Redwood Camp Meeting
Tradition Continues

Constituency Session Delegates Vote to Ordain Women

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

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about the cover
“My God is a God of joy,” said Steven Anglin, who was baptized by Eureka/Orleans district Pastor Bill McVay.

PHOTO BY JIM LORENZ
Delegates to the special constituency session vote to approve ordinations without regard to gender

Since 1950, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been studying the issue of women’s ordination. Studies released by official study groups uniformly concluded that there was no biblical reason not to ordain women to the gospel ministry. However, each time requests to ordain women to the gospel ministry have been presented, supported with the study results, to the world church, those requests have been rejected based on lack of cultural readiness in some areas of the world.

During the intervening years, world views on human rights have changed dramatically. Delegates to General Conference Sessions approved women as deacons, ordained deacons, elders, ordained elders, and local church pastors, including senior pastors. The single remaining privilege withheld from women is ordination to the gospel ministry — an affirmation from the church that God has called a person to that role.

On Aug. 16, 2012, 62 years after the first study was commissioned, delegates to a special Pacific Union Constituency Session held in Woodland Hills, Calif., voted 79 percent to 21 percent that the Pacific Union should officially acknowledge that God’s blessing has indeed been poured out on women pastors by approving for ordination those nominated by their local conferences (rather than “commissioning” them as is the current practice).

The session took place against a backdrop of the technical and social media revolution. Across the Internet and around the world, concerned members argued their positions on websites, Facebook and Twitter. Well-known pastors published websites on both sides of the ordination debate. More than 2,300 people watched the live video stream via the Internet, and delegates registered their votes on wireless electronic voting devices.

Throughout the session, which convened at 1 p.m. Pacific Time, a prayer team met in a side room to pray non-stop for the proceedings, including the 439 delegates, presenters and staff.

“The Body of Christ in our Union is moving with great intention and carefulness to be united on the great points and themes for which we are called,” said Pacific Union President Ricardo Graham in his opening remarks. “We have been given a powerful message to live and to preach and we want to find the best way to motivate all the talented people in our body to reach others for Christ.”

Council from the East

Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, addressed delegates, calling for a spirit of calm and an enlarged perspective of the impact of the decisions the delegates would soon be making, “I have believed since the mid-1980s that the church needs to fully recognize the contribution that women have made and have been making, and will make in the future of the missional objectives and ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This acknowledgment is the simple recognition of the gifting of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry.”

Jackson had some concerns about what it would mean if the Pacific Union took a different course from the world church in ordaining women. “The Church is God’s possession, therefore it is not ours to use as we would use our house or our car. Being a member of the church...
is not like being a member of the condominium association. It is not ours to modify without regard to the Holy Spirit and to one another.”

General Conference President Ted Wilson, charged with defending the will of the world church in session, stood and addressed the delegates. “I care about items of conscience, how people grapple with the challenges that they face,” he said.

Taking a global perspective, Wilson was concerned that the proposed actions could “tend to lead toward congregationalism.”

“When you reach a point of conflict between conscience and the policies that you feel are not in harmony with your moral imperative,” he continued, “some have felt so moved by this conviction that they are prepared to vote on something that will place them in dissonance with the world church.”

Wilson explained that the Theology of Ordination Study Committee is working to create a recommendation for Annual Council of the GC in the fall of 2014. “Some people have the idea that everything will be maneuvered and controlled and information will not be made known,” said Wilson. “I want to tell you that this study committee will be beyond what has ever been done before.”

“I humbly ask you and implore you not to vote for the recommended measures before you,” said Wilson. “I ask you to stay close to your church to see the bigger picture to understand that the church is a family and a unit. I ask you to stay in harmony with the biblical, spiritual, moral, and structural harmony and unity of the world church.”

Armando Miranda, vice president of the General Conference, pointed to some of the unintended consequences in other parts of the world of a vote to change the bylaws or vote for women’s ordination. “When we do not respect the policies, we lose authority and we destroy the system by which God blesses His people in our mission,” Miranda said. “If we don’t respect the policies, there is going to be chaos.”

Ernest Castillo, vice president of the North American Division, asked the General Conference not to consider the actions of the Pacific Union a rebellion against the world church. He argued that recognizing the ordination of women would be an act of unity. The call from the General Conference to reject the measure, he said, “is not helping the unity of our church. The Pacific Union, the Columbia Union, and the conference in Germany are not in rebellion. It is the reaction of a group of individuals who for 40 years or more have been suppressed and discriminated against. Brethren, when you are suppressed and discriminated against, you are going to react. This is what we call Sociology 101.”

**Union speakers**

Larry Caviness, president of the Southern California Conference concurred. “This is about furthering the work of the gospel in the territories in which we work,” he said. “Sometimes we need to be prodded to progress.”

Andrea Trusty King, senior pastor of the Imani Praise Fellowship in Moreno Valley, Calif., shared her personal experience of being called to the ministry as a youth. She said that she had doubts about filling a pastoral role, but now very grateful for the tremendous challenges and successes she faces as a minister. “I should have expected this,” she said of being used by God to minister. “In the last days, God said he would pour out His spirit on all flesh.”

“I’ve had the experience of baptizing with my own hands,” she said. “I have seen God do so much with so little for so long. I am now convinced he can do anything with nothing — meaning me.”

Randy Roberts, pastor of the Loma Linda University Church, explained, “There is no text in Scripture that forbids the ordination of women — not one. In fact, Scripture tells of women who filled every leadership role conceivable.”

Roberts claimed official church doctrinal ground in support of women’s ordination, present in Fundamental Belief 14. “In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation.”

“These are words voted by the GC in session. That’s doctrine. Doctrine is the basis for policy,” said Roberts. “In every age, followers of Jesus have been called to make very important and, at times, very frightening decisions. They have been told that to make such decisions would lead to the fracture of the church. But time and again, it did not result in its fracture, but in its salvation.”

“Unity is based on far deeper realities than policy. Unity is based on a heart that beats in unison with the love for God and a heart for others,” said Roberts.

**Bylaws amendment addressed**

The agenda then moved on to the two items of business. Delegates were asked to consider a proposed change to the bylaws which would have replaced language saying that the Pacific Union would follow “all” of the polices of the General Conference, with new language saying that Pacific Union policies would “in general” be in harmony with General Conference policy.

Delegates debated the change. Kathryn Haycock Proffitt, a delegate from Arizona said, “I question whether we can legally make these decisions. The Pacific Union is part of the North American Division and is part of the General Conference. The bylaws indicate that the Pacific Union’s authority is a delegated authority given in trust by the world wide church.”

Haycock Proffitt, a former United States ambassador to Malta, analogized her role to the current issue. As ambassador, she “had unlimited power to bind our U.S. government,” but as a matter of trust, she was required “to abide by the foreign policies of our nation even if I did not personally agree.”

Doug Batchelor, pastor of the Sacramento Central church, said, “There is a universe of difference between ‘all’ and ‘in general.’ If it’s not going to make a difference, why the debate? Love the Lord ‘in general’ with all of your heart. When you get married ‘in general forsaking others.’ The door that we’re opening now I not
The ordination vote

There was some confusion over whether the delegates could move to the second issue of women’s ordination given the failure of the proposed bylaws amendment. Jon Daggett, attorney for the Pacific Union, indicated that the vote to allow ordination without regard to gender was not dependent on the vote to change the bylaws. Though it would have been ideal to bring policy and practice into harmony, the vote of the constituents in session trumps the bylaws, since the delegates are the ones who create and control the bylaws.

Attention then turned to the core issue of whether the Pacific Union Conference would approve the ordination of women to the gospel ministry.

Some constituents expressed concern that delegates to the world wide General Conference Sessions in 1990 and 1995 had voted against allowing the North American Division to have a policy variance allowing the ordination of women. Recognizing God’s blessing on women pastors in the Pacific Union would violate those decisions, they said.

A smaller group claimed that although women are of equal value in God’s sight, men are called to be the heads of the home and of the church. They argue that Jesus’ disciples were all men, as were many other central Bible characters, and Paul stated that women should be silent in church and not be allowed to teach men. Therefore, roles for Christian women should be limited to “church clerk, treasurer, librarian of the tract society, . . . and other duties as would naturally fall to their lot,” said Stephen Bohr, senior pastor of Fresno Central church in Fresno, Calif., quoting the editor of Signs of the Times, Jan. 24, 1895.

However, the majority of delegates demonstrated by their votes that they believe it is God who calls His servants, and that the ordination service is simply acknowledgment of that call. To stand in the way of His calling, they believe, is immoral and unethical. “I pray that we walk straight with the truth of the gospel and vote to recognize the call and ordination that God has already given to [women pastors],” said John Brunt, senior pastor of the Azure Hills, Calif., church.

Delegate Kirsten Salvador spoke in favor of the motion. “In 2012, the church is again calling for another study — asking the members to wait a little longer to serve. I am embarrassed that we are sitting in this position.”

Pastor Gary Taber of Corona, Calif., said since several official studies had concluded there is no biblical prohibition on women’s ordination; another study would simply delay things. “The deck is stacked by the process itself,” he said. “It seems that, at best, the purpose for another study is to delay women’s ordination; at worst, it is to study it to death. Enough is enough.”

Randall Wisbey, president of La Sierra University, said that it is “morally reprehensible to hold back from women the one thing that recognizes their work in our church. Today we will act.”

The motion — “That the Pacific Union Conference approve ordinations to the gospel ministry without regard to gender” — passed by an overwhelming 79 percent (334 votes) for and 21 percent (87 votes) opposed.

Where we go from here

“The most important thing is how we stay together and move forward. We have registered our conscience through our vote,” said Graham. “Now let’s go do the work of God.”

After the session, Audray Johnson, director of the Southeastern California Conference department of Religious Liberty, reacted to the vote. “When the vote came in so strongly, I felt relieved and affirmed in ministry in a much more complete way,” she said. “I truly hope this spirit continues and grows for others in ministry and for the young people who will be impacted by this.”

A few hours after the session, the General Conference released a statement claiming that the action represented a “serious threat to the unity of the world-wide Seventh-day Adventist Church” and indicating that it will be reviewing the actions in October 2012. In the meantime, the General Conference is asking the Pacific Union Conference to “refrain from implementing any such actions.”

The leadership of the Pacific Union indicates that they intend to abide by the vote of the delegates in session.

Graham says he has been praying about this meeting since the moment it was scheduled. “My prayer was that the Holy Spirit would be present to guide us; to temper our voices to speak in a Christ-like, kind manner in a difficult conversation. My prayer was not for a particular outcome, but for God’s will to be manifested through His people,” Graham says. “I believe my prayers, along with the prayers of a multitude of people, we’re answered. We continue to pray that God would use all members’ talents to reach the people who live in the Pacific Union Conference territory with the Three Angels’ Messages.”

Michael Peabody

Delegates who support ordination without regard to gender react to the results of the historic vote with claps, cheers, hugs — and snapshots of the voting results screen.
Hispanic pastors, lay evangelists celebrate harvest

Celebrating the baptisms of more than 300 new Adventist family members, the Hispanic Region welcomed pastors, lay leaders and new members to the second Hispanic Lay Evangelism Festival on June 30. Pastors and lay people shared personal evangelism stories of how the Lord had blessed members’ efforts.

“The mother-in-law of a pastor gave me the number of someone in jail,” San Fernando Spanish church member Lina Lopez explained. “I sent him a book and then copied Bible lessons to give to his fellow inmates, and they are all studying. Angelito, one inmate, says, ‘I’m free!’ He will be baptized in jail.”

Guillermo Garcia, pastor of the Paramount and EastMont Spanish churches, told the story of Joaquim Lopez. “Five people ministered to him. He was interested and attended meetings, but didn’t make a decision to give his heart to the Lord. I invited a pastor from Mexico to conduct meetings in my church,” Garcia said, “and I told him about Joaquim.”

The pastor said, “I won’t leave until he makes a decision.” He studied the Bible with Joaquim late into the night; the next morning they continued studying. “You have really touched my life,” said Joaquim. “I am close to making a decision.”

In April, another campaign was held at the church. Joaquim’s wife and children decided to be baptized. “Please wait until I make my decision,” Joaquim urged.

“If you want to be baptized or not, that is okay with me,” his wife answered, “but I have made my decision.” That day, she and their children went forward — without Joaquim.

Two young singers for the series came and sat beside Joaquim. “Are you a member?” they asked.

“No,” he replied, “I am a guest.”

“Is that your wife in front?” Joaquim nodded. “You should help her understand that you love her and support her in her decision, by making your own decision.” With that, Joaquim went forward, joining his family in baptism.

“The Hispanic Region has about 58 congregations,” said Luis Peña, director. “We needed an evangelist, elected, so that he can be part of the work. As a result, Pastor Guillermo Garcia was selected by the Region Committee to fill this great need. He has given 28 years of service in this conference. He has directed churches in growth and evangelism, with churches united, so we can work together in the work of the Lord.”

“I am the least, God knows,” responded Garcia. “In October of 2011, the Lord told me to refocus from prayer ministry to evangelism. God is great, and I am ready to work. Almost five million Hispanic people live in Los Angeles. We have only 13,000 Hispanic members. The load is heavy, but we are not alone.”

“We are to call others and train them to be disciples,” Peña affirmed. “On Sept. 23, we are initiating a school of leaders. We will help prepare lay persons to make disciples.” Information about the evangelism school will be available from Hispanic Region pastors soon.

Betty Cooney
National Honor Society students adopt community service projects

National Honor Society (NHS) students at Glendale Adventist Academy were active in three community service projects in the past school year. One of these involved sewing colorful pillowcases from fun fabrics for children battling serious illnesses in local hospitals.

Teachers, students, relatives, friends and church members contributed toward this endeavor. The NHS used some of the funds to purchase a sewing machine so all students could make pillowcases.

NHS advisors Sandra Gross and Amy Marcarian offered sewing tutorials. “Learning how to sew is exciting!” said a surprised Austin Gonzalez, a senior who had just sewn his first pillowcase.

Jedd Alejandro, another senior, commented, “Making a pillowcase is so easy, yet it creates a sense of accomplishment.”

The school has donated more than 250 pillowcases to Los Angeles and Loma Linda Children’s hospitals, and has another 100 cases ready to deliver. Melissa Yeghiazarian, a senior, said, “What’s great about this project are the double benefits of learning how to sew and getting to make a difference in a child’s life.”

A second NHS project is the Lee National Denim Day school-wide fundraiser for breast cancer research. With advisors Gross and Marcarian, the group made posters and created participants’ pink ribbons. “Organizing a school-wide fundraiser was easier than I thought,” said Ana Isabel Jacinto, a senior NHS officer. The first year the school participated, students raised more than $1,900; the second year they contributed over $1,665.

Every first Friday of October, K-12 GAA students participate in this event by donating five dollars for research, patient education and support. This project captured the interest of the whole school. “It was fun, and it felt good to help,” said fourth-grader Eliana Escobar. “Knowing that we are helping to find the cure feels so satisfying,” sophomore Kristina Sinanian said.

Enthusiasm and support for the project goes beyond the campus when GAA’s football teams wear pink ribbons and pink socks in tournaments occurring during Denim Day week. The color creates awareness of the cause and an opportunity to share the project with other schools.

When NHS advisor Gross heard that Gerald Benitez, a church member’s son, was being deployed to Afghanistan for the fourth time, she rallied support from the Pico Rivera Bilingual church and her National Honor Society students to send supplies for him and his unit.

Teachers and church members helped students fill packages with small gifts for the soldiers and for them to give to local children. Students wrote letters asking Benitez about military life. With church members paying the postage, NHS students sent 20 boxes, in two different mailings.

Soon after the first mailing, Gross received a sizable envelope containing responses to students’ letters. Jedd Alejandro, a senior, stated, “It was cool to learn the effect our gifts had on him.”

While home on leave, Benitez visited the students. He described military life, answered questions and asked about students’ lives. Dave Mallari, a junior, said, “He seemed really interested to learn about those who had helped his unit.”

Participating in this project was rewarding. “I had a great time giving back to those who have given so much for me,” said NHS President Ana Isabel Jacinto.
The Redwood camp meeting tradition continues

Campers from all over the West worshiped and fellowshipped at this year’s Redwood camp meeting, held July 19-28 in a remote and beautiful area off Highway 101 near Redcrest, Calif.

For many, attending the camp is an annual summer tradition. “I love the outdoors, being able to see the night sky — the beauty of it,” said Du-Anne Salvini, Vacaville church member, who has been to camp meeting almost every year since 1994.

“I like meeting new friends and getting to hang out with old ones,” said her grandson, Matthew Salvini, a Rio Lindo Adventist Academy sophomore.

This year’s camp meeting brought together a wide variety of speakers. Don Mackintosh, chaplain of Weimar Center of Health and Evangelism and director of NEWSTART Global, and John Bradshaw, speaker/director of It Is Written, spoke in the evenings at Pepperwood Pavilion.

A short distance away in the Adult II tent, the evening speakers were Chris Blake, associate professor of English and communication at Union College, and Loren Seibold, a pastor in the Ohio Conference.

Campers kept busy in the daytime attending a variety of seminars, including “Finding Your Fit in the Body of Christ,” “Islam and Christianity,” “How to Conduct Neighborhood Nutrition Classes” and many more. They also visited a number of ministry booths around the campground, including the evangelism booth and the 10+10 booth, which promoted a new endowment program for NCC education. (During the 10 days, people donated about $30,000 for evangelism and more than $13,000 for NCC schools.)

Pastors and laypeople held special programs for young people of all ages — from the “Collegiate Cafe” tent down to Division One, which held a daily meeting for children from birth to age 2. “The babies are so much fun to work with! I love watching them as they’re learning about God,” said Opal Singer, who has led the division for five summers.

Several young people were baptized during the camp meeting, including Ashlin Olivera. “This summer was especially wonderful as I watched my daughter, at 10 years old, make the most important decision of her life and get baptized in the river,” said her mother Wendi Rayburn Olivera.

Adults also were baptized in the Eel River. Steven Anglin has attended Redwood for over 20 years, and he’s been part of the security team for about the past five years. He expressed great joy as he came out of the water, but he had more happiness in store. “As I crawled out of the cold river, I was told, ‘We have a surprise for you. Turn around and look,’” he said. He then saw his granddaughter, Moriah Woodruff, walking into the water for baptism.

The next Redwood camp meeting is scheduled for July 18-27, 2013. Find more information at www.facebook.com/redwoodcamp.

Julie Lorenz
Northern California Conference

September 2012

Crescent City church
Pastor Mason Philpot baptizes Jessica Creed, while her parents wait their turn.

Jimmy Painter, Ukiah church associate pastor, teaches kids a few blacksmithing skills to illustrate the junior division's theme, "Refiner's Fire."

Idaho Conference evangelist Tim Roosenberg presents his seminar "Surviving and Thriving in Troubled Times." Seminars take place all over the campgrounds during the day, including in a dry riverbed.

34th Annual African-American Convocation

Great Preaching
Great Music
Great Fellowship!

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Psalm 51:11

Friday October 12, 2012 • 7 p.m.
Sacramento Capitol City SDA Church
6701 Lemon Hill Ave., Sacramento CA 95824

Sabbath October 13, 2012 • 8 a.m.
Trinity Life Center
5225 Hillsdale Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95842

Adult Speaker
Darriel Hoy
Pastor, Highland Crest Seventh-day Adventist Church

Youth Speaker
Dilya Brooks
Associate Campus Chaplain, Loma Linda University

Special Music
Lawrence Beamon
Gospel Recording Artist

Visit www.ncc.adventist.org/africanamericanministries

Children's Church
This year at Convocation, children's church will be a leadership workshop for children ages 5-12. The main feature will be Lester the Leader, a moral character who teaches children how to handle difficult situations in a kind and caring way. Lester can't wait to meet the children of Northern California!
Camp meeting provides fellowship for 4,000 members in the Inland Empire

Four thousand church members gathered in the Inland Empire June 27 to 30 for camp meeting, enjoying four days of programming for children, youth and adults.

Featured speakers included Kurt King, pastor at Valley Fellowship church; Charles Knight, pastor of Decatur church in Decatur, Ga.; Ainsworth Morris, pastor of Goshen Temple church in New York; and Eric Thomas, commonly known as "The Hip Hop Preacher" who gained recognition through a YouTube series. Activities and events encouraged fellowship among the churches.

King spoke Wednesday evening at the first service, held at the Riverside Kansas Avenue church. Morris was the speaker for both the Thursday evening and early Sabbath morning service at Loma Linda University's Drayson Center. Knight provided inspiration for attendees on Friday night and preached the sermon for divine worship on Sabbath. Thomas was the guest speaker for the weekend's youth services.

“I was inspired by both the delivery and the Bible-based content of the sermons,” said Macy Grayson, a church member from Mt. Rubidoux. “They were very substantive and reminded us that it’s really time to think about the Second Coming and the way we want to live in this life to prepare for the life to come. The Sabbath service was definitely a spiritual blessing to me.”

The camp meeting theme was “Abundant Living.” “It was intended to remind us of the ultimate gift that the Lord has given us,” said George King, Southeastern California Conference’s vice president for black ministries.

King helped coordinate the event, along with Jerrold Thompson from Hope Community church in Palm Springs; Eric Penick, SECC youth ministries director; and Danielle Arceneaux, administrative secretary for black ministries at SECC.

Gerald Penick, conference president, received special recognition for introducing this model of camp meeting 21 years ago in the Southeastern California Conference.

“Out of all the camp meeting days, Sabbath definitely had the most people, with almost all the 3,000 chairs filled, and about 700 children, and 2,000 youth and young adults present,” said Andy Adams, audiovisual and logistics coordinator for the event.

The theme for the youth services was “Living Relevant: Living With Both Feet Out,” which provided guidance for living an authentic Christian life outside the walls of the church. Thomas delivered an energetic and heartfelt message about overcoming obstacles. His message stemmed from his own journey from being a homeless high school dropout in Detroit.
Another theme was the access to and importance of education.

A “Spoken Word Slam,” a competition held Saturday evening at the Drayson Center, drew a large youth crowd. The selection process included youth from all over the conference who submitted their audition videos through a special channel made available on YouTube.

Young people were able to showcase their extraordinary abilities to creatively convey thoughts and ideas through poetry, oratorical speech and/or song. There were two categories: juniors (ages 13-17) and seniors (ages 18-25). The grand prizes went to Sean Patrick Lewis in the senior category, and Melissa Lyken in the junior category. Participants included Michael Harrison, Teddy Jackson, Leanne Galvin, Ledric Pantan, and Move Mountains Poetry.

Saturday night fun and sports activities were made available at the Drayson Center Super Field, and in the entertainment center in the student lounge. The swimming pools were also open for a cool “Luauwzas” pool party and a movie “under the stars.”

The daily children’s program was entitled “Building Bridges” and was presented and coordinated by Nicole Bailey. Children’s meetings took place at the Riverside Kansas Avenue church on June 27 and 28, and then moved to the Drayson Center for the last two days of camp meeting, June 29 and 30.

“I was pleased with this year’s camp meeting. I feel it was very successful,” said Thompson. “There was great teamwork between the youth pastors, our media techniques were up to date, and we were happy with the number of attendees each night. We got very positive feedback from the youth.”

While a number of attendees commented on how spiritually uplifting camp meeting was, others said they felt that this year’s camp meeting was the best one that they had attended yet in the Southeastern California Conference.

Eric Penick agreed, and said one family he spoke with promised that they were “never going to miss camp meeting again because of the positive spiritual impact it had on their lives.”

Andrea Trusty King, senior pastor of the Imani Praise Fellowship in Moreno Valley, Calif., and president of the Black Adventist Ministerial Fellowship, thanks George King, vice president of black ministries for SECC, for the support he provides to black pastors.
Central California Conference

Fifth annual GYC Español comes to Fresno

When Connie and Norberto Ricardez heard about the 2012 Generation of Youth for Christ Español (GYCE) in Fresno, Calif., they knew they had to attend, even though the trip from Minneapolis, Minn., was a three day drive. Little did they know the trip would be a challenging adventure filled with unexpected blessings.

The Ricardezes made the journey along with four boys from their community, ages 12–17. “[The boys] were excited to take the trip because they really want to get involved in church,” Connie explained. The boys are not yet baptized.

Less than a day into the trip, car trouble developed. By day two, they had to spend the night in a hotel while the car was repaired. “We were praying so much because we had no money,” Connie explained. “We kept telling the boys that God would take care of us and to just keep praying.”

The hotel and the mechanic mysteriously dropped their prices. “I don’t know why, but I feel I need to help you,” the mechanic told them. There was even a Spanish-speaking trucker who pulled into a truck stop where they were stranded. “I didn’t plan to stop, I didn’t even need to stop,” he told them. He happened to have the one tool they needed to do a quick repair and get back on the road.

The four boys, who were skeptical about praying, were surprised that God actually answered their prayers. “It seemed like God was watching over us,” said Juan Perez, one of the boys.

“I would pray now, because now I know it works, and I know I can trust God,” added Juan’s brother, Diego Perez.

The Beginning

GYCE grew out of Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) in 2008. GYC, which started in 2002, is an annual conference for college students to be spiritually renewed and trained for mission. This year’s theme for the fifth annual meeting was “You Shall Receive Power.” Seminars included “Power of Prayer,” “Power Relations and Families” and “You Shall Receive Power: Overcoming Depression and Discouragement.” The Sabbath afternoon outreach had 60 young people passing out literature and bags of groceries in Southwest Fresno. The Fresno Hispanic church hosted the conference.

“GYC Español is a very complete, well-organized program that combines teaching and doing,” said Antonio Huerta, pastor of this year’s host church. “It’s an awesome program
that motivates our young people to learn skills for leadership and outreach.”

GYCE has been adapted to do more than copy the GYC experience in Spanish. “A group of young Latinos who were very active in GYC were praying,” said Jay Rosario, vice president for networking in GYCE. “We were looking for a way to break the cultural and language barrier and bring this spiritual and intellectual experience to Hispanic youth.”

“GYC Español has more than a linguistic difference,” says Eddy Perez, a past member of the GYCE executive committee. “This difference appeals to youth that have a different cultural and spiritual reference.” After much prayer, Generation of Youth for Christ Español was born.

Organizing challenges and other changes resulted in a drop in registration at this year’s conference. But there was no change in the excitement of the youth who traveled from as far as the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the East Coast to be there.

“I like the intimacy of the smaller Spanish GYC,” said one teen from Medford, Ore. “I saw a video of the English GYC and was overwhelmed.” She was part of a group from the Medford Spanish youth Sabbath school. “I heard great things about how we can make connections with God and really wanted to experience that,” said another teen that was also part of the group.

“I was really touched in my personal experience in the past and wanted to share all the blessings I got,” said Sabbath school teacher Vickie Penida. She organized the trip because it was only an eight-hour drive away.

**The Future**

Eduardo Alcantra from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic is the youth director in his area. He learned of GYCE on the Internet. His associate director, Sandra Castillo-Perez, had watched past events on 3ABN. Both were impressed by the way the conference motivates youth to action. “I was impacted by last year’s seminars which called us to grow spiritually and help others to grow,” Castillo-Perez said.

“We love the model. We came to learn and take it back to our country,” said Alcantra.

They represent another way GYCE is growing. “There is an unending fountain of Hispanic youth who come, experience GYC Español and take it back home,” said Gerzon Gomez, a past member of their executive committee. “They’re taking it back to Colombia, to Mexico, to Puerto Rico, and there’s a need for that.”

To meet this need, the current GYCE executive committee is working with Ernest Castillo, director of Multi-Ethnic Ministries in the North America Division. They are exploring plans to develop more regional GYCE conferences even within North America.
Other-focused ministry rejuvenates Heavenly Valley

In recent years, the Heavenly Valley church in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., has shifted its focus outward. The new direction has had a positive impact on the church itself and the surrounding community.

A renewed spiritual energy is evident at the church. Saturday night vespers, which have included book readings and discussions, has brought together church members on a more personal level. This became especially true after the group’s study of The Big Four — Secrets to a Thriving Church Family, authored by Joseph Kidder of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

A week-long program, “The Jesus Dialogue,” by Herb Montgomery of Renewed Heart Ministries, moved the congregation to new way of thinking about spiritual interaction with non-Adventist and unchurched friends and neighbors. A number of non-Adventist community members participated in this program, including some atheists, who have asked for Bibles and are currently attending church.

Mid-week prayer fellowship has been revived, not only for the purposes of prayer, but also to be relevant and practical in the daily Christian life. Utilizing “The Truth Project” DVD-based small group curriculum from Focus on the Family, this study has been an important starting point for looking at life from a distinctly biblical world view.

With internal and external relationships now uppermost in the minds of Heavenly Valley members, a plethora of relationship-building events and activities have dotted the church agenda.

Rock climbing, barbecues, boating and other recreational and social activities now fill the calendar. Serving the community in various ways — such as feeding the homeless, a jail ministry and nursing home visits — also fill a high-priority spot in bringing church and community members together.

Recently, a Chef Mark Anthony’s vegan cooking event attracted high numbers of church and community members, who learned vegan cooking techniques and fellowshiped together, establishing lasting relationships between community and church members.

The initiation of an active Pathfinder program has also been a source of renewal. Currently, 21 children are a part of the program — seven come from the church family and 14 from the community.

Physical changes have enhanced the church experience, too. Newly remodeled bathrooms are more welcoming, and a painted and upgraded exterior adds to the aesthetics. The expanded and newly-paved parking area eliminates holes, bumps, and water-filled ruts of the past, replacing them with smooth, level, lined blacktop that makes parking a pleasure.

Denny Krause
Reaching Arizona’s homeless through The Bridge Foundation

By six o’clock Sunday morning, volunteers from The Bridge Foundation are set up and ready to serve sack lunches and drinks in downtown Phoenix. Madison and 12th Avenue is a gathering spot for those without a home or place to sleep, and a place where they can find a meal and perhaps a friend or two.

“Recently, we had a communion service complete with foot washing,” added Harrison. “We had over 120 volunteers that day, many of whom are still helping. Our main reason for being here is to reach people for the kingdom and to share the love of Christ.”

Recently, Family Life Radio and The Bridge Foundation joined to present “Veggie Tales: The Penniless Princess” at two area theaters. Admission was simply a donation of peanut butter, jelly, paper bags, sandwich bags, napkins, chips, cookies, instant coffee, hot chocolate mix, sugar, creamer, water or juice.

On the third Sunday of each month, clothing and hygiene kits donated by Discovery Point church in Surprise, Ariz., are made available. Lunches are prepared in the church foyer at the Fountain Hills Community church in Chandler after the service. Food comes from donations from board members, the Lopez family, the Arizona Business Women’s Assn., Kaleidoscope Printing, and other private donations. The Lambs Offering at the church also goes toward purchasing food for The Bridge Foundation. Harrison estimates monthly expenditures for feeding the homeless averages $1,700.

Pastor Stuart Harrison, left, and Lonnie Williams, baptized three years ago, now work side-by-side at The Bridge Foundation.

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For additional information or to volunteer, contact Diane Morea at 602-513-5284 or e-mail at thebridgefoundationaz@yahoo.com or visit their website at www.tbfaz.com.

Shirley Chipman
The School of Allied Health Professions just launched a program in Haiti to deal with one of the country’s most glaring needs — rehabilitation treatment for the disabled. Sixteen Haitians are now studying for a certificate that will allow them to serve as rehabilitation technicians. The program is one of the first of its kind in the country.

After the students graduate in February 2013, they will help their neighbors regain physical functionality that was lost in the 2010 earthquake or through other circumstances.

New student Edgard Bommer is happy to study in the program because “my people need it.” He is from the destroyed town of Léogâne, the epicenter of the earthquake, where many people now live with amputations.

The certificate program is based at a sister hospital and university to Loma Linda University — Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti and Universite Adventiste d’Haiti in Carrefour, outside Port-au-Prince.

It is designed to fill a major gap in the country’s medical infrastructure, which boasts a few Haitian physical therapists, but no Haitian occupational therapists. This is for a country that, even before the earthquake, had an estimated 10 percent of its population disabled.

That percentage has only grown since then. To date, many patients have had to rely on international workers for rehabilitation services. But the numbers of foreign volunteers are starting to dwindle.

“Comparing the current poverty of rehabilitation services in Haiti to the almost insurmountable number of individuals with disability made me realize we needed to do something about this dire situation,” says Everett Lohman III, D.Sc., program director and professor of physical therapy at LLU. He has volunteered in Haiti numerous times since the earthquake.

Classes are taught by LLU professors, alumni and other instructors who travel there a week or two at a time. Heather Thomas, Ph.D., co-director of the program and associate professor of occupational therapy at LLU, taught the first course, which was a weeklong introduction to rehabilitation.

“From day one, I was just so incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm for being in the classroom,” says Thomas. “When I ask a question, so many hands go up, and some of them want to answer twice. But I was also blown away by their answers.”

Thomas believes the students will be pioneers who move the rehabilitation professions forward in Haiti.

“One year from now, they’re going to be incredible clinicians,” she says. “I think we’re going to see many of them wanting to push forward to get a bachelor’s degree. They’re going to start thinking about what’s next.”

Student Fortilus Cedieu is looking forward to changing his country.

“I am feeling so good and proud to be useful in my life,” he says. “Helping people is very important.”

Loma Linda University stepped up its involvement in Haiti immediately post quake and continues to play a critical role not only in recovery, but in making the country even better than it was before.

The university’s relationship with Haiti dates back to Hopital Adventiste’s affiliation, beginning in 2001, with Adventist Health International — a nonprofit based at LLU that partners with health care facilities in developing countries to improve services.

Since the earthquake, LLU has helped stabilize and upgrade the hospital, coordinated some 2,000 volunteers, and temporarily operated a refugee camp at the Adventist university.

Heather ReifSnyder, M.A.
LLU among top schools in nation for producing family doctors

The journal *The Annals of Family Medicine* named Loma Linda University School of Medicine among the top schools in the nation to produce family physicians. Despite a declining national trend for medical schools to graduate family medicine specialists, Loma Linda University ranks third best in the country, according to the March/April 2012 edition of the journal.

“I am delighted that our students are selecting specialties that are very amenable to the practice of whole person care,” says Roger Hadley, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine. “As more accountability is demanded from health care providers by health care reform,” he continues, “there will be an increasing dependence on family medicine physicians and the other primary specialties to assure the health of community members.”

Hadley says the School of Medicine has implemented initiatives — such as programs in rural health family medicine and the combined preventive medicine/family medicine programs — that contribute to Loma Linda University’s ability to increase the number of family medicine specialists.

Better reimbursements and financial incentives for family physicians would also help get more medical students interested in becoming one, Hadley adds.

According to *The Annals of Family Medicine*, the number of medical students entering family medicine training has been going down. From 2001 to 2010, just over nine percent of students in U.S. medical schools focused on family medicine. This downturn has become even more pronounced in the last three years, with only 8.1 percent of medical students choosing to specialize in family medicine.

The report said only 30 percent of practicing physicians in the U.S. are in primary care, while most developed countries with good health systems have closer to 50 percent.

“We will not get to 50 percent producing less than 20 percent per year,” the report warned.

The top two schools are the University of Minnesota and University of Kansas. The schools were ranked based on the number and percentage of students who entered family medicine over a 10-year period.

For more news about Loma Linda University, check out LLU’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lomalindauniversity.

Herbert Atienza
Adventist Health hospital helps homeless man realize his dream

As part of Adventist Health’s commitment to partnering with communities, a group of White Memorial Medical Center employees participate in an evening of good food and good conversation every other month. These employees volunteer at the Los Angeles Dolores Mission Guadalupe Homeless Project Meals Program, cooking for about 75 homeless men residing there. The group serves the men and then sits down to enjoy dinner with them.

From one of these encounters, a homeless man by the name of Eduardo Fernando Quinonez befriended WMMC Chaplain Edgar Urbina. Quinonez was not always homeless; he actually was an accountant in his home of Guatemala and studied for three years at a university.

“When I came to the United States, I studied to be an electrician and worked as an electrician for new schools. Due to the economy, I lost my job. I went four months without a job, which ruptured my marriage.” Without a job and separated from his wife, Quinonez ended up homeless and then at Dolores Mission in November 2011.

Urbina was volunteering with a group of WMMC employees at Dolores Mission one evening when Quinonez collapsed and had a seizure. Lynne Whaley, senior vice president of clinical operations and chief nurse executive, and others cared for him on the spot and brought him to the Emergency Department.

Through the Dupper Fund, part of the Employee Giving Campaign at WMMC, the hospital was able to provide Quinonez the necessary medication and medical care. After he recovered, he came to Urbina and asked for help — he wanted to take his GED, which required $150 he did not have. Urbina provided Quinonez with the money from the Dupper Fund.

Quinonez registered for the GED exam on Feb. 11. Then on Jan. 31, Quinonez fell down the stairs, ending up at a hospital in a coma. Several days later, he awoke from the coma. He was discharged from the hospital a day before his scheduled Feb. 11 exam.

“Someone gave me an opportunity and I did not want to fail them — I had to keep my exam date,” said Quinonez.

And he did. Despite the obstacles placed in his path, Quinonez recently walked into Urbina’s office to show off his new high school diploma. He is very proud of this accomplishment and now wants to pursue a college degree. “God gave me another opportunity,” says Quinonez. “I came to Chaplain Urbina to ask for help, and today I present to him my diploma.”

When asked what advice he has for others who have hit a fork in the road or are struggling, Quinonez says: “There are no barriers. When the train is moving, you can’t let it pass you by; you have to climb on board. You can overcome obstacles. Dios (God) provides obstacles for you to confront and get past, as if He were preparing you for something bigger.”

Sara Rubalcava-Beck

Men at the Dolores Mission enjoy a fresh meal prepared by White Memorial employees.

White Memorial employees prepare a meal for 75 homeless men at the Dolores Mission.
Hands-on learning for PUC summer interns

Classroom learning is only one facet of the educational experience for students at Pacific Union College. This summer, PUC students have been taking advantage of a variety of internships across the country to put their education into action in the real world.

Samantha Angeles, a senior communication and theology major, has wanted to do a ministry internship with Pastor Chris Oberg since she was a freshman. Now Angeles, who grew up just miles away from Riverside in Loma Linda, has just that opportunity. “I had zero connections at La Sierra University Church — and many churches won’t hire an intern they don’t know,” she says. “But when I did my junior interviews with the Southeast California Conference, they encouraged me.” After phone interviews and some thorough reference-checking, the church hired her, in their words, “sight-unseen.”

In Riverside, Angeles is working in every aspect of church life, from giving Bible studies and doing home visits to coordinating Vacation Bible School. “It has been so much fun to work with this phenomenal pastoral team, learn many realities of ministry, and do what I am passionate about,” she says.

Christian Guillen, a junior biophysics student, says being a research intern on a “top secret” project at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee is the opportunity of a lifetime. “I am at one of the world’s top experimental physics laboratories, working on post-doctoral level research, with my travel paid for by NASA,” he enthuses. “What part would not be interesting to me?”

This is not Guillen’s first time at Oak Ridge, however. He first encountered the facility this past spring break as a research assistant for PUC physics professor Vola Andrianarijaona’s National Science Foundation-funded research at the laboratory. A meeting with Charles C. Havener, a noted physicist at the facility, led to the internship opportunity for Guillen and classmate Shalynn Romano.

An internship at the Sierra Wildlife Rescue in Placerville is helping biology major Chloé Dillon achieve her dream of becoming a veterinarian and working with wildlife. “In order to get into veterinary school, you need animal experience,” Dillon explains. “I was ecstatic when I discovered that Sierra Wildlife Rescue was right near my home.”

The experience is all she hoped it would be. “Every day, I can expect something new and different,” she says. “I never know what little furry or feathered critter is awaiting me, or how many! Just the other day we had a juvenile red tailed hawk come to the baby bird nursery... I was beyond pleased that I got to hold and care for such a beautiful creature. This internship is making my dream all the more real.”

The focus on internships has been an intentional development, according to PUC Academic Dean Nancy Lecourt. “PUC has been focusing on promoting high-impact practices like internships for students,” she says. “Students learn better when they actually do something. That’s the main thing about internships: you are learning in real life. It takes theoretical knowledge and lets you try it out in the real world.”

Giovanni Hashimoto
Doctors, dentists adding La Sierra MBA to credentials

With a healthcare system focused on bottom line results and federal reform mandates poised on the horizon, many health professionals and students are seeking a better grasp of the business side of medicine.

La Sierra University’s Master of Business Administration degrees, one designed for doctors and dentists and another for health care professionals, address the surge of interest in business education among healthcare providers. Rolled out in 2010 and offered by the Tom and Vi Zapara School of Business, the two programs, modified from a former MBA program, are streamlined for professionals’ busy schedules with classes held once a week.

The specialized MBAs include regular business courses that are geared toward dealing with health care issues along with classes such as health care management, health care operations, health care entrepreneurship, and negotiation and conflict resolution in health care settings.

Two years ago, Robert Steele, then head of the general emergency medicine division at Loma Linda University, approached La Sierra’s business school about merging an MBA program tailored to doctors with an emergency medicine fellowship program. The goal is to help bridge the gap between the physician’s world and the world of business, Steele said during a March recruitment event for the La Sierra program. “For years, the two disciplines really didn’t talk,” he remarked. Steele, one of the first graduates of the restructured MBA, is now employed with the Stanford University School of Medicine. He plans to continue working with the La Sierra business school program.

John Thomas, dean of the Zapara School of Business, likened the physician business graduates to entrepreneurs and applauded their efforts. “It’s very easy to work in your areas of expertise or comfort zone. But it takes a risk-taker to learn a new discipline and to apply it into areas that require solutions. We need creative innovators to lead us through the challenges of the health care debate,” he said.

Greg Mitchell, a dentist and director of clinical management systems at the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, will complete the MBA program after taking classes in conflict resolution and healthcare management. Mitchell attended La Sierra between 1977-80 and is a former business management major who switched to dentistry. He was in private practice for 23 years before selling his firm five years ago.

“I have a lot of experience running a small business, but this program helped me” in understanding how to deal with the processes of a much larger organization and its budget, Mitchell said. He recommends dental students receive business training, as such know-how can often determine the success or failure of a private practice, he said. “It’s crucial,” Mitchell said. “It’s a necessary combination. So much of medicine and dentistry is run by business.”

Jeff Grange, a physician, is president of Symons Ambulance in San Bernardino and emergency medical services director at Loma Linda University Medical Center. The MBA program provided Grange a better understanding of marketing and financial practices related to his ambulance company. “Clearly, healthcare is changing at a rapid pace,” Grange said. “To move forward with medicine, you have to understand the business side. It’s more and more critical.”

Graydon Skeoch, emergency room medical director at Fallbrook Hospital, is currently studying in La Sierra’s MBA for doctors. He is an alumnus of La Sierra’s biology program and of Loma Linda University School of Medicine. As medical director, he deals with business issues and works with hospital administration. “There is no business training in medical school,” Skeoch said. “I learned on the job. Having an MBA after my name is going to open up doors for me.”

Jeff Grange, president of Symons Ambulance, says La Sierra University’s specialized MBA program gives him a better understanding of marketing and financial practices. With the rapid changes occurring in the healthcare field, Grange says it’s critical to understand the business side.
Les Schwab Tires, FedEx Ground join growing ranks of companies accused of discriminating against Adventists in faltering economy

Since the economy took a nosedive in 2008, a record number of Seventh-day Adventists have lost their jobs due to Sabbath observance, as companies have become increasingly inflexible about providing religious accommodation. The list of open charges of religious discrimination filed with state and federal agencies has grown exponentially, reports Alan J. Reinach, Esq., executive director of the Church State Council, which provides legal services to those who suffer religious discrimination.

In 2009, Les Schwab tires closed down a retread facility in Redding, Calif., where Brandon Chamberlain had worked since joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church a few years earlier. He enjoyed a Monday through Friday schedule. Although he had many years of proven expertise with the company, his former managers refused to consider “hiring” him as a transfer because of his inability to work on Saturday, Chamberlain alleged in his complaint, pending in Federal Court. Les Schwab retail stores require everyone to work a rotating schedule of days off, six days a week. Chamberlain knows two other Adventists who left the company because they could not obtain accommodations.

FedEx Ground is facing a lawsuit by two Sabbatarian employees who were dismissed when they changed schedules from Monday through Friday to require Saturdays. Rick Pink, an Adventist, and Elliott Coker worked at the San Jose airport unloading packages on a part-time basis. When the schedule changed, they charged, FedEx Ground management made no effort to explore possible religious accommodations, in violation of their obligations under state and federal law. The two were simply written up and dismissed within a few weeks. Additional claims are pending against a variety of companies in diverse industries, including restaurants, airlines, hotels, financial services, a public university and an automobile dealership.

The Church State Council was formed in the same year that the Civil Rights Act was passed — 1964 — providing legal protections against employment discrimination. For nearly 50 years, the Council has provided legal services to those who suffer religious discrimination.

The Council always seeks to resolve scheduling conflicts early, advising church members to clearly communicate in writing their need for religious accommodation, and seeking back-up from their own pastor. If that doesn’t work, the Council has trained pastoral staff that will go up the corporate chain of command to seek cooperation. Legal action is a last resort, indicating that efforts to resolve the conflict have proven unsuccessful.

“The Adventist Church is committed to teaching those who seek to obey God to experience the blessings of Sabbath rest,” observes Reinach. “But we cannot abandon those who discover the joy of Sabbath! We have a sacred duty to come to their aid when the health and stability of their family and their homes is threatened by the loss of employment.” Anxiety and depression are common among those who lose their jobs because of their faith. “Depression is not a reflection of lack of faith,” says Reinach. “My clients cling to the Lord, in faith, but religious discrimination takes an enormous emotional toll.”
CAMP WAWONA VOLUNTEER
Project (Sept. 9-12) We need all types of volunteers for this volunteer project. Lodging and food are provided! Info: Carol Oswald, 559-347-3181, coswald@cccsda.org.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CONVOCATION/

SINGLES RETREAT (Sept. 28-30) Camp Wawona. Info: Marilyn Novielli, 559-347-3176, mnovielli@cccsda.org.

TREASURES AND CLERKS Training (Sept. 30) Central California Conference office. Info: Claudia Arias, 559-347-3196, carias@cccsda.org.

La Sierra University
2012 IGNITE (Sept. 20) Orientation for incoming freshmen.
FIRST DAY OF CLASSES (Sept. 24)

Nevada-Utah
GREATER SALT LAKE CITY Adventist Convocation (Sept. 8) 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mike and Gail Tucker, Faith for Today and Mad About Marriage. Summit Christian Academy gymnasium, 4020 S 900 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84124. Info: Pastor Bernie Anderson, 801-484-4311, pastor@wasatchhills.org.

NEVADA-UTAH CONFERENCE New Office Open House and Dedication (Sept. 16) Come and go 2-4 p.m., with dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. Recent past presidents will be attending and tours will be given. 10475 Double R Blvd., Reno, NV 89521.

DINÉ HEALTH & HEALING Center Grand Opening (Sept. 21-23) Come tour and experience the new training center for Native American evangelistic and health outreach at Monument Valley Mission, Monument Valley, Utah. RSVP online at www.nativeministriesonline.org or call 435-727-3461.

Northern California Conference
VALLEJO SPANISH COMPANY Grand Opening (Sept. 1) 5 p.m. 733 Kentucky Street, Vallejo. Info: 707-644-3813.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT (Oct. 5-7, 12-14) Leoni Meadows. Guest speaker Sandi Colón, guest musician Leah Shafer. Info: ncc.adventist.org, under “Links” heading; click on “Other Christian Resources.”


Central California
ADVENTURER LEADERS TRAINING Areas 1-3 (Sept. 6-7) Info: Norma Villarreal, 559-347-3174, mvillatorreal@cccsda.org.

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La Sierra University
2012 IGNITE (Sept. 20) Orientation for incoming freshmen.
FIRST DAY OF CLASSES (Sept. 24)

Nevada-Utah
GREATER SALT LAKE CITY Adventist Convocation (Sept. 8) 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mike and Gail Tucker, Faith for Today and Mad About Marriage. Summit Christian Academy gymnasium, 4020 S 900 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84124. Info: Pastor Bernie Anderson, 801-484-4311, pastor@wasatchhills.org.

NEVADA-UTAH CONFERENCE New Office Open House and Dedication (Sept. 16) Come and go 2-4 p.m., with dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. Recent past presidents will be attending and tours will be given. 10475 Double R Blvd., Reno, NV 89521.

DINÉ HEALTH & HEALING Center Grand Opening (Sept. 21-23) Come tour and experience the new training center for Native American evangelistic and health outreach at Monument Valley Mission, Monument Valley, Utah. RSVP online at www.nativeministriesonline.org or call 435-727-3461.

Northern California Conference
VALLEJO SPANISH COMPANY Grand Opening (Sept. 1) 5 p.m. 733 Kentucky Street, Vallejo. Info: 707-644-3813.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT (Oct. 5-7, 12-14) Leoni Meadows. Guest speaker Sandi Colón, guest musician Leah Shafer. Info: ncc.adventist.org, under “Links” heading; click on “Other Christian Resources.”

message, food and fellowship. Info: 909-795-9741.

34TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY (Sept. 14-15) 7:30 p.m., 11 a.m. Loma Linda Filipino church, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Lowell Cooper, General Conference VP, will speak. Info: 909-798-3822.

HERITAGE SINGERS (Sept. 15) 5:15 p.m., Balboa Park Organ Pavilion, San Diego. Heritage Singers share “Faithful to the End.”

LOMA LINDA HEALTH SYMPOSIUM (Oct. 15) University Church, 5-7 p.m. Free; open to community. Health information from experts. Featuring, “Updates on the Adventist Health Study” by Dr. Fraser and team. Info: 909-651-5077.

PIPE ORGAN DEDICATION (Sept. 29) 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m., Moreno Valley Bilingual church, 12649 Indian Street, Moreno Valley. Everyone is invited to listen to the new organ. Info: 909-824-7173.

DAVID ASSCHERRICK (Oct. 5, 6) Beaumont church, 1343 Palm Ave., Beaumont. Asscherick will present, everyone is invited. Info: 909-374-1000.

NATIONAL FILIPINO CONVOCATION (Oct. 12, 13) 7:30 p.m., 9 a.m., Loma Linda Filipino church, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Coordinated by Filipino Adventist Ministers and Members Association of North America. Info: 909-798-3822.

“IF MY PEOPLE...” PRAYER Conference (Oct. 12-13) Friday evening, 7 p.m., Sabbath worship 9 a.m. or 11:45 a.m., Sabbath School 10:30 a.m. afternoon workshops 2:30 and 3:45 p.m., Vespers, 5 p.m. Loma Linda University church. Call for info: 909-558-4570, www.lluc.org/2012prayerconference.

POLYNESIAN REVERSING DIABETES, Obesiy & Heart Disease Seminar - in English (Sept. 14-16) Los Angeles Adventist Academy, 846 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles 90059. Four Board-certified physicians; cooking instructor, Seni Tonga. Info: bcooney818@sbcglobal.net.

FREE HEALTH FAIR, featuring health screenings, medical consultations, vegan food-tasting, health tips and more (Sept. 15) Looking for health professionals and volunteers to participate in screenings. 2-6 p.m. Valley Crossroads church, 11350 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima 91331. Info: Linda Tigner-Weekes, 805-358-8023, or Sali Butler, 805-413-7388.
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Bulletin Board

AUTHORS WANTED. If you’ve written your life story, want to tell others of God’s love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844, ext. 3, for a FREE manuscript review.

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Events

FIRST LOMA LINDA HEALTH Symposium. University Church (Sept. 15) 5-7 p.m. Free admission seminar open to the community bringing current health information from experts. Featuring, “Updates on the Adventist Health Study” by Dr. Fraser and team. Do not miss it. For more information, call 909-651-5077.


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Reunions

LODI ACADEMY 104TH Alumni Weekend (Oct. 19-21) Honor classes from 1922, years ending ‘2, ‘7. Friday’s reception 6 p.m. Sabbath services begin with registration, 9 a.m. Worship Service speaker, Joey Pollom, ’82; Sunday, annual Golf Classic. Visit www.lodiacademy.net for alumni weekend details or call the office at 209-368-2781.

Vacation Opportunities

BIG ISLAND, HAWAII – Hilltop Haven. Studio vacation rental, in beautiful Waimea (paradise). Private entrance, kitchen, washer/dryer, DISH & Glorystar. See vacationrentals.com #67406 for more details. Contact us for very affordable special rates through the website or call us direct, Patsy & Dale, 808-885-6467. Say you saw this in the Recorder.

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HOMECOMING SABBATH CELEBRATION

An open invitation to our community, past and present staff, supporters and partners. Please join White Memorial Medical Center and White Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church for a special day of worship and fellowship.

OCTOBER 6, 2012 at 10 a.m.
White Memorial Church
1720 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Los Angeles CA, 90033
On the campus of White Memorial Medical Center

Free lunch provided to all guests after the service.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
The Brown Brothers, USA

Since 1977, the Brown Brothers have been singing together with sweet harmonies in the name of the Lord. Whether it is an original composition or a new treatment of an old favorite, theirs is a fresh new sound that has warmed hearts and brought souls closer to God. Music lovers of all ages will enjoy this inspirational concert—don’t miss it!

For more information about the Homecoming Sabbath Celebration event, please contact White Memorial Chaplaincy Services at (323) 260-5710.

GUEST PREACHER
Paul Crampton
Assistant Vice President, Mission and Spiritual Care Adventist Health

LIFE. BROUGHT TO YOU BY WHITE MEMORIAL. Adventist Health
My favorite Seventh-day Adventist hymn may well be “We Have This Hope.” I believe my dear friend Wayne Hooper was truly inspired when he wrote the words to the now famous song. I get chills every time I sing it. Why? It’s because I believe every word of the song.

We do have a great hope, don’t we! We have hope in the coming of the Lord plus we have hope in the Lord, the One who gave His life for us so we could look forward to a great reunion day with Him!

A few weeks ago we had a special dedication service at the Chandler church to launch The Great Hope initiative. Literature Ministries Director and Burning Heart Coordinator Jason Carlson set up a display of 7000 copies of The Great Hope in English and Spanish representing 110,000 books ordered by the Arizona Conference.

We heard testimonies of how God had provided opportunities to share His love through the distribution of our printed literature. Then we had a special dedication prayer asking God to bless every single copy to be given out. Church members went into the neighborhood around the church to begin distributing books.

While driving home, I wondered how many of our nearly 19,000 Arizona Conference members would participate in this outreach. I thought to myself, why should they? What would be their motivation?

I kept coming back to one word — HOPE — and remembered this text:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3-5, NIV)

That is powerful, isn’t it? We have a living hope, a real hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter reminds us this hope isn’t temporary or even earthly. It’s a permanent and perfect hope reserved in heaven for all who believe.

Isn’t that great news worth sharing? We live in a world
where things are not as they should be. Sin, sadness, illness, guilt and death abound. But the reality of what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do provides hope to a hurting, desperate world. But the world can’t discover this wonderful truth if they don’t receive it.

Another passage came to mind, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Romans 10:14 & 15, NIV)

Will you be the feet of those who bring good news of the blessed hope in Jesus Christ? Now is the time! Let’s work together to get the job done so we can go home and begin enjoying the great things God has prepared for us that will never perish, spoil nor fade away!

Tony Anobile, President
Geoffrey M. Tio

Geoffrey Tio, the only son in a family of six children, was dedicated by his parents to be a minister of the Gospel. He studied diligently to complete two Bachelor’s degrees in Theology, History, and Philosophy of Religion at the Adventist University of the Philippines.

While working as a chaplain in the Philippines, Tio completed his Master of Science degree in Developmental Communication. At the university he met and married Magdalena Bulaklak who was President of the Adventist Student Organization. They have been blessed with three children: Maxx, 13, Dawn, eight, and Diane, seven.

While working with communities in need of aid and development, Tio received his first call to pastor in the South-Central Luzon Mission. His flourishing ministry in the Philippines was interrupted by an opportunity to advance in the work of chaplaincy in Maryland, so the family immigrated to the United States.

Tio, passionate about mentoring and teaching professional clergy and lay people, completed his training in Clinical Pastoral Supervision achieving Diplomat status. He became a board-certified Clinical Chaplain and Pastoral Counselor and completed his Clinical Supervisory Education at New York Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Medical Center where he earned his doctorate degree. To date, Tio has provided clinical pastoral supervision to more than 100 clinical trainees, the majority of whom are pastors and chaplains.

Tio has served as a teacher, clinical pastoral education supervisor and assistant pastor on the East coast for more than ten years. After moving to Tucson, Tio established the Community Care Chaplains with the help of other Adventist chaplains in the area, and serves as Executive Director. He has been instrumental in planting the Tucson Filipino-American Church where he currently serves as assistant pastor.

Ronald M. Yabut

Ronald Yabut believes his calling to the ministry was not an “event” but a lifelong pursuit. At the University of the Philippines, Yabut completed two Bachelor’s degrees in Theology and the History and Philosophy of Religion. There he met and married his wife Jennevi, a nursing student. They have two children, Aldan, 13, and Ashley, 11 – plus another child that is on the way.

While ministering in the Philippines, Yabut served as youth pastor for the Philippine International Church and as senior pastor of the Manila Adventist Hospital Church.

Yabut’s passion for ministry involves three key areas: relation-centered evangelism, mission trips, and community care. He wants to connect with people where they are in order to understand and meet their needs.

Yabut completed his Master of Divinity degree from the Far East Adventist School of Theology and is currently working to complete his Doctorate of Ministry at Trinity Theological Seminary.

Yabut was instrumental in starting the Filipino-American Churches in Tucson and Chandler, Ariz. He and his fellow-pastors work together to reach the 30,000 Filipinos in the greater Phoenix and Southern Arizona areas. Once each month, Yabut and his family travel to Phoenix from Tucson to give Bible studies and help planting another Fil-Am church in Phoenix.
Pedro Ojeda assumed the duties as principal of Holbrook Indian School on July 1, 2012 upon the departure of Dr. Janet Claymore Ross who is retiring.

Ojeda, an experienced educator with 24 years of service, earned his BS degree in Business Administration and served as business manager and vice principal at Calexico Mission School in Calexico, California.

“My service as vice principal fueled my desire to become a credentialed teacher,” he said, “and to prepare to be a school principal.”

Attending graduate school in Reno, Nevada he earned a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education plus his teaching credentials.

Following teaching positions in Reno, Nevada and Bozeman, Montana Ojeda enrolled in the Educational Leadership Program at Montana State University where he earned an administrator’s credential.

“I have been blessed with multiple experiences during my years of service in education,” he said. “It’s my desire to help children learn and to be successful in school. I believe in building relationships that foster good communication between teachers and students.”

Holbrook Indian School is a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school for grades 1-12. The school first opened its doors in August 1946, and recently celebrated 65 years of service to the Native American and Holbrook communities.

For information about attending HIS, or to sponsor a student, please contact the HIS Registrar’s Office at 928-524-6845 or visit www.hissda.org.
Calendar

Sept. 6-7
Adventurer Leaders
Training Areas 1-3

Sept. 9-12
Camp Wawona
Volunteer Project

Sept. 14-16
African American
Convocation/Bible
Quiz-a-rama at Fresno
Westside Church

Sept. 14-16
Pathfinder Leadership
Retreat at Camp Wawona

Sept. 28-30
Singles Retreat
at Camp Wawona

Sept. 30
Treasures and Clerks
Training at CCC

Oct. 13
Parenting Seminar
in the Valley

Oct. 18-21
Youth Prayer Conference

Oct. 19-21
Men’s Retreat at Soquel

Oct. 26-28
Pathfinder Camporee

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“"Anciently, God instructed His people
as three times a year for His
worship… The Lord saw that these gatherings
were necessary for the spiritual life of His
people. They needed to turn away from their
worldly cares, to commune with God, and to
contemplate unseen realities. If the children
of Israel needed the benefit of these holy
convocations in their time, how much more do
we need them in these last days of peril and
conflict!”’ Testimonies Vol. 6, pgs 39, 40

Since 1880 we have embraced the
importance of camp meeting. When asked how
this annual 10-day spiritual retreat is possible,
we answer, “Camp meeting is a direct result of
prayer.”

All through the year, every detail of camp
meeting is bathed in prayer. This year, more
than 100 people attended the annual Prayerwalk
on the Sabbath before camp meeting began.

The theme “Make Us One” was inspired
through prayer and truly experienced in so
many tangible ways. Not just words hanging
above the stage, the spirit of oneness and peace
that began with the staff and flowed through the
campground was affirmed by many campers
and visitors.

Amazingly, each year we hear many exclaim,
“This was the best camp meeting!” This Spirit-
led thread of fellowship and encounters with
God connects us each year
as campers arrive for this
special time with their
Savior and each other.
Think about it, every year’s
“best” prepares us for the ultimate “BEST” camp
meeting in the sky.

The evangelism offering has reached
$1,044,821 in gifts and pledges! The Lord
continues to demonstrate that when we
collectively put our hearts together with one
purpose, He can do amazing things.

You may recall the last night of the 2004 camp
meeting. We were only $1.00 short of the first $1
million evangelism offering. Pastor Jim McMurry
took the mic and asked “Who would like to give
the last $1.00?” In just a few minutes, more than
700 one dollar bills were received.

The next morning I was sitting in the small
auditorium when a handicapped young woman
came hurriedly stumbling in, her hands clasped
together holding a handful of change and asked,
“Is there still time to give the last dollar?”

I was moved to tears. It reminded me of Jesus
as He exclaimed the value of the widow’ s mite.
Every dollar is precious in His sight! Those coins,
in the hands of this faithful donor, equated to a
million.  And by faith in Jesus’ promise, I know it
extended the influence of that year’ s evangelism
offering.

This is what God is calling each one of us
do. Like this young woman, as soon as we
sense the Spirit’s calling, we want to gather our
resources and hurriedly rush to see if there is
still time—Praise God, there is still time!

On this side of
eternity, we are privileged
to join hands with our
Savior to sound the loud
cry of the third angel’s
message. May that cry
be heard, as a choir of
harmonious voices, here
in Central is my prayer.

President Ramiro (from left) and Mary Ellen Cano and Lisa
and Ed Walker pray with the participants before walking the
campground.

More than 100 people attended the annual campground
Prayerwalk the Sabbath before Thursday’s opening night.
The Sabbath day closed with an agape supper.
Adult campers could choose from 10 seminars presented by 40 Day of Prayer with Dennis Smith, Islam and Christianity in Prophecy & Surviving in Troubled Times with Tim Roosenberg, Healthy Indulgence...The Art of Cooking with Chef Myla Mendez and Evangelism Behind Bars with Daniel McMannus. Additional seminars are pictured below:

- **Biblical Principles of Money Management** with Ed Reid, ordained minister and licensed attorney.
- **Use Your Brain for Success in the 21st Century** with Arlene Taylor, Ph.D., one of the world’s leading speakers on brain function.
- **Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Web site for Ministry** with Taneshia Kerr, to learn simple and mostly free avenues for outreach. Taneshia is assistant director of communication at CCC.
- **Check Up on the Family** with Carlton and Gene Oler, (far right) both licensed psychologists.
- **Campers prepare to go door-to-door in the Soquel area with surveys and GLOW tracts. This activity was part of the Light Your Way for God.**

A favorite GLOW experience...

In Hawaii church members went door to door on Sabbath afternoon distributing GLOW tracts. One house had a dog inside the yard so the church member decided not to go inside. So, he threw the GLOW tract on the ground inside of the gate. The dog picked it up in its mouth and put it in front of the door! Balaam had his donkeys, Elisha had his bears and Hawaii has its GLOWing dogs!

A favorite Bible worker experience...

Rain: Have you ever prayed for the weather? Recently, Joel Terronez-Valdez, one of our Bible workers in Visalia, was studying with a family. When they studied about the Sabbath and Joel invited them to church. The father said the family could only come if it rained because they had to work if it was clear. Joel prayed for it to rain. And it did! The family came with at least eight friends. The next week it rained again. When we invite someone to church, pray for whatever obstacle is in the way, even the weather!

When Nitty saw the movie 2012, she searched the Internet for information about the end of the world. She stumbled across the Amazing Facts Web site and watched the Final Events DVD. She went through the entire series on her own, and when the time came, Amazing Facts directed her to the Milpitas church. Originally from Laos, she migrated to Canada and moved to the Bay Area when she married.

Her husband had no problem with Nitty taking Bible studies with Orson and Carol Chung. He even drove her to church on Sabbaths, Wednesday night prayer meetings and Friday night vespers. In time, Nitty wanted to be baptized.

Her sister was visiting in July, so Nitty wanted to be baptized during her visit. When the Chungs learned that Doug Batchelor was speaking at camp meeting, they thought it would be even more special for Nitty to become part of the Seventh-day Adventist church during camp meeting. The date was set for July 17.

When she told her husband, he strongly disapproved! Attending church was one thing, but joining the church was not acceptable. Though Nitty wanted him to attend, he refused. Church members began to pray for her and her husband and shared the urgent request with others who passed it on to others via the Internet. “She is extremely convicted about the Adventist truths and very committed to remain true—even it meant giving up her marriage—to follow Jesus!” Orson Chung says.

On Tuesday night with Pastor Batchelor officiating and her sister watching, Nitty was baptized.
Wilson and Gayle Mackey have been bringing kids to camp meeting for years – children from their neighborhood and family members. This year they needed three tents to hold their 21 guests ranging from ages 21 to 5-years-old. Some of the older ones have been coming for years. Melvin cooks and everyone helps clean up. The first trip to Costco for groceries costs $500 and they will need to make another trip before camp meeting is over. “This is our ministry,” Gayle explains.

Lamont Grant
Summer Literature Evangelist

“Since I was born, I was in the system,” say Lamont Grant. He estimates the number of foster homes he has lived in is close to 20. His mom used drugs so Lamont and Anthony, his brother, never lived with her. His aunt took the boys but couldn’t manage with her own children.

But when Grant was 11, he and his brother moved into the home of Miss Louise Gretchen. She was a Seventh-day Adventist. “She used to read the Bible to us, pray with us before bed and take us to church. The lady had a big effect on my life,” Grant shares. At age 16, he moved to a group home just one block away from the Watsonville Adventist church. “That’s how I knew I was to be a Seventh-day Adventist,” Grant says. And he walked to church each Sabbath.

One Sabbath he met Nelson Ernst, currently the director of GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) literature outreach, and a team of young adult preachers named The Misfits. Ernst invited him to the Salinas church where the Misfits were preaching.

Grant was baptized at the end of the series. He lived at the group home, faithfully attending church until he went to live when his aunt and cousins. But their lifestyle clashed with his. He needed a new home. On the Internet, he found an application for Youth Rush, the summer student literature program. Leaders remembered him and he found a new home for the summer with the LE team working in Merced and Modesto.

Not sure what will come next after the summer, his faith is strong and he trusts His Savior to keep him a strong man of God.
Allie Simpson has been looking for a God who loves her for most of her life. Her search began at her dedication in the Modesto, Calif. Central church when she was two-years-old, and ended in the Ceres, Calif., Adventist church in December 2011. Her spiritual journey has taken her from Georgia, to California, to China, back to college, and Ceres.

Shortly after her dedication, her parents divorced. “We never went back to church,” Simpson says.

Her great-grandmother took her to Sabbath school during her kindergarten years. “I never got to read a Bible,” she laments, “but I read the Bible story books I found in a doctor’s office.”

A desire to know God still burned in her heart. “I would pray but never felt I was good enough for God to love me,” she says.

When she was 11, she went to live with her mother in Georgia. Convinced her own dad didn’t love her, she began to wonder if life was worth living. But Emily, a new friend she met at school, gave her a book titled Teen Witch. She found her answer. “The Wiccan religion was what I thought Christianity should be. It wasn’t judgmental and made more sense.”

She learned that God created everything and that He or She would not interfere with a person’s life. “I always believed in a personal choice,” Simpson shares. And she didn’t have to be good anymore to be accepted.

She joined a coven but never got into the “magic stuff.” The only rituals she participated in was to commune with nature and god and to learn to cast spells on herself, asking “Please bring me good fortune and may all the gods come in line.” Also, hurting others was blasphemy. “It really is a beautiful religion,” she says.

But it was a lonely life. “I began to feel like I didn’t belong,” Simpson explains. By college, she no longer believed in God, feeling that He had, once again, let her down.

She became a Pagan. “When those self-righteous Christians would condemn others for their lifestyle and beliefs, we thought they were ignorant and judgmental – more like clowns,” she says about her college’s experiences.

Dad’s Conversion

Dad’s wife was a Baptist, and when Allie visited them, she was forced to go to Sunday school. “I was furious, they didn’t respect who I was,” she says. Plus her stepmother was concerned about Allie’s beliefs. “In Christianity you have to conform or you will go to hell.”

Then her dad and stepmom attended a motorcycle rally and discovered a Sabbath Keepers booth, and met Adventist bikers, some from Ceres. Dad and his wife joined the Adventist church and called Allie with the good news. “I lit up. I could still remember the church when I was a child,” Simpson describes.

Meeting God in China

A Linguistics and Latin major in college, Simpson spent two months teaching English in China. One day she asked her students what they wanted to do for the afternoon. “We want a fairy tell from the bibble,” they asked. What book? “The Bible,” another student said. Allie tried to tell Daniel in the Lion’s Den but couldn’t remember it.

The next assignment was for her students to read out loud from a western story. One student read about Paul, the apostle. In the middle of China she had encountered God. “I just turned around and there He was waiting.”

Back at Dad’s for Christmas, she decided to get baptized. She didn’t tell anyone until she had thoroughly studied her Bible to learn what Adventists’ believed. Just like Wicca, you have to learn about it for yourself,” Simpson says. She was baptized this past May.

Now, 23-years-old and armed with a BA in Linguistics and Latin, she is headed to Korea to teach English.

She is also armed with her Savior, her Bible and a burning desire to share Jesus wherever she goes.

Camp Meeting sermons/seminars are available on CDs/DVDs through:

**DVDs:** Tri-Angel Adventist Media at: www.triangel.tv

**CDs:** Pan de Vida Productions at: www.ppvida.com

**Next Year’s Camp Meeting**

July 11-20, 2013

For application visit us at: ccc.adventist.org
I enjoy listening to a good symphony orchestra. Whether it’s a live or a recorded performance, I’m thrilled with the power, pathos and energy that can come out of the musicians. Mostly my classical music tastes lean toward Rachmaninoff, Brahms, Dvorak, etc. However, once in a while I’ll listen to Bartók, Bernstein or Nielsen and find a new experience of beauty there.

Sitting in a concert hall – listening to a professional orchestra – is always an enriching experience. As I observe and listen, I realize that the musicians provide a striking example of the beauty of unity in a number of ways:

• Everyone plays the same piece of music. The individual musicians do not bring their own selections.
• Everyone starts at the beginning of the piece. The violinists don’t just play their favorite part, nor do the oboists play only their solo part.
• A variety of instruments play – strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion.
• All parts of the music are played together in harmony – very rarely is everyone playing in complete unison.
• The goals for all involved are the same: to perform well, to work together, and to successfully reach the end of the piece.
• All musicians are focused on two things – the music and the conductor – no one is focused only on themselves.

Reflecting on those points causes me to see them in the context of the words of Jesus – “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:20, 21, New American Standard Bible).

When God’s people talk about unity, too often we confuse it with uniformity – doing everything in exactly the same way, according to the way we think we have things figured out. Too often we assign divisive labels to people or ideas that are different than ours. It’s easy to gather together our favorite Scripture passages and quotations from our favorite author to prove a point, not willing to be open to what another prayerful conclusion may be. We may even claim that Jesus is supportive of our opinion but not someone else’s!

The unity of God’s people is not a trivial issue – there’s a lot at stake! Jesus said the world is watching to see how united we truly are – His character and reputation are on the line. I pray that all of us, myself included, will honestly strive to live in the symphony of unity that Jesus wants to see in His people.

Peace.

By Jim Pedersen, who serves as the president of the Northern California Conference.
The Ministries of the Northern California Conference Part I

The various departments of the Northern California Conference headquarters support churches and schools throughout the NCC territory with resources, services and training. In this issue of the newsletter—and the upcoming November issue—learn about the various offices at the conference headquarters and how they can help your local church or school.

African-American Ministries/Inner City Ministries

Virgil Childs, Coordinator/Director

In order to “Connect Communities with Christ,” this department directs and coordinates programs and resources relating to the needs of its constituencies. African-American ministries provides council and guidance to pastors and local congregation leaders in nine churches, two companies and one group. It assists in evangelistic budgeting, directs the process of pastoral selection, counsels in conflict resolution and arbitration, and stands as a resource agency for creating and developing new ministerial services.

Inner city ministries develops practical programs to minister in the inner city. The department encourages churches to adopt outreach programs for low-income families in their communities (such as food and clothing distribution, drug seminars, tutorial and day care services, and counseling). The office also coordinates conference and local church inner city work, oversees summer ministry students working in inner city programs, and promotes inner city offerings in local churches. This office also works with prison ministries.

Asian/Pacific Ministries

William Gemora, Coordinator

There is unity in diversity among the NCC Asian/Pacific churches. This department serves 23 churches and companies representing 12 nationalities—Cambodian, Chinese, Fijian, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, Tongan and Vietnamese congregations.

The Asian/Pacific ministries network includes pastors with diverse cultural strengths and ideas which, when combined, create a wealth of knowledge. Sharing these creative ideas brings innovative ways of reaching out to new members. The network is also designed to be an encouragement to pastors and their spouses. Asian/Pacific ministries is committed to helping pastors reach their full leadership potential by providing avenues for them to excel mentally and spiritually, thus assisting them in helping their churches fulfill their goals: to reach their own language speakers and win people to Jesus; to help groups grow to be organized into companies; and to help companies be organized into churches.

Church Growth Ministries/Evangelism

Del Dunavant, Director

This office helps pastors to disciple their members to be more like Jesus. To help churches (re)discover the reason for their existence, church growth ministries helps administer the Natural Church Development (NCD) survey. This survey quantifies the health of a church, measuring how well its members are fulfilling the greatest commandment—to love God with all of their being and their neighbors as themselves. After the survey, the congregation prayerfully answers: What...
does God want as our church's primary focus for the next year? How does God want us to do this? What resources and training will be needed to do this? How will we be accountable to grow in this area?

Healthy churches provide evangelism for their communities. Twice a year pastors submit requests for the conference to assist in funding outreach activities. Each year, the evangelism department processes over 100 requests, totaling nearly $400,000, to assist churches in reaching their communities for Christ.

Communication
Stephanie Leal, Director

The communication department produces professional-quality, graphically designed materials for churches, schools and ministries—as well as many of the marketing materials for the conference, including this four-page newsletter insert in the Recorder every other month. Other design jobs include programs, advertisements, church bulletin covers, marketing packets, bulletin inserts, newsletters, brochures, fliers and other materials.

Larger jobs include the Redwood Camp Meeting booklet, the annual conference directory and constituency meeting materials.

Each month, department employees research, write and edit articles to share with the 80,000-plus households throughout the Pacific Union Conference that subscribe to the Recorder, a four-page newsletter insert in the Recorder every other month. The department is also responsible for updating the directory and constituency meeting materials.

Stephanie Leal also serves as the spokesperson for the conference. When crisis situations happen, the department gets accurate information to employees or other publics as fast as possible.

Education
Bill Keresoma, Superintendent
Coreen Hicks, Lynal Ingham, Albert Miller, Associate Superintendents

The mission of Adventist education is to share Christ intentionally with students and the community in the context of academic excellence—a very high priority in the NCC. The education department's four superintendents oversee over 2,700 students, 245 educators and 39 schools, as well as five preschools with 13 certified preschool teachers and over 100 students.

Superintendent Bill Keresoma strongly believes in the concept of T.E.A.M. — Together Educators and Ministers working together to transform children into spiritual champions. He invites everyone to join in prayer every day between 8:00-9:00 a.m. asking God for the salvation of all NCC children as well as for the growth and development of a servant heart.

The office of education has made all of its policies and forms available on www.ncceducation.org and encourages church members to browse this excellent source of information concerning Adventist education in the Northern California Conference.

Family and Children's Ministries
Alice Merrill, Associate Director

Studies have shown that the fastest-growing churches are those that offer multiple ministries for children and advertise them to the public. The children's ministries department supports and promotes the local church programs that provide for the spiritual nurture of children, ages birth through eighth grade. The department provides training each spring for Vacation Bible School leaders, and it trains Sabbath School division leaders at local churches per their request.

The family ministries department also supports and trains leaders for Adventurer ministries, which are clubs organized by local churches for families with children ages 4 to 9. Each year, the department organizes two Family Fun Weekends at Leoni Meadows and a bike derby. Pastors and family ministries leaders can get help from the department for other kinds of local church family events. This office...
Creating your plan is now easier than ever before with the new online Will Planner on our website. It will help you organize your family and estate information using our secure online system. Planning for your future has never been easier! To get started, go to our website, click on “Plan Your Will” and create your Will Planner account. We look forward to helping you plan your future!

Northern California Conference Planned Giving and Trust Services
www.trustnorthern.org | (888) 434-4622

also offers resources and support for adult Sabbath Schools and singles ministries.

Health, Community Services, and Stewardship
Gordon Botting, Director

This department conducts regular preventive workshops on current health topics to assist members in embracing a healthy lifestyle and to reach out to the community with a message that the Savior who created them cares about their physical well-being. Recent workshops have included “Reversing Hypertension and Diabetes” and “The Full Plate Diet Weight Management” training seminar. Each year at Redwood Camp Meeting, the health ministries department sponsors several events: a fun run/walk, a preventative health workshop and plant-based cooking demonstrations.

Now in its eighth year, the NCC health-screening program—under the direction of Darwin Forster—has been utilized by many people at camp meeting, health fairs and various churches as a part of community health outreach programs. The computerized “Health Age” and “Body Composition” evaluations assist in counseling and guiding participants toward a more healthful lifestyle.

Jim Oliver serves as the president of Adventist Community Services. Each year over 120 leaders and staff attend the annual ACS retreat at Leoni Meadows.

Here is just a brief sample of the various activities that are being conducted by the ACS centers in the conference: Angels Camp and Napa give Bible studies to their clients; Arcata-Mckinleyville produces quilts; Auburn offers showers to the homeless, as well as bus passes for medical and court appearances; Chico maintains a pick-up and distribution location for used furniture; Elmshaven and Fortuna run successful thrift stores; Healdsburg develops a community garden each summer and donates the produce to a local food distribution center; and Sacramento Central conducts a winter sanctuary for the destitute. The department’s goal is for 30 churches to have gardens in 2012.

Over the next two years, Carolyn Oliver, NCC disaster response coordinator, plans to conduct Sabbath afternoon workshops to assist people in preparing for a major disaster.

Stewardship ministries continues to send each NCC church the monthly bulletin insert The Stewpot (now in its 16th year) in English and Spanish. Gordon Botting regularly conducts various financial workshops, such as “Seven Stupid Things People Do to Mess Up Their Finances” and “What’s Your Financial Personality?” A stewardship seminar is available for church and financial boards titled “Stewardship in the 21st Century.” It deals with issues that relate to conference/local giving and church finances.

READ PART II IN THE NOVEMBER 2012 ISSUE

Want to find more information about wills and trusts?
Or if you have a question, just e-mail giftplan@ncc.adventist.org.
The President’s Pen

The Crying Cabby

by Larry Unterseher • President, Nevada-Utah Conference

This anecdote was shared with me moments after it occurred during the 2012 Teacher’s Convention in Nashville, and I began to wonder, “Was this cab driver’s ex-girlfriend correct? Could it be that being faithful to God and His Word can really bring success?”

The Bible, in Proverbs 3, tells us, yes! Peace and long life will come from keeping God’s commands (vs. 1, 2); you will have plenty if you honor the Lord with your possessions and the firstfruits of all your increase (vs. 9, 10); and you will be happy if you obtain knowledge and understanding (vs. 13). Peace, long life, having plenty, and happiness sounds like what each of us strive for in our pursuit of success!

One of my favorite passages, and my prayer for each of you as you seek true success, is found in Psalms 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (NKJV)
The newest building on the campus of Monument Valley Adventist Church and Mission is a new center that will feature health and spiritual training to minister to members of Navajo Nation and other Native American tribes.

Scheduled to open its doors in a special Grand Opening and Dedication Weekend September 21-23, 2012, the Diné Health & Training Center will open doors in other ways, as well.

The purpose of the center is an effort to open the figurative doors to Native American hearts and minds in the areas of healthy living and spiritual matters. Adventist Native Americans and others who wish to dedicate themselves to a ministry among native tribes in the area of health and Adventist spiritual outreach will be chosen to receive training. The six-month program is designed for 8-12 individuals to receive training at any one time, all residing in living accommodations at the center. Cost of the training will be approximately $200 to $300 per month with scholarships available.

Most students will be natives from the far-flung Navajo Nation, with other students coming from other native tribes and areas of the United States.

Health training will focus on disease prevention and health remedies afforded through massage and hydrotherapy, alleviating disease and suffering among native people. Additional training will be given in spiritual areas, offering proven practices and techniques in reaching the spiritual hearts of Native Americans.

The program will be directed by Christine Hollifield, RN, a member of the Monument Valley Adventist Church. In the health training area, she will be assisted by Joel Meyer, Joyce Meyer, Joella Meyer, and Mark Meyer, all mission residents and Monument Valley Adventist Church members, having received training in prevention and healing through natural remedies.

Spiritual training will be provided by Charlie Whitehorse, Monument Valley Adventist Church pastor, and Dan Walter, a retired minister from Cedar City, Utah, who will travel periodically to the center during each six month student training period.

In addition to students who will reside at the center, Navajo and other tribal patients will be...
resident for short periods of time, as well. This will give the students opportunity for clinical experience in the health education they will be receiving. Payments from the patients will also help finance the operation of the center.

The idea of the training center was borne many years ago in the heart and mind of Charlie Whitehorse, a Navaho who grew up on the reservation in Monument Valley. Accepting the Adventist message, Whitehorse was educated in Adventist schools through college, took a theological course of study, and became the pastor of the Monument Valley Adventist Church. In addition to serving as the local, Native American pastor, Whitehorse also serves as the Native American Ministries coordinator for the Nevada-Utah, Arizona, and Pacific Union Conferences.

Built slowly and sporadically over the past two years, due to ebbs and flows of money and volunteer labor from mission groups and local volunteers, the center is in the final stages of completion—at a materials cost of approximately $45,000—and will be dedicated debt-free. About 3,000 volunteer hours have been put into the project, which has been supervised by Whitehorse, and Joel Meyers, a local volunteer living on the mission campus.

During the Grand Opening and Dedication Weekend of the Diné Health & Training Center, guests and dignitaries from across Navajo Nation will be in attendance, including high-level officials from the capital in Window Rock, Arizona, as well as local “chapter” government officials for the area surrounding Monument Valley. Other guests will include donors and friends of the project, including Adventist leaders and members from the west coast and the nation.

Grand Opening and Dedication Weekend events will include the actual dedication service, history of the mission and the new center, tours of the facility, and demonstrations of the healing arts that will be featured at the center.

Grand Opening and Dedication Weekend events will include the actual dedication service, history of the mission and the new center, tours of the facility, and demonstrations of the healing arts that will be featured at the center. Celebratory meals will also be part of the festivities.

To RSVP for the Grand Opening and Dedication Weekend, contact Pastor Charlie Whitehorse at (928) 240-8680 or whitehorse.ministry@citlink.net. Individuals or groups interested in donating labor or providing financial underwriting to further the outreach and programs of the Monument Valley Adventist Church may also contact Whitehorse directly.

The kitchen for the center’s students and patients is readied for finishing touches.
Everyone looks forward to the New Year and its promise of new opportunities, but did you know the old year might also yield rewarding returns?

As you look ahead, consider some year-end decisions that can make a big difference, not just for the New Year, but for many years to come.

If you are concerned about your future, you need to know about charitable gift annuities. A gift annuity is a way you can make a gift to our organization that pays you fixed income. In exchange for your gift of cash, underperforming CDs or stocks, we promise to pay you income for the rest of your life. And this promise is backed by all of our assets! So, your income is secure. What’s more, because your payment rate is fixed at the time you make your gift, your income will never change.

To learn more about how to make the best end-of-year decision to secure your future, contact us today and save taxes on this year’s return by creating a charitable gift annuity.

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**“Call or Click!”**
The Loma Linda University church glowed each night of Vacation Bible School this year as more than 500 pairs of children’s hands opened, lifting LED candles from atop their heads and vigorously waving them in the air as they sang, “Hide it under a bush? Oh no! I’m going to let it shine.”

Family pastor Shawna Campbell and her crew of volunteers expanded Group Publishing’s “Rocky Point Lighthouse” weekend VBS curriculum to fill five nights. The program focused on 2 Samuel 22:29 (NLT): “The Lord lights up my darkness,” so kids could learn how to make Jesus real in their lives and to their peers. The rotation schedule included Projects with a Purpose, Ship Rec Games, and Bible Adventures, as well as two expanded stations, Prayer Power and Amazing Nature.

Each night in the nature room, children were introduced to a different sea animal. On the opening night, children were greeted with the nature leader, Bill Hayes, dressed in an eight-foot shark suit. Children were allowed to see animals such as clownfish and sharks as well as to touch creatures such as starfish and crabs. Leaders also helped the children understand how they could let their light shine as stewards of nature by conserving and protecting the environment.

A puppet named Chester greeted children from a corner of the Prayer Power Station and helped the children learn how to prevent Satan from blowing out their “lights” by staying connected to the power of God through prayer. As the children moved around the other three corners of the prayer room in smaller groups, they deepened their understanding of the night’s theme concept and memory verse by practicing three basic elements of prayer: praise, thanksgiving and requests.

On the third night the children received their own prayer journals to record their prayers in words and pictures. On the fifth night they each received a small box labeled “My God Box.”

(Left) While following a recipe, children mixed beans, rice, spices and other ingredients to make ready-made soup bags to help the church ministry called “Meals on Wheels.” (Right) Children of all ages were encouraged to help in the rotation “Projects with a Purpose.” (Below) The children and high school crewleaders at Loma Linda University Church help shine God’s light by raising their candles while singing the old-time favorite “This Little Light of Mine.”
containing printed cards to remind them of the week’s key concepts and Bible texts.

“All around the neighborhood,” the service element of the week’s classic theme song, “This Little Light of Mine,” became tangible to the children as they illustrated and wrote encouraging puzzle notes for military troops, decorated meal bags for delivery to elderly people and shut-ins, combined beans and spices for soup mixes for the hungry, and packed hundreds of backpacks that many of the children donated with school supplies for other area school children in need. All these projects are present ministries of Loma Linda University church.

The project that highlighted the whole VBS program was the focus on the backpacks. For a month before VBS, Campbell asked church members to donate backpacks for children in San Bernardino. Collection stations were set up each Sabbath to contain the hundreds of backpacks that were collected and donated. Some backpacks were new and some were gently used, but all were needed to reach the total number of more than 350 backpacks. Filled with all kinds of supplies and goodies, these backpacks will be distributed to underprivileged children in San Bernardino. Because the backpack ministry directly impacts the church’s immediate community, several newspapers featured articles and pictures of the children preparing and assembling the backpacks at the church.

More than 160 volunteers at the Loma Linda University church passed on the light of Jesus’ love and the joy of service this summer. A large part of the program’s success can be attributed to the high school students who bonded with the younger children and participated in the activities and rotations. Adult volunteers ranged from elders and deacons to grandmas and grandpas.

The willing hands of volunteers included three generations of the Balli family. Great-grandmother Beverly and grandmother Sandy Balli helped prepare snacks. Kevin Balli, the pianist of the Happy Daddy Band, brought new energy and rhythm to his children, Claire, Jack, Ava, and hundreds of other children. Another generation empowered by God’s Word now sings “This Little Light of Mine.”

The kids really like the rotation called Projects with a Purpose. They have embraced the idea of giving back!

DIANA, ADULT VOLUNTEER

My favorite part of VBS was mixing the soup bags for people who don’t have food. It was sooooo much fun!

ANGIE, AGE 8 (NON-ADVENTIST)
Mt. Rubidoux Takes a Fresh Approach to Sabbath School

“I used to walk into our church at Sabbath School time only to see, maybe, 3-5 people. The sanctuary was almost empty. Now, we have 200-250 people in our church by 10 a.m.” said Tim Williams.

Williams, the general superintendent of Sabbath school at Mt. Rubidoux church in Riverside, said he’s very satisfied with the new model. He and a team of dedicated people have worked to make the shift and are now seeing the results.

Mt. Rubidoux’s new model of Sabbath school is based on panel discussion, often turning the subject matter for the day into a dialogue between church members, a moderator and experts in the field. The discussions have included pastors’ series, studies from the Sabbath school lesson guides, the work of the Holy Spirit and contemporary issues.

The mission of the Sabbath school committee in its topics selection has been three-fold: to focus on intimacy with God, fellowship with believers and involvement with the community.

It is the third component of the mission that has really taken off as the contemporary issues portion of the panel group has sought to educate the community on issues of concern.

“We decide what to address based on a survey of the community and some of the top struggles they have, or topics they’d like to know more about,” said Williams. “We can’t please everyone, but it’s important to listen to the community and have its pulse.”

Within the category of contemporary issues, past panels have addressed relationships, single parenting, and, most recently, a series on approaches to public safety, discussing gangs, substance abuse and cultural sensitivity issues. Included in part two of a two-part conversation were Andy Lampkin, associate professor of medical ethics at Loma Linda University; David Taylor, professor of religion at Loma Linda University; Sergio Diaz, Riverside’s chief of police; Terry Bork, sitting judge for the Los Angeles county Superior Court; and Willie Davis, associate professor in the School of Pharmacy at Loma Linda University. Tim Williams, a retired LAPD detective himself, served as moderator.

These conversations have begun to...
iGnite Highschool Friday Night Vespers
(Sept 7 & 21) 7 p.m., Calimesa church in Fireside room, 391 Myrtlewood Dr., Calimesa. Come and enjoy music, message, food and fellowship. Info: 909-795-9741

34th Church Anniversary
(Sept. 14-15) 7:30 p.m., 11 a.m. Loma Linda Filipino church, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Lowell Cooper, General Conference vice president will speak. Info: 909-798-3822.

Heritage Singers
(Sept. 15) 5:15 p.m., Balboa Park Organ Pavilion, San Diego. Heritage Singers share Faithful to the End!

Adventurer Beach Day
(Sept. 23) 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Bolsa Chica State Beach. Open to any registered SECC Adventurer club and is a family day with fun activities. Info: www.seccyouth.com, 951-509-2265.

Pipe Organ Dedication
(Sept. 29) 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m., Moreno Valley Bilingual church, 12649 Indian Street, Moreno Valley. Everyone is invited to listen to the new organ. Info: 909-824-7173.

David Asscherick
(Oct. 5, 6) Beaumont church, 1343 Palm Ave., Beaumont. Asscherick will present, everyone is invited. Info: 909-374-1000.

National Filipino Convocation
(Oct. 12, 13) 7:30 p.m., 9 a.m., Loma Linda Filipino church, 11180 New Jersey St., Redlands. Coordinated by Filipino Adventist Ministers and Members Association of North America. Info: 909-798-3822.
Keeping in Touch

Single Adults
—A Resourceful Group in Our Churches

Last Memorial Day weekend more than 100 single adults gathered in Denver, Colorado, to attend the Third North American Division (NAD) Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Convention.

This event was organized by the NAD ASAM Advisory Committee under the leadership of the NAD Family Ministries Department. The purpose of these gatherings has not been to provide a dating or matching service but, on the contrary, as defined on its website:

“ASAM is a fellowship that provides the opportunity and encouragement to single adults (whether never married, divorced or widowed) for getting acquainted with other singles for the purpose of reflecting, discussing issues, studying God’s Word, singing, praying, playing, interacting, resting, traveling and enjoying God’s great outdoors – all to enhance the quality of one’s life!” www.adventistsingleadultministries.org

Since 2003, our church in North America has considered it very important to bring together this group of church members who very often feel isolated, and address specific needs and issues pertinent to their circumstances. Although this isolation has not been intentional, the reality is that we have neglected these, our brothers and sisters. As leaders, we have overlooked this group in our congregations. (Please forgive us.)

As a pastor, I used to prepare my sermons for my prototypical audience of families in which parents and children sit together in church for worship. My perspective was challenged eight years ago when I was approached by four church members whose lives at one point were part of such a family prototype. At the time we talked, two of them were single and the other two had recently remarried.

They shared with me their burden and vision for the increasing number of single adults in our denomination, especially within our conference. They recounted sad experiences in which some churches had been blind to the unique needs of those who had experienced or were experiencing disintegration of their families. Those needs were not necessarily financial ones. The individuals involved were in need of understanding, acceptance and friendship during a time when they were experiencing betrayal, rejection, loneliness, depression, anger, low self-esteem, etc.

According to www.singles.ag.org the 2010 U.S. Census reflected that this segment of our society is increasing at an exponential rate and, of course, it is impacting our churches. Therefore, we need to do everything we can to make a positive difference in the lives of these individuals, who in many cases are our own family members or close friends.

Unfortunately, talented single adults may also have been denied the opportunity to serve or minister in our churches due to a lack of understanding or awareness by church leaders.

On the other hand, these “hurt” members may serve in church, including ministering to those who have gone through similar experiences. The concept of “helping others in order to help ourselves” is true when people are in the process of healing.

cont. on next page
When our church nominating committees select new church officers for the next term, I would like to suggest a couple of possibilities: 1) Form a Single Adult Ministry; 2) Consider ways in which single adult members can help/minister in many ways in which our married couples may not have the time, resources or passion.

It is my prayer that we, as a church, become more aware of our single adult members and intentionally plan to do more for and with them.

In His Service,

Velino A. Salazar
Executive Secretary & Ministerial Director
The Genesis Praise Team put on a one-hour concert for the 2012 Easter block party sponsored by the Los Angeles Mission, a non-profit Christian organization that shelters the homeless in L. A. and on Skid Row. People responded so positively that the Mission since has been in dialogue with the team about the possibility of having the group participate in the Mission’s Christmas and Thanksgiving programs, which are widely featured on television news.

Neomai Taione directs The Genesis team, which is a ministry of the Genesis Project, a church-planting group in the L. A. Metro Region. The team has conducted monthly worship programs for the past year and a half at the L. A. Mission. Genesis is a celebrated part of the mission’s worship, and attendees now recognize the group. Some attendees visit the Genesis group for Sabbath worship.

“Personally, I feel that the Genesis ministry is one of the greatest assets of the L. A. Mission,” said Bernard Manyfield, a graduate of the L. A. Mission program and now a volunteer staff member there. “We look forward to their participating in our major annual events at the L. A. Mission.”

“The Los Angeles Mission has been a life-changing experience for me,” said Taione. “I am truly in awe at what the Lord has done through our Genesis outreach. We are going deep into the problem, the heart, of men and saving lives. That’s what we do; we save lives.”

“It is exciting to see that the time we spend there and the quality of ministry we offer has taken root,” said Iki Taimi, pastor, Gardena Community Church and the Genesis group. “Though we celebrate some awesome moments with such great events, the real ministry happens on a regular basis when there are no cameras or huge crowds. There are just hungry, tired, homeless men and women in need of a voice in the night giving them hope that, yes, Jesus still lives! Genesis is committed to the standard that Jesus has given us for service: ‘What you have done unto the least of these, you have done unto Me’” (Matt. 25:40).

The Genesis Team sings at the LA Mission.

Lancaster Member Publishes New Music Book

Crowning a long and varied career in church music ministry, Ruth Jones, wife of Pastor Edmund Jones, has published a songbook titled, Songs of Love and Praise, a compilation of her own compositions—both words and music. The collection includes more than 50 compositions, including praise songs, vocal solos, hymns, children’s songs and intermediate piano solos. Many of the songs reportedly are being sung in SCC churches.

Arranged in three sections: Songs of Love and Praise, Section I, has songs written within the past six years, engraved with a Sibelius music writing-program on computer. Section II includes manuscript copies of songs written 1949-1977. Section III includes piano solos, intermediate level, written the last few years.

“I started in church music by playing organ and piano at church when I was 16,” said Jones. I had a job as an organist at another Christian church when I was 18, and I have been doing that ever since. In Lancaster, where I live now, I served for 9 years as choir director at the United Methodist Church. The organist and I have a good relationship and I still play for her as a substitute organist. I also have played at several other Christian churches in Lancaster.”

The cost of the book including mailing is $14.25. For more details or to order, call 661-946-2657; email, ruthedjones@gmail.com; or write her at 5160 East K-6 Ave., Lancaster, CA 93535.
SCC EVANGELISM

**cLAim**
The last piece of the cLAim evangelistic campaigns will be in the West Cluster (see initial report below), culminating of four years of cLAim in SCC, using funds donated for traditional evangelism. Evangelism, of course, will continue to take place in SCC!

**The Great Hope**
The drive to distribute *The Great Hope*, an abridged version of *The Great Controversy*, has been launched. Our hope is for each member to take a copy, read it, and share a copy or more with friends or family.

**Greater Los Angeles Region**
*Smyrna Church* will host the Jesus Is The Answer Bible Conference series Nov. 3 - 17. Presenter, Pastor Loren Hodnett.

*University Church* will host *The Great Controversy Countdown* series Oct. 6 – 27. Presenter, Pastor Homer Hart. Preparation includes two major outreaches: monthly vegan cooking classes on Sundays at 1:00 p.m., and sharing the book, *The Great Hope*, with as many friends and neighbors as possible.

**The entire Greater Los Angeles Region** is currently readying for a Jan. 19-26, 2013, revival/reaping meeting with Carlton P. Byrd, DMIn, of the *Breath of Life* television broadcast. Preparation includes inviting as many Angelenos as possible to begin watching the *Breath of Life* broadcast on the Word Channel, 10:30 Sun. mornings, or via the internet at breathoflife.tv or breathoflifebroadcast.com

Pastors and members began saturating the target demographic with this and other information about the BOL broadcast with Internet blasts, posters, door knockers, billboards, word of mouth, etc. July through Sept. Beginning Oct. 1, GLAR begins announcing the meeting, inviting Bible students and others. For follow up, region churches are developing a database of interests. It is our hope to baptize enough individuals to plant a church in the target area. It is also our hope that, from the database and attendees, we will set the pace for a monumental year of evangelism in 2013.

**Young Adult Ministry**
On July 26, 2012, the SCC Young Adult Committee met to discuss its plans for 2012 and 2013. The overall concept that was generated was One House: we are One people in Christ and, as people in Christ, we are to foster our oneness in Christ by crossing any artificial barriers that separate us.

- **A One House Celebration worship** - time and place TBA—probably Nov. 2012. The One House Celebration will not be restricted to any particular age group, but will be led by young adults.

**re:connect in L. A. Metro Churches**
Many L. A. Metro churches are aggressively engaging their church members in reconnecting with nonattending and former members. The White Memorial Church has a comprehensive strategy to reach those who have for whatever reason quit worshipping and fellowshipping with our church body.

**Hispanic Region**
At the second annual Hispanic Lay Evangelism Festival held June 30, 2012, Luis Peña, Hispanic Region director, announced that the region leadership team, had selected Pastor Guillermo Garcia to serve as the region evangelist for the 58 Hispanic congregations in SCC. On Sept. 23, the region will initiate a School of Evangelism to prepare laypersons to make disciples:

- **The Spiritual Life of a Leader Seminar** – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Sept. 22 Central Spanish Church. Presenter, Claudiner Mockiuti.
- **Denominational History** – 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Nov. 17 Central Spanish Church. Presenter, Ruben Tenorio, a pastor and former professor, Montemorelos University.
- **San Fernando Spanish Church**. Presenter, Moises Benitez

**West Cluster**
A number of churches in this cluster plan evangelistic series:

- **The Oxnard All Nations Church** prepared for their early fall series with a major Vacation Bible School. Parents participated in a cooking class or stress-management seminar during the VBS. A Revelation Seminar, meeting every other night for 20 nights, is following. Manuel Avitia is the pastor.
- **The Place and the Thousand Oaks Church** plan to host a series of Friday/Saturday meetings featuring special speakers on topics of current interest from a Biblical perspective. Pastors of the two churches, Larry Meager, Michael Brownfield and Simon Liversidge want to enter the “conversation” about theological questions of modern culture.

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