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ABOUT THE COVER
Professional filmmakers whose films were viewed at the 2009 SONscreen Film Festival pose with student filmmakers who won awards.

Photo by Gerry Chudleigh

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Interrupted by Grace

Loma Linda University church Pastor Tim Gillespie recently gave a devotional in which he recounted an incident with his son. While engaged in a conversation with his wife, the couple’s 5-year-old son came on the scene and tried to get Dad’s attention. After rebuffing him twice, Tim finally gave his son the undivided attention he wanted. “Daddy,” his son said, “I just wanted to tell you I love you.” Tim called this an interruption of grace.

God tries to get our attention to tell us He loves us and to point us in the best direction.

Think of the many in Scripture whose lives were drastically re-prioritized by Jesus interrupting them along life’s journey. The woman at the well, Nicodemus’s night time interview and the Apostle Paul come to mind.

Paul, whose life turned 180 degrees because of the dynamic, grace-filled interruption of Jesus on the Damascus road, knew about grace as a reality, not just in the abstract or in theory. For Paul, grace was a real deal.

Consequently, Paul talks about grace in just about all of his epistles. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Paul says, without exception, that salvation is not the result of our work, but that it is a gift of God. In Romans 6:23, he states, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

To Titus, he says: “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12).

Ellen White gives us one definition of grace: “Divine grace is the great element of saving power, without it all human effort is unavailing” (Gospel Workers, 70).

Nothing I do will amount to anything if it is not bathed in, and motivated by, the divine grace of God. Grace does not cover or excuse sin; rather, it empowers us to live above sin. It is an enabling power given to us by God to bring us willingly into conformity with His standard of righteousness.

We live in the aftermath of an interruption of grace, acknowledging what God has called us to — living in righteousness and godliness in a society that is either ignorant of God’s requirements or chooses to reject them.

Thank God that He has provided grace which gives us both a desire and the energy to live out His will in the present day, the here and now. Jesus’ invitation, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28) is an invitation of grace. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is calling us today to come to Him so that He can remind us of His love for us and His power to save and change.

I believe that God will interrupt our lives in many ways and by any means necessary to secure our attention and to direct us to Himself. In fact, I am looking forward to His next interruption, His reminder of His will and power for us.

Ricardo Graham
President
Pacific Union
Lawrence Geraty, retired president of La Sierra University, has been named the new chair of the board of the Loma Linda Broadcasting Network.

The international Christian television network has been in existence since 1996.

Geraty takes the place of Thomas Zirkle, a former administrator of the Loma Linda University Medical Center. Zirkle served as volunteer board chair since the early years of the network until his death in 2008. Kerry Heinrich, who served as interim chair, remains a member of the board.

The board meets quarterly at the network’s headquarters off Barton Road in Loma Linda.

The new chair is an educator, academic, archaeologist and administrator. He served as president of La Sierra University in Riverside 14 years before retiring two years ago. Earlier he served as president of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Mass.

Geraty is best known as an archaeologist and continues an active role in archaeology circles. He directs digs in the Middle East every year.

“Loma Linda Broadcasting Network started as a small-town dream to reach a big world,” states Ganim Hanna, president and chief executive officer of the network. The venue was the Loma Linda University church when William Loveless was senior pastor. He and others on the staff saw the need to telecast the weekly activities of the church to the local community.

Since then LLBN has grown from serving the Loma Linda community with a few hours of cable broadcast a week, to maintaining a 24/7 national and international satellite broadcast. LLBN programming is also carried by dozens of cable headends (facilities that receive and distribute broadcasts), many private low and high power TV stations, live Internet video streaming, and IPTV (Internet Protocol Television).

“We are reaching millions of people with a message of whole-person wellness,” says Hanna. “The programs reach homes and hearts with Christ’s healing touch, providing inspiration, entertainment, and education.” He says that the network provides a compelling and unique lineup of programming.

Although the physical headquarters of the station moved two miles away, LLBN maintains
a positive working relationship with Loma Linda University and its famous medical center.

“This has helped us to bring in experts on health, lifestyle, religion and education areas that enhance every aspect of the human experience,” says Hanna.

Apart from one full-time studio coordinator and two other part-time people hired in the past few years, the entire network is directed and operated with volunteer help. About 100 individuals are in one way or another connected with the online and behind-the-scenes production of the programs.

In 2007, one year after LLBN expanded its signal internationally, the network launched its first foreign-language network, LLBN Arabic. Chaired by Lawrence Geraty until his recent appointment as chair of the board, LLBN Arabic is now chaired by Edmond Haddad. LLBN Chinese, an all-Mandarin network launched in 2008 and now broadcasting to a cable and IPTV company located in Beijing, China. LLBN’s fourth network, LLBN Southern Asia, is currently in the works.

The board includes 12 other community leaders in addition to Geraty. There are 14 directors, managers and vice-presidents, all with specific duties to perform. They all see working in a ministry like LLBN as part of the fulfillment of Christ’s great commission to spread the gospel to the entire world.

Remarks Hanna, “Through the countless miracles, the financial support of viewers and the work of dedicated volunteers, the existence and growth of LLBN remains a living testament to God’s blessings and amazing power.”

Don A. Roth
Three Pastors Ordained at Greater Los Angeles Convocation

The ordaining of three of our pastors was a highlight of the annual GLAR Convocation,” reported Adolphus Garnett, Greater Los Angeles Area Region director.

Lawrence Dorsey II

Lawrence Dorsey II began his education as a history/pre-law major. After almost four years of study, he recognized that he was not meant to be a lawyer, but had no idea what he was called to do. In 1996, he responded to God’s call to the ministry, a vocation, as his father had done more than 20 years earlier.

He graduated with an A.B. degree in theology from Oakwood College. While at Oakwood, he ministered in Jasper and in Huntsville, Ala.

In the Southern California Conference, he has served as an associate pastor of the Altadena church and subsequently at the University church in Los Angeles, as well as at the Watts Community company. Dorsey II is currently the senior pastor of the Compton Community church.

“I love to preach, teach and reach souls through the power of the Word of God,” he said. “My heart’s desire is to labor for the Lord to aid in the ushering in of the second coming of His Son.”

Lawrence and Nichole Dorsey are the parents of three children: Salena Christine, Lawrence Steven III and Nicholas Christopher.

Loren R. Hodnett

Loren R. Hodnett was first impressed of his calling to pastoral ministry during his senior year of academy in the Inland Empire. Yet, having watched his father navigate the challenges of pastoring, he was reluctant to follow God’s leading and pursued another path. Still, God continued to impress upon Hodnett His will for his life.

When he met Deidre Thomas of Milwaukee, Wis., in 1991, Hodnett was further impressed of God’s will. The couple settled in Mountain View, where involvement in youth and music ministries of the East Palo Alto church led him to reassess and accept God’s call. He graduated from Oakwood College with an A.B. in theology in 2003.

Hodnett served as an assistant pastor at the Oakwood College church and youth pastor at the Madison Mission church in Alabama. Upon graduating, the Hodnetts served for two years as Bible and English teachers for the Adventist English Language Institute in Seoul, South Korea.

Hodnett then answered a call to be the associate pastor for youth and young adults at his home church, the Valley Fellowship church in Rialto. He has pastored in the Southern California Conference since 2005 at the Miramonte Boulevard and Maranatha churches. He is currently the senior pastor of the 54th Street church.

“I am blessed to have my wife as a partner in ministry,” acknowledged Hodnett. “It is our purpose in life to answer the call of the great gospel commission.”

(L. to r.) Velino Salazar, SCC secretary; Adolphus Garnett, GLAR director; ordainees Hodnett, Honoré and Dorsey II; Lawrence Dorsey Sr.; James J. Lee Jr., SCC vice president; and Sung Oh, SCC treasurer.
Currently, Hodnett is pursuing his master’s degree in clinical ministry at Loma Linda University.

Richardson Honoré

Pastor Richardson Honoré was set aside for the Lord’s ministry by his mother in the womb, on the island of Haiti. At age nine, he migrated with his family to Queens, N.Y.

He is an alumnus of Oakwood College, where he graduated with a triple major: computer science, mathematics and theology, and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University Theological Seminary. He is presently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at the seminary, with a concentration in family ministries and certification as a family life educator.

Southern California Conference called Honoré to full-time ministry in 2004. He serves as the district pastor for the Antelope Valley and Sun Village churches. “I believe in the full development of the physical, mental and spiritual faculties,” Honoré noted, “and I am passionate about preaching, teaching, leadership, administration and leading people to Jesus Christ. My personal philosophy is ‘living to serve and serving to live.’”

Honoré is married to Janelle Mapp of Pacoima. They are the parents of two daughters, Micaiah Chinuwe and Amariah Ajani Honoré-Mapp.

Betty Cooney

L ocal mountains have long provided terrain for invigorating Sabbath afternoon hikes and relaxing family outings.

An area Pathfinder director had a dark realization, however, as he passed through his favorite local picnic area one day. The beauty he looked forward to seeing while hiking with his Pathfinders has been obliterated by leftovers from other visitors.

“An obstacle course of paper and food lay strewn everywhere,” said Randy Reddig, director of the Acton Pathfinder club. Blue, black, orange and silver graffiti on the rocks advertised negativity, obscuring the original beauty God created.

“Enough is enough,” Reddig and his Pathfinders decided. With the help of assistant recreation officer Jerry Reponen of the local Forest Service, Acton Pathfinders took up the challenge of restoring the hiking area.

“We spent all one day in the early spring changing the face of the Hidden Springs picnic area on Angeles Forest Highway,” Reddig explained.

With paint, trash pick-up sticks and trash bags supplied by the Forest Service, Pathfinders covered the graffiti on the bathroom walls inside and out, on the rocks around the picnic site and down the hill along the creek. They picked up trash that nearly filled a large dumpster.

“It was so nasty when we got there, graffiti all over, gross trash thrown around,” reported Autumn Boyle. “It felt good to clean up and see an improvement.”

Rita Reddig
Northern California Conference churches are taking seriously the Year of Evangelism commitment to reaping and revival.

**Antelope Hills**

Just before Easter, Antelope Hills church Pastor Michael Kontes and his congregation gave away Easter baskets to welcome people who had recently moved into the 42 new homes constructed across the street from the church.

The church group filled baskets with homemade cookies and bread, small bottles of sparkling cider and an invitation to the church’s upcoming Easter program. They also gave away a little booklet containing useful information for people new to the area: frequently called telephone numbers, local maps, evacuation plan ideas, a list of local parks and more.

It was hard to find people at home, but by the time Kontes and his church members finished ringing doorbells on April 5 and 6, they had spoken with people at 21 houses and presented them with baskets.

“People were visibly taken aback,” said Kontes. “Many at first seemed skeptical, but no one rejected the gift. We said, ‘Listen we’re not here to sell anything. We just want to welcome you to our neighborhood.’”

The church plans to give Christmas baskets to these same neighbors in December. Said Kontes, “We want to be a church that models unconditional love to our community.”

**Eureka**

The Eureka church hosted the video seminar “Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage” on Feb. 13 and 14. In all, 130 people attended the two-evening event, including many non-Adventists. By the end of the second evening, 11 people had requested Bible studies.

The seminar, presented via DVD by popular speaker and pastor Mark Gungor, employs humor to educate people about the components of a successful marriage. “Refreshments were served during intermission, which gave our members a chance to get acquainted with non-members,” said Frances Dale, Eureka church communication director.

The church received positive feedback from non-members: “We made friends; we want more events like this.” “You Adventists are OK!” “This seminar was fun.”

TV commercials promoted the event through the efforts of members Mark and Windy Dare, who work for local television stations.

The church followed up the seminar by inviting people to free movie nights. So far, 30 to 45 people have attended each movie night to watch a Christian film and enjoy popcorn, cookies and juice.

“We just love making friends for the Kingdom, and we are having so much fun getting to know our community!” said Pastor Jon Spoolman.

**Pleasant Hill**

More than 175 teenagers attended “Jesus Loves Jeans,” a youth
evangelistic series, at the Pleasant Hill church, March 14 to 21. The event involved youth from a number of East Bay Adventist churches, as well as 35 teens who claimed no church affiliation.

“The part that I’m happiest about was the level of involvement and excitement from the kids and adults at our church,” said Assistant Pastor Chris Estay, of the 46 people who were involved with audio-visual, decorating, music, food, attendance, registration and small groups.

“Kids who wouldn’t ordinarily be involved were taking ownership, and they did a really fantastic job,” said Estay, who headed the event. “It was like a mentorship program. They got to work side-by-side with adults and get involved in hands-on ministry.”

The speaker for “Jesus Loves Jeans” was Alex Martinez, Fallbrook church youth pastor. Each evening, during a question and answer period titled “Ask Alex Anything,” Martinez answered students’ questions, ranging from the fun: “What’s the coolest thing you can do?” to the serious: “Am I good enough to go to heaven?”

On three different afternoons during the week, some of the teens were involved in community service projects: sorting food at a local food bank, cleaning an elderly widow’s house and car, and picking up trash at a beach.

Stockton-Mayfair

The Stockton-Mayfair church held an evangelistic event over two weekends in March, conducted by Dexter Thomas, assistant pastor of the Oakland-Grand Avenue church. As a result, four people were baptized and 12 more joined a baptismal class.

When the members of the church prepared to hand out fliers to promote the meetings, Pastor Lanston Sylvester told them: “If people don’t know you, they are just going to throw the flier away.”

The congregation works hard to be known in their community. Sylvester’s goal is to discourage passive worship attendance. “They’re not here just to sit down and enjoy the service. They also have to become ministers,” he said.

Sylvester has divided his congregation into six tribes, each headed by an elder. The members of a tribe work together as a mini-congregation, hosting potlucks, engaging in friendly competitions, fundraising for the church’s building project, etc. One major responsibility for the tribes is evangelism. Each tribe has been assigned an apartment complex near the church to reach for Christ. Their mission during the first year is to discover people’s needs — health, family, financial and more.

“They are building relationships, finding out what people need, not simply asking, ‘Do you need a Bible study?’” said Sylvester.

Share Your Church’s Ideas

What is your church doing to “Share the Hope”? E-mail your stories and pictures to info@ncc.adventist.org. To read more, visit the conference website: ncc.adventist.org/yearofevangelism.

Julie Lorenz
Spiritual Growth and Academics Unite at Monterey Bay Academy

To make disciples for Christ — that is the number one goal of Adventist education and Monterey Bay Academy. Recent accomplishments by students and faculty testify that MBA emphasizes spiritual growth and core Adventist values along with its academic offerings.

Cheri Gregory, chair of MBA’s English department, won a 2009 Teacher of Excellence Award. “In each work of literature, we explore the timeless Great Controversy theme: the fall and redemption of mankind. Students see the futility of man’s attempts to elevate himself and recognize everyone’s — and I pray, especially their own — need of a powerful, loving savior,” she says.

This makes an unprecedented seventh year in a row that a teacher from Monterey Bay Academy has received this award given by the Alumni Awards Foundation to only 10 teachers across the NAD each year.

On April 18, after almost two years of Bible studies, sophomore Clinton Ng, from Hong Kong, was baptized in the Pacific Ocean, becoming the first Christian and Seventh-day Adventist in his family.

Waiting on the academy’s private beach were friends and faculty. “I saw how following the teachings of Jesus improved my life. No one can take away my peace since God is with me,” Ng says.

After his baptism, Ng challenged the students, suggesting if everyone reached 100 people, and those 100 each reached 100, how soon everyone would be reached with the love of Jesus. The oldest of three children, he has also begun talking with his siblings back home in Hong Kong about a personal relationship with Jesus.

Senior Caleb Walker, from Bakersfield, Calif., was honored as a National Merit Finalist. Walker scored a 2370 out of a possible 2400 on his SATs, placing him in the top one percent of all high school students in the country.

Walker’s advice to new students: “Hard work pays off. I’ve dreamt about this achievement since elementary school, I worked hard, and it came true.” Walker is also only the second student to earn a perfect score on the advanced placement American history test since the course began seven years ago. After receiving several full scholarship offers to colleges and universities around the country, Walker will be attending La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif., in the fall to study business/pre-med.

Other academic achievements include five MBA English students recognized at the 16th annual Santa Cruz County High School Poetry Competition. In addition, three MBA art students showcased their paintings in the 54th annual High School Art Exhibit sponsored by the Santa Cruz Art League.

For more information about MBA, visit www.montereybayacademy.org, contact Nathan Henderson at info@montereybayacademy.org or call 831-728-1481 ext. 1221.

Nathan Henderson
Gabriela Suza and her husband Jose Torres had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists before attending the Unfolding Revelation seminar hosted by the Merced Olive East church last fall. Now they and their children attend Sabbath school and church. “We feel like we’re going home every time we walk in the church doors,” says Suza.

The series, featuring evangelist Steve DeLong, was the church’s first in more than 20 years. Fifty-four people were baptized at the end of the five-week series, 43 of them new members.

Integrating the new members into the congregation and church life is a priority. Pastor Billy Gager and the church elders regularly visit homes. One year later, more than one-half of the new members are attending church and related activities.

“Evangelism is a component of a healthy church,” says Gager. “But we’re learning that retaining members has a lot more to do with the emotional and relational health of the congregation than any programming or pastoral visits.”

Sabbath school, both for adults and children, has become an essential foundation for spiritual growth and unity.

Children’s Sabbath Schools

All the children’s divisions have grown significantly in the past year. “We had just two or three kids each Sabbath a year ago,” says kindergarten teacher Wendy Bleth. “Now we have 11 or 12, and at least four or five are because of the evangelistic series. Now they participate and are quick to answer questions.”

Sabbath school teachers work hard to provide fast-paced, interactive programs for the children. “We have a vested interest in succeeding for eternity,” say junior leaders Greg and Renee Barlow. Their daughter Britney says activities that relate the Bible study to everyday life make Sabbath school fun.

To encourage Scripture memorization, parents and teachers fund a monetary reward system. The system is so effective that 5-year-old Josh Bleth learned the junior verses by listening to his sister practice each evening. Josh recited all the junior verses and earned $30, the junior’s incentive. His sister got her reward, too, at the quarterly recognition ceremony with the congregation.

Children from the Hispanic company at Olive East are also attending Sabbath school. “More Hispanic kids come now that we teach in English and Spanish,” says cradle roll leader Yamila Sabao.

The teachers’ goals are lofty. “We want the kids to know they can count on us and that we care about them personally,” says youth leader Dennis Clark. “We work together as a team to provide quality content. We lay things out for the kids, let the Holy Spirit do His work, and trust that it’s making a difference.”

It has for Suza and Torres’ five children, aged 2 to 12. “They all enjoy Sabbath school,” says Suza. “And they’ve started behaving better. Now they sit still in church and listen. And they are not so disrespectful at home.”

Shenalyn Page
In February, seventh- and eighth-grade students from Thunderbird Christian Elementary School headed to northern Arizona to do a mission project near Holbrook Indian School. During the project, 12 students preached a six-part evangelistic campaign.

Included in the 12-student team were two Native American students from Holbrook’s seventh and eighth grade class. Neither of the Holbrook students had ever preached before.

These two students left a huge impression on their classmates. As they preached, they became bold in inviting those attending — fellow Native Americans — to give their hearts to the Lord.

Juan Metelin, a TCE student, was eager to share his impression of the meetings. “I remember when I was preaching, I was really nervous. But at the end, it felt really good to preach to other people. I also remember that we made a lot of new friends, and I think we touched them inside.”

HIS Principal Dr. Janet Claymore-Ross, was amazed at the involvement with her students. She shared with Pastor Benjamin Lundquist, coordinator of the program, that having the Holbrook students participate in this evangelistic outreach was a unique experience for the school.

In addition to preaching, the students participated in a mission project at a nearby orphanage. Naomi’s House Navajo Children’s Orphanage is a small orphanage that reaches
out to Native American children, infant to 16 years old, who come from homes of abuse and neglect.

The staff of the Hands of Hope project were pleased to see how students from two schools came together into a team to accomplish a mission for God. Students from different backgrounds built friendships that made them feel like one big family.

“I was happy when all the kids worked together to help the orphanage,” said Jacob Duffy. “I liked helping out at the orphanage, because it felt good to help someone,” said Ashley Norman. “I made a lot of friends with the kids from Holbrook!”

In addition to the evangelistic meetings and the mission project, students spent a day playing on and exploring the sand dunes of northern Arizona and another day snow tubing in the mountains near Flagstaff.

To view video footage of the meetings and fellowship, visit www.blip.tv and search for “Hands of Hope.”

Phil Draper

“I liked helping out at the orphanage, because it felt good to help someone,” said Ashley Norman.
Year of Evangelism Work Yields 45 Baptisms at New Hope

The New Hope church in Salt Lake City, Utah, started 2009 with a strategy to encourage those who are searching to be part of something, to find in New Hope the place to which they can belong. And it seems to be working — 45 people have been baptized since March.

In 2009, the year of evangelism, members are employing five basic strategies to reach their community.

Love is in the House

Members are convinced that love is the primordial element in the structure of the church. The atmosphere of each service is designed to make people feel loved and give them a sense of belonging. Each Sabbath, visitors are served on finely decorated tables with elegant silverware. “If this is how they treat us, I’ll be here every week,” claimed Jorges Tabares. He and his wife were baptized three weeks later.

Baptisms Attract Baptisms

At the church entrance, visitors find a welcome table with a banner that reads, “Decide to Belong.” On the table, a T-shirt with the phrase, “I Already Belong,” offers a closer embrace. Professionally designed cards with information on joining the church family draw the eye.

The 49

With the slogan “Prepare Yourself for Glory,” a group of 49 meets every Sunday morning to learn how to study the Bible, how to give Bible studies, and how to respond to difficult questions. This group is divided into seven subgroups of seven members each. Those subgroups seek to replicate within four months. “I’m finally doing what I should have been doing years ago,” said Blanca Cervantes.

Hope Groups

Early this year, 12 elders began leading hope groups. Each week, these groups meet twice to pray, plan, study the Sabbath school lesson and implement evangelism and community service projects.

Center of Hope

Service to the New Hope community addresses the physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of more than 2,000 people a month, by providing nourishment, clothing, school supplies and more.

New Hope members understand their mission. With the slogan, “The place where God gives you the chance to start over,” the church moves not only to care for a community, but also to prepare it for eternity.

Sergio Romero
Adventurers Gather at Waianae Easter Weekend

Camp Waianae was the place for parents and kids to be during Easter weekend. In an effort to grow the Adventurer club population in the Hawaii Conference, the youth and children’s ministries directors decided to invite existing clubs and everyone with children in first through fourth grades. Organizers hoped what they experienced would inspire the kids to return to their churches to develop local clubs within their membership and communities.

During the two days, the children had the opportunity to worship outdoors, meet new friends and learn about God. Highlights included creating a collage of Bible scenes with a digital camera and going to one of the beaches to make sand sculptures of Jesus’ “passion week.” The images of Jesus on a donkey, His death on the cross, and an empty tomb reminded many beachgoers what the Easter weekend was really about.

Organizers also spent time brainstorming future plans for the Adventurer-age kids in their congregations. Jesse Seibel, youth director, is planning further leadership training for individuals willing to initiate clubs on the local level. “Hopefully, this experience will ignite a flame into a fire of enthusiasm to foster the establishment of new groups and to give the best we can to God’s children in preparing them for the Kingdom,” he said.

The idea that “It takes a village” can be paraphrased “It takes a church” to become spiritual caretakers of its children and youth. “Inherent in the word ‘Adventurer’ is the indication that one is seeking a new experience. What could be better than experiencing Jesus?” said Teryl Loeffler, Hawaii Conference superintendent of schools. “What could be better than experiencing Jesus?”

“Adventurers play a game during their weekend retreat at Camp Waianae.

A group of Adventurers performs a skit.

“Adventurers play a game during their weekend retreat at Camp Waianae.

“Inherent in the word ‘Adventurer’ is the indication that one is seeking a new experience. What could be better than experiencing Jesus?”

Feryl Harris
LLU Heart & Surgical Hospital Reaches Important Landmark

Loma Linda University Heart & Surgical Hospital reached an important landmark on April 8 when D. Duane Baldwin, M.D., urologist, started the 500th surgical procedure at the new hospital.

“We opened on Jan. 7, 2009,” says Jesse Mock, M.A., administrator of the new facility, “so we did 500 cases in just 90 days."

Mock attributes the high levels of patient satisfaction to the staff. “This really says a lot about our nursing and operating room staffs, as well as the quality of our ancillary and support departments,” he says.

Now that things are up and running at the new hospital, Mock says the HSH team is constantly looking to increase the types of services it offers to the community.

“Reconstructive breast surgery is scheduled to begin here in May,” he notes. “Additionally, a new bariatric surgery and metabolic management program is projected to start soon to help people seeking to enhance the quality of their lives through surgically assisted weight loss. The program, expected to begin by the second quarter of 2009, will offer comprehensive assistance to patients, from medical and psychological assessments before surgery to behavioral and dietetic support after the surgery is completed.

“We’re also very excited,” Mock reveals, “about our internal designation as a test-bed, or pilot project facility, for patient safety and performance improvement initiatives. The pilot project will kick off in early May. In a system as large as ours, it’s challenging to implement and evaluate new processes quickly, but a stand-alone facility like the Heart & Surgical Hospital allows us to work on things that might be more challenging for some of the bigger facilities. Things like improving administrative/physician communications, leadership development and team-building are just easier to manage on a smaller scale for testing and rapid evaluation.”

In discussing the role of the LLU Heart & Surgical Hospital as a test-bed facility, he notes the success of other hospitals that have served as test facilities. “I think the Heart & Surgical Hospital is Loma Linda’s opportunity for having a new, small facility where we can try some new recipes, put them in the oven and see what works,” he reflects.

“We’re going to do this while keeping our patient satisfaction scores at a very high level!“

Mock is the first to admit that the high patient satisfaction levels result from a comprehensive, team-wide commitment to doing everything possible to make the hospital experience as beneficial to patients as possible, but he also reports that one particular new and recently implemented service is generating lots of enthusiasm among patients.

“We’ve implemented massage therapy for our inpatients 10 hours a week,” he notes.

“Overall, we’re very happy with the way things have gone,” he observes. “We’re looking forward to meeting the needs of the community for many years to come."

James Ponder
Maranatha Hay, video production specialist, office of university relations, is nominated for a 2009 Emmy Award. The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Pacific Southwest Chapter, announced her nomination on April 30 for on-camera talent/reporter in “Security Dogs.”

Through her personable storytelling skills and lively personality, Hay takes viewers on an adventure with the K-9 security department at Loma Linda University. Dressed in a bite suit, the then 22-year-old college intern helped the security dogs train by allowing the K-9s to attack her — a risky act if she didn’t stand just the right way. Lt. John Marshall of the security department explained to her exactly how to stand. With one wrong move, the dog could accidentally bite her throat or rebite her in a spot where she wasn’t protected by the suit.

“It was probably the scariest thing I’ve ever done,” says Hay. “When you have 90 pounds of meat flying at you, you realize quickly that you can’t just kick it away.”

And afterwards, she had a raspberry bruise to prove it. “It was huge,” describes Hay.

Hay started working for the office of University relations as a college intern in the summer of 2006. She graduated from Southern Adventist University in 2007 with a bachelor of science in broadcast journalism and a minor in English, as well as fulfilling pre-medical requirements.

She became a full-time employee at LLU after receiving her degree. She is a member of the International Documentary Association and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

“Loma Linda 360°” is a broadcast show that takes viewers straight to the action of Loma Linda University and LLU Medical Center. It airs on five different channels, including the PBS affiliate KVCR, and Loma Linda Broadcasting Network. The show can also be viewed on its website and YouTube.

Patricia Thio
Students Bring “Revo PUC” Back for a Second Year

This year, students brought the REVO movement to Pacific Union College for the second time. Last year, they organized a REVO, short for revolution, event that raised $10,000 for a vocational center for trafficked children in Peru. This year, Revo went local and raised more than $8,500 for the Napa Valley Food Bank.

REVO is a student-led movement, now nationwide, to host events that raise awareness and funds for various humanitarian causes. Student leader Grace Jung and alum Rachel Thompson planted and nurtured the movement at PUC. “Post-REVO PUC 2008, many people expressed their anticipation of the ‘next’ REVO and that they couldn’t wait to make REVO happen again,” says Jung. “So, REVO is back by popular demand!”

Student leaders decided to engage more local needs this year, giving all proceeds to the Napa Valley Food Bank, which distributes food to low-income residents of Napa County. “With the economic downturn, what better time to recognize that our own country needs our help?” says Jung. “We thought it was important to make a point that we don’t have to travel to help those in need. There are people in our own backyard that desperately could use our help.”

REVO PUC 2009 featured a benefit sale, food drive, auction, concerts and fashion show. The event — and the entire project — seeks to remind students that they can use their natural abilities to change the world. Jung explains: “The event couples action with will. Rather than just thinking about a pressing issue or learning more about hunger, we are getting up and making things happen. REVO promotes the idea that anyone, especially young people, can change the world into a better place from where they are NOW, with what they have NOW. They don’t need a college degree or a stable salary to help improve the world. By putting passionate people to work for REVO, we are empowering students to stand up and believe that they are capable of doing amazing, revolutionary things for their world.”

A few weeks before the event, PUC faculty and staff challenged the student body to raise over $5,000. If the students could meet this goal, individuals pledged to shave their heads, dye their hair or perform music numbers. At the “Pay-up Party,” students packed the cafeteria to see their professors and administrators fulfill their pledges. Jung presented a $8,541.41 “check” to Shirley King, director of the Napa Valley Food Bank.

“You guys are actually allowing us to provide the food,” said King. The Napa Valley Food Bank facility recently closed down due to rodents and has since functioned out of various sites, besides having to throw away spoiled food. The money will help them replenish their supply during a particularly hard time. “Knowing there’s a body of people that actually care makes a big difference for us,” King said.

PUC students are living the REVO, proving that it’s more than a passing fad. As Jung says, “We do not need to wait for the ‘right time.’ The right time is right now.”

David Ranzolin
Step by Step Samoan Members Experience God’s Great Commission

It began sometime following the 2007 camp meeting at Soquel. No one can pinpoint a day or hour or instant when the Holy Spirit renewed the spirit of prayer at the South San Francisco Samoan Adventist Church.

Soon, a schedule kept prayer alive at every hour of every day. Inspired, the youth made a prayer box called Power Prayer which quickly filled at the weekly AYS meeting. Then a mother, motivated by the Spirit, began to drive the streets of the San Francisco Projects with her family praying for the residents. The Prayer Drive inspired Prayer Walks, just like that, the fire started to grow!

“I prayed about going on the Prayer Walks, and even though the areas were dangerous, I knew it was the Lord’s work and I chose to follow,” says first-time participant Gabriel Tuailulu. “The first time someone wanted to pray with us I felt like we accomplished something even with prayer. Honestly, all this has helped me with the way I carry myself. Seeing these people come to Christ has renewed my own Christian walk.”

Weekly potluck was now followed by walks and prayer drives. The growing prayer teams included pathfinders, youth, young adults, and members. On the street, residents of the Projects were asked if they had prayer requests, or if there was anything the church could do to meet their needs. Friendships developed as drug addicts, alcoholics, truants, the homeless, young mothers, orphans, distraught or grieving parents shared their stories. The Prayer Teams quickly learned that God answered prayers, even when the resident didn’t believe in Him.

When Bible worker, Benjamin Bernard, arrived to assist the congregation, members boldly grew more hands-on. GLOW (Giving Light to our World) tracts were freely given as members continued visiting regularly to update the prayer lists and letting their new friends know that God had not forgotten them. Bernard’s tailor-made spiritual survey made it simple to learn the needs. Through united prayer, God provided the means to meet those needs.

Not only do friends help each other, they do things together. “I witnessed so many miracles! During the Week of Prayer alone for two nights in a row, the Lord took me to church and back – 90 miles round trip – every night with only $20 of gas in my tank! I knew God was waiting on us to stay faithful, and then he would bless our efforts,” says lay evangelism leader Fred Pedro.

Sundays would find Bernard and some members attending Sunday churches with their neighbors. Samoan members eagerly shared musical programs and special music too.

As 2009 began, the members felt it was time to host public meetings for the first time in years. Door-to-door invitations and
announcements in the Sunday churches were the only advertising. On opening night more than 50 guests arrived. Night after night that number grew as guests invited their family and friends. Guests outnumbered members 3 to 1!

Church Pastor Manuao Maui’a preached five nights a week. The prayer team prayed non-stop. Twenty people accepted the call for baptism. On the culmination Sabbath, Maui’a made one final appeal. Thirteen people came forward. “I was baptized Seventh-day Adventist in 1967 and I have never seen an answering like this. When I pass away, this will be one of the happiest moments of my life,” says Akeli Afoa.

Cano Ordained at Turlock

By Shenalyn Page

Antonio Cano, recently ordained pastor of the Turlock church, never intended to follow his pastor father into ministry. But to fill free afternoons as a senior in high school he began to work with the youth, lead music and vespers, preach and organize community outreach. Soon people said he should be a pastor.

Instead, Cano entered Union College as a physician’s assistant major. He hated it, but persisted until his junior year when he surrendered to God’s call and switched to theology. He began to enjoy college, became Ministerial Club president and started a number of successful ministries on campus.

“I received affirmation after affirmation that God had planned this for me even though it was not what I had wanted,” says Cano. “I know God has called me to this ministry.”

After graduation, Cano accepted a call to be associate pastor of the San Jose Central Church. His wife Melanie taught at the Adventist elementary school. “God grew me so much there,” says Cano. “My training began to make sense. I made mistakes and grew deeper in my walk with God.”

Cano has conducted two evangelistic series since becoming pastor of the Turlock Church in June 2007. Two more evangelistic series are planned for this year. “My goals as an evangelistic pastor are to help my church members prepare for the Kingdom and actively using their gifts to evangelize the community.”

“God has affirmed Antonio’s calling with a fruitful ministry and deep love for the lost during his seven years in Central,” says his father and church administrator, Ramiro Cano, CCC Executive Secretary and Ministerial Director. “As administrators we are to closely observe a pastor’s fitness for the ministry before ordination. It has been gratifying to be a part of that process in my son’s life.”

Cano was ordained at the Turlock Church on March 14, 2009. The service included a recognition of Melanie’s contributions to Antonio’s ministry. “It was so humbling and solemn,” says the full-time mom, prayer warrior and children’s leader. “You could feel the presence of God there.”

“It is a real privilege to walk in my dad’s shoes,” says Cano. “He’s been an incredible mentor for me. Dad has a real gift for administration and he’s shown me how to lead and be organized. He’s also shown me how to keep my family first priority.”

Daughter Eliana joined the Cano family on June 27, 2007, and another baby will arrive in November. “I have learned so much about God’s love as a parent,” Cano adds. “There is nothing I can do to lessen His love for me. Recognizing that, I want to reciprocate His love. I don’t want to disappoint Him.”

NEW CAMP MEETING CHANNEL

HopeTV has added a new channel – Hope Church Channel. For more information, call (888)446-7388 and select Option 2.

Please have the model of your Receiver Box. To guarantee flawless broadcasts from Soquel, it is HIGHLY recommended the new coordinates are practiced BEFORE July 16!
Annual Spring Volunteer Projects a Success!

Volunteers are essential for the Camp Wawona and Soquel Camp Meeting summer ministries. Every May, members gift their time and skills to repair, improve and ready these two campgrounds. What follows are a few represented pictures and lists of the many accomplishments.

Camp Wawona Volunteer Project May 3-6, 2009

Organized and led by volunteers Forrest and Susie Robertson

- New Kitchen and Remodeled Bathroom in Illilouette
- A-Frames – Painted interior of two
  - Various repairs in bathrooms
  - Built one wooden bed frame
  - Exterior paint touch-ups
- Repaired Two Leaking Roofs
- Installed and Repaired Several Doors
- Repaired Rock Walls
- Electrical Repairs at Pool House
- Updated Electrical to Tent Cabins
- Raking, Clean-up and Helping in the Kitchen

Soquel Volunteer Project May 17-20, 2009

Organized and led by Manager Jeff Badger

- 100 New Tent Floors Built
- Main Auditorium Interior Painted
- Main Auditorium Ceiling Sheetrock Repaired
- 70 Cabins Cleaned and Repaired as needed
- 360 RV Sites Electrical Service Evaluated
- Education Trailer Wood Trim Replaced & Painted
- Auxiliary Trailer Exterior Painted
- 35 Acres Mowed
- Weed-wacked Entire Campground (well, almost)
- Guestroom Entrance Refurbished*

*These projects were completed by teams of volunteers after the project ended.
Message from the President

was a rebellious academy kid who had not yet accepted Christ as my Savior. Three academies had asked me to leave and my Dad was concerned to say the least! He took me on a “father-son” outing, and I still remember the tough question I threw at him just to make him squirm.

“Dad, you’ve given sacrificially in time and money and service for all these years working for the church. What if you get to the end of your life and, after death, discover there is no God and it was all a big hoax?”

I watched him intently to see sweat. Instead, after a moment or two of thought, he gave me a great answer that I want to pass on to you.

“Son,” he kindly said, “I’ve thought about that a little. First, I want to assure you that I believe there is a God and He reveals Himself to me all the time. But, even if there wasn’t a God, I’m convinced giving is the most rewarding way to live here and now. I’ve found my greatest rewards here in giving time, money and love to help others as a Christian.”

It wasn’t too many months after that conversation that I surrendered to Christ and committed my life to serving people.

In Scripture we are promised: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

Today, I want to thank every one of you that unselfishly support our children and youth through your faithful, consistent and, dedicated giving for our precious children. At the local churches, it is a dedicated way of life through a multitude of ministries involving our children.

And as chair of the K-12 Board of Education, I want to thank you for your unselfish and, many, many times, sacrificial giving. We see God’s hand constantly moving in dramatic ways, deeply affecting and changing lives. Through His Spirit, His presence is magnified through our prayers, the staff and Christ-centered curriculum in our schools. Your gifts of time, money and love make Christian education possible for our precious children!

Since all children are required to attend school, your support helps make possible a safe place for our students to grow both spiritually and mentally. In this battle we know as the Great Controversy, all of us are assaulted moment by moment and our children are the most vulnerable. I praise God we have a divinely-appointed harbor in Adventist education.

In London’s Tate Gallery hangs one of Watt’s most interesting works of art. Titled Sic Transit, it is a theme of great simplicity. Lying upon a funeral bier, there rests a shrouded figure. Life is over. Around the deceased lie possessions that indicate his station in life – a plumèd helmet, a spear, a shield. Many have gazed, silently asking “What does it mean?”

He was a warrior. Beautiful roses show he was loved. A musician’s lute and the book of a scholar represent his cultured lifestyle. A golden cup proclaims that he has drunk the rich wine of life. But now he is dead. What is the sum of his life? What remains of all the years spent in living?

The artist sums it up in three lines written upon the canvas:

“What I spent I had;
What I saved I lost;
What I gave I have.”

Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matt. 19:14) In our conference, especially at this time of financial crisis, your giving helps remove one huge hindrance after another!

Praise God the return is eternal!

Your brother in Christ,

Jerry N. Page

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Camp Meeting Satellite Schedule

July 16-25, 2009

Evening Broadcasts
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. all 10 nights

Sabbath Broadcasts
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Worship
5:15 – 6:15 P.M. Afternoon African American Meeting*

Hispanic Worship Service will be on the Esperanza Channel. Please check the conference Web site for times at ccc.adventist.org.

NEW * NEW * NEW
A
s Ryan Foss explained the ins and outs of business ownership to a Thai villager last summer, tears of joy sprang to the woman's eyes. She knew her dream of owning a health products store was within reach.

The poignant moment proved pivotal in Foss's contemplations of a future career. “I felt a feeling of happiness and accomplishment like none other I had ever felt. It was on the Thailand trip that I realized that my long-term career goal was to retire as a social entrepreneur,” he wrote in an essay.

Foss, an entrepreneur and sophomore accounting major at La Sierra University, traveled to Thailand as part of the LSU Students In Free Enterprise team. In the Chiang Mai region, the group taught 29 villagers how to start and operate businesses. Foss's experiences in Thailand, his impact on others and the transformation of his own thinking through his work with SIFE were among the reasons judges of a national SIFE scholarship competition were impressed.

Foss won the Jules and Gwen Knapp SIFE Ambassador Scholarship during the 2009 SIFE National Exposition competitions held in Philadelphia, Pa., May 10-12. The $10,000 SIFE award, the first received by a La Sierra student, will help cover Foss's educational costs.

As a SIFE ambassador, Foss will represent the international non-profit on campuses and at events. SIFE is an outreach organization in Springfield, Mo. Through more than 1,300 SIFE teams at colleges and universities in 41 countries, SIFE strives to teach various populations market economics, business ethics and economic independence through entrepreneurship.

“It's really neat to see him recognized for all the hard work he's put in,” said Tim Foss, Ryan's father. “It’s neat because he is a true entrepreneur, and he’s been successful.”

Ryan incorporates his spiritual life into his work and plans, and frequently expresses his thanks to God, said Lynette Foss, Ryan's stepmother. “Ryan always says before taking on a new venture, 'I've prayed about it, and I know this is the right thing.'”

Foss owns two companies, Cool Guys Productions and Reliable Trucking. Cool Guys produces videos and specializes in videotaping weddings. Reliable Trucking, which Foss and a partner started last year, provides lumber-hauling services throughout Southern California.

Foss derives his interest in business and entrepreneurship from his family. Tim Foss publishes Classic Trucks, Custom Classic Trucks, Street Rodder and Rod & Custom magazines. His mother, Linda Johnson, owns a notary business and a website company that gives instructions on making crafts.

Ryan Foss advises young people interested in business to push ahead despite their age. “What I’ve learned is you have to be willing to take a risk and be willing to fail. If you do fail, get back up on your feet and keep moving along,” he said.

Through participation in SIFE, Foss acquired experiences that classroom work alone cannot provide, building confidence and leadership skills along the way, he said. “SIFE has given me real world experience that will give me a great edge as I enter a competitive business world,” Foss said.

“Teaching people how to start their own business is the greatest donation you can ever give,” continued Foss. “A few hours of your time can change a person's entire life.”

Darla Martin Tucker
Bereavement Services Help People Overcome Grief

It was like the movies, she said. Close to the end of his life, a man’s family gathered, 12 children paying their last respects. Everyone waited and waited, and finally the hospice nurse suggested they take a walk and get some air. No sooner did the family leave, then the father started slipping away. His pulse dropped, his vital signs destabilized. Afraid, the family quickly gathered together. As the man struggled, the nurse said, “It’s OK to talk. It’s OK to touch him. He can hear you. It’s OK to say anything.”

Carefully, his wife said, “Honey, I’ll see you on the other side.” Within moments, the man opened his eyes, took a breath and he went.

“It was perfect, like the movies,” said Nancy Runyan, PHN, RN, recalling the event.

As administrative director of Adventist Health/Home Care and Hospice Services for Mendocino County, Runyan knows it’s not always perfect, however. “I see it as an honor. When we attend someone’s last moment of life, it’s a spiritual experience. It’s an honor to be able to share these precious moments and to see the spiritual and emotional growth of those who have lost their loved ones.”

Although the bereavement journey begins with each hospice admission, much of that growth takes place in the months and years after a loss, and often when a family member seeks bereavement services.

“After a loss occurs, you don’t recognize the signs of grief and loss. Sleeplessness, fatigue, forgetfulness, inability to concentrate. People don’t realize the symptoms and put it on themselves as being inadequate,” says Runyan, who strongly advocates bereavement services such as counseling, education and support groups. “With support groups, for example, you realize you’re not alone. It helps you realize that this is life, and this is the process.”

Unfortunately, it is a process that most go through at some point and more importantly, need to go through in order to move on in their lives.

“Grief is unique to an individual. If you think you’re going to walk neatly through the stages of grief, you’re mistaken. It’s not a linear process,” said social worker Stephanie Gang, hospice coordinator. “After a loved one dies, some people try to block their grief out for the first year. Then the second year, it’s like the loss just happened.”

“Grief affects every part of who you are — emotional, physical and spiritual. It leaves no part of you untouched. It feels crazy, but that’s normal. Grief is normal,” Gang continued. “If you don’t go through it, if you try to walk around it, it will knock on the door later. As long as you walk through the fire instead of around it, you will become a new person.”

Gang and Runyan work at Adventist Health Home Care and Phoenix Hospice Services in Mendocino County. To learn more, call: 707-459-1818.
To help facilitate bereavement, Gang works with trained volunteers to provide education and training in their local Northern California community. A large portion of their work is outreach and includes drop-in crisis support, counseling, referrals, videos, educational materials, online support groups and traditional support groups.

“People are the best judges of where they're at. They have all the tools inside themselves to deal with their loss. Grief is a teacher,” said Gang, who sees many positive benefits from traditional support groups. “I don’t push people though. I don’t want to burden families as they grieve, but we do get a lot of positive feedback. People in the groups become so connected, some groups still meet on their own after the group officially ends.”

“You never know what will come out of a group. There is so much disparity, and your challenge as a leader is to bring people together in their grief,” stated Gang, recalling a couple who lost their child and joined a support group. “This couple was the most supportive and loving to the group. They brought everyone else along. The mother, all on her own, made beads for each person in the group. She remembered the name of each loved one who had died and spelled the names correctly without asking. It was amazing. She had no money and no job, but still brought gifts for everyone. I was blown away.”

Citing this example of a way that the community uplifts its members, Gang and Runyan described other outreach examples in their community. In addition to traditional bereavement services, Phoenix Hospice provides in-services at skilled nursing and residential care facilities, peer counseling and debriefing at schools and businesses, and in-house training at the two Adventist Health hospitals with which they are affiliated, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital and Ukiah Valley Medical Center.

“We provide in-services in bereavement and spiritual care for our hospital staff,” said Runyan. “I remember one manager was having a hard time with an employee coming in late and being run down. It turned out that the employee had experienced a loss. Once the manager read the educational materials and was informed that their employee was in the bereavement phase of life, they understood better and gave that employee time to heal. It takes compassion to recognize grief and allow employees to grow. It brought tears to my eyes to see a manager recognize the bereavement process and be sensitive.”

“Grief builds us into the people we're going to be,” said Gang. “With awareness, we can be a community that supports, not alienates, one another.”

Shawna Malvini
Charles E. “Brad” Bradford is one of our Church’s greatest preachers and administrators. Yesterday, I learned from him. He offered the H.M.S. Richards Jr. lecture at the La Sierra University church. Almost 20 years ago, I responded to a call he gave from the pulpit to devote my life to God and His Church, so it was a rich experience to hear him again, elderly now and “growing older” as he put it. The topic was focused on the Church and its presence in our world. He used the metaphor from Scripture that describes the Church as “the body of Christ.”

The apostle Paul used this vision to help us understand that we are not individual islands of sanity in a world of insanity. Rather, together we are Christ’s child. As a whole we come to God through Christ who is our head. You simply cannot be who you are without the community of faith.

Bradford spoke of the Adventist Church, of believers in Christ, as members of the body of Christ. “The Church,” he said, “through its 28 fundamental beliefs, has a solid boney structure. What it needs now,” said Brad, “is to work on its physiology!”

After 60 years of work and ministry for the Adventist Church, Bradford says we need help getting along with each other. I couldn’t agree more.

After the sermon, I joined a reception sponsored by La Sierra University’s School of Religion. In talking with an acquaintance there, I heard about sharp criticism from several church members about things taught in some classes at the university. Of course this is not the first time or the only school where such disagreements have arisen. That is probably part of what it means to have a “solid boney structure.” Did Bradford know about this particular conflict? I’m not sure, but if I got his point about relationships, I think it is this: If Adventism is suffering from anything these days, it is primarily internal fighting. Disagreement and debate, bathed in humility and grace, can lead to reformation and revival. But personal attacks and counter-attacks are self-destructive, and also truly hurt Christ, who is the head of the body.

It is not by a lack of differences that “all men” will know that we are followers of Christ, but by the way we handle differences.

Some are actually encouraged by fierce attacks on those who disagree with their viewpoints. They will say that this is the nature of a family, a body. Out of this toss and tumble, some say, comes a creative, careful and responsible expression of the truth. After all, Jesus himself said, “I have not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Matthew 10:34).

While some may be encouraged by such fighting, I am discouraged. I believe, as I think Bradford believes, that a harmonious relationship with others is something we should seek. Jesus said in John 13:34-35 that we should “love one another; even as I have loved you.” And the result of such love would be that those looking in from the outside “will know that you are my disciples.”

In this fallen world, perhaps can’t all “just get along,” but as Bradford said, “At least we should be civil toward one another.” Perhaps it’s in the very genetics of Protestants, from which we so proudly emerge, that we occasionally argue with each other. In this case, let’s all pray for a good dose of humor and grace as well.

Mark F. Carr, Ph.D.
On May 13, the Pacific Union Executive Committee met on the campus of Pacific Union College to conduct about two hours of union business, hear the annual report from Adventist Health, and, for many members, attend the PUC constituency meeting.

The annual report from Adventist Health, which operates 17 acute care hospitals, plus nursing centers and other health care facilities, in the western U.S., seemed unusually upbeat this year, for several reasons. Adventist Health has sold its hospitals that were losing the most money and has almost finished about a billion dollars worth of improvements. Now the benefits are being felt, said AH President Bob Carmen. He reported increased patient volume, improved cash flow, better physician recruitment, improved safety records (fewer infections, etc), and an increased focus on spiritual ministry to patients and staff.

Selected AH numbers reported for 2008 included: 17,753 employees, 109,720 admissions, 407,613 emergency room visits, 2.1 million outpatient visits, 540,961 patient days, 222,732 home care visits, 82,610 hospice days and 617,132 Rural Health Clinic visits. Carmen noted that AH is the largest provider of rural health clinics in California and in the United States.

Next, the committee turned its attention to evangelism, voting $109,000 for six specific projects in various parts of the union: Jesus Loves Jeans (youth discipleship and evangelism training), Neighborhood/Barrio Evangelism, Church Within Church, Good News TV (Phoenix), Hands of Love and Immigration Ministry. With the projects funded at the last meeting, the total for special projects this year totals nearly $500,000.

The committee approved several ordinations/commissionings: David Lopez, Benjamin Lundquist, Nathan Robinson and Erik VanDenburgh, from the Arizona Conference; Scott Shafer, from the Nevada-Utah Conference and Gregory Johnson, Mary Maxson and Michael Kontes, from the Northern California Conference.

Four people were approved for ministerial scholarships/internships: Jose Luis Medina, Jr., from the Central California Conference; Erik VanDenburg, from the Arizona Conference; and Juan Pablo Ariza and Royke Febryan Rantung, from the Southeastern California Conference.

Brad Newton, executive secretary, reported that the number of church members in the Pacific Union increased during the first three months of the year from 216,055 to 216,181 as a result of 3,253 accessions (baptisms, professions of faith and transfers in) and 3,127 deletions (apostasies, missing, deaths, transfers out).

The financial report, presented by treasurer Ted Benson, showed that tithe for the seven conferences in the union decreased 2.17 percent compared with the first quarter 2008, causing almost every conference to reduce personnel and/or expenses.

During the vice president's report, Arnold Trujillo asked a representative from each conference and college/university to tell about evangelism happening during 2009, the church’s “Year of Evangelism.” Ricardo Graham, union president, commented after the enthusiastic reports, “I believe God’s Spirit is being poured out across the nation to bring many people to Himself.”

Kelly Bock and Thambi Thomas, from the union education department, gave a report on the challenges the church faces in financing Christian education. According to Thomas, the root of the problem is that our membership is aging, meaning “there are fewer and fewer families with children of school age,” and “the median income is much lower than the general public, possibly because the percentage of first generation immigrants in the Adventist church is twice as high as among the population as a whole.”

“One way our churches are keeping their schools open, whether by design or not,” Thomas observed, “is from a growing number of non-Adventist students.” He also mentioned that about 500 students are baptized each year, though the schools don’t report the backgrounds of the students baptized.

The next union committee meeting will be by teleconference on Sept. 2.
Filmmakers Claim Awards at SONscreen VII

More than 200 filmmakers, friends and supporters gathered at the Adventist Media Center in April for the seventh annual SONscreen Film Festival. Besides viewing more than eight hours of the best amateur and professional videos entered in the competition, attendees participated in workshops and professional interviews, made friends and worshipped together.

“SONscreen was created by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists to nurture Christian filmmakers in their craft, career development and spiritual life,” says Stacia D. Wright, co-founder and producer of the event. “Our purpose is to give first-time and aspiring filmmakers a Christian platform to showcase their work in an industry-focused forum and expose them to the film industry through education, mentoring and hands-on access.”

“I am always so inspired by the creativity of these young people,” said Ryan Bell, pastor of the Hollywood Adventist church. “Film is the storytelling medium of our age. Jesus was a story teller. Films are our parable, and we need our members to learn the state of the art and be able to engage our culture with serious and important stories. This festival encourages that. It is possibly one of the most cutting edge things our church does with its money to engage contemporary culture. It always makes me proud.”

Featured presenters included Dick Wolf, executive producer of the three “Law and Order” drama series; Christopher Erskin, feature film director; Chris Christmas, brand marketing guru and official merchandise designer for the Democratic National Convention; and Brian Belknap, feature film screenwriter. At the awards dinner, Karen Covell, producer and director of the Hollywood Prayer Network, urged Christian film producers to make the presence of God felt in every possible part of the film industry. “Having this Film Festival helps gain support for our film missionaries that are going into the cities to reach people for Christ,” said Kristine Barker, a Southern Adventist University student from Turlock, Calif.

SONscreen “gives the church a good reputation with the great films that come out of the festival,” said Chris Covell, a student from Village Christian School in Sun Valley, Calif. Covell’s entry, “The Butler,” won the Best High School Film award.

“I have a passion for filmmaking, and I have a passion for creating drama that inspires people and can bring about change,” said Mark Grey, a producer from London. “We have nothing like this in the UK, and most folk thought I was insane for travelling halfway...”

Bryan Belknap, screenwriter from Hollywood, Calif., teaches screenwriting from a Christian perspective at the SONscreen Film Festival.
around the world for the festival. But it was worth every penny. It’s important for Christian film makers to see that their work is valued and is seen as a relevant contribution in changing the world 24 frames at a time.”

Films by professionals were screened but were not eligible for awards. Next year that will change, with a separate category for professionals. The largest number of amateur films were submitted by students from Southern Adventist University, followed by Walla Walla University, Pacific Union College, La Sierra University and Southwestern Adventist University.

Other films were submitted by students from Loma Linda Academy, Central Valley Christian Academy, and as far away as Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW Australia. Other entries came from students attending public and private high schools.

“This is an exciting opportunity for my students’ work to be professionally recognized,” said Danelle Taylor, a film teacher at Loma Linda Academy. “They are always thrilled to be at SONscreen and to see their films shown. The Adventist church in the past has done a poor job at recognizing the visual arts. This is a huge step forward to recognize the visual gifts that members have.”

The next SONscreen Film Festival will be April 8 to 10, 2010. For information, go to www.sonscreen.com.

Gerry Chudleigh

Above: David Magidoff, artistic director for Monkey Butler Comedy Company, Los Angeles, comments on a film.

Right: Timothy Wolfer, student filmmaker from Pacific Union College, accepts Best Documentary award for “Grow Up.” At right is Stacia D. Wright, festival co-founder and producer.

2009 SONscreen Film Festival Award Winners

Best in Fest ($2,000 Prize)
“Electronic Solutions” (11 minutes)
Adam Buck, Southern Adventist University (Drama)

Audience Choice ($250 Prize)
“Tezcatlipoca” (3 min)
Robin George, SAU (Animation)

Best International ($250 Prize)
“A New Beginning” (4 min)
Calvin Chuaung, Avondale College, Australia (Drama)

Best Comedy ($250 Prize)
“Skin Tight” (8 min)
Phillip Sherwood, SAU

Best Documentary ($250 Prize)
“Grow Up” (9 min)
Timothy Wolfer, Pacific Union College

Best Drama ($250 Prize)
“Holy Hush” (12 min)
Mark Grey, Agape Theatre, England, UK

Best Music Video ($250 Prize)
“The Gospel!” (5 min)
Carl Cannell, Walla Walla University

Best Public Service Announcement ($250 Prize)
“Not A Dream” (1 min)
Ryan Moore, Southern Adventist Univ.

Best Animation ($250 Prize)
“Tezcatlipoca” (3 min)
Robin George, SAU

Special Jury Award
“Last Breath” (14 min)
Derek Taylor, SAU (Drama)

Jonathan Dulan High School Film Achievement Scholarship Awards*
“The Butler” (6 min)
Chris Cavell, Village Christian Schools, Sun Valley, Calif. (Comedy)
“Be Aware” (2 min)
Andrew Llorens, Loma Linda Academy (Drama)

*Scholarships provided by/to these schools:
Southern Adventist University ($2,000 per student)
Pacific Union College ($500 per student)
Southwestern Adventist University ($1,500 per student)
Walla Walla University ($1,500 per student)
ADVERTISEMENTS

CALENDARS

Arizona

LIFESTYLE MATTERS LIVING FREE program (July 13) Paradise Valley church, 2727 E. Cactus Rd., Phoenix. Begins with vegan potluck supper at 6 p.m. Info: Cristy, 602-4786-3501.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP Certification Program Level 1 and Luncheon (July 19) Arizona Conference, 13405 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register by July 13. Info: Be Davis, 602-494-4480 or 02bespecial@hotmail.com.

PRISON MINISTRIES 20TH ANNUAL Convention (July 29-Aug. 1) Chaparal Suites Resort, 5001 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. "Victory in the Valley: Redefining Evangelism" is the theme. Info: plusline.org, APMOA7@hotmail.com or 800-732-7587.

ARIZONA SUMMER CAMP. Junior Camp, July 5-12; Tween Camp, July 12-19; Teen Camp, July 19-26; Adventure Camp, July 26-Aug. 2. Info: Carolina, 480-991-6777.

California

Central California Conference

YOSEMITE SABBATH SERVICE (May 23-Sept. 5 except July 18) Lower River Amphitheater. Sponsored by the CCC. Info: Edie and Ray Defehr, 209-586-4325 or rayanddie@mlode.com.

HAM FEST 50TH ANNIVERSARY West Coast Bible Study Group (July 3-5) Monterey Bay Academy. Info: Dr. Bill Hardt, 559-568-2941 or wh@cosnet.net; radio frequency: WA6TVU.

PRE-CAMP MEETING PRAYER WALK at Soquel (July 11) 10-1 p.m. & 3-6 p.m. Casual dress, bring your own lunch and Bible. Info: Onalee Showalter, 559-347-3198 or oshowalter@ccsda.org.


La Sierra University

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION SESSIONS: Students accepted as freshman for fall quarter are required to attend a two-day orientation session over the summer. There are 10 sessions scheduled in July, August and September. All four July sessions are full. Call now to reserve for August or September. For more info, 951-785-2452, orientation@lasierra.edu, or www.lasierra.edu/future/orientation/firstyear.html.

Nevada-Utah

RENO AREA PATHFINDER FAIR (Aug. 2) Silver State Adventist School. Info: Fanga Finau, 775-322-6929 or hfinau@nevadautah.org.

HISPANIC EVANGELISM RALLY (July 25) Pacific Union College. Info: Hispanic Ministries Department, 925-685-4300 ext. 1292.

Northern California

EDUCATION SUMMER ENRICHMENT Program (June 29-July 31) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free program for fourth grade through high school students. Sacramento-Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Ave., Sacramento. Info: 916-381-5353.

Pathfinders’ Car Wash (July 12, 19) Sponsored by Sacramento-Capitol City church. Location and info: 916-381-5353.

Vacation Bible School (July 12-16) “Kingdom of the Son,” 5-8 p.m. Sacramento-Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Ave., Sacramento. Info: 916-381-5353.


ONE FLESH COUPLES RETREAT (July 31-Aug. 2) Sponsored by Sacramento-Capitol City church. Info: 916-381-5353.

26TH ANNUAL WESTERN KOREAN Conference (Aug. 2-8) Pacific Union College. Info: Asian/Pacific Ministries Department, 925-685-4300 ext. 1293 or varreola@ncc.adventist.org.
NCC MEDICAL/DENTAL RETREAT (Aug. 5-9) Leoni Meadows. Combine family fun with classes offered through Loma Linda University. Info: 530-626-3610.

Pacific Union College

PUC AT SOQUEL CAMP MEETING (July 16-25) The PUC booth at the education trailer will hold financial aid workshops (July 19, 23), career counseling (July 21), class registration for fall quarter, and an alumni reception at the booth following the church service (July 25, after church). Info: 707-965-6303.

Southeastern California

ADVENTIST SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES convention (July 2-4) Newport Beach Marriott Hotel and Spa. Sponsored by North American Division. Info: ahicks@nadasam.com.

CRUISE TO BAJA, MEXICO (July 6-10) Sponsored by Pacific Union Conference Adventist Single Adult Ministries. Info: www.asampuc.org or lthomasasam@aol.com.

SECC EVANGELISM POWER HOUR (Aug. 12) 12 noon, SECC Assembly Room. Info: 951-509-2298.


Southern California


SCC JUNIOR CAMP (starts July 5) Junior, earliteen camps and parent weekend getaways, bus service and specialty classes in water skiing, ceramics, horsemanship, math, backpacking, balloon art, guitar, art and more. Info: www.campcedarfalls.net/summer/index.htm; SCC Youth Ministries Dept., 818-546-8439.

MALIBU CONGREGATION 1ST Anniversary (July 11) All day, featuring Lonnie Melashenko, vice president, Spiritual Services and Missions, Kettering Health Network. Sax concert with Steve Peterson, M.D., and son, and other musical artists. 3602 Winter Canyon Rd, Malibu 90265. Info: 818-458-8884; Malibusdachurch.adventistfaith.org.

THE TABERNACLE (July 25-Aug. 9) Life-size replica of the Mosaic sanctuary Free admission. 1-7 p.m. daily at San Fernando Valley Academy, 17601 Lassen St., Northridge. Info: Vilma Villegas, 818-209-7710, hebrews09@gmail.com; www.messiahsmansion.com.

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Alumni Reunions

GREATER BOSTON ACADEMY REUNION (Oct. 16-18) Stoneham Memorial Church, 29 Maple Street, Stoneham, Mass. Guest Speaker, Bill Arnold. For info: Arthur Barnaby, 951-359-4344 or afbarnaby@juno.com or call GBA at 781-438-4253.

LODI FAIRMONT/HILBORN CHURCH Homecoming (March 12-13, 2010) Celebrating 50 years of ministry at this location. Searching for former members. Mark your calendar for this special event. Please call 209-334-1844 or e-mail office@fairmontsda.org.

LOUISVILLE JUNIOR ACADEMY 100th Anniversary (July 24-26) Louisville First Church. For more information and to register for the events, contact the school: ljaalumni@gmail.com; visit the web site www.ljaalumni.webs.com or call 502-550-6787. Connect with former students on Facebook under Louisville Junior Academy alumni.

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all over the U.S. Jesus said “I was in Prison...” You may write inmates snail mail or via e-mail, again risk free. For information contact Don or Yvonne McClure, 269-492-7770 or e-mail: sdapm@someonecares.org.

Employment


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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks assistant director for dining services. Opportunity includes a leadership role in related field. Interested candidates apply at: www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

FEATHER RIVER HOSPITAL is located in Paradise, in the beautiful foothills of Northern California just 90 miles north of Sacramento. We offer competitive wages and excellent benefits in a friendly supportive environment. Paradise Adventist Academy offers K-12 educational opportunities. Search for available positions online at www.frhosp.org or call 530-876-3102 for additional information.

MISSIONARY-MINDED RETIRED COUPLE needed: Saguaro Hills Adventist Christian school, in sunny Tucson, Ariz., needs a retired couple willing to work in the Pre-K/K teaching position and caretaking the school. Free space is available June 1 for up to a 45-foot RV with all utilities. Contact 520-325-1454 or 520-245-5463.

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SAN DIEGO FORUM (July 11) 3 p.m. Clinton Baldwin, “New Testament Textual Criticism.” Tierrasanta church, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, Calif. Info: 858-576-9990 or 619-561-2360. E-mail ak-jk@cox.net.

STEVE GREEN CONCERT (July 19) Grand Avenue church, 278 Grand, Oakland, Calif., Sun., July 19, 6 p.m. A free will offering will be taken.

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MESSIAH’S MANSION live tour of the life-size model of the Mosaic Sanctuary (July 25-Aug. 9) San Fernando Valley Academy, 17601 Lassen St., Northridge, CA 91325. Interactive tours daily from 1-7 p.m. Admission is FREE. Info: 818-209-7710 or e-mail: hebrews09@gmail.com; visit www.messiahsmansion.com.

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(Aug. 1) All former pastors, members and friends invited. For information, contact Dora Jiron 575-533-6546, 209-7710 or e-mail: hebrews09@gmail.com; visit www.messiahsmansion.com.

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BENTON, ESTHER – b. Feb. 15, 1913, Farmington, N.M.; d. April 27, 2009, Buena Vista, Colo. Served 40 years working for the church at the Texas Conference, the Southern European Division, the General Conference, Potomac University, Andrews University, Loma Linda University and the Voice of Prophecy.


Evans, Coralie Lorraine (Johnson) – b. June 22, 1937, Jamestown, N.Y.; d. May 5, 2009, Riverside, Calif. Survivors: husband, Nelson; daughters, Naomi Cohen, Doreen Nunez, Susie Milovich; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Worked at Southeastern California Conference office for more than 30 years in the education department and the executive secretary’s and president’s offices.


Horst, Emma – b. April 27, 1913, Beisicher, Alberta, Canada; d. May 4, 2008, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: husband, Baumbach; daughters, June Pitts, Jackie Henderson, Norine Harlan, Barbara Reinholdt; 13 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren. Worked at the Central California Conference for 20 years as periodicals clerk and salesperson in the Adventist Book Center when it was located in San Jose, Calif.


Jacobson, Amy Louise (Feld-Kamp) – b. June 28, 1974, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. March 22, 2009,
Butte, Mont. Survivors: parents, Irving (Bud) and Pamela Feldkamp III; brother, Irving (Buddy) Feldkamp IV; sister, Maggie Cotton.

JACOBSON, AVA GRACE – b. April 22, 2006, St. Helena, Calif.; d. March 22, 2009, Butte, Mont. Survivors: grandparents, John and Judy Jacobson, Irving (Bud) and Pamela Feldkamp III.


NETTEBURG, VERNICE – b. Dec. 9, 1904, Loma Linda, Calif.; d. March 22, 2009, Butte, Mont. Survivors: grandparents, John and Judy Jacobson, Irving (Bud) and Pamela Feldkamp III.


ODELL, RUBY LONG WHEELER – b. Dec. 21, 1913, Cincinnati, Ohio; d. April 25, 2009, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: daughter, Merrie Kay Reynolds; three grandchildren; brother, Jack Degraw; sister, Ethel Siegel. Served the anatomy department at Loma Linda for many years.

PAYNE, LEO – b. May 9, 1915, Bradley, Okla.; d. April 16, 2009, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: wife, Leticia; son, Curtis; daughters, Ginna Dobson, Deanna Edlund, Bertha Stevens; 14 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren.


PURDEY, DOROTHY – b. Oct. 4, 1922, Denton, Mont.; d. April 19, 2009, Lodi, Calif. Survivors: husband, Duane; stepsons, Don, Vernon; stepdaughter, Louise Holder; four grandchildren. Dean of women at Monterey Bay Academy and La Sierra University; instructor at LLU School of Nursing; head of several nursing schools abroad.


STOCK, WILLIAM EDWARD – May 7, 1920, Port Heron, Mich.; d. April 6, 2009, Roseville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Carolyn; son, Roy; daughters, Linda Krause, Wanda Antonio; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

# SUNSETS
**JULY 2009**

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WHITNEY, CORALEE JOY (SAULSBURY) — b. Nov. 6, 1948, Scotia, Calif.; d. May 1, 2009, Oroville, Calif.; survived by: husband, Marvin; daughters, Lonna Yushmanov, Carrie Garcia; four grandchildren.

WORTHY, OMEAGO — b. Nov. 27, 1923, Mannsville, Okla.; d. March 23, 2009, Desert Hot Springs, Calif.; survived by: son, Charles; daughters, Carolyn Canning, Peggy; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

VANCE, JUDITH (RUSSELL) — b. July 2, 1956, Denver, Colo.; d. April 6, 2009, Angwin, Calif.; survived by: husband, Robbin; son, Christopher; daughter, Ashley. Served as assistant professor of English at Pacific Union College; previously taught at Union College.

WEISS, RUTH — b. July 11, 1932, La Plata, Argentina; d. April 25, 2009, Loma Linda, Calif.; survived by: husband, Edward; sons, Richard, William; daughter, Nancy Case; four grandchildren; brother, Febo Basanta; sister, Rachelle Basanta.

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