Connecting the Pacific Union Adventist Family

Recorder

July 2011

Loma Linda Graduates Record

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About the Cover

Reiker Schultz, M.D., is the 10,000th medical school graduate and a third-generation alumnus of Loma Linda University School of Medicine.
Consider the following: “Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a re-organization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend” (Selected Messages, book 1, p. 128).

It is clear to me that when we have returned to our “first love,” as Revelation 2:4 references, that a true revival will lead us to examine our spiritual lives. As the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.”

If we are being revived from our spiritual lethargy, or resurrected from spiritual death, it only seems reasonable that we would take a serious self examination, an honest review of our lives under the spotlight of the Holy Spirit, to see how we measure against the expectations of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If, as quoted above, “Reformation signifies a re-organization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices,” then what ideas, theories, habits and practices would we consider changing?

Perhaps we could review our private and corporate worship practices. Is private worship a priority? Are we spending appropriate time alone in the Word of God to help us “hear” a word from the Word? Are we worshiping God the way He wants us to, or are we building our worship practices around our own interests and desires instead of on a “thus saith the Lord” foundation?

The primary task of worship is simply that, to worship God. In worship, we come to God that He may fellowship with us and we with Him. In both public and private worship, we can pour out our hearts to God in adoration, praise and thanks and become subject to His wisdom. In worshipful prayer, we can receive from Him whatever He desires to give, including but not limited to forgiveness, direction, correction, encouragement, boldness and a desire for holy living.

What about how we are using “our” money? After all, all things rightfully belong to God (Haggai 2:8; Psalms 50:12), and we are but stewards of what is rightfully His. One day He will call us into an accounting of what He has placed in our care.

Have we dismissed the importance of the health message, with its emphasis on dietary issues? Our bodies are the “temple of God,” and as stewards of the bodies He has given us, we should be careful how we use them.

I can almost hear some of you saying, as was said of an old preacher in the midst of one of his sermons, “He has left preaching and gone to meddling!” This, of course, is not my intent. Nor is it to be judgmental.

However, if we are serious about revival, we must also think about reformation, and that not in the abstract, but in particulars.

While I am not an expert in all things spiritual, it is my sincere prayer that as the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ, draws near, that we would experience genuine revival and reformation in our churches here in the Pacific Union. Our eternal destiny depends on it.
Constituency Session
Delegates Join Digital Age

Alicia J. Adams

The Southern California Conference leapt into the digital age at its 63rd quadrennial constituency session, held May 15. Delegates received preliminary documents via e-mail, downloaded everything from parking information to proposed bylaws revisions at the dedicated session website, and logged all their session votes using electronic “voting cards.”

The voting devices eliminated the need for teams of people to count paper ballots or count delegates raising paper voting cards. The total time for each vote — from the signal to begin voting to the display of the results on the projection screen — was typically 10-15 seconds.

“The really appreciated the unique way in which the 2011 session was conducted; it was such a smooth way! The electronic voting devices were outstanding,” said Charles Dolcey, men’s ministry coordinator and a member of the University church. Dolcey has been a delegate at several previous sessions. “Using these, the session was especially effective compared with the way voting was done in past sessions.”

Delegates also prepared for the future by changing the conference bylaws to include electronic notification among the acceptable ways to post notices of business sessions and to communicate with delegates.

With the new technology, delegates zipped through conference business at near break-neck speed. Following a presentation on the status of the Newbury Park Development project, delegates re-elected Larry L. Caviness president. “While mission always has been our primary focus, the last four years have required a concentrated effort on strengthening the conference finances,” said Caviness. “Members have been faithful and God has blessed. Today the conference is in a much stronger position financially. Also, during the last four years, several outstanding evangelistic series were conducted within the conference territory.”

Also re-elected were Velino A. Salazar, secretary; Sung H. Oh, treasurer; and James G. Lee Jr., vice president.
Harold Crook, long-time principal of Newbury Park Academy, was elected superintendent of schools, replacing retiring superintendent Richard Carey.

Department directors, associates and assistants will be appointed by the executive committee at their next meeting.

Caviness highlighted the activities of various regions (geographic territories) and conference departments in his president’s report.

Oh, treasurer, reported that the financial health of SCC has improved in the past five years as a result of an average annual increase in tithe of 1.68 percent, a five percent decrease in payroll expense, and a reduction in office staff by attrition.

Oh’s report was based on the 2010 conference operating fund. “The conference operating fund is the most important fund of conference operations, which includes a major resource of income: tithe,” said Oh. “The entire conference operations are based on tithe income. Therefore, diligence in stewardship is essential.”

Salazar, secretary, reported that two new church communities have been established in the past four years — the Persian and Jewish congregations, sponsored by the Canoga Park church. In already-reached cultures and languages, four new groups formed, eight attained company status, and one reached full church status.

“God’s church in Southern California has been the depository of abundant talents and resources to communicate to our territory His love and His soon return,” said Salazar. “Let us use them willingly, wisely and with fervor.”

Lee, vice president, reported, among other things, that during the past quadrennium, Southern California Conference Adventist Community Services volunteers (29,988 of them) have served more than a quarter of a million hours, providing help for 363,916 people. “The services include, but are not limited to: help for the poor, health screening and health education, inner-city programs, family-life education, disaster relief, tutoring and mentoring, summer camp, soup kitchen, self-help groups, Crisis Care, Elder Care, Youth Empowered to Serve and addressing the AIDS epidemic,” explained Lee. “The Adventist Community Services organization is designed to provide structure to facilitate and support these services.”

“Looking ahead, we must now put our best energies into spiritual nurture for our members and creating new evangelism programs to draw ‘seekers for God’ into His kingdom,” said Caviness. “We must be more intentional in praying for God’s guidance as we lay plans for creative evangelism to impact the community members of this large metropolitan area in which we serve.”
Two Churches Reach Out to Art Community

Betty Cooney

The Alhambra and Long Beach churches in the Southern California Conference hosted art contests and other events that attracted community interest and participation.

Hosting their fifth annual juried art exhibition, the Alhambra church was open to artistic expressions from many media and included children's art. “Live Masterpieces” — costumed tableaux — depicted scenes from the story of Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection.

“Our goal for the contest,” said coordinator Martha Hartie, “was to provide artists with an opportunity for expression to share the gospel with those who would receive it best through the medium of art.”

Prizes ranged from $50 to $300. Winners included Breath of Life member Sheron Petrie, first prize; Alhambra members Gary Smith and Pauline Lopez, second and third prizes, respectively; and Eddie Sanchez, a community resident, winner of the children’s prize.

“The church put up the prize money,” said Hartie. “We were delighted to share the story of Christ’s death and resurrection through the medium of art. Our evangelistic outreach programs fed into this event, and we were encouraged by the community’s participation.”

The Long Beach church focused on the Easter weekend with a full schedule of events as well as an art contest offering a grand prize of $1,000.

The Forgotten Day of Easter Art Contest challenged artists to submit artwork depicting the artist’s interpretation of Jesus on the Sabbath between the Friday crucifixion and the Sunday resurrection.

According to Pastor Mike Elias, promotion and funding of the contest came from the community. “The Long Beach Art Council posted our contest on their website,” he said. “A private art studio promoted the contest at their studio. A local business rented the church parking lot for an event, and our church used that money to pay for the contest.

“Many community people called for contest information. A number of artists brought their friends to see the exhibit the week after Easter. One family who had left the Adventist church entered the contest and started coming back to church.”

The church’s Easter weekend schedule began with a Friday-evening service, continued with the Sabbath morning worship service, a Sabbath evening communion service and a Sunday Easter sunrise service. “Among the 22 people who attended our first sunrise service were seven neighbors from the community,” reported Elias.

All artists and community attendees received a Forgotten Day booklet. “A special outcome,” added Elias, “was that we learned that students at California State Long Beach were discussing what happened on Saturday the day after Christ was crucified.”

The contest awarded five Honorable Mentions; first, second and third runner up prizes were awarded to Maria Korol, Collette Brown and Patrick Farrand, respectively. Grand Prize winner was Michelle Orozco, a student at Cal State Long Beach.
Students Plant Trees in Angeles National Forest

West Covina Hills Adventist School students joined with TreePeople, Angeles National Forest, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Forest Aid, many parents and volunteers, and ventured into the Angeles National Forest to plant trees as an (early) Earth Day celebration.

The area of the forest that they visited was part of a 161,189-acre section destroyed by the 2009 Station Fire. On Friday, April 15, 2011, WCH students were instructed in the proper use of tree-planting equipment, from the obligatory hard hats to the McLeod, a combination rake/hoe used by firefighters.

Older students used the tools to cut holes in the ground for the pine seedlings. Younger students packed dirt around the seedlings. Kindergarteners and smaller siblings became adept at locating branches, rocks or pine cones to place near the seedlings to shield them from the wind and sun until the roots have had a chance to do their job.

“I felt excited, because I like plants. From the top of the hill we could see all the burned trees, and there were only a few that were still alive,” said sixth-grader Steven Seader. “I would recommend doing that in your free time, because if you had seen all the dead trees, then you would want to plant more. I hope all our little trees grow up and become big trees.”

The day was beautiful and sunny, perfect weather for the WCH family to spend a day out in God’s glorious nature. “I liked the trees,” commented Andrea Mendez, a kindergartener. “We dig, and we put in the plants. I tree-planted. My favorite part was putting on our hats.”

Kindergarten teacher Patty Inouye was very excited about the event. “I thought it was a great experience for the kids. I explained to my students that, because of God’s blessing us with the trees, we get all these wonderful things from them — oxygen, our homes, bubble gum, chocolate, etc. You just can’t believe how many things come from trees! To be able to give back, to help our environment, is what this was teaching them.”

After planting more than 300 trees, and with almost as many aching muscles, the group descended the mountain. Their clothes could rival the surrounding dirt in color, but the students felt satisfied that they had made at least a small contribution to “brighten the corner where they are.”

Approximately 1.9 million seedlings will be needed to plant the area in the Angeles National Forest. TreePeople expects to plant 23,000 during the planting season (March and April) of 2012 and again in 2013.

For information on how to help, contact Andres Altamirano, a supporter of the school and facilitator of the event, at MisHermanosPequenitos@gmail.com.
William Arnold has replaced Teri Boyatt as an associate superintendent in the office of education. In his 35 years as a teacher, he has had a wide range of experience. He taught in elementary, high school, boarding and day schools and served as an administrator. For the past 13 years, he was the principal of Loma Linda Elementary School, and he served some of those years also as assistant head principal for K-12.

In his new position, Arnold is looking ahead: “I am hoping to make a difference and advance the education program for our conference. I want to affect student learning and teacher preparation and see that resources are provided so that our education system can be the best system available.”

He also admitted that working in administration has its downside. “The biggest thing I miss is the kids,” he said. “I miss being directly involved with them. I also miss the teachers, the parents and the connections with the community that have been created.”

After 35 years of working as a teacher and administrator, Boyatt will retire from the conference office of education, where she worked for five years, focusing on elementary curriculum development, preschools, music festivals and testing.

Before joining the conference, Boyatt taught in a diverse range of schools in different states. She brought experience from both the public school and Adventist education systems.

“She came to us right out of public school and brought ideas and strategies that were helpful for us. She will be missed because of her passion for the students and teachers. She made sure that teachers grew professionally,” said Don Dudley, conference education superintendent.

Douglas Herrmann is the new chief administrative officer of Loma Linda Academy. He oversees the elementary, junior high and high school, each of which has its own principal. Herrmann has “returned home,” as he calls it. In his 30 years working as an educator, he was at Loma Linda Academy for 24 years, where he served as a Bible teacher for seven years and then principal of the high school for 17 years.

He was asked, in 2005, to join the conference office of education, where he worked for five years as associate superintendent. During this time he managed secondary curriculum development, chaired school boards, and organized junior and senior Bible conferences.

Herrmann left the conference staff last year to work at La Sierra University as an associate professor in the School of Education, in the Curriculum and Instruction department.

“I never had intended to leave the university and figured I would finish there. But, I love K-12 and I look forward to building relationships with churches and the community.”

Herrmann replaces C. Edward Boyatt, who was the CAO last year for Loma Linda Academy. Before working at LLA, Boyatt was a professor and then dean of the School of Education at La Sierra University.
Quiet Hour Ministries Supports Its 53rd Airplane for Mission Service

Michael Porter

For Adventist mission aviation, this was truly a milestone. On April 19, the very first Kodiak destined for Adventist mission service was dedicated. This aircraft has been flown to Papua, the Indonesian half of the island of New Guinea, where it will be operated by Adventist Aviation Indonesia.

For Quiet Hour Ministries, an Adventist supporting ministry based in Redlands, Calif., the occasion was no less auspicious. It was the 53rd mission airplane QHM had helped send into mission aviation service in the ministry’s 74-year history.

Quest Aircraft Company, makers of the Kodiak, hosted the dedication at their headquarters in Sandpoint, Idaho. More than 100 people attended, including area church members, honored guests and Quest employees.

Among the speakers were Michael Porter, Quiet Hour Ministries CEO; Robert Folkenberg, Jr., Upper Columbia Conference president; and Hartley Sakul, a pilot for AAI. Others in attendance included Ralph Lombonaung, a mechanic for AAI. Both Sakul and Lombonaung hail from Indonesia.

During the service, Sakul remarked at the tremendous capability of the Kodiak airplane. Across Papua there are hundreds of mountain villages accessible only by aircraft operating in and out of landing strips, some of which are at high altitude and extremely short. Flying an airplane specifically designed for such demanding conditions will open many new doors for AAI’s outreach.

Folkenberg told the audience how excited the Upper Columbia Conference was to be neighbors with Quest aircraft and to have such a close connection to worldwide mission aviation.

“This Kodiak is the first of what we trust will be several Adventist Kodiaks,” said Porter. “Today we’re here to rejoice in this marvelous tool designed and built to help reach some of the 800 million people who can only be reached with the gospel by airplane.”

Concluding the program, all the attendees encircled the plane and placed their hands on it for a prayer of dedication.

The Kodiak has now joined AAI’s fleet, based in Sentani, Papua. AAI was founded in 1972 with a single Cessna 180. Today AAI transports missionaries, medical patients and vital mission supplies to remote villages across Papua.

Quiet Hour Ministries was founded in 1937 and has reached more than 135 countries. QHM has been active in mission aviation since 1965, when the organization sent its first aircraft to Papua New Guinea.
Community Services Retreat Provides Spiritual and Practical Inspiration

Julie Lorenz

The annual Northern California Conference Adventist Community Services Retreat had its best turnout in recent years. More than 130 attended the gathering at Leoni Meadows, May 8-11.

The annual retreat is designed to thank ACS volunteers throughout the conference by providing several days of spiritual refreshment. Speakers this year were Karl Haffner, senior pastor of the Kettering church; Gaspar Colón, dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Washington Adventist University; and Martin Feldbush, ACS crisis care coordinator for the Western United States.

In addition to the speakers, attendees enjoyed a full program of events. Recording artists Jennifer LaMountain and Kelly Mowrer ministered through music, and NCC Community Services Director Gordon Botting presented health lectures. The cooking demonstrations (and snacks) by Debi Pedersen, wife of NCC President Jim Pedersen, were popular with the attendees, who received a cookbook co-written by the Pedersens. For the retreat’s mission project, the group donated almost $1,000 to help people meeting in “house churches” in China to purchase permanent church facilities.

Botting designed the gathering not only to be a spiritual retreat, but a time to educate volunteers about new resources. “We use the retreat to keep people informed so they can keep up with the changing technology, such as e-reporting to national headquarters,” he said. “We also want them to think about new things like gardens and thrift stores.”

The highlight for many was the special tribute paid to Fredi Jones, former NCC Community Services Federation president, and her husband, Ethan, former NCC disaster response leader, both of whom stepped down from their positions at the end of 2010. Fredi has worked with ACS since 1954, when she became a local leader at the Napa church. She also served as a regional leader before becoming president.

“I want to thank Fredi and Ethan for all their help and advice through the years,” said Bill Horn, new Lodi area president. “They are non-judgmental, kind and caring; they put others first.”

“Every time that I needed them, they were there,” said Jim Oliver, the new Federation president, who is aided by his wife, Carolyn. “I just hope and pray that I can follow in their footsteps and take community services to another level.”

Members of the Sutter Hill church, the Olivers have served in community services for about 15 years and have just recently completed a non-profit leadership certification course. Jim hopes to expand the organization’s reach into nontraditional areas, including thrift stores, clinics and other forms of outreach. “A whole lot of ministries are going to come under the community services umbrella,” he said. “We’re not going to abandon what we’re doing. That’s our foundation — the food, the clothes, the furniture — but we want to build on top of that and move in this new direction.”
Pathfinders Enjoy a Day of Fun at the Fair

Julie Lorenz

About 600 Pathfinders, staff and volunteers from 37 Northern California Conference clubs participated in the 2011 Pathfinder Fair on May 1 at Napa Christian Campus of Education.

In the morning, the clubs marched in the Pathfinder review and saluted NCC President Jim Pedersen, as he and NCC Pathfinder Director Eddie Heinrich “surveyed the troops.”

Throughout the rest of the day, the kids played games and sampled a variety of international food sold by local clubs to raise money for club expenses. Just before the event’s end, Heinrich gave out prizes, including five scholarships to Leoni Meadows summer camp for $100 each.

Besides being fun, the Pathfinder Fair reinforces the sense of community among Adventist kids in Northern California. “At the fair, I saw a kid from my cabin at summer camp last year,” said Pleasant Hill club member Jonathon Ranney. The adults also enjoy the chance to interact. “I liked being able to talk and connect with other parents,” said his mother Lori.

“Events like these remind kids that there are other Pathfinders who really love Jesus and like to get together and have a great day,” said Heinrich.

Heinrich is already at work on next year’s Pathfinder events, which include the Pacific Union Camporee in March.
Marxmiller Receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Taneshia Farquharson

Since 2003, the Alumni Awards Foundation selects 10 recipients for the annual Excellence in Teaching Award. Candidates are teachers in Adventist schools in the North American Division. Jim Marxmiller, science teacher at Mountain View Academy is one of the 2011 recipients.

“I’m a brain architect,” Marxmiller says. “I open minds and create new ways of thinking and exploration for my students. I believe that if you expose students to lots of things, they become more than they thought they could.”

This philosophy has guided Marxmiller during his nearly 40-year career as a science teacher at MVA, where he also serves as vice principal. He sees both his career and the award as a true blessing. “It is a blessing to share God’s second book and watch students explore conceptions of things they have never seen before,” he explains.

Marxmiller’s nomination was powered by the board and alumni of MVA, who wanted to recognize not only his years of enthusiastic and dedicated service, but also his work as a class sponsor and his commitment to fundraising for the science department.

“Jim Marxmiller has such a love and an enthusiasm for science,” Principal Dan Meidinger says. “I love watching him teach and seeing the light come on in his students faces as he unfolds their love for nature and science.”

His fascination with nature began when he was in the third grade and his father brought home a special treat. “I was instructed to get his lunch box and as I opened it, there was a shiny green and red beetle. It was beautiful and together we pinned it, starting my insect collection,” he describes. “My love for nature and sharing it with others was ignited.”

The pivotal point that rocketed him into teaching was a senior class Cadet Education elective which he took in 1968 at Modesto Union Academy, Ceres, Calif. “It gave us first-hand teaching and lesson planning experience. I felt a very positive leading by the Holy Spirit that year,” he says.

He received a California State renewable full tuition scholarship that enabled him to attend Pacific Union College. His senior year brought much prayer for employment. He was thrilled to be offered a position teaching science at MVA.

“I have no doubt looking back at the 37 years of science teaching at Mountain View Academy, God’s leading was nothing short of providential,” Marxmiller says. “I have been privileged to teach two generations of students, several of my former students are my peers in teaching.”

Marxmiller is especially grateful for opportunities to give back. He is a resident naturalist for his Sunnyvale church’s Vacation Bible School, gives local elementary school presentations and, for the past three summers, has taught for PUC at their Albion Field Station.

He has been married to Karyn Aitken since 1972, and together they have two sons, Gregg and Eric.

“In the 1830s, Charles Darwin collected the Sally Lightfoot Crab, Grapsus grapsus, on a trip to the Galapagos Islands. Jim Marxmiller is seen here holding the famous crab while on a Mountain View Academy mission trip to Ecuador in March 2010.”

“Jim Marxmiller is a hardworking, dedicated Christian teacher and with such high standards of excellence, he is very deserving of this award,” says David Gillham, vice president of education at Central California Conference. “He embodies the highest qualities of a Christian teacher, adding to the mental, physical and spiritual development of our students, and we thank God for his ministry.”
Oahu, Hawaii, teens recently promised God that they would seek His guidance when making choices in their lives — especially choices about personal relationships.

Those promises followed Hawaiian Mission Academy’s week of prayer and Ultimate Date weekend event, both featuring Pastor Jesse Seibel; Gayle Clark, R.N., director of Miracle Meadows School in Salem, W.V.; and Pastor Sam Leonor, chaplain, La Sierra University.

The week of prayer focused on authority as it relates to peers, parents, other “in-charge” individuals and, ultimately, Jesus Christ.

For the weekend Ultimate Date event, parents and teens from around Oahu gathered for a smorgasbord of seminar choices, including “He Says, She Says,” a look at how males and females communicate; “Why the Wait” for teens; “Strategies for Parent-Protection” for parents; skills for decision-making; and gender-specific topics, including “Delights and Devastations of Dating” for the ladies and “Faithful or Fatal” for the gentlemen.

The weekend wrapped with promises — from God to the teens, and from the teens to God.
PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

PUC Announces 2011 Maxwell Scholars

Larry Peña

Pacific Union College has selected the recipients of this year’s prestigious Maxwell Scholarship. The scholarship rewards incoming freshmen for high academic achievement, a commitment to Christian service, and outstanding leadership experience with $15,000 in annually renewable funding — $60,000 over the course of four years at PUC.

These students comprise the third group recognized by the Maxwell Scholar Program, which was established at PUC in 2009 to recognize the late Malcolm and Eileen Maxwell, former president and first lady of PUC. Applicants must meet GPA and test-score requirements, and the ranking of their applications is based on résumés, an essay, and letters of recommendation.

This year’s winners are:

Lydia Kore
Loma Linda Academy
Loma Linda, California

As senior class president, Lydia Kore has been called a “driving force of change on campus.” Her leadership has influenced her class to focus on service, pushing them to plan outreach at the Ronald McDonald House, area nursing homes, and even on-campus to the underclassmen. In her free time, Kore tutors and gives Bible studies to underprivileged children in Riverside and on the weekend participates in community service activities with her church. She has served on mission trips to Mexico, Portugal and Kenya, and volunteered at the local food bank. Kore is actively involved in a number of campus clubs — all service-oriented — and she is a member of the varsity basketball and flag football teams. She also plays in the school brass and wind ensembles and the symphonic band. Kore has won numerous academic achievement awards and is among the top students in her class.

Aaron Jewett
Thunderbird Adventist Academy
Scottsdale, Arizona

Quite the leader, Aaron Jewett was elected to class president four times — every year of his high school career. He was captain of his varsity basketball and baseball teams and captain of his junior varsity basketball team. Jewett is also a member of the school band and drama club. Academically, Jewett is a member of the National Honor Society, and has received many awards for academic excellence. Jewett also volunteered as a youth leader at Camelback church, where he has preached and served in numerous community improvement campaigns. In 2008, Jewett was a youth division preacher in the Shawn Boonstra evangelistic series. In his spare time, Jewett is a member of the Jewish Community Center basketball team and he has participated in the Mud Madness triathlon, Walt Disney half marathon, and the Christian wakeboard tournament.
Melissa Khoury
Marina High School
Huntington Beach, California

Despite competing against a high school population of more than 2,900 students, Melissa Khoury was a standout on campus. She served as associate student body vice president during her senior year, was one of the homecoming queen nominees, and won second runner up in the Miss Huntington Beach Scholarship Pageant. Khoury also was an active member of the Key Club on campus, and president of the Active Advantage club, a group that has a major focus on the Special Olympics. Khoury is a member of the California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, and an Athletic Scholar. She played on the varsity tennis team at her school, along with the junior varsity tennis team and the freshman-sophomore soccer team. Khoury has served her community in her responsibilities as Miss Huntington Beach Princess, as a certified Special Olympics coach for volleyball, and as a spokesperson for the Christian ministry organization Youth Equipped to Serve.

Krystal Park
Paradise Adventist Academy
Paradise, California

Krystal Park is well-rounded, having participated in everything from music to sports to theater. During her senior year, Park was not only senior class president but also associated student body president. Academically, Park

Tori Fode
Sacramento Adventist Academy
Carmichael, California

Tori Fode served in student government for a number of years, including in the office of senior class president. She also played varsity flag football, was first chair clarinet in the school concert band, and a member of the school choir and handbell choir. In addition to her academic and leadership accomplishments, Fode volunteered 75 hours at Mercy San Juan Hospital in Sacramento, independently raised $700 for a local crisis center, and participated in a mission trip to Honduras. Tori also volunteers at her church, has preached at several worship programs and hosts a weekly Bible study in her home as outreach to local students.

Semi-finalists for the Maxwell Scholarship receive $12,000 in annually renewable funds. This year’s semi-finalists are Selina Breshers from Los Angeles Adventist Academy; Christopher Helms from El Dorado Adventist Academy; Rebekah Ihn from La Crescenta Valley High School; and Sarah Hall from Fort Bragg High School.
Babylon Rising Lifts Spirits in Las Vegas

Denny Krause

The world was to end on Saturday, May 21, 2011, according to Harold Camping, a religious leader with hundreds of thousands of followers around the world.

It didn’t happen! Instead, Camping’s prediction intensified interest in a four-day evangelism series May 25-28 in Las Vegas, providing new beginnings for hundreds of people searching for truth in this earth’s last days.

Sponsored by It Is Written and the Nevada-Utah Conference, Babylon Rising was planned as an interest-gathering mini-series to be followed by a full-message evangelistic series in early 2012 at the same location. John Bradshaw, It Is Written’s speaker/director, delivered the messages for Babylon Rising and will be the speaker for the 2012 series, as well.

Held at Cashman Center, a prominent Las Vegas convention venue, the event attracted more than 2,000 attendees, with an estimated 1,000 solid interests moving forward with Bible studies in the coming months.

The ripple effect went far beyond Las Vegas. As a web-based event, thousands more viewed the series from individual homes and group venues throughout the world. Only God knows how many of those viewers will seek Bible studies or attend local churches, which could lead to hundreds, if not thousands, of future baptisms.

Bradshaw, an animated speaker, held the attention of the crowds by speaking the truth about Babylon and its relationship to the end of the world. He focused on Jesus, lifting Him as the answer to the world’s problems and soon-coming Savior.

Attendees represented the entire demographic spectrum — young and old, churched and unchurched, Christians and non-Christians.

“After each meeting, I met with a group of young people, most of whom were heavily tattooed and had multiple body and facial piercings,” said Bradshaw. “Many people were surprised to see them at a Bible series, but this group was committed to following Jesus and had numerous insightful questions. We spoke at length every day, and they even brought friends with them to remaining meetings.”

“The Babylon Rising attendance far exceeded my expectations,” said Larry Unterseher, Nevada-Utah Conference president.
The President’s Pen

The Ultimate Announcement

by Larry Unterseher • President, Nevada-Utah Conference

The announcement over the loudspeaker shattered the relative silence of the East Coast discount bookstore, “At 2:00 p.m. our guest author will be arriving and bringing special guests with him. Make your way to the second floor now so you won’t miss his presentation!”

I was on the second floor, looking for appropriate, children’s religious books for my grandson, and couldn’t help but notice dozens of people sitting in chairs waiting expectantly for something.

By listening, I overheard that many of them had been there for several hours, but hadn’t heard what they were waiting for.

As the clock ticked closer to the 2:00 p.m., the announcements became more frequent and intense. Every time, I missed hearing the author’s name, and when I asked someone in the very large, growing crowd, they replied, “I’m not sure, but he’s a famous author.”

Finally the announcement came, “J. J. Abrams is being escorted to the second floor by his guests!”

I must admit I had no clue who J. J. Abrams was and because everyone seemed so excited, I was embarrassed to ask. When I saw his escorts, some dressed in plastic Star Trek-like costumes and one in a giant furry costume, I assumed he had written something about Star Trek. (He was a movie director I found out later.)

I soon learned he hadn’t even written a book yet, and his yet-to-be-named book was being proclaimed as an award-winning best seller!

My friends, there are people around the world who expectantly await the arrival of a true best selling author, King Jesus! He is not an author of some science fiction about stars in space, but the Creator of every star and planet in the vastness of space! He won’t be escorted by people in costumes, but by glorious heavenly angels! He is coming soon!

The announcements or signs of Jesus’ soon return have shattered this world’s relative silence and are becoming more frequent and intense! Will He come on May 21, 2011; October 21, 2011; or December 21, 2011?

No. The old hymn by Sarepta Henry and Will Pontius says it well: “We know not the time when He cometh, at even, or midnight, or morn; It may be in deepening twilight; it may be at earliest dawn. He bids us to watch and be ready, nor suffer our lights to grow dim. That when He shall come, He may find us all waiting and watching for Him.”

If someone had asked who I was waiting and watching for, could I tell them? Could you?

The recent Babylon Rising series in Las Vegas proves there are hundreds of people in Las Vegas alone who are asking that very question: “Who is Jesus?”

Could it be that someone you know, wherever you live, needs to know who Jesus is, and is waiting for the ultimate announcement? If we stay focused on Jesus, we will be able to answer that question with a resounding YES! and be witnesses to the world.
Progress Report on Our New Conference Office Building

Renovation at our new conference office building in south Reno is progressing. Walls are up, electric and data cables have been installed, drywall is 50% complete.

The operational half of the building currently under renovation, approximately 3,000 square feet, will include ten private offices, a small conference room, a reception area, a work room, and an employee break area.

The half of the building not currently under construction will need future minor modifications to accommodate meeting and support space for pastors, teachers, and other groups.

Creating adequate and efficient space with room to expand in the future is our goal. We want to reduce our utility costs and maximize our operational efficiency to allow more funds to be available for our all-important work in the field. As we work with the latest, required building codes in the renovation of our “new” six-year-old building, we see our goal taking shape.

You may be asking, “When will the new building be ready for the office staff to move from the current location?” That is a good question!

Our contractor is working diligently on the renovations while at the same time working with the city to meet required square feet, will include ten private offices, a small conference room, a reception area, a work room, and an employee break area.

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You may be asking, “When will the new building be ready for the office staff to move from the current location?” That is a good question!

Our contractor is working diligently on the renovations while at the same time working with the city to meet required codes, being ready for inspections, and cooperating with the city on changes they periodically make to our plans.

We are anxious to relocate to our new office and plan to move as quickly as possible after receiving final occupancy approval. Unfortunately, at this time that is a moving target! Until then, we thank you for your continuing prayers and financial support for this project. It is good to work together in building Christ’s family in the Nevada-Utah Conference.
Abundant Life Christian Academy Acquires Dream Bus

One of the newest schools in the Nevada-Utah Conference is Abundant Life Christian Academy. One of the newest major acquisitions by a school in the Nevada-Utah Conference is a bus purchased by Abundant Life Christian Academy.

It all started with a dream.

After Abundant Life Church in Las Vegas had opened a new school, senior pastor Calvin Rock, along with the church body, dreamed of being able to provide adequate transportation for school field trips and other activities in addition to youth-related activities in the church.

The dream turned to a vision and the church went on a mission to raise funds necessary to turn the dream into a reality.

Fundraising for the new $52,000, 39-passenger bus went into full gear.

Unfortunately, the financial aspect of the bus dream stalled at $37,000 of funds raised. What to do?

Fortunately, through the generosity of Nevada-Utah Conference members throughout the conference who faithfully contribute to Conference Advance offerings, an additional $15,000, to complete the bus purchase early in 2011, was provided through a conference fund for assisting school operations. (25% of Conference Advance offerings go to this fund.)

Commenting on the bus acquisition, Abundant Life Christian Academy principal, Johnny Holiday stated, "The bus has been a tremendous blessing and asset to the school. It has afforded the teachers and students a plethora of opportunities to enhance the implementation of curriculum and instruction."

Not only has the new bus enhanced the school program, it also has provided an abundance of opportunities for church youth activities, including the Pathfinder Club and Adventist Youth Society.

Abundant Life youth pastor, Russell Lewars, adds, "The youth are particularly excited and grateful for the sacrifices of the church and conference."

Congratulations to the Abundant Life Church and School are in order! Also in order are thanks to the many Nevada-Utah Conference members who consistently remember Conference Advance offerings in their overall giving to the church.

by Denny Krause
Communication Coordinator, Nevada-Utah Conference

The dream turned to a vision and the church went on a mission to raise funds necessary to turn the dream into a reality.

Tahoe Camp Meeting and Nevada-Utah Conference Greater Reno Area Convocation Share Beautiful Venue

Imagine spending a day or two, or even five or six, on the shores of one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, relaxing in the shade of a towering Lodgepole or Ponderosa Pine, while listening to the calls of a Yellow-Headed Blackbird and the staccato hammering of a Hairy Woodpecker.

Continue imagining that for those days you were in the midst of hundreds of like-minded, Christian people at an old-fashioned camp meeting, sitting in the shade of large tent and listening to Spirit-filled speakers and uplifting Christian music.

Your imagination can be a reality if you plan to attend the lay-led Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting at Camp Richardson on the California side of the South Lake Tahoe area beginning Monday evening, August 1, 2011, through Sabbath evening, August 6, 2011.

Beginning with the evening meeting on

Continued on the next page
Friday, the Nevada-Utah Conference pastors from the greater Reno area will be leading out in the Nevada-Utah Conference Greater Reno Area Convocation meetings and activities for adults and children.

One of the highlights of the week-long, double event will be a nostalgic Wedgewood Trio Concert at 3:00 p.m. on Sabbath.

The evening speaker for all nights will be well-known pastor, professor and chaplain, Dr. Bill Kilgore.

Tent and RV sites are available on the campus, and hotels and motels are available in the nearby area.

Daily meetings, programs, and seminars are available for adults and children. Vegetarian/Vegan food service is available for daily breakfast, lunch and dinner at a nominal cost.

Don't simply imagine this amazingly wonderful experience. Be there!

For more information, visit the website tahoeccampmeeting.adventistfaith.org.

For reservations: contact Virginia Rose at tahoeccampmeeting@gmail.com or call (916) 967-5932.

Wasatch Hills Church Named Global Leadership Summit Downlink Site

In an unprecedented move, the Wasatch Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church has been named the only downlink site in Utah by The Global Leadership Summit, for its 2011 two-day event, August 11 and 12.

The Global Leadership Summit, developed and presented by Willow Creek Association of South Barrington, IL, is one of the world's premier business and non-profit/church leadership training events. The Wasatch Hills Church is the first Adventist church known to have been named a downlink site in the seventeen-year history of the world-wide event.

The annual event is designed to bring together leaders from a myriad of business and non-profit organizations, including churches, to be taught first-class leadership principles and ideas by some of the world's greatest organizational leaders who are faculty/speakers for the event. Most of the speakers are Christians themselves, and espouse Christian values in their presentations.

One of the goals of the event is to bring nominal or non-Christians leaders into a decidedly Christian setting, with the idea that some Christian values will "rub off" and relationships with Christians will blossom.

The event is live at Willow Creek Church in the Chicago area, but is downlinked to approximately 150 church sites in North America. The only other site in the Nevada-Utah Conference territory is the Canyon Ridge Christian Church in Las Vegas.

This year's faculty/speakers for The Summit include 11 internationally known, top-flight business and Christian leaders, from the business and church world.

Many pastors and members from the Nevada-Utah Conference have attended the event in previous years, and report that pastors, members, and church leaders in the Nevada-Utah Conference can immensely benefit from The Global Leadership Summit, especially since leadership is taught, not doctrine.

Pastor Bernie Anderson, Senior Pastor of Wasatch Hills Church, and previous Leadership Summit attendee, comments, "We see hosting the Summit as an opportunity to welcome church, civic, and business leaders into our church for a life changing, inspiring conference."

For further information, visit the website at www.willowcreek.com/summit. For special pricing and further information about the Wasatch Hills site, email Pastor Bernie Anderson at bernie@wasatchhills.org or call (801) 484-4331.
FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Have you ever done something you wished you could take back? Like something really stupid!

When I was eight I was trimming the bushes with the hedge trimmer. I thought, man this thing can cut really well! Since I was blessed with the man gene, I started trying different sizes of sticks to see how big of a stick it would cut.

I saw right away that it would only cut a pencil-size stick and would not cut anything larger. Now this is when this male trait really kicked in and common sense went out the door. I wondered if I could stop it with my finger!

So without much thought I put my finger between the blades and pulled the trigger. And you know what, I figured out that my finger, a little larger than a pencil, was not quite as tough as a twig!

Although I got out of playing the piano for the next couple of months, I wished I had remembered what my mom had always said about safety first.

As humans we can do some really dumb things – sometimes we know it and other times we don’t. And in the process, it can hurt us – and those around us.

The disciples were not exceptions when it came to making bad decisions.

In Mark 10:13 we read, “And they brought young children to him, that He should touch them and His disciples rebuked those that brought them.”

Can you believe this? The disciples thought what they were doing was right – but they were turning the children away from Jesus!

Fortunately it doesn’t end there. Verse 14 continues, “But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of God. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.”

What a beautiful picture of our Savior, the King of the Universe, taking time for the little children, picking them up and putting them on His lap to bless them!

As Youth Director for the Arizona Conference, I have the privilege of leading out in many programs that provide opportunities for our youth to meet Jesus, be blessed, and have their lives changed.

One of my favorite programs is summer camp. Last summer at Camp Yavapines, 79 young people gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized. You see, camp is not just about fun and games, although that’s part of it. But it’s about taking the hand of Christ and the hand of the child and putting them together.

We believe that summer camp is evangelistic in every way. It provides an environment were children can feel safe, loved and accepted. Best of all, they learn how their Creator is excited about them and wants to have an intimate relationship.

We believe so much in summer camp and what it does for our youth that we have made it so affordable that anyone who wants can attend. For just $100! Last year we were blessed to have more than 740 campers! I hope we have even more this year.

My prayer for each one of us is that we will lead His little lambs to the foot of the cross and that He will bless their lives – and ours!
Living Waters International, an Arizona ministry based in Payson, has been quite busy in Kenya over the past year. Teaming up with Maranatha Volunteers International, ASI, and the East African Union, Living Waters has erected 74 of the One-Day Churches in the Central Kenya Conference and the Kenya Lake Conference. The locations of the churches ranged from the Kibera slums in Nairobi, to the bush of Nyanza province, to the islands of Lake Victoria.

Joby Oft, son of Living Waters founder Daryl Oft, spent six months erecting buildings that are now providing places of worship, schools, and medical clinics for more than 15,000 people. Traveling across Kenya, he lived and worked with the Kenyan people to start this work. Four Kenyan men were trained to work with impact drivers, squares and a variety of tools to provide the steel frame and roof building. The completion of the walls is the responsibility of the local congregations of which many choose brick, reed, metal siding or just open ventilation.

The buildings were provided to congregations that had no church structures and met under a tree, or their current structure was condemned, or the current building was much too small to hold the number of people meeting there. In most cases, the size of the congregations has doubled since receiving the new structures.

"The thing that amazed me and I did not expect," reports Joby Oft, "was that many of the churches were used seven days a week for schools, nurseries and a place for medical services to be provided. It isn't just a church, it is a place for community activities during the week."

Five of the structures were ferried in canoes across large bodies of water to two islands in Lake Victoria. Then all of the materials were hand-carried up steep mountain trails as much as two miles inland where some of the churches now stand.

He continues, "The work was grueling, but in the end all of the construction team was very satisfied to have a part in providing a place of worship for so many."

Stories of miracles abound and God provided His hand of safety to the crew. On April 28, Daryl Oft and his son Justin returned to Kenya to erect 37 more churches in the Kenya Coast Field. This is a particularly challenging location as the majority of 75 to 95 percent are Muslim.

Maranatha reports that 1650 One-Day Churches have been erected in 22 countries worldwide. Living Waters has built just fewer than five percent of those churches and continues to increase that number. East African Union has requested...
Builder Joby Oft stands with church members who look forward to worshipping in the newly constructed One Day Church.

"It isn’t just a church, it is a place for community activities during the week."

one container for each of their eight conferences. With 37 churches per container that would equal 296 additional places to worship and serve God in Kenya.

Living Waters also takes a part in filling the churches. In February 2011, four members of the Payson church and a family member from Oregon traveled to Kenya and held two concurrent evangelistic campaigns. The fishing villages of Litare and Lwanda, both in Kenya Lake Conference, had two weeks of meetings which resulted in 186 baptisms in Lake Victoria.

Husband and wife teams of Russ and Sharon Judd and Daryl and Mary Jo Oft directed the campaigns. Daryl Oft’s sister, Twyla McKinney, provided children’s meetings and health talks and many Kenyan nationals assisted to make the meetings a success. Many nights the average attendance at each site was over 1000. The meetings were held outside with cattle, goats and pigs walking through the meeting sites.

All of those baptized were provided with Bibles which often became their most prized possession. Although everyone requested Bibles, they had to be limited to just those who were baptized. The funding for the Bibles came from the Payson SDA church.

Besides the joy of so many giving their hearts to Christ was the collateral benefits. The Litare village councilor reported to Sharon Judd and her team, “The late night drinking in the village has stopped because of your meetings. And where our men were hardly catching any fish at all, now their nets are overflowing!”

Living Waters operates a feeding center in Kaswanga, Kenya that provides weekday meals, school uniforms and medical care to 135 orphan children. There are six full-time staff employed by Living Waters to manage and operate the center and provide security and gardening in the two-acre garden. 28 of the children attending the feeding center have been baptized.

Living Waters is also the major sponsor to Kaswanga SDA Academy where 56 students attend grades 1-4. While the team was in Kenya they erected the steel frame and roof for the new school.

To learn more about the Living Waters International ministry, please go to www.LivingWatersInt.org or contact Daryl Oft at 928-978-3899.
Midvale Park Tax Miracle

Tucson Midvale Park church treasurer, Winson Young, could hardly believe the $12,000 tax bill he received from Pima County for the school property taxes. The tax obligation for the 24-acre school property had suddenly jumped 3.4 times what it had been previously. The church simply did not have the money to pay the tax bill.

Pastor David Moore asked for special prayer from his congregation regarding the enormous tax debt. He also shared this burden with his wife, Jane, who works as a dental hygienist.

The following Tuesday, Jane began her dental routine on patient Jim Wezelman, an attorney she had previously met professionally. He told her that his field of work focused on property tax issues.

She shared the plight of the Midvale Park school crisis and was pleased when he gave her his business card and suggested that they contact him later that evening. Moore made an appointment to see him the next day.

Wezelman advised Moore to apply for a full exemption. While gathering the necessary paperwork, however, Moore realized that he had gone through this same process two years prior, but with no success.

Wezelman encouraged Moore to complete a Taxpayer Notice of Claim and present it to the tax office where he had been told previously that he was ineligible.

As the tax team escorted Moore into the conference room, they apologized for a mistake that had been made. They said that Jim Wezelman and his partner had been in contact with them by phone and they were glad to announce that the taxes, instead of being $12,311.50, would only be a little over $4,000.

Although grateful for the corrected figure, Moore explained the architectural plan that was in place to eventually build a church, a gymnasium and a ball diamond that would utilize the entire property. After examining the plans, they were granted a full exemption.

Moore tells of the experience in amazement, “I had shared all this information with the exemption office in 2008 but did not get the same response. Now we have the exemption plus we will receive back payment of the taxes with interest! In addition to this recovery of our property taxes, attorney Wezelman did not charge for his services.”

“Needless to say, we are overflowing with gratitude to God for his marvelous works,” continues Moore. “Some may wonder why God didn’t help us accomplish the same objective two years earlier when the same paper work had been filed. From my perspective, it was God’s way of helping us realize how dependent we are on Him.”

Constituency Corner

Our 29th Constituency Session is fast approaching and the agenda for the Session will be set at the next Executive Committee in September. With that in mind, I wanted to let the Arizona Family know of the timeline and process relevant to submitting items for consideration to be placed on the agenda.

The following is from the Bylaws, Article V, Section 2, as approved by the delegates during the 28th Constituency Session held on September 23, 2007:

The quadrennial meeting agenda shall be prepared by the Conference Executive Committee. Any member in regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church residing within the territory of the Conference who wishes to submit items to the Executive Committee for consideration shall do so in writing to the Conference President at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting.

The first item of business at any meeting shall be the approval of the agenda, at which time a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present shall be required to add items to the agenda. No items may be added to the agenda after its approval.

Any items sent to my office must be postdated no later than August 2, 2011 to be considered by the Executive Committee at its September 8, 2011 meeting.

Thank you.
Tony Anobile, President
Thankful for God’s Word

When we went to our mailbox the other day, we found a pleasant surprise waiting for us. There was a letter from our friends, Tom and Betty Christian, who happen to live on Pitcairn Island. The envelope was postmarked March 11 — but it didn’t reach our home until May 24! It takes a while for mail to come and go from that far-off location, depending mostly on when a ship may come by the island.

As we read the letter, we were happy to learn what’s been going on there, and to see photos of their family, including grandchildren. By reading the letter, we were connected a bit with their lives. We smiled at some of the news and felt concern as they shared some of their challenges. Our day was immediately brightened as we received these special words from our friends. And one of these days soon, we’ll undoubtedly send a return letter their way.

God has shared His letter, His Word, with us through the pages of Scripture. We know that those words, authored so many years ago, still have the ability to bring us joy, knowledge and wisdom, as we take the opportunity to read and reflect on them.

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God has shared His letter, His Word, with us through the pages of Scripture. We know that those words, authored so many years ago, still have the ability to bring us joy, knowledge and wisdom, as we take the opportunity to read and reflect on them. We’re told in Colossians 3:15-16: “Let the words of Christ in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use His words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts” (New Living Translation).

Reading God’s Word involves more than just intellectually understanding what the words are saying. There also needs to be a response to what those words are indicating for our lives. “But those who obey God’s word really do love Him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in Him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did” (1 John 2:5-6, New Living Translation).

I’m thankful that God gave us His Word that we can read and absorb and learn from any time and any place. I’m glad that we have that Word available in different languages and different translations, so that we can more easily understand what He is telling us about life now, as well as life to come.

But I’m even more thankful that when God decided to send us His Word, He didn’t just rely on verbal or written form. He also sent it in the most personal way possible, through His Son Jesus. “So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness…” (John 1:14, New Living Translation).

May the joy of God’s Word fill your life today and each day to come, as you allow His divine message to enrich and bless you in everything He desires for you.

Peace.
Magalia Adventist School Grows Because of Church Support
Contributed by Marcel Grondahl

Magalia Adventist School and the Magalia-Upper Ridge church work closely together to help local children receive an Adventist Christian education.

Last April, two students—Tiana and Alyssa—sang a trio with their teaching principal Leisa Buller during a special Sabbath School program to bid farewell to Marj Black, Community Services director for the past nine years. During the program Black told the story of how the girls were introduced to the school through Community Services.

Earlier this year, a couple from the area came to the church’s Community Services center for help. After they told the volunteers that one of their daughters was unhappy in her public school, they were invited to meet with Buller. Within a short period of time, the girl began attending school, and a little later, her younger sister also was enrolled. The family agreed to the conditions for enrollment, including regular attendance at church services.

This story is just one example of the ways that the people in the Magalia-Upper Ridge Adventist community support each other. Buller encourages her students to do the same. “We really try to help the students emotionally bond with one another and treat each other as they would like to be treated, as Jesus would treat them,” she said.

During the past school year the Magalia school grew from 13 to 18 students. Most of the students are supported by the faithful giving of the church congregation. Tuition is based on what the parents can afford, which in some cases may amount to $50 per month. A weekly offering, church member commitments, a church subsidy and tuition ensure that the children can receive a church school education.

Orthodox Priest Joins Adventist Church

On Sabbath, October 30, 2010, at the Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, church, Orthodox priest Athanasios Paul Thompson officially retired as he was baptized as a statement of his commitment to his faith in Christ and the Adventist message.

The previous November, while at their daughter’s home in Sacramento, Thompson and his wife Mae saw a brochure advertising the Life Discovery Series, and decided to check it out. After the first weekend, they cleared their schedule and traveled once a week from where they resided in Southern California. They didn’t miss a session of the series conducted by evangelist Jim Reinking at the Orangevale church.

During his time as a high-ranking priest, Thompson spent much of his ministry in the world of religious diplomacy, often sent on missions on behalf of his church’s Patriarch in Alexandria, Egypt, and sometimes meeting with church leaders and heads of state.

Before becoming a priest, Thompson had learned of the Sabbath and about Adventism from a literature evangelist, which deeply affected his life.
Life and Death Decisions

"How can I plan?" asked Mary. "We just sold our home and bought a retirement condo. Our older child just moved across the country, and our younger child will be getting married later this year. With so much change, how can we make plans?" Planning for the future is a key part of a successful life. Even if you or your family are going through major changes, there are several basic steps that will help you succeed in your plans. And that is where NCC Planned Giving and Trust Services can help. Check out the basic steps at www.trustnorthern.org under Personal Planner or call us at 1-888-434-4622.

Richard Magnuson • Director, NCC Trust and Property Management

www.trustnorthern.org • (888) 434-4622

and experience. On one occasion, he successfully defended Ethiopian Orthodox Sabbath-keepers whom the local hierarchy had determined must cease from observing the Sabbath.

As the evangelistic series progressed—and after spending many hours in conversation with Reinking—Thompson became deeply convicted of the messages he was hearing and made his decision to leave Orthodoxy to become a Seventh-day Adventist. "Leaving Orthodoxy was very difficult, but his determination to follow his conscience led to his baptism," said Reinking.

On his personal website, Thompson wrote of his decision that the "Holy Spirit finally put the pieces of the divine puzzle together for me."

BITS Equips Laypeople for Evangelism

The Bible Instructor's Training System (BITS) is designed to give laypeople the tools they need to grow their churches "from the inside out," according to Antioch church member Bernice Archie, who created the program.

A number of years ago as Archie participated in the evangelistic efforts of a church in another state, she felt the program wasn't as effective as it could be. Archie had worked professionally to write training materials for engineers, and so she used her skills to design a program to train people to do evangelism.

The BITS program comes in three phases, which can be completed in about a year. After a local church invites the BITS team to train interested people, the first phase is a four-day program that takes place over two weekends. Five instructors (pastors and Bible instructors) teach the system through personal interaction and hands-on learning. "We teach by using props, handouts, electronics and many visual aids," said Archie.

The second phase is the apprenticeship program. Students review a community assessment of their church's neighborhood, and guest speakers teach ways to strengthen members and reach out to others, including small group discipleship, the continual cycle of evangelism, and more. At the end of phase two, the church conducts an evangelistic campaign, after which students become certified Bible instructors.

The third phase is follow up and reinforcement. "We make sure that the members can duplicate what they have learned," said Archie.

Madeline Takeuchi has been with BITS since its first session. One day, she and several others were conducting a neighborhood survey to interest people in Bible studies. As they were getting ready to quit, she asked to try one more house. At that home, she met Elvester Woods and—as a result—Woods, his wife and his sister were all baptized.

Woods now works with BITS, and his efforts have also resulted in baptisms.

Woods was impressed when Takeuchi and the others asked what the church could do for him. "From that day on, I wanted to do the same thing they did ... I wanted to be part of this team."
Humboldt Bay Students Plant Redwood Trees

Contributed by Frances Dale

Last February, students at Humboldt Bay Adventist Christian School planted about 50 redwood seedlings on the school property in the place of trees that had been cut the previous year.

For some time, plans had been in the works to log some of the redwood trees in order to generate money for the school and also for safety reasons. After a lengthy process to procure the necessary permits—and another wait to make sure the school could get a good price for the wood—the time came when it was safe and prudent to do the work.

Last August and September, the loggers came with their tractors. Some of the trees were felled while the students were in class. “It was just amazing. The trees would come thundering to the earth and the ground would shake,” said Laurel Baker, principal and upper grades teacher. The loggers harvested more than 100,000 board feet of lumber.

Redwood trees re-seed themselves, so replacing them is not necessary; however, “in order to complete the experience, I wanted the children to plant trees,” said Baker. A forester from Green Diamond Resource Company brought the donated seedlings and supervised as the kids planted them, along with Baker, lower grades teacher Tammy McMearty and Arcata-Mckinleyville church Pastor Bob Mason.

“I can’t believe these trees will be hundreds of feet tall in 30 years, and we got to plant them!” said eighth grader Hannah Hayden.

Church Members Witness through Adventising

“Advertising the Advent” is the motto of a witnessing venture called Adventising, which distributes car window decals promoting Adventist websites.

Adventising was created by Sacramento-Central church member Joe Garza, who used to work in the marketing industry. “Marketing studies tell us that if you drive one sign-bearing vehicle one hour per day in a city with a population of 100,000 people, the sign will be seen approximately 625 times in one day!” said Garza. “Just think of what the numbers would be for a week, a month or a year!”

In the past few years, Garza has distributed thousands of the decals—which simply feature a web address—including www.bibleuniverse.com, www.glowonline.net and a number of others. During the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, church members there displayed www.thewinninggame.me. That website has a short message about winning in the game of life and contains links to several websites that offer information about Adventism.

A number of his local church members have put the decals on their vehicles. “I see many of them as I am driving in the city,” said Harold White, Sacramento-Central church associate pastor. “Who knows? If just one person went to a website with truth and found Christ for eternity, it sure would be worth it.”

Those who display a decal report that other drivers, passengers and pedestrians notice the signs and copy the web address. “In some cases they approach me at gas stations,” said Jim Mitchell, Sacramento-Central church member. “It’s a great tool!”
The book of Acts shows a pattern of holding special gatherings of church members receiving reports, making decisions, electing leaders and assigning responsibilities. The attendees at those "constituency sessions" in the Early Church were full of the excitement of listening to how the Gospel was reaching different peoples and cultures, regardless of their language or nationality.

Following that same pattern, the Church (the Southern California Conference) met on May 15, 2011, for the same experience and to renew its commitment to share the Good News in its communities. The meeting's theme: United in Jesus - Proclaiming His Grace.

At 7:55 a.m., 905 delegates representing 42,996 members in 151 congregations convened at the White Memorial Church for the primary business session of the Adventist Church in this metropolitan area. This was the Southern California Conference's 63rd Constituency Session, a session that ended at 1:30 p.m.

For the first time in the history of this conference a full Constituency Session was held in five and a half hours. No pending items were left to be addressed at a later time or by the conference Executive Committee.

How was it possible to accomplish this in one morning? In a nutshell, I can say that the delegates attending the meeting were well informed and ready to make decisions. Let me explain.

The basic components of a Constituency Session are the following: admission of new churches, reception of reports, election of executive officers and revision of bylaws.

The conference administration, working together with the Bylaws Committee, envisioned more accountability, transparency and efficiency in the process of holding a Constituency Session. The conference utilized current communication technology in this process, with five main factors:

1. Website: Seven months before the Session, the site was designed and online at http://scssession.org. It was available not just for the delegates but to all members and the public. The reason?
   a. To post all pertinent Session information (lists of delegates, meetings timeline, agendas parliamentary procedures, Officers, Bylaws and Nominating committees reports, etc.)
   b. To receive and answer questions from delegates or church members about anything related to the Session.

2. Email: This technological tool was used as the primary vehicle of communication between conference administration and the delegates. Email messages encouraged the delegates to visit the website frequently to become updated as several decisions and reports were made, including Pre-Session, Bylaws and Nominating committees. Benefits?
   a. Accelerated communication: information became available immediately, instead of delegates having to wait two or three days.
   b. Eliminated postage costs and regular mailing of letters, flyers and a large
booklet, which, brought savings of more than $20,000.00.

3. **Town Hall Meetings**: Delegates and church members were invited to attend any of the seven 90-minute meetings held across the conference territory in April in preparation for the May 15 session. The purpose?

   a. To inform of basic areas of ministry and service provided, such as church growth, evangelism, finances, projects, bylaws.

   b. To dialogue with delegates on what to expect and how to proceed at the Session, in order to be an efficient delegate; to answer questions.

4. **Pre-Recorded Reports**: beyond the written report required by the conference Bylaws of each conference executive officer to be presented at the Session, a pre-recorded report was added to the accountability process. This 35-minute video was prepared to be shown at the Session for the following purposes:

   a. To maximize the use of time at the Constituency Session Day.

   b. To enhance the reports with pictures and graphs, adding life to the many activities developed in our churches.

5. **Electronic Voting Devices**: Instead of using traditional voting cards, collecting ballots and then counting them at each vote, an electronic device was given to each delegate.

   a. This saved time: casting the votes and obtaining the results required only 15 seconds.

   b. It gave delegates full access to the results.

The morning was busy and exciting, with opportunities for questions and comments. Overall, there were many things for which to praise the Lord, including the following reports:

**CHURCH GROWTH** - An increase of 5% over the previous term of four years; four newly-established congregations; another nine grew to full maturity in the quadrennium.

**FINANCES** - The Lord blessed this conference with a tithe increase of 6.7% over the previous term.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS** - In the last four years several buildings were completed:

   - Scholl Canyon Retirement Center, Antelope Valley and Conejo elementary schools have brand new buildings; several churches acquired or improved their houses of worship. The 30 year-long Newbury Park Project is still in progress, seeking completion of its second phase as soon as a couple of parcels are sold and loans and previous commitments are paid off.

**MINISTRIES** - Many events and activities were developed to reaffirm, reignite and renew the faith of our church members, and to witness for Jesus in our communities.

At the end of the Session Day delegates left with the satisfaction of having made decisions for God's Church, and with the conviction described by Ellen White:

> Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.

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**Carlos Varona Ordained**

Carlos Varona, pastor of the Alpha and Omega Spanish Church in Quartz Hill (Lancaster), was ordained to the gospel ministry on April 16, 2011.

One of nine children, Varona was born in Mexico and received his early education there. After graduating from high school, he emigrated to the U.S., locating in San Fernando, Calif., where he worked in order to provide financial help for his family.

In 1983, two coworkers introduced Varona to Bible studies. While studying, he began attending the San Fernando Spanish Church, where he was baptized. Later, a new pastor, Elder Velino Salazar, encouraged Varona to study theology in the University of Montemorelos in Mexico. He graduated in 1999 with a degree in theology.

Pastor Varona ministered in Sacramento, Calif. before receiving a call to Southern California Conference, where he first served as a Bible worker for the Spanish American Church. Currently, he pastors the Alpha and Omega Church and the El Faro group, which is in Palmdale.

Pastor Carlos and Elde Varona are the parents of three children: Josue, Sarai and Berenice.

"Our family is grateful to God and promise to faithfully serve Him," said Varona, "showing to others God's tenderness and compassionate love. Let's get together in this marvelous and privileged task. May God bless his church."
By Betty Cooney

It has been some years since the younger children had something so special, like going to camp, having uniforms, an Adventurer Sabbath or an Investiture banquet,” said Sia Felavai, a member of the Compton-Samoan Church and leader of the Adventurers Club there. “I have served as our church’s Adventurer leader for the past year,” she added. “I decided to volunteer to start the Adventurer Club because I had noticed a desperate need for a leader who is passionate about young children and their well being in a healthy, fun and, most important, spiritual life. The church had not had an Adventurer Club for a number of years.

“The times that we have spent together have been among the most meaningful days of my life. The children are enthusiastic about being involved in a fun and meaningful program. We hold classes on Sabbath after lunch three times a month. One class meets on a

Sunday each month.” The Compton-Samoan Adventurers have been venturing into the neighborhood as well. The group visits nearby nursing homes and/or the homes of the sick and the shut-in once a month. On these visits, the children sing, read stories or Bible texts; at least two children pray for the people.

In October, 2010, the Samoan Adventurer Club had its first annual Adventurer Sabbath, on which the Adventurer children did everything during the worship service except the sermon. Members of the church family expressed their appreciation for the inspiring event, which was soon followed by a joyful Investiture Banquet, hosted by the parents.

Samoan Adventurers
ACTIVE IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

By Betty Cooney

Samoan Adventurers, active in the church and community, are shown here with their leaders. Photo by Alo Lafo

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At the May 21 Evangelism Rally, announced as a Call to Prayer, pastors and members gathered at the Valley Crossroads for a stirring call to action by Pastor B. J. Boles. Boles, a pastor from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, will be the speaker for a fall evangelistic series for the San Fernando Valley Cluster churches.

"Each person has a unique circle of influence," said Boles. "You need a targeted prayer list for those you are planning to invite to the meetings that will start Sept. 17. How many of you are going to invite someone to these meetings? I pray that we can use this prayer list as a tool for these meetings."

Along with the call to be involved, members were encouraged to pick up packets of GLOW tracts and Happiness Digests that were available in the foyer. Volunteer signup sheets were circulated.

"This evangelism is cross regional and multiethnic," noted Rick Roethler, West Region director and San Fernando Cluster coordinator. "People from many different backgrounds will come together to hear about Christ. Churches from three regions of our conference will be involved: the West, Asian Pacific and Hispanic regions. We will be meeting in the John F. Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, which seats 500 people."

"It has just been predicted that the end of the world will be at 6 p.m. today," said James G. Lee, Jr., SCG Evangelism director (referring to a prediction made for that day by a Christian leader). "That's why it is so important for us to do this evangelism. For these meetings, our world is San Fernando Valley. That's why these meetings are so important." Representatives from seven area churches attended the rally and will participate in the series.

"Why do we spend so much time in evangelism?" asked Boles, in his message. "There is public evangelism and personal evangelism, two different things. Personal evangelism needs to happen, but not at the expense of public evangelism. With personal evangelism, you go to people you know or with whom you have relationships.

"Public evangelism is casting the net; getting God's Word out to the community. It is the responsibility of this church to make sure that everyone in the community knows about Jesus.

"God is connecting us to the Word, and connecting you, with the people, because He has been working with people that You don't know! Both public and personal evangelism need to happen at the same time.

"Why do we do it? Matt. 28:19. 'Go'—we are to be a people on the move."

San Fernando Cluster Evangelism Schedule

Summer Evangelistic Training (Pastors will be recruiting about five members per church for training as lay Bible workers.) Training will be conducted by the pastors at the following rallies from 4 – 5:30 p.m.:
- Rally 1 June 25 was held at the San Fernando Spanish Church.
- Rally 2 July 23 at the Northridge Church
- Rally 3 August 27 at Northridge Church
Pastor B. J. Boles, the speaker for the evangelistic series, joins the training sessions via Skype.

Sept. 17 – Oct. 15 – Discover Prophecy Seminar
Frequency:
- First week – Nightly at 7:30 p.m.
- Subsequent weeks: Meetings on Sat., Sun. and Wed.

Speaker – B. J. Boles
Location – John F. Kennedy High School, 11254 Gothic Avenue, Granada Hills 91344
Loma Linda Academy's Mission Trip Impacts Masai People

By Jessica Williams

On March 16, 17 students and five adult sponsors left the traffic-filled streets and rolling hills of southern California for the wildlife-rich, wide-open spaces of the Mara on Loma Linda Academy’s third mission trip to Kenya. While there, students helped construct a grinding mill, booths for a curio shop, and led out in a Vacation Bible School for a primary school in a local Masai community.

Along with locally hired workers, students worked together on both the mill and curio shop. The construction work consisted mostly of mixing cement and bricklaying with the occasional trip to replenish supplies. Lydia Kore, senior, said of the experience, “This was definitely the most manual work I had ever done. After the first day I was extremely sore, but I was still excited and eager to keep working.” Knowing that these buildings would help strengthen the Masai community and economy provided motivation for the students to put forth their best efforts. Kore added, “I went on the trip knowing I would work, but I had no idea I would work as hard as I did, and it was such a good feeling to know I helped put up a building the people would be able to use.”

At the end of each workday the students walked across the street to the primary school and led out in a Vacation Bible School, including songs, skits, object lessons, and personal testimonies. At the conclusion of each program, LLA students joined the local Masai students in games of soccer, volleyball, jump rope, and zebra zebra lion (the Kenyan version of duck duck goose).

Probably the highlight of the service experience came on Friday when the work gloves were set aside. Students opened suitcases and distributed donated clothes, shoes and school supplies to the people in the neighboring villages. The first stop was made at a primary school to give away sports equipment. Sharon Rojas and Taylr Peacock, freshmen, lay bricks for the booths in the curio shop.

Continued on page 2
Southeastern California Conference Priorities

The mission trip concluded with a two-day safari in one of the best wild animal parks in Kenya. Students observed elephants, zebras, giraffes, cape buffaloes, cheetahs, rhinos, crocodiles, hippos, and a host of other wildlife.

Observing the culture of the Masai opened the eyes of students like Kore, who said, “The trip made me realize that there are more important things than studying and being stressed about the future all the time. It seemed like in Africa the people just did things when they happened, and they did not worry about tomorrow or the day after. This really opened my eyes and made me look at my life and wonder where I put my priorities.”

While the time in Kenya seemed much too short, students concluded that the money spent for the trip was worth it. Many learned very valuable lessons.

Nathalie Rojas, a junior, learned that “there are always people to help; you should use your money wisely, and education is important.”

Freshman Loloma Spraggins realized that “true happiness doesn’t lie in money or possession of material things.”

Perhaps one of the greatest lessons lies in service itself. Jonathan Evans, senior, learned that “doing the smallest things can make the biggest difference.”

“This really opened my eyes and made me look at my life and wonder where I put my priorities.”

Loma Linda Academy students, staff and parents stand by the almost completed grinding mill.

A cheetah hunting for prey on the Mara.
ABC Welcomes New Manager, Schedules Summer Sale

On the job less than six months, Jonathan Davidson, new manager of the Adventist Book Centers in Riverside and Loma Linda, is in the middle of the stores’ big summer sale.

Davidson arrived in California early this year, happy to escape winter in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, where he was assistant manager of the Southern New England Conference ABC. An outdoor sports enthusiast, Davidson said he thought he could be quite happy living where winters are warm. His roots, however, are in the Carolina Conference, where he was assistant manager of that conference’s ABC before moving to New England.

Davidson said he anticipated that summer sale prices would draw more shoppers to the ABCs, and that he hoped to meet and talk with as many of them as possible. A book lover himself, he said he likes to talk with other readers and is always happy to share information about good reading material.

“I’m here to help everyone,” he said. “I’m all about networking and partnering with churches and individuals. My ministry here is to provide materials not only for members’ own personal growth and revival but also for them to use in whatever ministry they are involved in. Working together, we become stronger. By helping each other, we become better at what we do.”

The sale began June 12 and will continue through July 31. Super-special prices are in effect throughout the sale. ABC shoppers will find additional “outrageous deals” on nearly 100 books from July 8 to 17.

Daily discounts available through the end of this month apply only to regular-priced, nonsale items:

**Sunday:** 10% off sharing and personal growth books. **Monday**—Senior Citizens’ Day: 10% discount for all seniors. **Tuesday:** 10% off CDs and DVDs. **Wednesday:** 25% off Zondervan, Tyndale, and Thomas Nelson Bibles. **Thursday:** 10% off books for children and families, health books and cookbooks. **Friday:** 10% off Spirit of Prophecy books.

The Riverside ABC, at the conference office, 11330 Pierce Street, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday (phone: 951-509-2274). The Loma Linda ABC, 25560 Barton Road, is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Sunday (phone: 909-796-0428). For information online, visit pacificpress.com/riverside.

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Coming Events

**Big Bear Services** (weekly) Members of the Big Bear Valley church invite visitors vacationing in the area to join them for Sabbath services. 349 E. North Shore Dr., Big Bear City. Info: 909-547-6115.

**Summer Camp at Pine Springs Ranch** (June 26-Aug. 7) June 26-July 3, Discovery Camp (8-10); June 29-July 3, Pathfinder/Adventurer Mini-Camp; July 3-10, Junior Week 1 (10-12); July 10-17, Junior Week 2 (10-12); July 17-24, Teen Week (12-15); July 24-31, Teen Week 1 (13-17); July 31-Aug. 7, Teen Week 2 (13-17). Info: www.pscamp.org or 951-590-2266.

**Lao-Thai Camp** (June 29-July 3) Hurkey Creek Campground, Apple Canyon Rd., near Mountain Center (Pine Springs Ranch). Guest speaker Thursday and Friday, George Atiga, “Salvation Unlimited.” Sabbath worship speaker: Rudy Bermudez. Info: sda4prom@hotmail.com.


**North Coast Christian Fellowship Celebrates 13 Years in Carlsbad** (July 2) 9:45 a.m., Sabbath school; 11:15 a.m., worship service; fellowship luncheon; afternoon activities. 3254 Eureka Pl., Carlsbad. Info: 760-720-6363.


**SECC Youth Day at Six Flags Magic Mountain** (July 17) Info: www.seccyouth.com or 951-509-2260.

**Vacation Bible School** (July 18-22) 6 p.m., Hemet church, 27025 Girard St., Hemet. Theme: “Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus Was a Kid.” Info: 951-929-2632.

**Evangelistic Series in Samoa** (July 30-Aug. 20) 7 p.m. every evening, Vista Samoan church, 1175 Melrose Way, Vista. Info: 760-224-3229 or 760-420-6386.
Southeastern California Conference Priorities

Point Loma Church Partners With YMCA to Open Preschool

By Jean Weiss-Knittel

Songs of praise and prayers of thanks marked the dedication April 9 of the new Point Loma church preschool. Members and friends of the church and Peninsula YMCA attended the service in the newly landscaped garden playground.

Glenn Munson, pastor, explained, “We’ve prayed about this for a number of years and asked God to lead us into ministry in which we could serve the community. We did a survey in the community and it was obvious that day care for children was high on the needs list. At the time, we did not have the funding and had no way to come up with it. Then God began to open doors for us. Marty Spuehler, our head elder, serves on the board of the YMCA, and we also have a very close working relationship with them because they rent our gym during the week. When we talked with the YMCA director about the possibility of opening a preschool, he said, ‘You realize that the “Y” is the largest day care provider in the U. S.’”

The new preschool facilities were provided by the Point Loma church by remodeling three large Sabbath school rooms and by constructing a playground. The YMCA donated the central play structure in the playground. The facility is licensed for 30 preschool children, ages 3 and 4.

Peninsula YMCA is directing the preschool and staffing it with teachers. The church receives a minimal amount of rent for usage of the space. The play area is designed to be a place of beauty and creative exploration for the children. The garden playground is attractive. There is a lot of flow and movement, a lot of texture and artistic quality.

The philosophy of the Point Loma church is that their campus is the center of the community, a quiet place that is calming in today’s stressful environment. It’s not just for the preschool. A Sabbath afternoon VBS program and concerts are in the planning stages as well as a family center to provide counseling. The preschool is just the first step—a springboard to connect with the community’s felt need.

“If the parents trust their children with us, they must trust us enough to attend cooking schools and seminars,” according to Munson.

The preschool is the beginning of something much bigger. The church wants the community to know that they care about them and their families. The greatest asset is the children, and to provide a quality spiritual environment for them to be in.

Munson concluded, “We want to follow the example of Jesus, who before He ever shared anything spiritual, always met the felt needs of every individual, including the children. If you hold the hands of the children, you have the hearts of the parents. Our goal and that of the YMCA are the same—to teach Christian values to the children.”

The church wants the community to know that they care about them and their families.
Porterville Teens and Young Adults
Preach Red Letters Series

By Caron Oswald

Eleven sermons over 15 nights (Sunday and Thursday nights were off) were preached by nine home-grown evangelists at the Porterville church this spring. Titled “The Red Letters,” the original series was first written and preached at the Fresno Central Church this past October.

“We went to support one of our youth that spoke in Fresno. I was impressed and wanted to bring this to Porterville. Justin [Torossian, youth pastor in Fresno] graciously gave us everything,” says Lori Pozo, who organized the outreach. Torossian also helped with training and advice.

Word was spread through 4,000 flyers as youth and others went door-to-door to homes and businesses. Attendance averaged 70 each night with between four to 17 visitors.

The preachers’ ages ranged from 12 to 32. One was a brand new church member. One had to get her grades up to participate. (She did!) Ten youth welcomed the guests. The church members prepared a light supper each evening. “They were very supportive,” Pozo says.

According to Nathan Hernandez, age 12, the experience was “Awesome, amazing.” Marie Ricablanca, age 32, says, “I realized that you have to really empty yourself of the world and really focus on every little thing in your life, what you read, watch, say.”

Christian Pozo, age 19, says, “I loved the interaction with the visitors, serving them food and getting to know them. Even though no one came forward during my altar call, there were still those who came afterward wanting baptism.”

Recently baptized Gabino Rodriguez, age 30, says, “I learned more as I studied deep into my subject. It gave me a continuous walk with God.” His parents, who are unchurched, came the night he preached even though they only speak Spanish. At the sermon’s close Rodriguez spoke to them in Spanish. “My speaking to them had an impact. My father has changed. He has become more patient.”

The speakers for the Red Letters series are introduced to the Porterville congregation by Lori Pozo. They are (l-r) Justin Torossian, Reynando Bibit, Christian Pozo, Daniel Penaloza, Gabino Rodriguez, Krystle Pozo, Marie Ricablanca, Ethan Hernandez, and Sapphire Nichols.
Brenda Proetel's teenage daughters spurned her faith and wanted little to do with her. Until the Turlock Church's second 40 Days of Prayer, that is.

On New Years Eve, 2010, Proetel and 75 fellow church members began a journey through Dennis Smith's 40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming, book. Participants teamed up with a prayer partner, and committed to interceding for five people. Proetel's daughters topped her prayer list.

Church members began experiencing miraculous answers, but Proetel saw little change in her church family. Yet she committed to a second 40 days of prayer with her older daughter and boyfriend. Two church members who attended in months showed up at church as a result of members' intercession. One man shared the lessons a church elder had adapted for him to study with his unchurched niece and nephew.

A couple of weeks into their studies, Proetel was ecstatic. Yet she saw little change in her church family, except for the children with his unchurched niece and nephew. The children so enjoyed the studies they began reminding him to study with them each day.

"People are really excited," says Pastor Antonio Cano. "More people are sharing current testimonies now than ever before." Many of the participants gathered nightly during the first 40 days to share the day's answers to prayer and pray together.

Satan did not take the prayer onslaught lightly. Multiple church members experienced severe attacks. "I thought it would discourage people from praying, but they all told me, 'The 40 Days of Prayer is the thing that's taking me through! I'm committed to this and I'm not giving up,'" remembers Cano.

Kathy Mathews and her husband were blind-sided with a very uncomfortable situation during the first week. "The frustration of it was eating us up," she says, "but the lessons we were learning in 40 Days were so helpful. We were able to talk and pray together about what we were learning and that got us through the incident."

"This has made me realize how much I need to let go of things so I can be filled with the Holy Spirit," says Mathews, who teaches third grade at Central Valley Christian Academy. "I am much more at peace. It is such a relief to let the Holy Spirit be in control." She and her prayer partner continue to pray together regularly for revival in their church family.

"Our people have learned more about the outpouring for the Holy Spirit through the two 40 Days of Prayer," says Cano. "It's neat to see the entire church praying for the same thing. We are absolutely seeing the Spirit being poured out. It's been an incredible journey."
**Full Plates Make You Healthy and Thinner**

The Full Plate Diet just may be the answer to losing weight AND keeping it off, especially for those who are desperately wanting to manage their weight.

Successful weight management is based on a simple plan: Eat what you like (you are going to eat it anyway), eat less of it (if you want a cookie, break it in half) and gradually improve your choices (note the word "gradual").

"All these years I am trying to lose weight. I put it [Full Plate] into practice and eat so many fibers. I've lost 13 lbs!" says Manuao Mauia, pastor of the South San Francisco Samoan Church. He and his church members attended a recent seminar in the Bay Area.

"Full Plate has a large array of plant based whole food choices. High fiber food will fill you up," explains Steve Horton, vice president of ministries. "And the food looks good and tastes good."

People want to feel better, look better and think clearer. "People want to know how to manage their weight and rid themselves of the health challenges of excessive weight," says Horton.

"It's a winner," says David Hudgins, Pastor of East Palo Alto and San Francisco Central. "It's a great way to connect with the community."

At camp meeting, the Full Plate Diet author and her team will make a presentation on the last Friday, July 22. You can learn about better choices. It's simple!

**Pathfinder Bike-a-thon**

More than 300 Pathfinders line up for the start of the April 17th Bike-a-thon in Merced. On the far right is Ramiro Cano, president of the Central California Conference. "My kids were impressed as they passed him," says Thom Garner, pastor of the Watsonville and Salinas churches, about Cano. One lap was 1.3 miles and riders rode as many laps as possible. Each rider solicits sponsors for fundraising. For those who are interested, President Cano rode three laps and had a great time!
What is ministry? In its simplest biblical form, ministry is the act of serving others. The Greek word for ministry is “diakonia,” which means service. If you are serving others, then you are a minister. That said, let me share the following thoughts with you:

One of San Francisco’s most identifiable landmarks is the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. It is a symbol of beauty, strength, daring design, and quality. It took twenty years to plan and four years to construct. When it opened in 1937, it stood as the world’s largest suspension bridge. The 1.7 mile-long stretch of roadway was an engineering masterpiece. There are three design components that can teach us valuable lessons for ministry (diakonia, service).

The first is STRENGTH. The steel railings, massive crossbeams and cement roadways made the bridge’s load heavier than any bridge built to date. To support the immense weight two enormous cables were designed. Each was three-feet in diameter, incorporated 80,000 miles of woven steel wires and was draped from San Francisco to Marin County. Together both steel cables have a tensile strength of 200 million pounds.

Second is FLEXIBILITY. Winds sweep daily through the Golden Gate span with winds of 20-60 mph. And, on occasion, wind-bursts of 100 mph are experienced, causing a mid-span sway of 20 feet. The bridge’s maximum sway span is 27 feet. In addition, the summer’s heat and winter’s cold will expand and contract the golden steel, raising and lowering the bridge by 10 feet.

Third is FOUNDATION. The two-massive towers with its cement platforms—equal to two sixty-five-story buildings—provide the anchors on which everything depends. The south pier, anchored a quarter-mile from shore, sits directly across the San Andreas Fault line. To make the bridge earthquake-proof, the builders blasted and drilled stabilizers 100 feet into the sub-oceanic floor.

These three design components, which make the Golden Gate Bridge so remarkable, are the same components needed in effective ministry (diakonia, service).

1) Effective ministry is established on supernatural STRENGTH: “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13)
2) Effective ministry is FLEXIBLE: “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” (I Cor. 9:22)
3) Effective ministry has an immovable FOUNDATION: “… God’s solid foundation stands firm…” (2 Tim. 2:19)

Ellen White wrote in Christ Object Lessons, page 326 (1900) “Christ’s followers have been redeemed for service. Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service to God and to their fellowmen. Here Christ has presented to the world a higher conception of life than they had ever known. By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ. The law of service becomes the connecting link which binds us to God and to our fellowmen.”

The ministry, designed by the Chief Architect Himself, is an elaborate structure built for the sole purpose of serving others. It is my prayer that you will hear the sweet words of the Master when He will say, “Well done good and faithful servant…”

Camp Meeting Satellite Schedule on the Hope Church Channel

July 14-23, 2011
10 Evening Broadcasts 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Sabbath Broadcasts 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
African American Meeting 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Daily live streaming begins at 6:30 a.m. on www.triangel.tv. For preaching and seminar schedules, go to www.triangel.tv or ccc.adventist.org.
“Go Green” isn’t just the mantra of canvas-toting hippies aiming to reduce their carbon footprint. Several Adventist Health hospitals and their Environmental Services Departments have taken the mantra to heart — and are turning deep shades of green.

**Energy Makeover**

Castle Medical Center in Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii, recently underwent a $2.7 million comprehensive energy project aimed at decreasing the hospital’s carbon footprint. The energy-efficient retrofit included the replacement of two 450-ton chillers, two cooling towers, variable frequency drives and a redesign of the air conditioning system. These additions significantly lowered its cost of operation.

“We expect to save 1,255,311 kilowatts per year,” said Kevin Roberts, president and CEO of the hospital. “This will allow us to redirect $270,000 from utility bills to patient care.

**A “Greener” Hospital**

Feather River Hospital in Paradise, Calif., was recently awarded the 2010 WRAP award, presented by Cal Recycle. This is the third consecutive year the medical center has received this honor. WRAP signifies that FRH continues to increase recycling efforts and decrease their environmental impact while becoming a “greener hospital.”

FRH is not solely focused on recycling, but also on reducing or eliminating waste. The hospital recently reduced its chemical inventory of cleaners and cleaning agents from 79 to eight.

“The recycling program’s success and sustainability is the direct result of team work and environmentally conscious staff working towards a common goal: caring for the community and the environment,” said Robert Crawford, Environmental Services director at the hospital.

**Every Day is Earth Day**

The Green Team at Simi Valley Hospital in Southern California has a saying: “Every day is Earth Day.” The team was formed in 2009 to lead the hospital’s environmental efforts. The hospital’s commitment to their community includes a pledge to minimize their impact on the environment through conservation, careful planning for the use of resources and “green” initiatives.

The team is charged with setting environmental goals for the hospital, spearheading initiatives to reduce landfill waste the hospital generates, and planning for the conservation of natural resources.

One of the team’s recent accomplishments is the development of a hospital-wide recycling program where more than 200 mixed-use collection containers are available throughout the facility.

**“Project Transformation”**

In keeping with their goal of becoming a clean and greener facility, St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley has implemented several initiatives to accomplish just that. Dubbed “Project Transformation,” these initiatives are part of the hospital’s commitment to preserving the environment while maintaining its whole-person approach to patient care.

Most recently, the medical center has begun composting leftover food waste. Instead of flushing it down the garbage disposal — which can clog sewer lines, and uses high levels of electricity and water — an estimated 500 pounds of food is now collected three times a week to be composted. The compost will be turned into rich soil for gardening and grape-growing in the area.

SHNV also recently installed a 400 kilowatt fuel cell, which powers the hospital. Using this new technology, the medical center is able to reduce the burden on the local power grid and save more than 500,000 gallons of water. In addition, the reduction of nitrogen oxide emission compared to a conventional system is equal to removing 115 cars from the road.
Inspired by a popular home makeover television show, Thunderbird Christian Elementary and Holbrook Indian School students teamed up to make a difference in the lives of a needy family in the Holbrook community in northern Arizona.

Pastors Phil Vecchiarelli and Benjamin Lundquist drove around the small community praying to be directed to a home in need of repair. Finding one, they introduced themselves to the owners and explained that 50 kids wanted to renovate their home in just two days. They explained how the students had been praying about this project for the past nine months.

Isaac and Antoinette Barela, in their early 20s, lived in that house. Isaac worked a second job at Dairy Queen trying to raise funds to create a decent home where they could raise their two children — and to be an asset to the community. The offer for help couldn't have come at a better time.

There was a major sense of disbelief on Isaac's part that this would really happen. But on the morning of May 2, the home makeover team arrived ready for work. Isaac and his family were shocked to learn that the students had raised $100 each in order to participate in this project.

“The 70-year-old house was very run down and needed a lot of work,” said Lundquist, project leader. “The kids went to work cleaning up the yard, working on construction, painting and planting beautiful flowers and shrubs as we all got down and dirty for Jesus.”

The homeowners worked side-by-side with the students helping fix up their home. Youngest son, Luis, was taken under the wings of middle school students who taught him how to use a paintbrush to beautify his home.

Wanting to say thank you to the group, Isaac convinced his manager at the local Dairy Queen where he worked to keep the restaurant open an extra hour as a special treat for the young workers on the final day of the project. He shared with DQ coworkers and customers about the unbelievable blessing that just happened to his family.

Each evening, the middle school students led worship and performed dramas during nighttime programming at Holbrook Indian School. They enjoyed staying in the HIS dorms and eating in the cafeteria. Genuine bonding took place.

One HIS student was thrilled to be a part of the renovation project. He explained that the school often has visitors who come to help HIS — but this was the first time he had had an opportunity to help someone else. Instead of receiving, he was happily giving!

Homeowner Antoinette brought her 7-year-old son, Luis, to hear the Gospel preached by the student workers who had become their special friends. She left with tears in her eyes.
her eyes realizing what a difference these young people made in her life although they had met only a day and half earlier.

TCE student Adrianna Paisano reviewed the work she and the other students had done and said, “This project brought me closer to God by getting my mind off of myself as I helped others.”

Jordan Tamalea commented, “I plan on being involved with other mission projects in the future and recommend this to anyone who wants to do something special for Jesus.”

Isaac and Antoinette said gratefully, “You have no idea how we have been blessed by what these students have done. We believe they were sent by God at a time when we needed them the most. We will never forget them!”

In an attempt to expand upon this mission experience, HIS and TCE are planning to do a mission trip exchange program in 2012. TCE will function as host for a project in the Phoenix community as HIS students become missionaries to Phoenix.

The project cost $3,000. HIS middle school teacher Mark Law and to TCE teacher Kylee Cookenmaster were instrumental in the project’s success. Mitch LaCourt, a local contractor/builder, donated his time to help with the project.

Notice of Arizona Conference Regular Constituency Session

Please take note that the 29th regular Constituency Session of the Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists is called to convene at Camelback Seventh-day Adventist Church, 5902 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona, 85018, on October 2, 2011, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., or until business is completed.

The purpose of this session is to receive reports, to elect: Officers of the Arizona Conference, Directors of Departments and/or Services, Ethnic Coordinators, Arizona Conference Executive Committee, Standing Bylaws Committee, Arizona Adventist Scholarship Committee; and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Tony Anobile, President
Ed Keyes, Executive Secretary
Five-year Constituency Report Brings Loma Linda’s Vision to Life

Heather Reifsnyder, M.A.

Loma Linda University shared its story of transforming lives with about 130 leaders from the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the various LLU entities who gathered April 13 for the corporate membership meeting of LLU Adventist Health Sciences Center.

Occurring twice a decade, this meeting provides stakeholders with a report of what this flagship center of Adventist healthcare and education has accomplished in the previous five years.

Constituents expressed appreciation for the ways in which LLUAH-SC has touched people’s lives locally and globally. One such person was Ricardo Graham, D.Min., president of the Pacific Union.

“I was re-impressed by the global scope and spiritual underpinnings of the work of LLUAHSC,” he said following the meeting. “It made me humbly proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist.”

LLUAHSC — comprising eight professional schools, six hospitals, and nine institutes — is home to 4,359 students from the United States and about 80 other countries, some 13,000 employees, 674 medical residents, and 746 physicians from 67 specialties and subspecialties, according to LLU President Richard Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H. It accommodates 1.5 million patient visits annually.

But as Hart’s subsequent points revealed, LLUAHSC’s influence reaches far beyond numbers; the students educated and patients served at Loma Linda have their lives changed in ways that cannot be expressed quantitatively.

Beyond the confines of Loma Linda, LLUAHSC works to extend its vision of transforming lives. For example, the institution helps support 87 international dental clinics. Clinicians and students alike left the comforts of Loma Linda to save lives and limbs in Haiti following the massive 2010 earthquake.

Closer to home, yet worlds away in terms of socioeconomic status, the university-affiliated Social Action Community Health System in San Bernardino serves many thousands of patients, 99 percent of whom live at 200 percent or more below the federal poverty level.

For 35 years, the university has run academic programs overseas to train students in many nations, who then go on to help their fellow countrymen receive proper care. Additionally, LLU Medical Center clinicians serve as mentors to raise the skill level of visiting health care professionals from other countries.

In 2010, for example, 78 professionals from 15 countries came to Loma Linda for training.

Another way LLUAHSC strives to touch people all over is through research, which ranges from HIV/AIDS antiviral agents, to gene therapy, to fetal development. The institution also endeavors to bring greater understanding to issues of a more abstract nature, such as ethics, theology and behavior.

Board chair Lowell Cooper, M.Div., M.P.H., reflected on the founding of LLU 106 years ago. He quoted Ellen White, a key individual in starting the institution, to make his point:

“Christ stands before us as the pattern Man, the great Medical Missionary — an example for all who should come after,” she said. “His love, pure and holy, blessed all who came within the sphere of its influence .... We are to do the same work that the great Medical Missionary undertook in our behalf” (That I May Know Him, p. 44).

Approximately 130 leaders of the various LLU entities and the Seventh-day Adventist Church attended the corporate membership meeting.
Adventist history was made on Sunday, May 29, when the 10,000th medical student to graduate from Loma Linda University School of Medicine crossed the stage to receive his diploma.

Receiving that distinction was Reiker Schultz, M.D., a third-generation Loma Linda University School of Medicine graduate. “My friends and family told me there were fireworks on the large screen,” Schultz laughs, “and that the band even played a special fanfare, but I don’t remember any of it! I was utterly shocked and in a daze,” Schultz continues. “In retrospect, however, the experience gave me a bigger burden to do something special with my life and my career in order to honor the School of Medicine.”

Roger Hadley, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, says, “The church should be very proud. Over more than a century, it has sustained a medical school that has graduated a Southern California record 10,000 medical students.”

In October 2009, the school began a five-year celebration of its 100th anniversary. In 1909, the first medical school class of five students began training at the College of Medical Evangelists, precursor to the LLU School of Medicine. That first class graduated in 1914, meaning that the 100th class will graduate in 2014, when the school will conclude its centennial celebration.

“Think of the impact on health care throughout the world,” Hadley points out. “There are thousands of physicians practicing around the world, educated with the philosophy of continuing the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ, to make man whole.”

Hadley adds, “We are also the longest continuously accredited medical school in Southern California.” He attributes the sustained success of the school in a major part to strong church support. Loma Linda University Medical Center has partnered with the school over the years to provide a solid experiential base for the physician graduates.

On Tuesday, May 31, Schultz and his family started on a cross-country journey that will take them to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Schultz will begin an internal medicine residency at The Jewish Hospital. He and his wife, Jessica, have two children: Jaron, age 10, and Alaina, age 8.

Following his residency, Schultz and his wife plan to serve abroad in a mission appointment. “Mission service is the real reason I came to medical school,” he explains. “I want to do something ‘real’ with my life that involves service to others.”
National Organization Honors La Sierra for Community Service

Darla Martin Tucker

Last year, approximately 32 La Sierra University students spent more than 400 hours at eight schools in Riverside giving music lessons and demonstrations, leading chemistry experiments and tutoring youth in math. Their efforts impacted more than 500 at-risk elementary and middle school students in the Alvord Unified School District and helped teachers keep their young charges on track.

Such outreach is part of the broad, academic-based, Service-Learning program at La Sierra, one of numerous service initiatives responsible for the university’s national recognition as a top education institution for community involvement and helping others.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency, in May released the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. La Sierra University is listed as one of only 15 California universities and colleges on its Honor Roll with Distinction for community service during the 2009-2010 school year. All told, the Honor Roll with Distinction recognized 114 universities and colleges around the country, and listed 511 on the broader Honor Roll. A total of 851 colleges and universities applied for the Honor Roll designations, according to the community service corporation.

The community service corporation’s selection criteria includes “the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, … and measureable community outcomes as a result of service,” the corporation states.

LSU is the only Seventh-day Adventist school in North America to land on the Honor Roll with Distinction roster.

“The privilege of higher education exists for several important purposes. One of these is to prepare qualified leaders who can utilize their learning in ways that productively address the needs of other people and organizations,” said Steve Pawluk, LSU provost. “La Sierra University is pleased to see that our students’ and our faculty members’ selfless efforts in applying classroom learning in positive ways throughout our community are being recognized by this designation.”

La Sierra’s Office of Service-Learning gathers data and submits the application for the national Honor Roll program. For the 2009-2010 application, the office included data from short and long-term mission service; economic and educational empowerment projects by the award-winning Students In Free Enterprise team; student-led service events; community service through the Honors program; and community outreach through Service-Learning. All of these efforts combined resulted in more than 58,000 hours of community service by LSU students.

The Service-Learning program, the broadest of the university’s outreach undertakings, last year

La Sierra University is listed as one of 15 California universities and colleges on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction. It received the same honor in 2007 and 2008 and was listed on the Honor Roll in 2009. The Carnegie Foundation also awarded La Sierra in 2008 for its outreach endeavors and included the university in its Community Engagement Classification list.
involved 54 classes that incorporated student assistance at schools, including the Alvord Unified School District, senior care facilities and other organizations. More than 800 students contributed over 11,000 hours of community service through Service-Learning. Service-Learning projects are course-driven, determined by instructional goals while responding to genuine needs in the community. Students completed academic assignments and written reflections in connection with their service.

Honors student Meagan Miller, a biology/pre-med major, said she learned the value of helping individuals achieve positive change from organizing an education program for Operation Safehouse, a home for runaway, homeless and troubled teens. In fulfillment of Honors program community project requirements, she and fellow student Chelsea Johnson devised Operation T.E.X.A.S., or Teens Excel At Safehouse for the facility’s teen residents.

“One of the major needs observed was the lack of a consistent education program,” Miller said. The students devised interactive game-, story- and project-based curriculum in English, math, history and science. They also revamped the facility’s rules manual with pictures and other elements to make it more teen friendly.

“My idea of working towards community has undergone a positive change, and I am thankful for that shift of mind,” Miller said. “I plan to carry this attitude into my professional career and any other endeavors I take on.”

The Corporation for National and Community Service has administered the Honor Roll since 2006. La Sierra University landed on the corporation’s Honor Roll with Distinction for 2007 and 2008 and was listed on the Honor Roll in 2009. The Carnegie Foundation also awarded La Sierra in 2008 for its outreach endeavors and included the university in its Community Engagement Classification list in the curricular engagement category.
“Hastening the Day” was the theme of the 2011 Pacific Union ASI (Adventist Laymen’s Services & Industries) Convention held in Southern California in April. Speaker Peter Neri, pastor of the Paradise church in Las Vegas, Nev., focused on that theme in his messages.

Underscoring the need to be especially vigilant at this time in Earth’s history, Neri shared alerting messages from Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy, including, “To hold the people in darkness and impenitence till the Savior’s mediation is ended, and there is no longer a sacrifice for sin, is the object which he [Satan] seeks to accomplish” (Great Controversy, p. 581).

Featured in the popular “Members in Action,” men and women in business and ministries — and in businesses that support their ministries — shared how God had been working in their fields.

Allen and Kelley Fowler reported on their outreach to the Navajo Nation on the reservation in Northern Arizona where they live. In addition to instructing and assisting Navajos with home improvement needs, the Fowlers regularly encourage students, health professionals, Bible workers and others to consider planning mission trips to the reservation. After a recent health class there, one participant remarked, “If we had had this information before, we would all have been a healthier people. Please do more of these classes!” The Fowlers recently had received 50 Bible study requests, and urged ASI members and others to plan to come soon and help with this need (www.dineoutreach.org).

Other ASI members, many of them young adults involved in ministries, reported stories of baptisms and God’s blessings. Rico Hill, a former television executive, reported that he and Jared Thurmon are bringing The Daniel Challenge to secular colleges and to churches. Developed by Hill, the program is based on Daniel’s experience in Babylon. Hill and other leaders challenge students to try Daniel’s plant-based lifestyle in order to, as Daniel himself challenged, look better, feel better and think more clearly. Teams on several campuses

“False teachings about the Sabbath and hell are two of the Satan’s major last-day deceptions. ‘The Fire that Consumes’ is not about how bad hell is; it’s about how good God is.”
in the U.S. and elsewhere have been presenting the weekly lifestyle challenges, accompanied by current research on each aspect.

The weekend featured other exuberant reports by several young adults involved in evangelistic ministries, including Finish the Work, student literature evangelism and Souls West (a student training center in Arizona using literature ministry as the basis for evangelism).

Pacific Union ASI Secretary Pat Arabito updated members about The Seventh Day video ministry, which she leads. “Currently, we are working on a video to be called, “The Fire that Consumes,” she added, which explores the subject of hell. “False teachings about the Sabbath and hell are two of the Satan’s major last-day deceptions. ‘The Fire that Consumes’ is not about how bad hell is; it’s about how good God is.”

ASI Pacific Union partnered with It is Written, the Nevada-Utah Conference, Las Vegas-area churches and the national ASI organization to bring the Babylon Rising series to the area. “Some Pacific Union ASI officers, including myself,” said Lorayne Barton, M.D., president, “were involved in training members in the Las Vegas area in ASI’s DVD evangelism training before the meetings. The Finish the Work team went door-to-door and also worked with several area churches to involve them in door-to-door invitations, Bible studies, etc. ASI Pacific Union sponsored trips by Northern California Conference member Joe Garza to Las Vegas to encourage the use of Babylon Rising decals on cars. In short,” Barton added, “we did everything we could and will continue to help.”

Rico Hill shares about the Daniel Challenge, which is part of Beehive, a larger, integrated ministry called Beehive, based on a vision given to Ellen White about end time gospel work in urban areas (thebeehives.org).

Notice of Pacific Union Conference Session

The 29th session (eighth quinquennial period) of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Ontario Convention Center, 2000 Convention Center Way, Ontario, Calif. 91764, August 28-29, 2011.

The first meeting of the business session will be called at 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 28. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 7 p.m., August 28.

This session is called to receive reports from the officers and various departments, to elect personnel for the ensuing term, to consider revisions in the Constitution and Bylaws and to transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates.

Delegates are selected by the local conferences according to the terms of the Pacific Union Constitution and Bylaws.

Ricardo Graham, President
Bradford C. Newton, Executive Secretary
Arizona

CAMP YAVAPINES (July 3–31) Summer camp is still only $100 per camp. Registration is online at www.azsdayouth.com. Adventurer Camp (July 3–19), ages 6-9; Junior Camp (July 10–17), ages 10-12; Tween Camp (July 17–24), ages 12-12; Teen Camp (July 24–31), ages 14-17.

RAW FOODS POTLUCK SUPPER (July 9) Central church, 777 W. Montecito, Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Newcomers: Please bring a vegetable or fruit salad without dressing. For recipe ideas, visit www.hacres.com. Info: Stanhowerton@yahoo.com or call 480-430-5492.

SABBATH SCHOOL TRAINING SCHOOL (July 22-23) for Mesa area members at the Mesa Spanish church, 27 N. Lyn Rae, Mesa, Ariz. 85213. Info: Cynthia Riffel, 480-991-6777, ext. 117.

Central California

YOSEMITE SABBATH SERVICE (May 28-Sept. 3 except July 16) Lower River Amphitheater. Sponsored by the Central California Conference. Info: Edie and Ray DeFehr, 209-586-4325 or rayandedie@mldoe.com.

INCOMING FRESHMEN ORIENTATION. Fall freshmen are required to attend an orientation session in July, August or September. July two-day sessions are July 6-7, 20-21, and 27-28. One-day sessions are July 13 and 14. More in August and September. Info: 951-785-2452, orientation@lasierra.edu, or lai.sierra.edu/index.php?id_2751.

Los Angeles

LAKE TAHOE CAMP MEETING (Aug. 1-6) Camp Richardson. Main speaker is Bill Kilgore. Info: tahoe campmeeting.adventistfaith.org; or call Virginia Rose at 916-967-5932.

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE


Sacramento


Sacramento Convention Center

Charles Haugabrooks
Kelly Mowrer
Jarrod McNaughton
Sandy Johnson

August 20, 2011 — This inspirational day, held at Rabobank Theater (1001 Truxtun Ave.) in Bakersfield, CA, includes:

• Church at 10:30 a.m. with Mark Finley, Assistant to President of the General Conference and former speaker for the popular It is Written television program.

• Musical guests include: Kelly Mowrer, Charles Haugabrooks, Sandy Johnson, Jennifer LaMountain and Jarrod McNaughton.

• Evening concert at 7 p.m.

For more info, call 661-869-6560 or visit www.sjch.us
friends, and prospective students are invited to join. Info: 707-965-6303.

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING (July 30) Pacific Union College representatives will host a Sabbath potluck. Alumni, friends, and prospective students are invited to join. Info: 707-965-6303.

KOREAN CAMP MEETING (July 31-Aug. 6) Pacific Union College will host a camp meeting for the West Coast’s Korean churches. Info: 707-965-6303.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Southeastern California

BIG BEAR SERVICES (weekly) Members of the Big Bear Valley church invite visitors vacationing in the area to join them for Sabbath services. 349 E. North Shore Dr., Big Bear City. Info: 909-547-6115.

PINE SPRINGS RANCH (June 26-Aug. 7) Summer Camp: June 26-July 3, Discovery Camp (8-10); June 29-July 3, Pathfinder/Adventurer Mini-Camp; July 3-10, Junior Week 1 (10-12); July 10-17, Junior Week 2 (10-12); July 17-24, Tween Week (12-15); July 24-31, Teen Week 1 (13-17); July 31-Aug. 7, Teen Week 2 (13-17). Info: www.psrcamp.org or 951-509-2260.

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CALLING NURSING EXECUTIVES. If you are a seasoned nursing executive with a passion to lead and develop nurses, Adventist Health System wants to meet you. With more than 53,000 employees, and 44 hospitals in 10 states, the demand for experienced, committed and dynamic nursing leaders is a premiere objective. If you would like to know more, please e-mail your CV to susan.jamerson@ahhs.org.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES for the Blind has an opening for a missionary-minded representative to present free services to blind/visually impaired, do fundraising and public speaking in the following counties: Kern, Tulare, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Calif. Benefits available; contact Sherrick Hiscosk at 530-559-3658.

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**WILDWOOD HEALTH EVANGELISM** Camp (Sept. 4-25) Health Evangelism; Prophecy; Sanctuary; Leadership; Heavenly Education; Marriage For Ministry; Closing Events; Reaching the Unreached; Hydro & Massage; Nutrition. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Cost: $799 Contact: Darlene Keith 931-724-6706, visit www.wildwoodhealthtreat.org.

**WILDWOOD WEIGHT MANAGEMENT** Seminar (July 31-Aug. 14) 14-day program focusing on health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Cost: $740 (Includes room, vegan meals) Contact: Darlene Keith 931-724-6706, visit www.wildwoodhealthtreat.org or e-mail darlenekeith@gmail.com.

**SCC CAMPING SEASON** opens at Camp Cedar Falls (starting June 26) In addition to Adventurer, Junior, Tween and Family camps, special 4-day camps (Sun. - Thurs.) will be available. Specialty classes may be selected for each of the camps. Details: www.campcedarfalls.net; 818-546-4389.


**For Sale**

**BAKERSFIELD HILLCREST.** Contact: Heather Palm, Bakersfield Adventist Church, 2600 Kenwood Road, Bakersfield, CA 93306, 661-871-5000, hillcrestadventists@gmail.com; Andrew Brown, Jermaine Brown, DuWayne Bruce, Alvin Bryant, Brian Bullard, Milton Bullock, Blake Burns, Byron Butler, Jesus Calde- ron, Frederick Campbell, Kevin Cannon, Matthew Cano, Ralph Cardiel, Gildardo Cananza, Jose Carrasco, Albert Casner, Manuel Castaneda, Shawn Davette, Miquel Cervantes, Lawrence Chatman, Eddie Chavez, Gerardo Chavez, Mark Chavez, Robert Chavez, Steve Chavez, Armando Chonches, Terry Coffey, Tony Coley, Anthony Collins, Noe Contreras, Oscar Corral, Michael Carrigan, Adam Cortez, John Cortez, Robert Costa, Marvin County, Nick Cox, James Coyle, Harold Crawford, Christopher Cresap, Dennis Crowley, Jose Cruz, Thomas Curtis, Dennis Czech, Daniel Davison, Wayne Deal, Carlos Delgado, Tony Delonnie, John Descoteaux, Robert Dimock, Byron Dix, Enrique Diaz, Daniel Doyle, Tim Driskill, Robert Dunn, Thomas Dutt, Michael Dyer, Michael Ederson, Russell Emens, Gordon Erickson, Christopher Esquivel, James Etherton, Michael Evans, Earl Evors, Maurice Faulkner, Michael Ferguson, Darrell Fields, Marvin Fields, Michael Flitte, Juan Fonseca, Edward Fontaine, Bobby Frady, Thomas Franklin, Salvador Fregoso, Jose Fries, Rudy Fritz, Michael Fuentes, James Fulton, Anthony Gambol, Daniel Garcia, Gary Geierman, Antonio Giron, Ever Gomez, Louis Gonzalez, Jesus Gonzalez, Michael Gonzalez, Don Goodwin, Tony Goodwin, William Gosey, Lamar Graham, Robert Graham, Eric Grandberry, Steven Green, James Greer, Craig Gregory, Robert Grier, John Guidry, Nick Guillen, Garcia Guillermo, Joe Gutierrez, Thomas Haas, Cedric Hall, Troy Hamlett, Richard Harmon, Jay Harp, Maurice Harrison, Jeff Harrington, Anthony Harrison, Myron Hawkins, Terry Hawkins, James Hane, Fidel Hernandez, Leopold Hernandez, Manuel Hernandez, Steven Hernandez, Joseph Hillman.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**ROHNERT PARK.** Contact: Lorena Pajon, clerk, Rohnert Park Adventist Church, 1241 Heartwood Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, mpajon@bcglobal.net: Mary Bernal, Carlene Blonquist, Jennifer Castillo, Mary Crawford, Pat (Parks) Murphy, Nancy Riley, Kara Ritz, Keria Ritz, Mark Ritz, Stacy Ritz, Leonard Rogers, Lynn Rogers, Anna Vermullen.

**Real Estate**

**AUBURN, CALIFORNIA,** home in the sunny Sierra foothills — below the snow and above the valley fog. Senior Park (55+). Volunteer opportunities at Weimar Center of Health and Education (15 min) and Amazing Facts Ministry (25 min). Close to 4 Adventist churches. Grapevine, lemon tree, room for small garden, storage shed, patio, and deck. 2br/2ba, W/D, partially furnished, many upgrades. Financing Available. $39,900. 530-320-1425.

**COUNTRY LIVING** at its best at 2,600 ft. elevation in the town of Lake Isabella with a small church that needs your help. Reasonable prices in a 5-star mobile home park with clubhouse, pool and spa. Affordable. Call Lake Ridge Mobile Home Park, 760-775-2274 or 760-379-1316.

**DESERT OASIS**. 5.7 acres, double-wide manufactured home, excellent condition, plus 12’x20’ sunroom near Bisbee, Ariz. Barn, RV shelter, shop, 2-car car-port, beautiful trees, natural gas, high speed internet, cable TV; $155,000. Adjoining 4- acres available with well, windmill. $45,000 discount for both. Fenced; church, excellent climate. Owner may finance. 520-642-1499, 520-508-7805.

**EAST BAY AREA.** Gated 8-plex with 2- and 3-bdrm condominiums are located on the beautiful Antioch church and school campus in Northern California. These 1,000-1,300 sq. ft. units have many special features and are being offered exclusively to members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Each unit has private garage and its own individual security alarm system. For information, rental application or a scheduled walk-through, please call the CEJ Foundation at 925-754-9223.

**PRESCOTT VALLEY, ARIZ.** Nine bed, 2,275 sq. ft., turn key adult care home business with residents. Lease/option. 3-baths, central nurses station and kitchen, sunroom, patio, skylights, 2-car garage with laundry, gated yard, semi-circle driveway with parking. Great location. Doctors and hospital nearby. 928-759-0442, or 928-848-4703 after 1 p.m., PST.

**VACATIONS**


**SUNRIVER, CENTRAL OREGON.** Four-bedroom executive home on the North Woodlands golf course. Two master king suites, two queens, one bunk set, hot tub, loft, Jacuzzi bath, gas log fireplace, BBQ, W/D, bikes, all “lodge amenities,” sleeps 10, no smoking, no pets, includes housekeeping. For rates, photos and reservations: 541-279-9553, 541-475-6463 or schultz@crestviewcable.com.

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**SUNSETS**

“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

— Exodus 20:8

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BENDER, CARLETTA — b. Sept. 16, 1945, Barton County, Kan.; d. May 2, 2011, Loma Linda, Calif. Survivors: husband, Dan; sons, Kevin, Jeff; daughter, Marilee Fong; eight grandchildren.


CHAFFEE, FONDA LOUISE CORDIS — b. March 28, 1921, Boulder, Colo.; d. May 12, 2011, Lakeport, Calif. Survivors: son, Clinton; daughter, Carol Lewis; four grandchildren. Served on the staff at La Sierra College, Andrews University and the University of East Africa.


ROYER, GLADYS SUE (ARRASMITH) — b. March 5, 1922, Kansas City, Kan.; d. March 29, 2011, Santa Rosa, Calif. Survivors: husband, Tom; daughter, Rebeccue Johnson; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.


WILLIAMS, ALTON — b. May 14, 1921, Butler, Texas; d. May 21, 2011, Visalia, Calif. Survivors: wife, June; son, Timothy; daughter, Sharon Martin; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

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