Compassion and Quality
Go Hand in Hand at Adventist Health
Inside

LOCAL CONFERENCE NEWS
16-17 Arizona
24-27 Central California
22 Hawaii
23 Nevada-Utah
28-31 Northern California
18-21 Southeastern California
12-15 Southern California

KEEPING YOU INFORMED
3-11 Adventist Health
43 Advertising Policy
37-44 Classified Advertising
34-35 La Sierra University
33 Loma Linda
32 Pacific Union College
43 Sunset Calendar
36 Union News

ABOUT THE COVER
Karen Hensley, licensed vocational nurse, has passed out medicine in Sierra Transitional Care Unit 6, the long-term care facility associated with Sonora Regional Medical Center, for several years, but she is best known for her snack cart, which she stocks out of her own pocket.

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www.pacificunionrecorder.com

Editor Staff
Editor / Layout & Design
Alicia Adams
alicia@puconline.org
Publisher
Gerry Chudleigh
gerry@puconline.org
Printing
Pacific Press Publishing Association
www.pacificpress.com

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Editorial Correspondents
Arizona 480-991-6777
Phil Draper, phildraper@azconference.org
Central California 559-347-3000
Caron Oswald, coswald@cccsda.org
Hawaii 808-595-7591
Teryl Loeflter, loeflter@hawaiiconf.com
Nevada-Utah 775-322-6929
Connie Hall, chall@nevadautah.org
Northern California 925-685-4300
Stephanie Leal, sleal@ncscda.com
Southern California 818-546-8400
Betty Cooney, bcooney@scscda.org
Adventist Health
Shawna Halvini, MalvernSK@ah.org
La Sierra University 951-785-2000
Larry Becker, lbecker@lasierra.edu
Loma Linda 909-558-4526
Richard Weismeyer, rweismeyer@llu.edu
Dustin Jones, djones@llu.edu
Pacific Union College 707-965-6303
Julie Z. Lee, jilee@puc.edu

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God is love, and He created us to require love — meaning that we require God. But what about those that don’t know Him yet? Where are they getting their love?

As Christians, we have the honor and privilege of showing God’s love to everyone we meet, whether it is our neighbor or the teller at the bank. In Romans 12:10, Paul says, “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

The Bible has given us examples to follow. Consider the story of Dorcas. She was always doing good and helping those in need. She made a profound impact on the lives of others, and through her, many were brought to the Lord. And don’t forget Rahab, who opened her home and risked her life so that Caleb and Joshua would be safe from the local authorities. What love she showed even though she didn’t know them!

Just like these Bible personalities, thousands of employees at Adventist Health are devoted to their patients in brotherly love. This philosophy is what author Erie Chapman calls “Radical Loving Care.” It is centered in a deep commitment to the value of compassion, and by creating a culture of loving care; patients will experience the love of God through Adventist Health employees.

As you read through this special issue of the Recorder, notice the distinct brand of care that Adventist Health offers to its patients. Notice how showing brotherly love can make a profound difference in someone’s life.

Today, I challenge you to show someone brotherly love. Whether you are a health care professional or not, we can all find opportunities to share God’s love. Remember what Jesus said in John 13:34-35: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples.”

As Christians, we have the honor and privilege of showing God’s love to everyone we meet, whether it is our neighbor or the teller at the bank.
As a health care organization, it’s a given that we focus on care. You might automatically think of physical care — how well we treat and minister to the body. What you might not realize is that at Adventist Health, our distinctive brand of care is more comprehensive than that.

In fact, like our three-pronged mission of “Sharing God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing,” we dedicate ourselves to caring for the whole person — body, mind and spirit. This means in practice that we care, deliberately, for patients, their families, community members and ourselves.

Throughout this special edition of the Recorder, you will read stories from across our system — remarkable tales of healing, sacrifice, love and hope — all focused on the distinctive ways we provide care.

Our most obvious brand of care revolves around quality and safety. You’ll read about the many achievements our hospitals have earned, including the commendations received by the Cancer Center at Feather River Hospital. Additionally, you’ll learn about initiatives we have in place to further improve our care via technology.

In addition to quality and safety, we pride ourselves on the way we take care of each other.

You’ll read about a beloved employee at San Joaquin Community Hospital who lost her home in a house fire, only to experience love from coworkers who banded together to help her rebuild her life. And you’ll hear about a White Memorial Medical Center employee who would have lost her sister if a coworker and her family not given blood specifically for the woman just days before.

As part of our Sacred Work approach, we understand that we must care for caregivers, and so we make sure to emphasize wellness for our employees. You’ll read about Hello Health!, a free class offered at Castle Medical Center to help employees lose weight naturally. You’ll also read about a program at the corporate office aimed at helping employees in their times of need.

I hope you enjoy this spotlight on Adventist Health. If you wish to know more about us and our Sacred Work, please visit www.adventisthealth.org.

Facts About Adventist Health

- Headquartered in Roseville, Calif.
- 17 hospitals in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington
- Approximately 30 rural health clinics
- 14 home care agencies offering home health, hospice, personal care, medical equipment and infusion therapy services
- Four joint-venture retirement centers
- More than 18,300 employees
- More than 2,500 beds
- 118,940 admissions in 2009
- 446,818 emergency department visits in 2009
- 2,207,849 outpatient visits in 2009
- 211,544 home care visits in 2009
- 89,854 hospice days in 2009
- 700,000 rural health visits in 2009
- Provided nearly $3 million in free and low-cost services to our communities in 2009
The relentless pursuit of quality care has always been a top priority at Adventist Health. Every thing we do — from changing the bed sheets, to the more technical aspects of surgery — is carefully thought out and done in a way that serves our patients’ physical, mental and spiritual needs. When patients enter our hospitals, they can be sure that they are receiving the quality they deserve.

Exceptional Quality at Cancer Center
Cancer. No one wants to hear a doctor deliver that diagnosis. But patients at Feather River Hospital Cancer Center in Paradise, Calif., can rest easier knowing that the hospital was recently accredited and awarded six commendations by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. Only 25 percent of all cancer centers in the nation have received this accreditation.

“This is a great achievement for our cancer treatment program and a tribute to the physicians and staff of the Cancer Center and hospital,” said Wayne Ferch, president and CEO of FRH. “Their dedication to our patients and their commitment to offer the best in comprehensive cancer treatment has paid off.”

This accreditation is a certification of quality standards and comprehensive care at FRH that include:

- state of the art services and equipment
- ongoing clinical trials in affiliation with the Stanford Cancer Center
- access to prevention and early detection programs
- education and support services
- quality care close to home

Meticulous Eyes Save Lives
Not only are Adventist Health hospitals demonstrating a commitment to quality — doctors and employees are, as well.

At Glendale Adventist Medical Center in Glendale, Calif., the core of Pharmaceutical Operations is medication reconciliation. This process involves reviewing all medications a patient is taking to see if they are safe together. It recently saved the life of a man with chronic back pain.

Walter Haven* had come to GAMC seeking pain relief when he met Dr. Simon Han, a clinical pharmacist. Han was looking over the prescriptions Haven was taking when he stumbled across something troubling.

Haven was on Tramadol to relieve moderate to severe pain along with Vicodin ES, an opiate-based pain reliever. When taken together, these drugs can cause seizures and may lead to fatality or severe neurological problems. Haven’s doctor didn’t explain this interaction to him, so he was unaware of the dangers.

Han asked Haven if he had been experiencing seizures. When he replied that he had, Han explained to him the risks of the drugs he was taking together. Haven was shocked to know the source of his seizures. He was able to leave the hospital with information that he could take back to his doctor.

“Miscommunication between doctors and patients is a fundamental problem,” said Han. “Medication reconciliation can help fix this problem, and that is a blessing to patients.”

“Being as meticulous as we can be is part of our nature,” Han adds. “I am doing what I am expected to do; it is part of being a pharmacist in the Emergency Department.”

* Name has been changed to protect privacy.
At Adventist Health, healing isn’t just about medicine and treatments. It’s also about enriching the lives of employees, patients and the communities in which they live and work. Several hospitals throughout the organization have created unique programs to do just that. By rousing employees to action, educating the community and acknowledging stand out care, Adventist Health is making a difference.

“Scrubbing In” for Change
Simi Valley Hospital recently instituted a project that signifies its commitment to the Southern California community. The hospital’s new Scrubs Program encourages employees to get more involved in their neighborhood by volunteering at approved local charitable organizations. Employees can take off one day per year to volunteer and then be reimbursed for the pay they would have earned at work.

According to Chase Spenst, director of Decision Support for the hospital and founder of the program, if 40 percent of the hospital’s 900 employees volunteer, it would translate to at least one employee assisting in the community every day of the year. The hospital’s goal is to have at least half of its employees actively involved in the program.

“This is a great way for the hospital to encourage employees to get involved in their community,” said Spenst. “Hopefully, through this experience employees will discover that they enjoy giving back through community service.

Informing to Transform
Visiting Napa Valley anytime soon? Then stop in at St. Helena Hospital’s Well Now Showcase, a healing media gallery where residents and tourists from all over the world can learn about the destination health programs offered at the hospital. Located on Main Street in St. Helena, the Well Now Showcase occupies a 1,900-square-foot storefront that has been remodeled to create a one-of-a-kind health education experience.

The space features an interactive information kiosk and specially trained client service advisors who educate visitors about programs for knee and hip replacement, weight loss, smoking cessation, diabetes control, heart health, cancer prevention and wellness, and addiction recovery.

According to Terry Newmyer, president and CEO of SHH, the Well Now Showcase is in line with the hospital’s 132-year history of providing health and wellness programs, and is just another way to help the community get and stay healthy.

Seeing Angels
Ukiah Valley Medical Center recently debuted a philanthropic endeavor focused on recognizing outstanding care. The Guardian Angel Program allows patients and their families to make donations to the hospital in honor of a staff member who provided excellent service. When employees are recognized, they receive a special “wings” pin to put on their uniform to signify that they are a guardian angel.

“This is a way for patients and their families to recognize excellent care when they see it,” said Allyne Brown, director of philanthropy at the Northern California hospital. “It is an opportunity for them to see the meaning in what we do, and our mission reflected in the care they receive.”

To date, 80 UVMC team members have been given their “wings” and the program has raised approximately $20,000 that has been put back into the hospital to benefit future patients and the community.
What do you think of when you contemplate a hospital stay or doctor's visit? Do fear, pain and dread come to mind? At Adventist Health, we work hard to ensure that our patients don't have negative health care experiences. By combining quality with compassion, our facilities and clinics offer peace of mind and relief from uncertainty. We focus on turning fear, pain and dread into hope, relief and healing. Below are just a few stories that demonstrate how we're doing this.

Going the Extra Mile

As Loretta* left the room of the nursing home, she heard her daughter Mandy* cry, “Home.” This was the last request Mandy ever communicated through words. The 36-year-old is bed bound with multiple sclerosis and can no longer speak.

Mandy got her wish, thanks to nurse practitioner Brenda Tidwell and Central Valley Network’s House Calls program — one way Adventist Health cares for thousands of poor, rural or immobile residents in California’s Central Valley.

Now, Brenda makes the 90-minute drive, sometimes several times a month, to provide Mandy with the care she needs at her rural home.

According to Loretta, Brenda’s bedside manner puts Mandy at ease. By talking to her and showing compassion, Brenda has alleviated the stress that can accompany a medical visit.

“Brenda is an answer to my daughter's prayers,” says Loretta. “Her quality of life is much better now and that gives us a peace of mind.”

From Minutes to a Miracle

When 2-year-old Danielle complained of a severe headache, which turned into a fever and vomiting, her family knew something was wrong.

After arriving at Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital’s Emergency room, Danielle immediately received antibiotics, but her condition worsened and Dr. Mills Matheson ordered a spinal tap.

Within 15 minutes, it was evident that Danielle had meningitis. The ER staff and Lydia Sims, RN, sprang into action. An ambulance was called and paperwork was completed. Later that day, Danielle was transferred to UC Davis.

“The doctors at Davis were impressed with the treatment Danielle received at HMH,” said Jodi Dalton, Danielle’s grandmother and an employee at HMH. “They said that HMH’s medical staff had saved Danielle’s life.”

Helping the Medicine Go Down

Karen Hensley, licensed vocational nurse, has passed out medicine in Sierra Transitional Care Unit 6, the long-term care facility associated with Sonora Regional Medical Center, for several years. But she doesn’t just give medicine to heal patients’ bodies; she gives medicine to heal their souls.

Karen is known for her open and giving personality. Whether on or off the clock, she takes time to get to know every patient she meets. She talks with them, and the residents know that she cares.

Karen is probably best known for her snack cart. She personally stocks it with goodies that aren’t available in the facility, such as cookies, licorice, and her personal favorite, cheese puffs. She passes out the special snacks to residents, always mindful of their dietary restrictions, and has a little something for everyone.

“In a facility like this, there can be a lot of boredom and loneliness,” said Kris Nash, director of Nursing/Skilled Nursing/Transitional Care Unit. “Karen changes the loneliness to helpfulness.”

* Names have been changed to protect privacy.
Adventist Health has a long standing history of caring for the whole person. The mission of sharing God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing has been with us in theory since 1866 when early church leaders opened the first sanitarium in Battle Creek, Mich. Since then, we’ve evolved in knowledge and technology, but our focus on the whole person has remained. This legacy continues at Adventist Health today.

Uniqueness is in the Mission

Working to maintain our heritage is Paul Crampton, assistant vice president for Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health. While new to this role, he is very familiar with our mission and has previously served as the director of chaplaincy at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Crampton stresses the importance of Christ-centered care as an extension of the ministry of the church. Since hospitals provide countless opportunities to interact with non-Adventists, it is important for employees to own the Sacred Work philosophy.

“If patients experience the love of God at our hospitals, we’ve helped prepare them for the evangelistic efforts of the church,” said Crampton. “Our mission drives everything we do, and without it we have nothing that sets us apart from other health care providers — it promotes the uniqueness of the care we offer.”

Initiatives Ensure Effectiveness

At Adventist Health, several initiatives have been put into practice to ensure that our distinctive brand of caring is carried out effectively throughout our institutions. To that end, Spiritual Life Councils have been chartered in all 17 Adventist Health hospitals. These multi-disciplinary teams meet quarterly to discuss each facility’s vision for mission and how to achieve it strategically.

Another important program is Caring for Caregivers, which focuses specifically on employees. The philosophy behind this endeavor is to care for employees so they can, in turn, adequately care for others. If employees are healthy physically, spiritually and mentally, they will be more capable of healing those who aren’t. Chaplains play a key role in this program by promoting the spiritual needs of the staff so they will be able to respond better to the needs of patients.

From Mission to Movie

In an effort to make our distinctive brand of care even more persuasive, Adventist Health recently released a movie about mission and faith in health care. “God’s Fingerprints” focuses on true stories of real employees going the extra mile to touch people’s lives in significant ways. The film showcases seven stories woven together that encapsulate Adventist Health’s mission, and will be a key component of our mission education program.

To learn more about the organization and our mission, visit www.AdventistHealth.com.
Imagine you’re in the emergency room. After seeing the doctor, orders are written for your treatment. Maybe you need labs drawn, an X-ray or medication. But what if the person processing the orders can’t read the physician’s handwriting and you receive the wrong prescription or a test you didn’t need? While transcription errors are not the norm, they can happen.

**Steps to Enhance Care**

This fall, Adventist Health will launch Computerized Provider Order Entry across its system. The next phase of Project IntelliCare — Adventist Health’s clinical information system — CPOE is an electronic process that allows direct entry of medical orders by physicians and other health care providers, enabling patient care to be managed completely online.

Adventist Health is implementing CPOE to help reduce patient harm and save lives. In addition to promoting safety and quality, CPOE will streamline care for patients, making their stays in the hospital easier.

“CPOE will enable us to more effectively meet our goal of being the best place to receive care, to work and to practice medicine,” said Bob Carmen, CEO of Adventist Health. “It will enhance our overall quality of care and further our distinctive mission.”

**Quality the Norm**

Once implemented, CPOE will transform patient care throughout Adventist Health. The organization’s strong emphasis on quality is evidenced not only by commitment to new and better processes and technology, but also by the many awards and accolades Adventist Health facilities receive.

White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles was recently awarded the California Hospital Assessment and Reporting Taskforce Certificate of Excellence. The hospital received the prestigious ranking for achieving “superior” or “above average” results across the majority of clinical outcomes and process measures publicly reported by CHART.

Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif., was recently cited as among the top in the nation for emergency care based on a study by HealthGrades. The independent health care ratings organization has declared the hospital’s emergency medicine care to be in the top five percent in the nation. As a result, the facility is a proud recipient of the HealthGrades 2010 Emergency Medicine Excellence Award™.

Castle Medical Center in Hawaii and Howard Memorial Hospital in Northern California have both been designated as Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement. This designation is awarded to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality health care in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery and transplants.

All across Adventist Health, facilities are working to ensure that patients are safe and well cared for by participating in various quality initiatives. For example, our hospitals have teamed up with Bryan Sexton, Ph.D., from Duke University Health System on a groundbreaking Culture of Teamwork and Safety Survey.

The project uses a survey instrument filled out by frontline staff to identify specific areas of concern and provides insights and recommendations for how to address improvement. In addition, all hospitals are actively participating in campaigns to reduce pressure ulcers and increase awareness regarding hand hygiene.

At Adventist Health, we’re continually looking for ways to enhance the care we provide to our communities, always aware that we’re not only saving lives but touching hearts along the way.
Caring for Caregivers

Brittany Russell

For Adventist Health staff, providing compassion and a gentle touch comes with the territory. However, some acts of love and kindness from employees aren't aimed at patients but toward each other. Below are several stories that illustrate the care that flows between coworkers at Adventist Health.

Giving a Lifeline

Marissa McKnight, RN, a nurse at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, has a lot to thank her coworkers for. Several years ago, her sister was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia. The condition, a pre-cursor to leukemia, causes the bone marrow to stop producing enough red blood cells. Marissa's sister needed blood transfusions once a week for a year.

“One weekend, my sister injured herself, and she just kept bleeding, so we called 911,” said Marissa. “Usually in hospitals we transfuse blood if hemoglobin falls below eight. My sister’s was 3.8. Needless to say, she needed a transfusion as soon as possible.”

She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where according to Marissa, an emergency room nurse expressed surprise that enough blood was immediately available for the life-saving transfusion.

Marissa was shocked to find out later that one of her coworkers, Yolanda Garcia, and her family had gone to donate blood for her sister just two days before. The blood was already waiting for her.

“I knew my sister would die if she didn't have that blood,” said Marissa. “If it weren't for Yolanda and her family, I don't think I would have a sister alive today. I am forever grateful.”

Today, Marissa’s sister is doing well, and her condition is in remission.

Generosity on Fire

Brenda McVay — a certified pharmacy tech at San Joaquin Community Hospital — daily walks the halls of the Bakersfield, Calif., hospital, distributing medications while excitedly chatting with nurses and patients. With Brenda, it's all in a day's work. And this day was no different — until a call from her daughter caused her phone to ominously chirp in the mid-afternoon.

“Mom, the house is on fire, you need to come home now.”

Rounding the corner of her subdivision, Brenda could see the billowing smoke. For the next few hours, she and her family stood helplessly at a safe distance, watching their entire life seemingly crumble. But tragedy tends to bring out the best in people, and for the employees of SJCH, Brenda’s situation was no different.

The first to arrive on the scene was Steve Valentich, Brenda’s boss and director of the SJCH Pharmacy. As firemen worked to salvage pictures and family heirlooms, Steve began placing them in his car for safe keeping.

“I told him not to since they would get his car smoky,” Brenda said. “But he wouldn't listen. From that point on, the generosity had a snowball effect.”

From food and clothing to gift certificates and housewares, the SJCH family stepped up to meet the urgent needs of one of their own. On more than one occasion, Brenda recalls people that she didn't know stopping her in the hallway with a hug, words of encouragement, and often, a little something extra.

“The support was overwhelming and just shows how good people can be,” said Brenda. “We never could have made it without everyone at SJCH.”
A Caring Connection

The corporate office in Roseville, Calif., works to ensure everything is running smoothly at its 17 hospitals. However, the headquarters of Adventist Health also is concerned about the wellbeing of the corporate employees. Caring Connection is an employee assistance program that provides supplemental support for those in need.

This program began in 1990 and has helped numerous employees through tough times. It is funded by charitable contributions from staff and the corporation provides matching funds up to $4,000. These donations provide confidential assistance in the form of financial, personal or household support to employees in urgent times of need.

Several years ago, an employee’s newborn child needed critical care at birth. The baby had to stay in the hospital and the employee was faced with juggling time between work and family. Before long, the newborn required care at a more advanced facility and was transferred to a hospital several hours away. The entire family was forced to temporarily relocate.

A coworker notified the Caring Connection committee, and the employee was reimbursed for daycare expenses for his other child and lodging during the baby’s hospital stay. In addition, coworkers eagerly donated paid leave hours so the employee could take more time from his job to care for his family without the stress of losing wages, a tremendous relief and comfort to the employee.

Hello Health!

At Castle Medical Center in Hawaii, a new project offers hope, information and encouragement to employees who are serious about changing their lifestyle and achieving a healthier weight.

Hello Health! was started by Jean Look, RN, case manager, and Ruby Hayasaka, RD, director of Nutritional Services. Through natural methods — meaning no supplements or surgery — both women have lost more than 100 pounds each. They wanted to share their success with other coworkers by offering support and advice in the form of a class.

“With our medical and nutritional backgrounds, and through our own experiences, we can provide education and support necessary to lose weight without medication or surgery,” said Jean.

“We are so grateful for our newfound good health, and we want to help other associates who are interested in losing weight naturally,” added Ruby.

The class meets once a week and starts off with exercise led by a guest trainer. After an educational segment, the meeting closes with members sharing their goals, victories and challenges.

“Sometimes the things that suffer in our busy lives have to do with personal health,” said Barbara Penniall, director of Emergency Services at the hospital. “Hello Health! is helping me set health as a priority. I schedule an appointment on my calendar to protect this time for me!”

In the three months since the class began, members are reporting better health, an improvement in attitude and decreased stress, and a steady healthy weight loss, Ruby reports.
Pathfinders Help in the City and on the Trail

Betty Cooney

Throughout 2010, SCC Pathfinder clubs have been helping in their communities — baking muffins for Habitat for Humanity volunteers in Ridgecrest, cleaning up hiking and park areas in San Dimas, feeding the homeless in L.A., gathering items for disaster relief and much more.

At M.E.N.D. (Meet Each Need with Dignity), more than a dozen Van Nuys Spanish Pathfinders filled food boxes and labeled them. “They had fun doing it,” said Lilian Gonzalez, club secretary, “until the end, when they got tired.”

White Memorial church Pathfinders were able to get several pallets of water and many other items for the Mexicali Earthquake Relief Effort,” said Gus Ramos, then the church’s deputy Pathfinder director. “Our leaders loaded up a truck and took Pathfinders to Mexicali to help distribute the goods, in conjunction with a children’s ministry called Smiles, based in the Alhambra church.”

Pathfinders and parents have enthusiastically volunteered for more than a dozen community service projects to date, receiving 20 points and a trophy per club for their efforts. Leaders report, though, that the fun and excitement of working together to help others far surpasses the awards.

Six Clubs Join in Park Cleanup, Bike-a-thon

Carlos Williams

The third annual Race to Race – Mercy & Grace Bike-a-thon drew six Pathfinder clubs, with more than 100 participants coming out to support the event. The bike-a-thon is a multicultural gathering that normally promotes better race relations and Pathfinders. A community project was added to emphasize the 2010 Pathfinder theme of community service.

With the support of youth ministries director Pastor Bob Wong and GLAR Pathfinder Council director Pastor Anthony Kelly, the annual event became a landmark. Held at the Frank G. Bonelli Regional County Park in San Dimas, clubs from the Altadena, Antelope Valley, Berean, Breath of Life, Pasadena and University churches participated in the bike-a-thon and worked together to beautify the park’s group picnic area. They cut and removed brush, swept up, and sanded and painted tables and benches. The afternoon was spent walking, running or biking a seven-mile mountainous course that some clubs used as a fundraiser.

“This event has allowed my club to build relationships with organizations and businesses in my community like the Valley Sports Foundation and Super King Market, which supported the event with an $800 sponsorship to our club,” the Altadena club leader said. “We also have developed a partnership with David Jallo, regional park superintendent, Los Angeles County. He was very pleased with the Pathfinders’ work at his park and would like to work together again in the near future.”
Pathfinders Respond to the Call to Help Earthquake Survivors

Clarence Brown

The lyrics, “Servants of God are we,” will have special meaning for the Breath of Life church Pathfinder club from now on. Nearly two dozen Pathfinders, with their parents and younger siblings, responded to recent media appeals to help the Salvation Army package meal bags for Haitian earthquake survivors. The goal turned out to be quite ambitious and daunting — to package a million meals!

When the Pathfinders arrived at the warehouse site in Bell, Calif., in the early afternoon of the last day of the “Million Meals for Haiti” campaign, they were given the challenge to join a team of volunteers to assemble the last 200,000 meal packets by 8 p.m.

“That sounded rather overwhelming at first,” conceded BOL Pathfinder director Alex Knights, a Master Guide. “But our Pathfinders are indeed troopers. They got their assembly line assignments and eagerly rose to the occasion.”

Each packet was to contain a carbohydrate, a vitamin powder, a vegetable medley, and a soy protein in sufficient portions to comprise a complete meal for six people. With determination and focus, the BOL Pathfinders found their rhythm and worked quickly and efficiently.

“Each time a box was filled, a rousing cheer was heard throughout the warehouse,” recalls counselor Lauren Lewis. “In fact, our club members worked so rapidly that they created a backlog at different stations, requiring the Salvation Army coordinators to recruit more volunteers just to keep pace and seal the boxes.”

At the end of the day, the Salvation Army proudly announced that they had exceeded their goal, packaging 1,000,020 meals. Everyone rejoiced as young Blake Cotton, a BOL Adventurer, sounded the victory bell.

“The highlight of this mission was our Pathfinders experiencing the joy of giving back to those who are less fortunate,” said Knights, beaming. “They exhibited an impressive witness to onlookers, and they understood a little better what Christ meant by, ‘Inasmuch as you have done it for the least of these, my brethren, you have also done it unto me.”

(L. to r.) Brianna Moss, Chaz Cotton, Isaiah Sears and Alvin T. Clavon III help package meal bags.
SCC Youth Rush Students Visit 200,000 Homes

Robert Koorenny

Coming from four out of five SCC academies, both Pacific Union colleges and local churches, 40 young people set out from early June through mid-August for the experience of their lives during SCC’s growing annual Youth Rush program.

“Youth Rush was absolutely God blessed!” said Leah Partmann, who worked in the Lancaster-Simi Valley program. “I made amazing friends for life, and it was spiritually growing.”

“I thought I knew how to pray before I came to Youth Rush,” commented Pricilla Salazar, a student from Norwalk. “I learned what it means to really pray.”

One student from the Altadena program was sharing with a lady who wasn’t able to get any books. After working the next few homes, the lady chased them down and said “I don’t have any money, but tell me about Jesus.”

Angelica Perez, from the Baldwin Park Bilingual church, worked in Thousand Oaks. At one door, she noticed a Bible text on the door. Introducing herself as a Christian student, she showed the woman the first book. “I’m a Christian, too,” the woman interrupted, “but I don’t have any interest in buying from solicitors,” and began to close the door.

Angelica held out a copy of The Great Controversy. “Wait! We’re different,” she replied. Met with a startled and somewhat angry gaze, she began sharing how being in a Christian school had led her to give her life to Christ, and how the book that she held in her hand was of special significance. Then she proceeded to show the book, Left Behind or Sincerely Taken?

“I want this one!” the lady remarked. “You’ll never believe this, but my best friend’s nephew is Kirk Cameron, who played the main part in the ‘Left Behind’ movie, and I am friends with the author of the book series. I’m going to buy this for him!”

SCC Youth Rush 2010 Statistics

- Students involved: 40
- Approx. homes visited: 200,000
- Pieces of literature distributed: 85,000 +
- Donations received: $173,000+
- Total provided for Christian education: $115,000+

‘Jesus Loves Jeans’ Missionaries Get Results

Pablo Gaitan

More than 130 SCC young people accepted the call to become small-group missionaries in their homes, following a Jesus Loves Jeans 2.0 rally earlier this year. A total of 45 small groups formed in 14 churches, beginning in April.

The Spanish Youth Ministries JLJ program concluded with a JLJ 2.0 Caravan reaping program. Excitement ran high. Nine churches held campaigns before the caravan, baptizing 43 young people during meetings held between late May and July.

Pastors and lay youth leaders worked hard to hold three simultaneous evangelistic caravans beginning July 17 in Lancaster, Oxnard and the Los Angeles area.

Pastor Piro Guzman, from Houston, preached in the Alpha and Omega Spanish church in Lancaster. “The whole series was conducted entirely by the youth, which is not customary for our church,” said Gerson Anaya, youth leader. “For five years, we had prepared the youth to lead. During the caravan, a different young person led out each night.

“By mid-week the adults attended, arriving early to get a seat!” The last evening, Guzman invited youth to the altar to pray for each adult in the church. “The church was very impressed, and praised God for the eight baptisms resulting from the meetings.”

In Los Angeles, Pastor Jonathan Henderson, from Oakland, traveled to five different churches during the week. On Sabbath, July 24, all three youth caravans came together for a convocation at the Spanish-American church. Young people celebrated the decisions of 13 youth to be baptized. Among the candidates was Daniel Cordova, whose older sister Berenice had been praying for him. “We were coming back from Tuesday’s meeting in Los Angeles when my friend and I prayed for my lost and rebellious brother,” she said. “The next day, he sealed his commitment to God.”

Pastor Lemuel Garcia, from San Jose, was the speaker for the meetings in Oxnard at the El Rio Spanish church. Young people organized the entire campaign with the Newbury Park, Santa Barbara, Santa Paula and El Rio Spanish churches. Each day, a young person from one of the churches led out. Four young people were baptized.

A young man among the newly baptized members was a former Adventist who had become involved in gang-related activities. “Before the meetings, he had started to get involved with church,” reported Pastor Carlos Granados, “but his older sister felt sure that he would refuse her invitation to attend the meetings. He surprised her and not only attended, but made his decision to be baptized the final night.”

Erratum

A photo caption in an article about the Eagle Rock church mortgage burning (Sept. 2010 issue) incorrectly identified one individual as Erich Knipschild. The firefighter shown actually was Keith Knipschild. We regret the error.
Tucson Desert Valley Church Spawns Northwest Heights Group

Andrea Kristensen

Following two years of church planting activities led by Pastor Gisella Montana, the new Northwest Heights group in Tucson, Ariz., celebrated its grand opening. Sixty-six members and guests attended the first official service on May 1, 2010. A buffet luncheon and open house for visitors was held May 15.

Montana, associate pastor of the Tucson Desert Valley church, and the group’s charter members currently meet weekly in a rented church at 480 East Ina Road in Tucson, where they welcome new members and guests. Sabbath attendance averages about 30.

The idea for the group began in March 2008 when Ed Keyes, Arizona Conference secretary, visited the Desert Valley church to talk about church planting.

Beginning in May 2008, the group met at the home of Chuck, Dee, and Ashley Finders, emphasizing spiritual growth and closer interpersonal relationships. They worked through two small-group seminars, “An Ordinary Day With Jesus” and “Faith and Culture Meet,” which convinced them they needed visibility through ministry to the community.

By early April 2009, the group began a series of four pre-launch Sabbath services, averaging 50 or 60 in attendance. At the end of May, the group hosted a free concert by Steve Darmody at Canyon del Oro High School, to which they invited the community. In September, Keyes presented a three-week seminar, “Searching for a God to Love,” at the local high school building with an attendance of 80.

Sensing a great need for a more permanent church location, Montana checked out a local church rental lead. Montana liked what she saw and called the church’s pastor, who arranged a tour within five minutes. Montana decided the facility would work well for the Northwest Heights group, and submitted a rental request. The Tucson Good Church pastor promised to consult with his church committee the next night and to reply by that Thursday.

Less than one month later, the Northwest Heights group members met for the first time in their new quarters on the first anniversary of their first pre-launch Sabbath service.

“We recognize the challenges lying before us, and we solicit the continued prayers and support of God’s people, which have sustained us during the past two years,” stated Montana. “We were never discouraged about the prospect of finding an appropriate meeting place over the many months we searched. We knew God was in control. God’s process and timing were perfect. And so was the result! We are blessed to worship at the Tucson Good Church. We believe that’s where God wants us, right here in northwest Tucson.”
Small Church Works in Big Ways

Shirley Chipman

The Phoenix Central church is small, but it embraces the call to a big mission — sharing God’s love and caring for His children.

Recently, a group of Karen Adventist families fled Burma (Myanmar) because of political persecution and settled in Phoenix. Someone directed them to Phoenix Central, where they were received with open arms. Approximately 40 of them now attend regularly — several joined by profession of faith and a number more were baptized. Each week’s Sabbath lessons are translated into both Burmese and Karen for the new members.

“We welcome this wonderful group of people,” says Pastor Eugene Taylor. “Five academy-age students plan to attend Thunderbird Adventist Academy this fall and need sponsors. We are pleased that one of these students, Nay Soe, just 15 years old, is on our church board to represent youth in leadership.”

Phoenix Central also has a number of active community outreach programs, including a booth at the annual 7th Avenue Merchants’ Association fair. Attendees stop by for blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings.

The church also hosts a monthly raw food potluck dinner. More than 70 percent of the attendees are not Adventists. They also regularly hold cooking schools and health lectures, including “Soup ’n Sandwich” each Wednesday evening, which is followed by a Bible study.

Savannah Neal, the youth leader at Central, recently coached two sports camps at the local elementary schools. Approximately 300 students attended over a two-week period, a number of whom later attended Vacation Bible School at the church.

In addition to friendship evangelism and community service, Phoenix Central is using technology to reach out. “Our latest adventure is called ‘Studio Spotlight,’” says head elder Stan Howerton. “It’s a half-hour TV program that runs four times a week on Good News TV, channel 44.3.”
Family Fun Takes Over Tuesday Nights at Riverside Church

Rebecca Barcelo

Children darting through sprinklers, dads sprinting to home base, and moms serving hot dogs and lemonade. This is how it was every Tuesday night, from June 8 to 27, as the Riverside church made families a priority this summer, hosting a weekly Family Fun Night for members of both the church and the surrounding community.

The inspiration for the recreation nights originally came from the church’s annual Easter Fair. Staff at the Riverside church noticed that each Easter Fair was packed to overflowing with people who would never set foot on church grounds otherwise; they were engaged by the food, recreation and fellowship to be had with people in their local neighborhood.

“We were excited by the turnout, and, after doing a recent survey in our community to see what people were interested in, we confirmed that many liked the idea of free social activities in the neighborhood,” said Eric Brown, senior pastor.

“We started our Family Fun Nights emphasizing that there were no strings attached and it was a simple way to meet new people and build community.”

With more than 100 people in attendance some nights, Riverside church staff members feel that they have successfully reached this goal. Family Fun Nights brought people together from different religious and ethnic backgrounds, and tried to engage all of the different age groups. A children’s bouncer, sprinklers and Slip ’n Slides were provided for the younger children while the older children and parents played soccer, volleyball, basketball and softball. A free dinner was provided for all involved.

“When coming up with ideas for Family Fun Night, my focus was mainly sports because of how many people are needed on a team to play them,” said James Carroll, Family Fun Night director. “We found that through sports, you find yourself next to a stranger, working toward a common goal, and pretty soon relationships form.”

Many of the families from the community have kept in contact with church members, often spending time together outside of Family Fun Night. Some ask about weekend church services, while others attend young adult small group meetings, Friday night worship meetings, or the Riverside church’s Celebrate Recovery program for those suffering from addictions.

“Some come back to our church, and some don’t,” said Brown. “Yet we want to make sure our emphasis is on relationships. People usually come back if they’ve formed relationships within our church that are having a positive effect on their everyday lives. That’s what we’re trying to provide here.”
High on a Hill, New Escondido Church Is Officially Opened

Jocelyn Fay

“You can’t miss this place on the hill as you drive by on the freeway,” Sandra Roberts noted at the Escondido church’s festive grand opening ceremony July 17. Located at 1305 Deodar Road, the church is visible on the west side of Route 15, towering behind Escondido Adventist Academy.

“High on a Hill, New Escondido Church Is Officially Opened”

Roberts, Southeastern California Conference executive secretary, represented the conference staff at the opening service, as did Gerald Penick, president, and Thomas Staples, treasurer.

Escondido’s mayor, Lori Holt Pfeiler, also celebrated with the members, former members and pastors, and friends. She presented Blue with a certificate of welcome from the city.

“The strength of the city comes from the strength of its churches,” Holt said, noting that the Adventist church has been in Escondido for more than a century.

Lucy Morris, a longtime member, estimated that about a dozen people there that day had been members of the church in 1984, when the congregation and its pastor, Carl Watts, made the decision to relocate.

Former pastors Gary Taber and Jon Ciccarelli reminisced at the grand opening about shepherding the congregation through the milestones and miracles — and many frustrating delays — during the 26 years between the decision to build a new church and the building’s completion.

Members began meeting in the church this past May, with Blue as their new pastor. Blue’s part of the grand opening ceremony was to point members forward.

“We rest on the promise of Scripture,” he said, referring to Philippians 1:6, “that He who began a good work in us will carry it to completion.”
Vacation Bible School presenters on the mission team from the Corona church prepared for what they thought would be another typical VBS program in tiny Naboutini village, Fiji, in July. They prepared talks, skits, puppet skits and music that would enable them to share Jesus and His love. But even though they knew unforeseen things would happen, they never dreamed they would put on a VBS program at a Muslim primary school, where Muslims, Christians and Hindus all learn together except for separate religion classes.

Upon the mission team’s arrival in Naboutini, one of the local church members took Corona member Sharon Anderson to see the school director to gain approval to minister to the children. The director told them all the reasons they could not. Then, as Anderson got up to leave, the director picked up the mega-phone and told her, “Go get your people and meet us out under the tree. I’ll call the kids.”

Anderson returned to the bus with the news, “We can’t talk about Jesus, but we can talk about God.” After making some quick program changes, the VBS team began their program under the big tree. Luckily, all the Bible skits and talks they had prepared were from the Old Testament. The music was the biggest challenge — substituting “God” for “Jesus” is a hard thing to do in songs such as “Let us Come Together, Praise the Name of Jesus.”

After the program, the kindergarten teacher asked the VBS team to return the next week, which they did. The children were wide-eyed and smiling as they watched and listened to the puppets singing about God’s love. They learned new Bible action songs; “Hallelu, Hallelu” was their favorite.

As the team left the school, they left a few supplies behind, including two puppets they knew would be greatly appreciated.

To one mission team member’s statement, “I feel guilty about only mentioning God and not Jesus,” another team member, Pam Nahab, replied, “Maybe our group was not led here to preach about Jesus. Perhaps we were called to get a foot in the door for others still to come.”

Perhaps now the door will be opened to publicly bring the name of Jesus to the children at the Muslim primary school. Perhaps it will be the members of the new Seventh-day Adventist church that the 42-member Corona mission team built in Naboutini during their 10-day trip to Fiji.
Victoria Members Celebrate 30th Anniversary

Paul McMillan

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in a triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For you, Victoria Seventh-day Adventist Church, have been to God the aroma of Christ for 30 years among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. Thanks be to God for you.”


Another highlight of the worship service was a PowerPoint presentation reviewing in pictures those 30 years. It began with pictures of volunteers working on the roof during construction in 1978-1979, followed by reminders of Vacation Bible Schools past, of baptisms and of churches birthed at Victoria (Loma Linda Spanish and Del Rosa). The newest fellowship being nurtured at Victoria is the XCell congregation. Most of the members of this group are active members of fellowship and worship cells that meet in homes during the week.

XCell members joined the congregation for this all-day celebration. After the fellowship luncheon, there were tours of the campus, including the vegetable garden, as well as a PowerPoint report of XCell’s Conquering Conference that had taken place two weeks earlier. Ten individuals accepted Christ as their Savior at that conference. Rounding out the day was XCell’s regular 4 p.m. worship service.

In anticipation of this event, the church patio was remodeled to create an inviting place for a variety of activities, especially celebratory meals and receptions. Five years ago, the sanctuary was redecorated with new chairs, lighting, draperies and paint. The patio renewal is the first step of a major renovation that is a part of the master plan and involves new restrooms and a new entryway. The building permit for this $250,000 project was expected soon after the anniversary service. A special offering of about $12,000 was received for the building fund during the celebration.

Victoria serves its community in partnership with several local organizations. The Christian counseling service uses two offices in the church Ministry Center. Inland Temporary Homes holds life skills classes each Tuesday evening. Redlands Adult School has held English language classes two or three mornings a week. Monthly meetings of retirees and of community organizations are welcomed at Victoria. Events such as recitals and family celebrations are not infrequent.

Pastor Michael McMillan and both the Victoria and XCell congregations invite visitors to fellowship with them, either occasionally or regularly. The Victoria church website, www.victoriaadventist.org, provides sermons and Sabbath school special features as well as outreach tools such as “Paper Airplane Gospel” and “Gospel-a-Month.” More than 400 people visit the website each month.
Wahiawa Welcomes New Pastor

John C. Williams

Hawaii’s Wahiawa church had been without a full-time pastor for more than two years. But lay members didn’t stand idly by waiting for someone to lead the charge. Instead, they took seriously the Lord’s commission to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

The Wahiawa church has a number of active and retired military personnel who run the church like a well-oiled machine. They have an active personal ministries team that is involved in outreach programs to the homeless in Honolulu and Waikiki, feeding and clothing the poor, visiting the sick and supporting or presenting local evangelistic seminars. Among those their efforts reached is 20-year-old David Goodwin of the neighboring town of Mililani. When he decided he was ready for baptism, church elders needed an ordained pastor to do the job. Head elder Dennis Grier gathered the elders together and prayed, “Lord, send us someone who will baptize David at the Wahiawa church among family and friends.”

Three days later, their prayers were answered when the church board received word that Pastor Eliezer Graterol was transferring to the Wahiawa church and would baptize Goodwin on his first Sabbath there.

Wahiawa members had encountered Graterol and his family at many functions around Oahu. “Pastor Elie,” as he likes to be called, had been shepherding the Waipahu church for five years. When conference leaders announced the plan to move Graterol to Wahiawa, members there were thrilled.

The news quickly spread and the whole church came together to welcome the new pastor and witness the baptism. “You couldn’t tell [Graterol] was delivering his first sermon” at Wahiawa, said one member, who said Graterol seemed to feel right at home.

Following his sermon, Graterol called Goodwin and his family forward, and told Goodwin’s mother what an honor and privilege it was to baptize her eldest son. After the baptism, Graterol asked the congregation, “Is there anyone else who would like to be baptized into the Lord’s remnant church?” Goodwin’s younger brother, Dominic, raised his hand. He is currently studying for baptism.

Wahiawa members are energized and looking forward to spiritual adventures with their new pastor.

Eliezer and Nelly Graterol (left) stand with Hawaii Conference President Ralph and Sharon Watts.
Las Vegas Youth Gather at PROPEL Rally

Loren Yutuc

Las Vegas is best known for its glitz and glamour, and not normally associated with spiritual events. But on Jan. 8-9 a large gathering of youth and young adults proved that spiritual events and knowing about Jesus could be fun in the city of lights. The conference organized a Las Vegas area youth rally at the Las Vegas Junior Academy gymnasium.

More than 500 young people from Adventist churches throughout Southern Nevada flocked into the LVJA gym for Friday vespers and Sabbath services. The theme — PROPEL — comes from the idea that God lifts His people up and propels them forward to do His evangelistic work.

Pastor Laffit Cortes, youth director for the New Jersey Conference, preached with the intention of inspiring the youth to go out into the city and share the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Attendees joined Laffit on various community outreach programs on Sabbath afternoon, ranging from handing out spiritual reading material to passing out bottles of water with encouraging notes attached.

“The youth rally was an awesome experience,” said Jan Serquina from the New and Living Way Fellowship. “It was uplifting and an exciting event. It was a great way to meet other youth and share that moment with others.”

ReLive, a young adult praise band from Loma Linda, and local church musicians provided music for the event. “PROPEL youth rally was a powerful time of worship, personal growth and living out the gospel,” said Chris Picco, a member of ReLive. “It’s such a blessing to be a part of an event where lives are changed and Jesus is lifted up.”

The next youth rally is scheduled for Jan. 21-22, 2011, featuring speaker Manny Cruz, associate director of youth/young adult ministries for the North American Division.

Nevada-Utah Welcomes New Secretary/Treasurer

Connie L. Smith Hall

Jason Dwight Bergmann joined the Nevada-Utah Conference staff as secretary/treasurer beginning Feb. 1. “Jason is a friendly, hard-working, conscientious person who loves the Lord,” said Larry Unterseher, conference president. “He has hit the ground running, and will be a tremendous asset to God’s work in the Nevada-Utah Conference.”

Bergmann graduated from Andrews University in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and went to work for the Michigan Conference Association, managing finances for the trust department and various investments, as well as the general operating fund. In 2005, Bergmann moved to the Washington Conference to serve in their treasury department.

Now that he’s at the Nevada-Utah Conference, he plans “to do the will of our Father and assist in providing tools and services to our pastors, teachers, support staff, and members for effective soul winning as we build the body of Christ together,” says Bergmann.

The New Jersey native and his wife, Francine, have one daughter — Amanda. His hobbies are woodworking, gardening, hiking/backpacking, mountain biking, mountain climbing, water and winter skiing.
Dave and Rosa Gillham Join the Central California Leadership Team

Caron Oswald

Dave Gillham always knew he wanted to be a church school teacher just like his mom. “My mother taught me in five of my first six years of school. I saw what a teacher did,” Gillham says.

But the shortage in family finances nearly derailed Gillham’s dream. For 10th grade he went to public school. “I was going to be a Daniel,” Gillham says. But when he made the varsity football and wrestling teams, his life slowly began to change. He excelled in sports, especially wrestling, where he competed in the state championship.

“I lost interest in spiritual things. It didn’t happen overnight, but the culture was so powerful,” he says. After graduation, he attended a public college “because my friends did.” And he majored in special education.

Like his friends, the party life was a part of his lifestyle. He’d receive letters from his mom telling him how much she wanted to see him in heaven, and during his junior year she confronted him. With tears streaming down her face, she said, “I’ve made a terrible mistake. I will do anything to get you back in an Adventist school.”

“Mom, it’s too late,” Gillham responded. But something in his heart began to soften. “There was no way I wanted to have a family with the girls I was dating. I wanted a Christian mate and thought, ‘If I wanted that, I’d have to be that.’”

Return of the Prodigal

He encountered Jesus in his dorm room one night. “Just try me. Just taste and see,” he seemed to hear. Sitting alone, facing all the things in his life that had ended in failure, the tough guy’s heart broke open and he let his Savior in.

“‘I give you my heart. You deserve a fair shot. The devil sold me a bill of goods. I hate my life,’” Gillham prayed. “And the Holy Spirit filled my heart.”

Change came quickly. The Bible and Conflict of Ages series became his favorite reading material. “I went ape over spiritual things,” he explains.

Walla Walla College was his choice for his senior year. There his passion for Jesus and Adventist education was resurrected. “It was an amazing place. Sure, there were kids in my dorm doing stupid stuff like I had done in public college, but I found the Christian fellowship I longed for, and I got involved.”

One other life-changing event happened — he met Rosa Con- ner. They married a year after his graduation. The Gillhams have four grown children — two girls and two boys — all married, and four grandchildren.

Living Lives of Service

Since graduating from college in 1973, Gillham’s experience has been wide and varied. A one-year volunteer assignment at the English Language School in Japan was followed...
by teaching and principal positions in Montana and Washington. Then six years at a mission school in Guam and teaching English at the Japan Missionary College took the family to exotic locations.

A Home Economics and Health major, Rosa was a stay-at-home mom for the first half of the marriage. “When our daughter turned 13, we knew it was time to return to the States,” Dave says. He also wanted to begin a doctorate program.

Principal at Campion Academy in Colorado was their next move. But his next job as an associate superintendent put him on the road most of the time. “What am I doing saving the world and missing time with my children?” he asked himself late one night. Just then, a radio program by Dr. James Dobson came on the air. The subject was the importance of the father in the family.

“Lord, if you want me back in the classroom, that’s O.K.,” he prayed. Within two weeks, both he and Rosa were asked to come to Ozark Elementary in Gentry, Ark. Both had teaching positions. Five years later, the same simple prayer took the family to Oregon to be near Rosa’s 88-year-old mom. “Everything I have done in my life is for my family,” Gillham says.

With their two boys at Loma Linda University, the Gillhams accepted positions at San Gabriel Academy in San Gabriel, Calif. Dave was principal, Rosa taught Life Skills, Health and Computer Applications. She is certified in elementary and secondary education, health and business.

When Dennis Seaton, vice president for personnel, called about the vice president of education position in Central, Gillham assured him they were not interested. “Would you at least talk about it?” Seaton asked.

“What appealed to both of us was the importance of children as a conference priority,” Dave says. Both will have leadership roles in the conference’s new Children First initiative.

“I want our children excited about staying in the church, to have a passion for sharing Christ,” says Rosa. As children’s ministries director, her initial plans are ambitious and include assisting teachers, pastors and church members in working together for the salvation of their children. A second priority is resourcing families to grow stronger in unity between husbands and wives.

Gillham clearly understands the importance of Adventist education. “We have a unique two-fold mission from God: 1) To disciple young people in a love relationship with Christ and, 2) To prepare our young people for the delusions coming — the final onslaught of Satan. There is not another Christian school that can do this for our children.”
Evidence Rally Draws Youth

Shenalyn Page

Alma Cervantes had always turned down her friend Lexi Alvidrez’s invitations to youth events at the Visalia, Calif., church. So Alvidrez never thought to invite Cervantes to the Evidence youth rally the church was holding Aug. 1-7 at a local high school’s theater. But when Cervantes wanted to hang out the first night of Evidence, Alvidrez told her about the meetings. Cervantes came and loved it. By midweek, Alvidrez was shocked to learn that Cervantes had joined the pre-meeting Bible study. At the end of the week, Cervantes chose to be baptized into the Adventist faith.

"Alma’s decision was completely unexpected, but completely a God thing," says Alvidrez, now a freshman psychology student at Southern Adventist University. “We’ve been friends since sixth grade, and now God has blessed me with the ability and opportunity to introduce her to Him. I’m amazed!”

Evidence sought to reach both Adventist and community teens through eight powerful personal testimonies.

“The best evidence for God is the miracle of a changed life,” says Ricky Schwarz, Visalia’s youth pastor and Bible worker who planned the rally. The guest speakers’ pre-Jesus experiences included teen pregnancy, drug dealing, mob membership, and schmoozing with celebrities as an acrobat in Cirque du Soleil.

“Evidence helped reflect on how much God has changed me,” says Emmanuel Abarquez, a junior from Bakersfield Adventist Academy. “I used to be an angry, bitter person but by the grace of God I have overcome that. And seeing other people share their experiences confirmed that God is the God of all goodly changes.”

Adventist youth blanketed Visalia with invitations and Schwarz personally visited the town’s churches and invited their teens. “I really liked meeting new people and inviting them to our youth rally,” says Jesselyn Rieke, one of several teens that accompanied Schwarz.

Ninety people came for the opening night and quickly climbed to 180 by the week’s end, nearly five times the attendance in previous years. Thirty-one teens, many of them from the community, committed to baptism or rebaptism.

Youth Pastor Ricky Schwarz, a former Cirque du Soleil acrobat, shares his journey to Jesus. A total of eight speakers gave their personal testimonies about their lives before and after their conversions.
“Prayer is why Evidence was successful,” says Schwarz. “Prayer was a really big part of it and we saw amazing answers to prayer.” The church’s Prayer Action Team prayer walked the theater’s facility each evening, interceded during the meetings and were available afterwards to pray with guests. Church pastor Chad Stuart adds that he was thrilled to see how the whole church pulled together to support the rally.

The meetings included contemporary worship music, announcements and mixers. Prizes were given to those bringing the most guests with them. One community girl brought 10 friends one evening and won the grand prize — an HD camcorder. Refreshments and fellowship followed the evening’s speaker.

“It was cool to see [community teens] coming. They kept asking when we were going to do this again because they wanted to be sure and come,” says David Urbina, a freshman at Armona Union Academy.

“Alma’s decision was completely unexpected, but completely a God thing,” says Lexi Alvidrez, a freshman psychology student at Southern Adventist University. “We’ve been friends since sixth grade, and now God has blessed me with the ability and opportunity to introduce her to Him. I’m amazed!”

Plans are already being laid for next year’s rally. Schwarz and Bible worker Noemi Roman are working to follow up with those who made commitments for baptism. Currently 11 individual and group Bible studies are in progress.

“Two years ago I had no idea about our church,” says collegiate Lindsey Leon-Guerrero, “so it was awesome to work with youth from other churches to reach out to people who are just like I used to be.”
Paradise Church Member Celebrates 105th Birthday

Julie Lorenz

Edith Skyberg celebrated her 105th birthday on July 26. She has been a member of the Adventist church for more than 80 years — 47 of them with her Paradise church family.

Born in Loveland, Colo., in 1905, she married Philip Skyberg in 1925. They had four children: Phyllis Baker, Marion Lane, Russell Skyberg and Charles Skyberg. She now has 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.

Skyberg worked for many years at the Voice of Prophecy in Glendale, Calif. In 1963, she retired to Paradise where she continued to serve her church and community in numerous volunteer positions. She is currently a resident at a skilled nursing facility in Paradise.

Mary Maxson, Paradise church associate pastor, has visited with Skyberg numerous times, and a favorite topic is “sharing her devotion to Jesus,” said Maxson. “Most of our conversations were about heaven and how glorious that day will be — seeing Jesus face-to-face.”

Ruth Ledington, Paradise church member, noted Skyberg’s interest in the families of old friends from years gone by. “She still remembers their children and their grandchildren and asks about them,” she said. “She’s really a neat lady.”
More than 100 people attended Sabbath services at this year’s Lassen Creek camp meeting, held June 24-27 in Modoc National Forest. The annual event is organized by small congregations on both sides of the California-Oregon border.

People stayed in RVs or experienced “primitive camping,” with no running water or electricity. “It’s way out here in the middle of nowhere. The creek runs through the camping area. It’s quiet and peaceful and beautiful,” said Bruce Blum, pastor of a five-church district in Northeastern California — Alturas/Bieber Company/Fall River Mills/Round Mountain and Surprise Valley.

This year’s main speaker was Calistoga church Pastor Owen Bandy, who spoke on “The Glory and the Covenants” based on his recently published book. “The revelation of God’s glory evokes a response which can lead people into the old covenant or the new covenant,” said Bandy.

Blum led early morning Bible study, and Red Bluff church member Linda McConnell presented several talks on health and organic gardening. There were also programs for youth and for young children. Keyboard and guitar music accompanied the singing, and the Portland, Ore., ABC held a book sale.

For people in the remote area who attend small churches, the chance to meet with a larger group of fellow Adventists was a blessing. “It’s very nice to be able to come to a camp meeting that’s close. The kids really enjoy it,” said Surprise Valley church member Elisa Robertson.

“The people were just very lovely — down to earth, happy people and it was a great experience,” said Bandy.

The annual camp meeting started in 2003 as just a Sabbath morning gathering in the forest. The event was initiated and developed by George White, then pastor at the Lakeview church just over the Oregon border. Through the years, “George just kept thinking bigger and bigger,” said Blum. “He called it ‘the biggest little camp meeting in North America.’”

White worked to promote the camp meeting by advertising and bringing in well-known speakers. Now, the event has stretched into four days, and campers gather for meetings in a large tent with a portable PA system. Current Lakeview church Pastor Jerry Bandy — Owen’s brother — has taken over as the chief organizer.

Those who attended this year hope to share the spiritual blessing and beauty with fellow believers next year. “It’s definitely worth attending,” said Robertson. “I hope more people come.”
After 46 years in Adventist ministry, Ernest Toppenberg and his wife Dorothy are retiring — again. They retired for the first time five years ago, but since then they have served in four different pastorates in the Northern California Conference, most recently in the Eureka/Orleans district.

“The Toppenbergs exemplify a willingness to help in the Lord’s work wherever there is a need,” said NCC Ministerial Director Ivan Williams Sr. “They continue to amaze me with their energy.”

Ernie Toppenberg spent his entire ministerial career in the NCC, except for three and a half years when the couple served as missionaries in Columbia. He worked under nine NCC presidents and ministered at 24 NCC churches.

“My greatest satisfaction is seeing individuals give their lives to the Lord in baptism,” he said.

Known for his willingness to do what needed to be done — from preaching to unplugging drains — Toppenberg demonstrated practical skills, as well as theological knowledge. He focused on the specific needs of each of his churches, telling his congregations: “I’m here to help you run your church; you’re the membership.”

“He has a level of commitment and hard work that is a testimony to me and to other pastors,” said Williams.

As he retires (again), Toppenberg’s advice to younger ministers includes: work in unity with your fellow pastors, spend more time in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and make family your top priority.

“More communication is needed between pastors and their families,” Toppenberg said. “They are number one; the church is number two.”

During his ministry, he reserved days off to spend with Dorothy and their two daughters, Elsena and Verna.

Married for 47 years, the Toppenbergs have made ministry a joint effort. Dorothy strongly believes that the ministry is a “team calling” for a pastoral couple. “Our ministry has thrived because we’ve both been together,” she said.

Ernie appreciates his wife’s many skills, among them counseling, planning and remembering names. In addition, “She simply supported me when I got discouraged, read the promises of the Lord and lifted me up,” he said.

The couple is moving to Edmor, Mich., to be near their two daughters, their sons-in-law (one of whom is a pastor of three churches) and five teenaged grandchildren.

“The Toppenbergs have made a significant contribution through the years to the work of God in the Northern California Conference,” said NCC President Jim Pedersen. “We have been blessed in many ways through their record of service here, and I wish them every good thing in the years ahead.”
El Dorado Adventist School Teacher Receives Award for Excellence

Julie Lorenz

El Dorado Adventist School math teacher Jerry Zappia received a 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Alumni Awards Foundation. The award was presented to him on June 4 at the Camino church during the consecration service on graduation weekend.

A veteran teacher, Zappia has taught math for 42 years in almost every venue possible: Adventist school, public school, community college, private tutoring and corporate training. He has also served as a Master Teacher in a university teacher-training program.

“I can’t think of anything else that I would rather do than teach math,” said Zappia. “It’s not a vocation, it’s an avocation, it’s a lifestyle ... It’s who I am.”

When students come into his classroom, Zappia tells them three things: “Math really is hard. I will teach you everything you need to know for this course — no surprises. If you have any questions, I am available day and night.”

He is true to his word. He tutors kids during his free periods, at lunchtime, after school and in the evenings. “At home ... he is known to spend upwards of an hour explaining math concepts by phone,” said EAS administrative assistant Bonne Daggett.

His teaching methods lead to success for his students. “If you don’t understand it one way, he has three other ways to explain it to you. You just can’t not understand,” said EAS senior Sean Coppola, who plans to study engineering.

EAS senior Chris Helms, who plans to study aviation, also feels that he has been well prepared by Zappia. “He has definitely helped me with ... a great base of knowledge.”

Zappia’s reputation as a teacher is known throughout the area. “He has been a favored math tutor in our community for years, and several community families have enrolled their students at EAS because they wanted Mr. Zappia to teach their children,” said Daggett.

“He has experience, he’s easy going; he has a very calming effect on our campus,” said EAS Principal Larry Ballew.

As a young man, Zappia planned to be a mechanic — cars being another great passion. However, at the urging of his father, he became a math major at Pacific Union College. While there, Zappia helped out in the junior Sabbath school division, discovered that he liked working with kids and decided to be a teacher.

“I love teaching,” he said. “I’m grateful to God for giving me this gift.”
PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

Pacifi c Union College was ranked among the 10 best regional colleges in the western United States by U.S. News and World Report’s annual “America’s Best Colleges” issue — one of the best-known and most reputable sources for college rankings. This is PUC’s 17th consecutive year on this list, which was released online and in print in August. In addition to the recognition for outright quality of education, PUC was also ranked number two in the region for ethnic diversity, and number three for value.

“Pacific Union College is again thrilled to be recognized as one of America’s Best Colleges by U.S. News and World Report,” says PUC President Heather J. Knight. “This recognition highlights PUC’s ability to make a distinctive impact and to deliver superior performance over a long period of time.”

PUC, ranked number 10, is in a category for institutions that focus on undergraduate education and grant fewer than half their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. The ranking evaluates more than 1,400 American colleges and universities. Regionally, PUC competes among hundreds of colleges in 15 western states, stretching from Hawaii to Texas.

High scores are based on such elements as peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. Ethnic diversity is evaluated as the proportion of total minority groups to the whole student body. Value is calculated as overall quality of the institution per average tuition minus average total of grants and discounts.

“PUC’s special recognitions for its celebrated ethnic diversity and its value make us an even more attractive choice and investment for families in hard economic times,” says Knight.

PUC’s regular recognition by U.S. News serves as a reminder of PUC’s strong heritage of academic excellence. PUC seniors in many disciplines consistently score well above the national average in Major Field Achievement Tests. They have a high acceptance rate with many top-notch graduate schools — especially medical and dental programs — and over the past 10 years, more of Loma Linda University School of Medicine’s graduates have come from PUC than from any other school. This spring, PUC’s nursing program achieved an incredible 100 percent board pass rate and is on track to repeat this feat in the current quarter.

The college offers more than 90 degrees and emphases, ranging from collegiate staples like business and the medical sciences, to unusual programs like aviation, to new and innovative programs like film and television and environmental science.

U.S. News and World Report’s evaluation of PUC can be found on newsstands or online at the magazine’s website. U.S. News also publishes the reports in “2011 Best Colleges,” a guidebook for college-bound students.
Loma Linda University won three Emmys June 24, taking home an award for each of its nominated categories at the 36th Annual Pacific Southwest Emmy Awards in San Diego. The awards were for “Loma Linda 360°,” the university’s documentary-style broadcast show.

Each of the nominated stories features outreach programs of Loma Linda University Medical Center. The story “Surgeons of Hope” won in the category of health/science program or special. Directed by first-time winner and second-time nominee Maranatha Hay, “Surgeons of Hope” tells the story of Holman Velasquez, a 14-year-old boy born with a fatal heart disease in Nicaragua. With no money to explore foreign options, Holman must undergo open-heart surgery in a country that is in the process of developing a successful pediatric heart surgery program. In order to have a chance at reaching adulthood, Holman and his mother must undergo a test of faith that nearly shatters their deep strength of spirit. Doctors from Loma Linda partner with Surgeons of Hope, a foundation devoted to bringing surgical care to indigent children in developing countries. This means survival for kids who wouldn’t have a chance otherwise. Hay is a video production specialist in LLU’s office of university relations.

“Armed for the Challenge” won in the documentary-cultural category. First-time-nominated winner Patricia Thio directed this project about Willie Stewart — a man of steel … and, yes, carbon fiber. “One Arm Willie” is set to defy his physical limits while training for the physically challenged triathlon USA championships. Determined to help others with disabilities as director of the PossAbilities outreach program at Loma Linda University Medical Center East Campus, this world-class athlete demonstrates that anything is possible. In the human-interest category, the Academy recognized “PossAbilities,” also directed by Thio. In the film, four PossAbilities members share their take on life after their injuries. From “normal” good lives to broken dreams, they discovered that despite how people treat them, they can still achieve their goals — they just have to do it differently. Thio is associate director of PR video in LLU’s office of university relations.

These compelling films demonstrate the impact we strive to have on all people who come to us for care at Loma Linda University Medical Center,” says Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of LLU and LLUMC.

To watch the Emmy-winning documentaries online, visit www.llu.edu/360. To obtain a DVD of these films, contact the office of university relations at 909-558-4526. “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 the PBS affiliate KVCR, Loma Linda Broadcasting Network, and Hope Channel. The show can also be viewed on its website www.llu.edu/360 and YouTube. In addition, Loma Linda University is proud to announce its new show, “Life on the Line,” which will begin airing next year. For an exclusive preview of the program, visit www.llu.edu/outoftherubble.

Maranatha Hay (left), video production specialist, and Patricia Thio, associate director for public relations video, win LLU’s first Emmy Awards.
First National Adventist Education Summit to Brainstorm Change

Darla Martin Tucker

Survey results from the La Sierra University-based CognitiveGenesis project show that Seventh-day Adventist education in K-12 schools is producing well-rounded, high-achieving students. Despite these successes, major funding gaps, school closures, sluggish staff recruitment and other issues continue to stymie the church’s education system at all levels across the nation.

In response to such pressing challenges, La Sierra University’s School of Education, home of the groundbreaking CognitiveGenesis Adventist education project, is holding a first-ever National Summit on Adventist Education Oct. 20-23. The summit will bring together principals, teachers, professors, pastors and top education leaders from around the country to forge creative methods of transforming current obstacles into opportunities for enhancing all of Adventist education.

“A national conversation is needed on where we are and where we need to be going,” said Dr. Clinton Valley, dean of La Sierra’s School of Education. He and Dr. Elissa Kido, professor of curriculum and instruction and CognitiveGenesis project director, brainstormed the national summit last fall. “It’s not just a meet and greet session. We want some practical solutions and recommendations for the improvement of the education system nationally.”

Titled “Crossroads of Peril and Promise,” the summit is co-sponsored by the North American Division, the Pacific Union and La Sierra University. The conference will explore four areas of Adventist education: identity and mission; membership involvement; marketing and enrollment; and funding.

Valley hopes the summit will lead to additional events and conversations on the identified educational challenges and recommendations. The NAD has 8,582 K-12 and higher education teachers and 879 schools including 15 colleges and universities. The Pacific Union employs approximately 1,300 K-12 teachers, principals and superintendents in 150 schools.

“There are many, many people who think they can run Adventist education better than Adventist education, and we need to, as a system, listen to some of the voices,” said Larry Blackmer, vice president of the NAD’s Office of Education. He believes several key issues are pertinent for discussion at the summit, including the relevance of

Major funding gaps, school closures, sluggish staff recruitment and other issues continue to stymie the church’s education system at all levels across the nation. The Pacific Union employs approximately 1,300 K-12 teachers, principals and superintendents in 150 schools.
Adventist education to the Adventist church, and “vindicating the quality of Adventist education in the minds of our consumers,” such as through the results of the CognitiveGenesis study.

“We need new eyes to make sure we’re doing that in a manageable, intelligent, wise way. I’m hoping the variety of voices around the table at La Sierra will help us find ways to best do that,” he said.

“It’s a great way for principals and other education leaders to network and share ideas,” said Kelly Bock, director of the Pacific Union education department. “The whole issue of financing Adventist education is critical for us to consider. And we need to continue to return to our spiritual mission. We hope people who come will leave with an enhanced ability to lead the future,” Bock added, that they will gain “confidence and a sense of urgency and mission for the future.”

Author and Pastor Shane Anderson will deliver a summit keynote address on Oct. 21 titled “Re-emphasizing the Essentials, Recognizing the Threats.” Anderson has written for a variety of Adventist publications and is the author of the recent book, How to Kill Adventist Education (and How to Give It a Fighting Chance!). Anderson is senior pastor of the campus church at Shenandoah Valley Academy and Shenandoah Valley Adventist Elementary School in New Market, Va. A frequent presenter at camp meetings, schools, and conference retreats, Anderson conducts training seminars in the areas of Adventist mission, post-modern ministry, lay-led churches, and most recently, school revitalization.

The roster of presenters includes Harvard public health professor David Williams, professor of public health in the Harvard School of Public Health. A Seventh-day Adventist, Williams is the most quoted African-American social sciences researcher in the country and is a sought after speaker internationally. His summit presentation will look at “Adventist Education in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities of a Changing Social Context.”

Edwin Hernandez, a national researcher, will follow Williams with a presentation on “Diversity and Community.” Hernandez is the senior program officer for Research, Education and Congregation Initiatives at the DeVos Family Foundations and serves as the director of the Center for the Study of Latino Religion at the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Hernandez is a member of the CognitiveGenesis advisory committee.

For further information about the La Sierra University National Summit on Adventist Education, call Dr. Marilyn Beach, project assistant, at 951-785-2997. Conference attendees may receive a special rate at the Riverside Hampton Inn on Riverwalk Parkway. For information about hotel accommodations and a summit event schedule, check the summit web page at www.lasierra.edu/NationalSummit.
Shirley Burton, Former Pacific Union Communication Director, Dies at 83

Shirley Burton, former Seventh-day Adventist world church communication director who helped shape church public relations, died Aug. 16 at the BryanLGH Hospital in her native Lincoln, Neb. She was 83.

According to a family spokesperson, Burton died of complications following a massive stroke she suffered at home the previous Friday.

Burton’s denominational service spanned more than four decades, including stints as professor, dean, editor, and director of public and media relations before her appointment in 1988 as communication director for the world church, a post she held until 1994.

Burton was a “genuine pioneer” in print-oriented church public relations and, with M. Carol Hetzel, among the “most prominent women in church communication” at the height of her career, said Robert Nixon, who preceded her as communication director.

Burton earned a bachelor’s degree from Union College in 1949, shortly after which she began teaching English, journalism and speech at Oak Park Academy in Nevada, Iowa. Another education post followed — this time, at Laurelwood Academy in Gaston, Ore. Colleagues said she was influential in shaping the church communication careers of many of her students.

In 1961, Burton earned a master’s degree in communication from Southern Oregon College. Afterward she studied at the University of Oregon under a fellowship from the Wall Street Journal.

In 1963, Burton accepted a job as director of public relations for the Oregon Conference. Six years later, she served in the same capacity for the Pacific Union. While here, she also acted as managing editor of the Pacific Union Recorder.

In her final editorial for the Recorder, Burton envisioned church communication solidifying an Adventist presence in the secular media, writing that Adventists should be known as leaders in humanitarian outreach and mission work and seen as “happy, rejoicing Christians.”

In 1985, Burton accepted a post as associate director for communication at world church headquarters. Three years later, she was elected director of the communication department at headquarters.

During retirement, Burton volunteered for Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries.

“Shirley’s example of selfless service for the Savior and faithful communication to the saints will always be treasured in our memory,” said Roscoe J. Howard III, president of the Mid-America Union.
YOUTH CONVENTION (Oct. 2) Fresno Adventist Academy. Info: Lisseth, 559-347-3176 or lpsillas@ccsda.org.

HISPANIC MEN’S RETREAT (Oct. 8-10) Camp Wawona. Info: Florina, 559-347-3150 or fmorales@ccsda.org.

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE (Oct. 15-17) Sequoia Conference Center. Info: Norma, 559-347-3174 or nvillarreal@ccsda.org.

THE GENESIS ACCOUNT: Fact or Fiction? (Oct. 15–16) Dr. Arthur Chadwick will present multi-discipline evidence supporting the Genesis Account Friday at 6 p.m. and all day Sabbath. Groveland church, 1958 Elder Lane. Light lunch/supper provided. Info: Lisseth, 559-347-3176 or lpsillas@ccsda.org.

SEVEN STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM (Oct. 16) Dr. Gordon Botting, Milpitas church, 1991 Landess Ave. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Info: Silvia, 559-347-3122 or sflores@ccsda.org.

La Sierra University

VESPERTIS CONCERT (Oct. 15) Featuring students from LSU’s Invitational Choral Clinic, 7 p.m., Hole Memorial Auditorium.

CLINIC CONCERT (Oct. 16) Featuring students from LSU’s Invitational Choral Clinic, 4 p.m., LSU church. Info: 951-785-2036.

NORTH AMERICAN SUMMARY on Adventist Education (Oct. 20-23) Hosted by LSU School of Education. Info: 951-785-2997 or www.lasierra.edu/nationalsummit.

FIRST SERVICE WORSHIP. Fridays at 7:45 p.m. LSU church. Info: 951-785-2090.

Loma Linda

“GENDER AND WHOLENESS: Healing the Wounds in the Body of Christ” (Oct. 15–16) Dr. Judy Gundry, research scholar and associate professor of New Testament studies at Yale Divinity School, will be presenting four lectures on what Paul really says about gender and families, and our value to God and to the Church. Info: www.llu.edu/religion or rjbrower@llu.edu or 909-651-5952.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

OPERATION GLOBAL RAIN (Sept 24-Oct 2) 7-9 p.m. Sacramento-Capitol City church, 6701 Lemon Hill Ave., Sacramento. Ten days of prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Info: 916-381-5353.


PATHFINDER CAMPOREE (Oct. 7-10) Redwood Camp. Info: Youth Department, 925-685-4300.


CAPITOL CITY SINGERS (Oct. 9) 7:30 p.m. Verizon “How Sweet the Sound” regional competition. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. Come support the choir as they minister in song. Info: 916-381-5353.

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (Oct. 11-17) Leoni Meadows. Info: Church Growth Department, 925-685-4300.


SONOMA COUNTY MEN’S MINISTRY RETREAT (Oct. 28-31) Themed “Service is our Calling.” Pastor Bill Pennick, speaker. Wolf Mountain Camp, 1655 Jericho Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95949. Info: David Hall, 775-322-6929 or dhall@nevadautah.org.

SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

SAFEPLACE (Oct. 2) 6:30 p.m., Azure Hills church, 22633 Barton Rd., Grand Terrace. Church-wide social
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**CHURCH TREASURERS WORKSHOP** (Oct. 3) 8:30 a.m., SECC office, 11330 Pierce St., Riverside. Info: 951-509-2243.

**NEW LSU CHURCH Worship Schedule** (beginning Oct. 2): 8:30-9:15, liturgical service; 9:30-10:30, church@9:30 (traditional service); 10:45-11:45, church@study (Sabbath school/small group study); 12-1, church@noon (contemporary service), La Sierra University church, 4937 Sierra Vista Ave., Riverside. Info: 951-354-7095.

**BIBLE CONFERENCE** (Oct. 9-30) “A Future and a Hope,” a Christ-centered approach to Adventist doctrines, by E. Dean Peeler. 7 p.m., Fri/Sat/Sun/ Wed, Corona church, 2550 S. Main St., Corona. Info: 951-737-5953.

**FILIPINO CONVOCATION** (Oct. 15-16) Loma Linda Filipino church gym, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Friday evening vespers, all-day Sabbath program. Info: Samuel Gaurino, 909-954-6690; Ely Sacay, 909-709-8448.


**Southern California**


**SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT SERIES** (Oct. 9) Featuring organist Kemp Smeal. 4 p.m., Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. (www.glenadelcitysda.com). Works by Handel, Bach, Sawyer and others. Reception following the concert. Info: 818-244-7241.

**DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING** (Oct. 9) Pastors and lay people will learn how to do a Discover Bible School in their churches. Trainer, Vi Bokermann. 2 p.m. Temple City church, 9664 Broadway. Refreshments served. Info: 818-546-8437.


**SHARE HIM TRAINING** for Lay People (Oct. 16) 9 a.m.-5 p.m. SCC office, 1535 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-546-8405.


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Events

FALL DINNER EVENT (Oct. 10) 6:15 p.m., featuring “The Bessie and Beulah Comedy Show” with an introduction by Dr. Lee Berk, nationally-known expert on the role of humor in a healthy life. Sponsored by the National Auxiliary to the Alumni Association, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Wong Kerlee Conference center on the LLU campus. For seating and ticket prices contact@llumedaux.org or 909-559-4639. Deadline: Sept. 27.

REGISTRATION is now open for the Secrets Unsealed Summit (Oct. 28-31) at the Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite National Park. “The Wise Shall Understand—Dan. 12:10” is the theme. Speakers are Pastor Stephen Bohr, Samuel Koranteng-Pipim and Dr. Milton Teske. For additional information and to register online, please visit www.secretsunsealed.org or call us at 888-REV-1412. Secrets Unsealed is a ministry of the Fresno Central church. Register early. Space is limited.


TOTAL VEGETARIAN COOKING Seminar (Nov. 28-Dec. 12) Intensive 14-day seminar focusing on healthy food preparation, nutritional insights, meal planning, gardening, and more. Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Cost: $575 per person. (Includes room, total vegetarian meals). Contact: Darlene Keith, 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthtreetrain.org. E-mail: drlenekeith@gmail.com.

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REEDER, MERLIN ALBERT – b. March 18, 1933, Monte Vista, Colo.; d. April 12, 2010, Salt Lake City, Utah. Survivors: wife, Arlene; sons, Dennis, Gary; Donavan, Steve; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sisters, Mabuta Eager, Elsie Russell; brother, Harold. Served as principal at Loveland Elementary; teacher, assistant boys’ dean at Campion; teacher at Salt Lake Junior Academy and SLC school system; and at Glacier View Ranch.


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