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The Redwood campground prayer chapel — a Maranatha One-Day Church — was constructed quickly and easily by a team of volunteers. Photo by Stephanie Leal.

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Miracles Still Happen

Ted Benson, Pacific Union Conference Treasurer

There are times when the challenges of the economic picture start to weigh me down. Unemployment rates continue to rise, foreclosures are at record levels, the financial markets continue to be unstable. Being exposed to news like this day after day can be very discouraging. While the problems can seem overwhelming, I am reminded that despite all of the negative news, God is still in control. The miraculous power of God is evident in so many ways.

God’s power touches the hearts of individuals as they listen to pastors and evangelists who hold meetings regularly throughout Pacific Union. Can a price be put on the miracle of seeing a life transformed by the saving grace of Jesus?

Several years ago, as the economy was starting to unravel, I received a call from the union’s investment advisor indicating that we should consider selling a portion of our investments that had historically been very stable. To sell was counterintuitive, but as the situation was assessed, the decision was made to follow the advice of our advisor. Within days of the sale, these investments went into a major decline. By making the move when advised, a substantial loss was avoided. Was it a coincidence that the proper decisions were all properly timed by chance?

Holbrook Adventist Indian School is a place where miracles take place every day. The principal and staff are individuals who believe in prayer and when there is a need, prayers ascend on behalf of the school and their mission. Many times the prayers are about the finances of the school. Frequently, the amount of money needed will arrive in the mail on the day it’s needed for the exact amount. During the building of the boy’s dormitory, the funds had run out, and the decision was made to send the workers home because there was not enough money to continue building. That very day while the meeting was in progress, a check arrived in the mail that covered what was needed to keep the project going. This happened time and again during construction. When the dormitory was completed, it was with much rejoicing that the structure was dedicated debt-free. How did the individuals who gave know that their gift would be needed on a specific day to keep the project going?

This past January, as I was reviewing the year-end finances for Holbrook, I wondered how the school would be able to continue operations given that donations were down and expenses continued to rise. A few days later, a call came from the principal indicating that a check had been received that would cover the operations through the end of the school year. Was this gift just happenstance? A favorite promise of mine is, “I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!” (Isaiah 65:24, NLT).

We will continue to face challenges that often seem insurmountable, but I am assured that God is in control and will continue to lead us day by day no matter what the challenge.

“I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!”

We will continue to face challenges that often seem insurmountable, but I am assured that God is in control and will continue to lead us day by day no matter what the challenge. I don’t need to look very far to see the evidences of God’s providence in supplying what is needed. Miracles still happen to help our faith grow and remind us where our help comes from.
Don A. Roth, member of the Calimesa church, has been honored as a Champion of Justice by the Association of Adventist Women. During the association’s annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., during the recent General Conference session, Linda Becker, incoming AAW president, presented Roth with a plaque to honor his work on behalf of women in the Adventist Church.

In 1965, Roth took a call to the Far Eastern Division in Singapore. While serving there as associate secretary, Roth was surprised to learn that women missionaries in the division earned less than their male counterparts.

When Roth was named associate secretary for Far Eastern affairs at the General Conference in 1975, he devoted considerable time to changing policies he considered discriminatory toward missionary women. In addition to wage disparities, Roth had found that there were no provisions for women who had served with their husbands in the division to receive a specified number of months’ worth of salary support when they returned permanently to their homeland.

In 1987, Roth introduced changes at the General Conference that made that policy gender inclusive. The first woman to benefit from it was Patricia Jones, who now is associate director for the Department of Health Ministries of the General Conference as well as a faculty member in Loma Linda University’s School of Nursing and the director of the Office of International Nursing.

Roth also successfully engineered a policy allowing single women to receive child support and educational allowance for adopted children.

During her 17 years as a teacher in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Pat Gustin adopted two Thai girls. Because she was unmarried, she did not receive any financial aid, but paid all of their expenses herself. While she and the girls were on furlough in the United States, everyone wanted to meet the girls. Roth took them to the General Conference to introduce them to church leaders, being sure to mention that there were no benefits for single mothers. In the fall of that year, the General Conference passed a policy at Annual Council to provide for single mothers. Now Gustin’s daughters are grown, and she is a proud grandmother.

“I always felt very supported by Don as a woman and a missionary,” Gustin says.

Roth’s wife, Doris, and several other family members traveled to Atlanta to celebrate the AAW honor. Roth called the award “unique,” noting the significance of the association’s attention to contributions from men. The AAW awarded Ella Smith Simmons the honor of Woman of the Year 2010. Simmons is general vice-president of the Adventist world church.

Roth retired from the General Conference Secretariat in 1990. He has since served as the Secretariat’s representative on the campus of Loma Linda University.
SECC Welcomes Four New School Principals

Jocelyn Fay

Leadership transitions took place during the summer at four of Southeastern’s academies: La Sierra, Loma Linda, Orangewood, and San Diego.

La Sierra Academy

New at La Sierra is Walter W. Lancaster II, from the Jurupa Unified School District in Riverside, where he has worked since 1980. From 1993 to this summer he was principal of Jurupa Middle School. He replaces Cyril Connelly, who has retired after seven years as LSA principal.

“After many years in the public education system, it is an honor to return to my roots at La Sierra Academy,” Lancaster says. “As a graduate of LSA, it’s my desire to see this academy continue the Adventist-Christian-based program for which it’s so well known, not only in the Adventist community, but also in the surrounding communities and cities.”

Loma Linda Academy

C. Edward Boyatt is Loma Linda Academy’s new principal. Boyatt has been in the La Sierra University School of Education since 1998, serving as a professor until 2006, when he became dean. During his career in education, he has been principal of two other academies, Glendale Adventist and Columbia Adventist.

“I have mentored principals for the past two decades as a professor and superintendent; now I get to practice what I have preached and taught,” Boyatt says.

LLA’s former principal, L. Roo McKenzie, has joined the conference department of education “to encourage, build, and nurture support of pastors, educators, and parents for Adventist education,” according to Don Dudley, superintendent of education.

Orangewood Academy

Datha S. Tickner, who has been elementary vice-principal of Loma Linda Academy since 2006, is the new principal of Orangewood Academy in Garden Grove. Her predecessor, Ruben Escalante, has moved to the Arizona Conference to be superintendent of education.

When she was interviewed for the job at Orangewood, Tickner says, she kept hearing from students and teachers that Orangewood was like a close-knit family. “I could tell there was a simmering passion for the school among its stakeholders,” she says. “It made me want to be a part of that family.”

San Diego Academy

Winston Morgan is the new principal of San Diego Academy, replacing Mervin Kesler. Morgan has been school counselor at Terra Cotta Middle School in Lake Elsinore since 2007. Before that he was teaching principal of Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian Academy.

Morgan acknowledges that a lot of work has gone into the school’s building and program, and that the academy’s teachers have been working “incredibly hard.” He looks forward to becoming part of the program and taking it further with his skills and abilities, which he lists as “counseling, administration, teaching and my love for kids.”
Eagle Rock Church Mortgage Goes Up in Smoke

Betty Cooney

“The mortgage is done,” said Jim Pedersen, former Eagle Rock church pastor and current president of the Northern California Conference. “Let’s rise up and celebrate!”

Led by Calvin Knipschild, the acclaimed Christian Edition men’s chorus, which began in Eagle Rock church, provided music for the church’s mortgage-burning ceremony July 10.

“We trace our beginnings to a group of 62 members that met in a room over a pool hall in the early 1920s,” said Pastor Danny Chan. Decades of growth, aided by God’s leading, led to the church’s decision in 1990 to renovate the sanctuary and build a Family Life Center.

“Our first hardship at our present site came when more parking space was needed,” recalled Ken Head, M.D., in his words of welcome. “God unexpectedly led our neighbors to sell us the property that would house the current upper parking lot. In October 1990, we voted the renovation and construction projects.”

“Ground-breaking for the center was in 1992, and the rallying cry was ‘Rise up and Build!’” said Chan, “but the project was put on hold due to the city’s requirements for additional parking that would require an underground parking structure at prohibitive costs. In what we considered to be a miraculous leading, land south of the church suddenly was for sale by the owner, who had vowed never to sell to Seventh-day Adventists.”

In 1993, using funds from the sale of its previous property and loans totaling nearly $2 million for the projects, the church acquired a mortgage with $16,000 monthly payments that, refinanced after several years, was cut in half.

“The Family Life Center was inaugurated on June 4, 1994,” said Chan. “True to its name, it has been a place where children, youth and families have made Jesus Christ the center of their lives.”

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“Today, we celebrate the burning of the mortgage,” Chan announced in conclusion. “This moment is a testament to the untiring dedication of a church family for which there is no challenge that we have not been able to meet with God’s help. For this reason, we rise up and rejoice!”

*Neh. 2:18

Previous and current pastors on hand included: (first row, l. to r.) Pastors Jim Brown, Glen Gibson, Jim Park, Donald Smith, Danny Chan, Tony Parrish, and Howard Flynn. (Second row) Tony Anobile, Jim Pederson, Ray Tetz and Nenad Didara.
Six students from Los Angeles Adventist Academy and one student from Redlands Adventist Academy gave up a week of their summer vacation to minister to the Navajo people in Arizona.

Mission trip sponsors Charles and Alicia Richards of Loma Linda invited the teens to assist Diné Outreach Ministries, a Native American Christian ministry, with a Vacation Bible School, literature distribution and health screenings. None of the students had previously experienced a full seven-day mission trip or camped in sizzling hot weather, and, for some, it was their first time away from home. Despite these challenges, they signed on to work for Jesus, experiencing first-hand that witnessing is hard work that can be satisfying and fun.

Before reaching Arizona, Charles Richards instructed the students on how to effectively hand out religious literature. At every stop and restroom break, the students distributed books, pamphlets and magazines. Sometimes their offers were declined, but, knowing they were working for God, the students learned to overcome their fears of rejection.

In the city of Page, students distributed materials to more than 100 homes in one hour. During the “Jesus Is My Friend” VBS program, students helped with action songs, games, crafts and lunch distribution. They taught songs about Jesus, offered special music and narrated lesson-filled stories from memory.

While coloring Jesus’ cross on a worksheet, 5-year-old Shane pointed at his art and said, “Jesus had to die.”

A volunteer asked him, “Why did He have to die?”

Shane quickly responded, “So we can stay alive.”

The students also assisted nurses Alicia Richards, Novella Arnold and Donna Bedney with blood pressure screenings. They unloaded a U-haul truck filled with donations, swam in the Colorado River’s ice cold water, hiked up mesas leading to majestic views and ran a 5K race in Tuba City.

On the last day, many students expressed a desire to return next year for the evangelistic series, even though they were eager to return to their own beds at home.

Chanda Cobbs
Volunteers Build Maranatha One-Day Church in the Redwoods

Julie Lorenz

On July 22 and 23, a dozen men and women constructed the new prayer chapel at Redwood camp meeting. The building was dedicated on Sabbath afternoon, July 24, as a crowd packed inside for prayer.

The chapel is located just a short walk from Pepperwood Pavilion, the cafeteria and the ABC. “I am thrilled that it is in the center of the campus, so everybody will know that prayer is an important feature of the Northern California Conference camp meeting,” said Naomi Parson, NCC prayer ministries coordinator.

Around three years ago, a tree fell and demolished the old prayer chapel, a small and weather-beaten structure. NCC administrators and Redwood camp meeting directors discussed ideas for a new chapel. Due to frequent heavy flooding in the area, they were considering some sort of portable chapel.

At an ASI convention, Ed Fergusson, former NCC assistant to the president, learned about Maranatha Volunteers International’s One-Day Church. He thought it would be the ideal prayer chapel for the campground. The 20- by 35-foot structure could withstand flooding since everything but the frame and roof could be removed between camp meeting sessions, and its presence would promote Maranatha’s work around the world.

Maranatha’s One-Day Church was designed for congregations in the mission field who need a quick, affordable church building. The One-Day Church kit, consisting of the frame and roof, can be assembled in only one day, as Redwood volunteers proved on July 22.

“It was amazingly easy,” said Jerry Rowan from Lincoln, Calif., who was one of the building crew. “It’s designed so volunteers can walk in and do it,” said Judy Zachrison, from Boring, Ore., who worked as a “go-fer” during construction.

The Redwood chapel has wooden side panels, designed by Dan Brown, a camp meeting associate director. Constructed and painted ahead of time by volunteers, the sides were added to the prayer chapel on July 23. (In the mission field, local Adventist congregations construct the sides for their churches out of available materials, such as cinderblock or bamboo.)

Future plans for the Redwood chapel include carpet, ceiling fans, electricity and stained glass windows. Parson hopes to see it used for prayer seminars, anointings, special prayer sessions, and as a quiet place for private prayer.

Fergusson hopes that the new and bigger Redwood chapel will inspire people to focus more on prayer. “Who knows?” he said, as he considered the possibilities for the chapel. “Maybe it will be too small.”

Campers crowd into the chapel for the dedication service. “Prayer ministries is very grateful to Maranatha for the One-Day Church,” said NCC Prayer Ministries coordinator Naomi Parson. “We’re looking forward to seeing God’s power there.”

During Sabbath’s dedication ceremony, Maranatha President Don Noble and his wife, Laura, speak about the success of the One-Day Church. More than 1,000 of these structures have been constructed in a little over a year in Africa, India, South and Central America. The Nobles spoke of the great need for more churches throughout the world.
About 1,650 people camped on site during the Northern California Conference Redwood camp meeting, held July 22-31.

This year’s speakers included Bill Knott, editor of the *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*; Mike Tucker, speaker/director for Faith for Today; and Herb Montgomery, speaker for Renewed Heart Ministries. Campers attended multiple musical concerts and a variety of seminars on topics such as prayer, witnessing, health, religious liberty, guitar lessons, finding a mate, reaching out to non-attending members, finances, and the seven churches of Revelation.

“My non-Adventist friend came with her two children and enjoyed meeting people and learning more about God,” said Susan Fleming from Dobbins, who noted that camp meeting is not just for members’ revival, but also for evangelism.

Campers enjoyed the meetings and kept busy with other activities such as a food drive, a blood drive, and a “Fun Run.” Interacting with friends was also a popular part of the 10-day event.

“We need not only a spiritual uplift but an uplift from friends,” said Bob Ensminger, from Roseville. “It’s such a blessing to see people, to pray with them and reminisce. We look forward to being with our heavenly Father, and this is a little taste on earth.”

NCC pastors and volunteer laypeople presented meetings aimed at every age from toddler to collegiate. And numerous other volunteers made camp life run smoothly. “I am so thankful that so many people contributed their time and expertise to make camp meeting possible this year,” said Del Dunavant, NCC director of evangelism/church growth.

Jennifer Shaw, from Paradise, has attended Redwood almost every year since it started meeting at its current location in the mid-70s. Now, her two sons love the experience also. “They ask: is there a town like camp meeting where we could live?” she said. “They have special camp meeting friends, the freedom to walk around and go to wonderful meetings. It’s like stepping back in time.”

“It’s fabulous being together again at camp meeting,” said NCC President Jim Pedersen. “I’m already looking forward to the blessings of next year.”
Merced Olive East Church Joins Campaign to End Poverty

Shenalyn Page

Laurie and Lupe Cabrera readily admit that their choices kept them in poverty. They drank, used drugs, worked occasionally, and lived on welfare. They felt ashamed and alone. But when their two daughters were detained by Child Protective Services for nine months, they realized things had to change.

The Cabreras began attending church again and worked with a social worker to get their lives back on track. Then they were invited to join the Circles™ Campaign. It soon became the family’s favorite night out. Lauren, 11, and Dalanie, 9, loved the children’s activities, and Laurie and Lupe found new hope.

The Circles Campaign seeks to reduce poverty by empowering individuals with the relationships, skills and knowledge needed for self-sufficiency. The program was introduced in the summer of 2008 to 200 Merced, Calif., community leaders. Merced County ranks third worst out of 58 California counties in poverty. Crystal Andersen, a member of the Olive East church, was there and immediately volunteered to help.

A human resources professional, Andersen had observed the paralyzing effects of poverty on families. Over the years she dreamed for an organization that would assess the needs of the disadvantaged and organize the community to provide training and assistance.

Andersen quickly became a core member of the campaign’s Guiding Coalition. She also helped create the Foundation for Improved Living – Merced, a non-profit organization responsible for implementing the Circles Campaign.

“Relationships help people move forward,” says Andersen, executive director and board president for the Circles Campaign of Merced County. “Jesus had it dialed in when He came to earth. We need to follow His model of loving people and finding ways to help them where they need it most.”

Crossing Socio-Economic Lines

Twenty-eight families in poverty attended the first Circles Campaign class this past spring. An 18-week course called “Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World” was hosted by the Olive East church. Church member Beth Loredo provided a vegetarian supper, and volunteers provided childcare.

“We realized there are others going through similar situations to us,” says Laurie. “It was good to have people let me know that God is for real and that there is help out there. Crystal made me feel like number one and showed me how to embrace myself and care about my own needs.”

Upon course completion, each family or individual is connected with a financially stable community ally trained to mentor them in their journey out of poverty.

“We show motivated individuals and families how to come up with a plan for getting out of poverty, then we align ourselves to help them by building friendships across economic lines,” explains Andersen.

Laurie and Lupe Cabrera are one of 28 families who attended the “Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World” 18-week class.
These relationships help the middle and upper class to understand the problems, like lack of public transportation, which can sabotage an individual’s efforts to become self-sufficient. The campaign then engages the community to remedy these problems.

“This campaign has put us [Adventists] on the map as being at the cutting edge of helping our community. It is also helping our church members catch a vision of how important it is for us to be involved in the community’s needs,” says Clark McCall, a retired pastor who serves as personal ministries leader.

With a rebuilt self-esteem, Lupe has actively pursued and obtained construction jobs. After 11 years as a stay at home mom, Laurie is eager to get back into the work force. The girls are on the honor roll at school and at the top of their Bible study class.

“God has been flipping doors and windows open for us,” exclaims Laurie. “I know He has a plan for us. I can see the light now and I know there is a rainbow at the end of our journey. We are so blessed!”

Six Ways to Reach Out to Those in Poverty

How can your church bring good news to the poor in your community?

1. Ask your local Adventist Community Services or another community organization that serves those in poverty how you can help. They will be able to direct you to those most in need.

2. Check your assumptions at the door. Realize that people in poverty are problem-solvers and have strengths you may not have. Treat them with respect and look for their good qualities.

3. Seek to truly become friends with one or two families or individuals. Learn to see the world through their eyes, so you can understand the challenges and joys they face.

4. Commit to a long-term relationship. It takes time to make the changes necessary to move from poverty to economic self-sufficiency. They need a confidant and advocate during the journey.


6. Pray for wisdom. Christ made it His special mission to love the poor, and He will certainly guide you in your efforts to reach those He especially loved.

For more information, contact Crystal Andersen at: Foundation for Improved Living Merced, 936 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. Phone 209-349-8057 or e-mail FIL.Merced@gmail.com.
On Friday, March 12, about 150 people from churches throughout Utah attended a statewide youth/young adult rally at the Provo church community center. Sabbath attendance at the event, titled “Motions,” reached approximately 250.

Central States Conference youth director, Pastor Kymone Hinds, was the featured speaker. Christians, he said, need to be more active and deliberate in their faith and not just “go through the motions.”

“Pastor Hinds’s sermons were top notch,” said Alex Yanez from the Provo church.

The weekend’s messages and activities revolved around the need to do more than go through the motions of life and Christianity — to “practice what you preach.” Matthew West’s song, “The Motions,” served as the theme song. Its chorus summarized the concept: “I don’t wanna go through the motions; I don’t wanna go one more day, without Your all consuming passion inside of me. I don’t wanna spend my whole life asking, ‘What if I had given everything, instead of going through the motions?’”

After Sabbath lunch, the attendees braved the cold and snow in the neighborhood to collect non-perishable foods for the local food bank. They gathered 1,500 pounds of food.

After Hinds’s final message, attendees engaged in a wide variety of social activities to cultivate new friendships and enrich existing ones.

According to Wasatch Hills Pastor Darryl Priester, the weekend was a “complete success for Jesus.”
When Erik Vandenburgh wanted to go to an Adventist youth camp near his home in the North Pacific, his parents reluctantly gave him the bad news — there just wasn’t enough money in the family budget to support his wish.

He never forgot that childhood memory and determined in his heart that if he could, no other kids would have to face such disappointment.

Today Vandenburgh is Youth Ministries director for the Arizona Conference. He has a 2-year-old son, Jacob, and another child on the way. He is continually thinking of ways to improve the summer camp experience for the youth of Arizona as he directs the summer programs at Camp Yavapines in Prescott.

For the past several years, VanDenburgh has brought together an incredible team of youth leaders, devotional speakers and counselors. Many of his staff are from Adventist colleges and universities, recruited specifically to enhance the Christian experience of Yavapines campers.

VanDenburgh is continually working to improve the numbers. Each year there are more and more baptisms as young campers give their hearts to Jesus. Many of the same counselors return year after year to work with the program.

There’s more to his mission than increasing the number of return campers and counselors, however. Tough financial times mean many kids hear the same heartbreaking news VanDenburgh received as a child: “There’s no money for camp this year.” So, VanDenburgh presented a radical plan to the Arizona Conference officers that would allow any camper to come to any of the camps offered for just $100.

“I know that if we have a week with a young person,” VanDenburgh explained, “we can not only give them an unforgettable experience of hiking, swimming, zip lines — but best of all, we have seven days to give them an opportunity to know Jesus. That’s why we screen our counselors so carefully. We don’t just want entertainment — we want changed lives!”

“We are excited with what we’ve seen accomplished at camp in years past, and we believe that winning a child to Christ is worth everything,” said Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile, whose three children worked at the camp this year. “So we decided to give Erik our support with this $100 camp offer.”

Close to 800 young people attended Camp Yavapines this year. They got a great bargain — a week of summer camp, food, lodging, activities, deep friendships — for just $100. Some parents paid for friends and relatives to attend. The camp was full to capacity, and staffers worked double duty to meet the needs of the campers.

By the end of the summer season, 79 kids had been baptized. Many more are studying with their own pastors and plan to be baptized when they get home.

“This is one of the most exciting evangelistic campaigns we’ve ever had in Arizona,” said Anobile. “Seventy-nine young people gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized. Hundreds of lives were changed. We are excited about what happened at Camp Yavapines this year, and next year we plan to do it again.”
Pianist Jed de la Paz arranged most of the religious songs for his honors project titled “Soli deo Gloria,” or “For the Glory of God Alone.” It was an undertaking he never imagined pursuing and ultimately involved arranged hymns and gospel songs for cello, voice and violin.

The pieces he worked on include “The Lord’s Prayer.” The version offers a new way of hearing a time-less song, he said. He pursued the project this spring as a senior music major, in completion of La Sierra University’s Honors program.

“It was supposed to be one song. I thought it would take about a week,” said the new alum. “It was amazing how everything came together.” Once licensing hurdles are cleared, he plans to officially release the arrangements as an album.

A cum laude graduate, de la Paz is aiming for a career in dentistry, a field that allows room for his pursuit of music and by which he can aid humanity through outreach, he said.

His life could have taken an entirely different and more secular path if the plans he made several years ago had worked out to his desires. But a key disappointment followed by a pivotal experience in 2002 at the 9-11 Ground Zero site in Manhattan helped redirect de la Paz’s interests.

Born in the Philippines and raised around Los Angeles, de la Paz attended high school in Alhambra and Temple City. His parents gave him piano lessons at age 7, mainly because he kept banging on the piano, de la Paz said with a smile. While in the eighth grade, his piano teacher suggested he apply to the well-known Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. He auditioned for enrollment in the school, but the institution was accepting three piano students at the time, and de la Paz placed fourth. “I was kind of blaming God,” he admits.

But then he received an unexpected call from a friend asking him to consider serving as an accompanist for the San Gabriel Academy Choir and invited him to hear the group perform at the Temple City church. “I wasn’t expecting much,” he said. “But when they did the concert, I was blown away.”

Enrolling at San Gabriel in 2001, de la Paz began accompanying the choir. That Sept. 11, terrorists flew jets into the World Trade Center towers in Manhattan and into a side of the U.S. Pentagon. The mountain of rubble where the twin towers had stood became known as Ground Zero. During an East Coast performance tour the following year, San Gabriel’s choir visited the site. Security and protocol rules around the devastated area required visitors to maintain silence. But director Calvin Knipschild, moved by the scene, directed the choir to sing the National Anthem.

“People began gathering to listen to the group, and security guards let their impromptu performance continue. “It was one of the most spiritual moments of my whole life. There were tears in people’s eyes,” de la Paz said. “One woman came up to me and kept saying ‘thank you.’” Her teenaged son had died in the attacks. She told de la Paz that when she heard the choir singing she felt peace. The singing gave her hope, she said to the young pianist.

“At that moment I suddenly forgot about making it into the prestigious music school. I was proud I was from a small Christian academy,” de la Paz said. “I realized the Christian choir was different because they sang for a higher purpose. They wanted to share what Jesus had done for them.”

He became interested in dentistry after attending a career fair at Loma Linda University and after serving on a church mission trip to Fiji where he worked 12-hour days as a chair-side dental assistant. One female patient needed a tooth extraction. She had not previously received any dental care. “When she came in to us she was in so much pain,” de la Paz said. “This was the same feeling I had at Ground Zero. I realized I wanted to help more people and do dentistry. I felt like as a dentist I could change the rest of people’s lives.” The most important lesson learned at La Sierra, he says, is that a life of service is the greatest calling one can have.
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“Taking Haiti Home,” young filmmaker Tim Wolfer’s first major production, tells a story from on the ground in a post-earthquake Haitian orphanage called La Maison des Enfants de Dieu.

Wolfer was in the middle of the school year as a film and television student at Pacific Union College when the earthquake hit Haiti. Having filmed for international humanitarian projects before — including work with the Adventist world church and Maranatha Volunteers International in places like Africa and South America — Wolfer posted a note on Facebook asking who would sponsor him to go to Haiti. Eight hours later an anonymous donor funded Wolfer’s flight. Four days later he was on his way, but had no idea where he would go when he arrived.

Just before leaving, someone put Wolfer in contact with La Maison, where he was given permission to stay and begin filming. At the orphanage, Wolfer began recording the general situation in Haiti following the quake, as experienced by the orphanage children and staff. Wolfer began to focus on the trials of one girl in particular, an older child named Saintania, whose parents had given her up to the orphanage. Her mother was sick, and the family had 10 children and lived in a rough neighborhood. Wolfer captured the story of Saintania and her biological family as well as her adoptive family waiting for her in Ohio.

In the meantime, the film follows the orphanage staff as they try to figure out how they can get humanitarian visas to get 135 children out of their outdoor camp where failing supplies and security challenges are threatening. In the end, they finally get 80 children who have specific families waiting for them onto a military plane, and Wolfer travels with them to Orlando.

At a test screening of the movie in St. Helena, Calif., the audience got to discuss the film and its implications with Wolfer and two members of the orphanage staff in attendance. The discussion included media coverage of such stories, since Wolfer actually filmed some live broadcasts for CNN and Fox News. Other topics were how the orphanage was impacted by the tricky challenge of working with and transporting orphaned children from the disaster zone and the positive and negative implications of removing these children from their native culture.

Others asked what was next for Wolfer, who hopes to enter “Taking Haiti Home” in film festivals and also says, “I’d like to catch up with Saintania.” He also has letters she wrote to her parents in Haiti and would like to be able to go back and deliver them. Wolfer finds he has a taste for this kind of filming, appreciating “the fact that I get to travel, the people I get to meet, the different cultures I get to experience.” The Haiti adventure, he says, “wasn’t as crazy as it might seem to a lot of people,” but he adds that it “was definitely the most extreme thing I’d ever done.”

Tim Wolfer works with a CNN news crew while filming in Haiti.
Adventist Health News Notes

Brittany Russell

Emergency Department Collaborative Launched

Adventist Health has launched a system wide Emergency Department collaborative focused on streamlining processes and enhancing the patient experience. The year-long initiative began in August at Adventist Health’s annual Clinical Leaders Symposium. The goal of the project is to have superior EDs with exceptional results in patient throughput, quality and service. More specifically, the collaborative will focus on patient flow, patient satisfaction and the quality of patient care as it relates to the system's already standardized Core Measures (e.g. heart failure, pneumonia and other clinical indicators). All of Adventist Health’s 17 hospitals will participate in the project’s learning sessions, monthly reports and data collection, as well as various other project-specific activities.

FRH Breaks Ground on Emergency Department Expansion

 Feather River Hospital has broken ground on its Emergency Department expansion project, in an effort to provide world-class emergency services for ridge residents. Prior to breaking ground on the new ED, the 101-bed hospital in Paradise, Calif., completed new parking lots, a septic system replacement and various other minor, but needed projects. Now construction has begun on a new 17,000 square foot ED. It is expected to last 15 months. When completed, the expansion will include 18 private rooms, an isolation room for patients with infectious diseases, a decontamination room, spacious lobby and waiting room, and a family consultation area.

UVMC Celebrates High Scores

Ukiah Valley Medical Center celebrated recent quality scores by convening more than 100 physicians and employees to hear nationally-recognized author Robert Wachter, M.D., speak about hospital quality. In 2007, the 78-bed, Northern California hospital joined many other facilities around the country that are working hard to establish the necessary leadership, organizational culture, clinical systems and accountability needed to achieve excellence. In three years, the hospital transformed itself from a facility with uneven quality scores to one that is now ahead of national averages in the quality and safety of its care in virtually all areas. To view the quality report, go to www.uvmc.org.

SVH Expansion Yields Growth

Simi Valley Hospital has recently experienced business growth and a rise in patient volume thanks to Adventist Health’s investment in new facilities and equipment. Over the past months, the overall census has steadily increased. Among the departments that have experienced growth are main hospital surgery, and labor and delivery. This past spring, the main hospital’s surgery services were the highest in almost seven years and the hospital also saw the highest number of babies born in one month since 2006. Along with a renewed positive perception of the hospital, the appeal of a modern facility, community outreach and the hospital’s marketing efforts have all contributed to the overall increase in business at the Southern California facility.

WMMC Prepares for “Hospital Sabbath”

White Memorial Medical Center is gearing up for its third annual Hospital Sabbath in collaboration with the White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church and several other Adventist churches in the greater Los Angeles area. This event aims to promote a feeling of community and provide fellowship for employees and community members alike. “As a family of caring professionals we gather together, celebrate together and worship together,” said Edgar Urbina, hospital chaplain. “It is nice to come together as one big family.” For more information, see the ad on the back cover.
School of Public Health Graduates from Afghanistan Improve Health in Their Country

Heather Reifsnyder

The field of public health is reemerging in Afghanistan, and Loma Linda University is playing a role in its development. In June, the School of Public Health granted Master of Public Health degrees to three physicians from Afghanistan who are working to raise health standards and health care access in their country.

“There is a dire need of experts in this field,” says Dr. Mir Lais Mustafa, director of medical research for the Afghan Public Health Institute, Ministry of Health. The World Health Organization sponsored his Loma Linda education.

Both he and Dr. Bashir Noormal earned their degrees online, with Loma Linda University providing a scholarship for Noormal, who leads the Afghan Public Health Institute. They battled intermittent electricity, slow Internet service, and the demands of their full-time careers to earn their degrees. “As director general, I needed such an education and qualifications,” Noormal says. “In Afghanistan, we have many health problems in the community because of the long-lasting war, and we have many communicable diseases.”

Dr. Abdullah Salam has spent the last three years in Loma Linda, earning his degree on campus through a scholarship from the university. Formerly president of Kabul’s Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, Salam will remain in the United States to secure international partnerships for improving public health in Afghanistan. But he looks forward to the day he returns home, both to his family and to the task of making Afghans more healthy.

“From our M.P.H. degree, we learned most importantly about healthy lifestyle,” Salam says. “You can see the underlying causes of diseases that are killing our children. It will be a great advocacy to just go to the country and tell people to change their lifestyle.”

Since 2001, strides have been made in making Afghanistan a healthier country. Infant mortality, for example, has fallen from 165 to 111 per 1,000 live births, and child mortality dropped from 257 to 175 per 1,000 live births. Noormal says the country is implementing a large-scale national survey to determine figures such as life expectancy and mortality rates, including maternal mortality and cause-specific mortality.

The three graduates became familiar with Loma Linda University through its long involvement in Afghanistan. From 1962 to the Soviet invasion of 1979, the university provided faculty and consultation to the graduate and other medical education programs in Jalalabad and Kabul. In 1999, Loma Linda University was invited again to help support the medical education at Kabul Medical University. Several LLU faculty members taught the medical students at KMU and assisted Afghan faculty with their lectures and presentations.

Following Sept. 11, 2001, Loma Linda’s efforts in Afghanistan went on hiatus briefly. Eventually, LLU returned to the medical school to continue helping build its curriculum, and in the spring of 2005, Loma Linda assumed management responsibilities for Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital for a four-year period, funded by the United States Agency for International Development. Currently, LLU is looking at options for returning to Afghanistan to help bring relief and hope to the Afghan people.
Proclaiming God’s Grace
Thousands from Around the World Gather for the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta

For the 59th time in 147 years, Seventh-day Adventists from around the world met from June 23 to July 3 for the church’s business session where world leaders were elected, reports of the work around the world were presented, and other items were discussed. Delegates chosen to represent their respective fields traveled from near and far to the Georgia Dome and Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) in Atlanta, Ga., to participate in this process that will impact millions of Seventh-day Adventists for the next five years.

In addition to the election of world leaders, key discussion items included such topics as ordaining deaconesses, clarifying the language in the Church Manual regarding marriage, reinforcing the church’s stand on Creation, making church and church-related activities safer for children, and the desire to see the inclusion of young people ages 18 to 30 as delegates.

While the business of the church was being discussed, many of the delegates’ family members and other visitors occupied their time with activities available to them in the GWCC and other locations. They had the choice of observing the business proceedings in the dome, visiting the exhibit hall, attending seminars, joining youth activities, such as IMPACT Atlanta, going on field trips as a part of the Day Camp geared for children, visiting the prayer room, and much more. There was something for almost everyone.

History
Fifty-nine times, Adventist church leaders and delegates have had the opportunity to reflect in this fashion on the church’s progress in accomplishing its mission “to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the Three Angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to unite with

Shirley Chang and Gerson R. Perla, both of the Pacific Union, vote during an afternoon business session. Chang served on the General Conference Executive Committee the past five years. Perla is an attorney from the Central California Conference.

John Brunt, senior pastor of the Azure Hills church in Grand Terrace, Calif., appeals to delegates to approve the ordination of deaconesses during the 59th world session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ricardo Graham, president of the Pacific Union Conference, presides over his union’s caucus at the world session in Atlanta.
His church, and nurturing them in preparation for His soon return.”

Statistical reporting of the work of the Adventist Church began in 1863. At that time, there were six local conferences and missions, 125 churches, and 3,500 members. The first General Conference Session was held May 20, 1863, in Battle Creek, Mich., with 20 delegates representing the states of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota.

Since that time, the work of the church has progressed and the membership has grown tremendously. Slightly more than 16 million Adventists worldwide are worshipping in 68,225 churches and missions. The organizational structure includes 572 local conferences and missions, 112 union conferences and missions, and 13 divisions. The methods used to communicate to people is constantly becoming more and more sophisticated — a far cry from methods used back in 1863.

People from around the world followed the events of the session via texts, cell phones, Twitter, Facebook, iPhone apps, e-mail, podcasts and websites, just to name a few. The medium for reaching out is there. The challenge is to embrace it and use it to advance God’s work in a positive way.

For 13 days, the world church was showcased in magnificent fashion and culminated on Sabbath, July 3, beginning with the worship service that drew a crowd close to 70,000. But by far, the greatest reminder of the church’s progress could be seen as the division reports were presented each evening and the during the Parade of Nations on the final night.

World church statistics reveal that, in total world church membership, the North American Division is the sixth largest division (seven percent), being surpassed by Inter-American Division (20 percent), East-Central Africa Division (16 percent), Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (15 percent), South American Division (12 percent) and Southern Asia Division (nine percent).

While the Adventist Church has entered 203 countries in the world, there is still much work to be done. The reports of the progress of the church was good, but as the earth groans in pain and the wickedness of its inhabitants seems to be on the rise, many called for believers to redouble their efforts and work to hasten His coming.

“One of the greatest challenges that we face is to try to humble ourselves before the Lord,” said newly-elected world church President Ted Wilson. “We must ask the Lord to bring us into a condition where we are revived and then allow a true reformation in our lives to set the stage for the latter rain.”

The 59th General Conference Session is history. Committees presented the reports. The delegates have spoken on the issues. Attendees visited with long-lost relatives and friends and formed bonds with new ones. Now they’ve returned home to the business at hand — “proclaiming God’s grace” to every kindred, tongue, and people.

Youth and young adults support the enditnow campaign against violence to women by painting a street art billboard in Centennial Olympic Park during the General Conference Session. Ally Romanes, a student at Monterey Bay Academy in La Selva Beach, Calif., and her cousin, Marissa Abnel, a student at Hinsdale Adventist Academy in Hinsdale, Ill., work under the training eye of their pastor, Milton Coronado, of the Hinsdale Fil-Am International church in Hinsdale, Ill.
Northern California

LEADERSHIP CONVENTION (Sept. 10-12) Leoni Meadows. Info: Youth Department, 925-685-4300.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (Sept. 10-12) Sacramento-area hotel.

You CAN have a better marriage! Registration and info: Rob and Debbie Purvis, 530-622-4798 or purvis4@comcast.net.


GALT CHURCH 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY (Sept. 25) All-church sing begins at 9:15 a.m. Sabbath School lesson: Steve Chavez. 10:30 a.m. worship: Ricardo Graham. Highlights will include music, memories and fellowship. Lunch provided. Info: 209-745-1977.


African-American Convocation (Sept. 17-19) Fresno Westside Church. Info: Wanda, 559-347-3169 or wflowers@cccsda.org.

Bible Quiz-a-Rama (Sept. 17-19) Fresno Westside Church. Info: Wanda, 559-347-3169 or wflowers@cccsda.org.

Pathfinders Leadership Convention (Sept. 24-26) Camp Wawona. Info: Norma, 559-347-3174 or nivallareal@cccsda.org.

Treasurers Training (Sept. 26) CCC office. Info: Claudia, 559-347-3196 or carias@cccsda.org.

Youth Convention (Oct. 2) Fresno Adventist Academy. Info: Lisseth, 559-347-3176 or lisseth1@cccsda.org.

Hispanic Men’s Retreat (Oct. 8-10) Camp Wawona. Info: Florina, 559-347-3150 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

La Sierra University

Freshmen Orientation (Sept. 8-9, 13-14, 20-21) Attending a two-day session is mandatory and includes math and English placement tests, meeting an academic coach (advisor), registration, etc. Info: 951-785-2452, orientation@lasierra.edu, or www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=2752.


LSU Convocation (Sept. 30) 11 a.m., LSU Church.

Central California

Yosemite Sabbath Service (Sept. 4) Lower River Amphitheatre, sponsored by CCC. Info: Edie and Ray DeFehr, 209-586-4325 or rayanddee@mlode.com.

Hispanic Young Adult Retreat (Sept. 3-6) Camp Wawona. Info: Florina, 559-347-3150 or fmorales@cccsda.org.

Marriage Seminar (Sept. 4) Fresno Westside Church. Info: Lisseth, 559-347-3176 or lisseth1@cccsda.org.


Jr. and Sr. Bible Retreat (Sept. 16-18) Camp Wawona. Info: Lisseth, 559-347-3176 or lisseth1@cccsda.org.

Hawaii


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Freshmen Orientation (Sept. 8-9, 13-14, 20-21) Attending a two-day session is mandatory and includes math and English placement tests, meeting an academic coach (advisor), registration, etc. Info: 951-785-2452, orientation@lasierra.edu, or www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=2752.


LSU Convocation (Sept. 30) 11 a.m., LSU Church.

Southeastern California

Big Bear Services (Weekly) Big Bear Valley church invites visitors vacationing in the area to join them for Sabbath services: Sabbath school, 9:30 a.m.; church, 11 a.m. 349 E. North Shore Dr., Big Bear City. Info: 909-547-6115.

Evangelistic Series (Sept. 4-18) Blythe Spanish/English church, 415 E. Barnard St., Blythe. Speaker, SECC evangelist Yohalmo Saravia.

Pathfinder Leaders’ Convention (Sept. 10-12) Pine Springs Ranch. Info: 951-509-2265, judi.jeffreys@seccsda.org, or register online at www.seccyouth.com.

Faith for Today 60th Anniversary Celebration (Sept. 11) 5 p.m., Loma Linda University church, 1125 Campus St., Loma Linda.

HERITAGE SINGERS USA (Sept. 18) 6 p.m., Balboa Park Outdoor Organ Pavilion, San Diego. Everyone is invited to this outreach concert, sponsored by the San Diego Adventist Ministerial Association. Info: 619-475-0383.

JANA LEE ORDINATION-COMMISSIONING Service (Sept. 18) 11 a.m., Corona church, 2530 S. Main St., Corona. Friends and colleagues of Jana Lee are invited to her ordination-commissioning during the Sabbath morning worship service, and to the fellowship lunch after the service.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR (Sept. 19) 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Mentone church, 1230 Olive St., Mentone. A ministerial health outreach of the Redlands Spanish, Mentone Spanish, and Mentone English churches and Don’t Lose Hope. Info: 909-328-0845.

SECC RETIREES RETREAT (Sept. 20-22) Pine Springs Ranch. All retirees are invited. Deadline for registration is Sept. 1. Info and registration: 951-909-2287.

ASIAN/PACIFIC CONVOCATION (Sept. 25) 2:45 p.m., Loma Linda Filipino church gym, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Rudy Bermudez, SECC vice president for Asian/Pacific ministries, will be the speaker. Info: 951-509-2337.

GO FISH FOR KIDS (Sept. 25) 9 a.m.–6 p.m., SECC office, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. Seminar tracks for children 9 and older and adults. Info: 951-509-2260 or childmin@seccsda.org, or register online at www.seccyouth.com.

GATHERING OF AFRICAN LEGACIES CONVOCATION (Sept. 25) 9 a.m., Emmanuel Baptist church, 28355 Baseline St., Highland. Hosted by the All Nations African church to provide a platform for thanksgiving and celebration of what God has done for and through Africans. Info: 909-205-1086.

SECC ADVENTURER BEACH DAY (Sept. 26; for registered clubs) Bolsa Chica State Beach. Info: 951-509-2265 or judi.jeffreys@seccsda.org, or register online at www.seccyouth.com.

“FUTURE AND A HOPE” Bible Conference (Oct. 9-30) A Christ-centered approach to Adventist doctrines by E. Dean Peeler. If you have family or friends in Corona and would like the church to invite them, or to send you information about the meetings, please contact the Corona church at 951-737-5953 or coronasa@sbcglobal.net.

Southern California


CHRISTIAN LEGAL SEMINAR (Tuesdays in Sept.) Atty. Franklin Radoff, presenter. Topics: family law, business start-ups, debt, & more. 7-8:30 p.m. Canoga Park Community church, 20550 Roscoe Blvd., Winnetka 91306. Info: 818-882-1171.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (Sept. 11) Featuring Cindy Wu, violin; and Alice Yoo, cello. 4 p.m. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-787-8380.

BURIED BLUEPRINTS (Sat. evenings, Sept. 11-Nov. 20) Exploring the Bible from an archaeological viewpoint. 7 p.m. Presented by Pastor John Aitkin, an avid student of archaeology and anthropology, Van Nuys church, 14615 Sherman Way. Info: 818-787-8380.

NETADVENTIST WEBCLINIC (Sept. 12-13) Instructor, Jesse Johnson. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SCC office, 1535 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Light brunch on 9/12, only. Register for one or two days. Info: scccomm.adventistfaith.org/communication-events.


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GREAT FALL FESTIVAL. Speaker Dr. John Grayson, Ph.D., ’60. Info: Tom Giampa at 508-243-781-438-4253.


Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479. Stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Maple St., Stoneham, MA. Begins Friday night, (8-10) Lincoln, Neb. Info: Ryan Lindbeck (class of ’99) at 402-483-1181, ext. 15, or rlindbeck@collegeviewacademy.org.

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is in need of a qualified HVAC technician. Duties will include maintaining, repairing, and installing H.V.A.C and refrigeration equipment on the University campus. Refrigeration Recovery license required. Interested candidates please apply at: www.andrews.edu/HR/admin/jobs_view.cgi.

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L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM (Sept. 25) 3 p.m., Charles M. Teel, Jr., Ph.D., Professor of Religion and Society at La Sierra, “Personal Ethics Cum Social Ethics: One Adventist Adventure.” Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Glendale City Adventist church. Contact: 818-244-7241.

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SAN DIEGO FORUM (Sept. 11) 3 p.m. Elissa Kido and Bob Cruise, “The CognitiveGenesis Study: What Does the Research Reveal?” Tierrasanta church, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA. Info: 858-576-9990 or 619-561-2360. E-mail ak-jk@cox.net.


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Ask Us About Health & Wellness

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**Vacation Opportunities**

**SUNRIVER, ORE.** Four-bedroom executive home. Overlooks North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens, one bunk set, hot tub, TVs, VCRs, DVDs; D/W, M/W, W/D, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log fireplace, BBQ, bikes, all “lodge amenities,” sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets, includes housekeeping. Contact Wayne Schultz: days, 541-475-7188; evenings, 541-475-4663.
If you don’t make a will, you won’t have a say.

Your will is a promise for the future, a promise to your loved ones and to your favorite charities. We’ve all been told that if we do nothing else to take care of our legal affairs, we should write a will. That’s pretty good advice. If you don’t make a will before your death, state law will determine who gets your property (and it likely will not be whom you would have chosen), and a judge may decide who will raise your children. In your will, you can make these decisions yourself.

Make a plan to protect them.
Take a moment to contact one of the organizations below to see how they can help you. We look forward to hearing from you.

ORGANIZATIONS:
Arizona
Central California
Northern California
Southeastern California
Southern California
Hawaii
Nevada-Utah
Pacific Union
La Sierra University
Pacific Union College

Call toll-free today for more info:
(866) 356-5595

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

This information is not intended to provide advice for any specific situation. Advice from a qualified attorney and/or tax accountant should always be obtained before implementing any of the strategies described.


White Memorial Medical Center &
White Memorial Church

Present
HOSPITAL SABBATH

A very special worship service

Please join us
October 9, 2010, 10:30 a.m.
White Memorial Church
On Campus at White Memorial Medical Center

Speaker:
Rogelio Paquini, Senior Pastor
Spanish-American Church, Los Angeles

Special music by White Memorial employees and
The San Gabriel Academy Chorale

For more information please contact
White Memorial Chaplaincy Services
at (323) 260-5710.

White Memorial Medical Center
Adventist Health
1720 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Los Angeles CA, 90033
whitememorial.com