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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	Year Average	Aug. Issue
Total number of copies	74,344	73,244
Total paid or requested outside-county mail subs	72,578	71,536
Total paid or requested inside-county mail subs	0	0
Sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors	0	0
Other classes mailed through USPS	1,766	1,708
Total paid and/or requested circulation	74,344	73,244
Total free distribution	312	315
Total distribution	74,656	73,559
Copies not distributed	150	150
Total	74,806	73,709
Percent paid and/or requested	99.6%	99.6%

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# La Sierra University Celebrates Five-Year AAA Accreditation

As La Sierra University prepared to welcome students to campus this fall, it celebrated a key milestone reached during the latter portion of the past academic year — the university received a full five-year period of accreditation from the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges and Universities (AAA). The accreditation period ends Dec. 31, 2021.

The university credited this significant achievement to the diligent efforts of numerous faculty, staff, and students over many months.

AAA rendered its decision on April 5, 2017. In its official notification letter, AAA informed the university that an interim team will visit the campus midway through the accreditation period to assess progress made in fulfilling the recommendations of the AAA site visitation team that visited the campus this past February.

The team's report contained 42 commendations and 11 recommendations related to the following evaluation areas:

- Mission and Identity
- Spiritual Development, Witness and Service
- Governance, Organization, Administration
- Programs of Study
- Faculty and Staff
- Educational Context
- Pastoral and Theological Education

Commendations included recognition of the "Board of Trustees for its commitment to [ensuring] that the Seventh-day Adventist mission is sustained through its careful policy formulation [and] self-evaluation."

The visiting team commended university administration, faculty, staff and students for engaging in "creative and vibrant ways" of "demonstrating God's love in their unique and diverse environment." And they lauded administration and faculty for placing "Adventist beliefs and practices at the forefront of instruction for all students"



**La Sierra University Vice President for Student Life Yami Bazan (right) baptizes student Johannah Macy, one of 11 to commit their lives to Christ during the university's annual June baptism. The university was commended in a recent Adventist Accrediting Association report for demonstrating God's love and placing Adventist beliefs at the forefront of instruction.**

and for "introducing students to the joy of lifelong service to others as part of a balanced development of the whole person."

Examples of this include, among others, the biology department's introducing the knowledge of science and an understanding of origins/creation from an Adventist perspective; [and] the English department's discussions of the Seventh-day Adventist worldview as it relates to literature."

Among specific commendations, the Service Learning Office was recognized for a "rigorous" program involving 52 service-learning courses and 24,414 service hours carried out in 2015. The university was also applauded for continuing the Zapara School of Business-based Enactus economic empowerment program, "which has enhanced the profile of the University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church," the report states.

The report specifically cited the visiting team's observations that of the 27 recommendations made as a result of the 2010 accreditation visit, 24 had been fulfilled, and

three partially fulfilled. "It is evident to the visiting committee that good progress has been made in addressing recommendations in a number of areas, and the committee applauds these efforts and accomplishments," it states.

Specific acknowledgements of fulfilled prior recommendations include the team's recognition of the Chaplain's Office, the H.M.S. Richards Divinity School, and the Division of General Education for the launch of the Religious Life Insight Assessment Survey (RLIAS) which documents the positive spiritual growth in students' lives and understanding of the SDA mission and message.

La Sierra University expressed its deep gratitude to the members of the AAA site visitation team for their significant contribution and dedication to the work of ensuring excellence in Adventist education. Further information about the AAA accreditation processes is available at [adventistaccreditingassociation.org](http://adventistaccreditingassociation.org).

*Darla Martin Tucker*



# Miracles Abound at Camp Wawona

Camp Wawona is one of Central California Conference's oldest evangelistic initiatives and continues to be a source of fond memories for the hundreds that reside within its borders each summer, one week at a time. Nestled in the forest of Yosemite National Park along the Merced River, Camp Wawona has been able to retain a sense of nostalgia while evolving to meet the ever-changing times. God has preserved the camp in miraculous ways since it was established in 1929 to ensure its continued ministry. This year has been no exception for the 477 campers.

This year's theme, "Alive," was weaved into spiritual lessons in each weeklong program. As each week drew to a close, campers had an opportunity to dedicate their lives to Christ and write their names in a symbolic Book of Life.

## Faith

"I love Camp Wawona," explains longtime teen camper Jana Fritz. "It's a place that feels like home — like heaven on earth. By the end of the week, there is a strong spiritual connection you have with camp. Words cannot describe it."

Of all the miracles at camp this year, the miracle of transformed lives is the most incredible. This summer, more than 200 campers gave their lives to Jesus at summer camp, and pastors throughout California are working to make sure each of these campers has a church family who will support and disciple them in their relationships with Jesus. One of those campers is Steven, a teen camper from Selma, Calif. "The power of God is very visible at Camp Wawona," he says. "The love of all the staff

members and other campers is something I haven't experienced before. I was encouraged to pray openly and read my Bible more often, and I thought that was an amazing thing."

## A Flood

Teen Camp was in full swing. Campers in Tioga Cabin, like the others, woke to clean and get ready for line call. Running late, and with two minutes to go, the counselors decided the boys should stop cleaning and head down the hill. "One minute and 45 seconds went by when we heard a terrifying sound, kind of like a car crash," explains Jasmanny Castaneda, a counselor from Dinuba, Calif. Camp Wawona's main water tank, located right next to their cabin, had burst. They started running as water and debris chased them down the hill.

PHOTOS BY ELENIE RAMIREZ



*A father helps his son get ready to fire during the first week of family camp.*



*A camper enjoys a watermelon-shaped pool toy in Camp Wawona's swimming pool.*

One Way. Jesus

JOHN 14:6

SUMMER CAMP 2018

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camp wawona

Cub Camp:	June 24 - July 1
Junior Camp:	July 1- 8
Tween Camp:	July 8 -15
Teen Camp:	July 15 - 22
Family Camp 1:	July 22 - 29
Family Camp 2:	July 29 - August 5





*Pictured here are teen campers with their counselors on at Camp Wawona.*



*Three young campers participate in a camp council skit during family camp week.*

After ensuring the campers' safety, Norma Villarreal, executive camp director, and others made their way to Boys Village to assess the damage and realized that they had experienced a miracle in God's perfect timing. "The water tank could've exploded at night while everyone was asleep or while the boys were near the cabins," reflects Castaneda.

"In a lot of different aspects and many situations, where a lot of trivial activity seems to get in the way, God has come through with the vital solutions just in time," says Matt Morgan, camp ranger.

## A Fire

Shortly after the summer camp season ended, the South Fork Fire began about a mile upstream from Camp Wawona. It continued to grow and shift with weather patterns, coming within a quarter mile of the camp. Evacuations were lifted Aug. 23, with the 4,430-acre fire at 44 percent contained.

"We consider Camp Wawona sacred ground, God's cathedral in the woods, and a gift from heaven. Over the past 88 years, the Lord has — and continues to — affirm camp ministries through a myriad of providential miracles in the lives of young, impressionable hearts," says Ramiro Cano, CCC president. "Many parents and grandparents today can trace back their spiritual decisions at Camp Wawona, their names personally hand-written in the camp's Book of Life. Angels are standing guard, as sentinels, safeguarding that aging facility."

*Timmy Baze and Sue Schramm*

## Norma Villarreal

### EXECUTIVE CAMP DIRECTOR

Nearly two years ago, Norma Villarreal was named Camp Wawona's new executive director in addition to her duties as Junior Youth and Hispanic Youth Federation (FeJA) director. (As part of a restructuring of the youth department in May, the junior youth position was re-titled youth director.)

Villarreal joined CCC almost 10 years ago from the corporate world. She quickly demonstrated her various business skills in the youth department, establishing a new workflow that served constituents more efficiently. Her effect and response times were quickly noticed in the field. Additionally, the Pathfinder Supply Store expanded. It wasn't long before administration realized that her experience and passion for God's work made Villarreal a perfect candidate to serve as assistant youth director and then associate director.

Everything she set out to do, God blessed. When the Junior Youth and Pathfinder director position opened, Pathfinder area coordinators felt there was no need to look elsewhere and unanimously recommended Villarreal for the position. Once again, the ministry in her charge flourished. Villarreal's history made her the natural choice for her current appointment as executive director of Camp Wawona, along with directing the Junior Youth, Pathfinder, and FeJA ministries. She is responsible for the summer camp program and for providing leadership to the facility throughout the year.

"Norma Villarreal, as Central's youth director, continues to positively influence the young for the kingdom through the ministries of Pathfinders, Adventurers, Hispanic Youth Federation, and Camp Ministries," says Cano. "Her profound dedication to the ministry of the young is an inspiration and a blessing to the Central California Conference youth."

*Sue Schramm*



*Norma Villarreal, CCC Executive Camp Director.*



# Reno's AMEN Clinic Serves 112 Patients

The word AMEN took on a new meaning for the 40 volunteers who came to help at a free medical clinic in July.

The Adventist Medical Evangelism Network, together with THRIVE, a ministry based in Ogden, Utah, and the Nevada-Utah Conference, hosted the city's first AMEN medical clinic at the Adventist Center of Influence on July 30.

Among the volunteers were 15 medical staff, which included two dental hygienists, three dentists, six nurses, a medical doctor, an optometrist, a physician's assistant and a medical technician. "We had about 40 volunteers from all three Reno-area churches come help," said Debra Waggoner, assistant community services coordinator.

Daphne Alvarado, a coordinator for THRIVE, spearheaded recruitment for the clinic. She had two weeks to enlist the help of medical professionals to staff the clinic.

"Between myself and two Bible workers, we went to dentist offices, universities, and hospitals, recruiting dentists, dental hygienists, basically any medical profession for the clinic," Alvarado said. "We also went to all the churches in the Reno area to find general volunteers for the clinic."

Alvarado had help advertising for the clinic from Nwanyi Ukegbu and Maharani Lumban-gao, two Youth Rush program students.

"We passed out flyers about the AMEN clinic as we went door-to-door inviting people to come," said Ukegbu. "It was exciting when we saw people we personally invited show up." Ukegbu had never heard of AMEN, and felt it was a great experience that she would love to do again.

Alvarado shares her enthusiasm. "I saw the willingness of the volunteers to help last minute, and many of them felt so blessed by being able to help meet people's needs," said Alvarado.

For Alvarado, this wasn't the only blessing she witnessed while helping out with AMEN. She also experienced an answer to prayer while recruiting. With less than two weeks to enlist a medical doctor, she had little hope of finding a willing physician. After praying with members of her team, Alvarado remembered that Weimar Institute was only an hour and a half away. She made a call, and a couple of hours later received confirmation that Dr. Rick Lukens could help. "He came on such a short notice!" Alvarado said. Lukens works as a staff physician at Weimar Institute's NEWSTART program, and educated clinic patients with type 2 diabetes about the eight laws of health. "As always, when we have a chance to help it's rewarding," said Lukens.

The opportunity to help others drew volunteers from around the city. Colby Johnson was one of them. Johnson, a Reno resident, was recruited through a pamphlet in his church bulletin. "I have helped with two AMEN clinics previous to the one here in Reno," he said. "I helped with one in Eugene, Ore., and that is where I really fell in love with medical missionary work." Johnson volunteered as a dental assistant. "It's amazing to think that there is less pain in the world today than there would be if that clinic had not taken place," Johnson said.

Brian Evans, local dentist and fellow volunteer, feels the same way. Evans, who spent that Sunday performing fillings, extractions and cleanings, says that spending a day together helping others grows one's relationship with God and bonds friends together in a strong way. "AMEN has the system dialed. Everything was so organized and well set up," Evans said. "We worked hard and saw a ton of very appreciative people."

The clinic served 112 patients on a first-come, first-served basis from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Services for community members included efficient triage, complete general dental care, primary medical care, optometry, pediatric care, preventative medicine education, and medical massage therapy. Each patient was given the opportunity to connect with a wellness coach and Bible workers from the local churches. Additionally, they were all invited to attend a 12-day evangelistic campaign, which began the day after the clinic. At the end of the day, 20 patients had signed up to receive Bible studies.



**AMEN Clinic patients line up outside the Adventist Center of Influence.**



**AMEN Clinic volunteer Colby Johnson assists dental hygienist Susan Pellanbini with a cleaning.**



**Nwanyi Ukegbu and Maharani Lumban-gao, Youth Rush participants, provide lifestyle coaching and Bible study opportunities.**



**Dr. Ryan Falke looks over the dental equipment.**

*Faith Hoyt*



# VBS Held at Reno Center of Influence For Second Year

As many church members in the Nevada-Utah Conference already know, the conference sponsors an Adventist Center of Influence in the heart of Reno. The Center runs a thrift store, offers recovery classes, provides senior services, a food pantry, and many other valuable services for the community. This summer, during the week of July 17-21, it was the site of a Vacation Bible School program hosted by the Reno Riverview church.

This year's theme was "Passport to Peru — Discovering God's Good Gifts." Each evening, children came to sing songs, play games, hear Bible stories, eat snacks, and watch videos to learn about how children live in the South American country of Peru.

Forty youngsters, ranging in age from less than 4 years old to 12, came on Monday night, and attendance remained high for

the rest of the week. An enthusiastic team of approximately 10 youth from the church volunteered to serve as helpers, and about a dozen adults assisted in making the program a success by telling stories, providing healthy snacks, and supervising children during outdoor activities at a nearby park.

The basement of the Center of Influence was transformed into a "little piece of Peru," complete with a simulated waterfall that the kids loved to walk through, colorful parrots everywhere, and a cardboard llama watching over all the proceedings from the front of the room.

April Evans, VBS director, who has coordinated the program at the Center of Influence for the last two years, says one advantage of this location is that they

can reach more inner-city kids with information about God's love.

Each evening, the children started the program with joyful songs, filling the Center with music. "Oh, Happy Day" and "I Have a Friend," were the songs I liked best," said one of the younger students. "And I also liked the snacks a lot."

"The games at the park were my favorite activity at VBS this year," said another. "I can't wait to come again next year!"

*Judy Barcelo*



VBS volunteers Maddie, Kaya, and Hannah stand by at the city park where some of the activities took place.



Volunteers supervise Bible-related games for children.



Volunteers share Bible stories in the story corner.



Stretching helps with the wiggles.



# Campers Find Blessings at Redwood

For many, Redwood camp meeting is a source of wonderful memories. “As children, my cousins, siblings, and I grew up playing in the dry creek beds surrounded by fern jungles and redwood trees towering above,” said Farah Fernandez. “The smell of the forest and the shade of the trees and the sound of the breezes passing through are like the proverbial light on in the window; they feel like home.”

Redwood is also special to those who just discovered it. “This was my first time ever coming to camp meeting, and it was amazing!” said Teenuh Diane. “It was so amazing to be surrounded by fellow Christians and immersed in prayer, praise, and study. . . . I wish I could just stay forever, but at least I can count on coming back next year!”

It’s no accident that people receive a blessing. “The goal of Redwood is to provide a mountaintop experience where the Holy Spirit can infect us to share God’s love and to bring our neighbors, family, and friends to the cross,” said Harry Salvini, assistant camp director.

For the third year in a row, the camp meeting theme was “Christ’s Method Alone,” with the emphasis this summer on “Serving Others.” In Pepperwood Pavilion, the main speakers were Dave Osborne, retired NAD ministerial director and NCC pastor, and Ty Gibson, co-founder and speaker for Light Bearers ministry. In Adult II, the speaker was Roy Ice, pastor for resource development at the Loma Linda University church. Perris Spanish church Pastor Raúl Hernández spoke for Campestre Hispano.

In addition to the main meetings, programs were available for every age group — from babies to young adults. Campers also attended a variety of seminars on topics ranging from cooking to outreach. Many participated in the third annual community service day, working at schools, non-profit organizations, and homes in nearby areas.

Redwood organizers are already planning for next summer. “I invite everyone to come, be blessed, and take that rejuvenation of their spirit back to their churches to last them throughout the year until they come back,” said camp manager Will Bowlby.



Campers attend Sabbath school in Pepperwood Pavilion.



Kids and their pastors sing together in the junior division.

If you’d like to share your love of Redwood camp meeting with others, write to [redwood@nccsda.com](mailto:redwood@nccsda.com) to learn how. Also, tell your friends about the Redwood Camp Meeting Facebook page: [facebook.com/redwoodcamp](https://facebook.com/redwoodcamp).

Julie Lorenz



A large family group enjoys the Redwood Fun Run/Walk.



The Emmanuel Quartet sings in Pepperwood Pavilion.



Physician Ted Hoehn presents a seminar in the Health Pavilion.



# Redwood Camp Meeting Needs You!

For decades, Northern California Conference church members have been the driving force behind Redwood Camp Meeting. Now, more than ever, Redwood organizers are counting on volunteers to maintain and improve the campground for next summer. "Volunteers are what make Redwood Camp Meeting work," said Ed Fargusson, assistant to the NCC president.

Organizers especially need volunteers in the early summer, but they can use help almost any time throughout the year. "We invite people to come with family and friends," said Dudley Willard, camp director. "They can do their sightseeing, along with doing a project with us."

Larger groups would be especially welcome. Volunteers can bring their RVs and tents, or other accommodations can be worked out with the organizers. "I would love to have a

church group that wants to have a retreat," said Will Bowlby, camp manager. "They can rest on Sabbath and have a couple of days for recreation and a few days of work."

Upcoming projects include a large plumbing upgrade for sections of the camp, painting and installing lights in restrooms, and repairing the shop roof, among many other tasks. For those who aren't manually skillful, a number of organizing projects are waiting. "Most of the time, if you have a willing head and hands, I can use you for a necessary task," said Bowlby.

Willard encourages people to invite their friends to come help, even the ones who have never been to camp meeting. "Once they get a taste of what the area is like, they will want to come back and get the spiritual renewal, as well," he said.



Musicians play in Sequoia Grove during Campestre Hispano (Hispanic Camp Meeting).

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Will Bowlby at 707-946-2302 well in advance of the time you'd like to come.

Julie Lorenz

## Rest Here...

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING • JULY 19-28, 2018

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,"  
Matthew 11:28 (NKJV)"

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# Hovik Sarrafian Retires After 60 Years of Ministry

On Aug. 5, Hovik Sarrafian, M.Div., Dr.P.H., retired from 60 years of ministry that began in Armenia shortly before the work closed there due to political conditions. Most of his ministry was carried out in the U.S. "This is a special day for the Glendale City church," said Velino A. Salazar, president of Southern California Conference. "The Armenian group has been meeting in this church for many years, under the leadership of Dr. Sarrafian.

"In 1957, Pastor Sarrafian began a ministry in Iran with a congregation of three members. After conducting seminars and evangelism there, Alice Bahranian became a member of the church, and then his wife [also joined]." Pastor Sarrafian faithfully ministered for 60 years. In addition to his years of leadership of the Armenian congregation, since 2000, he prepared

and presented weekly health and spiritual messages on the area's Armenian-language television station. His messages regularly drew scores of phone calls from his audience.

"You did all of this for more than 60 years, pastor," Salazar observed. Noting from Numbers 8:23-26 that Levite priests served in the sanctuary from ages 25 to 50 and then retired, Salazar affirmed Sarrafian's lengthy ministry. "When you started," he said, "some who are here today were not born yet. All those years, Christ gave you the strength."

Emeritus Pastor Rudy Torres traced the history of Armenian Adventism in Glendale and the part that Sarrafian played there. "Around 1985, a group of Armenian people came to the Glendale City church," he said. "They didn't speak English, and church members weren't sure what their language was. After the church service, the group congregated under a tree on the church patio. Barbara Abrahamian, a lady I had met earlier, was visiting with her husband Henry, an Armenian. She told me about the group."

Henry Abrahamian, it turned out, was related to most people in the group. They were Adventists who had fled their country during the Iranian Revolution, combined with the Iran-Iraq War. Conditions there triggered an exodus of about half a million people from the Middle East, largely from Iran. Since that time, there has also been an exodus of many non-Muslims, including Armenian

Christians, because of persecution. However, after arriving in the U.S., they found that "they had no place to go to worship in their own language," he said.

City church leaders responded quickly. "Someone ought to start a Sabbath school for them," was a suggestion that eventually led to



The week following Dr. Sarrafian's retirement, Glendale City church Pastor Todd Leonard, left, welcomes Pastor Vigen Khachatryan, right, his wife Inga, daughter Noemi, and son Daniel.



Pastor Vigen Khachatryan and his daughter Noemi perform for the pastoral introduction service.



Following numerous tributes from church and conference leaders, Dr. Hovik Sarrafian speaks to the congregation of his zeal for the Armenian work and his gratitude to God, his church, and the conference for their support.



Velino A. Salazar, SCC president, left, and Gerard Kiemeney, L.A. Metro Region director, at mic, offer a prayer of dedication with Armenian leaders for their beloved pastor during his retirement service.

engaging Armenian Pastor Malcolm Gasparian. He was followed by Sarrafian, who ministered to the group for 32 years.

"Thank you, God," responded Sarrafian. "I am not so pleased that I'm leaving, but we mean, truly, thanks and praise to our God. We appreciate it so much. I thank God that He gave us supporters — members and other families. My wife, Alice, was faithful. I thank her for her companionship and support, and I thank my family."

"Besides one small group in Russia, our Glendale Armenian group is the only Armenian-speaking group in the world," he continued. "There is no way I could let it go untended. I'm grateful that they have a new pastor who is young and energetic."

"Stay close to Jesus, to His church," Sarrafian urged, "stay in the boat, because Jesus is in the boat." A few weeks later, though enjoying a well-deserved rest, Sarrafian mused, "I am thinking of ways I can do more."

Betty Cooney



# Community Celebrates Fifth Annual National Night Out at Eagle Rock Church

Eagle Rock church held its fifth annual National Night Out block party on its campus this summer. The national event is a chance for community members and vendors to get acquainted with one another and with the church.

The Target store in the local mall was the official location in the city of Eagle Rock for several years; now they're one of Eagle Rock church's valued partners for the annual event. Eagle Rock church became the official National Night Out location for the city of Eagle Rock in 2015, which senior pastor Danny Chan considers "a big honor."

Tina Juarez, Eagle Rock church member and NNO Community Partners Liaison, remembers when Councilman Jose Huizar asked if a church with a big enough space would host it. "The goal was to bring businesses and community together to establish good relationships," she recalled. From 20 booths the first year to 31 this year, and 250 attendees to 400-plus, the event has experienced consistent growth. As a result, the services available to community members also grow every year.

"The community gets to hear the benefits available to them, and our partners get to promote their services to the community," Chan said. "We found it's a really great partnership." This year, organizations like Glendale City church's Communitas Initiative exhibited at the event for the first time. Longtime partners, like Adventist Health Glendale, Walgreens, and Sprouts, continued their support and participation. Los Angeles Police Department and California Highway Patrol representatives were on site for the fifth year in a row.

Many of the partners have much more than a one-day relationship with the church. Sprouts donates food to the church twice per week for use in its weekly soup kitchen or other outreach. Walgreens initiated a free flu shot expo at the church last year.

For a church with a large portion of the membership who commute, the event is a great way for the church to get to know its neighborhood and introduce itself at the same time. At the NNO event, many of the church ministries have the chance to show the community what they are



*This year, L.A. County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis attended the event for the first time, presenting the church with a commendation on its 5th year anniversary of hosting law enforcement and the community on National Night Out. (L to R): Associate Pastor Pono Lopez; CHP Officer Tiffany Hoff; Solis; Senior Pastor Danny Chan; LAPD Senior Lead Officer Fernando J. Ochoa; and CHP Officer Chad Guin.*

all about. From Pathfinders and Adventurers, to Women's Ministry, church ministries for the community were well represented. The Community Classroom, which debuted at last year's National Night Out, offers classes on depression recovery, reversing diabetes, and more through the year.

Tracy Harder, Eagle Rock church member and history and English teacher at Newbury Park Adventist Academy, presented the idea for hosting the event to Chan five years ago. Harder coordinates the food booth at the event, which this year provided free homemade and store-bought veggie burgers to guests. "Anyone can do it — just come up with an idea of what the community might like, and bring the community to your church to see what's going on," Harder continued. "I encourage it. To me, it's the perfect outreach to get people on your campus, whether church or school."

As Krishna Nair, Eagle Rock head elder, put it, gesturing to the guests and church members filling the campus, "This is where we build relationships."

*Lauren Armstrong*

In the September issue, an article featuring Conejo Adventist Elementary School incorrectly stated that the school had a WASC evaluation. What actually happened was that CAES received a six-year accreditation renewal by the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools and the National Council for Private Schools. We regret the error.



*Attendees and volunteers fill the parking lot as the event kicks off.*



# Curriculum Coaches Work to Improve Adventist Education

**T**he Office of Education is placing four new curriculum coaches throughout six different schools this school year after an experimental year with Amy Cornwall proved successful in improving Adventist education.

Cornwall, director of curriculum coaching, served as the curriculum coach at Mesa Grande Academy during the 2016-2017 school year. This position was part of the office's new education initiative. A curriculum coach collaborates with teachers and administrators to provide resources, both individually and within groups, to introduce changes in practice that will improve student learning.

"Our schools have needed people to inform the faculty as to the latest in education," said Stephen Zurek, associate superintendent. "Even Michael Jordan, the greatest basketball player of all time, had a coach!"

Coaches like Cornwall do a variety of things. "We support teachers with the ultimate goal of increasing student achievement," Cornwall said. "However, we also analyze data, teach model lessons, help with short-term and long-term planning, collaborate with administration, ensure that the school curriculum is aligned with the standards, and more."

At Mesa Grande, Cornwall researched what teaching methods would work best in various scenarios, and then spent time in the classroom and met with teachers and the principal.

"Ideally, coaches are a resource for teachers. They're there to provide a teaching partnership," said Zurek.

Cornwall agreed, saying, "My goal is to help the teachers and administration to reach their goals. I am there to serve."

Although Mesa Grande does not yet have test score data, Zurek mentioned that there are several noticeable differences on campus. One such change in student performance took place after Cornwall helped implement the writing program. Students became more enthusiastic about projects, started to think of themselves as authors, and happily took part in peer coaching with classmates. This year, Mesa Grande will

implement the program throughout the entire elementary school.

Other impacts include increased collaboration and consistency among the teachers. "Now, there's a lot more excitement about how they can help their kids," explained Zurek. "Because of how much this has helped, this school year we've now expanded from one coach to five coaches."

After being trained by Cornwall, new coaches Deborah Curbelo, Aime Cuevas, Jan Leigh, and Rachel Romero will work with Redlands Adventist Academy, Orangewood Academy,

Desert Adventist, Victor Valley, Murrieta Springs, and San Antonio Christian schools.

"While one of the goals is to help boost enrollment and retention, the fact is when kids are excited to be at school and are showing growth in their learning, this attitude transfers to their parents," she said. "Hopefully, this will lead to positive word of mouth. The ultimate impact, however, is focused on the students — we want them to be engaged in their learning."

*Natalie Romero*



**Kindergartener Chelsea Carlson (left) reads her piece of writing to her reading buddy, fifth-grader Phoebe Sanders (right).**



**Second-grader Michael Armendariz (right) shares his lab report results with ninth-grader Ivan Ramos (left) at Mesa Grande Academy.**



**Second grade teacher Tara Pierce (far right) helps Katie Mracek (left) Erika Novotny (middle), and Victoria von Helf (right) in their writing process.**



**Third-graders Chloe Long (left) and Josslyn Parker (right) read their writings to each other during their writing class.**



# SECC Ordains Four So Far this Year

**F**our ordinations took place in the Southeastern California Conference so far this year.

**Tyler Stewart** was ordained at Loma Linda University church on April 1 and is serving as the associate pastor for young adults. He and his wife, Vonnnette, and their two children, Judah and Sahalie, moved to California from Andrews University in Michigan. His current project is running a young adult ministry called Praxis, which focuses on putting faith into practice.

"The mission of our church is to make disciples. My hope is that through our ministry, we can disciple a generation on our campus who are deeply rooted in the gospel and transformed into passionate, engaged followers of Jesus," he said.

Stewart thanked his parents for their models of love, grace, and inclusion.



*Tyler Stewart prays with his family, elders, and church members during his ordination at Loma Linda University church on April 1.*

## **Beverly Maravilla**

was ordained at La Sierra University church on June 24 and is serving as the associate pastor for children's ministries.

Her Catholic parents joined the Seventh-day Adventist church when she was in junior high after they were invited to an Adventist couple's house for vespers.

Maravilla later studied psychology at La Sierra University but then decided to pursue professional ministry. She has worked at LSUC for the past six years.

"It seems impossible to express the love, the gratitude, and the appreciation I have for all of you for extending me an invitation to join you in this community," Maravilla said during her ordination service.

**Joshua Bae** was ordained at Riverside Korean church on July 8. He and his wife, Jasmine, have served at the church for the past five years. They have two children, JJ and Ashley.

Growing up, Bae thought his talents were not in ministry, but God kept pursuing him. After teaching in Korea, he completed his Master of Divinity degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in May 2012. He and Jasmine then joined this conference.

He credits his parents and church family for this milestone during his journey as a pastor. "Thank you to the Riverside church and the conference for guiding me to do God's work here," Bae said.

## **Rochelle**

**Webster**, a La Sierra University Master of Divinity graduate, was ordained at the Redlands church on



*Beverly Maravilla, left, holds her certificate, which was just given by SECC President Sandra Roberts, right, at La Sierra University church on June 24.*



*Joshua Bae speaks during his ordination at the Riverside Korean church on July 8.*

Aug. 19 and works as the associate pastor for family ministries there.

Webster's path into pastoral ministry involved God's leading through a variety of twists and turns, taking her through work in education, disaster relief, and community organizing. But pastoral ministry is a vocation with deep roots in her family story. Her father was ordained as a pastor in South Africa in 1978, her grandfather in 1954, and her great-grandfather in the 1920s. Her cousins are also pastors in SECC.

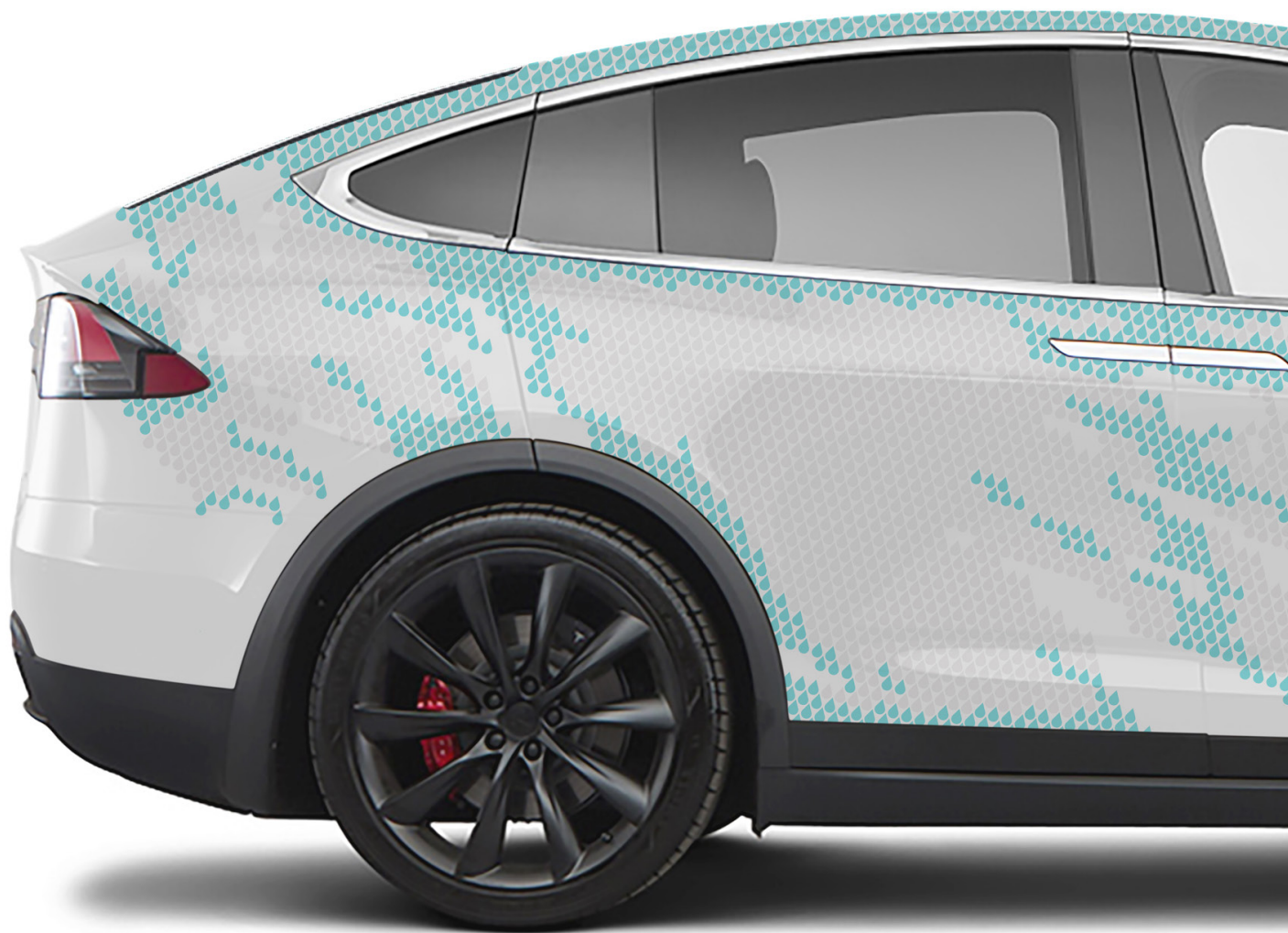
"It is an honor to follow God's leading into this next chapter of life and ministry," Webster said.

*Jessica Anzai Permaul*



*Rochelle Webster joins in prayer during her ordination at the Redlands church Aug. 19.*





# PUC Seeks 5,000 *Toward Ending*

**T**his summer, Pacific Union College embarked on a creative, yet ambitious educational initiative to raise awareness and funds about the global water crisis and water poverty. The college is partnering with Water for Good and private donors to launch the 5,000 Drops campaign.

Private supporters donated an environmentally-friendly Tesla Model-X to serve as the foundation of the project. The electric vehicle has been custom wrapped with 5,000

transparent water drops. Each drop represents a Central African Republic family who lacks safe and reliable water access — water poverty affects an estimated 667 million people around the world.

For the next two years, PUC staff and students will be touring the United States in the Tesla, offering presentations on water poverty and accepting donations for “drops of water.” The team’s schedule is already filling with requests for assembly programs, class

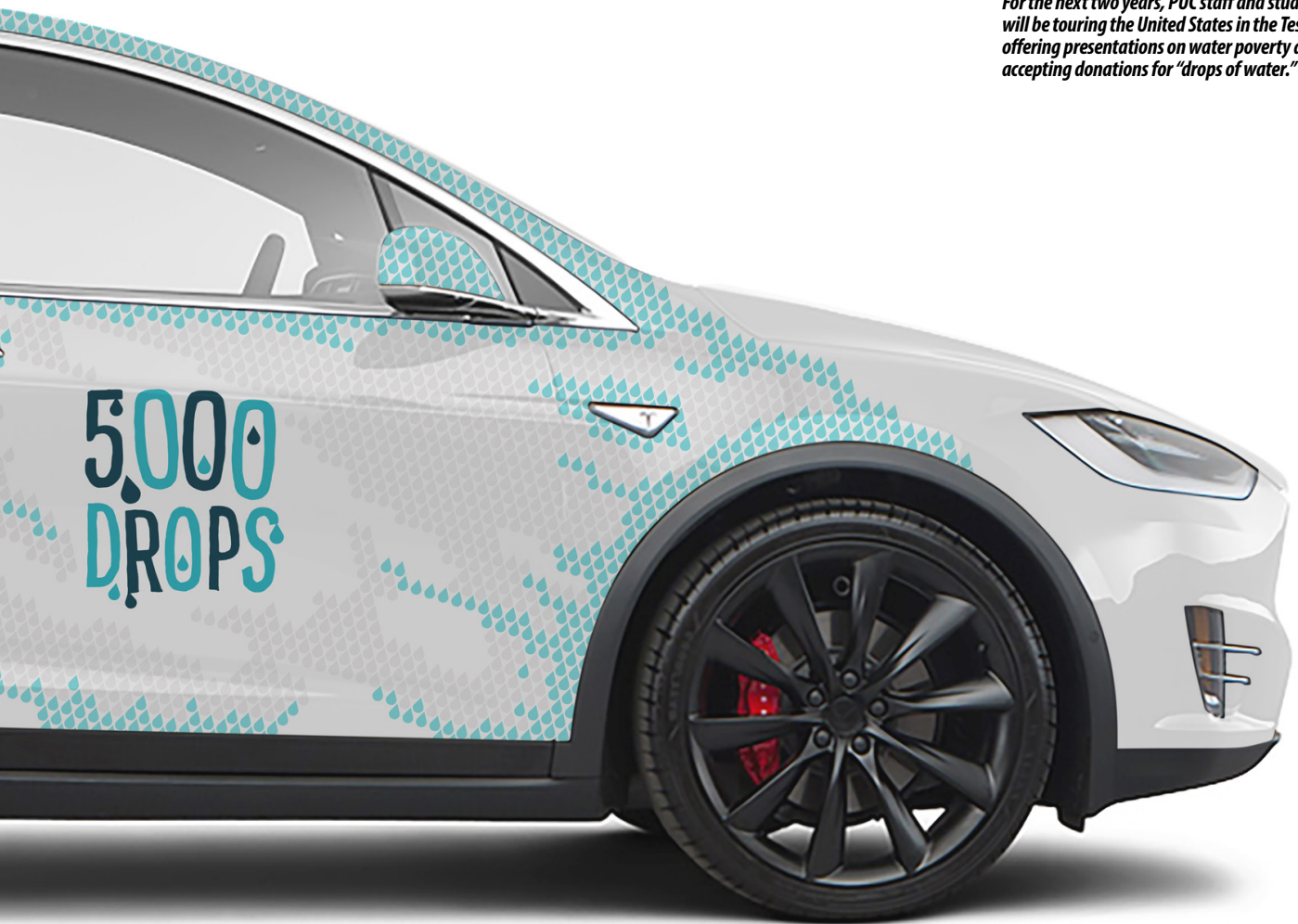
presentations, and workshops. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the Tesla, too.

“We want to start conversations about clean water access and sustainability,” says Fabio Maia, PUC’s director of missions and service.

“An estimated 667 million people around the world drink contaminated water. We hope to use this project to provide an innovative way for people all over the country to become involved in a sustainable project in the Central African Republic.”



*For the next two years, PUC staff and students will be touring the United States in the Tesla, offering presentations on water poverty and accepting donations for "drops of water."*



# 5000 Drops Saving Water Poverty

For a donation of \$25, a donor receives a water drop shaped decal to place atop the transparent placeholders on the Tesla. On each drop, there is unique GPS location. Donors can go online to [5000drops.com](http://5000drops.com), plug in the coordinates, and monitor the status of the wells their specific donation supports.

"We've purposefully designed the campaign to engage supporters with the project from the moment they decided to contribute," explains Maia. "Individuals can even make donations

right inside the Wi-Fi enabled Tesla by plugging in their GPS coordinates, and immediately see the well they have supported."

As donations increase, the blue water drops will cover the Tesla. By the end, this campaign will have raised over \$125,000 to provide 20,000 people with a year of clean water.

"Ultimately, the goal is to improve lives in the Central Africa Republic and build more connections between young people and the

impact they can make through their generosity," says Maia.

For more information about the 5,000 Drops project or to schedule a presentation for an organization, contact Fabio Maia at 707-965-7190 or by email at [fmaia@puc.edu](mailto:fmaia@puc.edu). To follow the campaign progress or to make a tax-deductible contribution, visit [5000drops.com](http://5000drops.com).

*Jennifer Tyner*



# Melanie Cruz Joins Camelback Church as Family Life Pastor

**P**astor Melanie Cruz joined the Camelback church in Phoenix, Ariz., as its Family Life pastor on Sabbath, Aug. 12. The position is a direct answer to her prayers, she says.

"Growing up, I vividly remember one of the first times God directly answered my prayers," recalls Melanie Cruz. "I was around 4 years old and playing with a piece of plastic, which I made into a toy. Suddenly the toy vanished. I searched and searched but to no avail. Then I came up with a bright idea. Why not pray about it? I did, and no sooner than I had opened my eyes, I found the lost toy!"

Cruz realized there was something to this prayer thing. God really does listen, and it made a lasting impression. "That was pretty easy!" she thought. "Just ask, and you get what you want!"

Over the years, Cruz learned that God takes our prayers very seriously — therefore, we should be careful what we pray for. God has gently shown her His ways are not always her ways, and His thoughts are not necessarily hers. She recently came to better understand this concept through a life-changing career choice.



*Camelback pastors Lou Fitting and Mark Sulger surround the Cruz family in a prayer of dedication for Melanie Cruz, the church's new associate pastor for Family Life.*

Cruz has always enjoyed supporting her pastor husband, Manny Cruz, in ministry. Three years ago, Manny accepted a conference position that would have the family traveling away from their home church most weekends. Eventually, Melanie grew anxious and missed having her very own church family. "I felt like a church orphan," she says. "Something needed to be done!"

Remembering her answered prayers — now a whole lifetime of them — Melanie went to the One she knew could help. She prayed, "Dear Father, my family and I need to serve you at our own church. Please give my husband a job as a local church pastor so we can have a home church. Amen!"

A few months later, God answered that prayer — but not in the way she expected.

Instead of Manny being called to a church, Melanie received an invitation to be the Family Life pastor for the Camelback church in Phoenix,

Ariz. Her many years working as assistant director for Children's Ministries for the North American Division will be invaluable experience as she begins her new role.

Melanie says 1 John 5:14 gave her the courage to accept the call: "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: That if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us."

Manny, Youth Ministries director for the Arizona Conference, is excited about Melanie's call. Their four daughters, Carmen, Caryn, Carolina, and Christen, could not be happier to see both parents heavily and heartily involved in ministry.

"We should take very seriously what we pray for," says Melanie, "because God does!"

*Phil Draper*

*Melanie Cruz recently accepted the invitation to join the Camelback church in Phoenix, Ariz., as Family Life pastor.*



# Officials Celebrate Medical Center's 50th Anniversary

A hospital building's impact on a community and on the world was the theme of a 50th anniversary celebration of the opening of Loma Linda University Medical Center's current cloverleaf structure. The program took place in the Loma Linda University church, Sunday, Aug. 27.

"The decision to construct the current hospital building and consolidate medical education on this campus is one of the most significant events in this institution's history," said Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health.

In the early 1960s, Loma Linda University faced demand from accrediting bodies that the medical school combine the two years of science education and the two years of clinical education onto one campus. At the time, Loma Linda University had taught science courses on the Loma Linda campus, while the clinical rotations took place in Los Angeles. The Board of Trustees settled on combining the two programs in Loma Linda.

The cloverleaf-shaped towers have become a Loma Linda icon. But as important as the building itself has been, clinical treatment innovations developed at the Medical Center have gone on to change how health care is delivered internationally.

Those developments include:

- *Proton therapy for cancer treatment* — The vision of James Slater, M.D., to find a way to minimize damage to healthy tissue while attacking cancer sites with radiation.
- *Coronary angiography* — Melvin Judkins, M.D., developed the tools and techniques to revolutionize the approach to cardiac medicine. Judkins invented three types of catheters that are now used by coronary care physicians internationally.
- *Perinatal research* — Lawrence Longo, M.D., brought together researchers from various medical and scientific disciplines to study hypoxia and its effect on fetal

development. Over 40 years, researchers have moved from relatively simple theories to now looking at genetic modification ideas.

- *Fetal heart monitoring* — Edward Hon, M.D., began a residency at White Memorial Hospital in 1961 after study at Yale University. His work in developing technological solutions to monitoring fetal heart rates has led to dramatic improvements in obstetrical care around the world.
- *Infant heart transplantation* — Leonard Bailey, M.D., was searching for transplantation techniques that might be used to save babies lives. Bailey's research included the concept of cross species transplantation, which was ultimately attempted in the Baby Fae case. With the support of the institution, Bailey transplanted a baboon heart into an infant girl known publicly only as Baby Fae. About a year later, Bailey performed the first infant-to-infant heart transplant.

Loma Linda University Health is now constructing a new medical complex to meet the community's needs and feature the best in seismic safety.

While the cost difference between the two projects is striking — \$22 million for the current building and \$1.5 billion for the new construction — the goal for Loma Linda University Medical Center remains the same: to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

"Vision 2020 — The Campaign for a Whole Tomorrow" is a comprehensive campaign that was launched to support a transformational vision for education and research, wholeness and clinical care including the new adult hospital and expanded Children's Hospital construction project. "We are blessed by the outpouring of support for Vision 2020," Hart said. "In just a short time we have raised over \$267 million toward our \$360 million goal.

To view a video of the anniversary program and learn how to get involved with Vision 2020, visit [lluhvision2020.org](http://lluhvision2020.org).

Larry Becker



Richard Hart, Loma Linda University Health president, interviews people who were children of faculty members involved in medical center building opening in 1967. From left, next to Hart, are Richard Chinnock, Patti Smith Catalano, Jeffrey Thompson, David Hinshaw Jr., Jay Jutzy, and Robert Rosenquist Jr.



# Loma Linda University Health Receives Honors

## Loma Linda University Surgical Hospital Recognized for Patient-Centered Care



*Helen Hrdy (left), senior vice president of client service at NRC Health, celebrates with Anette Nunn, director of patient care at Loma Linda University Surgical Hospital, and Jonathan Jean-Marie, vice president and administrator of Surgical Hospital.*

Loma Linda University Surgical Hospital received three 2017 Excellence and Improvement Best Practice Awards during a ceremony at the 23rd Annual NRC Health Symposium for Patient-Centered Care, Aug. 6, in Boston.

The hospital was honored with a Patient-Centered Care Dimension Award in each of the following three categories: continuity and transition, physical comfort, and respect for patient preferences. The awards recognize the hospital's exceptional commitment to understanding individuals' complete care journey.

"It is a tremendous honor to be recognized for the amazing care we provide to our patients and their families," said Jonathan Jean-Marie, MHA, vice president/administrator of LLU Surgical Hospital. "It highlights our team's incredible work and commitment to patient-centered care."

## Loma Linda University Named a '2017 Great College to Work For'

Loma Linda University garnered a place on the 2017 list of great colleges to work for, with results released July 17 as part of *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* 10th annual report on "The Academic Workplace." The results are based on a survey of more than 45,000 people from 232 colleges and universities. Of that number, 79 institutions were named "Great Colleges to Work For."

LLU received honors in five categories: confidence in senior leadership; job satisfaction; professional/career development programs; supervisor/department chair relationship, and work/life balance.

"Our entire university team shares a strong commitment to extending the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ," said Richard H. Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health. "I am grateful for the passion, excellence and the commitment to our values each of them exhibits. Their devotion to sharing their knowledge and expertise with our students inspires me."



*Loma Linda University employees are the reason the organization was named a great college to work for.*

## Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center Recognized as a Top Workplace

Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center earned a place on the 2017 "Best Places to Work in Healthcare" list, an annual Modern Healthcare magazine recognition program that honors workplaces throughout the health care industry for empowering their employees to provide patients and customers with the best possible care, products and services. The award was presented during the 2017 Best Places to Work Awards Dinner, Sept. 28, in Las Vegas, Nev.

"Our commitment to whole person care at Loma Linda University Health applies not only to our patients, but to our employees as well," said Kerry Heinrich, J.D., CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center. "The Behavioral Medicine Center team serves with dedication and compassion as they support patients facing critical moments in their lives. This survey reveals our employees value their respectful, team-focused workplace."

*James Ponder  
and Larry Becker*



*Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center employees celebrate the award from Modern Health Care.*





# Loma Linda University Researchers Find Links Between Meal Frequency, BMI

**A** study by researchers from Loma Linda University School of Public Health and the Czech Republic has found that the timing and frequency of meals play a role in predicting weight loss or gain.

Using information gleaned from more than 50,000 participants in the Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2), the researchers discovered four factors associated with a decrease in body mass index (BMI): eating one or two meals per day; maintaining an overnight fast of up to 18

hours; eating breakfast instead of skipping it; and making breakfast or lunch the largest meal of the day. Making breakfast the largest meal yielded a more significant decrease in BMI than did lunch.

The two factors associated with higher BMI were eating more than three meals per day — snacks were counted as extra meals — and making supper the largest meal of the day.

Titled “Meal frequency and timing are associated with Body Mass Index in the

Adventist Health Study-2,” the study was co-written by Gary Fraser, MBChB, Ph.D., a professor at Loma Linda University schools of Medicine and Public Health, and director of AHS-2.

*James Ponder*

***Researchers have found that timing and frequency of meals play an important role in predicting weight gain or loss.***





# Volunteers Make Mwami Adventist Hospital Mission Trip a Reality

**M**wami is a rural village, 30 kilometers from Chipata in the Eastern Province of Zambia and eight kilometers from the Zambia/Malawi border. That's as much information as you'll get if you search for Mwami on the internet.

Mwami is also home to the Mwami Adventist Hospital, a 150-bed facility with only two physicians on its staff to treat malaria, pneumonia, diarrheal disease, HIV/AIDS and OB/GYN complications, and much more.

This summer's Adventist Health Southern California Region medical mission to the Mwami Adventist Hospital served more than 5,000 people, far exceeding the target numbers and expectations of what could be accomplished.

"To be part of a global outreach in Africa was an amazing opportunity and we will forever be touched by the warm and gentle people of Mwami," says Jeanine Maurer, RN, Director of Aspen Surgery Center at Adventist Health Simi Valley. "I feel so blessed to have been part of a surgical team comprised of individuals from multiple AH facilities that functioned seamlessly, as if we had been together for years. All the team members from Simi Valley have given their personal commitment to any future trips to Mwami and would love to be part of a sustainable surgical program there."

Below are a few highlights from the trip:

## Clinical Services

- 1,689 medical consultations
- 75 major surgeries
- 74 minor surgeries

- 317 dental services
- 204 cataract and glaucoma surgeries
- 220 breast examinations
- 80 cervical cancer screenings / pap smears
- 250 OB/GYN consults and exams
- Donated 500 sunglasses and 500 reading glasses

## Hospital Projects

- Pediatric isolation ward renovation, including toilets and shower tub
- New pediatric malnutrition and burn unit
- Donated sets of vital signs machines, including stethoscopes, BP apparatus, pulse oximeter, height scale, body composition scale thermometer and waist calipers

## Community Projects

- Gifted 94 cows to 94 families
- Donated two boreholes and water pumps in two villages, positively impacting over 2,000 people
- Fed 475 people in the village of Maoluo
- Donated vitamins and flip-flops for children and adults, toys for children and used clothing for adults
- Wheelchair donated for polio patient



## Other

- Donated 40 sets of wooden tables and chairs to Mwami Adventist School and renovated two rooms in the school
- Provided children's programs for 856 kids and women's programs for 309 mothers at Mwami Adventist Church
- Renovated four rooms, donated new bed frames, mattresses, bedding, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and supplies at the Mwami Leprosarium Center

This mission work was made possible by 82 volunteer physicians, medical staff, executives and employees from the Adventist Health Southern California Region (AHSCR) — Adventist Health Bakersfield, Adventist Health Glendale, Adventist Health Simi Valley and Adventist Health White Memorial. Of the volunteers, only seven had been to Africa before; for 85 percent of the volunteers, this was their first medical mission abroad.

"This [trip] gave me a chance to be able to help people I do not come in contact with on a usual basis," says Veronica Shake, RN, Labor & Delivery, Adventist Health White Memorial. "That is what I like most about working for Adventist Health," she adds. "No matter what your background is, what religion you are, we come together and bring God into what we do . . . I think this makes a huge difference."



*Local women and children wait to visit with doctors and nurses.*

As the first AHSCR mission trip abroad of this size and magnitude, the trip included profound successes as well as challenges and lessons learned. Volunteer physicians and staff received the blessing of giving for the sake of giving, and learned lessons about the mystery of service — of not ever knowing how an effort like this pays itself forward or lives out in the people and the community upon whom the gifts and efforts were bestowed.



*John Raffoul, president and CEO of Adventist Health White Memorial, shows local residents their new well.*

"I am so proud of our physicians and employees from all of the Southern California region," says John Raffoul, President & CEO of Adventist Health White Memorial and Regional Chair of Mission for the Adventist Health Southern California Region. "They worked very hard and gave endlessly and lovingly under very harsh circumstances. May God bless you for building your treasures in Heaven."

*Dana Gorbea-Leon*



# Adventist Single Adult Ministries Hosts Cruise to the Bahamas

Over the Labor Day weekend, some 180 adults from across the North American Division (plus two from Australia) sailed from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to the Bahamas on the Adventist Single Adult Ministries cruise themed “Plugged In.”

NAD ASAM directors Pamela and Claudio Consuegra planned the cruise to provide an opportunity for single adults to find spiritual renewal, to meet people with whom to develop new relationships, and to do activities together, says Pamela.

“Sabbaths can be lonely if you go to church alone, sit in a pew alone, and go home alone for Sabbath dinner,” she says. “A sense of loneliness or isolation is one of the top issues of singles in the church.”

Many churches are not singles-friendly places, with many well-intentioned church members who don’t know how to reach out to single adults, says Frank Bondurant, a vice president at the Columbia Union and the union’s ASAM director. “Some members think their role is match-making when really it would be more helpful just to invite singles over for a meal or family social activity.”

Reneé Mobley, director of Family Ministries for the South Central Conference in the Southern Union, added that non-single members should ask singles what their needs are, then plan activities for and with them.

Malela Rozier, a member of the First church in Dublin, Ga., attended the cruise in hopes of meeting and mingling with other singles during the worships and other activities. “We have a lot of single people in the



*ASAM cruise participants take a break in the Bahamian sunshine for a group photo.*

church, and I feel as though if we can come together with activities, we can support each other.”

In a workshop, Claudio encouraged attendees to get involved in ministry at their local churches. “The cruise is a wonderful thing, but if you depend only on an annual cruise or convention, it isn’t enough,” he said, and added that there needs to be an ongoing ministry on a regular basis — once a week or month.

During his worship talks, Mike Tucker, speaker/director for Faith for Today Television, encouraged attendees to not wait for the church to create ministries and connections for them, but to get plugged into a true source of fulfillment — Jesus Christ.

“You make connections by choosing to be of service to others rather than saying, why isn’t the church doing this for me?” said Tucker.

Find out about ASAM activities around the North American Division by following them on Facebook ([facebook.com/ASAMNAD](https://facebook.com/ASAMNAD)) or their website, [adventistsingleadultministries.org](https://adventistsingleadultministries.org).

*V. Michelle Bernard*



*Singles from the Pacific Union stop their activities long enough for a group photo.*

In the September issue, we misspelled the name of one of the Union Teacher Education Scholarship recipients. The correct name is Andrew Loh (not Andrew Lee). We regret the error. Sorry, Andrew!





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

## Outdoor School

Geology, Water Ecology, Preparedness and Survival



Bryce Canyon State Park

*“The whole natural world is designed to be an interpreter of the things of God. To Adam and Eve in their Eden home, nature was full of the knowledge of God, teeming with divine instruction. To their attentive ears it was vocal with the voice of wisdom. Wisdom spoke to the eye and was received into the heart, for they communed with God in His created works.”*

*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 186., E.G. White*

I should have known when I passed the sign that said, “Unmaintained Road.” And we should have just turned around when I blew by the sign that said, “Road Impassable When Wet.”

But it had been a long day. After a late night wrangling the final details for outdoor school, I had arisen at four. I had to finish packing and load my stuff and shepherd everyone aboard for our Outdoor School adventure

When we started within thirty minutes of my planned departure time, I gave myself a pat on the back for my planning acumen and cheerleading skills. I waved goodbye to the three staff members in a Tahoe pulling a U-Haul trailer full of food and luggage. They would have no problem reaching camp in plenty of time to prepare supper for the rest of us. Shoot, they might even have time to string up their hammocks and relax for a few hours.

Through judicious packing and rearranging, the men

in charge had managed to fit everything but two pans of brownies, a container of cut up fruit, and six-dozen homemade cookies into the trailer. They stuffed the rest of the food into the back of the Tahoe.

The kids had tossed their pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets on top of the bicycles in the trailer that I would pull with the bus. Everyone settled down and we had prayer before leaving Holbrook Indian School (HIS) and heading to Kodachrome Basin State Park for a week of school outdoors.

Twenty miles down the road the check engine light came on in the bus. I pulled over with a silent groan. The mechanics had just replaced the water pump the day before. No sooner had I hit the emergency blinkers than smoke started to spew out the front of the bus. The kids groaned good-naturedly, and the more mechanical minded men got off the bus to investigate.

Two hours later, the mechanic finally arrived and determined that the water pump had a crack in it. My mom happened to be headed out of town, and she stopped to help. She took one of the CDL drivers back to pick up a smaller bus, and someone volunteered to bring our other small bus out as well. Thirty-four students and six staff members wouldn't fit on either of the other busses, so we resigned ourselves to continuing with two busses instead of one.

Our mechanical woes set us back almost three hours, so we had to forego our guided (Cont'd on center page.)





Adrian testing out a hammock. (Anita Ojeda)

## About HIS Outdoor School

When students spend time outdoors, their technology can't distract them. As they unwind from the overwhelm of modern society, they begin to appreciate the wonders of creation and discover new things about themselves and their Creator.

(As faculty and students interact throughout the week, social, tribal, and racial barriers break down as students realize that we need each other in many different ways. The curriculum teaches students to work together to solve problems and find solutions.)

Faculty plan two trips a year. One trip, a three-day camping trip which includes all of the students, grades one through twelve, takes place nearby. Activities focus on team-building and learning to get along in a multigenerational setting. The second Outdoor School, which lasts a week, separates the students according to age group. First through seventh graders stay on campus the majority of the time with a shorter camping trip at the end of the week. Eighth through twelfth graders travel to a different ecosystem—usually found within a state or national park.

This year's Outdoor School program for the upper grades focused on three key objectives: geology, water ecology, and preparedness for survival. The spiritual theme for the week, 'Where the Wild Things Are,' tied in with the academic objectives by highlighting characters from the Bible and how they survived difficult situations in a variety of circumstances and ecosystems.

### Geology

This year staff chose to hold outdoor school at Kodachrome Basin State Park with side trips to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. Although the three parks lay within a hundred mile radius, each has unique features for students to study, compare, and contrast.

### Water Ecology

For science classes, students analyzed the chemical and biological properties of Lower Calf Creek near Kodachrome Basin and the waterfall at Weeping Rock in Zion National Park, using the Water Quality Index system. Students performed nine qualitative tests

such as dissolved oxygen, Ph, presence of phosphates and nitrates, temperature, BOD, fecal coliform, turbidity, and total dissolved solids in order to assess the safety of the water.

Students also calculated and assigned a water quality rating from very bad to excellent for each source, and discussed the reasons for the rating.

### Preparedness and Survival

By teaching students how to prepare for unforeseen challenges in the wild, teachers hope to build confidence in the students and create a scaffold for conversations about surviving in real life when faced with peer pressure and difficult decisions. In addition, students learned about proper trail etiquette for hiking, birding, and mountain biking. During the hikes, birding adventures, and mountain biking trips, students demonstrated proper trail etiquette and consideration for the environment.

### More Than Just a Camping Trip

Faculty plan the learning objectives ahead of time, and create special Outdoor School planners that include not only the daily schedules, but a customized list of objectives for each class that students take. At the end of each class section, students take oral tests to review the objectives.

Each teacher plans a variety of classes that fit within the theme and general objectives for Outdoor School. This allows teachers to customize classes to fit their interests and skill sets—and allows students to see a different side of their teachers. By working with students in a relaxed setting, teachers learn more about their students and can then use that knowledge to draw students in to the formal education that happens back in the classroom.

When students experience learning in a fun environment and apply what they learn to every day life, it creates in them a deeper desire for learning. Being in nature also opens them up to God as their Creator and of the world in which they live. It makes God more tangible to them.





I had forgotten about the time change in Utah. When Siri told me to turn right on Johnson Canyon Road, I obediently did what she suggested. I had to pull over because the other bus lagged behind. When they blew by me, I flashed my lights and honked until they turned around.

For some reason, I figured that perhaps since Kodachrome Basin didn't have any cell service, perhaps no paved roads lead into it as well. And those kids must be tired of traveling by now—even though not a single one had asked me, “Are we there yet, Mrs. Ojeda?”

I carefully angled the bus (a 14-passenger affair about the size of a Class C RV) across the stream and hoped that the trailer wouldn't bottom out. Unfortunately, I couldn't see over the rock under the right side of the bus, and when the back wheel dropped dramatically, I knew we had a problem.

A ranger had assured me just the week before that a bus could easily make it from Kodachrome Basin to Willis Creek. Funny that he hadn't mentioned the 44-mile-long dirt road extravaganza leading into the park. I had crafted my plan so carefully, and despite our good start in the morning, everything seemed to go wrong.

rocks, screwdrivers) trying to unbury the hitch. Other boys started carrying rocks to shove under the back wheel.

With the students' help, we tried backing out of the situation. Didn't work. One of the other teachers found a giant metal crowbar, which worked wonders for loosening the dirt and rocks wedged under the hitch. (Note to self, all school vehicles should carry a shovel).

It seemed as if we had lost hours trying to get unstuck. I started to fantasize about a hot meal, AND the other staff members setting up the kids' tents for them.





(Cont'd from center page.)

help but think of the difference between GPS and maps. Sure, GPS services claim to keep a driver informed about road conditions and the fastest route. But getting stuck in a creek and wasting valuable daylight hours didn't seem like a faster route to me.

When we arrived at a second expansive creek crossing, I stopped before we started across and we all got off the bus to assess the situation. The students carried rocks and filled in the drop offs BEFORE we drove over. Two hundred feet from the creek, we could see a paved road.


The thought that Kodachrome Basin State Park really DOES have a paved road leading all the way into it niggled at the back of my mind. I vaguely remembered passing it when we moved to Arizona four years ago. I felt resentful that some GPS program had routed us through a so-called short cut that turned out to waste time and put our group in danger of spending a cold night on the road without food.

If I had just looked at a map when I made my plan, I would have known that Johnson Canyon Road lead to an unmaintained dirt road. I would have chosen the logical route along Highway 12 past Bryce Canyon



Matthew. (Anita Ojedal)

National Park.

The whole situation made me think about the difference between the Bible and books about the Bible. If I rely on the map—the Bible—I won't have questions about the right route and how to get there. And that, after all, is the whole point of Outdoor School. Teaching kids to read the Map that leads to heaven. 

*To read part two of Anita Ojeda's  
HIS Outdoor School Adventure and  
for more information about the mis-  
sion of Holbrook Indian School visit  
[HolbrookIndianSchool.org](http://HolbrookIndianSchool.org)*



Holbrook Indian School (HIS) is a 1st through 12th-grade boarding academy operated by the Pacific Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church. HIS also manages a day-school on the Navajo reservation in Chinle, AZ. Eighty percent of funding comes from individuals who have a desire to support Native American ministries and Christian education. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities they serve. Thank you for your support!

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## CALENDARS

### Central California

**MEN'S CONVENTION** (Sept. 29-Oct. 1) Onboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Hornet with men 'Chosen for Action.' Register at [mensconvention.eventbrite.com](http://mensconvention.eventbrite.com) or email [ministries@cccsda.org](mailto:ministries@cccsda.org).

**GLOW LEADERSHIP TRAINING** (Oct. 7) CCC office, Clovis. Learn how to activate and integrate GLOW into all of your church ministries. Register: 559-347-3150 or [glow@cccsda.org](mailto:glow@cccsda.org).

**HISPANIC MEN'S CONVOCATION** (Oct. 28) 6000 Miller Ave., Gilroy, Calif. with guest speaker Pastor Enrique Perez. Call 559-347-3144.

### Northern California

**PACIFIC UNION PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** (Oct. 4-8) Lake Skinner, 37701 Warren Road, Winchester. "One Way, Truth, Life, Love." Speakers: Meshach Soli, Ron Whitehead, Armando Miranda Jr. Info: [www.puccamporee.org](http://www.puccamporee.org).

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** (Oct. 6-8, 13-15) Leoni Meadows. Kathi Lipp, best-selling author and national speaker. "From Overwhelmed to Overcomer." Info: [ourchristianladies.com](http://ourchristianladies.com).

**JUNIOR/SENIOR RETREAT** (Oct. 20-22) Leoni Meadows. For academy, high school, and home school juniors and seniors. Info: 925-603-5080.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** (Oct. 20-22) Sacramento area. DEADLINE: Sept 20. Info and registration: Rob & Debbie Purvis, 916-599-5560 (text ok) or [purvis4@gmail.com](mailto:purvis4@gmail.com).

**STOCKTON MAYFAIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY** (Oct. 27-28) 6940 North El Dorado Street, Stockton. Friday, 7-9 p.m. and Sabbath, all day. Guest speakers include Kelby McCotry, Marlene Rodriguez, and Abraham Jules. Join us as we celebrate what God is doing! Info: 209-951-5750.

**NCC ASIAN/PACIFIC CONVOCATION** (Oct. 28) 3:30 p.m. Antioch church, 2200 Country Hills Drive. Come enjoy a cultural music and food festival! Info: 925-603-5094.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL KOINONIA RETREAT** (Nov. 3-5) Leoni Meadows. "Where Do We Go from Here?" Speaker: Shantel Smith, Pacific Union College associate chaplain. Prayer walking, fitness session: Dr. Tanzy Chandler, physical therapist/professional trainer. Anointing session: Chanda Nunes, associate pastor, Capitol City.

For ALL women, 18 and over. Info: [womenskoinonia.com](http://womenskoinonia.com).

**MEN'S CHORUS FESTIVAL** (Nov. 4) 5 p.m. Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Featuring six men's choruses in concert: Hinsdale, Modesto Praise, Bakersfield, Bay Area, and Carmichael, as well as the William Chunestudy Men's Chorus. Free! Info: 916-487-8684 or [carmsda.org](http://carmsda.org).

**SACRAMENTO ABC OPEN HOUSE** (Nov. 5) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sacramento Adventist Book Center, 5207 Madison Avenue, Suite G. Info: 916-486-7730.

**PLEASANT HILL ABC OPEN HOUSE** (Nov. 19) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pleasant Hill Adventist Book Center, 401 Taylor Blvd. Info: 925-685-4409.

### Pacific Union

**ONE WAY JESUS: PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** (Oct. 4-8) Lake Skinner, 37701 Warren Rd., Winchester. This is going to be an amazing ministry event that you will not want to miss. You will have the opportunity to meet other Pathfinders from the western United States and Hawaii. The main speaker is Meshach Soli, associate pastor at the Beaumont church. "One Way Jesus!" Info at [puccamporee.org](http://puccamporee.org).

### Southeastern California

**CHARACTER OF GOD CONFERENCE** (Oct. 12-15) Garden Grove church, 12702 9th St., Garden Grove. This year the conference will be about the character of God and a non-violent atonement at the cross. There will be great music, food, and a team of speakers, including Herb Montgomery, Dan Smith, and more. Info: [office@gardengrovesda.com](mailto:office@gardengrovesda.com), 714-534-1987. Register: [www.goo.gl/WLYQsx](http://www.goo.gl/WLYQsx).

**AZURE HILLS CAMP MEETING** (Oct. 13-14) Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. Come and listen to this year's speaker, Ty Gibson, author and international speaker. He will speak on "Reimagining God." Info: 909-825-8611.

**SECC COMMUNITY SERVICE RETREAT** (Oct. 19-22) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd, Mountain Center. Come and enjoy daily devotions, disaster relief training presentations, vespers, Sabbath services, creative workshops, and much more. Transportation is available from the conference office. Registration deadline: Oct. 6. Info: 951-509-2298.

**VALLEY SUN CITY CHURCH 25TH ANNIVERSARY** (Nov. 4) All members and former members are invited



to come home for this celebration. Services: 9:30 a.m. Sabbath school, 11 a.m. worship (Pastor Vadim), and potluck after. Info: [valleysda.info](http://valleysda.info) or call 951-672-9699.

**VICTORVILLE CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY** (Oct. 21) 10 a.m., 16070 Lorene Dr., Victorville. Join with current and former pastors and members in celebrating the 50th anniversary at the church's current location. There will be a Sabbath school and worship followed by a potluck and afternoon program. Info: Ricki Ricketts, [rickiricketts@mail.com](mailto:rickiricketts@mail.com); or church office, 760-245-3620.

### Southern California

**SEEDS OF TRUTH BIBLE SERIES** (Oct. 1-21) Presenters: Pastor/evangelist Michael Johnson and Homer Hart. Childcare provided. Weeknights: 7 p.m., Saturdays: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Sundays: 5 p.m. No meetings Mondays and Thursdays. Berean church, 4211 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018. Info: 323-735-0228.

**MEDICAL MISSIONARY TRAINING** (Oct. 3-Nov. 7) Presenter: Rodney W. Bowes, Africa/Asia Divisional director. Tuesdays. 6-9 p.m. School of Evangelism & Resource Center, 1501 Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-549-4147.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT** (Oct. 6-8) Keynote Speaker: Carla Baker, NAD Women's Ministries director; Pamela Consuegra, Ph.D., and Claudio Consuegra, D.Min., NAD Family Ministries. Camp Cedar Falls Conference Center, 39850 State Hwy. 38, Angelus Oaks 92305. Info: Dimple Fields, retreat coordinator, 323-336-3919, [dimpdimp99@hotmail.com](mailto:dimpdimp99@hotmail.com); Beverly Martin, Ph.D., WM Coordinator, 661-810-9350, [bmartin708@aol.com](mailto:bmartin708@aol.com).

**ESTATE PLANNING MISTAKES SEMINAR** (Oct. 29) Sunday Brunch Seminar: "Common Estate Planning Mistakes." 9 a.m. Presenter: Karen La Madrid Atiga, Esq., specializing in estate planning and general law, with an office in Riverside. Free. For reserved seating, call 818-546-8421; walk-ins welcome! Scholl Canyon Estates, 1551 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: [gpark@scsda.org](mailto:gpark@scsda.org).

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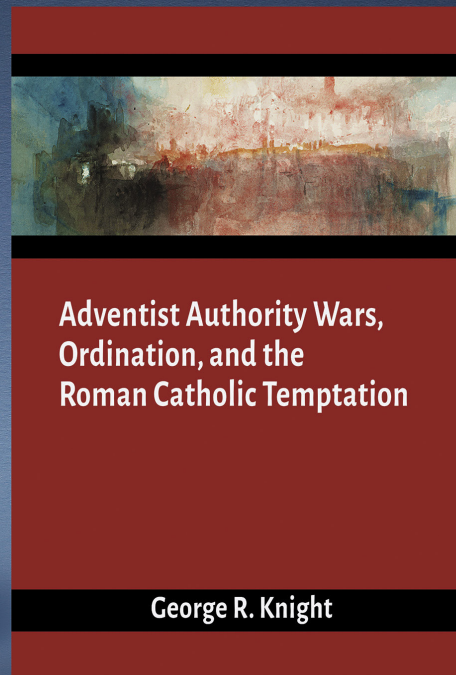
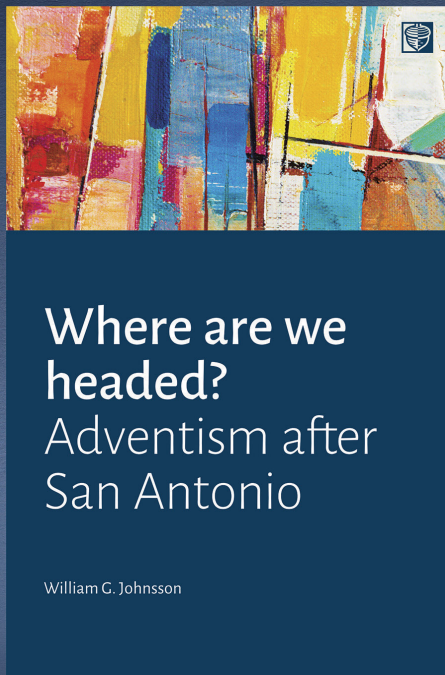


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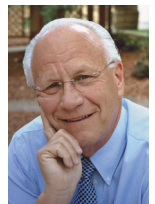
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### Bulletin Board

**ADVENTIST BOOKS:** Looking for NEW Adventist titles to encourage and

grow your daily walk? Visit us at [www.TEACHServices.com](http://www.TEACHServices.com). For USED Adventist books, visit [www.LNFBooks.com](http://www.LNFBooks.com). **AUTHORS:** If you're interested in having your book published, call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation.

**CANVASBACK MISSIONS** needs three vehicles to transport volunteers and supplies as well as to pull a food trailer delivering healthy produce and meals on the island of Majuro. Your tax-deductible donation of a running or non-running vehicle can help us share the love of God through health and healing! 800-793-7245, [info@canvasback.org](mailto:info@canvasback.org).

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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks part-time professor for History and Political Studies Department to teach American History, develop courses, advise/mentor students, engage in service activities, and sustain a research and professional growth agenda. Must be able to teach courses in Atlantic history, topics in African history, and African-American and or Latin American pop culture; with a combination of expertise and strong knowledge in at least one of the two regional/cultural areas. Ph.D. in History preferred. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching

philosophy, and three references to Dr. Mark Peach, [peach@southern.edu](mailto:peach@southern.edu) and Dr. Robert Young, [ryoung@southern.edu](mailto:ryoung@southern.edu), P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315.

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**UNION COLLEGE**, Lincoln, Neb., seeks a Vice President for Enrollment Services. This person will be responsible for achieving the college's enrollment goals and managing financial aid to meet overall financial goals. Full description at [www.ucollege.edu/staff-openings](http://www.ucollege.edu/staff-openings). Send application and résumé to Dr. Vinita Sauder, [vinita.sauder@ucollege.edu](mailto:vinita.sauder@ucollege.edu).

## Events

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL KOINONIA** Retreat (Nov. 3-5) Leoni Meadows. "Where Do We Go from Here?" Speaker: Shantel Smith, Pacific Union College associate chaplain. Prayer walking, fitness session: Dr. Tanzy Chandler, physical therapist/professional trainer. Anointing session: Chanda Nunes, Capitol City associate pastor. For ALL women 18 and over. Info: [www.womenskoinonia.com](http://www.womenskoinonia.com).

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**SANTA CRUZ.** Wanda Driver, administrative secretary, 818-429-1442, [secretary1@santacruzda.org](mailto:secretary1@santacruzda.org); Benny and Gladys Gomez, Kitty Kester, April Kester.

**VICTORVILLE.** 16070 Lorene Dr., Victorville, CA 92395 or call 760-245-3620; email [vvdsdachurch@gmail.com](mailto:vvdsdachurch@gmail.com): Rebecca Van Antwerp, Connie M. Vincent, Robert Frank Vincent, Robert Vincent Jr., Ryan Strauss, Bobby Parrish, Marla Parsons, Georgia Patino, Carmelita Paumplona, Martha E. Reese, Denise Roland, Rachel Roland, James Rowe, Phyllis Rowe, Shannon Rowe, Sondra Rowe, Valerie Rowe, Rick Saulsgiver, Sherry Saulsgiver, Nannette Wertz, Leroy P. Weischadle, Janel Whitten, Jason Wicker, Catina Wilchenski, Kamala Wilchenski.

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Blake, 509-995-6272 or [pblake83@live.com](mailto:pblake83@live.com).

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

## SUNSETS

	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27
Alturas	6:33	6:22	6:11	6:01
Angwin	6:42	6:32	6:22	6:13
Calexico	6:18	6:09	6:01	5:54
Chico	6:39	6:28	6:18	6:09
Eureka	6:48	6:37	6:26	6:17
Fresno	6:33	6:23	6:14	6:05
Hilo	6:03	5:58	5:53	5:48
Honolulu	6:13	6:07	6:01	5:57
Las Vegas	6:15	6:05	5:56	5:48
Lodi	6:38	6:28	6:18	6:10
Loma Linda	6:24	6:15	6:07	5:59
Los Angeles	6:29	6:20	6:11	6:04
Moab	6:49	6:39	6:29	6:21
Oakland	6:42	6:32	6:22	6:14
Phoenix	6:03	5:55	5:46	5:39
Reno	6:31	6:21	6:11	6:02
Riverside	6:25	6:16	6:08	6:00
Sacramento	6:38	6:28	6:18	6:09
Salt Lake City	6:58	6:47	6:37	6:28
San Diego	6:24	6:16	6:08	6:00
San Francisco	6:43	6:33	6:23	6:15
San Jose	6:41	6:31	6:21	6:13
Tucson	6:00	5:51	5:43	5:36

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## AT REST

**BEAVEN, DAVID BRUCE** — b. Feb. 9, 1951, Riverside Calif.; d. April 3, 2017, Chino Valley, Ariz. Survivors: wife, Patsi; sons, David II, Jesse, Douglas; daughters, Elizabeth Adger, Melissa Elledge; two grandchildren; brother, James; sister, Lori Voilesqa.

**BRADLEY, AUDREY** — b. May 1, 1926, Napa Valley, Calif.; d. Aug. 25, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Diane.

**BREINGAN, RONALD A.** — b. May 5, 1926, Portland, Maine; d. July 20, 2017, El Centro, Calif. Survivors: wife, Merrilyn; sons, George, Tim; daughters, Mary, Martha Swab; four grandchildren; stepsons, Roger, Randy; stepdaughters, Kathy, Karen; four step-grandchildren. Former Calxico Mission School principal, pastor in Southeastern California Conference, and a missionary pastor in Alaska.

**CARLSON, EDWARD JOEL** — b. Nov. 7, 1920, Salina, Kan.; d. June 11, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: son, Joseph; daughter, Donna Reeves; four grandchildren.

**CHEADLE, MARTHA** — b. Feb. 22, 1921; d. March 17, 2017, Porterville, Calif. Survivors: son, Donald Jarvis; daughter, Linda Maddox; eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren.

**CLEMENTS, RALPH "ED" GAR JR.** — b. Dec. 28, 1945, Tacoma, Wash.; d. July 5, 2017, Norwalk, Calif. Survivors: wife, Genn J.

**ECKERN, HARRIET INGHAM (WALL)** — b. Dec. 19, 1927, Shafter, Calif.; d. Aug. 25, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Kathleen Bolejack, Kelly McHan; stepson, Scott Eckern; stepdaughter, Robyn Eckern; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

**HAUSER, DOROTHY MAY** — b. June 6, 1923, Warroad, Minn.; d. Aug. 5, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif.

**HENDERSON, JOANN** — b. Dec. 7, 1933, Ashgrove, Mo.; d. July 18, 2017, Springfield, Mo. Survivors: sons, Darrell, Bill; daughter, Carolyn.

**JONES, C. MARIAN** — b. Oct. 19, 1923, Kalamazoo, Mich.; d. Aug. 24, 2017, Redlands, Calif. Survivors: son, Richard Newton; daughter, Dianne Gardner; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

**KETTING, EFFIE JEAN** — b. April 15, 1926, Detroit, Mich.; d. Aug. 5, 2017, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband,

Sam; son, Case; daughter, Ginger Weller; two grandchildren. Served as a missionary doctor; delivered approximately 17,000 babies in her career.

**MONTGOMERY SR., WILLIAM JOHN** — b. Jan. 10, 1927, Ukiah, Calif.; d. Aug. 9, 2017, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: sons, James, William Jr.; daughter, Gina Lori; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

**NASHED, YACCOUB** — b. April 27, 1922, Ben Adi, Egypt; d. June 27, 2017, Corona, Calif. Survivors: sons, Arnold, Harry; daughters, Nora Nashed Simmons, Suha Nashed Huffaker; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild.

**NYMAN, TED JOHN** — b. Sept. 14, 1928, San Pedro, Calif.; d. July 20, 2017, Shelton, Wash. Survivors: daughters, Janice, Cheryl; stepdaughter, Kim; stepson, Jeff; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

**OLSON, WILBUR** — b. Sept. 24, 1930, San Salvador, El Salvador; d. Feb. 7, 2017, Madera, Calif. Survivors: sons, Loren, Daryl; daughters, Yolanda Leamon, Sharon Harrelson; 14 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

**RANDOLPH, GEORGIA LEE (QUISHENBERRY)** — b. April 13, 1927, Vinita, Okla.; d. July 14, 2017, Ukiah, Calif. Survivors: daughters, Connie Kehr, Kathy, Karen Kurtz; five grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

**REISWIG, WILBERT ROY** — b. Aug. 2, 1922, Dupree, S.D.; d. July 27, 2017, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: wife, Violet; son, Dale; daughter, Renae; one grandchild; two great-grandchildren.

**SATTLER, SYLVIA A. (JOHNSON) TRAVERSO** — b. Dec. 7, 1944, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. Aug. 9, 2017, Camino, Calif. Survivors: husband, Dan; daughter, Dea Traverso Banfi; stepson, Jared; step-daughters, Shannon Rogers, Dusty Botting, Deanna Sisk; eight grandchildren; brother, Sheldon Johnson; sister, Ramona Stevens.

**SCHWANDT, COLENE LAVERTA (HOOPER)** — b. Sept. 14, 1928, Keene, Texas; d. July 25, 2017,

Fallbrook, Calif. Survivors: sons, Bruce, Craig; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brother, Tommy.

**THOMPSON, SARA JANE** — b. Jan. 5, 1927, Indianapolis, Ind.; d. Aug. 4, 2017, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: sons, Fred W. Jr., Kevin D., Lorin "Monty;" 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren.

**TURNER, IMOGENE (FENTON)** — b. Nov. 19, 1927, Bristow, Okla.; d. Aug. 6, 2017, Escondido, Calif. Survivors: sons, Dean, Terry, Lonnie, Gwen; 13 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren.

**VIGILIA, ARLENE P.** — b. Feb. 12, 1950, Lantap, Solano, Nueva Vizaya, Philippines; d. May 30, 2017, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: brothers, Eleuterio Jr., Dr. Larry, William; sisters, Reuleta Erese, Leticia Valendez. Served as a physician along with a career path in nursing. Traveled to 30-plus countries with various Adventist ministries. Board member of Farm Stew International.

**WAIT, MARJORIE "ELAINE" (HANSON)** — b. Dec. 16, 1932, Swan Lake, S.D.; d. Aug. 10, 2017, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: sons, John, Jeff; daughter, Jane Emerson; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brother, Dick Hanson. Served as manager of the Lodi Book and Bible House.

**WELLS, NADINE JOHNSON** — b. Aug. 19, 1934, Vallejo, Calif.; d. May 9, 2017, Fairfield, Calif. Survivors: sons, Rick, Paul, Mitch, William; daughters, Sherry, Caroline, Marty; sister, Mary.

**WRIGHT, MALCOM S.** — b. Oct. 1, 1933, Clinton, Mass.; d. Aug. 5, 2017, Temecula, Calif. Survivors: wife, Patricia; daughter, Cathy Skeoch; two grandchildren. Long-time elementary teacher for Adventist schools on the West Coast.

**ZIMCHEK, CHARLENE** — b. Dec. 6, 1926, Los Angeles, Calif.; d. June 8, 2017, Woodland, Calif. Survivors: son, Chuck; daughters, Vicky Fuller, Verline Miguel; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

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**2017 Deadlines** — These are the advertising deadlines for the Recorder. Your local conference news deadlines will be earlier.

November: September 26  
December: October 31  
January: November 27  
February: January 4

## CONTRIBUTIONS

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



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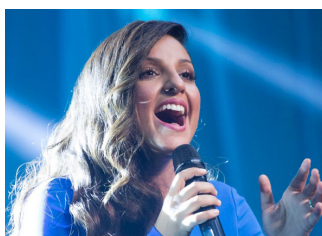
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October 2017

# ArizonaNEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

## "Whiter than Snow"



**Ed Keyes**  
President

*"Behold I was brought forth in iniquity. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean, wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness. Blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

— SELECTIONS FROM PSALM 51:5-10



I'm writing this from Phoenix, Ariz. where the temperature reached 120° this year. It's hard to picture snow ever getting close to this place! But from childhood through early adulthood in New Jersey, I remember snow very well.

Jersey always had a few good snowfalls, but I especially remember one year when it started snowing early in October, again in November, and almost all through December and the rest of the winter.

The thing I remember most about a snowfall in the inner city is that it seemed to have a way of quieting the loud, constant city noise. It also had a way of making the dirty streets and sidewalks of the city look sparkling clean. Each snowfall would bring a sense of cleansing to the city.

However, it wouldn't take too long before it was dirty again. The snowplows would push the fresh snow to the side of the streets and it would turn greasy black in just a few days making it look worse than it did before it snowed. But that particular year

the snow kept coming down not giving the streets enough time to get dirty again.

I believe it's like that with God's amazing grace. He promises to cleanse us if we confess our sins. He also says He will never leave nor forsake us. When we live in a right relationship with Him every day, He doesn't just make us as white as snow, He keeps us that way. Actually, as the verse says, "whiter than snow." That's pretty amazing. I believe when we live our life with this knowledge, it frees us to do courageous things for God.

I am so glad for His cleansing grace. Stay close to Him daily and you will always experience the great joy as described in Psalm 51.

I have only shared a few statements from the passage. I challenge you to take out your Bible right now and read the entire Psalm. As you do, pray that God will change your life into what He really wants it to be.

*Ed Keyes*

This newsletter is stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Arizona Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the Recorder every-other month.





# The Joy of Giving

By Jeff Wilson

Carefree, Ariz. resident Doreen Wurts married and started her family at a young age. It wasn't until her children were older that she went to college where she majored in elementary education and became a teacher.

After their children were raised, she and her husband, Richard, regularly traveled across Europe and Asia for extended periods each year, roving through at least two dozen countries. They even stopped at remote Pitcairn Island on two occasions. After their travels slowed down, they turned to collecting. Their interests were diverse, and they acquired unique pieces of fine art, such as Japanese and Chinese vases, German steins, Native American hand-carved walking sticks, and more.

Wurts began donating frequently to Adventist World Radio in 1987. In 1990 she invited her Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church Sabbath School class to embrace AWR as a mission project. For more than two decades, Wurts felt a growing conviction that someday she wanted to give her art collection — which by now was decorating virtually every room of her home — to further the finishing of God's work through AWR.

Just before Richard died in June 2015, Wurts began discussing her dream with Jeff Wilson, Assistant to the AWR President for Planned Giving. "AWR reaches into so many countries that can't be reached with the gospel in any other way," she said. "I want everyone to have the opportunity to know and accept Jesus."

Unfortunately, the interest and market

for Japanese Satsuma art had fallen off and prices had dropped dramatically. Wurts called a dealer in San Diego from whom she and Richard had purchased several pieces. He flew out and surveyed her scores and scores of pieces.

"The market is not what it was a few years ago," he warned. "I'm sorry, but I don't think it would be worth my while to attempt to market your collection."

Despite this professional advice, Wurts still believed God had a plan. Wilson contacted Jim Friend, an estate appraiser and dealer in Scottsdale, Ariz. He said, "The market is souring, but let's work with God on this and see what we can do." Friend promoted the collection through professional contacts, the Internet, and unexpected clients who just happened to drop in to his studio. The first man to come in unannounced purchased \$40,000 worth of Doreen's art pieces.

Eventually Friend presented AWR two checks totaling \$80,450. In addition, two shipments of Pitcairn artwork — including a replica of the Bounty and a nail from the original ship — were shipped to the Adventist Heritage Centre & South Sea Islands Museum at Avondale College in Cooranbong, New South Wales, Australia.

Wilson asked Wurts if she was sad as she looked around the bare rooms of her



*Doreen Wurts surveys some of her collection given to benefit Adventist World Radio.*

home where her treasured artwork — each piece a reminder of an exotic destination she and Richard had visited — had been displayed for 20 years.

"Absolutely not," she replied firmly. "I vowed before God that if I outlived Richard, I would give our lifelong treasures to God's work. These were only things. Now that they have been transformed into cash, I am excited to know the money will be winning souls all over the world. I look forward to meeting those saints in God's kingdom who found Jesus through my gift!"

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# Kingman's VBS – Mighty Fortress

By Tish Bedford

After several months of prayer, planning and hard work, Vacation Bible School for children ages four through 12 years of age was held at the Kingman Arizona Seventh-day Adventist Church from June 26-30, 2017. The theme, *Mighty Fortress*, with emphasis on victory in Jesus Christ, blessed both members and visitors from the community.

Director Boowie Tefft and her team did an outstanding job planning, organizing and conducting the event. Team members included Sandy Smith, Ethel Shepherd, Tami Kidd, Pat Disney, Kathie Sturtevant, Marie Munoz-Russell, Linda Flynn and Victor Powell, plus youthful members Amber Tefft, Josh Tefft, Zachary Kidd and Eddie Buelna.

Average attendance was 19. Nearly half were non-Adventist children from the community. One Adventist family drove over 120 miles roundtrip from Needles, CA with their three young daughters.



*VBS leaders Ethel Shepherd and Marie Munoz stand before the Mighty Fortress stage.*

The program was divided into several parts and conducted in different rooms decorated appropriately to emphasize the theme. Prayers and worship were given in the sanctuary with Tami Kidd leading and Victor Powell operating the sound equipment. In the Lord's Room, Bible stories were taught by Kathie Sturtevant. The children enjoyed different crafts emphasizing the theme in the Royal Craft Room organized and conducted by Marie Munoz-Russell. Animated Videos on the great reformers and martyrs Perpetua, Martin Luther, John Tyndale,

John Wesley and Erick Liddell were presented by Sandy Smith in the Reformation Village where the children learned about church history. Games in the gymnasium were planned and conducted by Amber Tefft with assistance from Josh Tefft, Zachary Kidd and Eddie Buelna. VBS would not be complete without snacks served by Pat Disney in the Knights Feast Room.

On Sabbath VBS leaders and a number of children took charge of the worship hour. The program included a detailed report of activities by Boowie Tefft, an animated video on Martin Luther, and a slide show. The children sang several songs with sign language directed by Tami Kidd and Sandy Smith. Certificates of completion were presented to the children and special recognition was given to all who worked so hard to make the VBS such a blessing to so many.

Many of the children who attended VBS expressed a desire to return to the church and are looking forward to VBS next summer which is already in the planning stages. As a result of the VBS, one family who had been absent from church for several years expressed a desire to come

back to church and encourage their children to be actively involved in the children's ministry.





# Summer Harvest *in Chinle*

*By Dale Wolcott*

Three and a half years ago the Chinle SDA church, in the heart of the Navajo Indian Reservation, sat derelict. Rain from occasional thunderstorms soaked through tattered shingles, dripping rainwater onto the empty pews.

Today the roof is solid, the walls are freshly painted, the pews are often filled with eager worshippers, and the fellowship hall frequently overflows with laughter, singing and the mouthwatering fragrance of healthy meals.

Shortly after the church reopened in March 2014, a visiting mission team from Shasta Lake, Calif. envisioned an addiction recovery ministry to address two of the Navajo Nation's most pressing problems: alcohol and drug abuse. Short-term seminars gave promise, but were clearly not enough.

Then God placed a mission to the Navajo Nation on the heart of a retired substance abuse counselor from Texas. Don Krimmer moved to Chinle in early 2016 and began a Twelve-Step ministry nicknamed not AA nor NA, but JA – “Jesus And me” – also known as “Jesus Anonymous” where Jesus Christ is openly confessed as the Highest Power for victory over enslaving habits.

By early 2017, 30-50 people were meeting each Monday evening in the fellowship hall. JA for Women was meeting on Sunday afternoons. People were staying sober. Many began attending a Tuesday night family Bible study called “Plug into Power.” Some even brought their kids. People began complaining that the fellowship hall was too small.

Then Amazing Facts Evangelist Wyatt Allen returned to Chinle for a second consecutive summer for a Prophecy Seminar tent meeting. It was time for the Harvest. Seventy people filled the Native Ministries tent on opening night, July 28. More than half of the attendees had learned about the seminar through JA. A baptism on the very first Sabbath evening gave promise of the harvest to come.

Nightly JA meetings were held for one hour preceding each seminar session. After two weeks, the seminar moved into the church sanctuary, with attendance holding at 35-45. On the final Sabbath, August 26, over 20 attendees graduated from the concurrent Bible School, having completed at least 20 of the 24 Bible lessons used by the evangelist each night. Most of those requested baptism, along with several others who have not yet completed the lessons. Six including three JA participants were baptized at nearby Tsaile Lake on August 26.

More baptisms are planned along with discipleship training and future outreach events. The most recent development is an invitation for Don Krimmer to present a daily one-hour musical recovery concert at the annual Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, the tribal capital where a church is currently being planted. A weekly JA meeting in the Window Rock area is scheduled to begin after the Fair. Co-leaders will be Bryson and Raberta Parrish, Chinle JA participants, joyfully sober, just married, just baptized and on fire for Jesus!



*Pastor Dale Wolcott and Evangelist Wyatt Allen present the newly baptized Chinle members.*



# CENTRAL Acts

NEWSLETTER FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

October 2017

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

**14 | Hispanic Churches Officers Training**  
at Bakersfield

**21 | Hispanic Churches Officers Training**  
at Fresno

### NOVEMBER

**3–5 | Singles Ministry Fall Rally** at Central California Conference Office

**10–12 | Prayer Ministries Training** at Tenaya Lodge

## INSIDE

**2 President's Message**  
*The Value of a Blessing – Evangelism Offering Conduit*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT What's It Worth?

**M**att. 13:45,46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

What is the value of a dollar? How about \$100 dollars, \$1,000—how about \$10,000 or more?

I guess it all depends on what you are buying. One dollar would be of greater value if it would buy a gallon of gasoline. One thousand dollars would be expensive for a dinner plate. Ten thousand dollars would be nothing if it bought you a house, or would be much if it was required for your monthly rent.

How do you determine the value of something? It all depends on what someone is willing to give for it!

You hear many stories of people buying a used item in a yard sale or a flea market for \$5, and when they take it home and have it evaluated find out that is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. One time, I heard of an individual buying an old picture, but inside of the backing was an original artwork of the great painter, Van Gogh.

How much is a life worth? The answer is whatever someone is willing to pay for it, just like real estate.

The Son of God gave His life, therefore, the worth of a human life to God is Infinite!

What's It Worth to you? What is the worth of that same life that Jesus died for to you and I?

We should come face-to-face with that question every time you have the blessed privilege and opportunity to dig into your pocket, purse, check book or billfold at church, camp meeting, or, every week when you receive the blessing of a paycheck.

Today, there doesn't seem to be any regard for human life, as we witness the ravaging, brutal and senseless killings in many communities around the globe.

Through our consistent sacrificial giving we get to be part of the life-saving conduit to reach others for the kingdom.

Let us pray as we ponder the solemnity and seriousness of the times we are living in ...Soon money will be worthless. ■

The Son of  
God gave His life,  
therefore, the worth  
of a human life to  
God is Infinite!

*Ramiro*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# The Value of a Blessing – Evangelism Offering Conduit

As of  
9/11/17

2017 Pledges  
\$363,846.00

2017 Received  
\$222,281.47

Offering Total  
\$586,127.47



Ramiro Cano  
President

Where does an offering to the Soquel Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering go? How does the dollar impact a life? How can it enable Central's strategic plan?

For 16-year-old Jasmine Kincaid, Jesus is primary in her life because of your evangelism offering. Those dollars helped send a Souls West\* student to knock on her family's door. Captivated during family Bible studies, Kincaid began going to vespers with other Souls West graduates. Visiting a local Adventist church, she was invited and attended Teen Bible Academy\*. She now longed for a high-school Adventist education, but the cost made it impossible. The solution: Join California Youth Rush\* and earn the money. That year Kincaid was able to enroll at Fresno Adventist Academy and was baptized. The following year, she received the new-member scholarship\* to financially assist. Once graduated, she enrolled in Souls West\* and served her practicum at Templeton Hills. Today, 20-year-old Kincaid continues serving as a health-force worker with the Visalia Bilingual Church.

Below you'll find other evangelism initiatives that reflect the mission of Central: Reflecting Christ, Transforming Communities. Every dollar makes a difference.

### Life Hope Centers

Life Hope Centers' events impact communities throughout the Central California Conference (CCC). Inspired by CCC's strategic plan, this initiative has expanded its reach with a large-scale mobile clinic which houses six new dental stations and chairs, eye-care equipment, and other items necessary for the operation of the clinic. This allows volunteer dentists, optometrists, physicians, health professionals, and community volunteers to provide a host of health-related services at no charge. Local churches present health fairs and clinics to serve their surrounding communities, impacting their area for the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Annual funds needed: \$120,000**  
*which includes administration, equipment, and events.*

### New Evangelism Work

Unique and non-traditional outreach projects fall into this category. This work reaches a new group of people, a new geographical area, or uses an alternative method of evangelism. While funding is based on a one-time amount, the project is part of long-term strategic goals established by CCC and the local church.

**Annual funds needed: \$135,000.**



## GLOW

After 10 years, the GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) ministry realizes over 88 million tracts printed for every corner of the earth in over 60 languages. Seeing the activity of churches and schools around CCC, other conferences and divisions around the world continue to realize GLOW's impact. With 1.6 million tracts going out monthly, CCC continues to inspire and empower members to share their faith through distribution of these short, topical tracts. Many lives have accepted Jesus and been baptized through these sermons with shoes.

Annual funds needed: \$63,000.

## California Youth Rush

This summer, 75 young people visited over 300,000 homes to distribute literature around the conference. This program allows for God to show his face one door at a time, in His time. Bible-study requests appear from those doors, allowing for CROSS trainers or health-force workers to step in to give those studies.

Annual Funds Needed: \$11,000.

## Health-force Workers

Graduates of Souls West focus on health evangelism through health ministries. The eight health-force workers provide health coaching, plus are trained to find and develop spiritual interests, using health as the introduction.

Annual Funds Needed: \$83,000.

## CROSS Trainers

CROSS trainers can be found working with 12 of CCC's churches, companies, groups, and church plants, facilitating upwards of 150 ongoing Bible studies since last camp meeting. When not giving Bible studies, CROSS trainers are leading members through specialized classes on how to give studies, and become spiritual friends. CROSS training (formerly known as Bible work) is an acronym: Churches Reaching out to Serve and Save.

Annual funds needed: \$165,000.

## Church Planting

Outreach ministries also take the shape of church

planting. One of CCC's six new thriving church congregations is in Patterson, Calif. This community embraces the new church as members continually reach the various needs of their neighbors. This congregation has partnered with Wal-Mart to hold health fairs.

Annual funds needed: \$85,000.

## Adventist Education

Adventist educational scholarships impact families. One recipient's mother explains, "I have seen my son grow spiritually so much in the past years. He has even preached at the school and local Adventist churches. He truly moves the people with his words, his passion for the Word; God is inspiring so many. I have invited fellow employees



to hear him. They were so moved, they wanted to send their children to the same school. If you had told me eight years ago that my son would be the young man he is today, I would never have believed it. Now, he intends to go on to an Adventist university because he wants God to be a part of his education. Now, even I have requested Bible studies."

Annual funds needed: \$43,000.

## Teen Bible Academy

Teen Bible Academy (TBA) is a three-week discipleship and evangelistic training program

for teens based on the elements of solitude, study, and service. This summer, 40 students spent time learning how to have a personal relationship with Jesus, how to study the Bible for themselves, and how to share Jesus within their own communities. Teens are not the only ones that benefit. TBA intentionally mentors TBA staff, equipping them to become leaders in their local churches.

Annual funds needed: \$40,000.

### Seminary of Adventist Laity

Seminary of Adventist Laity (SAL) is a three-year, lay evangelism program designed to educate, equip, and train church members to engage



in evangelism. Students take five classes each year from Andrews University professors, requiring them to implement what they've learned. The first year focuses on small groups, the second focuses on preaching, and the third emphasizes health outreach where they organize a fair in their local community. Over 350 students have graduated and are engaging in active

local service in the Bay Area.

Annual funds needed: \$35,000.

### Public Meetings

Fifty-seven public evangelism meetings were funded by the evangelism offering in 2016 which contributed to over 855 baptisms. In the first quarter of 2017, we were blessed with an additional 146 baptisms. Meetings were held by associate and guest evangelists such as Anil Kanda, Antonio Cano, Ivor Myers, Nathan Renner, Robert Clouzet, and Eddy R. Perez.

Annual funds needed: \$280,000.

### Registration Subsidies

Subsidies are made available

for retreats and leadership weekends to offset the expense of registration for potential attendees, even for those of other denominational faiths. The ability to pay registration fees should not prevent attendance. Funds provide for women's and men's ministries, Hispanic women's and men's retreats, prayer conferences, teen retreats, summer

camp, and more.

Annual funds needed: \$18,000.

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# HO'IKE

## VISIONS OF PARADISE

OCTOBER 2017 | NEWS, INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR THE HAWAII CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

**PAGE 2** | The NAD is in the process of rolling out a new elementary-age Bible curriculum for Adventist schools, and Hawaii educators recently attended a training.

**PAGE 3** | The Love Reality Tour is coming to a location near you. Mark your calendars and check theloverealitytour.com for more details.

**PAGE 4** | When look for child care, doctors, pilots, etc., do you prioritize cost over quality? No? We want people who are more than nominally invested in their fields, and so does God.

## An Encounter with Jesus

As I write this, we are just a few days away from the beginning of a brand new school year here in Hawaii. In anticipation and preparation for this new beginning, Miki Nelson, superintendent of schools, scheduled an in-service for all Hawaii Conference elementary teachers to be trained in the NAD's new Encounter Bible curriculum.



Encounter is a fresh approach to teaching Bible in the classroom. The goal is to help each student experience what spirituality is and how it is demonstrated through knowledge (head), attitudes (heart), and actions (hand). It also helps students develop a sense of self-worth through a life-long relationship with Jesus.

We were blessed to have Lanelle Cobbin, the principal writer of the elementary Encounter curriculum, meet with us for the training. Cobbin has invested her career in the ministry of Adventist Education, and her passion was contagious. Both pastors and teachers attended, and seeing them fellowshiping together and focusing on learning this new path for reaching our children was very gratifying.

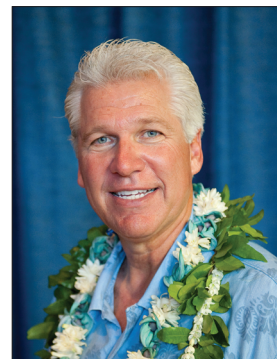
During the two days of training, Cobbin shared several quotes that deeply impacted and inspired me. I'll share three that I found profound and poignant:

"The teaching of Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort" (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 186).

"Before anything else, above all else, beyond everything else, God loves me. God loves me extravagantly, ridiculously, without limit or condition. God is besotted with me. God yearns for me. God does not love me 'in spite of who I am' or 'for whom He knows I can become' — God loves me, the very person I am — and not only that, but even against what I sometimes find plausible, God likes me" (Roberta Bondi).

"One of our primary goals must be to inspire our students to have an encounter with Jesus Christ. In other words, we are not merely transmitters of information or experts in various specialties. We are also evangelists, and our target audience is the group of students in our classroom. Our ultimate goal, like that of the Master Teacher Himself, is to see the lives of our students transformed so that they become agents in advancing the kingdom of God on earth" (Greg King, "Religious Teaching in Adventist Schools," *Journal of Adventist Education*, 2006)

Finally, here is a promise for each of us as we focus on our 20/20 vision: "He will not forget the work you did and the love you showed for Him by helping His people" (Hebrews 6:10).



**Ralph S. Watts III,**  
Hawaii Conference  
President

Aloha in Him, Ralph S. Watts III



# Teachers and Pastors Encounter New Bible Curriculum

BY MIKI AKEO-NELSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A typical school year starts with some kind of professional development for the conference education team. Sometimes, the in-service focuses on a specific teaching technique, while other times it prepares educators to use new curriculum. While learning, the time together allows the statewide-team to network and pray together. It is a blessed way to start a school year.

The 2017-2018 school year started in August when the #808AdventistEducation team came together for two days of training on the brand new Encounter Bible curriculum for Adventist elementary schools. (The curriculum has been in place for grades 9-12 for a few years; the elementary version is brand new.)

According to the North American Division Adventist Education site: "The primary purpose of the Adventist Encounter Curriculum is for our students to have a solid, deep, and personal knowledge of the truths of the Bible (Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs); to respond to Christ's invitation to live in a lifelong, vibrant relationship with Him; and be passionate about the salvation of others."

As for the new grades 1 to 8 version, the site says, "Consider a Bible class where every students' relationship with Christ is nurtured, based on their solid knowledge of Scripture, so that they can be challenged to make an eternal difference in our world." Learn more at [encounter.adventisteducation.org](http://encounter.adventisteducation.org).

"The Encounter Training that we received was the second time around for me," said Allen Lipps, principal/teacher at Kohala Adventist School. "I attended the Train the Trainer Seminar in April. It solidified in my mind the utmost importance of designing ALL of our curriculum and delivery systems so that they are as engaging and personal as the Encounter curriculum is written, and also of the need to make sure that my whole focus and aim is constantly on the target of winning my students to Christ. I need to be that disciple Andrew who was always bringing people to Jesus and putting them at his feet. That is my goal and standard!"



Several pastors joined the training, too. They worked shoulder-to-shoulder with teachers to learn the new curriculum. "The Encounter training opened up a world of possibilities — ways to share the gospel with different type of learners," said Tim Nelson, pastor of Kaneohe church. "I will be implementing many of the techniques in my own classes and feel blessed for having been a part of this event."

From the scope and sequence of the curriculum to content delivery and activities, students in Adventist schools are led to draw from His Word the lessons and plans God has. Please lift up our students, teachers and pastors as they lead students to Christ through the Bible this school year.





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# NOMINAL OR PHENOMENAL?

BY GERALD CHRISTMAN, HAWAII CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

## Aloha, Hawaii Conference Ohana,

I decided to have LASIK surgery on my eyes many years ago, so I went searching for an ophthalmologist. I was surprised to find a number of eye surgeons offering discounted prices. I love a good deal as much as the next guy, but when it comes to my eyesight, bargain-hunting isn't my top priority. I did not want to entrust my eyes to a cut-rate surgeon. I feared that a marked-down, budget price might indicate a lesser-qualified professional.

You and I don't trust nominal individuals when it comes to things we value. I suspect you would disembark an airplane with me if it were revealed before take-off that both pilots had nominal skills. We don't eagerly consign our lives or freedoms to under-qualified pilots, physicians or lawyers.

Nominal. What does this word mean? Pretty much the opposite of phenomenal. Words like half-hearted, mediocre, unenthused, insincerity and indifferent come to mind. Nominal literally means "in name only;" it's a word so bland that it's difficult to get excited about it. Nominal quality restaurants, mechanics or workers do not generally get good reviews. On a personal level, I do not want to be a nominal husband, father or Christian.

The Book of Revelation strongly implies that God does not consider a nominal church to be acceptable. Here is God's message to the church in Laodicea: "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16, NLT). We may want to look for idols in our lives if our Christian experience seems to be lukewarm.

What might a nominal relationship with God look like? We could each describe it differently but it would, likely, include half-hearted worship, a mediocre prayer life, unenthused Bible study, insincere giving, and indifference when it comes to sharing our faith with others.

My wife and I recently toured the Garden Island of Kauai by helicopter. The pilot was far from nominal — he had logged 25,000 hours flying helicopters. As the pilot pointed out the magnificent beauty of the island, he surprised us when he attributed the island's unique features to a massive worldwide flood with only eight people survivors. The pilot, in a low-key manner, shared in two or three minutes a biblical message that is largely disbelieved



and despised in our society. I appreciated his boldness and doing it in such a non-threatening, tactful manner. The pilot was neither nominal nor indifferent about his faith; he, in fact, was a phenomenal witness!

Being a nominal Christian is not enough. Jesus said: "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter" (Matthew 7:21, NLT).

If our service to God is nominal, with little meaning, why would it mean much to Him?



# Kingdom MATTERS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

## *I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God!*

*by Jim Pedersen*

*President  
Northern California Conference*

### **Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

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*President, Jim Pedersen  
Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson  
Treasurer, John Rasmussen*

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 5 • October 2017



Recently, I've been browsing through some old family photos – on both my father's and mother's sides. My new interest has been encouraged by some of my cousins who have been doing research into our genealogy, and the Pedersen family now has a private Facebook page for us to learn about the various branches of our family tree. We've been posting photos and other items that help us see our family connections and learn a bit more of our history.

It's fascinating to see photos that I've never seen before – particularly of my father, his parents, and his siblings. Some of the photos are cute, some funny, some wistful. Seeing that family on the bleak prairie of South Dakota, or living their very simple life in Idaho, helps me understand more about who they were, and also who I am and how I am connected to my relatives.

As I read Scripture, particularly Hebrews 11, I see that I have connections in my spiritual history, as well. Great people of faith have been examples of how to live a life with God. Their lives have encouraged people through the ages, and they continue to inspire us today – people such as Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab, too. The lineage includes judges and prophets, kings and rulers, men and women. They're all part of God's family and are therefore part of my family, too. Learning about them in the pages of God's Word helps me

understand not only who they were, but also who I am.

"By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. ... Their weakness was turned to strength. ... But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection (Hebrews 11:33-35, *New Living Translation*).

Learning about those who came before me helps me see the importance of remembering my family identity and history. It helps me be appropriately proud of my family connections – and gives me an added focus for the future. The author of the book of Hebrews puts it well: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us" (Hebrews 12:1, *New Living Translation*).

I hope that you, too, will find your place in the family of God, learning from the past as well as looking to the future. Members of God's family are called to live lives of faith and integrity, of honesty and boldness. And it's all made possible by the beauties of God's love and the great sacrifice of Jesus for each one of us.

Peace.

*The Kingdom Matters newsletter is stitched into the Recorder and is only available to Northern California Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter for its constituents in the Recorder every other month.*

## The Granite Bay Church Reaches Out on July 4

Reported by  
Shemeka Bruton

On July 4, Granite Bay church members distributed thousands of copies of the book *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge* at seven Independence Day parades in the region.

The book tells the story of Desmond Doss, the Adventist conscientious objector who won

**"People were really happy to get the book. It was awesome to be out there sharing with my church family!"**

the Medal of Honor.

Many people are familiar with Doss's story after seeing last year's feature

film, *Hacksaw Ridge*. The book is a specially designed "sharing book" containing a section describing Doss's Adventist beliefs. It comes with an invitation to sign up for the free Amazing Facts online Bible school.

Most community members were interested

in the book.

"Our society is a movie-going society,



*Granite Bay church Senior Pastor Doug Batchelor gives parade goers copies of Hero of Hacksaw Ridge.*

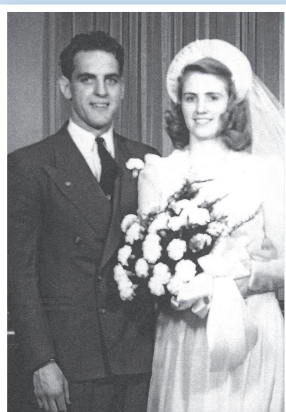
so to give them a book with a recognizable front cover of a recent movie is an almost sure in," said church member Vicki Nakabayashi. "Only once were we turned down when we offered the book. All others were eager to receive it."

The church members enjoyed spending the holiday in a welcome outreach activity. "People were really happy to get the book," said teenager

Ethan Dee. "It was awesome to be out there sharing with my church family!"

*Church members distribute books at parades in Auburn (right) and Rancho Cordova.*

## Happy 71st wedding anniversary to June and Bill Jamerson!



Now retired and living in Paradise, the Jamersons served as the pastoral couple at a number of Northern California Conference churches. They also worked for the Southeastern and Southern California conferences and the Inca Union, where they served in three South American countries. Together they raised three sons. They have three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**What suggestions would they give to young people for a long-lasting marriage?**

*The Jamersons at their wedding in 1946 and at their 70th anniversary party in 2016.*



"For a successful marriage, we believe our commitment before God and to each other until death separates us is an awesome and responsible vow to be honored. Our advice to a young couple contemplating marriage would be to earnestly pray that God guides you in choosing your life's companion, that His will be accepted. It is extremely important to daily ask God to be present in your lives and in your interactions with each other and to help each other to grow spiritually. Determine to study the Bible truths each day and follow them. Find a ministry in serving others, taking the gospel to people who do not know the Savior and the plan of redemption."

Know someone you'd like to see in our profile space? Send details to [info@nccsda.com](mailto:info@nccsda.com) with their names, and why you are nominating them for the Recorder.



## Palo Cedro Church Distributes Backpacks and School Supplies

Thanks to the generosity of Palo Cedro church members, dozens of kids received free backpacks and school supplies at the church's Vacation Bible School program, held this summer on the campus of Redding Adventist Academy. At least 22 community kids attended the program because they had heard about the giveaway.

Church members provided the backpacks, crayons, glue, scissors, and much more! "My church family stepped up amazingly," said Shana Lyons, who leads the church's children's ministries team, along with her daughter Kaitlin Williams.



*Palo Cedro church members provided the school supplies and backpacks for the kids.*

club distributed to the community.

The church has a burden to reach the kids in their city. "Evangelism to the children is essential today because many of the children in our communities have no connection to any faith," said Senior Pastor Kevin Kuehmichel. "And the sooner we connect with them, the better chance we have to draw them to Jesus."

In the weeks following VBS, several community families attended the church's worship service. Lyons hopes to establish relationships with all the families whose kids attended. She gave out her telephone number and invited them to call her. "We're not there for the week; we're there for the year," she said. "My ultimate goal is to bring more kids to Jesus."



*Tiffany Keeney, Bridgette Graack, Kaitlin Williams, and Kylei Gonzales get the supplies ready for distribution. (Photos: Shana Lyons)*

Families appreciated the extra help in getting the kids ready to go back to school. "Parents were so excited and so relieved," said Lyons. "One mom came up to me—almost in tears. She said: 'It was such a blessing. We weren't sure how we could afford to even buy school clothes, let alone the supplies.'"

Many Christian churches hold their VBS programs in June, but the Palo Cedro church scheduled theirs for the first week in August—two weeks before local schools started. They advertised in a parenting magazine, on a radio station, and with 400 fliers, which the Pathfinder

*Emma Gruber, Niko Norman, and Kaylee Faxon pose with a huge "wanted" poster in keeping with the VBS program's western theme.*



# spirit

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# 10+10



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2017 FALL  
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-7th grader

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# Nevada-Utah Views

**Nevada-Utah Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
10475 Double R Boulevard, Reno NV 89521  
Phone: 775-322-6929 • Fax: 775-322-9371



*Focused on Jesus,  
we witness to the world!*

**October 2017**

## Focused on the Good Work

**F**all is here, and all across our conference territory there are many wonderful opportunities for ministry taking place. Allow me to share some highlights.

On July 29, I was able to preach and assist in an ordination service at the Maranatha SDA Church in Las Vegas. When I arrived in the Sanctuary I saw a mock airplane fuselage. The ingenious and skilled men of the church planned and built this amazing and realistic backdrop. I soon learned why it was there. Vacation Bible School was in full swing.

In the afternoon I was able to observe the Vacation Bible School program. The leaders were dressed as flight attendants and pilots and the children were dressed as Bible characters. They were all prepared to take a journey to a Bible Land. All week long the children had taken several trips as different Bible characters to different places



**VBS leaders and participants pose next to the airplane built by Deacons Vicente Mendez and Jose Luis Muñiz at the Maranatha SDA Church in Las Vegas. (Photo credit: Dan Hilasaca)**



**From left to right: Pastors Daniel Walter, Arturo Gonzalez, Raul Maldonado, NUC President Leon Brown and Elder Mike Calvo meet together at the Duck Creek campsite. (Photo credit: Julie Brown)**

in the Bible. It was wonderfully ingenious.

Following my visit to Las Vegas I had the pleasure of joining our Reno literature evangelists at one of their morning worship services. I enjoyed listening as they sang with guitar accompaniment and



**by Elder Leon Brown,  
NUC President**

preached from the Word of God. I was also in attendance at the evangelistic meeting that accompanied the work of the literature evangelist at the Center of Influence in Reno. It was great to see young people preaching powerfully from the book of Revelation.

I want to praise God for all the young people who served this summer in the Youth Rush and THRIVE programs around the Conference. May God continue to bless you for your commitment and dedication to His work.

On the weekend of Aug. 11-13, my wife and I had the opportunity to attend the Red Cliffs/ Cedar City district church camp in Duck Creek, UT. We had a wonderful time worshipping and praying with those in attendance. I was told we had attendees from as far away as Arizona. It was an inspiring call to prayer and to worship God in nature.

Friends, pray for love, pray for oneness, pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the Nevada-Utah Conference. Pray for your pastoral leadership or the selection of God's leader for your church. Please pray for your local and Conference leadership. Most importantly, pray that God gives each and every one of us a vision to finish this work in our local communities so that He can come to take us HOME.



**Cedar City Red Cliffs District Hispanic SDA Church gather for their camp meeting at Duck Creek. (Photo credit: Leon Brown)**

# Meet the Teachers

by Faith Hoyt

in alphabetical  
order by last  
name

## **Brent Benedict**

*Las Vegas Junior Academy*



**B**rent Benedict joined Las Vegas Junior Academy this school year as the new 9th and 10th grade homeroom teacher. He is originally from Tennessee. Benedict will assist LVJA in the school's plans to develop into a full K-12 program. Benedict speaks Japanese, Korean and Mandarin. He comes to LVJA all the way from China, where he worked as the assistant director and college counselor for the Kunshan International School. Benedict has experience in ESL instruction, curriculum development, policy design, social studies, science, technology business instruction, as well as math and language arts. He adds to his wealth of experience, musical talents such as guitar, keyboard and voice. He is also experienced as a single-engine airplane pilot and is adept at Taekwondo and Aikido martial arts.

## **Samuel Blot**

*Abundant Life Christian Academy*



**S**amuel Blot joins Abundant Life Christian Academy as the new teacher for grades three through five. Blot graduated La Sierra University with a Bachelor's in Liberal Studies and an Associate of Science in

Pre-Medical Radiography in 2011. He has worked eight years in education and has experience in special needs education. Blot attended Garden State Academy in New Jersey. There, a teacher helped him see his potential. Now, Blot wants share his passion for education with every student he meets, and believes that "it is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought." (Ed. 17. EGW) "I was brought to the school where I am currently working by the dedication and enthusiasm of the administration," Blot said. "They showed me how much they care and believe in the success of the students

and teachers. We are trusted to develop higher-minded students on the edge of innovation, and that is what I am committed to fostering in all of my students." Blot says that success is within all people, and he enjoys being a part of bringing that potential to the surface for all students.

## **Benjamin Carbajal**

*Las Vegas Junior Academy*



**B**enjamin Carbajal joins the Conference as the new fifth grade teacher for Las Vegas Junior Academy. Carbajal, a California

native, graduated La Sierra University with his Masters of Theological Studies in 2015. Prior to attending La Sierra, he attended Allan Hancock College, the Adventist University of the Philippines, and Kaplan University, where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology. Carbajal has worked in a variety of positions, including working as an environmental restoration specialist, but felt drawn to teaching. He says he enjoys seeing children succeed. "There is no better feeling than seeing the light bulb go on in a child's mind," Carbajal said. He and his wife, Yang, moved to Las Vegas in early August. "I believe with all my heart this is where God has lead me to serve," he said. "I thank God every day for not only the opportunity to teach but the ability to move where God calls."

## **Chanda Castaneda**

*Las Vegas Junior Academy*



**C**handa Castaneda came aboard the teaching team at Las Vegas Junior Academy as the new seventh and eighth grade homeroom

teacher. She graduated Summa Cum Laude

*"I thank God  
everyday for  
not only the  
opportunity  
to teach but  
the ability to  
move where  
God calls."*



from Mountain View College in the Philippines, earning her Bachelor's in Secondary Education (major in English, minor in religion). Castaneda moved from La Crescenta, California to teach language arts, social studies, pre-algebra, algebra, science, Bible, P.E., art and technology at LVJA. "I enjoy using academics as a tool to inspire and motivate young people into action for themselves, others, and God," Castaneda said. She is fluent in conversational Spanish, as well as Tagalog and Bisaya, two Filipino dialects. In addition to teaching classes, she also serves as the charge nurse and wound care nurse. Castaneda is currently in a Ph.D program with Walden University studying global and comparative education. "I've seen what Adventist education does for young people, and I love it!"



**Steven Champion**  
*Susanville Adventist Christian School*  
Steven Champion is the new teaching principal of the Susanville Adventist Christian School in Susanville,

California. Champion received his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in science and mathematics from University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and has 15 years of teaching experience in a multi-grade, single classroom setting. He currently holds a NAD teaching certificate and continues to pursue excellence in teaching through ongoing education and study. "Teaching is both challenging and rewarding for me," Champion said. "My greatest satisfaction as a teacher has been to watch children develop and grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and especially spiritually. A marvel that has God's signature emblazoned upon it." Champion looks forward to what God will do in Susanville during the 2017/18 school year. "We believe that under the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit some great things will take place."



**Sheila Reeves**  
*Summit Christian Academy*

Sheila Reeves joins Summit Christian Academy as the pre-kindergarten teacher. She grew up in the state of Washington, and obtained her education

degree at Walla Walla University. Reeves is currently working on her Master's in Special Education from Andrews University. Her first job in education was at Battle Creek Academy in Battle Creek, Michigan where she worked as the kindergarten through second grade teacher for five years. "I learned so much through that experience about teaching, God, and life," she said. Reeves was drawn to SCA for multiple reasons. "I love how accepting everyone in the community is, the positive atmosphere at the school, and the wonderful teachers at Summit." Reeves was also excited to come back to the western portion of the US to teach. "It is my goal to help students understand that Jesus wants to be their very best friend and loves them more than anyone else could!"



**Dan Tyler**  
*Riverview Christian Academy*

Dan Tyler is the new principal and fifth through eighth grade teacher for Riverview Christian Academy. Tyler started his to-date, 30+ year teaching career by graduating from Walla Walla College (now University) with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and a minor in

History. Tyler has spent much of his career as an upper grade head-teacher. His experience has included teaching grades 9 and 10, and public school teaching. Tyler holds a current NAD Professional Certificate, as well as a Washington State teaching certificate. He has served on various committees for conferences and the Education Committee for the North Pacific Union. Tyler has a passion to help young people know Jesus as their personal savior. "I desire to help students be fully prepared with the skills they need to be life-long workers for the Lord," Tyler said. "Only by being fully committed to a relationship with Jesus, can a person truly find happiness!" His style of teaching focuses on hands-on learning and is life-skill based. Tyler and the school board at Riverview Christian Academy have begun to design plans to grow the school to eventually include kindergarten, ninth and 10th grades.

*The plaque and watch awarded to Pastor Emslie for his dedicated service to the West Jordan SDA Church in Utah.*



## Pastor Martin Emslie "Retires"

by Pam Mertz

**C**lad in a Hawaiian shirt and khakis, Pastor Martin Emslie delivered his "last" sermon as pastor on July 1, 2017. Doug Reeves, Nevada-Utah Conference treasurer, presented him with a watch. Gary Fisher, elder at West Jordan Church presented him with a clock.

The following Sabbath found Pastor Emslie in a suit conducting the communion service at West Jordan. During the rest of July, Pastor Emslie spent some time relaxing in Montana with his sister and brother-in-law although he admitted that he preached on two Sabbaths while there. And then, on August 5, joy of joys, he was back in the pulpit at West Jordan!

So...it's possible the word "retirement" isn't really in his vocabulary. That comes as no surprise. It also turned out to be a blessing, for, after retiring from the Idaho Conference 11 years ago and taking a brief three-year break,

he had accepted a call to West Jordan (Utah) SDA Church where he has spent these past eight years.

Martin Emslie wasn't raised a Christian. He was converted when he was 25. He says that at age 35, he was told by God go back to school. He did, taking classes in both business and theology at Walla Walla College. He wasn't seeking the ministry; he just had a deep thirst for the Word of God. There was so much he wanted to learn about God.

In his senior year, his professor urged him to go for an interview for the ministry. His response? "Thanks, but no thanks!" He didn't feel that was the direction for him. Instead, he went into Adventist Book Center management for 12 years.

Then came that moment, though, when

God arranged circumstances to where Martin was left with no other choice. God told him, "It's time for ministry." He felt reluctant, but he was also convicted that he had been called—called to prepare others. In all of the years since accepting that call he has had but one single purpose: As he puts it, "When I stand in front of God's people, I have a heavenly mandate to remind them that this world is not their home. They need to focus their life on Jesus' teachings and be ready for His soon-coming kingdom."

Throughout his ministry he has kept a finger on the pulse of theological and doctrinal issues. Any given Sabbath, whenever he has taken his place in the pulpit, his congregation has gotten updates on what's happening in the world and how it ties into prophecy, and, even more importantly, how every person ought to be preparing daily, giving their hearts and lives to God. He not only says it; he lives it. Even through

***"I am here by the grace of God and I try, by that grace, to be His transparent medium."***

the dark and difficult days of caring for his beloved wife Dianne and watching her lose the battle to cancer nearly two years ago, his faith deepened rather than wavered. He became even more earnest and adamant about the necessity of staying close to Jesus, about keeping a tight grip on faith.

With Pastor Emslie, what you see is what you get. Whether he speaks one-on-one with someone or addresses an entire congregation, whether he is in suit and tie or blue jeans and t-shirt, he is the same humble, God-loving, God-serving man. The space between him and his listener(s) is sacred space. He acknowledges, "I am here by the grace of God and I try, by that grace, to be His transparent medium."

When the West Jordan Church members struggled to adjust to the news of Pastor Emslie's impending retirement, it warmed their hearts to hear him say that this church would continue to be his home church. He cannot stop ministering any more than he can stop being a friend, and this little group of believers is all the richer for it.



***(Top) Pastor Emslie receiving his plaque. (Above) Pastor Martin Emslie poses for the camera during his retirement party luncheon at the West Jordan SDA Church in Utah. (Photo credit for all photos: West Jordan SDA Church)***

The NEVADA-UTAH VIEWS is a newsletter stitched into the **Recorder** and is only available to Nevada-Utah Conference members. Each conference within the Pacific Union provides a newsletter such as this in the **Recorder** every other month.



# CONFERENCE PRIORITIES

Southeastern California Conference  
of Seventh-day Adventists



## A COMPASS FOR OUR FUTURE BE THE BEST NEIGHBORS

**W**e are talking a lot about “growing young” these days in our conference as we work on implementing our strategic initiative’s action steps of engaging the next generations. We are an aging church in North America and it is our desire as a conference to reverse that trend.

Engaging youth and young adults in helping the church to love and shape our world is critical to a local church’s ability to grow across generations. We have been using the book “Growing Young” by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin at Fuller Youth Institute as a guide to help us in six core commitments to a thriving and engaging church of all age groups.

The institute conducted research of churches throughout the country that are engaging with and maintaining young people in their congregation. They identified six common factors in these congregations, later becoming the six core commitments. We are using their study to participate in the growing young concept.

We, as a conference, did assessments across our churches to figure out what our strengths and weaknesses were among the six commitments. The lowest score

among these was being the “best neighbor.” Being the best neighbor means “knowing and graciously loving our neighbors” as well as cherishing Scripture’s call to holiness (Growing Young, pg. 237).

One of the things we learned about the churches who are growing young is that they are training young people to navigate the complexity of both loving and shaping their world around them. What can we do to be a better neighbor for the sake of the kingdom of God as a sisterhood of churches in our conference?

According to chapter seven in the book “Growing Young” we can do this best by:

1. Ask “Who Is My Neighbor?” and get to intimately know the neighborhood around your churches.
2. Diversify contact with all people in the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity present in your community.
3. Brush up on current culture through systematic listening.
4. Tackle difficult problems in your church and community with grace, respecting a

person’s journey, honoring what is good, and working to improve the world around us.

5. Partner up with each other across generations and intentionally train young people to be the best neighbors by modeling the selfless mercy taught and exemplified by Jesus.

My prayer is that the post assessment will show that our churches have indeed all become the best neighbor in our five-county territory. As we mentor our youth and young adults to discover their

calling to serve in the world, begin with engaging them in the local community for the sake of the kingdom of God.





## SMART INVESTING: SECC HELPS US PROTECT WHAT WE TREASURE

**W**hile examining the stewardship of our finances, we can't leave out the all-important process of planning for the future even after we're gone. Discussing death or incapacitation is not pleasant, but the careful preparation of wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and planned gifts helps avoid confusion, feuds, or court involvement during an already difficult time.

SECC's Planned Giving and Trust Services Department is one of the largest in the North American Division, providing a resource for administering, preserving, and protecting your assets.

### **What are the benefits of this conference-provided service?**

**It's free.** While it's common to pay fees for a lawyer to prepare these documents, SECC members with at least a 10 percent charitable intent—directed toward an SECC ministry or entity of your choice—can have this done with no out-of-pocket legal costs.

**Peace of mind.** It can be easy to put off these preparations, but especially if you have minor children, this service helps you rest assured that a plan is in place to protect and provide for those you love. Additionally, in the unexpected case of incapacitation or rapidly failing health, details for your care, life support, and management of assets will already be established.

**A neutral party to ease a trying time.** When dealing with a large

family or complex portfolio of assets, some opt to assign a neutral party as trustee to carry out their wishes. This way the family can avoid probate, along with the risk of tension in family relationships. By remembering a conference entity with a minimum of 25 percent, SECC can serve in this role and ensure the requests of the trustor are met and all legal requirements are followed.

*Have you made your will or trust yet? Are your documents up to date? Have you moved from out-of-state to our territory and need to make your documents compliant with California law? Contact Planned Giving and Trust Services at (800) 491-4441 or [reyna.escobar@seccsda.org](mailto:reyna.escobar@seccsda.org). You may also visit [www.secctrust.org](http://www.secctrust.org).*

*By Amy Prindle*

## BE A PART OF THE CONVERSATION!

**C**ontinuing our emphasis on faithful giving and support, here are several ways you can take part in the church and be an advocate for your local faith community.

### **Actions speak louder than dollars.**

While society often makes it feel like the one who holds the dollars has the power, the truth is that genuine, faithful dedication of members like you make the most difference in the growth and effectiveness of ministry.

How can we demonstrate this kind of committed involvement?

**1) Be there.** You've heard the adage that 80 percent of life is just showing up. In regularly

attending church, events, and meetings for ministries you believe in, you are part of what's happening and your support is needed and noted.

**2) Join small groups.** Ministry is all about people. Building relationships with those sharing similar convictions for service or study allows discussion of ideas and collaborating to plan their fruition.

**3) Volunteer.** It can be invigorating to serve a cause you love alongside people who also care. At the same time, by being involved you become acquainted with a ministry's leadership and can have a chance to play an active part in its progress.

**4) Express interest in a committee or board.** If you already

volunteer and support a ministry but want to do more, check the "Church Manual". Listed inside are many different committees that oversee certain ministries. If you are convicted to serve in this capacity and help with strategic planning, feel free to approach your ministry's leadership or contact a conference representative for that ministry.

**5) Pray!** You may want a ministry to succeed, but sometimes things slow down or fall apart. God still has a plan, and He welcomes you into it. Throughout the New Testament, the Apostle Paul offered specific, fervent prayers for churches he visited. What a great example to follow.



# SECC YOUTH RUSH SUMMER PROGRAM TURNS 10

**Y**ay, finally! After two years, you guys are back!" exclaimed a woman at the door to Elizabeth Rosales, a youth church member from Anaheim Spanish church.

The woman pulled out a dog-eared, heavily underlined "Steps to Christ" she had received from another Youth Rush student two summers ago. She had shared the book with her friends, who had shared it with their friends, and it had just recently made its way back to her.

"I've been praying and waiting for you guys to come back so I could see what else you have. I want to read more books like this," the woman said. Rosales was thrilled to be able to leave three more books, knowing they would not only be eagerly read, but shared.

This is just one of many of testimonies that have been taking place in Southeastern California Conference during the past 10 years. Previously, literature ministries across most United States conferences and unions were largely shut down. Church leaders from across the country looked for a new approach that would help recapture the power



*Jaira Luna, left, canvases a book with Jared Napod, far right.*

and effectiveness literature ministries had demonstrated since the earliest days of the Adventist Church.

A new program, Youth Rush, quickly gained momentum, as it utilized soft-cover, attractively illustrated, and more affordable books slightly thicker than a

magazine, called "magabooks," with a suggested donation range of \$10 to \$20. "Steps to Christ," "Christ Object Lessons," "Desire of Ages," and "The Great Controversy" books began to go out in unprecedented numbers.

In 2007, Youth Rush was chosen to reignite literature ministries in SECC.

"When we selected this model, there were a number of things that stood out to us," said Teddy Knapp, assistant director for student literature evangelism. "We loved that it allowed for a team approach— young people have responded

*Yajaira Sebreros, left, and Joel Batista, right, go door-to-door selling books during the SECC Youth Rush program.*



to that with energy and enthusiasm."

During the past 10 years, the program has continued to expand from 18 students the first year, to nearly 100 every summer. So far, over 500 students have taken part in SECC Youth Rush. They have placed more than \$4 million worth of health, children's, and message books in people's homes. We look forward to one day meeting many others with their dog-eared and underlined books that pointed them to Jesus.

*by Teddy and Susan Knapp*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Character of God Conference** (Oct. 12-15) Garden Grove church, 12702 9th St., Garden Grove. This year the conference will be about the character of God and a non-violent atonement at the cross. Speakers include Herb Montgomery, Dan Smith, and more. Info: 714-534-1987. Register here: [www.goo.gl/WLYQsx](http://www.goo.gl/WLYQsx).

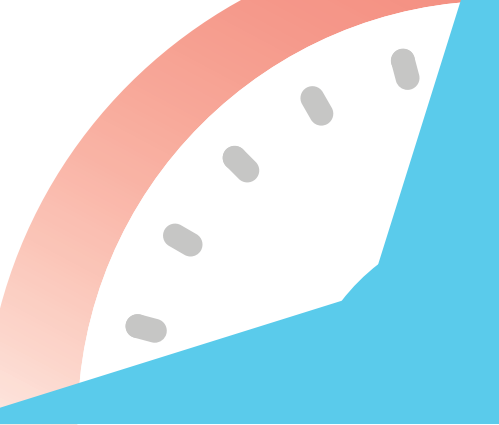
**Azure Hills Church Fall Camp Meeting** (Oct. 13-14) Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. Come and listen to this year's speaker, Ty Gibson, author and international speaker. He will speak on "reimagining God." Info: 909-825-8611.

**Victorville Church 50th Anniversary Celebration** (Oct. 21) 10 a.m., 16070 Lorene Dr., Victorville. Join with current and former pastors and members in celebrating the 50th anniversary at the church's current location. There will be a Sabbath school and worship followed by a potluck and afternoon program. Info: Ricki Ricketts, [rickiricketts@mail.com](mailto:rickiricketts@mail.com); or church office, 760-245-3620.

**SECC Community Service Retreat** (Oct. 19-22) Pine Springs Ranch, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd, Mountain Center. Come and enjoy daily devotions, disaster relief training presentations, vespers, Sabbath services, creative workshops, and much more. Transportation is available from the conference office. Registration deadline: Oct. 6. Info: 951-509-2298.



*The 2017 SECC summer canvassing program gathers at iShare Aug. 18-19 in Ontario, California.*



*Eight people prepare to be baptized on May 13 at the Escondido Spanish church.*

## ENTIRE FAMILY JOINS ESCONDIDO SPANISH CHURCH

On Tuesday in July 2016, Aracely Benitez Leon walked into the Escondido Spanish Seventh-day Adventist church expecting to be greeted by fellow members of her Pentecostal congregation. Instead, she walked into an evangelistic outreach program put on by the Adventist church.

The Escondido Spanish congregation, which rents out the building to a Pentecostal group on Sundays and Tuesdays, had set aside this particular week for an evangelistic campaign dedicated to reaching out to members of the local community. Benitez Leon was unable to make it to church the previous Sunday, so she was unaware that her church had canceled their normal Tuesday meeting because of the campaign. Feeling that God could be leading, she stayed anyways.

After the week-long campaign ended, Benitez Leon began attending Wednesday-night prayer meetings with her daughter, Jennifer, 18, and son, Emmanuel, 14.

"We were pleasantly surprised, yet wondering, because she belonged to the

other congregation," said Gilbert Vega, pastor at Escondido Spanish church. But around October of last year, Vega learned that Benitez Leon had turned in her membership at the Pentecostal church, so he asked if he could host Bible studies with her and her family.

"She told me, 'Let me talk to my husband, he's very anti-church,' and he was agreeable to the idea but did not totally embrace it," Vega said.

So a few weeks later, Vega began leading Bible studies with Benitez Leon and her children. Her husband, Pastor Leon, did not attend.

About three weeks in, however, Pastor Leon began attending and studying about prophecy, the life of Christ, and the gift of salvation with the rest of his family. He also began attending church services on Saturdays, accepting the invitation to special events, such as Communion.

Several months later, the Escondido Spanish church began planning another evangelistic campaign similar to the one that Benitez Leon



*The Leon family stands in the Escondido Spanish church before their baptism on May 13. Left to right: Jennifer Leon, Aracely Benitez Leon, Pastor Leon, Emmanuel Leon. Jennifer was received on profession of faith.*

first stumbled upon in July. Thinking it would be an ideal setting for receiving the membership of the Leon family, Vega extended the invitation for baptism.

On May 13, 2017, Jennifer Leon, who had previously been baptized, was received on profession of faith, while Emmanuel was baptized alongside their father.

Although Benitez Leon had also been baptized before, she chose to get re-baptized in solidarity with her husband, a man who had previously been against religion and church.

"I feel blessed to be part of this church," Pastor Leon said. "I am growing in Christ. Recently, I asked a coworker for forgiveness regarding an issue we've had for a long time. We made up and I feel at peace."

Benitez Leon feels the same way. "God has answered my prayers and I am where God wants me to be," she said.

*By Juliette Lee*



*The Leon family pose after their baptisms. Left to right: Gilbert Vega, pastor at Escondido Spanish church; Emmanuel Leon, Aracely Benitez Leon, Pastor Leon.*

### SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Conference Priorities • Enno Müller, Editor



OCTOBER 2017

# KEEPING *intouch*

## IN THIS ISSUE

*In Transition*

*In  
Transition*

*God Performs  
Healing Miracles  
in the Lives of  
Two SCC Children*



*Public Affairs  
Religious Liberty/  
Community  
Services Update*



Greg Hoenes  
West Region Director

## ASPIRATION + VALUES

We have a new website! Visit <https://scc.adventist.org>, and you'll see clean aesthetics, living colors, vibrant images ... with moving banners advertising upcoming events or reporting on past ones. These novelties are just above buttons that explain who we are in our relationship to Jesus, the Sabbath Jesus kept, prophecies about Jesus' return, and other major areas on interests for Adventists. Scroll down and you get stories, events, and our address and telephone number. It's a work of beauty!

Added buttons suggest a new commitment to a social media presence and contemporary approach to communications. You can now give online at the click of a button. (Seek, and you'll even find my picture on the website!) Hit the "Learn More" tab, and you'll quickly get to newly minted words that breathe Spirit life into a millennia-old mission.

***The Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists exists to exalt Christ by serving its diverse communities through networked &***

***creatively engaged churches and schools.***

We see this mission in terms of a Christ exalted through our "*diverse communities*" of "*networked & creatively engaged churches and schools.*" (I've marked the revolutionary terms with italics.) Imagine! In a fractured world, what might it look like to have diversity that's actually interconnected and engaged with the world — a world "God so loved"? What would it look like to use tools creatively forged to solve problems? Can an institutional church engage creativity in ways that enhance the beauty and drawing power of the gospel we're called to present?

In the beginning, when God breathed, it was life-giving! His Word remains generative, and His breath bears life. The Spirit moves, and we don't know where it will take us.



Our extended leadership team prayed for God to breathe on us — for inspiration. We spent what — at moments — felt like unproductive hours listening, writing, debating, revisiting. And so the God-breathed movements of what comes next continue to bless and astound me. If you take time to read our "Core Values," you'll find that there's a tiny little "A" by three of these that isn't explained. It stands for "Aspirational."

*cont. on page 2*

God inspires...we aspire....

We aspire to organizational “*Integrity With Transparency*,” “*Engagement*,” and “*Stewardship*.” Note the language under the “Engagement” value: “We will do anything short of sin to reach people who don’t know Christ.” That’s not safe. That’s not familiar territory. That’s revolutionary! So unless you’re a person who sees the face of the devil in everything, these words offer freedom to pursue God’s boundless love for humanity in our own relationships of service in ways I’ve never seen published before.

Similarly, under the “Stewardship” value: “We are spiritual **contributors** not spiritual **consumers**.” (*emphasis mine*). Our world would be turned upside down if this were universally true. Your involvement and commitment matter. As one of the values we think we’ve done quite well with (“Unity in Diversity”) reflects, “the local church is the hope of the world.”

Aspiration + Values isn’t new. But it may prove regenerative for church life. When did you last see a Seventh-day Adventist entity admit they value – to the very core – that which they have not yet achieved or fulfilled? God has breathed a liminal space into which we can move – knowing what we want in the now, and yet living with the not yet.<sup>1</sup> May what is now aspirational become. And may “we live and move and have our being” in Him.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>A nod to Pastor John Brunt, whose book title “The Now & Not Yet” inspired these words.

<sup>2</sup>Acts 17:34

## OUR MISSION

The Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists exists to  
*exalt Christ by serving*  
its diverse communities through networked & creatively engaged churches and schools.

We aspire to  
organizational “*Integrity With Transparency*,”  
“*Engagement*,” and  
“*Stewardship*.”

# In Transition

(Voted July 27, August 24, 2017)

## New Employees

(Voted 07/27/17)

### Laura Williams

Principal, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, as of July 1, 2017.

(Voted 08/24/17)

### Rahshan Wall

Associate Pastor, Tamarind Ave., as of August 20, 2017.

## Changes Within the Conference

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Mike Kim

From Senior Pastor, Vallejo Drive; to Assoc. Pastor, Glendale City, as of August 15, 2017.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Don Krpalek

From Teaching Principal, West Covina Hills School; to Teacher, Los Angeles Adventist Academy, as of August 15, 2017.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Donald Shelton

From Teacher, White Memorial School; to Asst. Principal-Teacher, West Covina Hills School, as of July 1, 2017.

## Leaving Conference Employment

(Voted 7/27/17)

### Jerlene Johnson-Thorne

Principal, San Fernando Valley Academy, as of June 30, 2017.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Doo-Pyo Hong

Pastor, L.A. Central Korean, as of August 31, 2017.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Andrew Jaewook Huh

Associate Pastor, Glendale Korean, as of July 31, 2017.

## Retirements

(Voted 8/24/17)

### David Bentley

From Past Principal, White Memorial (Inactive), as of May 1, 2018.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Betty Cooney

From SCC, Communication, as of November 1, 2017.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Donna Gohr

From SCC, Secretariat, as of October 1, 2017.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### Abel Lopez

From Pastor, El Monte Spanish, San Gabriel Valley Spanish, La Puente Spanish, as of November 1, 2017.

(Voted 8/24/17)

### John McCoy

From Pastor, Compton Community, as of January 1, 2017.



# GOD PERFORMS HEALING MIRACLES

## *in the Lives of Two SCC Children*

By Donald McPhaull and Lauren Armstrong

While riding their bicycles on Wednesday, July 5, Azarie Cook and three friends used a crosswalk to safely cross the street at the corner of 51st St. and Normandie Ave. in Los Angeles. The first two boys made it across safely. Azarie was number three in the line of four making the crossing, when suddenly a van plowed through the crosswalk, striking Azarie and dragging him and his bicycle a full block before witnesses chased down the van's driver and forced them to stop.

Azarie was rushed to Children's Hospital, immediately placed on a ventilator and put into a medically induced coma. His list of injuries was jaw-dropping, literally: a broken jaw, two broken ribs, a punctured lung, a fractured right hip, a possible broken right arm, and enough scratches and bruises to share with a school full of active boys. His first 48 hours in the hospital included two surgeries.

Doctors treating him informed his mother that he faced several additional operations on his long road to recovery.

That's when God truly went to work. Six days after entering Children's Hospital, Azarie was discharged. Only 10 days after being hit, Azarie walked into church without the aid of a crutch. According to his doctors, the young man would heal nicely without the need for any more operating room visits. Doctors now say that Azarie should make a full recovery.

Azarie, his mother, Nachika, and sister, Anaya, began attending church after they were met, befriended, and ministered to by a local elder from Ephesus church, Anthony Scott, and his wife, Jiena, during the Pathway to Health ministry outreach held at the Los Angeles Convention Center in April 2016.

Incidentally, God had one more miracle to perform with Azarie, at the close of the



Azarie with his mother Nachika Hall and sister Anaiah.

Photo by Donald McPhaull

worship service on July 15. In response to the appeal of the morning, Azarie walked to the front of the sanctuary and asked to be baptized. Azarie loves the Lord. And, now, at the tender age of nine, when he tells of that love, he also has a testimony.



Pastor Lawrence Dorsey, Sr. lifts Nolan's hand in victory during a special church service following his recovery, where Nolan also received a medal of courage from Greater Los Angeles Region Director Royal Harrison.

Photo by Joelyn Nwagbara

At nine years old, Nolan Brandy, University church, also has a miracle story. He was shot during an attack on North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino that was reported on by national news outlets.

According to San Bernardino City Unified School District spokeswoman Maria Garcia in a *People Magazine* article, the .357 Magnum bullet left a "through-and-through" wound but missed every vital organ and major artery, leaving Nolan with only a cracked rib.

The shooter was his teacher's husband, and Nolan was standing near her when the attack took place, as was one other student

named Jonathan Smith. Smith did not survive. Nolan was rushed to the hospital, and his road to recovery looked long. But God had another plan for him. After two weeks at home recovering, he was able to attend church. Numerous mainstream media articles spotlighted his quick and unexpected recovery.

"He is 100 percent healed today," said Nolan's mom Rachel Brandy. "He's back to jumping and running; doing crazy boy things."

"I always love to share this story," she continued, "because people should know how good God is."

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

## *Community Services Update*



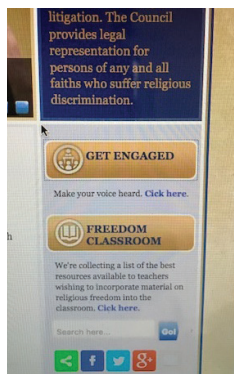
By James G. Lee, Jr.  
SCC PARL director

### Getting Engaged on Religious Liberty Issues

Religious Liberty secretaries in our churches need to be prepared to respond — and to urge fellow members to respond — to what may be an increasing number of Legislative Alerts coming to conferences regarding current religious liberty issues coming before state and federal legislatures.

When these alerts are sent to pastors and any Religious Liberty secretaries for whom we have email addresses, going to [Churchstate.org](http://Churchstate.org) and clicking on the “Get Engaged” button on the right will enable them to learn the names and contact information for the elected officials in their church’s area.

Religious Liberty secretaries can then either call their office or write a letter to them sharing their concern regarding their vote on the issue described in the Legislative Alert. “In this country, we are privileged to have such direct access to our legislative officials,” said James G. Lee, Jr., PARL director. “Be sure to use that access to help preserve religious liberty in our country.”



### Immigration Information Ministry Launches

To assist immigrant members and community friends with the many perplexing questions they are facing because of their undocumented status, SCC has launched an Immigration Information Ministry as a branch of its Public Affairs Religious Liberty Department. SCC PARL is working with

Sergio Infanzon, a community leader who has been assisting with immigration information training in the Los Angeles area for 20 years. “Our goal is to assist those who are undocumented to get work permits if they are eligible, and to become citizens,” said Elder Lee.

“The training sessions also help those who cannot qualify for documentation to connect with lawyers who can assist or counsel them. We are grateful to have Infanzon’s leadership experience with this ministry, and together, we want to help as many as possible through this new ministry.”



Sergio Infanzon

### Veterans’ Day Event Planned for November 11, 2017

To show appreciation to those who have served this country in the military, a Veterans’ Appreciation Day is planned for **November 11**, which is the official U.S. commemoration of Veterans’ Day. In addition to special speakers and presentations, films about Desmond Doss, the Adventist Medal of Honor medic, will be shown.

Information will also be shared about PTSD and veterans’ benefits for those who may need this information. Special recognition will be given to veterans who attend the afternoon sessions. **To receive this, veterans need to send the following information by Nov. 2:**

- Last name
- First name, middle initial
- Military ID if remembered + branch or branches of service
- Blood type if remembered
- Religion

Veterans should send this information to [hospicedogtags@gmail.com](mailto:hospicedogtags@gmail.com). If any questions, please call Chaplain Roger Rustad at 949-295-9671.

### Heads Up for Community Services Thanksgiving Eve Celebration on Skid Row!

On November 22, volunteers will again bring a Thanksgiving meal, warm blankets, backpacks with personal-care items, clothing and other items to the homeless population on Skid Row. This outreach, which was initiated by the Greater L.A. Region, has expanded to a conference-wide event for all who would like to participate. For those planning to get involved, please gather materials to give out and bring them to the SCC Community Services office. If you plan to go to the area and help out, please call Barbara Hart, 818-546-8405 to sign up as a volunteer.