PACIFIC UNION
recorder

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

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about the cover
Adventist Health values its heritage and uses its lessons to its advantage. Cover photos are historical shots of St. Helena Hospital in Napa, Calif.

CONTENTS

3-11 Adventist Health
34-40 Advertising
28-29 Arizona
26-27 Central California
30-31 Hawaii
32 La Sierra University
24-25 Nevada-Utah
16-19 Northern California
33 Pacific Union College
12-15 Southeastern California
20-23 Southern California

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Providing Healing for Years to Come

With health care reform creating a significant change in the health care industry, Adventist Health must ensure that it sets clear direction and executes successful strategies. That’s why we’re focused on our strategic plan to become a more integrated and higher performing health care delivery system. Our disciplined approach has been carefully designed to leverage our heritage and the successes of the past, while building new capabilities — enabling Adventist Health to be even more successful in the future.

This year, we’re celebrating St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley’s 135 years of service, White Memorial Medical Center’s Centennial and Castle Medical Center’s 50th anniversary of providing care in their communities. We’re thankful for the dedicated teams at each location that make these milestones possible.

As we focus on the opportunities ahead, we’re confident that with hard work, dedication and prayer, we can continue delivering the mission-driven, quality health care that Adventist Health has provided to our communities for more than 100 years.

I hope you enjoy this spotlight about the work that is happening throughout Adventist Health. If you wish to know more about us and our services in this union conference, please visit AnnualReport.ah.org.

Robert G. Carmen, Adventist Health president and CEO

FACTS ABOUT ADVENTIST HEALTH

- 19 hospitals in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington
- More than 170 rural health clinics, physician clinics and outpatient centers
- 14 home care agencies
- Seven hospice agencies
- Four joint-venture retirement centers
- Workforce of 28,900 — including 21,200 employees, 4,500 medical staff physicians and 3,200 volunteers
- More than 2,700 beds
- Headquartered in Roseville, Calif.

In 2012, there were …

- 126,210 admissions
- 512,932 emergency department visits
- 2,411,632 outpatient visits
- 227,662 home care visits
- 817,900 rural health clinic visits
- More than $350 million provided in free and low-cost services to the community

To visit the new annual report website, scan the QR code to the right or visit http://annualreport.ah.org/2013.
The roots of Adventist Health date back more than 135 years. The philosophy that the whole person is treated — mind, body and spirit — has been pivotal to the organization since the beginning. Adventist Health is dedicated to improving the lives of those we serve within every hospital, clinic or private home.

We’re actively creating programs to ensure that we meet the needs of people in our communities. San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield, Calif., is beginning a clinical pastoral education program to help address whole person care in their community. “At SJCH, we saw the need to reach out to our community clergy and leaders through offering advanced training in meeting a person’s emotional and spiritual needs that have a direct impact on their wellbeing,” says Tony Andrews, SJCH pastoral care director.

With health care reform in the near future, Adventist Health has dedicated a team to develop and deploy what we’re calling the Mission Model: The Adventist Health Way. The Mission Model embodies the three core care elements contained in Adventist Health’s mission — sharing God’s love through physical, mental and spiritual healing — and seeks to empower our communities to live healthier lives. In the following paragraphs, you can learn more about the Mission Model and how you can get involved.

What comprises the Adventist Health Mission Model?

The focus of Adventist Health has always been on whole-person care rooted in Seventh-day Adventist health principles. The Mission Model seeks to define, implement and measure approaches of sharing God’s love by addressing the health needs of the many communities that Adventist Health serves, including patients, employees, physicians and church constituents.

What are the desired outcomes for patients, workforce and the community?

The Mission Model will create a patient experience focused on the love of God, resulting in enhanced coping and states of well-being. Adventist Health anticipates its workforce will have a sense of purpose, mission engagement and overall well-being physically, mentally and spiritually. Through collaborative partnerships, the workforce, and engaged faith leaders, Adventist Health ultimately seeks to make communities healthier.

How does Adventist Health plan to implement the Mission Model throughout its system?
There are three important building blocks that support the Mission Model. First, Adventist Health will assess the needs of its populations, leading to support and care planning. Second, Adventist Health will continue to build its mission culture by planning wellness into each business unit. Third, the integration of these elements will result in greater impact on wholeness and healing, thus fulfilling the Adventist Health mission.

Where does the Mission Model provide the greatest impact?

The Mission Model enables Adventist Health care providers to become partners in a patient’s health very early on. This engagement in loving, compassionate and interactive care will provide an environment that is conducive to health, healing and wellness. By educating and empowering our communities, we provide them with prevention education through personal accountability.

How will a physician assess a patient’s spiritual needs?

Designed to ensure a holistic approach to health across a patient’s life, the Mission Model will allow for physicians to ask patients questions during very early stages not only about their physical and mental health, but also regarding spiritual health. This will create a more effective health care model as it allows for an even more comprehensive record of a patient’s health. With the belief that religious practices can provide healing, we hope that one day a physician may write a patient a prescription to become more active in a faith-based community.

How will the Affordable Care Act impact Adventist Health’s Mission Model?

The Affordable Care Act allows Adventist Health to revisit its roots in whole person care. The United States government is mandating that patient care no longer be about services offered but instead, outcomes oriented through proving positive results for patients. At the core of the Affordable Care Act, the government is ultimately trying to reduce cost by helping people stay well — essentially, they are asking for the Seventh-day Adventist health message to be implemented throughout the nation.

How can church clergy and leadership engage in the Mission Model?

Seventh-day Adventist church clergy and leadership can help Adventist Health lay the foundation for the Mission Model in their congregations. Through collaborative efforts and partnerships with Adventist Health institutions, clergy will be able to enhance the health of their congregation and communities. Adventist Health will also seek to empower clergy to be champions of their own health through continuing education on the core principles of wellness. Finally, churches have the opportunity to serve as wellness centers in their communities where people may turn to for guidance and support.

How can we get our congregations, education facilities and communities involved in the Mission Model?

Adventist Health hopes to empower churches to become advocates of their congregation’s health and for churches to become beacons of wellness in their communities. Congregants can serve as volunteers in church wellness centers by providing education, guidance and support. Additionally, Adventist Health is looking for creative ways to strengthen our partnerships with our churches and education facilities. Through further development of these partnerships, Adventist Health seeks to be an extension of Christ’s healing ministry in all of the communities we serve to hasten Christ’s second coming.

By Amy Alderman
Living the Mission

When Chris Weber moved to Roseville, Calif., in 1994, he drove by the Adventist Health corporate office on his way to visit friends. “It would be really cool to work in a non-profit, mission-driven health system,” Chris thought to himself. After a few moves and a couple of career changes later, Chris and his wife Aggie, a speech therapist, moved back to Roseville in 2008 when Chris began consultant work with Adventist Health.

When an opportunity arose in the materiel management department at Adventist Health, Chris applied and was soon hired as an affiliate materials specialist. Chris’ job includes performing contracts analysis and managing market baskets for competitive bids.

Chris says his favorite part of working in materiel management is sharing with people on a daily basis who Adventist Health is at its core. “Through working with other companies, we not only spread our mission, but they get to see how we conduct business and how we care for our patients by bringing in the best products at the best price,” says Chris.

Lowell Church, vice president of materiel management; Kaul Rasmusson, corporate affiliate director; and Tom Jacobsen, director of pharmacy, invited Chris to join them in the mornings for worship. Chris quickly noticed that something was definitely different about Adventist Health than what he had experienced working at organizations in the past. Not only was Adventist Health operated with a spiritually-driven mission, but it was apparent that the employees were also living out its values in their daily lives.

“I believe the little things that happened at Adventist Health each and every day made a big impact on Chris,” says Kaul. “He witnessed first-hand that employees voluntarily join together for a devotional and the first item listed on the meeting agenda was prayer.”

The Webers’ hearts and minds were open for a change. Looking back, they acknowledge that the Lord was directing them to evaluate their relationship with Him during that time. Chris and Aggie began visiting the churches in the area. They really enjoyed the worship experience and the family atmosphere at the Carmichael Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sacramento, Calif. After beginning to study the Bible with Pastor Dan Wysong, both were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church in May 2012.

“Being part of the SDA church family and Adventist Health gives me a better sense of connection of God’s grace, love and understanding,” says Chris. “I get to see firsthand how the Holy Spirit works through Adventist Health to improve the lives of His children.”

By Amy Alderman
MISSION EMPHASIS PROGRAMS Provide Focus

Health centers around the Adventist Health system are providing physical, mental and spiritual healing to their communities each day. Mission emphasis programs have been implemented in clinics and hospitals to make each encounter between patients, employees and physicians spiritually focused. The following three Adventist Health hospitals in California have encountered great success with their mission emphasis programs.

Compassionate Care

For Simi Valley Hospital, Compassionate Care means being the hands and heart of Jesus. Ron Hyrchuk, director of spiritual care services, and the leadership team wanted to make the southern California hospital’s mission concept simple and intuitive. “Compassionate Care is not just clinical care — it’s about seeing people as unique creations of God. We wanted the focus to translate easily to everyone,” says Ron.

The vision for Compassionate Care was presented to each department in the hospital. The employees were asked to state what Compassionate Care meant in their department and to them personally. Ron says that during the last two years, employee morale has continued to climb as the focus on Compassionate Care has taken hold.

Embedded Mission

Sonora Regional Medical Center is instilling their mission into the day-to-day lives of their patients, employees and physicians in the Sierras. “We want the Embedded Mission to be so perfectly infused at SRMC, that it permeates everything we do,” says Bryan Lewis, chaplain at SRMC.

Recently, Julie Petty, admitting clerk for the emergency department, received the first ever Angel Award at SRMC. The hospital began this award program to recognize an employee’s spirit and actions through sharing God’s love.

“To be acknowledged for my simple acts was humbling. I love how SRMC helps make a difference in our community and encourages us to support one another,” says Petty.

Employee support of Embedded Mission has never been higher. In a 2012 annual employee survey, SRMC was placed in the 100th percentile for “support in responding to the spiritual needs of patients, families and co-workers,” and in the 96th percentile for “level of spiritual emphasis.”

Tea for the Soul

“By providing a space for staff to pause in the middle of their busy schedule, we want to let them know that they’re valued,” says Jen Collins, director of spiritual care at Ukiah Valley Medical Center. Jen and a small team of coordinators have begun a program at the northern California hospital called Tea for the Soul where they schedule an hour with a department to serve the staff a cup of hot tea or infused water, or receive a quick chair massage.

Tea for the Soul seeks to support employees during stressful times, to celebrate important events in their lives, honor positive patient feedback, offer encouragement and reward their hard work. Additionally, they reinforce the work that employees do for the Ukiah community by showing them that they are valued in an ongoing way as part of the UVMC family.
White Memorial Medical Center was born in 1913 in Los Angeles with a cough and a sputter, entering the world as a fledgling clinic on First Street. Unsteady on its feet, the newborn clinic tried to make sense of its surroundings, a complicated mixture of population explosion, poor health standards and a looming war.

Back then, it wasn’t much to look at. One block north of the Santa Fe Railway station, pressed between a tannery and a tailor, the First Street clinic was small and unassuming. Its physical presence might have been easily missed, were it not for its location so close to the eyes of the newly arriving immigrants entering Los Angeles — immigrants who were there for the promises newly installed aqueducts had made of work, expansion and the chance to turn the desert city into an oasis.

The clinic would provide for these immigrants, but also count on them. The more diverse the patients and varied their ailments, the better, for one simple reason: the clinic was training doctors from the newly established Adventist medical school in Loma Linda, Calif.

For the College of Medical Evangelists, as Loma Linda University was called then, it was a race against time. The CME had just received a crushing “C” rating from the American Medical Association, a single report that could doom the college from the start. To raise its rating, the school would need more patients to train its students.

In 1913, the First Street clinic was established in Los Angeles to do just that. It was a humble yet ambitious start, and patients were soon flowing in.

But the report was just the beginning of the school’s troubles. Soon, World War I would break out and with it arrive the 1917 draft, a draft which would slash the numbers of faculty and staff so severely that the school nearly closed. Through nothing short of dedication and resolve, the school survived, battered yet hopeful, as staff returned from the war a year later. That same year, the AMA raised the school’s rating to a “B.” With the rating boost, the College of Medical Evangelists found steadier ground.

Meanwhile, the First Street clinic, essential to the goals of the medical school, still had a question mark above its own head. The shortcomings were clear — the clinic needed to expand to keep up with the growing demands of the medical school.

It was during a precipitous hour in 1915 that four women stepped onto the stage and promised to launch a campaign to

To order a copy of WMMC’s centennial history book or learn more about the 2013 Centennial Celebration Week, visit WhiteMemorial.com/Centennial.
raise money for a new hospital that would better suit the needs of the CME and the patients.

And raise money they did. With $60,000 in hand, a new outpatient clinic was built on the corner of Boyle and Michigan avenues to replace the First Street clinic. The new facility in Boyle Heights marked a transition period for White Memorial Medical Center — a transition from fledgling clinic to a respectable hospital with a mission to train physicians and serve the local community in a broader way.

In the years to follow, White Memorial Medical Center would face daunting challenges: a laundry list that ranged from earthquakes and near bankruptcy to LLU’s decision to offer all four years of medical training on the Loma Linda campus — rather than offering two of those years at White Memorial Medical Center. With each challenge the hospital faltered, then recovered — never failing to improve its processes, never failing to stay hopeful and never losing sight of its mission: to live up to the vision of Ellen G. White, after whom it was named, who advocated raising the standard of medical care and integrating faith and healing.

Today White Memorial Medical Center’s 353-bed hospital spans three city blocks with more than 620,000 square-feet of state-of-the-art facilities — with more on the way. The decade-long remodel that began in 2000 — itself a miraculous event made possible by Federal Emergency Management Agency funds and the generosity of community donors — brought a new aesthetic: modern, earthquake-resistant and distinctly Californian.

Still true to its mission as a teaching hospital, it instructs doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. But it also teaches its patients and community — historically an underserved population — how to improve their health.

Where the hospital has been — through wars, earthquakes, a depression, and a financial crisis — puts it in the elite company of other great organizations who’ve reached the century mark. Today the hospital stands as a testament to grand vision, firm resolve and divine guidance. Widely recognized as a quality leader, White Memorial Medical Center is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as being #12 of the 32 top-rated hospitals in the Los Angeles metro area and #20 of the 41 strong-performing hospitals in California.

“White Memorial Medical Center has a fierce determination to face obstacles, a deep love for serving its community, and a faith in the divine role in healing,” says President and Chief Executive Officer Beth Zachary, herself the daughter of Adventist missionaries. “While the future will surely hold more challenges, we believe God will continue to bless White Memorial Medical Center as we stay true to our mission and keep our eyes fixed on Him.”

DeLona Lang Bell and Miles-Erik Bell

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**YOU’RE INVITED!**

**WMMC Centennial Celebration Weekend**

**Friday, October 25, 2013 — WMMC Continuing Medical Education**

“Tending the Flame: Finding Deep Meaning in our Daily Work” by Dr. Rachel Remen

Session #1: 9 a.m. – Noon; Session #2: 2–5 p.m.

White Memorial Church Gymnasium

(1720 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90033)

More info: (323) 260-5781 or evelyn.martinez@ah.org

**Sabbath, October 26, 2013 — Homecoming Hospital Sabbath Service**

10 a.m. Worship Service: Speakers Elders Charles White and Gordon Bietz

12:30: Lunch at Fellowship Hall

2:30: Music with Sam Ocampo and Friends

3–5 p.m.: Hospital Tours (meet at main entrance)

7 p.m.: Sandi Patti Concert

White Memorial Church (1720 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90033); More Info: (323) 260-5710 or edgar.urbina@ah.org

**Sunday, October 27, 2013 — Charitable Foundation Centennial Gala**

5:30 p.m.: Social Hour and Silent Auction

6:30 p.m.: Dinner

7:30 p.m.: Live Auction and Evening Program

Beverly Wilshire Hotel (9500 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90212)

More info: (323) 260-5739 or yuri.geronimo@ah.org
Many people turn to religion to help cope with illness. But while a majority of patients say they want spirituality incorporated into their care, many health care providers feel “spiritually illiterate,” saying they lack the tools and knowledge to give patients what they need.

The first national conference to help caregivers translate spirituality and health research into practical tools for patient care was sponsored in July by Adventist Health, Loma Linda University, Duke University, Azusa Pacific University and the Fuller Theological Seminary. Hosted at the Fuller Theological Seminary School of Psychology in Pasadena, Calif., the week-long conference, “Emerging Tools for Innovative Providers,” brought together some of the most recognized experts in the field. More than 120 chaplains, clergy, nurses, physicians, psychologists and other health care professionals explored how to better integrate spirituality into daily practice.

“Patients want their health care providers to understand them and their spirituality, yet a high percentage of providers don’t address spirituality,” says Doug Nies, Ph.D., chair of psychology at Glendale Adventist Medical Center and one of the conference speakers. “A lot of doctors are uncomfortable incorporating spirituality into their practice of medicine. Many say ‘We don’t know how or what it is we’re supposed to do and so we don’t do it.’”

A key focus of the conference was how negative events early in life influence a person’s behavior and health years later. “Adverse childhood experiences determine the likelihood of the 10 most common causes of death in the United States,” says Vincent Felitti, M.D., co-principal investigator of ongoing research into how adverse childhood events impact adult well being and disease. The research, a collaborative effort between Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control, shows that abuse, neglect, loss of a parent, alcoholism or drug use in the home and other negative experiences suffered in childhood are the main causes of risky adult behaviors, disease, disability, premature death and high health care costs.

And in order to change behaviors that adversely affects people’s health, we are also exploring how spiritual care can minimize that effect,” Nelson says. “The need for spiritual care to help patients cope with illness may be closely tied to health outcomes. This appears to be especially true for those who feel abandoned by God and their religious community. This conference gave practitioners tools to help them understand and work with the spiritual beliefs that are relevant to each patient’s care.”

Conference attendees formed workgroups to develop concrete methods for incorporating spirituality in their care. Mid-week they practiced spiritual assessments with actors posing as patients, and on the last day of the conference each workgroup presented their practical solutions.

“It was enlightening to know that other people are exploring spirituality and health, which has definitely been neglected in the past in the overall care of patients,” says Brad Brown, director of chaplaincy services at Feather River Hospital. “And it’s not just Adventist Health or Loma Linda University, but other organizations as well. It’s positive that we’re all teaming up to share knowledge and work together for the benefit of the patient.”

And in order to change behaviors that impact health, caregivers need to address spirituality in addition to health symptoms, explained Bruce Nelson, director of pastoral care and community services at GAMC and a chief organizer of the conference. “As we understand how psychological trauma and significant stress

Doug Nies, Ph.D., chair of psychology at Glendale Adventist Medical Center presents to the conference attendees on incorporating spirituality into the practice of medicine.

Conference attendee practicing spiritual assessments with an actor posing as a patient.
In May 1866, Ellen G. White urged the General Conference to establish a Seventh-day Adventist health institution in Battle Creek, Mich. White advocated to the church leaders that building a health center would fulfill the church's mission by helping to relieve human suffering. Leaders responded positively to White's appeal, and quickly raised money and purchased land, opening the Health Reform Institute during September of the same year.

These early health care pioneers promoted what were considered very “radical” concepts in their day relating to nutrition, exercise and sanitation. They were dedicated to educating patients and their families about disease prevention and the numerous advantages of living a healthy lifestyle. Countless people flocked to the Health Reform Institute to rest and relax, participate in recreational activities and to dine on food designed for the most health conscious.

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg joined the Health Reform Institute staff in 1875 and became the superintendent the following year. Kellogg renamed the facility in 1877 to the Medical Surgical Sanitarium (more commonly known as the Battle Creek Sanitarium). He said that using the term sanitarium helped fulfill the institute’s vision of a “place for people to learn to stay well.”

On June 7, 1878, a second Seventh-day Adventist Hospital opened in the Napa Valley region of California. Originally called The Rural Health Retreat (known today as St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley and the Center for Health) the Retreat had 13 bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, parlor, doctor’s office and treatment rooms. Within one week, all of the 13 beds were occupied, and tents were erected in the yard to house employees and patient overflow. Like the Battle Creek Sanitarium, The Rural Health Retreat sought to provide a place for guests to escape from the pressures of day-to-day life through rest, wholesome dining and other lifestyle enhancements. Today St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley is the oldest Seventh-day Adventist health care center in the world.

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick … And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where” (Luke 9:1-2, 6 KJV).

Jesus’ commission to His disciples included preaching, teaching and healing. Motivated by their love for the Savior, they went forth to extend His mission of reaching people for His Kingdom and to relieve human suffering. As modern day disciples, motivated by the same love for God, Adventist Health seeks to continue the work of Jesus and his disciples. While we may not often witness the miraculous healing that the disciples were blessed to witness, through Adventist Health’s application of modern medical science rightly practiced, thousands today experience the loving, healing touch of God.

Adventist Health’s mission continues to be driven from its heritage. Just as the early health care pioneers presented very “radical” concepts, the United States is now preparing again for a very “radical” change. With reforms in the health care industry on the horizon, Adventist Health must ensure that it sets a clear direction for the future. This will allow Adventist Health to revisit its roots, grounded in prevention and whole person care, to provide healing in years to come. Our heritage is our advantage.
The Calimesa church has linked one of its mission outreach programs with the nonprofit organization Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach, and Research, Inc. (ProTECTOR) in delivering the message of healthy people and a healthy environment to rural communities in Honduras.

Stephen Dunbar, a church member at Calimesa and professor of marine biology at Loma Linda University, is the founder of the nonprofit organization, which focuses on research and conservation of sea turtles in Honduras.

“In 2009, after a planned mission trip to Nicaragua was canceled, Pastor Isaac Kim called me and asked if there was anything a mission team could do for my projects in Honduras. This was an opportunity to reach out to the communities I work with on conservation in a way that would impact their personal and family health situations. That’s when the ‘Calitan’ mission trip was born,” said Dunbar. “Calitan” is a contraction of Calimesa and Roatán. It demonstrates Calimesa’s dedication to befriending and serving the same two communities in Roatán year after year.

This year, from June 23 to 30, was the mission team’s fourth trip to the Diamond Rock area of Roatán on the east end of the island. The team of 23 was composed of three dentists, three dental hygienists, two doctors, two nurses as well as dental, dental hygiene and nursing students from Loma Linda University, a construction team, a pastor, two high school educators, several young adults and one turtle biologist.

The group recorded basic health histories of community members, provided health screening of blood pressures, blood sugars and general health. They also provided dental care to those who needed it.

“I’m definitely going back again. This has been an experience of a lifetime,” said Heidi Cinque, one of the dental hygiene team members.

During the week, the group saw almost 300 people, including some who returned from previous years. Sabine Dunbar, one of the trip nurses, said, “We even had one young fellow who had come each year and still had his health passport — so he won the prize of a new soccer ball to take home as his own.”

An ongoing project has been the development and repair of a wastewater system for the elementary school at Camp Bay. This year, the construction team, led by Scott Jones and Mitchell Fairhurst, repaired the system by constructing a rainwater catchment that feeds into the main water storage tank.

In addition to health outreach and community development projects, the team, led by Sandra Leggitt, Becky Cohen-Jacobsen and Michael Bennie, also carried out children’s programs during three nights of the week and on Sabbath morning. Children of all ages were picked up in vans to go to the Diamond Rock church, where they enthusiastically took part in singing, Bible stories and fun crafts.

“This has been an awesome experience,” said Pablo Ariza, associate pastor and group leader. “We’re not only working toward better health in the community, but we’re also making good friends and sharing God’s love with people where they are — no questions asked.”

Calitan team members are already making plans for their next trip back to Roatán in March 2014, when they will again reach out to the communities of east Roatán with a message of health, healing and hope.

Stephen Dunbar
Chula Vista Church Promotes Health at San Diego County Fair

The San Diego County Fair is the largest annual event in San Diego County and the fourth largest fair in North America. It usually draws more than 1.5 million visitors. Chula Vista church members took this opportunity to promote health to their community at large.

In 2012, Efren Montalban, church outreach and evangelism coordinator, with the help of member Robinson Devadhasom, reached out to the fair coordinators and asked if their church could set up a booth to do health screenings. As the fair organizers learned of the church’s intent to benefit the community, they allowed them to use three booth spaces for the price of two.

The church mobilized volunteers to help run the booth and administer blood pressure and BMI screenings, as well as to offer general health counseling. People could also sign up for Bible studies or take free literature.

The theme of the 2012 fair was “Out of This World.” The church invited Alex Riano, an artist who serves as a missionary on the island of Yap, to attend the fair and paint a 30-foot mural. To go along with the fair’s theme, Riano painted a depiction of the world from creation to the second coming of Christ. Those being screened watched as the artist worked on the painting.

Because of the church’s success in 2012, the fair organizers asked them to return this year and offered a 50 percent discount on the booth space. Invigorated by the success of the previous year, Chula Vista members invited other churches to send volunteers. From June 8 to July 4, volunteers from the San Diego Filipino, Paradise Valley, La Mesa, Fallbrook and Valley Center churches joined Chula Vista’s volunteers, conducting health screenings from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The theme for this year’s fair was “Game On.” Once again, Riano was invited to paint a 30-foot mural, this time depicting the image from Daniel 2. During the course of the fair, more than 1,200 people visited the booth.

“More than 1.5 million people visited the fair,” said Devadhasom, “but only 1,206 came to our booth. It is a difficult ministry because most people go to the fair to find junk food, but our goal is to reach those that God has ordained to come to us.”

A woman named Nancy visited the booth to thank the volunteers for saving her life. Last year at the booth she had her blood pressure checked. The volunteer who took her pressure noticed that it was dangerously low and counseled Nancy to see her doctor immediately. She waited a few weeks, but then went to see her doctor and told him what she had learned at the fair. The doctor was skeptical and told her, “The volunteers are just novices. They don’t know what they are doing.”

However, he took her pulse three times. He walked out to talk to someone else and upon returning, told her to report to the hospital right away. She checked in for surgery to have a pacemaker implanted as a result.

“Today I’ve come to thank you for saving my life,” said Nancy to the volunteers running the booth. If she had waited any longer, she said, she might not have made it.

As result of the fair booth ministry, more than 400 people have asked the church to inform them about health seminars, cooking classes and upcoming prophecy seminars. Approximately 50 people have asked for Bible studies, which church members are conducting.
For the 20th year, members of the Kansas Avenue church in Riverside celebrated Armed Forces Day in honor of the military personnel in their area. The annual event was held this year on June 1. Although not much has changed in terms of programming since the event’s inception, it has become popular, drawing an attendance of nearly 700 people.

The guest speaker this year was Barry Black, 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate. He is the first Seventh-day Adventist and the first African-American to hold this office. Black has been a frequent Armed Forces Day guest, in spite of his busy speaking schedule.

“We were very fortunate to have him,” said Bill Howe, one of the organizers of the event. “He is quite a speaker!”

Bron Jacobs, senior pastor, welcomed members and guests by looking ahead to the second coming of Christ: “May this Sabbath be a reminder that a day is coming in which all wars will be brought to an abrupt end.”

Black echoed this sentiment. The title of his sermon was “Playground or Battlefield?” Referring to Ephesians 6:12, he said that many people go through life thinking they are in a playground. However, humanity is constantly at war, struggling not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this world. The end of this war will happen only when Christ returns.

Donors and sponsors provided special booklets for the 20th anniversary, containing information on the program, the speaker and the recipients of the Eagle Awards, which are given each year to selected residents of the community.

Black presented this year’s four awards. One was a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award, received by his family, to William Vann, Sgt. Maj., U.S. Marine Corps. Awards also were given to Christina Best, Petty Officer, U.S. Navy; and James Douglas Dew, Senior Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Navy. A civilian, Columbus Dennis Batiste II, chief of cardiology, Kaiser Permanente, Riverside, was honored with an award for excellence in medicine.

Twenty-one years ago, several retired service-men started discussing a way in which to honor retired men and women of the armed forces. Bill Howe, Lt. Col., U.S. Air Force (retired), and Chief Warrant Officer Benjamin Franklin, U.S. Marine Corps (retired), members of the Kansas Avenue church, planned the program that has since become an annual event.

Every year, church members and friends in the community anticipate the Armed Forces Day service, asking if a date has been set and if the speaker has been announced. But it isn’t only church members who are enthused by the program. Former members who now live in New York, Alabama, Arizona and Texas all make the trip to attend.

Current and retired military personnel conducted this year’s program. “Once you get military people to commit, once you get their support,” said Howe, “everything will go smoothly.”

Mario A. Munoz
In 2010, the United Nations identified Costa Rica as one of the most developed nations in its economic class. The Costa Rican people are overwhelmingly Christian, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a strong anchor in San Jose with Universidad Adventista de Centroamerica (UNADECA). So why did La Sierra University church choose to partner with a Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Costa Rica for a mission trip?

“The people of Costa Rica don’t need to be taught Bible verses,” said Vaughn Nelson, associate pastor at La Sierra University church. “We didn’t want to be paternal; we went to listen, to imagine together and to partner with a sister educational community with whom we share a lot in common.”

A group of 25 La Sierra University church members, including pastors, deacons, retirees and young adults, arrived in Tacacori July 1, not yet knowing what work would be in store for this inaugural church trip to Costa Rica. They knew that the Tacacori Adventist church, one of five led by Josue Molina, the pastor, had received a donation of property for a church building. However, they did not know the condition of the property, or even whether there would be enough work for everyone. Those uncertainties quickly vanished.

“When we got off the bus and looked at the property, we knew that our work was cut out for us,” said Steve McClain, LSUC member. “There were weeds everywhere and a stream running right through the middle of the property.”

Dealing with the stream provided the majority of the work. Damming the flow was not an option for Molina’s church, as the stream is used by the residents of the community for irrigation and washing. The local engineers had to find a way to keep the stream running through the middle of the property without adversely impacting the future church building plans. A concrete channel was the solution, and under the expert eyes of the contractor and his assistant, the La Sierra members got to work.

“They had previously put in a concrete pipe, but it didn’t function well, so they wanted to upgrade to a channel,” said Chris Oberg, senior pastor of LSUC. “Masonry is not taught in divinity school, but it is a deeply spiritual act to get on your knees and dig in the dirt.”

As some of the La Sierra visitors lent a hand with the channel, others set to building a wall. Although stacking cinder blocks can be backbreaking labor, all backs made it through the project unscathed. Hands, however, were not so lucky. Unfortunately the hand of Beverly Maravilla, associate pastor, was sidelined by a smashed finger. The injury was not serious, but it did prevent her from hoisting any more 50-kilo bags of cement.

Toward the end of the trip, the workers found that they had leftover concrete, so after talking it over with the contractor, they decided to use the remainder to build a driveway. The contractor, inspired by their vigorous industry, declared that he would donate the materials to complete the driveway.

La Sierra University church is already making plans for another visit to Costa Rica in 2015. Members are excited about the variety of opportunities to partner with the UNADECA campus and surrounding community as they work together in fulfilling what has become the motto for LSUC mission trips, “Let the News Be Good.”

Peter Cress
Oakland Spanish Church Health Fair Benefits Many

How can a church reach out to its neighborhood, forge relationships with local nonprofit organizations, and bring its members closer together? One way is to hold a community health fair, such as the one hosted by the Oakland Spanish church on Sunday, Aug. 18.

The third annual health fair took place on the street in front of the church and in Sabbath school rooms. Outside, 16 booths were manned by nonprofit organizations from Oakland and Alameda County, including the American Red Cross, the Oakland Zoo, the Cesar Chavez Library and many others. Visitors could access information on topics such as cancer resources, renter’s rights, foster parenting and more. “I was really impressed with the willingness of these different organizations to get their message out,” said Oakland Spanish church Pastor Richard Dena.

Church members also interacted with community visitors, giving vegetarian cooking demonstrations, offering Adventist literature, and providing games for children. The church choir performed, along with other local singers, and the Pathfinder club sold food to raise funds for the upcoming international camporee.

The fair was the final event of a weekend devoted to healthy living. A health seminar was held on Friday night, and Frankis Almaguel, a physician from Loma Linda University, spoke for the worship service.

On Sabbath afternoon, four physicians and a dentist, with the help of local nurses, held consultations with 51 patients. On Sunday, one doctor saw 23 more patients — mostly visitors.

The event on Sunday was designed to offer information, but it also had a larger mission: show people that their Adventist neighbors enjoy life while honoring God. “When community members see people with Bibles under their arms, they may think we are boring people,” said Tini Durón, the church’s community services director who coordinated the fair.

“We can show Jesus to the community with activities that show we are not boring. When I started working with this community fair, this was my goal. We enjoy life; we like music; we like eating; but Jesus is in the middle.”

It wasn’t only the fair attendees who received a positive impression of the church. Durón went out of her way to make sure that the nonprofit organizations’ representatives felt welcome, too. Several told Durón they were surprised when church members offered them food and friendliness. “At other events, they don’t receive this attention,” said Durón, who hopes the kind treatment will make them want to return.

About 75 church members, 30 of them young people, volunteered at the fair. Although it was a lot of work, church members enthusiastically pitched in. “It was a beautiful experience for us. We made a very good team,” said head elder Isaac Garcia.”The whole church worked together for one goal.”

Julie Lorenz
Northern California Conference
October 2013

Apple Blossom Bike Tour Raises Funds and Awareness for El Dorado Adventist School

In May, 118 cyclists participated in the Apple Blossom Bike Tour to raise money for El Dorado Adventist School in Placerville. Cyclists chose between three routes: the metric century (100 kilometers); the metric half-century; and the youth route (12.5 kilometers — for riders eight years and older). The routes took the riders through Apple Hill, a scenic rural area in the Sierra foothills known for its fruit orchards, vineyards and tree farms.

Although the tour’s website promised that the youth route had “a nice, gentle climb,” it warned cyclists about the century route: “this ride will test you.” Riders climbed more than 7,000 feet on the century route, and 3,500 feet on the half-century. “In El Dorado County, you can’t go half a mile without hitting a challenging hill,” said Placerville church senior pastor Ron Mellor, who rode the century.

The cyclists who took on the tougher routes were rewarded for their efforts by the beautiful scenery — apple orchards, vineyards, cedar groves and vistas of the Sacramento Valley. “Many of the riders told me this was one of the most beautiful courses they’d ever ridden,” said Mellor.

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The tour began and ended at El Dorado Adventist School. “We started each route with a prayer before the riders left, and we served them lunch when they came back,” said Placerville church member Calvin Overton, the event’s director. Every 15-20 miles along the route, volunteers staffed tech stations, for needed repairs, and rest stops, which provided fresh fruit, snacks, energy bars, water and recovery drinks. They also served refreshments in keeping with the apple theme, such as apple pies and apple muffins.

In all, 40 volunteers from the church, school and community helped make the event a success — and impressed the cyclists. “The support staff were kind, knowledgeable, and supportive,” wrote one rider after the race.

Tour organizers were excited to hear about people’s positive experiences. During the last few miles of the century ride, Placerville church member Lori Adams met a physician from Roseville. “He was so amazed by the scenery and the challenge of the ride that he said he would definitely be back next year, bringing with him the rest of his bike team,” said Adams, one of the event’s organizers.

Preparing for the tour was a great deal of work for the planning committee. They had to map out routes and rest stops, find business sponsors, recruit volunteers, set up a website and Facebook page, and distribute fliers to local bike shops, gyms and churches. The hard work paid off: they raised nearly $4,500, and many in the community came away with positive feelings about the school. “The tour was a really good marketing tool for the school to get its name out,” said Overton.

Adams agreed. “Because it was Christian-oriented and school-oriented, it caught a lot of people’s eyes,” she said.

Next year’s tour is scheduled for May 18. Watch for news on the tour’s website: www.appleblossombiketour.com.

Julie Lorenz

PHOTOS BY TERRY BLEVINS PHOTOGRAPHY

Rob Shanko rides with his daughters Lexi and Perri Shanko, who are students at El Dorado Adventist School.

Riders came from as far away as Loma Linda, Tehachapi, Vallejo, Chico and Carson City to participate in the tour.
This summer in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, hundreds of people attended six evangelistic campaigns conducted by young adults from the Northern California Conference. As a result, 16 people were baptized, and dozens more made the decision to prepare for baptism in the near future.

The mission team was made up of 29 people, mostly from the Chico Spanish company and Woodland Spanish church, in conjunction with Movimiento Profetico Juvenil (MPJ) — an Adventist ministry for Hispanic youth and young adults based in Northern California. Over 10 months, the young people planned, organized and funded the trip, as well as collected clothing, medicine and religious literature for distribution. They invited a team of medical professionals to go along to provide health seminars during the evangelistic meetings.

While in Cuba, the team conducted various ministries to support the evangelistic work, including construction projects, church maintenance, door-to-door visitation and health seminars. Some also served as evangelists for the meetings. “It was a tremendous privilege to see how the Holy Spirit can work with a group of young people to create a great blessing for those who heard the message, as well as the young people who preached it,” said Rachel Leon, Chico Spanish company member.

The evangelistic efforts were held in conjunction with the local churches of Pinar del Rio. Almost all the meetings were held in house churches (casas culto). The Adventist church in Cuba spreads the gospel by sending families to live in areas where there are no church members. Each missionary family starts a small group in their living room. When the group outgrows their meeting place, they knock down walls and enlarge the room. Soon the small group becomes a church of 60-80 members. The group then sends out another family to a different area to repeat the process all over again. “They are completely dedicated to the work of the gospel,” said Chico Spanish company member Obed Escalante.

The results of such efforts can be seen in the rapid growth of the Adventist church in this part of Cuba. “The people of Cuba have a strong desire to know and serve God,” said Jessica DiGregorio, Woodland Spanish church member and MPJ vice president. “Their devotion to Him is evident in their commitment to service, outreach and sharing Christ’s love to others.”

The mission trip had a profound effect on the team members. “Mission trips serve to help the needy, spread the gospel, and they also help our own youth to grow spiritually by putting into practice the principles of evangelism they have learned at home,” said MPJ President Andres Molina, Chico Spanish church member.

Several young people expressed their gratitude and joy for being able to participate in such a life-changing event in their spiritual journeys. “The mission trip was both spiritually uplifting and motivating,” said Oliva Quezada, Chico Spanish company member. “I highly recommend a mission trip experience for all youth.”
NCC Educators Receive 2013 Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Alumni Awards Foundation honored two teachers in the Northern California Conference with 2013 Excellence in Teaching Awards. Sara Guzik serves as teaching principal at Echo Ridge Christian School. Guadalupe Negrete teaches grades 7-8, as well as academy Spanish and art appreciation, at El Dorado Adventist School. They were among 10 outstanding teachers in the North American Division who were honored with the award, which includes a medallion, a certificate and $2,000.

Sara Guzik
Sara Guzik’s favorite part of teaching is interacting with her students. “That’s the best part!” she said. “If you don’t have a love for kids, you shouldn’t be teaching. . . . It can’t be just a job.” Guzik discovered how much teaching meant to her when she temporarily pursued another career. “It was a challenge and a good experience, but it didn’t fulfill me like teaching,” she said. Educated in public, Adventist and self-supporting schools, Guzik planned to be a special education teacher, but decided the skills she had acquired would be useful in the general classroom. Her first job was at Echo Ridge — a surprise to her since she was unfamiliar with the Adventist small school multi-grade classroom. However, she discovered that she enjoyed the family atmosphere. “One of the things we [Adventists] do really well is offer a community for our kids where they feel safe and loved,” she said. Guzik has served as teaching principal at another small school, Adventist Christian School of Yuba City.

She returned to Echo Ridge in the fall of 2012, determined to increase enrollment and promote the school, which she has done successfully. “She has become quite well known in the community for her dedication to this school,” said kindergarten and lower grades teacher Rachel Warren. “She brings a positive atmosphere to the school, helping it to be a place where students feel valued and cared for.”

Guadalupe Negrete
Guadalupe Negrete loves teaching at an Adventist school. “We’re molding characters; it’s actually a huge responsibility,” she said. “I feel very honored that parents trust their children to my care.”

Negrete is known for engaging her students in innovative ways, such as using text messaging to plan a class presentation and bringing music into art class. “What impresses me most is that Mrs. Negrete is constantly seeking new ways and new opportunities for her students to discover and use their God-given talents,” said El Dorado Adventist School Principal Larry Ballew.

A graduate of Pacific Union College, Negrete had a variety of teaching experiences before she took a break to pursue a new career. However, one time she was visiting Northern California and happened to stop by the NCC office. When she walked in, an education superintendent asked: “You wouldn’t happen to be Lupe Negrete? We have been trying to track you down because we would like to offer you a job.” Negrete was shocked by the invitation to return to teaching, which she believes came from God. “I couldn’t resist His calling,” she said.

Since then, she has taught at Golden Gate Academy, served as teaching principal at Sutter Hill Adventist School and worked for eight years at El Dorado. Negrete narrows down her favorite parts of teaching to two things: “I love watching kids get excited about learning, and I love it when my students accept Jesus.”

Julie Lorenz
In July 2013, the New Beginning Outreach Mission held an evangelistic meeting featuring Pastor Morris Barnes in Lancaster. Eleven people gave their lives to Christ.

The baptisms resulted from ongoing outreach that is the hallmark of New Beginning, which the Valley Crossroads church parents. Barnes shepherds the new congregation. “Before I arrived to lead them,” said Barnes, “the Jones family had started New Beginning Outreach group as well as a New Beginning Outreach Foundation to work with it. Together, local elder James Jones and members developed a non-profit reentry program whose mission is to stabilize the Palmdale community by reducing recidivism and re-integrating offenders into the community. Their vision is to become a model one-stop for prison reentry services.”

Initially, Jones owned a home from which he had moved, when a young neighbor was put out of his home. “I allowed him to temporarily stay in my house,” Jones reported. “Within one month, the house was filled with 17 people, all of them ex-offenders needing assistance.”

Jones required that everyone living in the home work with a case manager, seek employment and attend life-skills classes. In six months, the outreach expanded to include 30 ex-offenders housed in two fourplex apartments and a transitional home for seniors, donated by the City of Palmdale’s Redevelopment Agency. Within one year, the program ministered to 200 participants.

Church members volunteer four days a week, six hours a day for the Prisoner Reentry Workforce Development Program at the church. The services are also offered to low-income, homeless and unemployed individuals. A gamut of services at the church has drawn many to Christ and to join the church.

“Recently, New Beginning leaders studied their early prayer service which very few attended, then examined Sabbath school preliminaries, and decided to replace both segments with a Sabbath-morning breakfast outreach,” said Jones. “This outreach was designed to involve church members who were not attending Sabbath school or involved in the reentry program, giving them opportunities to serve others.” Leaders divided the congregation into four teams, headed by four elders. Each team chose a color with matching T-shirts imprinted with, “New Beginning Outreach Mission, Here to Serve.”

Each team of up to 15 members serves once monthly. Members are assigned grocery lists for Sabbath breakfast, which they provide and bring already cooked.

Sabbath mornings, community residents begin lining up at 7:15. Team members sign everyone in, socialize and take prayer requests. At 7:30, the church van leaves to gather the homeless and others living too far from the church to walk.

The team elder welcomes the guests into the sanctuary. Song service features a community band and singers: anyone who can play an instrument can select one and join the band. Anyone who sings is invited to the open mics. The “My Soul Loves Jesus” Mission theme song is followed by a health-message devotional. Nearly all 70 guests respond to the altar call prayer time for one-on-one prayer with elders and team members. At 8:30, guests are welcomed to breakfast and fellowship. Afterward, guests may visit a designated area to select needed clothing. Guests are invited to stay and worship and/or sign up for studies, services or Tuesday night “Community Family Worship Hour” with Pastor Barnes.

“The New Beginning Outreach Mission must be one of the hardest-working church groups in our conference, and God is blessing their efforts,” Barnes reflected.
Hundreds Gather to Experience Jesus, Together

The “Experiencing Jesus, Together” SCC Spiritual Renewal Weekend held at the Vallejo Drive church Aug. 16-17 was a life-changer for many who attended. As the themes of worship and prayer were woven together throughout the weekend by example and modeling, prayer and worship resulted.

Guest speaker Joseph Kidder, D.Min., associate professor of Christian ministry at Andrews University, shared his personal story about becoming a Christian in “Nineveh” (Mosul, Iraq).

Prior to the meetings, members of the prayer ministry team prayer-walked the church sanctuary. Members of the team, together with prayer partners, prayed over every attendee. Many expressed appreciation for the event: “Thank you for the gift,” “This is so timely,” “Just what my soul needed,” “My heart is on fire with joy and gratitude.”

After an interactive presentation on worship, the day concluded with testimonies and prayers for the children. Jóhann Már Albertsson, 15, from the Rolling Hills church, shared how a recent dream had impacted his life. The message, he said, was “to stay faithful and pure, because Jesus is coming sooner than you think.”

After attendees prayed and shared, pastors and elders anointed those seeking a special touch from God.

“It is the prayer of the Prayer, Spirituality and Renewal team that God will use the experience gained from the ‘Experiencing Jesus, Together’ meetings to rekindle the hearts of all who attended with renewed hope in a soon coming Savior,” team leaders said. “We pray that, like fire seeds, they are returning to their churches with a passion to create houses of prayer, where God’s presence and power will spread like wild fire as Jesus is lifted up.”

Janet Lui

Members prayed together during the SCC spiritual renewal meetings.

(L. to r.) Janet Lui, SCC Prayer Ministries coordinator; Jenna Van Beveran and Jóhann Már Albertsson display a quilt on which many attendees wrote prayers for their children and grandchildren.
Southern California Conference

SCC Hispanic Region Women’s Ministry Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Close to 1,000 ladies convened in the Long Beach Convention Center from Aug. 9-11 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of SCC Hispanic Women’s Ministries. Attendees celebrated how God has guided during 25 years of ministry in the SCC Hispanic Region.

When opening night arrived, members of the coordinating committee waited inside the glass doors, watching the ladies line up outside the entrance for “Mujer para esta Hora has sido Llamada” (Woman for This Hour, You Are Called).

Women were reminded that, in 1987, Hispanic women had driven to Camp Cedar Falls for their annual spiritual retreat. The program was entirely in English, so only those who were bilingual could understand the presentations. James Zackrison organized the event that year. After listening to the concerns of several women, Zackrison challenged, “If you can get 50 Spanish-speaking women registered for next year’s retreat, we will have it in Spanish.” In 1988, 150 women drove to the camp for a weekend spiritual retreat. A few of those ladies attended the anniversary celebration: Anita Moses, Nerida Martinez and Gladys Cerna, who also emceed, with Velino Salazar, SCC executive secretary and ministerial director.

Under Cerna’s leadership, the conference territory was divided into six areas, each with an area director to mentor local church Hispanic women’s ministry directors. In 2010, under Antonia Elenes’ direction, leadership training courses became part of each women’s ministry director’s activities.

The event featured three speakers. Liz Enid Polanco shared a message from the book of Esther and a clear vision of how her life and decisions saved a nation. Sara Bullon spoke about daily life and women’s behavioral issues. Women ages 15-21 had a separate program which featured Jessica Buller’s messages about the meaning of spiritual purity. The Hispanic women’s ministry committee is making intentional efforts to include programs with themes and issues pertaining to this age group.

“The three-day anniversary celebration was richly blessed by God,” said Antonia Elenes.

Luz Benitez

Antonia Elenes (seated, on left) worked with her committee for more than a year in preparation for the 25th anniversary celebration. Pastors Javier Elenes and Velino Salazar (left, rear), supported the event by attending, along with Pastor Luis Peña, SCC Hispanic Region director.
Youth Rush Students Sell Nearly 34,000 Books

Students engaged in the annual summer Youth Rush literature evangelism program have the opportunity to join God in His work of ministering to others, and the experiences gained change lives. In the 10-week Youth Rush program, students earn money for school from donations they receive at the door, while area residents receive truth-filled literature.

At one door, Youth Rush student Linda Chavez showed a man a cookbook and was explaining its benefits when he stopped her. “You’re doing this as a ministry aren’t you?” he asked.

“Yes,” she affirmed. Then he asked if her team rode in vans — and started to describe the people on her canvassing team as if he had met them.

“How did you know who was on my team?” Chavez asked. The man explained that he had had a dream about her and her team the night before. Chavez handed him a copy of Steps to Christ and began to canvass, when he interrupted her again. “That’s not the one,” he said. He spread out the books in Linda’s hands and pulled out a DVD on Daniel 2. “This is the one I saw in my dream!” he exclaimed, and ran inside for money for the purchase.

Most families purchase two to five books; rarely, some will purchase all of the books that students carry. Angelica Perez experienced that rarity this summer as she knocked on doors in Oxnard.

A man only wanted a DVD at the beginning of their conversation. “I have just become a Christian, and my family resented me for it,” he said. “My brother won’t speak to me because of my conversion. I have an intense burden for my family.” After Perez shared all of the English books and DVDs, the man decided to get the full set of 11 books. Then he asked, “Do you have any books in Spanish? I want to reach my mom, and she can only read Spanish.”

He considered giving up some of the English set to have some Spanish books for his mother. Finally, he decided not to omit any, purchasing all 18 books (a retail value of more than $280). The house the man was in wasn’t his own house. He had only stopped by to pick up something. Both Perez and the man believed that their meeting had resulted from divine providence. The man signed up for personal Bible studies.

This summer, students placed more than 33,680 books in over 450,000 homes, at which Bible study interest cards were left. Students prayed with thousands of people in the communities. Many expressed interest in Bible studies, which were transferred to local churches. Participants received more than $250,000 in donations, half of which went to help the students finance their Adventist education.

To learn about Youth Rush, call 818-546-8435 or e-mail hbryant@sccsda.org.

Heidi Bryant

In addition to daily worships, two teams of students enjoyed vespers at Malibu Beach.
Nevada-Utah Conference held its pastors and teachers retreat Aug. 11-15 at Lake Tahoe, Calif. The event is a time for relaxing, fellowship and learning.

"Each day had time set aside for meetings and time to enjoy family and have fun," explains Brandon Richards, husband of Kilikina Richards, a teacher at Las Vegas Junior Academy. "The message throughout the three days was unity, acceptance, and the crucial need for ministry. A challenge was given to pastors, teachers and church members to be accepting of everyone, including young people asking a lot of questions or a person who has hit rock bottom and may not look the part or seem to fit in."

"We became empowered," said Oneil Madden, senior pastor of the Abundant Life Church. "We are blessed to fellowship with the workers at the retreat of the Nevada-Utah Conference."

Madden wasn’t the only one who found the meetings empowering. "Thank you so very much for one of the most pleasant experiences I’ve ever had," said keynote speaker Hyveth Williams, professor of homiletics at Andrews University Theological Seminary. "It was both a spiritual awakening and a restful vacation to be with you and your team at Lake Tahoe."

During a dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe, Larry Unterseher, conference president, reminded attendees to reach out and serve others, not only within the church, but throughout the world as well.

Teachers were encouraged to, and are currently working toward, “meeting each student where they’re at and helping them to succeed, while sending the message that every student is important and loved by our teachers," explained Arlyn Sundsted, education superintendent.

Attendees had plenty of opportunities for fun during the retreat. They even helped celebrate Unterseher’s wedding anniversary with a hot dog dinner and went on boat rides on the lake courtesy Jason Bergmann, conference secretary/treasurer.

“It was very rewarding to see the team together enjoying each other’s company and growing in Jesus,” Bergmann said. “Unity is a powerful ingredient in getting the work accomplished both efficiently and effectively.”
Conference Emphasizes Benefits of Adventist Education

School is in session in the Nevada-Utah Conference. Teachers have arranged desks, purchased extra supplies, and stocked up on hand sanitizer, tissues and Band-Aids. Excited children flooded their classrooms, meeting their teachers and greeting old and new friends. But the conference leaders believe there’s more to good education than No. 2 pencils and new backpacks.

“Adventist education provides the catalyst for learning from the genesis of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom through Jesus our Creator,” said Jason Bergmann, secretary-treasurer for the Utah-Nevada Conference. “Growing students for Christ gives value to society and has eternal results.” Adventist education also provides a much lower student-teacher ratio than most public schools, so kids get the one-on-one time they need to flourish.

“The first day of Abundant Life Christian Academy was a blessing because we had our highest enrollment of 40 students, including 6 new students from the community, which is a 25 percent increase,” said Senior Pastor Oneil Madden. “Many children made new friends and there was a general excitement in the school. At the end of the day, the principal was walking down the hall and heard a student say, ‘This is an awesome school!’”

“Our goal this year is to help our kids get closer to Jesus,” explained Arlyn Sundsted, principal of Las Vegas Jr. Academy and education superintendent for the Nevada-Utah Conference. The students at LVJA enjoyed playing on a newly-paved covered play area, he says. There are 96 students enrolled this school year.

“Adventist education is a vital component of the moral and spiritual training of our children,” said Larry Unterseher, president of the Nevada-Utah Conference. “Partnering with the family and the church, it is important that our young people be in a place where they can daily be touched by Jesus.”

While numbers are up in conference schools, leaders hope to continue promoting the benefits of Adventist schools, which, according to the latest CognitiveGenesis study, outperform their peers at the national average in every subject area (see cognitivegenesis.org).

Brandon Richards
More than 60,000 bikers roared into town for the 2013 Hollister Biker Rally during the Fourth of July celebration. Thirty bands entertained travelers, visitors and residents throughout the three-day event. Included in the riders were members of the Sabbath Keepers, a national Adventist ministry with headquarters in Hollister, Calif. And they were ready for the best seat in town — a booth among the hundreds of vendors. The booth is stocked with free Bibles, children’s books, pamphlets, literature, and time for listening, sharing and prayer. Former Adventists were startled and stunned, when encountering the booth, by the church’s inclusive outreach. The unconventional approach has drawn many back to God with several being re-baptized. Sabbath Keepers join 12 other Christian motorcycle clubs in ministry.

Back to the Beginning
It was the 1947 Fourth of July weekend when an invasion of rowdy bikers descended on Hollister. The event defined the biker image that was galvanized by the movie “Born to be Wild” with Marlon Brando. The newly named Gypsy Tour Rally continued until 2006 when city officials voted to suspend the annual event. The Hollister Biker Rally was resurrected this past July and is approved through 2023.

For decades, Hollister members have wrestled with the desire to share the gospel with the community’s annual guests. “For years we would hand out water bottles with the church’s name and literature,” says Joe Mallison, former Hollister pastor. Personal interaction was nearly impossible.

To go and mingle, make friends, meet needs like Jesus did when He lived on earth was the answer. But how? It seemed impossible.

In 1997, an idea was born.

No Motorcycle Required
Hollister church members George Fontes and Rod, Helen and Tiffany Nelson felt like the Holy Spirit was pouring a burning conviction on their hearts. Each had a burden to share the gospel through the three angels’ messages to an often disenfranchised audience — bikers. They caught the vision in Mark 16:15: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” Counsel from the Ellen White to “scatter literature like the leaves of autumn” fanned their passion (Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 230).

Helen was on the planning committee for the 1997 Hollister Biker Rally. Knowing that booth applications from vendors would soon arrive, she asked George to apply. His was the first to be accepted and the ministry began.

Only one of the founders owned a motorcycle. But that didn’t matter. Leather vests, jeans and a club patch was proof enough. George and Rod designed the patch. In the first year, membership doubled. Still, there was only one bike between the eight members.

Sharri Hopkins joined in 2000, shortly after her teenage son, and has no plans to own a bike. “I felt a need to spread the Word,” she says.
Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry members spend time sharing literature, praying and befriending many of the rally attendees.

There have been a few moments of concern. “God is with us and is going to protect us. We are His ministry.”

She adds, “It is interesting and fun and something that I really want to do.”

“I was the first new member that owned a bike,” says Eddie LaBarre, current Hollister Chapter president.

His Journey

Within a two-year period, LaBarre lost his grandparents and his dad. The 16-year-old, mad at God, rebelled against everything he was taught and left the church. Bikers became his friends. By age 18, he was in jail on felony charges. At age 34, he hit rock bottom.

“I just knew in all the things I had gone through, I shouldn’t be alive,” LeBarre explains. “God was watching and protecting, and I knew He loved me for that. When I accepted Jesus again, I was on drugs and hadn’t slept in two days. I was extremely violent and angry. He [Jesus] truly has changed my heart, my life.”

That was 15-years ago. “I wanted to be part of some sort of ministry,” he remembers. Sabbath Keepers was a perfect fit. He still has friends from his former life and believes living by example in everyday life is the best way to share his faith.

LaBarre is quick to explain that Hell’s Angels are referred to as one-percenters. Most bikers just like to ride. “It’s about freedom and being in the wind.”

Today, Sabbath Keepers is a national ministry with Hollister as headquarters. There are seven California chapters and nine across the country in Arizona, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Washington. The first chapter outside the U.S. is in British Columbia, Canada.

Mallinson, joined by his wife Betty, are active Sabbath Keepers. (They have downsized from three bikes to one.) “It’s just a joy to be able to minister,” Mallison shares. “Jeans and the leather jacket with the Sabbath Keepers patch opens the door to talk and pray with people.”

It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’ve been or what you drive, Jesus is always there, LaBarre believes. The proof is by experience. Says LaBarre, “I am a walking testimony that God will accept you where you are at.”

For more information, including location of chapters, visit www.skmm-national.org or email skmm.secretary@gmail.com.

Caron Oswald
Representatives from Native-American churches came from throughout the Pacific Union along with visitors from as far away as the Waterflow Native-American church in New Mexico and from the Rocky Mountain Conference in Colorado for the Native-American camp meeting at the Maricopa Village May 17-19. The theme for the three-day camp meeting was “Our Gracious Creator and Re-Creator.”

“Seeing four young people leave their Native traditions to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and follow Him in baptism is so thrilling,” said Pastor Ted Parks as he directed the baptismal service.

Two more adults joined the Maricopa students in baptism in the portable baptistry situated in the outdoor Ramada.

Opening services began Friday night with a devotional by Al Chatman Jr. Music from the group Sweet Fellowship enhanced the services throughout the weekend.

Charlie Whitehorse spoke for the early Sabbath service. Whitehorse is the assistant to the president for Native-American ministries for Arizona and Nevada-Utah conferences and Native-American ministries director for the Pacific Union.

Sabbath school for the youth featured special presentations from the Litchfield Park church youth group. The adult Sabbath school class by retired pastor and evangelist Ben George was outdoors under the Ramada. Al Chatman Jr. and Rhonda Beyreis led music.

In his remarks, Executive Secretary Ed Keyes commented, “The Arizona Conference is fully invested in developing and upholding the Native-American programs of the Maricopa Village church and school.”

Invited speaker for the morning worship service was Pacific Union Vice President Arnold Trujillo who spoke on the topic, “What Christ has and is doing since He left this earth and returned to heaven.”

The Sabbath afternoon program continued with reports from Gary and Toni Lewis who recently returned from missionary service in French Guyana with testimonies and wonderful stories they experienced while working in Inter-America. Gary served as a missionary pilot with Toni at his side doing the ground work. They are currently appointees on their way to Papua New Guinea.

Sam Hubbard, a teacher at the Holbrook Indian School gave a presentation on what is happening at the school with their students.

“We are looking to expand our school and church in Maricopa to make them self-supporting,” said Whitehorse. “We are investigating using solar panels to bring income to the school and church by selling electricity to the community. We have architectural drawings for a new church building and also hope to expand the existing school building.”

Whitehorse plans to visit the local churches to recruit volunteers to work with Native people in small group evangelistic meetings. “If just one member in each church would be involved,” he explained, “we could do so much to reach the tribes in Maricopa!”

“It was a blessed weekend,” said Parks. “We ended on Sunday with a food demonstration and a special program for the youth and students who are part of the Pathfinders. I think God has great plans for His work in Maricopa!”

Esperanza Lisby-Garcia, Melanie Whittier and Marissa Antoine joined their classmates to sing in the camp meeting choir.

Esperanza Lisby-Garcia, Melanie Whittier and Marissa Antoine joined their classmates to sing in the camp meeting choir.

Robert Guerra, Angel Whittier, Brenden Jackson, Ethyn Lewis, Stade Notah, Mario Lewis, Esperanza Lisby-Garcia and Marissa Antoine represented their Native school at the Maricopa Village camp meeting.
When Walter Arties announced his retirement from ministry, he suggested the conference consider a working relationship with the Nevada-Utah Conference to share the duties for assistant to the president for African-American Ministries. Pastor Kingsley Palmer was currently holding that position.

Upon careful consideration by both Arizona and Nevada-Utah administrations, the proposal was endorsed and accepted. Pacific Union Regional Ministries director Bobby Mitchell was happy with the arrangement and pledged his full support.

The Arizona Conference executive committee voted unanimously July 24 to approve Palmer’s appointment. He and his wife, Lorraine, will be moving to Phoenix where he will assume his new role.

Arizona Conference President Tony Anobile says, “I am impressed with Pastor Palmer’s leadership style. He shared with our staff the four principles that guide his ministry: love the people; listen to the people; learn from the people; and lead the people. I am indeed grateful for the partnership agreement we have with Nevada-Utah as we share the talents of both Charlie Whitehorse and Kingsley Palmer.”

Palmer was born and raised in London, England, where he worked in broadcast and telecommunications for six years before accepting his call to pastoral ministry while at Oakwood University. His degrees are in theology and media communications, and he is currently pursuing post-graduate studies in business management at the University of Wolverhampton Business School in Great Britain.

Palmer served as senior pastor of the Sparks church while coordinating African-American Ministries in Reno, Nev.

Lorraine Daniel-Palmer was also born and raised in England. She graduated from the University of Leeds with degrees in English and education and pursued post-graduate studies in business management. A strong believer in lifelong education, she also has a law degree from the University of London. Her career to date has spanned the fields of education, advocacy and non-profits, law and international diplomatic affairs and consular affairs.

Until recently, Daniel-Palmer served as vice-consul for the British embassy’s consulate office in Orlando, Fla., which has responsibilities for Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The Palmers have been married for nearly 25 years and have two adult sons who are university professors in the Inter-American Division and four grandchildren.

The Palmers are a ministry team eager to share the three angels’ messages wherever God calls them to serve. They look forward to the completion of God’s work and Christ’s soon return.

“My vision for the Arizona Conference,” says Palmer, “is to further promote God’s overall plan for the salvation of souls in our conference before Jesus comes, and to provide sound, Christian vision, transparent and transformative principles and practices not only among the leadership and laity of the sisterhood of African-American churches, but to the entire conference family as a whole.”

Phil Draper
Pastor Puleia Onesemo, a retired minister from Western Samoa, conducted an evangelistic series at the Waipahu Samoa Tonga church on Oahu. This outreach to the Samoan and Tongan community brought a message of hope to all attendees. Onesemo’s message, given in Samoan and translated to English, focused on end-time events and the need for individuals to be prepared for the second coming of Christ.

Musical groups included the Waipahu Samoa Tonga choir, the Young Disciples, the Samoan Gospel Herald, Alepate and Sons, and the Samoan Tokelau church choir.

Among the several who had made decisions to follow Christ were a father and adult son, Samuelu and Sakalia Tagaloa. Sakalia remembers going with his family as a young boy to the Samoan Tokelau church and Central church.

Sometime after high school, Sakalia drifted away from the church. After the death of Sakalia’s mother, his father also began to wander away from the church. When he heard of the evangelistic series, however, his father determined he was going to attend and encouraged his son to accompany him. Sakalia hesitated at first. Then Onesemo and another retired pastor, Solomone Kite, visited their home, studied the Bible and prayed with them.

Sakalia soon began to attend the meetings and, during the last altar call, decided to be baptized. His father also decided to rededicate his life to Christ. Both father and son were baptized at the end of the series with several others at the Samoan Tokelau church.

Samuelu now serves as an elder at the Waipahu Samoa Tonga church. Sakalia is active in Sabbath school and assists the youth leaders with the Adventist Youth programs.

Gemma A. Williams
Church Holds VBS After 35-Year Hiatus

Approximately 550 children in Hawaiian churches and communities attended Vacation Bible School this summer. Waimanalo church had not held VBS in 35 years, and members decided it was time to start it up again. Themed “Pandamania,” their 2013 VBS drew an average of 20 children daily, most of them non-Adventist. Church members worked hard to make sure the children learned that “God is Wild about You!”

Warren Hann, known to the children as the nutty Professor Nutenburger, played an unforgettable Jonah. Creating a giant fish out of trash bags and fans, he and the children climbed into the fish and experienced the story of the prophet first-hand. For an added dimension of reality, Nutenburger placed a zip lock bag of sardines in “the belly of the fish.” The smell may have dismayed some parents, but the children were thrilled. Hann’s wife, Sandy, illustrated Bible stories through evening snacks.

Waimanalo church members are determined to stay connected with the kids who came to VBS. They’re planning a VBS reunion and a monthly gathering, Ohana (Family) Night. The effort members put into the program sparked new life in the congregation, the pastor says. “Dedicated church members took the initiative, prayed and planned for this effort,” says Pastor Eliezer Graterol. “They used their own resources, talents and gifts to impress the minds of the kids with the holy influence of Jesus.”

Even in Hawaii, it is rare to find a jungle like this.

Local community children get excited about VBS.

Hands-on activities and crafts reinforce Bible lessons.

Feryl Harris and Mary Castrejon
Faith Trip Film Nears Completion

Last December, 12 young people from La Sierra University, Washington, Arizona and New York loaded into two vans and embarked on a 1,000-mile evangelistic odyssey that required complete dependence on God. Calling their journey “Faith Trip Inspired,” the 12 students and recent graduates aimed to bring the gospel to residents of six cities as they journeyed from Riverside to the 2012 Generation of Youth for Christ conference in Seattle, Wash.

In September, television audiences got their first preview of a film documenting the group’s adventures, struggles and successes. Several trip participants appeared on the “3ABN Today” television show produced in Illinois. La Sierra communications graduate and film student Felicia Tonga, an organizer of the faith trip, attended the interview. She graduated from La Sierra on June 16 with a Bachelor of Arts in communication.

The group shared a trailer of a poignant “Faith Trip Inspired” documentary recorded by Tonga, Brandon Armstrong of 3ABN and Michael Taimi, a La Sierra alumnus and director of the film. The three comprised the group’s media crew. La Sierra University’s film and television department provided a camera and equipment for the documentary.

In order to raise the necessary funds to complete the documentary, the filmmakers posted a teaser of the project on crowd funding site Kickstarter with a goal of raising $4,000 between May 13 and June 12. By the deadline, they had exceeded their goal and brought in $4,027 from 27 backers who in return for various contribution amounts will receive thank you cards, photos with the team’s signatures, and copies of the documentary DVD.

The funds helped cover costs for post-production processes this summer including editing, coloring and sound mixing. The “Faith Trip Inspired” Kickstarter promotional video can still be seen here: www.kickstarter.com/projects/543413109/faith-trip-inspired-the-documentary.

“We are humbled and amazed watching the Lord work to supply for our needs,” said Tonga. “To us, launching a Kickstarter page was just like going on another faith trip. We were constantly updating our Facebook pages, making contacts with conferences and other Adventist media sources hoping to get sponsorships. However, the majority of the sponsorships came from church members, family and friends, many of whom were not Adventist but were Methodist and Catholic.”

The trip provided Michael Taimi an opportunity to observe “… the biggest opportunity for our youth and religion to strengthen their walk with God and show their testimony about our Savior and the three angels’ messages,” he said.

“Faith Trip Inspired was an experience that I will never forget,” said Tonga. “It was not easy, there were days that I found myself crying and praying in my own personal devotions asking God for strength. I learned that God does not answer our prayers the way we expect Him to, but He always does what’s best for us and it always supersedes my expectations.

“Perhaps one of the most powerful things was seeing lives change before my eyes,” she said. “This has truly increased my faith and has taught me how to depend on God for literally everything. He always provides.”

Darla Martin Tucker
Thirty Pacific Union College students will be dedicating their time and talents to God by serving as student missionaries during the 2013-2014 school year. From medical clinics in the Amazon to classrooms in South Korea, these students are answering the call to serve God by serving others.

The 30 young men and women are an exciting increase from the eight students who served during the 2012-2013 year. The renewed commitment to service demonstrates a revival of long-term mission service as they join the 1,300 student missionaries that have served from PUC during the college’s history.

Robert Henry, a theology major from Riverside, Calif., started his service as a teacher at Indonesian Adventist University on Aug. 1. “The main reason why I decided to become a student missionary is because I saw the need,” Henry shares. “Last fall, Pastor Jose Rojas came to PUC for a midweek vespers, speaking on the topic of missions. That night, I made the commitment to serve for a year overseas; with God’s leading and the assistance of the PUC missions office it has become a reality.”

The office of service, justice, and missions is excited that Henry and his classmates have answered the call to serve. Bringing Rojas to campus last October was part of an intentional effort to recruit and support future student missionaries. Chaplain Laffit Cortes and Service, Justice, and Missions coordinator Fabio Maia set an ambitious goal to infuse the campus with a culture of service and opportunities to give back.

Ben Speegle, last year’s student director of the world missions program, joined Cortes and Maia as a new full-time employee tasked with helping with the logistics of both short-term and long-term mission projects. Speegle served as an SM in Thailand before graduating from PUC in June. He observes a changing culture at PUC where “people don’t just want to go four years here and graduate. We have people who want to make the most of their experience here and make the most of their lives as Christians by going out and affecting the world that they live in.”

The students of Vejlefjordskolen, an Adventist boarding school in Denmark, met their new dean, Kylee Brock, in early August. Brock chose to give her time after graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in film and television. Though heading to Denmark meant leaving her fiancé, family and film career behind for a year, the Visalia, Calif., native is excited about the opportunity for service. “One day, I just felt God was telling me to check out the opportunity, and I seized it knowing I could be going to a place like Denmark!” she explains. “I truly felt like God was pushing me in this direction, and He made it happen!”

Other PUC student missionaries are working in places as diverse as Mongolia, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, China, and Pohnpei. Speegle notes that the world missions program works hard to connect students with opportunities that match their skills and career goals so they can be of most service. This means serving through the North American Division as well as with various supporting ministries around the world. For instance, a group of allied health majors traveled to Pohnpei over the summer to work in health clinics run by the non-profit group MAHI International.

Bryan Soderholm, a student from Yucaipa, Calif., resumed his studies at PUC in September after spending the past year in Guyana. The aviation and religion double major worked as a teacher and mission pilot with Adventist World Aviation’s Wings for Humanity. “On a basic level, I learned how to cook pretty well,” Soderholm relates. “Seeing some of the things I saw — death, sickness, poverty — really opened my eyes. If anything, my year abroad gave me new eyes. A mission trip really isn’t about going and changing the world. It’s really more about changing yourself.”

Speegle is excited to support the student missionaries through care packages, notes, and phone calls from the PUC family. In addition, “each student missionary can know they have 1,600 people praying for them in Angwin,” he relates. In October, Rojas is returning to PUC for the week-long Fall Revival to speak again about the importance of integrating service into a Christian walk. PUC’s missions program will be working hard to support those who answer the call to serve, with the goal of increasing the number of student missionaries to 40 next year.

PUC nursing major Mariana Hernandez provides medical assistance and ministry in Coari, Brazil.
CALENDARS

Arizona

WOMEN’S MINISTRY RETREAT (Oct. 4-6) “Daughters of the Heavenly King” 25th anniversary event with guest speaker Delinda Hamilton at Camp Yavapines, 2999 Iron Springs Rd, Prescott. Weekend activities include: morning devotions, nature walks, prayer groups, book reviews and sales, special musical presentations and a special banquet and fun night. Info: Shell Marti, 18545 W Bethany Home Rd., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340; 623-935-6010.

Central California

ADVENTURERS LEADERSHIP TRAINING (Oct. 4-6) Areas 1-3. Info: Sandra, 559-347-3142.

HISPANIC OFFICERS TRAINING (Oct. 5) Fresno Hispanic. Info: Florina, 559-347-3142.


PATHFINDER CAMPOREE (Oct. 25-27) Info: Sandra, 559-347-3174.


La Sierra University

LSU ORCHESTRA CONCERT (Oct. 12) 7 p.m. Holm Memorial Auditorium.

INVITATIONAL BAND FESTIVAL CONCERT (Oct. 19) 4 p.m. LSU church. Info: 951-785-2036.

SOCIETY OF DRAMATIC ARTS presents “Theater Sports” (Oct. 19) 8 p.m. Matheson Hall.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK (Oct. 14-19)

ARKHEOLOGY DISCOVERY WEEKEND (Nov. 16-17) Special focus on ancient Jerusalem. Event includes hands-on activities, a Bedouin hospital-ity tent, a kids’ dig, a gala banquet, lec-tures and a keynote address by leading archaeologists. Events will be held at the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology and at the Zapara School of Business conference center. Info: 951-785-2041 or www.lasierra.edu/archaeology.

FIRST SERVICE WORSHIP Every Friday at 8 p.m. LSU church. Info: 951-785-2090.

Northern California Conference

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE (Oct. 3-6) Lake Mendocino. Info: Youth Ministries, 925-603-5080.


GOLDEN FEATHER CHURCH Reunion (Oct. 19) 9:15 a.m.—4 p.m. 3681 Deltow Road, Yankee Hill (between Oroville & Paradise off Highway 70). 35th Anniversary! Speaker: Jim Ayers from Adventist World Radio. Bring memories, photos, memorabilia (or e-mail to Kathy: harkathy@att.net). Info: 530-534-5383.

MARGIE SALCEDO RICE CONCERT (Oct. 19) 5:30 p.m. Lodi Fairmont church, 730 South Fairmont Avenue.

You’re Invited

White Memorial Medical Center
Centennial Celebration Weekend

October 25-27, 2013

If you’ve been a friend, patient, employee or graduate of White Memorial’s residency programs, plan now to join us for a faith-building weekend of events celebrating God’s work at WMMC, touring the new campus and reconnecting with old friends.

Read the full story in “A Journey of Faith and Healing,” WMMC’s centennial history book.

To learn more about the weekend or to order the book, visit whitememorial.com/centennial.
**HEMET 100 YEARS** Celebration (Oct. 20) 12-2 p.m. 26312 Hemet St., Hemet. Guests can tour the school, have refreshments and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hemet Adventist Christian School. Info: 951-927-3972.


**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY** Celebration (Oct. 4-5) Berean church, 4211 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles. Fri., 7 p.m., Sat., 11 a.m., 4:30 p.m. concert; vespers. Speakers: Marc Woodson, D.Min., NCC exec. Sec.; James L. Kyle II, M.D.; pastor, Tamarind Ave. church; Michael B. Kelly II, pastor, Mt. Rubidoux church. Info: 323-735-0228.

**TEMPLE CITY CHURCH** 60th Anniversary Celebration (Oct. 5) Current and former members invited to tell a story, share a photo, let us know where you are. www.templecitysdachurch.org for celebration details. Info: 626-286-5437; e-mail, secretary@templecitysdachurch.org.


**“CAN U HEAR ME NOW?” End Times Like These Ministries Youth Conference (Oct. 11-13) in partnership with Southern California Conference. 4 p.m., Oct. 11 to 4 p.m., Oct. 13. Camp Cedar Falls, 39850 State Hwy 38, Angelus Oaks 92305. Info: Michael and Denise Johnson, 805-298-5441; www.can-hearmenowconference.org.

**RECONNECT QUICKSTART TRAINING** (Oct. 12) 4-5:30 p.m. Norwalk church, 12191 Firestone Blvd. Pastors and lay members will share their experiences of reconnecting with non-attending and former members as well as principles of instruction for this important ministry. Info: 818-546-8405.

**SECOND SUNDAY CONCERT** (Oct. 12) 4 p.m. Featuring violist Sylvia Lee Mann, D.M.A., an internationally recognized composer, author, conductor and virtuoso performer. A reception with the artist will follow. Freewill donations received at the door.

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE** Team training (Oct. 21-Dec. 2) 6:30-9:30 p.m. Facilitated by firefighter Jarvis Willis, L.A. Fire Dept. CERT Unit. Six, three-hour sessions and certification. Space limited. Valley Crossroads church, 11350 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima 91331. To register. TEXT 310-488-5738 or e-mail valleycr@gmail.com.

**L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM** (Oct. 26) 3 p.m. Presenter, Ron E. Carter, Ph.D., provost, Loma Linda University. Glendale City church, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, 610 E. California Ave. Info: 818-244-7241.
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SINGLE AND OVER 40? An interracial group exclusively for Adventist singles over 40. Stay at home and meet new friends in USA with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information, send large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

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Bulletin Board

HAVE YOU WRITTEN a children’s book, life testimony, story of God’s love, or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH Services at 800-367-1844, ext. 3 or e-mail: publishing@teachservices.com, for a FREE manuscript review.

THE ADVENT GOD SQUAD Needs You. Jesus told us “I was in prison and you visited me.” Through Paper Sunshine you may write an inmate risk free. You write through our address, we read their letters and forward to you. From the comfort and safety of your home, you can share the Love of Christ. With V.O.P over the years over a million inmates have completed Bible studies. Become a Pen Friend ask friends and church members to join you. E-mail, Don & Yvonne McClure, sdapm@someonecares.org or 260-387-7423.

Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a faculty member for a Clinical Director for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology. Qualified candidates should have a master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology. For more information and to apply visit: www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a Programmer/Web Developer. Must have a bachelor’s degree and proven knowledge of java, JavaScript, and object-oriented programming. For more information and to apply visit: www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

ASSISTED LIVING SITUATION in large Adventist country home near Fortuna, California. Private bedroom with bathroom. Housekeeping, laundry, meals and transportation provided. Owner is a registered nurse. Ladies only. $2,000 per month. Please call Jodi for more information at 707-768-3151.

CHRISTIAN RECORD SERVICES for the Blind has an opening for a full-time representative in Southern California. The successful applicant must be willing to learn, to be persistent in a friendly way, to be outgoing, and to help the blind to see Jesus. Call 530-559-3658.

INCREASE YOUR QUALITY of life and enhance your clinical skills in Walla Walla. Experience quality living in one of the best small towns in the west. Walla Walla offers low commute to work times, a clean and vibrant community, and country living within minutes of the hospital. It is a family friendly town offering numerous cultural and art events, historical interests, affordable

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housing and excellent school systems, including Walla Walla University and two local colleges. Walla Walla General Hospital is a 72-bed faith-based hospital with over 110 years of service to the community. Open positions include: Director of Surgical Services: WA state RN license, current Health Care BLS and ACLS (Position available-2014). Director of Laboratory Services: MT-ASCP or equivalent; current Health Care BLS. To apply or learn more, visit our website at www.wvgh.com.

Real Estate

56 ACRES, W/3,000 SQ. FT. ranch-style home, wrap around deck and full walk-out basement. Mostly woods, 2 wet-weather creeks, some fencing. Located in North Auburn 12 miles from Weimar Institute. Recently remodeled kitchen and 31’ by 11’ composite deck with spa and whole house water purification system, $500K. Contact: 909-452-8886.


BEAUTIFUL VIEW 1.25 ACRES, 1,665 sq. ft., 3-bdrm, 2-bath house plus attached oversized two-car garage and fruit trees, in North Auburn 12 miles from Weimar Institute. Recently remodeled kitchen and 31’ by 11’ composite deck with spa and whole house water purification system, $500K. Contact: 909-452-8886.

MUST SELL. 5.7 fenced acres near Bisbee, Ariz., 2-bdrm, 2-bath manufactured home, sunroom, barn, RV shelter, shop, carport, trees, natural gas, hi-speed internet, cable TV. Owner may finance. $115,000, 520-508-7805.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE close to Loma Linda in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains? On 1.1 acres, approximately 3,000 sq. ft. home; private well. Relax, sit back on your veranda and enjoy the serenity. Close to Arrowhead Village. $320,900. Please call Julia Rogers BRE0084284 at 909-663-4644 of University Realty.

WANTED: ADVENTIST COUPLE to help with unique community outreach project in Northern California. Part-time paid medical assistant position along with income potential from other project activities. Ideal couple would be financially independent or semi-retired and looking for country/wilderness living opportunity. Contact mike@doctorhess.com or call 530-468-4100.

Vacation Opportunities

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FLYNN JR., HOWARD — b. July 6, 1938, Lynwood, Calif.; d. May 18, 2013, Glendale, Calif. Survivors: wife, Joan; son, Ron Nielsen; daughters, Rhonda Geddes, Gigi Parker, Lynette; five great-grandchildren. His pastoral ministry began and ended in the Southern California Conference where he pastored at eight different churches; he started the “Good News Report”, a radio broadcast ministry that continued for 26 years.


LINDSEY, LESLIE “KIT” (CRATTY) — b. May 1, 1914, Portland, Ore.; d. July 9, 2013, Fortuna, Calif. Survivors: son, Jerry Carson; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren. Kit was known for making and mailing 746 baby quilts to overseas missions.


wife, Beverly Rose; son, Timothy David, Michael Kurt; daughter, Emily Marie. Employed by Adventist Health Care System for 42 years.


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