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**PHOTO BY KELLY MCMANUS**

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### Postal Regs:
The Recorder is a monthly publication reaching nearly 75,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

Our mission is to inform, educate and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.

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### PACIFIC UNION RECORDER

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The Recorder is a monthly publication reaching nearly 75,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

Our mission is to inform, educate and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.
Women needed in the great work of preaching the truth

As reported in this issue of the Recorder, the Pacific Union Conference executive committee voted on May 9 to hold a special constituency session Aug. 19. Delegates will consider amending our bylaws to clearly authorize the union executive committee to approve ordinations of ministers without regard to gender — when requested by the local conferences.

I don’t know whether you agree or disagree with that action, but I would like to share with you something about the process. In future issues of the Recorder we will look at Bible and church governance questions.

First, this was a task we came to prayerfully, thoughtfully, and with great seriousness. It is always our practice to seek God’s leading in our work, and we approached this topic with a firm commitment to putting “mission first.”

Second, I sit on a lot of committees. In fact, sometimes it seems that this is the beginning and end of my job description. Some committees are routine; other committees are tense, with people strongly arguing opposing positions.

I can honestly say I have never served on a committee where members demonstrated a deeper sense of unity or a deeper commitment to allowing the Holy Spirit to lead in the decisions made. Members listened to each other carefully and respectfully, modified their views according to what they heard, then offered their own suggestions with Christian gentleness. If you had been there, you would have been proud of your church.

I have received a few letters from members asking if the committee is fostering some kind of rebellion. Nothing could be further from the truth. Not once during these meetings did I hear a word of criticism about anyone in world leadership or anyone with a different opinion — not in the meetings, not in the hallways, not in the parking lot. Not by a word or a facial expression. These are people who love Jesus and love His church. And they are people who voted to strictly follow church procedures, even if it could mean the processes don’t result in what they believe is best for the church in this union.

To be sure, there was very little disagreement. The Pacific Union executive committee that was elected in 2006 voted unanimously to support ordination without regard to gender, and this new committee voted the same, 42-2. Several committee members expressed a conviction that God is fulfilling his promise to bless the remnant church in the last days by pouring out his Spirit on both men and women (Joel 2:23-28).

A member of the executive committee, a pastor who conducts frequent seminars on the spirit of prophecy, pointed out that in all her writings Ellen White never talked about a theology of ordination or dealt with Bible-based arguments for or against both men and women serving as pastors and evangelists, or being ordained. Instead, her comments were always practical. To her, the important issue was that every believer — without exception — is commanded to “go and make disciples,” and that it is when every believer obeys that the work of God will be finished and Jesus will return. I long for that day.

In the earliest years of our church, our pioneers — James White, Uriah Smith, Joseph Bates and others — referred to Joel 2:23-32 almost every time they defended the preaching ministry of Ellen White. “In the last days . . . I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.”

Our pioneers argued that the presence of Spirit-filled Seventh-day Adventist women preachers was a sign that these were the last days and that the Advent message was God’s message: “And inasmuch as both males and females are mentioned in the prophecy, we understand that all the different operations of the Spirit there mentioned are to be exercised by them indiscriminately” (Uriah Smith, Review and Herald, June 12, 1866).

Ten years later, our earliest female preacher, Ellen White, commented: “Women can be the instruments of righteousness, rendering holy service. It was Mary that first preached a risen Jesus” (The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Jan. 2, 1879).

And a few sentences later: “If there were twenty women where now there is one, who would make this holy mission their cherished work, we should see many more converted to the truth. The refining, softening influence of Christian women is needed in the great work of preaching the truth.”

When I read the whole article, I notice that Ellen White is urging every form of ministry — giving Bible studies, selling religious books, assisting husbands who were pastors, telling Bible stories to children, or serving as preachers and evangelists — whatever each woman’s family responsibilities permit.

We will have many important discussions in the weeks ahead. Please pray with me that the Spirit of Jesus will be noticeable in all our conversations. And pray that we will all keep our eyes on the goal, “many more converted to the truth,” so Jesus can return, bringing life, healing and harmony to this world.

Ricardo Graham

President’s Perspective

Ricardo Graham

June 2012
Union committee calls special constituency session to amend union bylaws

Amendments will allow union to authorize ordinations without regard to gender

At its March meeting, the Pacific Union executive committee voted to table until May 9 a motion that would immediately approve the ordination of ministers without regard to gender. It also set up an ordination study committee to outline the steps necessary to make gender-neutral ordinations a reality as soon as possible.

At the May 9 meeting at the La Sierra University Alumni Center, that committee delivered its report to the full executive committee. The committee replaced the original motion with a new one and voted overwhelmingly to call a special constituency session to convene on Aug. 19.

The committee voted separately on the main motion, including the preamble, and the process. The preamble and main motion were approved by a vote of 42-2. The process, which includes calling a special constituency business session, was approved unanimously.

**Voted (preamble):**

- Whereas Scripture is clear that the end-time Church is blessed precisely because men and women preach God's message (Joel 2:28-29 and Fundamental Belief 17);
- Whereas we are commanded to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8);
- Whereas “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for all are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28);
- Whereas “differences between male and female must not be divisive among us” and “we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation” (Fundamental Belief 14);
- Whereas the Seventh-day Adventist Church is co-founded by a woman, Ellen G. White, who remains an authoritative and guiding voice;
- Whereas the Pacific Union is enriched by Spirit-filled women who are responding to God's call in our schools, churches and conferences;
- Whereas the Seventh-day Adventist Church assigns Unions the final decision-making authority and responsibility with respect to ordination (NAD Working Policy L45 05 3, Spring Council 2012 116-12G Report);
- Whereas the Pacific Union Conference voted its full commitment to Women's Ordination, August 30, 1995 (reaffirmed May 12, 2010 and March 15, 2012);

**Therefore, [main action]**

- The Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee will approve or disapprove candidates for ordination without regard to gender, effective when the Union Bylaws are amended.

**The Process**

**Voted, approval for the following process:**

- Because the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee is committed to following denominational procedures and processes, and to facilitate the involvement of the entire Union constituency, a special constituency business session will be called to consider amendments to the Pacific Union Conference Bylaws to clearly authorize the ordination of ministers without regard to gender.
- The Pacific Union Conference Bylaws Committee will examine the Union bylaws and suggest amendments to clearly authorize the ordination of ministers without regard to gender.
- The Pacific Union Conference will provide an informational packet for the delegates, pertinent to the issues to be discussed in the special constituency session.

Both the study committee and the executive committee made it clear that they are committed to following established church processes and procedures. Their recommendations and actions were guided in large part by a summary of church structure prepared earlier this year by the General Conference and distributed at GC spring meetings. The full name of the document is *The General Conference and Its Divisions — a Description of Roles and Relationships in Light of Organizational Structure Development, Current Governance Documents, and Practices.* That document makes clear that:

“Authority and responsibility in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not centralized in a hierarchical structure. Instead, authority and responsibility is distributed throughout Seventh-day Adventist Church structure so that all parts of the church structure become inter-dependent.”
The distribution of authority and responsibility in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is illustrated by the following examples of how and where final decision-making authority and responsibility are located in organizational structure.

The document goes on to explain that:

- the “final authority and responsibility” for decisions on membership (admission/discipline/dismissal) is located at the local church;
- the “final authority and responsibility” for the employment/assigning of pastors and other workers is located at the local conference/mission;
- the “final authority and responsibility” for deciding who will be ordained is officially located at the unions.

The committee also considered that the same paragraphs that declare that ordination decisions are to be made by the unions, not by the divisions or the General Conference, include this counsel:

“It is to be understood that the exercise of authority and responsibility is done within the context of the belief, values, and policies of the entire church. No entity is authorized to exercise its authority and responsibility in a manner that is contrary to the interests of the whole church and its activities in fulfilling its mission.”

Obviously the distribution of authority found in the Seventh-day Adventist Church can result in tension between world-wide policy and the “final authority and responsibility” which has been assigned to the congregations, conferences and unions. The GC document has much to say about balancing those centers of authority, especially in the final Conclusion and Recommendations.

The following paragraphs and sentences are chosen from the Conclusion and Recommendations to the GC Spring Document. The full document is available on the Union website. The quotations here do not include statements that apply only to divisions.

“The distribution of authority and responsibility in the Church along with the recognition that ‘authority rests in membership’ presents significant challenges in finding a balance between centralized authority (actions of the global church) and the more localized authority (actions of the constituency) in churches, conferences and unions. In the interest of preserving global unity, the historical trend has been towards increasing the size of the General Conference Executive Committee and ensuring that there is global input in policy decisions.

At the same time the church has worked to preserve unity, the effect of church growth has enlarged the understanding of diversity and its rightful place in a worldwide community. To expect that every entity in the world church will look and function exactly like every other entity of its type may in itself become an impediment to mission. The development of structural designs in the history of the church indicates that unity must be built on a stronger foundation than uniformity.

There must be room to recognize the need for a legitimacy of local adaptation of policies and procedures that facilitate mission while not diminishing the worldwide identity, harmony and unity of the Church.

The relationship among the entities of the church is more than a matter of law and policy. Therefore attempts to codify that relationship will always be inadequate. The primary strength of the Church comes not from its structure but from its collective desire to live out a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Such a commitment embraces a call to community.”

Pacific Union executive committee members made it clear during discussions this week that they are committed to taking seriously the “final authority and responsibility” that the Seventh-day Adventist church has assigned to unions. And they made it clear that their call for a special constituency session is not to be interpreted as a way to delay the ordination of all whom God has called to ministry. Rather, it is the result of a commitment to follow church procedures and to make sure the final action, whatever it is, is backed by the full authority that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has assigned to the Pacific Union Conference.

Notice of Pacific Union Conference Special Constituency Session

A Special Business Session of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held Aug. 19, 2012, to consider amendments to the union bylaws that will clearly authorize the ordination of ministers without regard to gender. Time and place for this Special Business Session will be published in the official notice in the July Recorder. Updates will also be posted on the Pacific Union Conference website at www.puconline.org.

The Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee will approve or disapprove candidates for ordination without regard to gender, effective when the Union Bylaws are amended.

— Voted, May 9, 2012
SONscreen Film Festival stays fresh after 10 years

The 10th annual SONscreen Film Festival, held at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Calif., April 12-14, featured something new this year: a “Pitch Fest.”

“I've wanted to create a market at SONscreen for years now,” said Paul Kim, executive director of the festival. “The pitch session was the first steps at making this happen. A market happens not only when there are films that can be acquired for use, but also when ideas are presented in order to begin the process of developing new and innovative projects.”

During the Pitch Fest, filmmakers pitched their ideas for their next movie project, hoping to receive funding. Three judges not only selected winners, but also offered every contestant suggestions for improving their pitch. There wasn't enough time for all the entrants to pitch their ideas, so contestants were chosen at random — and without advance notice — to pitch their ideas in front of the jury and a live audience. To raise the tension level, and the fun, the audience was encouraged to express their opinions about the projects and the judges opinions with cheers and boos, and to use their smart phones to indicate whether they would watch the final production. In the end, the jury chose Daniel Wahlen, recent graduate of Rio Lindo Academy, currently a film student at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn., to receive the $1,000 SONscreen Film Grant. Vienna Cornish, administrator at the Hollywood, Calif., Adventist church, received a $250 runner-up award.

“Anyone who has ever attended understands the amazing value of the gathering of this community and the beauty in having our denomination support these artists who desire to serve God with their talents,” said Rajeev Sigamoney, festival producer and associate pastor at the Hollywood church.

The festival drew filmmakers from the United States, Germany and Australia. In addition to the Pitch Fest, the schedule included daily film screenings, workshops, panels, and one-on-one film critique sessions.

Two groundbreaking projects sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist church were screened: “My Last Day Without You,” from Germany, and “The Record Keeper,” an updated take on The Great Controversy, from the United States. During the award show, Christian writer, actor and comedienne Susan Isaacs shared humorous insights on working in the entertainment field while maintaining Christian values. SONscreen co-founder Jere Wallack also briefly spoke at the ceremony.

First time attendee Rick Roethler, West Region director for the Southern California conference, said, “It was exciting to see the creative energy of our young filmmakers. They are doing some exciting work.”

SONscreen has the rare distinction of being sponsored by a church. “I'm proud to say my church has a film festival,” said Kim. “The three day event creates an environment that incubates ideas and encourages interaction between professionals, advanced students and first-time filmmakers.”

Susan Isaacs, screenwriter, actor and comedienne from the Los Angeles area, urges young film producers to be faithful witnesses for God, during her keynote address at the 2012 SONscreen Film Festival.

The Winners

**BEST IN FEST**
“Comatose”
Derek Taylor, director
Southern Adventist University

**AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**
“Danger Planet”
Justin Burks, director
Southern Adventist University

**JONATHAN DULAN HIGH SCHOOL AWARD**
“The Burden”
Hannah Stange, director
Loma Linda Academy

**BEST DRAMATIC SHORT**
“Forsaken”
Ramuel Galarza, director
Florida State University

**BEST ANIMATION**
“Danger Planet”
Justin Burks, director
Southern Adventist University

**BEST DOCUMENTARY**
“The Golden Glove”
Ricky Oliveras, director
Southern Adventist University

April Rushing
In addition to taking steps toward ordination without regard to gender, the executive committee voted several other actions.

They voted to invite Teryl Loeffler to join the Office of Education as the associate director for secondary education. An alumnus of Pacific Union College, Loeffler also has a masters’ degree in computer education. He served at the elementary, junior academy and secondary levels prior to his current position as superintendent in Hawaii.

“With the majority of Loeffler’s career at the junior and senior academy level,” says Berit von Pohle, director of education for the union, “he will provide capable leadership for the secondary curriculum program in our union.”

The committee approved several candidates for ordination/commissioning and ministrial scholarships, including a few who were subject to local conference approval. The latter are those from the Northern California and Arizona conferences, whose executive committees were to meet just a few days after the union committee.

Approved for ordination were Wade Forde, Ruben Rios, Lamberto Trinidad and James Uveda, from the Southeastern California Conference; Sasa Andelkovic and Jason Decena, from the Northern California Conf; and Jeffrey Geo and Ronald Yabut, from the Arizona Conference.

Ministerial Scholarships were approved for Kyle Dever, Benjamin Martin and James Murdock, from Southeastern California; John Wheeler, from Northern California; and Brian Simmons, from Central California.

CORRECTION: At the March 15 meeting of the executive committee, Morris Barnes Jr., from the Southern California Conference, was approved for ordination — not Rueben Vincent, from the Nevada-Utah conference, as previously reported.

Gerry Chudleigh

Kona church and school cultivate “food forest” for learning and sharing

By day, Bernard Matatumua-Vermeulen is a soil conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kealakekua, and in his spare time he is one of the green thumbs behind a food forest project at the Kona church.

The church is adjacent to the Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden in Captain Cook, Big Island, Hawaii, and is located in the kaluulu— an 18 mile-long breadfruit grove that was for centuries an abundant food producing region in Kona. Matatumua-Vermeulen is from Samoa. The revitalization of the three-acre property, which is also the home for the Kona Adventist Christian School, is a reflection of a multistory cropping system typical to his homeland and pre-contact Hawai‘i. Breadfruit, banana, sweet potato, taro, squash, fruit and nut trees are all growing harmoniously together in a densely planted system.

“We are doing all of this for the school and the community,” says Matatumua-Vermeulen. The Kona Adventist Christian School is integrating growing, harvesting and healthy food preparation into its curriculum. And they plan to have an abundance to share with those in the community who don’t have enough to eat.

In celebration of Earth Day, Craig Elevitch and Andrea Dean, representing the “Ho’oulu ka ‘Ulu — Revitalizing Breadfruit” project, planted an ‘ulu tree with members of the church. The Ho’oulu ka ‘Ulu project donated two trees to the church to kick off a series of tree plantings at churches that both value and can care for breadfruit trees.

It was also the day of the first fruit harvest at the Kona church, and Pastor Luis Camps blessed the first bunch of bananas to come from Matatumua-Vermeulen’s plantings, as well as blessing the new trees.

For more information about the Ho’oulu ka ‘Ulu project, visit http://hawaiihomegrown.net/breadfruit-houulu-ka-ulu.

Andrea Dean
Five people were ordained-commissioned to the gospel ministry in the Southeastern California Conference in 2011. Each has a unique story to tell of God’s calling and guidance.

**Stacey Smith**

On April 16, Stacey Smith was ordained-commissioned at the Oceanside church, where she ministered as associate pastor, working with the youth. During the service, Smith reminded herself to “let God work and don’t forget to get out of the way. This service isn’t about some great accomplishment I’ve done. It’s about God.”

Smith grew up in Hesperia, Calif., and began leading in the youth ministry at the Victorville church when she was a teenager. She says her favorite part of ministry is “being able to work one-on-one with teens.”

Although she felt called to the ministry as a high school senior, she initially was unsure about what to do. “As I started going through college, God kept solidifying that call,” she said. At Pacific Union College, she was student body religious vice president and actively worked in other campus ministries. After graduating in 2005, she served at the Oceanside church for seven years. She also did chaplaincy work at Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego. She received a Master of Arts degree in pastoral studies from Azusa Pacific University in 2009.

Last year, a career move for her husband, Casey, relocated the couple to Montana, where Smith works part-time at an elementary school and volunteers in a church district, regularly preaching and teaching. “I feel strongly that God has placed me in this ministry, whether I’m pastoring now or not,” she said. “I’m going to be ministering here in Montana and furthering God’s message.”

**Raewyn Hankins**

Raewyn Hankins, now senior pastor at the Victorville church, was ordained-commissioned June 18 at the Yucaipa church, surrounded by family members from all over the world. Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Hankins moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., as a young child. In elementary school and academy, she was active in various campus religious activities, and she sensed a calling to the ministry. As she studied and prayed, she came to the conclusion that she couldn’t deny what she was supposed to do.

“I believe God’s calling had three parts that all came together in my life: God gave me a desire to do ministry and equip others to do the same; God gave me gifts to do ministry; and finally, God gave me the affirmation of my faith community,” she said.

After attending Andrews University for a year, Hankins transferred to La Sierra University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in religious studies in 2004. After serving at the Chula Vista church, she returned to Andrews to study at the Adventist Theological Seminary. In 2008, she graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. Hankins served as associate pastor for family, children and youth ministries at the Yucaipa church before accepting the call to Victorville.

Her personal mission statement combines the aspects of ministry that she feels called to do — and that she loves: “To be an agent of shalom, through the gift of presence, the ministry of the Word and growing healthy communities.”

**Chin Hyung Kim**

Chin Hyung Kim, now associate pastor at the Loma Linda Korean church, was ordained-commissioned on Aug. 27, at the Garden Grove Korean church.
Kim is grateful to God for leading during his life’s journey. “My name in Korean means ‘truly everything goes well,’” said Kim. “It has, when I look back at my life.”

Kim came to the United States from South Korea as a boy, and he accepted Christ into his heart when he was a teenager. Later, “while studying and thinking about what to do with my life, I felt that God was calling me to the ministry,” he said.

He graduated from Southern Adventist University in 1993 with a religion major. In 1996, he earned a Master of Divinity degree, specializing in youth ministry, from the Adventist Theological Seminary.

He served in various ministries — the Valley United church, the Upper Room Fellowship, the Loma Linda Korean church, the Korean Adventist Press and the Garden Grove Korean church — before taking his current position at the Loma Linda Korean church this past April.

Kim and his wife, Sunny, have three children: Kaitlin, Nicole and Johan.

Because of God’s guidance in his own life, Kim wants to communicate the gospel to others. “My goals are very simple,” said Kim. “The first is to share Jesus Christ with the people who are searching for God, and then allowing them to experience God in their lives personally and together.”

Kathy McMillan

Kathy McMillan, director of the Employee Spiritual Care and Wholeness Department at Loma Linda University, was ordained-commissoned at the Calimesa church on June 11.

“At was one of the most special days of my entire life,” she said. “To be surrounded by people who have supported me through my life and who believe in my ministry was amazing.”

In addition, she trains people to help each other. “Each employee is part of our spiritual care team, even if they’re not doing patient care,” she said. “We want everybody to be well-equipped to give an empathic response and respond spiritually.” New employees react positively to this training, telling her: “This is why I came to work at Loma Linda.”

McMillan and her husband, Jim, a physician, have two children in college, Mark and Lisa.

Dilys Brooks

The ordination-commissioning service for Dilys Brooks, associate campus chaplain at Loma Linda University, was held in the Councilors Student Pavilion on Aug. 26. Although chaplaincy was not her original plan, “God knew better than I. He had been preparing me to serve as a campus chaplain,” she said.

Before answering the call to ministry, Brooks prepared for a career in education and worked in that field for more than 11 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from the City University of New York, a Master of Science degree in education from Adelphi University, and a Master of Arts degree in supervision and administration from Bank Street College.

She was serving as a middle school assistant principal when she decided to go to the Adventist Theological Seminary to study for the ministry. After giving her notice to her principal, “I experienced a peace regarding my future that has remained until today,” she said.

Brooks earned her Master of Divinity degree in 2005 and received a call to Loma Linda, where she has worked ever since.

“I had always been passionate about serving and working with young adults at various stages of their spiritual growth and development. As an educator . . . an academic environment was my dream job,” she said. “Chaplaincy provides the opportunity to give spiritual care and support to a diverse group of individuals as they engage with life.”

She and her husband, Delroy, a pastor, have two children, Micah and Matea.
Herbert Blomstedt, Alcyon Fleck and Howard Gimbel shared the spotlight at the Weniger Society’s 37th annual awards ceremony in Loma Linda, Calif.

Established to honor notable Seventh-day Adventists, the Weniger Society’s award has been called “possibly the most prestigious honor bestowed by a church entity.” Begun in 1974 by the late U.S. Representative Jerry Pettis and the late Clinton Emmerson, D.D.S., former students of Charles Weniger, the annual award ceremonies have honored people whose accomplishments and commitment align with the excellence typical of Weniger.

This professor’s impact on students at Pacific Union College, Washington Missionary College and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary sent a generation of students and preachers into the world with an appreciation for his infectious spirit, vivid lectures and meticulous precision. To date, 151 Seventh-day Adventists have received Weniger Society awards.

Bringing together a world-class symphony orchestra conductor, an eminent innovator in ophthalmology, and the indefatigable founder of International Children’s Care provided a kaleidoscope of powerful vignettes at the Jan. 28 awards ceremony.

Blomstedt, of Lucerne, Switzerland, tucked his appearance in between an evening of guest conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra and a similar appointment with the National Symphony in Washington, D.C. Subsequently, he returned to San Francisco to direct concerts with the orchestra of which he was music director from 1985 to 1995.

Having extensive appointments conducting a dozen or more of the world’s most preeminent orchestras, and being the recipient of two Grammy awards, Blomstedt also ably stepped into the pulpit at the award ceremony to discuss the “truth” that is precious to him and his fellow Adventists and “truth” that is found in the world of music. Thus he inaugurated the Emmerson Lecture Series, named in honor of Emmerson’s 37-year commitment to overseeing the Weniger Society.

Alcyon Fleck, of Battle Ground, Wash., a published author, established and directs International Children’s Care, an organization she conceived while on mission appointment with her husband in Guatemala. Her passion for orphans and abandoned children led to the establishment of children’s villages in 18 countries, where thousands of children are housed in individual homes presided over by “home parents” who provide a Christian setting.

Gimbel is actively pursuing an ophthalmology practice and teaching career as a professor at Loma Linda University, the University of Calgary, and UC–San Francisco. His name appears on a list identifying the “25 most influential ophthalmologists of the 20th century.”

Also a recipient of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award, Gimbel has been recognized repeatedly for his innovations in ophthalmology surgery. At the award ceremony, Gimbel declared, “God is to be praised for any achievements of mine.”

The annual Weniger Society award ceremony scheduled for Jan. 19, 2013, will again introduce awardees whose accomplishments are enhanced by their commitment to the Creator who endowed them.

Edna Maje Loveless
More than 70 members and guests gathered in the assembly hall of the Victoria church in Loma Linda on Sunday evening, March 11, to initiate the building of a new entryway and restrooms and the remodeling of children’s Sabbath school rooms.

“The current facility was originally designed and built in 1979 to serve as a community center,” said Michael McMillan, pastor. “Since that time, many different plans for expansion have been drawn up. They have all come to naught. So it was with significant joy that members celebrated this occasion.

During the past 10 years, members have supported many renovations while developing a master plan for the 4.5-acre campus. The renovations included a new roof, sewer connection, chairs, lighting, interior paint, signage and a remodeled patio.

The small projects proceeded while the members have accumulated more than $100,000 toward the church’s anticipated major expansion. Three years ago, it was decided that it was time to move ahead. At the time the Southeastern California Conference approved the proposal, a young architect, Derrick Heeb, agreed to undertake the design of the new addition on a pro bono basis.

The design aligns the present facility with Victoria’s master plan. It will anchor a future walkway that will lead from the parking lot, past the Ministry Center and Worship Center, to education and fellowship facilities. The new restrooms will be located on either side of that entry walkway. They will be expansive enough to accommodate the restroom needs of future phases of construction and will comply with current accessibility standards. There will be a lounge in the women’s restroom. A separate assistance restroom will include a shower for use by children and others who may need the assistance of a parent, spouse or caregiver of the opposite gender.

This project will also enlarge one of the church’s existing classrooms. Existing restrooms will be converted into a workroom that will serve the needs of the two adjoining classrooms. It will include a child-sized toilet so that young children can use the restroom without leaving supervision.

In his remarks, McMillan called attention to the Victoria church’s location on a prime piece of property that is “visible for 30 seconds by those traveling west on the I-10 freeway.” Aware of the value of the contributions of those who have gone before and of God’s financial blessing, the congregation has set a goal to raise $371,000 in five years. With this money, members plan to pay off their loan from the Pacific Union Conference and restore the building fund to more than $100,000.

The process of fund-raising began in earnest three years ago. A “copper kettle offering” of pennies is received each week. The pennies remind congregants that God routinely takes small things and amplifies them to achieve His purposes. At the groundbreaking, two children presented three years’ worth of penny collections. They pulled a heavy wagon filled with more than 35,000 pennies contained in two five-gallon glass bottles.

Guests at the March 11 service included Sandra Roberts, executive secretary of the Southeastern California Conference; Derek Heeb, architect; and Rick Pence, contractor.
Las Vegas school offers two-year, bilingual kindergarten program

For the past four school years, Las Vegas Junior Academy has offered a kindergarten program like few others in the kindergarten world.

Unique in two ways: the LVJA program offers a full academic kindergarten to 4-year olds in addition to the regular 5-year-old program, and both are bilingual, English and Spanish.

The program was the brainchild of Dacyl Galicia, the school’s kindergarten teacher for a number of years, who is herself bilingual. Galicia recognized how much faster a child can learn a second language when they start at an early age.

News of the unique program traveled fast, and enrollment grew quickly. Both Adventist and non-member parents saw distinct advantages to the program.

“Our boy has been in the LVJA kindergarten program for two years now, and we cannot say enough about how it has benefited our boy,” said Sherimae Rittgers, a non-Adventist parent. “When he comes home and speaks seemingly fluent Spanish, we have no idea what he is saying, but we will catch up someday!”

According to Galicia, when a young mind begins to think in two different languages, new vistas are opened up in the brain — especially on the creative side — allowing languages, music, art, and other creative endeavors to blossom and multiply within the child, and continuing through adulthood. Academics come easier, as well.

“Children’s desire for learning and making discoveries in other areas is developed from discovering a second language,” says Galicia. “Studies show that children who study a foreign language have higher test scores than their peers who are monolingual. Their reading skills are better and more advanced, as well as having a richer vocabulary in their first language because of the acquisition of a second language.”

The LVJA kindergarten program is not a play-only program. While filled with plenty of appropriate fun and adventure, the program is highly academic. Students receive large doses of fun-filled, yet academically-driven, pre-reading and math exercises and activities, in addition to learning in other subject areas.

Thanks to Spanish-speaking teacher aides Betsy Weibley and Anna Marin, learning is segregated, based on age and academic ability. Spanish is taught from the first day, and some learning units are taught entirely in Spanish.

By the end of the K-5 kindergarten year, students are able to read, giving them a jump start in first grade.

Currently, there are a total of 27 students in the K-4 and K-5 kindergarten at LVJA. “Our kindergarten program gives children all the building blocks necessary to succeed well in their future schooling,” says principal Arlyn Sundsted.
New Spanish group forms on the east side of Las Vegas

Spanish-speaking Adventists congregations have been on the west side of Las Vegas for several decades.

Andy Silva, pastor of the west side Camino a Cristo church, and various members of his congregation developed a vision to establish a Spanish ministry on the east side of Las Vegas.

In the summer of 2011, a search began for a site that could house a new Spanish-speaking group, under the Camino a Cristo parent church. By the fall, Sabbath services began in a rented first-day church with about 25 people from Camino a Cristo. The group was officially named Oasis Espiritual (“Spiritual Oasis”).

Since then, attendance has increased to 60-80 individuals every Sabbath. Many of those attending on a weekly basis are new interests as a result of an active program of witnessing in the area surrounding the church.

Mario Avila and Douglas Falla lead the group and keep them active and enthused. Weekly fellowship dinners, followed by local community outreach, spur growth and keep members involved.

“Our group is very committed and is growing nicely,” says Avila. “We hope to become a company soon, and eventually a regular church congregation with our own church site.”

The church is located in a strip mall at 4884 East Charleston Blvd. in Las Vegas.

Worshippers warmly greet each other during a worship service.

Tahoe camp meeting to begin July 30

Tahoe camp meeting will convene July 30 to Aug. 4 in a new location at the Tahoe Valley Campground in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. There will be plenty of space for both RV and tent campers. Hotels in the area can accommodate those who do not wish to stay at the campground.

On Friday and Saturday, the camp meeting also serves as the Reno Area Convocation for the Nevada-Utah Conference.

This year’s evening speaker will be Dick Duerrksen, assistant to the president of Maranatha Volunteers International. Duerrksen hosts the weekly television show, “Maranatha Mission Stories.”

The morning devotional speaker will be Peter Neri, pastor of the Paradise church in Las Vegas. Educational seminars will be presented Monday through Thursday in the morning and afternoon. The Heralds will give a Sabbath afternoon concert.

Camp meeting starts on Monday evening and concludes Saturday evening. Programs for children will be provided. Hot meals will be available on all days.

For complete information, visit the Tahoe camp meeting website at tahoe campmeeting.adventistfaith.org. For campground information or reservations, call 530-541-2222 or visit their website at rvonthego.com. For questions on the camp meeting itself, call Virginia Rose at 916-967-5932 or e-mail tahoe campmeeting@gmail.com.

Nevada-Utah Staff

Tahoe camp meeting takes place at a new location this year — Tahoe Valley Campground in South Lake Tahoe.
Rio Lindo Adventist Academy seeks continual improvement

When Joe* was considering school options for ninth grade, his teacher suggested Rio Lindo Adventist Academy. Joe showed up on the first day of school with no idea of what to expect. He had been behind in his literacy skills for a number of years, but several Rio teachers recognized his yearning to learn and worked to bring him up to grade level.

In May, Joe graduated from Rio, confident that with the skills and work ethic he learned there, he will be able to graduate from college with a nursing degree. “I feel like the impossible is now possible,” said Joe. “My life has always been an upward climb, but I know that God has brought me here to Rio and used teachers to bring me where I am today.”

This commitment to student learning has been a hallmark of Rio for many years. However, two years ago, Rio’s teaching staff decided to refocus their team effort on continually improving and developing their teaching methods. They wanted to prepare every student to be ready for higher learning. As they considered the school’s goals, Rio’s leadership saw that the greatest needs in education were effective classroom teaching and learning services for students. By extensively collecting data and evaluating test scores, Rio’s leadership identified weaknesses and found solutions to continually improve the students’ education.

Change from the front of the class

Math and physics teacher Mark Tamanaha regularly notices that several students in each of his classes have learning difficulties. As an educator, he believes it is his duty to do everything he can to help these students. He leaves his door open between classes to be available to those who need extra help. He meets with students after school to help tackle tough questions. He trains his students to work through problems without giving up. Together with other teachers, Tamanaha uses data and teaching techniques to identify struggling students and give them the tools to succeed.

“Ellen White said that self-development is one of the highest priorities and responsibilities for Christians,” said Lyle Bennett, vice principal. “We believe that students should strive to improve, but our teaching staff as well should seek to continuously grow.”

One way that the staff has worked together to improve skills is in the area of writing. Now, students not only practice their writing skills
in English class, but across the curriculum. For example, they write about how to serve a volleyball in PE class, how to lead a group in a survival situation in outdoor education class, or how engine combustion works in science class.

“This process has really been a learning experience for our teachers. It’s exciting to see staff implement improved methods of teaching,” said Principal Doug Schmidt.

**Change from behind the desk**

Last school year, a team of teachers piloted a goal-setting program for incoming freshmen called “Navigate.” Assisted by an interactive online program, Navigate challenges students to create specific goals for their futures. Teachers sit down with each student and teach him or her to visualize success by combining academic data with a student’s career interests. Teachers also work with the students to formulate a plan to reach set goals — both personal and academic. Students can also use the online program to write out practice goals and plans.

Another way technology helps students is through a personalized instruction program called ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces). Becca* had always been challenged in math. When she came to Rio, Becca was surprised when her pre-algebra instructor, Brad Benson, had her use a computer to learn math — right at her level. By using ALEKS, students learn based on what they already know through an ongoing assessment process. If a student doesn’t understand the math problem on the first try, ALEKS — and the classroom teacher — continue to teach the concept until the student is proficient. By using ALEKS, Becca was prepared for Algebra 1 in record time.

**Looking ahead**

Next year, as part of the Continuous School Improvement plan, the teaching staff will meet together regularly in small groups to implement standards in the classroom, share teaching ideas, and help each other create learning plans for success for struggling students. Schmidt and his team firmly believe in the high calling of Adventist education: preparing students for life and eternity.

*not their real names

*Rika Meyer

Social studies teacher Lynden Chapman works with sophomore Andrew Roda, from Jackson, Calif.
Capitol City church honors unsung heroines

Last year, the Sacramento-Capitol City church honored two categories of unsung heroines: single mothers and senior citizens — women who make a positive impact on the lives of those around them.

In the spring, the church presented Alma Awards to three single mothers: church member Sharon Hall and community members Carmen Gilstrap and Ruby Plancarte. The name of the award is a tribute to Alma Jean Ware, who passed away in 2010. She was a single mother of three sons, including Reginald Horton, the church’s senior pastor at the time. Alma Jean sometimes worked three jobs to support her kids. She made sure that they respected her — and all women, and she encouraged them to be their best. “Though she never received a high school diploma, she emphasized the importance of education to her sons,” said women’s ministries leader Melody Germany-Wilson. “It is clear that Alma Jean models to all single parents what Paul said to the people of Philippi: ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’”

In past years, the church has presented Alma Awards to single mothers in the congregation, but last year they decided to reach out to the community, as well. The church invited students from a local school district to write essays telling why they felt their mothers deserved the award. Two high school students’ essays were chosen. “Their essays expressed how remarkable their mothers were and the strength and perseverance they demonstrated,” said Germany-Wilson. The community mothers and their family members were appreciative, and several expressed interest in returning to the church.

Later in the year, the church’s women honored another group of ladies at the Living Legends Luncheon. The honorees were all senior citizens — 75 years and older. “We were treated like dignitaries; we were treated so special,” said 83-year-old Oree Smith, who serves as an elder and Bible worker at the church. “That really touched me.”

Women in the church prepared a luncheon, decorated the tables in purple and yellow, and presented each honoree with a corsage and a picture frame. A special keepsake booklet provided information about all the “living legends,” listing the women’s birthdays, birthplaces, and numbers of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The booklet also recorded their accomplishments, including education, employment and church work. Each honored woman had the opportunity to contribute a quote or Bible verse to the booklet, which they could take home. The event also featured music and poetry presentations.

The honorees enjoyed the attention and appreciation. “The food was superb, and everybody was so nice. I enjoyed it!” said Vivian Givens, now 91 years old.

The event organizers wanted to thank the older ladies for leaving a legacy for the younger women. “The oldest people in the church are the ones who paved the way for us; they set the tone; they set the stage,” said Germany-Wilson. “They have done so much for us. We need to let them know that we appreciate what they did.”

“I think it’s important for the churches to honor their older ladies, because they — like Olympians — carry the torch,” said Jayne Jackson, who photographed the event. “We can watch, learn and grow.”

Julie Lorenz
Manteca church member helps spread the gospel in Japan

How can the gospel message be spread in Japan — one of the most secular countries in the world? Through her hard work as a translator, Manteca church member Hiroko Komaki has introduced an Amazing Facts Bible study series to the country of her birth.

“Storacles” is a made-up word, referring to “stories from the old oracles of Scripture.” Each lesson starts with a Bible story, which is used to explain prophecy and communicate truth. Komaki liked the lessons so much that she decided to translate them into Japanese — on her own time, without pay. She threw herself into the project, translating four or five hours a day on the days she worked her regular job, and 15 hours a day on her days off (except Sabbath, of course). “I woke up at five in the morning, translating as I ate breakfast, and I went to bed at 11 p.m. or midnight,” she said. It took her four months to translate all 24 lessons.

As each lesson was completed, she sent it to the Adventist church in her hometown of Kamakura, Japan. However, instead of mailing it directly to the church, she asked her non-Christian sister who lived nearby to deliver the materials for her. “A couple of years later, I had totally forgotten about it until I got a call from my sister,” said Komaki.

She discovered that her sister, Sachiko Komaki, had read every lesson and had become acquainted with some of the Adventists. “In early 2011, with support from the Kamakura church members, my sister gave her heart to Jesus,” said Komaki.

After seeing how the lessons had helped her sister, Komaki wanted to make them available to a wider audience. She contacted BibleUniversity.com (part of Amazing Facts) and registered as a Japanese translator. She discovered that she needed an editor to verify her translation before it could be approved by Amazing Facts. After she contacted Kamakura church head elder Shigeaki Masunaga, he spoke with Tadashi Yamaji, media center director of the Japan Union Conference. Yamaji said that the union had been using an old Bible study series for decades, and they were looking for another one. He selected an Adventist church member, Honami Shimada, to edit the Bible studies, and Shimada and Komaki worked together online for about five months.

Last fall, Komaki traveled to Japan for her sister’s baptism and to deliver the completed series to Yamaji at the Japan Union Conference. Yamaji plans to publish the Storacles of Prophecy Bible study series in Japanese by the end of 2012 and make it available nationwide.

Komaki is amazed that God used her to reach out to the Japanese people with the Good News. She says English and Japanese weren’t her strong subjects in school, so she was surprised by the work the Lord gave her to do. “I’m a math and science person,” she said. “I still don’t know why He chose me to do the job when there are so many more qualified people out there. He must want to remind us what He can do with anybody — even a person with challenges — if we are willing to follow His direction.”

Julie Lorenz
Maria Denneny was running a successful upholstery and interior design business 23 years ago when she decided to create a ministry for the Hispanic women of the Arizona Conference. She didn’t feel qualified, but she believed it was her calling. In faith, she began a ministry that has impacted hundreds of women through the years.

Frank Sherrill, then president of the Arizona Conference, pledged his support, but didn’t have money to give. In spite of their shoestring budget, the first event, a convocation in April 1990, drew 90 Hispanic women.

The 2012 Hispanic women’s retreat drew 250 attendees to Camp Yavapines in Prescott, Ariz., April 20-22. Attendees included about 30 non-Adventist ladies who attended with their friends.

Featured speaker Elizabeth Talbot focused on “A Las Pies de la Cruz” (At the Foot of the Cross). Talbot told the story of Joseph and the many coats he was asked to wear — beloved son, hated brother, slave, falsely accused steward, then second in command in the country, ready to save his own family in time of need.

“Women face the same things today as Joseph did then,” says Denneny. “We wear our robes of trials and tribulations, but through it all, God has a plan for our lives. And when faithful, we triumph just like Joseph!”

“My life is not going to be the same from now on,” said Gloria, a non-Adventist attendee. “After this weekend, I have been transformed! I would like to be baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist.”

Today, Denneny works as a chaplain for Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix, Ariz. She is the mother of four children and grandmother of eight, but still makes Hispanic women’s ministry one of her top priorities. “I want to help build and strengthen the spiritual lives of our ladies, and encourage them to make Jesus their number one priority,” she says.

Phil Draper
The Arizona Conference hosted a Black Roots Rally Sabbath, March 24, at the Beacon Light church in Phoenix. The celebration marked the 75th year of organized ministry to, by, and for African-American Adventists in Arizona.

Earl Canson Jr., vice president of the Black Adventist Historical Society – West Coast, and a former pastor in the Arizona Conference, interviewed several pioneers whose work resulted in the creation and growth of the churches that exist today. Bernard Cayton, who began his ministry as pastor of the Beacon Light church in the mid-1950s, shared how he and the church worked with community leaders and state legislators to pass fair housing legislation, which allowed blacks and Latinos equal access to traditionally white residential neighborhoods and restaurants.

Other features included Dr. Josie Pete and Sam Bond remembering the challenges they faced at the beginning of the South Mountain/Shiloh Mission. Dr. Vicki Miles and members of the Tucson Sharon church produced a dramatic presentation depicting the groundbreaking work in Tucson by some early pioneers.

Walter Arties, assistant to the president for African-American ministries, presented video reflections of the Phoenix Breath of Life evangelistic series held in 1995.

Dr. Carlton Byrd, the new speaker/director of Breath of Life Ministries, spoke passionately about God’s calling to the churches to reclaim members who have drifted away. Byrd began a reclamation revival on Sabbath morning, and continued it every evening through Wednesday night.

Representatives of each congregation presented music, culminating with a rousing rendition of “Total Praise” by the Arizona Mass Choir, under the leadership of Sheryl Johnson.

Bobby Mitchell, director of African-American ministries for the Pacific Union Conference, also offered his encouragement and support.

The Black Roots Rally was presented by the Black Adventist Historical Society and sponsored by the West Coast Black Administrator’s Caucus.

Byron Dulan
Central Filipino church hosted a mini-camp meeting featuring 25 speakers from across the U.S. the last weekend of March. Themed, “Prepare . . . for the Final Crisis,” the weekend was sponsored by the church’s women’s ministry department and its Southern California Connection Women’s Prayer Line ministry.


“For a while, three to five members called in each time. We really didn’t have much to pray about, so I suggested that we invite friends, no matter where they live.

“Since then, the prayer line calls average 50 to 70 callers. When we added volunteer speakers from all over the United States, the ideas for what to pray about started coming.”

“The prayer line is so inspiring and enlightening,” posted Donna, from Ohio, on the prayer line website. “By the way, I’m going back to church and getting stronger day by day, and it’s helping me to grow in my spiritual relationship with Christ.”

“The prayer line had been functioning for a while, but the people participating had not seen each other,” said Rosete. “The mini-camp meeting was an opportunity for them to meet.”

“We opened every possible room for the various seminars and classes,” Rosete said. “They met in the lobby, in my office, in the hallways. We ordered portable dividers and divided the entryway so various classes could meet there.”

“We could feel the Holy Spirit’s presence,” said Shorter. “People didn’t want the discussions or speakers to stop. At 11 p.m., we had to flick the lights. On the final evening, a speaker from Bakersfield was amazed to find the church still packed for his 9 p.m. message.”

Guest speakers stayed in the homes of members, with one doctor offering to house 14 guests for the event.

When the weekend was over, the team found that all expenses had been covered, with $4,000 left over to be used for ministry-related needs at the church.

For more information about the prayer line, visit www.socalwplm.sdaweb.com.
Robotics teams work on real-world challenges

At the 2011-2012 Adventist Robotics League “Food Factor Challenge” held at Glendale Adventist Academy, students were at the demonstration tables, intent on moving Lego robots around, using remotes to assure that they would knock down, pick up, or push items from one place to another or gather others for depositing in other areas of the course.

The event might have looked like kids playing with Legos during school hours. A closer look told a different story. Combining principles of science, math, technology and engineering, students worked in teams to find solutions to real-world problems. This year’s challenge tackled a food-industry problem that affects all of us: how to avoid contamination in food distribution processes.

All of the participating students received recognition for their efforts. Glendale Adventist Elementary’s (GAE) Retrovirus Team took first place in the competition. Other SCC teams were GAE’s Cyborgs Extreme and Terminators, and the Adventist Christian School’s Team Gold from Ridgecrest. Loma Linda Robotics received second prize, and the Oceanside Who Moved My Cheese? Team placed third.

“Farms have a huge problem with bugs,” said Dawn Rabello, volunteer coordinator for the robotics teams in the Southern California Conference. “To meet that problem, the Retrovirus Team used the geodesic dome concept. They constructed a farmhouse with dark glass that received constant light. The water collection system was supported with well water. For light, they proposed wind and solar power. The team anticipated that the system could turn a profit in two years.”

Parents and other interested adults volunteered as judges and coaches. Coaches worked with their teams as they put in two or three hours once a week for about three months.

“Robotics is one of the most exciting things we do as a special activity each year,” said Robert Dennis, an SCC associate superintendent. “The benefit is for students to experience what problem-solving ability is, through building robots.”

“I liked building the robot and building new attachments for it the most,” said Cheyenne Stephens, a sixth-grader. “I especially liked that all the programming and building we did were done as a group, not just by one person.”

Sixth-grader Donovan Corbin also liked the group dynamic. “This was my first time to enter, and it was fun,” he said. “I liked the team concept, because one person didn’t have to do everything.”

One question that judges asked was, “Do you argue or get mad at each other?”

One student answer reflected a core robotics value: “Yes, we do argue, but when we finish and have a solution, we are better for having argued!”

Despite the buzz of other students looking on, robotics participants were intent on achieving goals, solving problems, reviewing errors and making corrections — and enjoying the excitement of having their robots perform well.
The SCC collegiate ministry Pheron held its second annual C3 Retreat at Camp Cedar Falls at the end of March. More than 100 college-aged young people attended. “This retreat has grown and we expect it to keep growing,” acknowledged the leadership team. The weekend was filled with worships, breakout sessions and games. Each facet of the weekend was intentionally planned by Pheron team leaders to meet the specific needs of the collegiate young adult.

Pastor Glenn Gibson, associate pastor of the West Covina Hills church, was the speaker. A youth pastor at his home church, Gibson is in constant connection with the issues of young people.

Exploring the life of Jesus and how Christ calls us to follow, Gibson interspersed his sermons with experiences from Jesus’ ministry. Each member of the Pheron leadership team conducted breakout sessions from which retreat attendees could choose. The sessions covered a range of categories including dating, Bible study, journaling, spiritual formation, prayer, God and technology, and music. Participants attended these breakouts to learn how to use the principles shared in their day to day lives.

Students enjoyed time Saturday evening fellowship and laughing together. They played indoor games, dodgeball, karaoke and enjoyed a late night movie feature. “It was all healthy, clean fun that students often don’t experience in the world in which they interact,” noted one pastor. “It is important that students experience what a healthy Adventist community looks like, so they can emulate it when they go home.”

Pheron schedules events throughout the year. A beach day is being planned for the summer. The leadership team is also planning some worship events, as well as other social events for collegiates. (For updates, visit Pheron’s Facebook page.) Since the C3 Retreat is an annual event, Pheron leaders invite collegiates to plan their schedules around it, because, according to one team member, “It will be well worth your time!”

“I just got back from the C3 collegiate retreat at Camp Cedar Falls,” said Ben Vete. “I definitely needed this weekend. I feel very refreshed and a little bit better about things. I met a lot of amazing people. I made a lot of new friendships, and strengthened old ones, and had the time of my life up there. I was very blessed to have been able to go, and I hope to go next year!”

“If you didn’t come to this retreat, you missed out,” said Amanda Daino, from Palmdale. “How could you not come to something like this? This weekend was awesome!”

The next Pheron retreat is scheduled for April 5-7, 2013.

Iki Taimi
On April 8, 2012, a weekend that marked the first six months of the Resurrection church plant’s existence in West Covina, the group held its first Easter celebration. The group came together for ALIVE 2012 to rejoice over the resurrection of Jesus and proclaim the power of the empty tomb.

Prior to this event, the church collectively prayed that God would show them people to invite. They wanted the day to be especially for inviting friends and loved ones who had left the church, or who had never belonged to it. ALIVE 2012 was held at the Kellogg West Conference Center on the campus of Cal PolyTech in Pomona, and was planned as an evangelistic outreach to help introduce people to Christ and to the Resurrection group.

For more than four hours, people flooded the hotel lounge, enjoying finger foods and music, mingling and connecting. After people had mingled for a while, the doors to the auditorium opened, and guests were welcomed into a worship experience led by the Revive Worship Ministry, Resurrection’s worship band.

A prayer room was a highlight of the evening. Designed with stations covering themes such as faith, healing and forgiveness, the room invited individuals to spend time at each station, praying through Scripture. After the pastor’s message on being alive in Christ, guests continued the celebration for more than an hour and a half.

“Alive was more than just another Easter service,” said Jackson Boren, local elder. “It was a beautiful representation of what it means to be a part of Resurrection church. Everyone, whether new to the church or a lifelong member, came together to remember that we have life in Jesus.”

“Experience God. Connect Lives. Share Love.” This is the mission statement — inspired by the first three chapters of Acts — of the Resurrection church plant launched on Oct. 1, 2011. From a core group of 20 people, this congregation has grown in numbers and in impact. Through worship experiences designed to inspire and challenge people to a life of discipleship, life groups crafted to build relationships, and monthly service activities, members strive to create a culture of service and mission.

“In our short time there, we have bonded through our life groups and other activities,” said Danny Ovando. “Now I feel like we are part of a family community. Sabbath is again a joy in our lives.”

“At Resurrection, they make you feel welcome,” said Lupe Cano. “I come from a weird background. There are a lot of people here that you can have conversations with, and they don’t judge you.”

“Resurrection brings to life old ideas like fellowship and community in God,” said Esteban Ruiz. “The idea of the church is like a community, not like a lifeless building.” (For location and other details, visit www.resurrectsda.org; Twitter@resurrectionsda.)
Before the doors opened at 9 a.m., people were lining up at the San Francisco Philadelphian church gymnasium. More than 300 people visited the health expo on April 15. This was the first outreach of a new five-year initiative to reach San Francisco for Jesus.

Encouraged by the General Conference’s “Mission to the Cities” priority, a team of church members and pastors from the city’s 14 Adventist churches planned the event. Ads on 30 municipal buses announced the expo in English, Spanish and Cantonese. Radio, Internet and 8,000 flyers spread the news, as well.

“We are thrilled to be the forefront of this initiative in what is considered to be one of the hardest cities in the world to reach. The lay members of San Francisco are more than ready to meet the challenge of reaching our city,” said Cynthia Williams of the Philadelphian church, who spearheaded the planning team.

The Beginning

Since 1859 when the first Adventist family arrived in San Francisco, Calif., local church members have worked tirelessly to share Jesus with their neighbors and friends. Today, with a population of approximately 805,000, the challenges are overwhelming.

Prayer was the first action. For nearly three years, church members and pastors met almost every Sunday morning to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in San Francisco and for His direction on how best to impact the city. Recently, and in unity, the Sunday morning prayer group members agreed that a coordinated city-wide health outreach initiative was their answer to prayer.

“It was the church members’ passion for Christ and evangelism, and their sacrificial spirit, which really triggered the process,” said Naofumi Nozawa, pastor of the Japanese church.

Through a weekly radio program, the Chinese church had been reaching out to Cantonese speaking listeners for the past few years. The members began praying that God would open a way for them to promote the health principles in action. “In other words, live, in person,” said Phillip Tse, first elder. Then the opportunity came to be part of the expo. “God’s plan always has perfect timing. He places His servants in the right place at the right time.”

Undaunted by the thousands of dollars that would be needed, the prayer group was confident of God’s leading.

“The Lord just started sending people with the skills and resources we needed to pull it together,” said Helen Hill, a planning team member.

Both the Central California Conference and Pacific Health Education Center, Bakersfield, Calif., joined the effort. Steve Horton, vice president for ministries, thought a city-wide health outreach was a perfect fit for San Francisco.
Francisco, noting the high degree of lifestyle-based chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and chronic heart disease.

“Our direction and motivation is introducing people to Jesus. We will reach His people through the entering wedge — the health ministry,” Horton said.

The Health Expo

The planning team consisted of members from the Japanese, Tabernacle, Philadelphian, Samoan and Chinese churches. “It wasn’t an easy process, but the planning process went on,” said Nozawa. Volunteers from the city’s churches implement the plan.

Ten stations, manned by church members, were based on the eight fundamental health principles — nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, air, rest, and trust in Divine power — NEWSTART, the wellness and restoration program developed and coordinated by the Weimar Institute of Health and Education.

Visitors could also get an estimated health age with an anti-oxidant screening. Information on Christian education was available at the San Francisco Adventist School station.

Screenings included cholesterol, blood pressure and body fat. They could enjoy sample vegan dishes, hydrotherapy and massage. Counseling on the various results was provided as people investigated how to improve their health through lifestyle changes.

“It was excellent right from the beginning. More than 150 contacts were generated for follow up,” said Pastor Manuao Mauia of the South San Francisco Samoan church.

“The joy was just beyond words when we can share with the participants the reasons why one needs to be healthy, how to be healthy and more importantly, how one can achieve eternal life,” said Tse. “There were participants on that day that had never heard of Jesus all their lives and showed great interest in our churches in San Francisco. They wanted to find out more about being a Christian.”

The churches are doing follow up in various health areas such as alcoholism and healthy living. Both Tabernacle and Philadelphian have already scheduled classes on the Full Plate Diet. The Sunday morning prayer group is also planning the next outreach, a second health expo in October.

“Our long term goal is to significantly impact San Francisco using first the ‘right arm’ of the message as the opening wedge to bring the gospel to all who will listen, and become excited as we work together, united in ministry, regardless of specific church membership, culture or ethnicity,” Williams said.

“We operated on faith!” Hill said. “We were watching and documenting how the Holy Spirit was working. We’re motivated to keep going, and we’re on a roll! This is the best thing I’ve ever done in my life!”
Patty Osborne joins CCC as associate superintendent for elementary schools

Patrice (Patty) Osborne joins the Central California Conference education team as the new associate superintendent for the elementary schools. She begins her new position on June 15.

Osborne brings 30 years of experience and a passion for education. “We are grateful to have such a dedicated and experienced Adventist educator as Patty on the CCC team,” says Dave Gillham, vice president of education. Her responsibilities include working with curriculum development, teacher training, school evaluations and special events.

It was her first-grade teacher that made an indelible impression. “I really loved her,” Osborne explains. Years later they would meet again. “Then later, at my academy, she was teaching one art class.” Still an elementary school teacher, she asked Osborne to work for her in her second-grade class. “I was inspired!”

She knew that elementary education would be her life’s calling. At that time, the number of school teachers exceeded the demand. She was constantly reminded of the lack of employment opportunities, but she was unstoppable.

Osborne received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., a master’s in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis as a reading specialist from California State University, Hayward, Calif., and is near completion of a doctorate in the School of Leadership and Administration from Andrews University.

“Noteworthy is her record in building schools. She took her school in Corrales, N.M., from about 20 students to nearly 150, complete with a new, state-of-the-art school building,” Gillham says.

Not intimidated by a challenge, Osborne either finds a solution or creates one. Seeking to provide quality education for all students, Osborne started a special program for Hispanic families to give them first-hand knowledge of the positive impact Adventist education can make on a family.

She has served on the North American Division’s committee to write hands-on materials for the science program, helped write curriculum for talented and gifted programs for the Southern California Conference and received the Zappora Award for Teaching Excellence.

Osborne received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Andrews University, a master’s in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis as a reading specialist from California State University, and is near completion of a doctorate from Andrews University.

Osborne has four sons, ages 26, 22 (twins), and 20. She laughs when asked about her hobbies. “Raising four boys, running a school and teaching?” Painting and running are her two favorite pastimes and she hopes to find more time for these activities.

Ileana Espinosa, who served as associate superintendent in CCC for 14 years, is now an associate superintendent for the Columbia Union Conference. The search for Osborne has taken almost a year and many hours of prayer.

“She couldn’t be more blessed to have such a dedicated team of professional Christian educators working with our school principals,” Gillham says. The education team includes associate Ken Bullington who serves the secondary schools.

Osborne’s passion is to create a school environment that gives students a glimpse of the value and potential God has placed in each one of them. “We want to create schools where every student learns to develop their specific talents, and to use those talents to be the hands and feet of God in service to others.”
NSF grant winner advances experimental physics

Vola Andrianarijaona, a professor of physics at Pacific Union College and a winner of a grant from the National Science Foundation, recently returned from a research trip to one of the world's top experimental physics laboratories in Belgium. His subject: charge transfer of astroparticles, a largely unexplored area of physics with a broad range of both theoretical and practical applications.

"I chose to focus on these particles because no one else is doing them, because they're too difficult," says Andrianarijaona. That's no idle boast. The particles within the scope of Vola's research — specifically ion-neutral molecular hydrogen — simply do not exist in Earth's normal environment, and only occur naturally in the near-vacuum of space and the extreme upper atmosphere.

The NSF grant has been vital in providing an important resource as Andrianarijaona performs his experiments: the assistance of excellent student researchers. PUC physics majors Christian Guillén, Shalyn Romano and April Vassantachart accompanied the physicist on his most recent trip to Oak Ridge. "Other scientists literally came up to me and said, 'Vola, I didn't expect that your students would be that good,'" he says.

Andrianarijaona's research into charge transfer has the potential to yield implications in all those areas. First, as the most basic element in the universe, new insight into the behaviors of hydrogen has the potential to reshape our understandings of fundamental physics. Second, the reactions under observation mimic the conditions of our universe's earliest moments, meaning that Andrianarijaona's findings could shed new light on the scientific assumptions as to how those moments occurred.

A little closer to everyday life, his findings may present new insights into the cooling of atomic reactions and the evaluation of current methods of cancer treatment.

The physicist has already presented preliminary results at several international conferences, including last year's International Conference on Photonic, Electronic and Atomic Collisions. He hopes to publish further findings later this year in several scientific journals.

Larry Peña
Adventist hospitals keeping communities well — near and far

It doesn’t matter that Castle Medical Center in Hawaii is more than 4,000 miles away from Papua New Guinea. Or that White Memorial Medical Center is almost 10,000 miles away from Zambia in Africa. The sizable distance hasn’t stopped these two hospitals from helping two rural medical centers in a big way.

Help Across the Sea

After a medical mission trip to Porgera Hospital in Papua New Guinea several years ago, CMC staff have had a special place in their hearts for the small hospital. Even though much was accomplished on the initial trip, the hospital needs ongoing support. By becoming a sister hospital, CMC has committed to offering help in many different ways.

Earlier this year, CMC partnered with MedShare, a nonprofit organization that recovers surplus medical equipment and redistributes it to those who need it, to ship an entire crate of medical equipment to Porgera Hospital.

In addition, CMC is harnessing technology to lend a hand to Porgera Hospital. Several CMC surgeons recently consulted — via Skype — with a surgeon at Porgera Hospital about a patient at the tiny hospital. The patient even joined by phone and was very relieved to receive long-distance medical attention. The physicians are still in contact working to determine a cause of the patient’s ailment.

Desert Dentists

White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles adopted Mwami Adventist as a sister hospital, through Adventist Health International in 2008. AHI, headed by Richard Hart, M.D., president of Loma Linda University, links facilities in the U.S. with those in developing nations.

Mwami Adventist Hospital serves mostly rural African farmers, many of whom suffer from diseases that we consider under control in the Unites States, such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. During the past four years, WMMC...
has provided paint, mattresses, computers and other necessary but scarce supplies.

Most recently, WMCC provided the hospital with dental equipment. The equipment was delivered earlier this year and has already been put to use by dental therapy students who will be there for several months providing services.

“Any U.S. dentist would be proud to have this state-of-the-art equipment in their office,” said Al Deininger, vice president of construction and facilities at WMCC. “The new dental office and equipment will bring much-needed dental services to the region.”

Several other Adventist Health hospitals also support rural medical facilities in other countries such as Honduras and Haiti.

**Much Needed Care and Compassion**

While it is important to remember needs in other parts of the world, it’s just as important to help those in need closer to home. Adventist Health recently co-sponsored the Remote Area Medical Clinic in Sacramento where more than 3,000 people of all ages and backgrounds lined up to receive free medical, dental and vision care.

Several Adventist Health staff members — including a physician from Sonora Regional Medical Center in Sonora, Calif. — joined more than 700 volunteers to turn Cal Expo into a giant weekend clinic for the uninsured and under-insured. Patients waited in line for hours to receive the much needed medical attention.

Keith Doram, M.D., chief medical officer and VP for Clinical Effectiveness at Adventist Health, provided medical care. His nearly 12-hour day didn’t include any breaks, as the patient flow was non-stop. Paul Crampton, AVP for Mission and Spiritual Care also volunteered on Friday.

“I was impressed by the large need for health care services,” said Doram. “There were hundreds of people, from all walks of life, who waited all night in the rain to get this care. It was inspiring to see that after all the waiting, not even one patient was angry or unpleasant. They were all so grateful for the care they were receiving.”

Doram added, “It was apparent that many patients had more than physical needs. Several of my encounters resulted in prayer together seeking God’s help and acknowledging His presence. In every encounter, though, healing was occurring. Not necessarily physical healing, but healing that will make their tomorrows better because of the care provided.”

Brittany Dobbs
When Dr. Fritz Guy first arrived at La Sierra University’s campus in 1948 from Cedar Lake Academy in Michigan, he saw an expanse of dry, brown earth and felt the hot air. Little did he know it was the beginning of a new life, including a new career path in theology that would enrich and touch the lives of countless students and others.

“I registered as a physics major because that was the most interesting subject I had taken at Cedar Lake Academy. By the end of my sophomore year, however, I realized that I was really more interested in religion, so I changed my major,” Guy said.

Guy, an evangelist, pastor, religion professor at La Sierra and Andrews universities, and La Sierra’s first president in 1990, was honored as La Sierra’s Alumnus of the Year on April 20. The recognition took place during a fellowship banquet and awards ceremony that included recognitions of eight other La Sierra alums. The event kicked off alumni weekend — three days of programs, presentations, celebrations and festivities commemorating La Sierra’s alumni and its 90th year as a school campus.

Guy earned a Bachelor of Arts in theology in 1952 from La Sierra and a Master of Arts in 1955 from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, then in Washington, D.C. He joined La Sierra’s faculty in 1961 and earned a Ph.D. in Christian theology from the University of Chicago in 1971. For five years, he led La Sierra’s College of Arts and Sciences, and in 1977 took a position as theology professor at Andrews University. While there, he served as secretary of the committee that drafted a new Statement of Fundamental Beliefs for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was subsequently adopted during the 1980 General Conference session in Dallas, Texas.

Guy returned to California in 1984 to serve in a pastoral position at the Loma Linda University church, and returned to the La Sierra campus as its president after it became an independent institution in 1990. He rejoined the La Sierra religion faculty full-time in 1993 as a professor of theology and philosophy, transitioning in 2002 to research professor of philosophical theology.

“Fritz taught hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of seminary students at Andrews, including me,” said La Sierra University President Randal Wisbey. “And as a result of those many classes and lectures, his impact on the ministry of the Adventist church is still being felt today. I want to thank you for what you’ve given to each and every one of us.”

Wisbey cited Guy’s contributions to Seventh-day Adventism and commended his character. “He is a genuinely caring, gracious, Christian human being. Dr. Guy is to this day deeply loved by La Sierra’s students,” said Wisbey to cheers from the audience, which included many students.

Richard Patchett, president of the class of 2012 said, “He challenges us to be brave, to seek truth and not be afraid to ask difficult questions. [He has] guided us and given us wisdom when we had no idea what to do. He has shown us God’s limitless love and grace.”

Guy told the audience he learned from La Sierra professor Edward Heppenstall that, “La Sierra is a place that is safe to think, a place that is safe to question answers. I was unspeakably blessed by my time here [as a student]. Those four years changed my life, because they gave me the idea of how exciting it can be to think theologically. I am proud to be part of La Sierra, and I plan to stay here as long as I can possibly be useful to this place,” he said.

Alumni receiving awards April 20 included the following:
Honored Alumni

- College of Arts and Sciences Honored Alumna Marilene Wang ('82), professor of surgery, chief of otolaryngology, Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Health System, and director, Nasal and Sinus Disease Center, University of California, Los Angeles;
- School of Business Honored Alumnus David Geriguis ('83), La Sierra University vice president for financial administration;
- School of Education Honored Alumnus Mark Haynal ('97, '02), president, Canadian Union College, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada;
- H.M.S. Richards Divinity School Honored Alumnus Ralph Pueschel ('52), church pastor, singing evangelist in Iowa, Nevada-Utah, Hawaii and Southeastern California conferences.

Rising Star Awards

- College of Arts and Sciences Rising Star Jan Eckermann ('00), neurosurgeon, Kern Medical Center, Bakersfield;
- School of Business Rising Star Brian Meert ('03), co-founder, Handbag.com, an online handbag marketplace;
- School of Education Rising Star Paige Sautner ('07), school psychologist, Lake Elsinore Unified School District;
- H.M.S. Richards Divinity School Rising Star Eva Pascal ('01), doctoral student, Boston University.

Darla Martin Tucker

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

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inSpire is a web community where Seventh-day Adventist members gifted in, and passionate about the creative arts, can share their ideas and creations in a collaborative way. Songwriting, drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, poetry and more can be used in powerful ways to convey God’s story of hope and healing to our churches and surrounding communities.

If you enjoy painting, drawing, writing music and poetry, capturing art quality photographs, producing videos and more, we want to connect with you.

Produced by Pacific Union Conference Church Support Services

www.VisitInspire.org
www.facebook.com/visit.inspire
Medical simulation training at LLU saves lives

Dustin Mangus, M.D., sits in his customary spot at the head of the patient. As anesthesiologist for the case, his job is to keep his patient sedated at just the right level, carefully monitoring vital signs and equipment, while surgeons work quickly just a few feet away.

At the appropriate moment, Mangus begins to administer protamine, a drug that restores the blood’s ability to clot and reduce bleeding. This is a routine part of many cardiothoracic and vascular surgeries.

Suddenly multiple alarms sound. The patient has stopped breathing.

Mangus and his health care colleagues work feverishly to right the situation. His patient is experiencing catastrophic cardiopulmonary collapse, where both the heart and lungs simultaneously fail. After a few minutes, their efforts prove futile. The patient has died.

Rather than wheeling the patient to the morgue, as would be the next step in a literal hospital operating room, Mangus and a fellow anesthesia resident retire to a second room with desks and a television monitor. The colleagues who were in the simulated operating room with Mangus — as well as others who were watching from a control room — assemble to view and critique his actions in the simulation scenario of just a few minutes ago.

Fast forward less than a week. Mangus is once again at the head of his patient, carefully monitoring the levels of sedation, as well as a multitude of vital signs and equipment. This time, it’s a real patient — a 29-year-old heart transplant recipient.

At the age of 6, this young man received a new heart and a new lease on life. On this day, a cardiothoracic surgeon performs open-heart surgery to repair a faulty valve.

Once again, the monitors sound. The patient goes into catastrophic cardiopulmonary collapse just after Mangus administers protamine.

But this time, Mangus knows exactly what to do. Both he and the surgeon push massive doses of epinephrine, reversing the reaction and saving the young man’s life.

A small percentage of patients experience a reaction to protamine sulfate during surgery. Without prompt and proper action, these patients may die on the operating table. Knowing this, attending physicians in the anesthesiology residency program created a simulation scenario to test — and teach — anesthesia residents.

This is but one example of just how the Loma Linda University Medical Simulation Center (MSC) can impact the lives of patients.

Medical simulations take place in rooms designed to look and feel like actual health care settings. A health care team, composed of health professionals and members of the MSC staff playing various roles, works with lifelike computerized manikins that mimic patients in amazing ways. Behind the glass in a control room overlooking the simulation rooms sit technical specialists who run the computerized medical simulations. Debriefing sessions following the simulation scenarios provide critical opportunities for self-evaluation, as well as learning from the observations of peers and clinical educators.

The value of medical simulations has certainly become clear to Mangus. “I only hope we can create as many catastrophic simulation scenarios as possible before we have to face the real situations with actual patients,” Mangus emphasizes. “Simulation has certainly made a difference for me.”

For more information about our medical simulations, go to www.llu.edu/msc.

Larry Kidder, MA
Church State Council reopens Sacramento office

Dennis Seaton, director, Natalie Eva, aide, get right to work on government affairs

After lying vacant for a year, the Sacramento office of the Church State Council has been completely renovated, re-staffed, and opened in March. Dennis Seaton assumed leadership as the director of government relations, having been voted by the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee in January. He is ably assisted by Natalie Eva, the new legislative assistant.

Seaton served for 20 years in Central California Conference administration, handling human resources functions, pastoral placement, troubleshooting issues, and a variety of administrative duties. “Dennis brings a wealth of experience in the inner workings of the church and how to get things done that will prove invaluable to our efforts to build up the grassroots support for religious freedom,” observed Alan J. Reinach, Esq., the executive director of the Church State Council.

Seaton began his new duties not a moment too soon: Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada had introduced a Workplace Religious Freedom Bill at the urging of the Sikh Coalition, and the Church State Council quickly assumed a central role in coordinating support for this critically important bill. Seaton became immersed in lobby visits and other activities to promote the bill, known as AB 1964.

“I’m very excited about the opportunity to represent Christ in the legislative and interfaith communities, and to help our members with their Sabbath problems,” said Seaton. “There’s so much to learn, and so much to do! I never realized just how much mischief the legislatures can introduce in an effort to do good.”

Seaton is assisted by a new legislative aide, Natalie Eva. Their teamwork was on display while organizing the Church State Council lobby day on April 16th. A week before, they sent out legislative alerts urging church members to call members of the assembly labor and employment committee. So when the lobby teams arrived at assembly offices of committee members, they reported receiving dozens of phone calls. The bill then sailed through both the labor and employment and judiciary committees, the last one by a 9-0 vote.

At press time, it appears that AB 1964 has a good chance to move through the assembly, and be considered by the California Senate. Visit www.churchstate.org for the current status of the bill and the latest information on how to support the effort. This bill is a very high priority for Seventh-day Adventists, since it will strengthen California law requiring employers to provide religious accommodation for workers.

Alan J. Reinach, Esq.
Arizona
SUMMER CAMP (June 1–July 29) Camp Yavapines. Just $100 for a week of fun and adventure at Adventure Camp (July 1–8, ages 6–9); Juniors (July 8–15, ages 9–12); Tweens (July 15–22, ages 12–14); Teens (July 22–29). Register online early: Azsdayouth.com or contact Lisa, 480-991-6777, ext. 125.

GLOWAZ STUDENT EVANGELISM (June 3–Aug. 12) Summer program. Info: Jason Carlson or Vera Onkoba, 480-991-6777, ext. 108.


CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
YOSEMITE SABBATH SERVICE (May 26–Sept. 1 except July 21) Lower River Amphitheater. Sponsored by the CCC. Info: Miranda Nash, 903-905-3747, mn2209@gmail.com; or Tom Gearing, 209-559-3690, tagearing@gmail.com.

PRAYERWALK (July 7) Soquel Conference Center starting at 3:30 p.m. and ending with an Agape feast. Info: Joyce Mulligan, 559-696-3692, joycemulligan@sbcglobal.net.

CAMP MEETING (July 12–21) Soquel Conference Center. Info: ccc.adventist.org.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY
SPRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT (June 2) 8:15 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium.

SENIOR ART EXHIBITION (June 4–17) Brandstater Gallery.

SPRING BIG BAND CONCERT (June 9) 8:15 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium.


COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND (June 15–17) Fri., 8 p.m., Consecration, Mt. Rubidoux Church Senior Pastor Michael Kelly, LSU church; Sab. 9:30 a.m., Baccalaureate, Campus Pastor Sam Leonor. LSU church; 4 p.m., Educator Dedication, LSU church; 6 p.m., Commencement Concert, featuring performances by graduating seniors, Hole Memorial Auditorium. Sun., 8 a.m., Conferring of Degrees, featuring Dr. Fritz Guy, Founders’ Green on campus.

SUMMER SESSION begins June 15. For more information, go to www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=1875.

Nevada-Utah
FAMILY MINISTRIES SABBATH (June 9) Quincy church, Quincy, Calif., presented by Pastor David and Connie Hall. Worship Service (11 a.m.) and afternoon seminars (1:30 p.m.) “What Every Man Should Know About Every Woman;” and (3 p.m.) “What Every Woman Should Know About Every Man.” Info: NUCYouthDirector@gmail.com or 775-857-8388.


Tahoe Camp Meeting (July 30–Aug. 4) Tahoe Valley Campground, South Lake Tahoe, Calif. Info: 916-967-5932 or tahoe campmeeting@gmail.com, tahoe campmeeting.adventistfaith.org.

Northern California
WEIMAR CONVOCATION (June 5–9) “Into His Presence – An Experience with Christ in His Sanctuary.” Weimar Campus, 20601 West Paoli Lane. Info: weimar.org/convocation, 800-525-9192.

2012 ASIAN – PACIFIC WORKERS MEETING
AUGUST 26th TO 29th AT THE
DoubleTree by Hilton 1515 Hotel Circle South, San Diego, CA 92108

INVITING...
all Seventh-day Adventist Church pastors/lay pastors, head elders/elders, Bible workers and pastor’s spouses of all the Asian and South Pacific language groups within the Pacific Union! Come one, come all! Cambodians, Chinese, Fijians, Filipinos, Hmong, Indonesians, Japanese, Karens, Korean, Laotians, Nepalese, Samoans, Thai, Tongans, and Vietnamese.

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing.

Attend the 2012 Workers meeting designed just for YOUR ministry. We gather to synchronize and partnership our final Commission—hastening the coming of Jesus.

For more information about speakers, breakout sessions and women’s events: http://paucasian.adventistfaith.org/2012 Workers Meeting.

REDWOOD CAMP MEETING (July 19-28) 2437 Dyerville Loop Road, Redcrest. Come be blessed by fellowship, nature, seminars and speakers, including It Is Written Speaker/Director John Bradshaw, Pacific Press Publishing Association President Dale Galusha, and ADRA International President Rudi Maier. Info: 707-946-2452, redwoodreg@ncc.adventist.org or ncc.adventist.org/redwood.

FAITH CAMP (June 27-30) St. Helena church, 1777 Main Street. A mini-camp meeting with worship in word and song led by Jon and Natalie Wood; Friday evening communion and agape supper. Info: 707-963-4461, www.shsda.org, info@shsda.org.

Pacifi c Union College

PUC ORCHESTRA CONCERT (June 3) 3 p.m. The PUC Orchestra will perform its spring concert under the direction of Rachelle Berthelson Davis, associate professor and music department chair. Paulin Hall Auditorium. Info: 707-965-6303.

COMMENCEMENT (June 17) Family and friends are invited to celebrate the commencement ceremony for the Pacific Union College Class of 2012. Commencement Grove, 9 a.m. Info: puc.edu/graduation or 707-965-6211.

Southeastern California

ROCKY POINT LIGHTHOUSE VBS (June 17-22) 6-8:30 p.m. every evening. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Info: www.ufamilyministry.com.


GLENDALE ACADEMY GRADUATION (June 3) 10 a.m. The Hall of Liberty, Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive. Info: 818-244-8671.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (June 9) Featuring cellist Lars Hoefs. 4 p.m. Dr. Hoefs enjoys a multifaceted career as soloist, chamber musician, teacher, orchestral principal, recording artist, author, scholar. Reception will follow. Donations at the door. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.


L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM (June 23) 3 p.m. Speaker, Roy Branson, Ph.D., professor/assoc. dean, LLU School of Religion; Director, LLU Center for Christian Bioethics. Topic: “Five Great Ideas That Have Renewed the Church since the 1960s.” Chapel of the Good Shepherd at Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD BANQUET (June 24) Benefit the Homeless. 4 p.m. Come dressed in your native attire. The Nembhard & Black Center, 4211 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 90018. Sponsored by the Sparkle of Hope Ministry. Info: Daphne Morgan, 310-622-3806.

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SINGLE AND OVER 40? An interracial group exclusively for Adventist singles over 40. Stay at home and meet new friends in USA with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For info, send large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

SUMMIT RIDGE Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural Oklahoma setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, assisted living, and rivers. Jonathan Baylon, school board chair, 870-584-2442.

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**LOOKING FOR RETIRED** teacher/tutor, student missionary or volunteer to teach this fall at Dine Outreach, on the Navajo reservation, Northern Ariz. Please contact, Allen or Kelley Fowler, 928-221-9477.

**Events**


**DO YOU KNOW** the Spirit of Prophecy well enough to defend your beliefs against Satan’s attacks in these last days? To The Law & To The Testimony is the theme for the Secrets Unsealed Ministry’s 4th Annual Summit (Sept. 6-9) at the Univ. Square Hotel in Fresno, Calif. Speakers: Stephen Bohr, Steve Wohlberg & Milton Teske, M.D. Children's program and Sabbath-only registration available. Every attendee must register. Call 888-738-1412, 559-264-2300 or visit SecretsUnsealed.org for additional info and to register.

**FIRST NAD ADVENTIST MUSLIM** Relations Training & Networking Weekend. Interested in reaching out to Muslim neighbors? Ever wondered how our Adventist theology of mission applies to the Muslim context in North America? Want to be trained by practitioners who will present field-tested fruitful practices they’ve discovered? If so, this event is for you! Dates: July 26-29. Location: Heritage Academy, TN. Register early. Contact Heidi Guttschuss: Heidi.NADAMR@gmail.com, 404-558-4682.

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BLOOMQUIST, EDWARD — b. Oct. 12, 1924, Iowa City, Iowa; d. April 14, 2012, Yountville, Calif. Survivors: wife, Lila Mae; son, Roger; daughter, Carol; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild.


FIRMAN, LLOYD SCOTT — b. April 2, 1919, Forest Grove, Ore.; d. April 2, 2012, Paradise, Calif. Survivors: son, Larry; daughters, Doreen LaChapelle, LaVonne; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.


KIESZ, LESLIE — b. Sept. 19, 1936, Calistoga, Mont.; d. Jan. 23, 2012, Banning, Calif. Survivors: wife, Brigitte; son, Evan; daughters, Joanna, Jaime, Kara; two grandchildren. Dr. Kiesz, an LLU grad, was known to many for his own musical productions, and as a pianist, a teacher, and missionary outreach to prisoners.


MEADOWS, DELORES (JONES) — b. Jan. 28, 1944, Laurel, Miss.; d. March 27, 2012, Vallejo, Calif. Survivors: husband, Herman; son, Kyle; daughter, Kristen; brothers, Gary Jones, James Jones, Huey Jones; sister, Pearl Smith; one granddaughter.


WHITE, WILLIAM WALTER — b. Oct. 6, 1921, S.D.; d. March 11, 2012, Calistoga, Calif. Survivors: wife, Gladys; sons, Barry, Bradley, Brian; stepson, Linden Beardsley; stepdaughter, Kimberly Wilcox; brother, Dale; 15 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren. Served at La Sierra University, St. Helena Hospital and Mission Church Builders.


WILCOX, WENDELL LYLE — b. July 14, 1927, Hong Kong, China; d. March 31, 2012, Greenville, Tenn. Survivors: wife, Audrey (Fuller); sons, Paul, Dan; daughters, Wendy Barlow, Debbie Urquhart; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served in California; as pastor, Far Eastern Division; as publishing secretary, circulation manager and president of the Indonesia Union, Korean Union, the Sabah Mission, the Southeast Asia Union and the Thailand Mission.

YOSHIOKA, DENNIS T. — b. July 5, 1946, Hiro, Hawaii; d. April 15, 2012, Fresno, Calif. Survivors: wife, Sandra; sons, Gregg, Bradd; daughter, Pamela Diaz; five grandchildren. Served as boys’ dean at Far Eastern Academy, pastor at Mountain View Japanese Church, planned giving consultant for the Central California Conference, and director of Trust and Property Management, Northern California Conference.

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