PERSONAL STORIES
Show God’s Blessings at
SECC SCHOOLS
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### about the cover

Fifth grade students from Oceanside Adventist Elementary show off their science class creations: models of cells crafted from gelatin and candy.

**PHOTO BY ANGELA PAYABAN**

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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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I’ve met a lot of people who are really into sports; they’re fans. Recently, I spoke to my neighbor as he was getting out of his car. He was wearing a baseball jersey with the team colors and name of his favorite player on the back.

After greeting him, I asked him how his team was doing. He expressed hope that they would make a run for the league championship and get another chance at winning the World Series. He is optimistic.

Another neighbor is a loyal fan of a National Football League team. He has a very large banner that adorns the front of his house during the football season, and he has the name of his chosen team on a license plate frame on the rear of his car.

They are not the only fans around us.

In our society, there seems to be no end to the sports machine, cranking out a variety of sporting events in rapid succession, keeping fans glued to stadium seats or in front of home theatres with stereo surround sound all year round.

From the MLB World Series to the NFL Super Bowl, the PGA and the LPGA, the NBA Finals and the Stanley cup playoffs.

And if that is not enough, we have extreme sports competitions, World Cup Soccer and Wrestlemania.

One season morphs into another as we watch our heroes run, jump, shoot, hit and throw with great skill and precision.

And not only do we have sports fans, but we have fans of musicians, actors, authors and even politicians. Some of us even have our favorite preachers. It seems everyone is a fan of someone.

The electronic dictionary on my computer has this as the second entry for fan: “A person who has a strong interest in or admiration for a particular sport, art form, or famous person.”

That might include you and me as fans of Jesus, but that would probably be an inaccurate definition of Christians who are devoted to Jesus and seek discipleship over fandom.

As such, we’re more than people sitting in the stands, watching for our Hero to excel in the competition. Jesus is our Champion. He is our ultimate hero because, among other things, He is always obedient, compassionate and caring, filled with the Father’s love for us. He died in our place and rose again. That is why He will soon be identified to the entire universe as Lord and Saviour, and be proclaimed by all Creation as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. John the Revelator wrote, “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:16).

In that day, Paul predicts, “… at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10-11).

Being His disciples, we seek to do more than sit in the bleachers (or church pews) and cheer. We long to get in the game alongside our Champion and fulfill the role He has assigned to us: to become like Him and bring someone else onto the team.

While many people enjoy watching their favorite sports, some would rather play the sport than watch it. As Christ’s team, we realize that the game of life is not being played, but it is being lived out daily. Satan seeks to win at all costs. He is desperate, knowing his time is limited. He is not willing to accept the inevitable. “Satan is now more earnestly engaged in playing the game of life for souls than at any previous time…” (Ellen G. White, Maranatha, p. 96). This is serious.

I once heard a speaker tell a story about a boy reading an adventurous book. He was worried about the hero in the story. With furrowed brow he read each page and lamented aloud about the fate of the star, as the turn of events grew worse and worse. But then he had an idea. Placing a bookmark in the current page, he hurriedly turned to the last chapter of the book and read it. When he learned that his hero had defeated the enemy, his brow un-furrowed, and a smile crept across his face. With a calm demeanor he went back to the earlier page and read the book. You see, once he knew that his hero had won, he could read the rest of the book with a sense of calm.
God’s Closet Offers Help and Friendship

Children outgrow their clothes quickly, and for parents on a limited income, it’s difficult to keep a child well dressed. God’s Closet — a nonprofit organization with a new chapter at the Redding church — helps families find clothes for their kids, while offering friendship and spiritual support. “It’s not a hand out; it’s a hand up,” said founder and organizer Merryl Tschoepe.

Each chapter of God’s Closet hosts four “free shop-day” events each year, when parents and grandparents can select gently used clothes for kids — newborn to age 18 — from a well-organized assortment of quality items. “Merryl is incredibly organized,” said Richard Seltzer, Redding church administrative assistant. “The set up is very professional, with signs on the tables, everything sorted by size and age, boys and girls, infants to teenagers.”

At the first free shop-day in Redding last May, almost 100 community families participated. In August, the second one attracted 250 families, and organizers expect the next event in November to double that amount. “I’ve been involved in a lot of [community outreach] programs, and I don’t know if I’ve ever seen such a positive response so quickly,” said Redding church Pastor Ron Cook. “People are so thankful.”

Tschoepe felt inspired to start God’s Closet years ago, when she received free second-hand clothes in good condition for her foster daughter. After she discovered that the program was only available for foster parents, she thought: “We need something like this for everybody!” As a result, God’s Closet was organized in 2009 at the Spokane church, where she was a member. The program quickly grew popular. One event attracted almost 600 people, and 45 people requested Bible studies. Upon seeing the Spokane church’s success, three other churches in Washington State also started chapters.

After learning that Tschoepe had moved to California, Redding church members were eager to start their own God’s Closet, following the pattern she established in Washington. Dates for the shop-days are set a year in advance so that organizers have time to gather donations from people and businesses. (In the Redding area, donations come from church members, students at Redding Adventist Academy, and several local children’s used clothing shops.)

Organizers advertise events on social media and Craigslist, as well as in local churches, stores and community centers. Admission to each shop-day is $1 per family to cover various expenses. One unique part of God’s Closet is its success in attracting volunteers to come the day before the shop-day to sort and organize. “We announce to the community that if they come and help us, they get a free bag of clothes,” said Tschoepe. She sees the volunteer program as an effective form of friendship evangelism. In August, more than 20 community women and men came to help — talking and laughing with church members and listening to Christian music. On future sorting days, Tschoepe plans to serve a meal to the volunteers, as she did in Washington.

Each church that hosts God’s Closet reaches out to its visitors in unique ways. During the August event, church members provided free haircuts, as well as childcare for toddlers, and a mini-Vacation Bible School program for kids ages 3-10. While the adults waited to go into the shopping area, each received a contact card offering Bible studies, prayer and more information about the church’s children’s programs. Sixteen people asked for Bible studies.

Tschoepe says her favorite part of the ministry is when mothers come up to her with tears in their eyes and say, “I am so blessed, because I needed these clothes, and I didn’t know where or how to get them.” Said Tschoepe: “Through God’s blessing, I am able to bless someone else.”

To find out more about starting a chapter of God’s Closet, visit www.godscloset.us or e-mail info@godscloset.us.
Northern California Conference churches and schools constantly improve their physical plants to keep them safe, useful and attractive — places where God can be glorified.

Sacramento Samoan Church

In only 12 months, the Sacramento Samoan church was transformed from an old warehouse building to a beautiful new church. Pastor Fred Toailoa and his congregation celebrated the completion of the building project in July. “My feeling on the day of the grand opening was just thankfulness,” said Toailoa. “I couldn’t get over how God made it possible to complete the project in one year, starting with literally no money.”

Many people came together to transform the building. Members raised funds through sacrificial giving, networking with friends and family, knocking on doors, and working at tree-trimming jobs. The congregation also received help from the Carmichael church, which donated materials and labor for a new mothers room, as well as money for other parts of the project. Major contributors to the work’s success were the volunteers from Maranatha Volunteers International, an organization typically associated with overseas construction. (Volunteers take on building jobs in North America, too.)

During the work, the warehouse was gutted and transformed into a new sanctuary, classrooms, mothers room, sound room, restrooms and baptistry. For years, when someone wanted to be baptized, the church had to rent a portable pool, but now the church has its own baptistry, which Toailoa hopes to use often.

He believes that the new building will encourage his congregation to do more outreach than ever before. “The members are now excited about coming to church and doing ministry,” he said. “Praise the Lord we have a sanctuary that we can be proud to invite people to.”

Livermore Church

In September, the Livermore church also celebrated the completion of a building project. Dedicated in 1968, the church facility was in need of an update to meet the needs of the current congregation and for aesthetic appeal. Changes include new classrooms, restrooms and permanent storage, as well as a remodeled sanctuary, foyer, fellowship hall, kitchen and pastor’s office. “The congregation couldn’t be happier with the look of their new surroundings,” said Pastor John Bechtel. “They are just overwhelmed by the change.”

Although their project did not utilize Maranatha volunteers, Livermore church members kept them in mind. After selling a school building and property several years ago, the church donated $50,000 to Maranatha. “We did that to honor those that had worked so hard and sacrificed for the school through the years,” said Bechtel. Other money from the sale was earmarked for the church renovation.

Bechtel and his congregation plan to fully utilize their new facilities to reach out to the Livermore community. “We plan to host vegetarian cooking classes and have a health outreach,” he said. “That’s one of the reasons we wanted to have a state-of-the-art kitchen facility. They have already used the remodeled sanctuary to host a benefit concert for mission work in Honduras.

Sacramento Adventist Academy

Last summer, a Maranatha team spent two weeks at Sacramento Adventist Academy, renovating an elementary school classroom. They gutted it, framed and installed new windows, cut a new window, added a bathroom, and installed wiring and lighting. They also created an office and storage space in the school’s computer lab.

“The skill and knowledge they brought to our classroom project made everything look so easy,” said Principal John Soule. “We were blessed by their service.”

Anneke Amiga, Julie Lorenz and Deborah Thornton
Church Celebrates “National Night Out” in the Neighborhood

Tracy Harder placed a question and a proposal before her church in 2012 — “Do you know about National Night Out? We need to do it!”

Fellow Eagle Rock church leaders sensed that “National Night Out,” a neighborhood block party held annually on the first Tuesday evening of August, could be a way to share with church neighbors in a marked way. Harder’s proposal started them on a nearly year-long journey of preparation.

It gave the church the opportunity to empty its 13,000 sq. ft. parking lot for more than 30 neighborhood business- or ministry-related booths and invite in the whole neighborhood. Admission was free, and every booth had to have giveaways.

Youth and young adults were largely responsible for an impressive neighborhood turnout. To advertise, young people knocked on neighborhood doors to personally invite residents and hand out flyers.

Local businesses happily participated. NY Life Insurance gave parents fingerprinting ID kits for child security. Physical therapists from Glendale Adventist Medical Center’s Therapy & Wellness Center did free five-minute massages. A vet had a drawing for a free pet checkup. The Adventist Book Center had a booth with drawings for a Bible and other books. Vegetarian hot dogs and juice drinks were raffled off free to the 250 visitors and 150 church members helping at the event.

One neighbor first passed up the free food offer, but returned when he learned they were “veggie” dogs. “I’m a vegetarian,” he explained, exclaiming, as had many others before him, “That was great!”

Wallgreen’s, Quiznos and other businesses also had booths, with discount coupons and giveaways. Midway through the event, a contingent of assemblypersons, police and fire fighters arrived from a second NNO location after learning that the church’s event had many more people than their own. Firefighters expressed appreciation that the church had not blocked the street, so they could back their fire truck into the booth area and welcome children aboard.

Twenty women signed up to attend one or more of women’s ministry events, including a Bible study group. Pathfinders taught visitors how to make lanyards. A variety of musicians performed throughout the evening, including professionals, members and children.

Drawings for two full scholarships, one to the A+ Children’s Center and one to the Glendale Adventist Elementary kindergarten, amazed two neighborhood parents. “Why would you do this?” asked one mother, in awe.

“Because we know we have a good thing, and we want to share it,” responded Harder, a teacher at Newbury Park Adventist Academy.

“Earlier, we had researcher Monte Sahlin do an assessment on our community and the church,” said Chan.

“He told us that we needed to do more for the community. We started outreach focus groups, discussing what to do with the recommendations. We recognized that there were many needs in our family-oriented neighborhood. ‘We don’t have to become something,’ I said to the members. ‘God has already led us to be something. Now we have to be what He has led us to be, for the community.’”

To prepare, the church had a leaders’ prayer retreat. With pre-purchased tickets, the leaders met at Descanso Gardens for prayer walks and group prayer throughout one Sabbath. “Our goal was to learn how prayer helps us to be what we need to be, for outreach,” Chan said.

“Our members worked from morning until evening,” said Harder. “We were blessed to share the generosity of God.”

Betty Cooney
This summer, 11 visually challenged athletes from around the country got a chance to wakeboard, inner tube and water-ski at Pyramid Lake in Los Angeles County. They surfed and splashed and enjoyed a Friday sundown vespers in Ventura and Malibu, finishing off their eight-day camp with a trip to Disneyland, where each visitor experienced a state-of-the-art audio tour describing the sights and colors of the Magic Kingdom.

The athletes were participating in an Extreme Mobility Camp (XMO). Usually based in Winter Park, Colo., with cross-country skiing, snowboarding, downhill skiing, tubing and snowmobiling, the first-ever West Coast Summer Camp was held this past summer in Newbury Park, Calif. Working in conjunction with volunteers and staff from The Place Adventist Fellowship and Newbury Park Academy, Extreme Mobility traded the chill of the snow for the warmth and waters of Southern California. Simon Liversidge, senior pastor, also spent time with the group.

After a week of discussing “what the Bible really says about” some common questions and misconceptions, the athletes were asked about their own conception of God: “What will you do with Jesus? Will you stay on the fence, or fall into a passionate relationship with the King of Kings and make Him the Lord of your life?” Nothing less than an extreme question for an extreme camp would do.

“This is the second XMO blind camp I’ve been a part of,” said volunteer Deirdre Taylor. “I will keep coming back, because even though I can see physically, sometimes I feel like I can be blind to how God is working. When I see these athletes respond to what’s happening here, my eyes are opened.”

“The greatest thing about an XMO event isn’t simply what the athletes are able to take part in, although that is amazing,” said volunteer Mindy Schwartz. “What we really love to see is how XMO affects all of the people it touches, from our athletes, to our trainers, to our donors, or simply the people who spend a little time with us. For instance, when Kayla exclaimed, ‘This was the most fun I’ve ever had!’ after surfing for the first time, it was a joy for us, too. We really feel that God is able to reach people in an unconventional way, using blind or visually impaired athletes doing extreme sports at an Extreme Mobility Camp.”

Since the XMO camps challenge with thoughtful spiritual questions, campers make recommitments and, at last year’s winter camp, two athletes accepted Jesus. Many of them have overcome the greatest hurdle of all, separation from their eternal Father. Through the ministry of the XMO directors, the XMO staff and the Holy Spirit, they find themselves coming face to face with Jesus.

“It never ceases to impact me to see all that these blind athletes can accomplish through Christ,” affirmed Marleigh Schwarz, an XMO staffer from The Place.

For general information, visit www.xmo-camps.org or search Extreme Mobility Camps on Facebook. For more information about the Newbury Park XMO camp, contact Mindy Schwarz, 805-501-7231.

Supporters and volunteers from The Place Fellowship believe in XMO’s vision and purpose: to give participants like Mike, who lost his vision in an auto accident, a chance to experience challenging activities and increase self-awareness and self-confidence.

Randall Goulard and Betty Cooney

Brent has been losing his eyesight since birth and is almost totally blind, but learned to hold his own on a surfboard.

Though Melody has been totally blind from birth and Melissa has limited vision due to a tumor on her optic nerve, both clearly enjoyed their rafting experience.
Statistics and documentation are effective ways of communicating information, but sometimes nothing takes the place of a story. This is especially true when it comes to describing the ways that God is blessing students and educators throughout the Southeastern California Conference.

“God continues to intervene in our schools,” said Don Dudley, SECC education superintendent. “A favorite part of my job is to see the Spirit of God moving on our campuses.”

Julia Payaban, Oceanside Adventist Elementary principal, enjoyed describing how God has blessed her school. “I could tell you hundreds of stories,” she said. Since its inception 19 years ago, her school has endeavored to be an integral part of the local community — and it’s succeeding.

After taking a tour of the school, the father of a young boy told Payaban that he’d been raised an Adventist, but at some point he quit attending church. He and his wife were looking for a place for their child to attend first grade, but they hadn’t considered an Adventist school. One day he started asking around for recommendations. “I know a great school,” said a friend. “You should check out OAE. My child is there.” Caught off guard, the father asked for a recommendation from another friend who told him, “My child just got accepted into Oceanside Adventist Elementary.” The man finished his story by telling Payaban, “Since two non-Adventist friends recommended your school, I thought I’d better start sending my child there.”

His experience is a good example of the reputation OAE has developed. The school has an enrollment of almost 160 students — about half of whom are not from Adventist families. Oceanside church members have made the school their primary outreach venue, and their investment is paying off. Through the years, a number of children and parents have decided to join the church.

“You never know how God will work,” said Payaban. “This is our mission, we want to be part of the community.”

Larry Rich, Escondido Adventist Academy principal, can also tell many stories about God’s blessings, gleaned through his years serving at various schools throughout the denomination.

Near the beginning of this school year, it appeared that an academy student would be unable to return to EAA for financial reasons. Her single mother could not afford to pay her tuition bill. But a number of people — including Corinne Robinson, the school’s business manager, and her husband Rich Robinson — felt impressed that the teen needed to stay. After reaching out to the mother, they were able to work out the financial difficulties to enable the girl to enroll. Unfortunately, the family had hardly any money left for textbooks.

Corinne Robinson keeps a meticulous record of used textbooks she has available in storage. She didn’t think she had any of the required books. However, she found every one that the girl needed.

“Corinne and I talked about it, and it just seemed providential that this student returned to EAA and that the Lord provided those books,” said Rich Robinson. “We thought this was a sign from God. This is where she was meant to be.”

To share a story of God’s providence in the life of a student or teacher with the SECC Office of Education, e-mail education@seccsda.org.

Julie Lorenz
Corona Members Travel to Panama for Mission Work

From July 11 to 22, 46 members of the Corona church traveled to Tolé, Panama, to minister to the community there. Their primary purpose was the construction of two One-Day Church buildings — the first, a traditional one-day frame-and-roof church and the second, a more ambitious building with two additional sections added to the floor plan.

In addition to these building projects, volunteers provided dental extractions and cleanings for community residents, conducted health education classes for students and women, and distributed almost 300 pairs of reading glasses. They also witnessed to students from four public schools in the city via mini Vacation Bible Schools. Gary Taber, senior pastor of the Corona church, presented an evangelistic series, which resulted in the baptisms of six people.

Corona church member Doug Grube explained why this mission trip was so special: “Not everyone can preach or sing, but everyone can participate in spreading the gospel. Most of the time, people do that in less-seen ways. I can cut block, and this is the one time of the year that I can use that gift for God.”

In addition to the work done on-site for this trip, Sharon and Glenn Anderson, Corona church members and Tolé trip coordinators, contacted the local pastor at the mission site to inquire about what items the community would most benefit from. The church community in Tolé expressed a desire to do evangelism through music lessons, but needed instruments in order to make this desire a reality. The Andersons and other Corona members raised funds to purchase two keyboards, six guitars, one xylophone, two drum sets and a trumpet, making it possible for the Tolé church’s community music ministry to begin.

Corona members worked together to raise funds not only for music ministry, but also for the trip itself. “Mission trips can be expensive,” explained Sharon Anderson. “So every year, our church holds a banquet with a live and silent auction. All of our auctioned items are donations from grocery stores, local businesses, hotels and church members. We charge an entrance fee for the banquet, and everyone who attends is aware that all proceeds are going to that year’s mission trip. Most years, we end up raising $7,000 to $10,000 per banquet.”

“What made this trip special was knowing that I am in God’s hands in a real, tangible way, building a church to further enable and support our brothers and sisters in their ministries,” said Dennis Tkalec, Corona church member. “Above all, to show and be shown God’s love in the tears of joy, ours and theirs, at the finished building, the gifts of supplies and the instruments.”

Corona church’s 17-year tradition of mission work began in 1997 because of the passion of the Andersons, who had been going on Maranatha mission trips on their own. They jumped at the opportunity to have a church-sponsored trip. The first Corona church mission trip consisted of only six people, who joined Maranatha on a multigroup mission trip. Now the group has grown to more than 40 people per mission trip, sharing their diverse talents in order bring change to these communities.

Shane Wood with Josie Asencio
Conference Hosts First Young Adult Camp Meeting

The annual Arizona Conference camp meeting, held June 7-15 at Camp Yavapines, included a new feature this year. For the first time, a completely separate young adult camp meeting ran concurrent with the main event. Because all the camp structures were full, organizers put up a huge event tent for the group. Banners, painted backdrops, and sawdust carpet welcomed guests.

“We were shocked at the huge attendance both weekends,” said Benjamin Lundquist, Arizona Conference young adult director. “The second Sabbath was standing room only, with people spreading beyond the protection of the tent into the blazing Arizona sun. And nobody seemed to mind the heat as Pastor Jonathan Leonardo shared a message of hope for today’s young adult community.”

“Our goal was to create a safe, Christ-centered camp meeting community where young adults could feel a sense of belonging, mission and purpose,” he explained.

After both of the Sabbath afternoon potlucks, many stayed around as long as five hours talking, encouraging and building relationships.

The theme was “Handmade.” All efforts during the week supported the message that every young adult is handmade by God to experience salvation and change the world through their own unique gifts, talents and abilities.

“I never had much interest in coming to the Arizona camp meeting,” said Hanna Melara. “But I will be back, knowing there is finally something for young adults in Arizona.”

Gared Branham was also excited about the new program. “I was blown away at what God did during Arizona young adult camp meeting,” he said. “God was changing lives right before my very eyes.”

Pastor Shane Davis enjoyed working with the young adults. “As I watched the young adult tent throughout the week, I could tell God was creating a deep, meaningful sense of community in that place. The young adults were accepted, loved and cared for in that special place.”

During camp meeting, young adults participated in the seventh annual Xtreme Home Makeover Project. Young adults mentored high school students working on the project. Lundquist worked with Pastor Chris Morris, organizer of the high school camp meeting ministry, to make a significant difference for a single mother, Via, and her seven children.

An army of more than 100 young adult and high school students descended upon Via’s property for a week of landscaping, painting, deck building and construction repairs. While working there, the group bonded with the family.

“Handmade.”

PHIL DRAPER

PHIL DRAPER
News of the project spread beyond the makeover site to other parts of the community. Prescott Mayor Marlin Kuykendall visited the site and expressed delight with the impact the Adventist church has made on the community during the past several years. “You have made a difference in the lives of this community and the results will last a lifetime,” he said.

A few weeks after camp meeting, Erik VanDenburgh, youth director, and Lundquist traveled to City Hall to present Kuykendall with a framed photo of the participants and thanked him for supporting this and other projects over the years. The mayor immediately removed the art outside his office door and replaced it with the photo.

In turn, VanDenburgh and Lundquist received a special City of Prescott Service with Pride Commemorative Medallion.

Plans are already in place for expanding the young adult camp meeting. The leadership team is planning a larger tent for next year that will seat up to 300. In response to the devastating Yarnell fire that took the lives of 19 firefighters, the 2014 Xtreme Makeover Project will focus on rebuilding and restoring the Yarnell community.

“As a new pastor in the Arizona Conference, I could not have been more blessed to get to work in the young adult department during camp meeting,” said Pastor Tim Feig. “I know that my greatest impact as a leader is investing in today’s young adult generation. They get me all fired up!”

Phil Draper
At a faith-based conference for social action in Dallas, Texas, this past February, Debra Watkins attended a seminar on reaching the hip hop generation with the gospel. When she heard about the Hip Hop Hope — Jesus Makes Me Glad Vacation Bible School program, she knew she had to show this unique curriculum to her East Palo Alto, Calif., church family.

She ordered the starter kit and presented the idea to the children’s ministries team, who loved the idea. “We made sure that everything was Adventist sound — no conflict with our doctrines,” Watkins says. While not all of the activities were used, the VBS was a hit.

The church’s neighborhood is very diverse, and members are always searching for ways to connect with their community. “To arouse interest in our community VBS, we had a registration party in the church parking lot,” says Pastor David Hudgens. A bounce house, tables offering crafts, face painting, snacks, and a DJ that played Christian music attracted a crowd.

Neighbors came to see what was happening at the two-hour party. Forty children registered that afternoon, including the DJs three kids. A total of 77 attended the five-day program — 80 percent were from the local neighborhood.

It took a cooperative effort to make the five-day VBS program happen. Vebecia Humphry knew a DJ; a church member donated $2,000 for supplies and a free iPad for the kid that brought the most visitors; 30 members volunteered every evening.

“It was a major team effort,” Watkins says. The program began at 5 p.m. with supper. “Ladies bought and prepared the food. Some of the parents stayed every evening, so we needed a Spanish translator.” Fortunately, one church member spoke the language.

And there was bling — kids who answered Bible questions, brought a Bible or brought friends received coins, which they could spend at the VBS store. A community boy who brought 14 friends won the iPad. He had gone door-to-door at his apartment complex recruiting.

The week ended with a Sabbath worship service. Three kids registered for Pathfinders. A few parents requested Bible studies in Spanish and a church service in Spanish, too.

“Our members’ fellowship with our community is much richer because we have established a deeper relationship with God’s people,” Hudgens says. “This unique VBS theme was the opportunity to share hope that God is indeed in love with every one of His children.”

Caron Oswald
Utah Area Convocation Strengthens Unity and Commitment

Nearly 800 hundred people representing a wide array of nationalities, cultures and ages gathered at the Utah State Fairpark in Salt Lake City on Sept. 21 for the Utah Area Convocation.

Junior-aged children participated in activities based on the Vacation Bible School theme of “Kingdom Rock,” and participated in a program featuring “Ghetto Preacher” Willy Ramos. The Grand Building’s spacious upstairs auditorium was filled with adults listening to Dr. Marc Woodson, executive secretary for the Northern California Conference, deliver a three-part series that challenged them to not just be satisfied with being a good Christian by attending church regularly themselves, but to be proactive in spreading God’s message to others and encouraging them to be active members of the church.

“Elder Woodson spoke with passion and conviction, beginning with Sabbath school through the 11 o’clock service, as he explored the five parables of Matthew 24-25, emphasizing the need for us to be prepared for the Lord’s second coming,” said Eddy Cadet.

Ryan Hablitzel from the Moab church said the convocation is the one time each year that the diverse congregations of the Utah area get together to worship as a unified body of believers. “Nothing showcased the unity in diversity of our area as much as the afternoon gospel talent show,” he said. “It was truly a unique experience to hear musical excellence from so many different cultures and groups.”

The talent show featured praise music from the combined choir at Summit Christian Academy in Salt Lake City, as well as musical talent from Spanish, Samoan and Tongan churches, along with African music and more.

“The student choir from SCA was delighted at the opportunity to sing for the afternoon music program,” said Tawnya Constantino, school board chair. “They sang with joy and enthusiasm. Their second song was especially fun as they got to ‘jump for joy’ to the Lord.”

Because attendance exceeded expectations, some worried there might not be enough food for Sabbath lunch. “It reminded me of the miracle of our Lord feeding the more than 5,000 worshipers who came to hear Him speak,” Cadet added. “At the convocation, 500 saints were expected to attend. However, over 800 people were fed. The service was great. The hospitality crew, although concerned that everyone be fed, served with a smile.” After lunch, people gathered in the downstairs area to fellowship.

Pastor Bill Davis from the Provo-Vernal District said the convocation drew praise from many of his church members, as well. “They loved the location and the setting,” he said. “They especially liked the speaker, Dr. Woodson. My youth from Provo enjoyed their meetings, as well. In fact, several parents told me they came because their kids had to hear Pastor Willy Ramos.”

John Miller
Pacifi c Union College is proud to have been recognized by multiple organizations for providing exceptional return on investment in rankings that identify the colleges where degrees pay off the most. The recent rankings confirm that the college is fulfilling its mission of providing an excellent and affordable Christian undergraduate education that prepares students for a lifetime of service in the career of their choice.

In July, Affordable Colleges Online (AC Online) ranked PUC 22nd out of more than 765 California colleges and universities, including private institutions and state schools, analyzed for return on investment (ROI). The ranking demonstrates that students who graduate from PUC enjoy a greater earnings gap than students without a four-year degree; PUC's placement in the top three percent shows that its alums earn more on average than graduates from most California colleges. AC Online's ranking is based on net tuition prices and graduate's average starting salary, and used criteria from national sources such as the National Center for Education Statistics and Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System.

Further recognition came in September, when PayScale, a provider of compensation data, ranked PUC in the top 15 percent of colleges on its national 2013 College Education ROI Rankings; PUC was the highest-ranked Adventist college on the list. When PUC's financial aid offerings were taken into account, graduates could expect to enjoy an annual return of 7.9 percent on their higher education investment. As high school students and their families consider the time and resources that four years of college requires, these numbers are an indicator that a PUC education pays off in the long run.

Providing an education that supports students in their current academic growth as well as their entire professional career is the goal of PUC's administration. “A personalized, wholistic education, where students learn by doing, talking, listening, and spending time with professors, other students, and committed Christian staff members in a stunning natural environment — this is priceless, yet by God’s grace we work to provide it affordably. It’s really a sort of miracle,” says Nancy Lecourt, academic dean and vice president for academic administration.

Families have much to consider when evaluating college options, and selecting a college that will provide real value — not just a diploma — is a priority. “As an administrator at PUC and the father of two current PUC students, these recognitions are validating,” shares Dave C. Lawrence, vice president of financial administration. “Professionally, I now have proof that our efforts to keep a PUC education within economic reach of our constituents are paying off. Not many schools in our region can say they offer quality education that is also affordable, and have independent validation to prove it.”

In September, PUC was again placed on U.S. News & World Report’s list of America’s best colleges and universities in the national liberal arts college category; PUC is the only Adventist college competing in this category, which includes institutions such as Williams College and Amherst College. In addition, U.S. News ranked the college as the third most ethnically diverse liberal arts college in the nation. This ranking reflects the diversity of PUC’s California location and the ethnic spectrum within the membership of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

“As a parent, I’m confident my sons’ educations make economic sense,” concludes Lawrence. “I want them to have a quality education in a nurturing environment where they learn to love Jesus more.”

Cambria Wheeler
Newsletters
Newsletters
Newsletters
This past summer, three dozen academy and college students traveled the Hawaiian islands to share the everlasting gospel while raising money for school through the Youth Rush program.

In one year, the Hawaii Youth Rush program grew from 22 young people covering the island of Oahu, to 36 individuals covering all six of the accessible islands of the state. These academy and college students knocked on 150,000 doors, sharing Adventist literature eight hours a day, five days a week.

On the island of Hawaii (the “Big Island”), Sterling Cornwell and Daney Lozano were doing laundry on their day off. They noticed a young man named Brandon jogging down the street. They stopped him and began talking with him about Jesus and the books that they were presenting to the community. Brandon was very open and excited about the material and bought the *Great Controversy* and the contemporary version of *Desire of Ages*. Cornwell and Lozano invited Brandon to vespers that night, and he came.

Brandon continued to come to daily worships and church services with the Youth Rush team. On the team’s final Sabbath, Brandon brought his mother to church, as well. “I thank God that He has brought you into my life,” he said. “This is just what I needed.”

While on Kauai, Grazielle Abaya, a student at Hawaiian Mission Academy, met a woman named Lydia and began to tell her about several books and DVDs. Lydia asked, “What church do you go to?” and explained that she was interested in the inspired writings of Ellen White, had questions about the state of the dead, and was an avid 3ABN viewer. She asked if there was a church nearby, and attended with the team that week. She quickly bonded with church members, who offered to transport her to services each Sabbath.

Westney White
Loma Linda University Health is reaching out to its local clergy by establishing a Faith Community Health Network.

“The faith community has a great impact on the community’s well-being,” says Timothy Gillespie, D.Min., faith and community health liaison, Loma Linda University Health. “We must continue to become acquainted with our faith community leaders, and to grow our relationships for the health of the community.”

Loma Linda University Health gave staff the opportunity to invite their faith leaders to the second annual clergy appreciation breakfast, held in late August. Gillespie says, “We wanted to invite them to honor what they do, but also to formalize a conversation aimed at collaborative efforts to create a continuum of care for their congregants who find their way into our health care system. We asked them to consider joining our new Faith Community Health Network.”

Following the event, nearly 100 of those who responded to a survey remain in ongoing conversations with Gillespie. “Not only are we listening to their priorities, dreams, and challenges,” he says, “we are committed to giving back to these faith community leaders.”

Fred Smith Jr., Ph.D., pastor of the Wayside United Methodist Church in Vallejo, was guest speaker. “Churches are a light,” he said, “a place where God resides.” He spoke of the power that belief holds in changing health care; his theory mirrors whole-person care. “Many things are a part of one’s health,” he said, “including how do we feel about ourselves?” After telling the story of Jesus healing a woman who had been unable to stand upright for 18 years, he stated: “For those who believe in God, relying on the Creator is powerful.

“Regardless of politics or ethnicity,” Smith continued, “church is where we meet and reason together, seeking a power greater than ourselves. We are called to reach out to others: ‘When I was sick in prison, you sat at my side.’”

As churches respond to the challenges of extreme poverty, hunger, ailments and stress, clergy draw upon a power greater than all of these, certain in the belief that suffering isn’t the end to the story, and providing survivors with hope and meaning that they can share with the world.

“As clergy in faiths including Catholicism, Church of Latter-day Saints, Church of the Nazarene, Judaism, and non-denominational congregations join Loma Linda University Health as part of the Faith Community Health Network,” says Gillespie, “we will continue to converse, moving forward in a more formal manner, identifying needs and planning how to respond to the health disparities in our region. As we identify existing resources and create new ones with the collaborative work between our two healing institutions — churches and medical — we will have an even greater opportunity to change lives.”

Nancy Yuen
Loma Linda University Health Launches ‘Live It,’ National Branding Campaign to Share Wellness

Loma Linda was built on the knowledge of health and wellness that Seventh-day Adventists have been blessed with — the idea that lifestyle drives good health. The organization is launching a national campaign to share this benefit with people across the U.S.

Leaders have chosen a new name, Loma Linda University Health, to signify the united purpose of its eight schools, six hospitals, more than 900 physicians, and extensive research programs in sharing the knowledge of healthy living around the world. This includes educating people about a nutritious, vegetarian diet; encouraging exercise; and advocating for a lifestyle of wholeness that includes rest and community engagement. LLUH research has now demonstrated that many Adventists live longer lives than other Americans.

The campaign, which is inspired by Loma Linda University Health’s mission “to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ,” will demonstrate that its staff, faculty, and students don’t just talk about wholeness — they Live It. People across the United States are beginning to see advertisements highlighting individuals who exemplify whole living.

“The goal of Loma Linda University Health is to be the example for the way patients are cared for and students are taught,” says Richard H. Hart, M.D., DrPH, president, LLU Health, “all in an effort to help people live longer, healthier lives. To do this Loma Linda University Health has launched ‘Live It’ to let everyone know our dedication to wellness extends beyond our jobs, teaching, and research — it is how we live.”

Hart continues, “Everything we do is based on changing lives for the better by sharing our knowledge and empowering our community. As we embark on this national campaign, we encourage not just our students, physicians, and employees to ‘Live It’ but everyone in the community as well.”

One of the first “Live It” ads features Dilys Brooks, associate chaplain for Loma Linda University, who not only works daily to encourage the spiritual well-being of students and staff, but also inspires others as a friend, mother, and runner of long-distance races — all while living with a pacemaker.

Other ads in the campaign similarly highlight how members of the Loma Linda University Health family, patients, or members of the community Live it. The ads are appearing locally, regionally, and nationally in print, outdoors, in transit areas, and on television and radio.

Heather Reif Snyder and Briana Pastorino
Adventist Health President/CEO Announces Retirement

Robert G. Carmen, president and CEO of Adventist Health, has announced his retirement, according to Ricardo Graham, chairman of the board. On April 1, 2014, Carmen will conclude his 44-year career with the health system which spans the states of California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

The board of directors for Adventist Health accepted Carmen’s decision and has initiated a process to select his successor. That decision is expected before the end of the year.

“Bob is a leader who has successfully navigated many challenges and shifts within this industry. Adventist Health has proved itself a dynamic organization, which has benefited from Bob’s lengthy tenure. He has made tremendous contributions to Adventist Health and, to his credit, has assembled an accomplished senior leadership team to continue this legacy of service,” states Graham.

Carmen assumed his current position October 2007, after serving as executive vice president/COO for the Roseville, California-based system since 1999. Previously, he was president of Adventist Health/Southern California, where he oversaw the operations of five hospitals and a medical foundation. Simultaneously, Carmen was the president of White Memorial Medical Center and Glendale Adventist Medical Center, both in the Los Angeles area. Prior to that, he was vice president of Region I, which encompassed Adventist Health’s Central California hospitals. He also served as president of Castle Medical Center in Kailua, Hawaii. An occupational therapist by training, he began his career in rehabilitation services.

Carmen has played a direct role in many organizational milestones. During his six-year tenure as president, Carmen has championed rural health clinics, innovation, quality and growth. However, the most visible legacy of Carmen’s leadership will be the shift toward ambulatory services. This includes the formation of Adventist Health Physician Services and the clinics, as well as outpatient services. These sites, which are now in excess of 180, are bringing more health care and preventive services to hundreds of communities across four states.

Carmen is a graduate of Loma Linda University, on whose board he presently sits. He also holds a master’s degree in public administration with an emphasis in health care administration from the University of Colorado, Denver. In addition, he is affiliated with numerous professional organizations, including the California Hospital Association, and sits on the CHA board of trustees and its executive committee.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Carmen, a resident of Loomis, Calif., and his wife, Cindy, have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Medical Center Thanks First Responders of the Rim Fire

During the recent Rim Fire near the Yosemite National Forest, Sonora Regional Medical Center treated many individuals and firefighters in their Emergency Department due to respiratory issues or minor injuries from being on the job. The Adventist Health clinic in Groveland also saw several firefighter personnel and treated them for poison oak and other minor injuries (twisted ankle, cuts, debris abrasions, etc.).

SRMC also supported the local evacuation center run by the Red Cross in Sonora. The hospital provided updates each day from Incident Command about the fire and how it affected patient census, as well as hospital employees, many of whom were on advisory or mandatory evacuation.

New President/CEO Appointed at San Joaquin Community Hospital in Bakersfield

Doug Duffield has been appointed president and CEO of San Joaquin Community Hospital, according to Scott Reiner, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Adventist Health who also is board chairman for the Bakersfield, Calif., operations. Duffield assumed his new role in July.

“I believe strongly in SJCH’s mission and vision, and I am looking forward to leading a team of dedicated healthcare professionals to serve our patients and expand access to care,” says Duffield, who previously was vice president at Sonora Regional Medical Center in Sonora, Calif., a sister Adventist Health facility. He also served at Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho, Africa.

Duffield received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Walla Walla University and is pursuing an MBA in healthcare administration from Marylhurst University in Portland, Ore.
Religious Liberty Needs Keep Personnel on the Move

Many church members have only a vague idea of what the church’s religious liberty department does. The month of September provides a snapshot of the diversity of what it means to work for religious freedom.

The month began early, on Labor Day, as director Alan Reinach flew to St. Louis to record “Liberty Insider” programs with Lincoln Steed, editor of Liberty magazine. The wide range of topics included the erosion of liberties in a national security state, enactment of the California Workplace Religious Freedom Act, the Supreme Court’s recent decisions regarding DOMA and Prop 8 and their impact on religious freedom, among others.

On Sept. 12, Reinach was keynote speaker for a diversity program of the San Diego County Bar Association. The Bar Journal also excerpted the speech for publication. His presentation was balanced between the twin principles of religious freedom, non-establishment and free exercise. He traced the Protestant contribution to liberty of conscience and separation of church and state to the early days of the Reformation. He made a plea for liberty of conscience, including for people of traditional faiths.

Later in the month, PARL staff celebrated as one Adventist church member, whose Sabbath case has been pending in Federal Court for many months, was finally offered a favorable schedule at work so that she can have the assurance of not being scheduled on Sabbath. Mediation is set for November in hopes of resolving the remaining issues. Meanwhile, the calls for help keep coming in, and staff screen and assist more than a dozen church members each month.

Dennis Seaton, director of government relations, has been hard at work on legislative issues. The Boy Scout Bill, SB 323, which the Church State Council lobbied against, died in committee. Seaton met with the governor’s staff to discuss SB 131, a bill that opens up the statute of limitations for old abuse claims. Seaton pointed out that the measure would likely do nothing to protect children, but could deprive the community of valuable services provided by churches and schools. Governor Jerry Brown eventually vetoed the bill, his veto message echoing Seaton’s message points.

Reinach spent a day at the Fair Employment and Housing Council meeting. This is a committee of six that is revising regulations addressing employment discrimination. Reinach wanted to scope out the process and the people in anticipation of submitting proposals for revising the religious discrimination regulations. He got more than he bargained for. With so few attending, all were invited to lunch with council members. The day yielded a valuable understanding about how to frame proposals in light of the statutory criteria, as well as their understanding of their task and authority.

Later in the week, Reinach flew to Phoenix where Pastor Ralph Robertson, religious liberty director for the Arizona Conference, was on a panel for an interfaith program celebrating Constitution Week. Robertson provided substantive material, where most of the speakers were inspirational and emotional. Robertson met an important national leader in the Latino community, Samuel Rodriguez. Rodriguez is president of an association of 40,000 Hispanic churches, and is based in Sacramento.

Reinach met with leaders of Alliance Defending Freedom, and that discussion turned to Sunday laws. “If such a discussion becomes practical rather than theoretical, I will have influential friends in Christian legal circles,” said Reinach. He also worked with a church member who has a discrimination charge pending against the Kroger supermarket chain.

At the end of the month, Reinach headed to Henderson, Nev., with Pastor Eliezer Benavides, associate director of the Church State Council. There they met with four church members who have Sabbath claims pending. They also preached at Living Water church and the Maranatha Spanish church.

Inside any given month, PARL employees help church members with Sabbath problems; work on legislation and revising regulations; network with leaders of other organizations; speak and preach and teach; file cases in court; and record radio and television programming.

Find more information at www.churchstate.org.

Alan J. Reinach

L. to R.: Alan J. Reinach, Esq.; Connie Liem, Esq., EEOC staff attorney; and Stephen Smith, professor, University of San Diego School of Law.
In order to strengthen its practical ministerial education, La Sierra University’s HMS Richards Divinity School is forming a Panel of Teaching Pastors. John Brunt joined the Divinity School faculty in July 2013 as senior fellow of pastoral ministry. Brunt will chair the panel, along with teaching several divinity school courses each year. An experienced theologian and academic administrator, Brunt has served as senior pastor at the Azure Hills church in Grand Terrace, Calif., for 11 years. He will continue to hold that position while taking on this additional part-time role.

“Too often, pastors have seen fieldwork students as a means of getting free labor to help with their tasks,” Brunt said. “This panel is designed to team pastors with Divinity School faculty in a way that makes them co-educators. We plan to enlist experienced pastors who have a passion to help equip students for ministry.”

This enhanced field program will help support the increasing enrollment in the school. Fall 2013 enrollment showed a 29 percent increase in the number of undergraduate majors, while graduate student enrollment increased 13 percent.

Divinity School faculty members plan for the fieldwork program to develop in two areas — supervising pastors and mentoring pastors. Supervising pastors will directly oversee the activities of a student assigned to their congregation. The Divinity School will provide a manual to guide supervising pastors in creating appropriate experiences for students so they can receive practical exposure to the pastor’s role.

Mentoring pastors will guide students who are already in full-time ministry and who cannot leave their current ministerial assignment to do field work in a different church. Mentoring pastors will be experienced professionals in nearby churches. Students and mentors will regularly meet to reflect on the student’s ministry. Mentor pastors will assess preaching videos, attend boards and committees with the student, and evaluate church member feedback about the student.

Brunt has received nominations for potential panel members from the Southern California and Southeastern California conferences’ ministerial directors. Nominated pastors have been invited to submit a résumé and statement of why they would like to be involved in the program. Panel membership was finalized in October 2013, and members were selected based on their statements and experience.

“This program is not about students simply assisting the churches and pastors with their work,” Brunt said. “Instead, we want to enlist pastors and churches who truly want to assist in the education of the students by sharing with them first-hand, practical experience, combined with evaluation and reflection.”

John Brunt joins the La Sierra University HMS Richards Divinity School faculty to direct its Panel of Teaching Pastors. He will continue his role as senior pastor at Azure Hills church.
“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”
— Exodus 20:8

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“We are a group of five young people at a military camp. Each morning at 6 o’clock we get together and listen to your programs. None of us misses your programs. All of us have never gone to a church. We were all not believers. Your programs took us back to life.”

— Listener in Africa

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Arizona

ADVENTIST CHURCH CHIP Summit and Facilitator Training (Nov. 6-9) Tucson. A limited number of rooms are available at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, 800-234-5117.


RAW FOOD POTLUCK (Nov. 9) Central church, 777 W. Montecito Ave, Phoenix, 6:30 p.m. Please bring a RAW dish or vegetable or fruit salad. There are many RAW recipes online and on YouTube for those interested in something more than salads.

TWO RUMMAGE SALES (Nov. 15 and 17) to raise money for the “Let’s Build a Dream” Desert Cove church project. For donating or pick-up information: JoAnna Jones, 623-478-7944 or Rummage@DesertCoveFundraise.com.

WOMEN’S HEALTH and Survival Expo (Dec. 15) Presented by Consortium of Women’s Ministries of Arizona. Free screenings: Learn about healthy eating. Hear health professionals and survivalists. Vendor and/or sponsors contact, Be Davis, 480-494-4480 or ozbespecial@hotmail.com.

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Adventists in Mesa, Arizona (March 1, 2014) Former members, pastors, friends invited to celebrate with us. King Herald’s concert 5 p.m. Info: 480-985-3140; Facebook, Mesa Palms church; website: mesapalmschurch.com.

Central California

SINGLES RALLY (Nov. 9) Fresno-Westside. Info: Marilyn, 559-347-3142.

PRAYER DAY (Nov. 9) CCC. Info: Joyce, 559-696-3692.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING (Nov. 16) Fresno Adventist Academy. Info: Marilyn, 559-347-3142.

PRAYER MINISTRIES TRAINING (Nov. 16) Fresno Adventist Academy. Info: Joyce, 559-696-3692.

SAN FRANCISCO PHILADELPHIAN Church Reunion (Nov. 29-30) Former members and friends invited. 2520 Bush St. Info: Helen Hill, 415-793-0115 or helenwhill@gmail.com.

LSU MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS: La Sierra University Orchestra, (Nov. 9) 7 p.m.; The Rolón Trio (Nov. 10) 6 p.m.; the LSU Wind Ensemble (Nov. 16) 7 p.m.; and a student recital featuring Ariel Mizumoto, piano (Nov. 17) 5 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036.

THE 24-HOUR PLAY FESTIVAL (Nov. 2, 3, & 9) A La Sierra Drama presentation. 8 p.m. Matheson Hall. Info: 951-785-2241 or drama@fasierra.edu.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

CLERK & TREASURERS TRAINING (Dec. 1) CCC. Info: Debra (Clerk) 559-347-3194, Auditing (Treasurer) 559-347-3146.


La Sierra University

LSU MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS: La Sierra University Orchestra, (Nov. 9) 7 p.m.; The Rolón Trio (Nov. 10) 6 p.m.; the LSU Wind Ensemble (Nov. 16) 7 p.m.; and a student recital featuring Ariel Mizumoto, piano (Nov. 17) 5 p.m. Hole Memorial Auditorium. Info: 951-785-2036.

THE 24-HOUR PLAY FESTIVAL (Nov. 2, 3, & 9) A La Sierra Drama presentation. 8 p.m. Matheson Hall. Info: 951-785-2241 or drama@fasierra.edu.


LADIES CRAFT AND TEA (Nov. 3) 4-6:30 p.m. Fireside Room, St. Helena church, 1777 Main Street. Stations of various gift-able crafts. Bring: clothes to pass on to someone else for clothing swap; gift-wrapping idea (wrapped empty box); holiday treat with recipe! No fee; donations welcome. Info: 707-963-7143, info@shsda.org, www.shsda.org.

Northern California Conference


DISCOVER MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (Nov. 1-3) Sacramento-area hotel. You CAN have a better marriage! Info: Rob & Debbie Purvis, 530-622-4798 or purvis4@comcast.net; John & Carolyn Wilt, 916-362-6244.


LADIES CRAFT AND TEA (Nov. 3) 4-6:30 p.m. Fireside Room, St. Helena church, 1777 Main Street. Stations of various gift-able crafts. Bring: clothes to pass on to someone else for clothing swap; gift-wrapping idea (wrapped empty box); holiday treat with recipe! No fee; donations welcome. Info: 707-963-7143, info@shsda.org, www.shsda.org.
PATHFINDER TEEN CAVING (Nov. 8-10) Lava Beds National Monument. Info: Youth Ministries, 925-603-5080.


JAIME JORGE VIOLIN CONCERT (Nov. 23) 4 p.m. Sacramento Central church, 6045 Camellia Avenue. 10th annual ALB benefit concert for low-power television station, Channel 27. Testimonials, virtuosity, harmony, joy, Jesus’ love. Special guest: Rachelle Jorge. Use body, mind and spirit for God’s glory. Offering: tower rental, equipment. Info: 916-457-6511.


ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS 6 (Dec. 8) 6:30 p.m. Fireside Room, St. Helena church, 1777 Main Street. Herald in the Christmas season with musicians young and older. Guitar, violins, mandolins, keyboards, voices. Bring family and friends to this free concert. Enjoy an evening of song and friendship. Refreshments served. Info: info@shsda.org, 707-963-7143.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 14) 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sacramento Central church, 6045 Camellia Avenue. Televised holiday special will be recorded live. Join us for inspirational Christmas music featuring singers and musicians from around California and beyond. Children’s program provided. Tickets (free) required. Info: 916-457-6000 or www.SacCentral.org.

Pacific Union College

RAG: Shades of Experience, Soo Noga, Opening Reception (Nov. 2) 7 p.m., Rasmussen Art Gallery. Info: 707-965-6604.

FALL FESTIVAL (Nov. 3) 3 p.m., PUC Pacific Auditorium, a festive fundraiser for many campus clubs. Info: 707-965-6303.

ANGWIN TO ANGWISH (Nov. 3) Trail run offering Family (4K), 12K, and 24K courses, benefitting PUC’s Student Association and Student-Learning programs. Info: www.angwintoangwish.com.

COLLEGE DAYS (Nov. 3, 4) High school juniors and seniors experience classes and college events at PUC. Info: Enrollment Office, 800-862-7080.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT (Nov. 9) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall Auditorium. Info: Music Department, 707-965-6201.

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT (Nov. 16) 7 p.m., Paulin Hall Auditorium. Info: Music Department, 707-965-6201.

THANKSGIVING VACATION (Nov. 22-Dec. 1) Residence halls close at 4 p.m. Nov. 22 and reopen at noon on Dec. 1.

VESPER CHRISTMAS CONCERT (Dec. 6, 7) PUC Sanctuary, two concerts, Dec. 6, 8 p.m., Dec. 7, 4 p.m. Info: Music Department, 707-965-6201.

ONE CHURCH (Dec. 7) Special Sabbath with a single service beginning at 11:15 a.m., Laffit Cortes speaks, PUC Church. Info: 707-965-7297.

CHRISTMAS VACATION (Dec. 13-Jan. 5) Residence Halls except Winning and Newton close for vacation at 6 p.m., Dec. 12.

ALBION RETREAT and Learning Center (Ongoing) Comfortable lodging for visitors and groups available along the Mendocino Coast. Perfect for classes, retreats, reunions, weddings, or vacations. Info: www.puc.edu/albion or 707-937-5440.

Southern California Conference


FALL FESTIVAL (Nov. 9) 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fun, food and fundraising. Food trucks, desserts, water and drinks. Games, spin art, treasure hunt, face painting, glow sticks and more. Glendale Adventist Academy & Elementary, 700 Kimlin Dr. Sponsored by GAA Home & School Assoc. Info: 818-244-8671.

SHAREHIM TRAINING (Nov. 9) 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Presenter, Jeremiah Weeks, ShareHim Ministries director. Glendale Adventist Medical Center Auditorium (lower level, opposite the cafeteria), 1509 Wilson Terrace. Lunch provided. Info: 818-546-8405/8406.

TRAINING FOR LEADERS of Reversing Diabetes Programs (Nov. 10) 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For Physicians, M.PH., Dr.PH., Wellness & Fitness Coaches/Dieticians. Presenter, Lorraine Barton, M.D., M.PH. Book signing for his book, Type 2 Diabetes the Natural Way. Thousand Oaks church, 480 W. Gainsborough Rd. Info: 818-546-8405/8406.

EVELGELISTIC CAMPAIGN As many as 45 SCC Spanish churches. SCC Hispanic pastors will be the featured evangelists. Please keep these pastors and their meetings in prayer. Location and other info: 818-546-8448.

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CHRIStiansinglesdating.com or Adventistsingles.org. Free 14-day trial! Join thousands and thousands of active Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, detailed profiles, match notifications, 10 photos 2-way compatibility match, confidential online mail. Witnessing opportunities to the world through articles, friendships, chat, forums. Since 1993 Adventist owners. Thousands of successful matches! Top ranked.

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LOW COST LEGAL SERVICES: Affordable Wills and Trusts. Professional, thorough format originated from attorney’s office includes Powers of Attorney. $100 for Will, $375 for Trust or $475 for both. Quick turn-around by e-mail; I prepare documents, $375 for Trust or $475 for both. Quick turn-around by e-mail; I prepare documents, send large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master’s degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies.

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT Village is an Adventist community in a rural Oklahoma setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has a fellowship you’ll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. Website: www.summitridgevillage.org or call Bill Norman 405-208-1289.

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE Center can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800-634-9555 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

Bulletin Board

LOOKING FOR AUTHORS who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children’s books, mission stories, biographies, and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800-367-1844 or visit www.teachservices.com.

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.

URGENTLY NEED gently used, completely working, hearing aids. Donate your car, boat or RV to Canvasback Missions. Serving the medical and dental needs of the Pacific Islands. Donation is tax deductible. Auto, preferred to be running. Restrictions apply. For more info: 800-793-7245 or visit www.canvasback.org.

WANTED: 90 SDA BIBLE Commentary sets and books for all the prisons in Ghana; Chapel records, tapes and memorabilia; HMS Richards camp meeting sermon cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes. Wanted: Lapidary equipment, rock cutting saws; blacksmith tools, anvils; high-end woodshop equipment and lathes. Text/ call Doug: 909-224-4551, dougvon@hotmail.com.

Employment

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM at Union College seeks Clinical Director. This faculty appointment includes teaching/ advising opportunities, developing clinical sites, working with clinical preceptors, tracking students, and evaluating student rotations. Master’s degree and three years rotations. Master's degree and three years

Many Strengths. One Mission.

Sarah Winder is a dog lover, a dedicated walker and a wife. She brings her sense of humor, her humility and commitment to quality care to each and every patient interaction. Sarah is one of the people who help to make Loma Linda a center of clinical excellence and supportive faith-based care.

• Associate Professor-PhD Medicine (Job 54824)
• Asst Professor-PhD Medicine (Job 54825)
• Employee Relations Specialist
• Development Officer

This workplace has been recognized by the American Heart Association for meeting criteria for employee wellness.

If you are an individual who understands and embraces the mission and purpose of Loma Linda University and its entities as premier Seventh-day Adventist Christian institutions, please visit careers.llu.edu or call 1-800-722-2770. EOE/AA/M/F/D/V

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH

Children's Hospital | Medical Center East Campus
Behavioral Medicine Center | Health Care | Medical Center
Heart & Surgical Hospital | Shared Services
Events

IDEA TO REACH (Dec. 2-5) 3 days of inspiration, training and relaxation for evangelists, pastors and lay evangelists and conference administrators. Southern Union Evangelism Council 2013. Presenters include Ted N. C. Wilson, Ron Smith, Ron Halvorsen. Daytona Beach, Fla. More info: 407-257-6847, contact mike@doctorhess.com or call 530-468-4100.

Missing Members

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA. Contact: Milca Jane Pritchard, Roy Rockwell. Adventist Homeowner, 14065 Orange Grove Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 91043. Phone: 818-352-3575: chetsusie@sisqtel.net. 7-minute walk to Wildwood Elementary. Realtor—art: 818-352-3575. Betty Hsue, Church Clerk, 415-608-1314, betty.minibao@gmail.com: 11.5 acres with full Shasta Mtn views. High-end upgrades include heated hardwood & tile floors, luxurious carpeting, custom bathrooms & kitchen, wood stove, cathedral ceilings, extra RV garage, and central vac. More info & pictures: www.countrylivingparadise.com or 530-547-1148 / 530-440-4898. Adventure Travel. Contact: Susan Har- Send this in the details. See vacationrentals.com #67406 for more information. Contact us for very affordable special rates through the website or call us direct. Patsy & Dale, 808-885-6467. Say you saw this in the Recorder.

Real Estate

AUBURN, WASHINGTON 3-bdrm, full mother-in-law apartment with all appliances. 1 mile from Auburn Adventist Academy and BV elementary. Triple pane vinyl windows, recent furnace and gutters, gas heat, new cedar fence. $295,000. Available immediately or next summer. 253-740-4500.

LUXURIOUS MOUNTAIN HOME near Redding, Calif. Beautiful 4-bdrm + bonus room, 3-baths 3,200 sq. ft. home set on 11.5 acres with full Shasta Mtn views. High-end upgrades include heated hardwood & tile floors, luxurious carpeting, custom bathrooms & kitchen, wood stove, cathedral ceilings, extra RV garage, and central vac. More info & pictures: www.countrylivingparadise.com or 530-547-1148 / 530-440-4898.


NICE VIEW 1.2 acre, 1,700 sq. ft., 3-bdrm, 2-bath, oversize two-car garage, fruit trees, in North Auburn, Calif. Adventist Academy nearby and 12 miles from Wiemar Institute. Recently remodeled kitchen, 31’ by 11’ composite deck, spa, and house water purification system, $449K. Contact 909-452-8886.

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA retirement spot. Beautiful mountain views, 18 acres, 2,008 sq. ft. 3-bdrm, 2-bath, double-wide, pit set. Large sunny kitchen, hardwood cabinets. Master suite. 500 sq. ft. deck, patio, gazebo, barn, stalls, tack room, fruit trees, fenced, cross fenced, greenhouse, irrigation well, excellent water. Elfrida, Ariz. $150,000. Julie or Tim: 928-210-7393.

Reunions

URBANDALE CHURCH, Battle Creek, Michigan, 40th anniversary (May 2-3, 2014) at its present location. We invite former members and friends to help us commemorate. Salad-Sandwich fellowship at its present location. We invite former members and friends to help us commemorate. Salad-Sandwich fellowship. See vrbo.com/62799 or call Mark at 909-800-9841.

SCANDINAVIA/RUSSIA ADVENTURE Cruise 2014. Treat yourself to an adventure with Christian friends. Join Richard & Penny (Pritchard) Clarke on the new Royal Princess round trip out of Copenhagen, Denmark (July 28 - Aug. 8). Contact Penny, an Adventist travel agent, 253-632-3528 or penny@AcquireAdventures.com.

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


KNOWLES, GEORGE E. — b. March 31, 1924, North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; d. Sept. 23, 2013, National City, Calif. Survivors: wife, Elizabeth “Lillian”; brothers, Denis, Allan; sister, Doris Neufeldt. Served as pastor and evangelist in British Columbia and Oregon; hosted his own TV program before serving with George Vanderman as associate speaker for It Is Written; and served as director, Church Ministries, GC; held evangelistic meetings in San Diego.


SANTALAN, FRANZ (FINN) — b. Sept. 9, 1924, Ventura, Calif.; d. Aug. 8, 2013, Escondido, Calif. Survivors: wife, Marjorie; sons, Terry, Scott; daughter, Della Loredo; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren.


SEIBEL, MARVIN MARTIN — b. July 31, 1923, Besseker, Alberta, Canada; d. Aug. 15, 2013, Gladstone, Ore. Survivors: wife, Eva Nelson; son, Doug; daughters, Wendi Williams, Marlene Lovenquist; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren. Served Northern California, Oregon, Central, Hawaiian mission conferences as pastor, teacher, youth director; established the youth camp in Hawaii.


WOOD, ESTHER M. (CATALANO) — b. Dec. 11, 1922, Denver, Colo.; d. Aug. 21, 2013, St. Helena, Calif. Survivors: sons, James, Jeffrey, Jonathan; granddaughter, Janice; six great-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Taught elementary school for 28 years in Lodi, Ukiah and Santa Rosa.

YONKER JR., ROY DAVID — b. Aug. 24, 1937, Auburn, Calif.; d. Aug. 28, 2013, Redding, Calif. Survivors: wife, Janice; sons, David, Ralph, Timothy; stepsons, Rockland, Gregory, Travis; daughters, Lucinda Fleckner, Melinda Marks; stepdaughter, Jana Wright; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; brother, Fred. Served at Rio Lindo, Bakersfield, and Napa Junior academies.

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Advertisements is accepted as a service to Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the Pacific Union. The Recorder management reserves the right to refuse any advertisement, especially ads not related to the needs and practices of the Church membership. Acceptance of any advertising shall be considered a matter of accommodation and not a matter of right, nor shall it be construed to constitute approval of the product or service advertised.

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Classified Rates — $55 for 50 words; 65 cents each additional word.

Display Rates (Full Color Only) — Back cover, $3,950; full page, $3,650; 1/2- pg., $3,120; 1/4-pg., $3,140; 1/8 pg., $575, $335 per column inch.

Information — Circulation is approximately 76,000 homes, and magazines are scheduled to arrive in homes by the last Thursday of the previous month. For more information about advertising, please click on the Advertising tab at www.pachurchnews.com or call 805-413-7280.

Deadlines —
December: October 29, 2013
January: November 26, 2013
Name: Sterling Spence

Hometown: Benicia, California

Major: Business & Religious Studies

Highlights: Presidential Scholar, Student Missionary

Passion: Combining an interest for music with his entrepreneurial spirit, Sterling and his friends formed a band, sharing their music across the United States to bring people together. And the business plan they developed as students in the Zapara School of Business at La Sierra University calls for 100% of the tour’s proceeds to be donated to a medical mission outreach that provides special medical care and teaches vital wellness classes in Micronesia.