HAWAII
Summer Camp
TRANSFORMS LIVES

... page 14
“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”
— Exodus 20:8

CONTENTS:

20 Adventist Health
26-32 Advertising
19 Arizona
4-5 Central California
21 Church State Council
15-18 Conference Newsletters
14 Hawaii
23 La Sierra University
24-25 Loma Linda
12-13 Nevada-Utah
8-9 Northern California
22 Pacific Union College
10-11 Southeastern California
6-7 Southern California

SUNSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9/5</th>
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<th>9/19</th>
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about the cover
Hawaii Camp Counselor April Cook takes a ride on the giant swing at Camp Waianae. Hawaii Conference offered four weeks of summer camps this season, including one on the Big Island. As a result, more than 40 kids decided to be baptized and many others requested Bible studies.

PHOTO BY PONO LOPEZ

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Postal Regs: The Pacific Union Recorder (ISSN 0744-6381), Volume 114, Number 9, is the official journal of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and is published monthly. The Recorder is a monthly publication reaching approximately 76,000 Seventh-day Adventist homes in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah. Our mission is to inform, educate and inspire our readers to action in all areas of ministry.

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To Walk in the Light

T
time magazine reports that 1.5 billion people on earth do not have electricity. When the sun sets, their only source of light is a fire. No refrigerated food, no way to keep medicine from spoiling, and schools with no computers. I know that I am unhappy when the power goes off for even a few minutes. A call is swiftly made to the power company.

Today, billions of people live without the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every day, they raise families, toil at their jobs, and listen to the messages of this fallen world without the wonderful hope and meaning that comes from a heavenly Father who loves them and a Savior who purchased their eternal future.

Our mission is sharing God’s light with this spiritually dark world. How is the work progressing?

An assessment can be discouraging at first. While we are grateful for every person who chooses to follow Christ, it may appear that we are falling behind. Our church expends hundreds of millions of dollars each year in global missionary efforts resulting in many new members. For that, we should give praise to the Lord. But the sobering reality is that our world’s population grows exponentially faster. At the close of this day, there will be 360,000 babies born on our planet. That’s more than the entire membership of the Pacific Union.

It gives me joy today to remind you that hope for a finished work and direction in how to accomplish the task springs from Jesus’ ministry. From dozens of Gospel examples let us choose the wonderful story of the blind man’s healing in John 9: “As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. . . he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ‘Go,’ he told him, ‘Wash in the Pool of Siloam.’ So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.”

Take time to read the whole account in John 9 and rediscover the many unique elements — Jesus using a mud poultice, the persistent argument the healed man has with the Pharisees, why his parents fear admitting that their son was once blind, and the man’s remarkable courage in responding to his interrogators’ accusations about Jesus: “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see!” What a testimony! Light from darkness is a recurring theme in John’s Gospel and his first letter. What a wonderful reminder he gives us, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

But the newly healed man knows nothing about his divine benefactor. This is remedied in due course by a visit from Jesus who inquires, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him (John 9:35-38). We can’t miss how Jesus’ loving actions softened this man’s heart to embrace the truth about God when given the opportunity.

How shall we apply this story to our current mission challenge? I believe that Ellen White — who spent her lifetime prayerfully examining the life of Jesus — highlights the binding tie. With her inspired pen she succinctly describes a Christologically-focused strategy that is profound in its simplicity yet priceless in its potentiality when applied: “The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. THEN He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

“Meet the Master.”

Executive Secretary’s Perspective

September 2014
Anticipation filled the air as a pre-meeting praise and prayer session held in a corner of the foyer came to an end and the Operation Blueprint (OB) team took their places as greeters and registration assistants. “This is the first time I can remember that all the city churches have gotten together for an evangelistic project,” shared a long-time San Francisco church member on opening night.

As a part of Central California Conference’s Bridges: Bay Area for Jesus initiative, the Operation Blueprint evangelistic series debuted on May 9 after careful and prayerful planning. “I so enjoyed the fellowship in prayer and evangelistic activities with my inner-city colleagues,” reports Pastor Pablo Maldonado, who serves in the San Francisco Latin American and Voice of Hope churches. “The team spirit in doing follow-up with the community was moving.”

Approximately seven years ago, members from various San Francisco churches began to faithfully gather on Sunday mornings to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit over themselves and their city. They had big dreams for reaching the residents of the city and, during early those years, executed several community health outreach projects within their diverse communities. Eventually, a large-scale evangelistic series was planned, centered on the unique OB approach developed by Ivor Myers, senior pastor of the Templeton Hills Seventh-day Adventist church. Central California prayer partners, led by prayer ministries director Joyce Mulligan, along with OB prayer partners began praying for the leading of God a year before the event was scheduled for.

Preparation for the series was aided by a team of 22 CROSS-trainers (also known as Bible workers) from all over the world who had responded to a Facebook invitation to become volunteers in San Francisco for one year for the initiative. CCC congregations embraced the volunteers, who were under the leadership of Jesica Minton, a CROSStrainer coordinator with a passion to impact the city of San Francisco. Together they knocked on doors, took surveys, gave messages, gave Bible studies, prayed with anyone willing to be prayed for. CROSStrainers inspired, encouraged, and trained church members to impact their respective communities for Christ.

In the weeks leading up to opening night, another phone prayer line was added to the other existing four daily sessions intended to blanket San Francisco with prayer. Additionally, for seven days before the series began at the Marines’ Memorial Theater — one block from Union Square — the OB prayer team marched around the long blocks surrounding the venue in praise and prayer. The faith walks were dubbed the “The Jericho Praise Walks,” patterned after Joshua 6.

With only days left, prayer became more specific. San Francisco Tabernacle member Colleen Polite, prayed that God would resurrect flyers that had been thrown away. “It was later discovered that a man named Jeremiah Kaylor had picked up an OB flyer months before but had forgotten about it. As he was visiting a friend’s home, he recognized the OB logo on a flyer that was sitting at the top of his friend’s garbage. Two hours later, Kaylor was sitting inside the Marines’ Memorial Theater listening to the third angel’s message being preached,” reported Melissa Miranda, phone prayer line coordinator.

As the series began, many shared how they came to attend. Preston Prithard, a man in his 70s, received an OB handbill in the mail and
came to hear the messages. “I have not been moved like this since I heard Billy Graham preach,” reported the Bay Area resident. He [Myers] makes it very clear. I had read about the earthly tabernacle in the Bible before, but now I understand it.” After attending the 17 meetings, Prithard joined the San Francisco Rainbow Seventh-day Adventist church through baptism.

A CROSStrainer named Sibusiso Masuku from South Africa shared his experience. Masuku had knocked on the door of a resident named Kristina Kleinahiens several times and persistently invited her to the OB meetings, even one week after they had begun. “I had never gotten so much resistance from my friends who had never been so intense about convincing me not to do something in my life,” said Kleinahiens. “They kept telling me I would be crazy to get in a car with a stranger for some meeting I knew nothing about. But I just knew there must be something good about these meetings.”

Eventually Kleinahiens ran out of excuses and found herself sitting in the back row on the seventh night of the series. When Myers shared his own discovery that Sunday was not the Sabbath taught in Scriptures, a loud “No way!” escaped from Kleinahiens’ lips and filled the theater. The hesitant attendee became so convicted on the subject that the following day, during a job interview, she requested that she be given from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday off so that she could begin to keep the biblical Sabbath. After attending the rest of the meetings and some additional studies with Pastor Gerry Ebora of the San Francisco Filipino Tabernacle churches, Kleinahiens was baptized with her three teenage children and a close friend.

The stories continued to emerge. A San Francisco resident named Tina was on the bus one Sunday when she saw an OB ad. She began praying that God would provide a way for her to attend. Two days later, she saw an image of dots being connected and was impressed with the words “connect the dots.” A few hours later, attending her own local church, she heard her pastor mention the same phrase. That afternoon, a friend invited her over for lunch and pulled out an OB flyer. Tina “connected the dots” and came to the meetings.

A Gilroy resident named Maria Hogan heard a radio ad for the OB prophecy seminars and drove 80 miles into the city to attend. Despite the inconvenient commute, she was able to attend every meeting. When Hogan arrived at the Gilroy Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath, May 31, with her tithe and offerings in hand, the Gilroy church members assumed she was a long-time Adventist. Members were surprised that Hogan had never heard of the Adventist church prior to the OB meetings, and was going to be baptized that evening by Myers. “I have never seen a more joy-filled person in my life,” reported Gilbert Garcia, Gilroy church pastor. “She is so excited about the Adventist truth she has embraced that she has already brought a friend to church who is attending every week with Maria.”

In addition to reaching out to Bay Area residents, the series catalyzed local Adventist churches and their members. “We are so thankful to Central California Conference for remembering us here in San Francisco and sending us our dedicated CROSStrainers who helped us prepare and supported us in this city-wide Operation Blueprint evangelistic series,” said an emotional Florencia Va’ili, youth leader, and Stephen Va’illi, Pathfinder leader, from San Francisco Samoan church. “We had been praying for years that God would send us some help to arouse our own Adventist kids growing up in this city. We have prayed that our youth would not just remain in the church, but that they would be revived spiritually; and that’s exactly what we saw happen.”

“The Operation Blueprint evangelistic series allowed pastors and laity to prayerfully unite to bring Jesus to the city of San Francisco,” shared Dr. Ivory Roberts-Clarke, senior pastor of San Francisco Philadelphia church. “It was amazing to be a part of this concerted effort to fulfill our divine mission to win souls for Christ. Working as a team increased our camaraderie and intentionality as we bore witness to the abundant blessings of the Lord.”

“Operation Blueprint turned the soil over for Jesus in San Francisco, which brought life to new and dormant seed alike. The seedlings are now sprouting for the kingdom,” said Ramiro Cano, Central California Conference president. “I praise God for all the spiritual victories won as San Francisco pastors, laity and volunteers came together to shed the rays of present truth over the beautiful city of San Francisco,” said Dr. Cesar De Leon, CCC evangelism director. “The spirit of revival and reformation was evident as many long-time Adventists enthusiastically articulated that they had understood even more clearly how all the dots connect between biblical history, prophecy, the three angels’ messages and the biblical sanctuary. We are truly blessed to have been entrusted with the privilege of pointing our perishing world to Jesus’ intercessory work on behalf of all those who accept His atoning sacrifice.”

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Pastor Manusao Mauia of the South San Francisco Samoan church conducts baptisms following Operation Blueprint.
Prayer Team Leads Prayer Initiative for Administrators, Pastors

The SCC prayer, spirituality, and renewal team began to sense a call to pray with our leadership and to bless and nurture our pastors,” said Janet Lui, coordinator. “We simply prayed and the door opened for us to pray with SCC administrators on the third Thursday each month. Our expectation is high that if we provide the environment and opportunity, God will supply the blessing with His leading, anointing and presence.”

“After we had had the prayer initiative for one month,” he continued, “I discovered that we could cover the issues before us and we had time. Even when we had differences of opinion, we were leaving the meeting more in agreement. We still don’t all view issues in the same way; we have our own perspectives, but we find middle ground for issues and challenges.”

Quarterly prayer sessions for pastors are part of the initiative. At the second quarterly pastors’ prayer meeting in 2014, “Pastors Seeking God for Unity,” about 30 pastors and some family members gathered in the Altadena church for just over two hours of music, devotionals, praying together and sharing personal stories in small groups. Focused on John 17, the session was a call for pastors to pray for their families, for each other and for their churches.

Though many had not been able to attend because of church commitments, those who came had sensed their particular need to be there. “Every opportunity to meet with God is a privilege and a time for growth,” reflected Gerard Kiemeny, L.A. Metro Region director.

One pastor shared a dramatic encounter that had sent him to his knees in gratitude. “I have seen God in the ‘burning bush!’” Altadena Pastor Richardson Honore exclaimed. “Fire was right at my house. I saw the flames going up the outside wall, yet our house did not have one ash on it. God did that.”

During a prayer time, Honore reminded his fellow pastors of their shared need for prayer. “How can our people be led to be filled with the Spirit if He is not in us?” he asked. “If Jesus, who is 100 percent God, found it necessary to depend on prayer, how much more should I lean on the Father? That is exactly what we must do to be united with God. It may not be so simple, but we can learn from one another.”

Some pastors affirmed Jesus as their provider, standard, friend and boss. When Guillermo Garcia, pastor of the San Fernando Spanish church, called for prayer requests, he shared a new name for Him. “Since I have had grandchildren,” he said, “I would do anything for my grandchild, and God is willing to do anything for us. We need to call God ‘Grampa.’”

The next pastors’ prayer service is being planned for October, the date to be announced.

Betty Cooney
Pathfinders Engage in Creative Fundraising and Pin Design for Oshkosh Camporee

A virtual beehive of activities have been underway in the last five years in some Southern California Conference churches, as Pathfinder leaders from some 60 clubs have engaged in creative ways to raise money for their trips to the international camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. With the recession that has impacted the entire country, dedicated fundraising has been needed more than ever in order that the trip to Oshkosh could become a reality for SCC young people.

The Van Nuys Spanish Pathfinders, directed by Aracely Mendez, washed cars behind a gas station and raised $3,000. For the last three years, club members sold food almost every Saturday evening to the church members participating in events. They sold tickets to their “Cena de Gala” (formal dinner) and to a concert, where food was sold.

Setaleki Fehoko, director of the Hawthorne Pathfinders, and his assistants David and Liz Valele, worked with a church member to purchase the contents of storage units which they then sold at a yard sale held in front of their church a half dozen times. They conducted a homecoming concert for surrounding churches, highlighting music from Hawthorne members along with musical groups from other churches.

Lucy Yunileva Pulini, a parent of L.A. Tongan Pathfinders, started a GoFundMe page through Facebook and raised money for the club’s transportation costs online.

Glendale Spanish Pathfinders raised $5,000 by conducting monthly yard sales. Pathfinder Angel Vasquez raised $500 by telling guests coming to his birthday party that he preferred cash gifts that he could put toward the cost of his Oshkosh trip.

One lady in the Glendale Spanish church conducted a contest and had young people submit essays telling why they wanted to go to Oshkosh. Three girls were selected as winners, each winning $100 toward their travel expenses. “Every person that I’ve talked to about Oshkosh who went five years ago,” wrote Alessandra Ramos in her essay, “says that it gives a once-in-a-lifetime perspective and that you would never forget your experience there. You get to travel with your church, visit new places, make friends and learn more about God. I would really enjoy it!”

One expense and preparation activity for the Camporee is pin-making. For the 2014 camporee, SCC clubs created five mini sets of pins, which they exchanged with other club members from around North America and the world. An additional six clubs created their own set or pin, making a total of 44 pins.

The interest in trading pins has escalated since SCC clubs attended their first camporee in Oshkosh 15 years ago. Purchasing pins for a club to trade costs money, in addition to raising the money for flying or driving to Oshkosh or the camporee fee and in addition to the cost of shipping any heavy gear and food needed to feed a club for a week or more.

Why have leaders encouraged pin trading? “It creates a reason for Pathfinders to stop and talk to everyone they meet,” said Steve Clement, SCC teen leadership coordinator. “Do you have any pins to trade? quickly becomes, ‘Where are you from?’ and ‘Wow! You are from Hong Kong!’

Two Oshkosh pin design finalists receive their award certificate for creating a winning pin design. (L. to r.) Steve Clement, Kiara Yamada, Crystal Yeap, and Bob Wong. SCC youth ministry director. The third winner (not shown) was Jóssua Albertsson.
LIVING IN EXPECTATION of His Coming

Friday, October 10, 2014 • 7 p.m.
Stockton Mayfair SDA Church • 6940 North El Dorado Street, Stockton 95207

Sabbath, October 11, 2014 • 8 a.m.
Lunch will be provided. The ordination service will immediately follow lunch, with the quiz-a-rama afterward.
Stockton Christian Life Center • 9025 West Lane, Stockton 95210

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Dr. Jesse Wilson
Associate Professor of Religion, Oakwood University, and Director of the Pastoral Evangelism and Leadership Conference

Youth Speaker
Edwin M. McBride, Jr
Pastor of the Miramonte Blvd. church and Prayer Coordinator for the Greater Los Angeles Area

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Northern California Conference

Hilltop Christian School Sends Bibles to Ebeye

Last school year, students at Hilltop Christian School in Antioch sent more than 150 Bibles to students in Ebeye, one of the Marshall Islands. The kids learned of the need for Bibles from former Hilltop student Robell Nyirendah, a student missionary teaching at an Adventist school in Ebeye.

Hilltop’s fifth and sixth grade students with their teacher, Tonya Greenwood, were learning about the Marshall Islands as part of an international studies class, and Greenwood was staying in touch with Nyirendah via Facebook. One comment he made in early January about his high school students hit her hard: “We have no Bibles for our 71 students,” he wrote. “We only have two King James Bibles, which are hard for them to understand. Our students need Bibles.”

Greenwood immediately called her school’s teaching principal, Carolyn Kearbey, and asked what they could do. Working together, the two educators found a company, Biblia Direct (formerly known as the International Bible Society), which could sell them New Living Translation Bibles for a reasonable cost and ship them all for less than $100. The Bibles would be in cases of 26 books, so the women knew they needed at least three cases. They told Biblia Direct to go ahead and ship the Bibles. Kearbey used the school account — with her finance officer’s approval — to cover the cost ($216 per case), plus shipping.

During a Friday chapel period, Kearbey and Greenwood told the Hilltop students about the need for Bibles at a sister school in the Marshall Islands and invited them to donate $9 for each book. Next they spoke to parents of the students at a Friday night vespers. Then they talked to the Antioch church about the opportunity to help.

People immediately began bringing in money to help pay for five to 10 Bibles at a time. One family paid for an entire case. Students refused to let their parents pay because they wanted to give their own allowances to help. It was soon clear that more money was coming in than was needed to pay for the Bibles being shipped. Greenwood got in touch with Nyirendah again, and he told her about the 88 students in the junior high that also had no Bibles. The women immediately contacted Biblia Direct again and ordered more cases. The money continued to pour in until the Bibles were all paid for in mid-February.

Hilltop students were excited to know they were making a difference in the lives of other kids. “It was great that we were able to give Bibles to students around the world in Ebeye!” said Tessa Cornell, who was an eighth-grader at Hilltop last school year. Then-fifth-grader Daniel Coker agreed. “I think this is the coolest thing we have ever done,” he said.

The shipped Bibles finally arrived in Ebeye in mid-March. A great celebration took place as each student in the Adventist junior high and high school received his or her own personal Bible.

Carolyn Kearbey

Junior high and high school students at an Adventist school in Ebeye celebrate because they each have a new Bible.

Marshallese young people can easily understand the New Living Translation of the Bible.
The Southeastern California Conference black ministries department, under the leadership of George King, vice president, hosted the 2014 camp meeting at the Riverside Convention Center June 25-28. The theme for this year’s event was “Armor Up,” referring to the passage in Ephesians 6:11 tasking Christians to put on the armor of God.

The camp meeting included not only speakers for each of the evening and weekend services, but also a series of health related workshops. Topics included hypertension and obesity, disabilities and technology, men’s health, and balancing family life and ministry.

Guest speaker for the weekend was Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of the First Church in Huntsville, Ala. He talked about the three Hebrews who did not bow down to the statue built by King Nebuchadnezzar and challenged today’s Christians not to follow along with the ways of this world, but to trust in the power of God to help them overcome the pressures of life.

Other speakers included Dily Brooks, associate campus chaplain at Loma Linda University; Michael Mupfawa, district pastor of the Imani Praise Fellowship and Moreno Valley churches; and Michael Kelly, senior pastor of the Mt. Rubidoux church.

Additionally, medical professionals offered different health screenings each day. On Wednesday, the IntegralLife Health and Trauma Institute conducted mental health screenings. On Thursday, Loma Linda University’s Department of Pediatrics screened children’s health. And on Friday, the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry conducted dental screenings.

During the weekend, a LifeStream trailer was parked outside the convention center for a blood and bone marrow drive. Participants were encouraged to donate blood or be tested for possible bone marrow donations.

Each night, one of the invited speakers preached a sermon. On Sabbath, two services were conducted in the morning, and the day was capped off by an ordination service for two pastors. Conference officials were present throughout the day.

Youth attended programs specifically planned for them. On Wednesday, youth went to The Cove waterpark in Riverside, and on Friday, they cleaned up a local park.

Edwin McBride Jr., pastor of the Miramonte Boulevard church in Los Angeles, led a youth service each night. After the conclusion of the ordination service, the youth met for a social at the Riverside Community church.

Children also had special programming. They learned about the different aspects of the armor of God, with stories and crafts to keep them engaged.

Planning for the event began last September. The 2013 camp meeting was held at the Drayson Center in Loma Linda, but this year’s took place in the newly redesigned Riverside Convention Center.

“It is an outstanding facility, and my staff this year was very good — friendly and loving,” said Ray Williams, who has been coordinating and planning camp meetings for more than 20 years. “We wanted visitors to feel welcomed and to know that we were pleased when they got here.”
Andrew Adams, who was in charge of the sound logistics, has also been working at the camp meetings for more than 20 years. He remembers when camp meetings started under a tent in La Sierra. Now planners have to find a place big enough for well over 3,000 people to attend on Sabbath. Thanks to good planning, everything went smoothly. Feedback from people who attended indicated that the Sabbath lunch was among one of the best vegetarian meals they had ever tasted and that this was one of the most successful camp meetings in many years.

“The only complaint I really had is that it ended too soon,” said Adams.

Adoration, Ordination and Praise Service

On Sabbath afternoon, the two ordination candidates took the stage in the convention center with the support of more than 2,000 witnesses. To be ordained were Marc Raphael Sr., pastor for children and youth at the Mt. Rubidoux church; and Delroy Brooks, senior pastor of the Fontana-Juniper Avenue church.

After several musical selections and the introduction of the candidates, Sandra Roberts, conference president, and Ernest Furness, conference ministerial secretary, affirmed their ordination, and the two candidates accepted.

Delroy Brooks

With more than 16 years of youth ministry experience, Brooks has become a known speaker and workshop presenter. He holds a doctoral degree in missiology from Fuller Theological Seminary and a master’s degree in youth ministry from Andrews University. He has received an Excellence in Youth Ministry Award from the Council of Youth Ministry Educators.

He has been married to Dilsy for the past 17 years. They have two children, Micah, 8, and Matea, 6.

“The ordination meant a great deal to me,” said Brooks, “in that it is a confirmation of something that I was aware that God has been doing in my life. It is great to know there on stage that so many people are there to support you, and to confirm that they, as well as the leaders, all believe that God is leading you.”

Marc Raphael Sr.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Marc Raphael Sr. graduated from Lynwood High School and attended the University of California. However, after accepting a call to ministry, he enrolled in Pacific Union College and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology, and is currently completing a master’s in theological studies from La Sierra University.

He served as pastor for eight years at the High Desert church in Hesperia. During that time, he also taught full-time for seven years in the public school system and one year in the Adventist school system.

In 2005, Raphael accepted a call to pastor Imani Praise Fellowship. In 2009, he moved to the Mt. Rubidoux church to be an associate pastor.

Raphael and his wife, Rhonda, have six children: Chris, Patric, Marc, Maya, Micah and Zion. They also have three grandchildren: Justus, Chris II and Anaiah.

Delroy Brooks, pastor of the Fontana-Juniper church, shares with the congregation his faith journey of growing closer to God and how he became a pastor.
Riverview Christian Academy hosted Flintknapper Bill Burleigh for a special presentation Friday, April 4. Flintknapping is the process of chipping away material from special silica-based stones to produce sharp points or tools and even art.

Students from Susanville Christian Adventist School, Fallon Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, and several public and homeschool students attended the event.

Burleigh is a Cree Indian from the Dakotas. He has a large collection of arrowheads that he has found over the years. “I loved how he taught us how to make them,” said Cole Chilson, a third-grader at RCA.

Along with the arrowheads, he has a collection of many other artifacts, some he made and others he collected. “My favorite artifact was the snow glasses,” says Gabriel Romero, fourth-grader at RCA. “I found it interesting that they kept you from getting snow blind.”

Some of the most decorative were the clothing items. Students were fascinated with his raccoon hat.

Burleigh also brought a 14-foot tall teepee, which the visitors toured. “The most interesting thing I learned was that you can build it from the ground,” said Rachel, a sixth-grader.

After the talk, the children made necklaces out of beads and noodles. Because of the positive feedback about the event, the three schools are planning another event for next year.

Stacy Maxted
Elko Gold Boom Sparks Church Growth

T
he economy of Elko, Nev., relies heavily upon gold mining, with ranching and tourism providing additional jobs. The city is considered the capital of Nevada’s gold belt. The state of Nevada produces more gold, most of which is mined near Elko, than all but four countries in the world. It has the leading gold producing mines in the country. The renewed interest in gold mining in the area has caused the town to experience a booming economy with hundreds of families moving in from all over the country and the world.

This past year, the local Seventh-day Adventist church has welcomed a handful of Adventist families who have moved to the area, and ministries and services are expanding as a result. A Pathfinder Club began last January, and Pastor Angel Leon is considering starting a Spanish group for the new Hispanic families.

Several members of a local Hispanic Evangelical group have been doing Amazing Facts Bible studies online. They have begun keeping the Sabbath as they understand it, and their relationship with the Adventist church is developing.

Pastor Leon and members of the Elko church also help with the local jail ministry, leading worship services every Sunday evening since 2011. This past July, Pastor David Solomon Hall Sr., Nevada-Utah Conference youth/church ministries director, led a special week of prayer for the church and community. Because of its remote location, few well-known speakers come through. “So thankful for the blessing of hearing Pastor David preach this Sabbath,” said member Heidi Delbridge. “His passion for the Lord is absolutely contagious.”

One of the non-member attendees was a truck driver coming from Las Vegas. Elko was never a stop for his travels, but on this occasion, his truck broke down nearby. Mechanic Norman Carbury, an Elko church member, invited him to the meetings. The man didn’t miss a single meeting, and even stayed Sabbath afternoon to fellowship with the members. Once he returned to Las Vegas, Pastor Don McLeod of the Las Vegas New Life SDA Church contacted him, so he could have a church family there when he is home.

Another visitor sent this text: “Thank you for an amazing evening with Pastor David. His message was right on point, and I love his honesty and humility as a pastor. He really does know how to affect lives. I had a great time listening to his wisdom of the Scriptures. And, like he said, I am going to allow God to ‘sweep my house.’ God bless you and Pastor Angel for also doing an awesome job in spreading the word.”

One baptism is pending as a result of the series.

Members of the Elko church are excited about the recent growth and are considering plans to update and increase the size of their sanctuary and fellowship hall to accommodate the larger membership.
This summer, the Hawaii Conference youth department reached out to the youth of Hawaii with another season of summer camp ministry. The theme was “Transformed,” which focused on Romans 12:2: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

A total of four weeks were offered, aimed at different age groups and interests. The Big Island hosted a week June 22-29. Geared for ages 13 and up, Camp H50 gave youth a chance to serve and snorkel. Each day began with a 5 a.m. wake-up call for a dawn surf or snorkel session. Then, for a few hours each day, campers dedicated themselves to community service projects — helping schools, visiting the sick, cleaning the environment, and aiding anyone in need of God’s love. Each night, staff shared testimonies about how God had transformed their lives and asked campers to let God do the same in theirs.

On Oahu, Camp Waianae hosted three, week-long camp sessions from July 6-25. Days were filled with surfing, stand up paddling, ropes, pine cars, movie making, archery, paintball, boxcar racing, a visit to the waterpark and worship. The new outdoor “Tree Chapel” made it possible to have a full-featured experience with music, media, drama and dynamic messages.

Pastors Beverly Maravilla and Elden Ramirez provided the inspirational messages. Maravilla shared each night how the same God who transformed the lives of Moses, David, and a woman at a well, wants to transform His people now. Ramirez and his daughters provided music.

Working at summer camp is a great way for Adventist college students to earn funds for school and grow in their walk with the Lord. Through their summer camp experience, many staff experience spiritual renewal, as well. “I grew in my discipleship with Jesus from volunteering, to camp counselor, to assistant camp director, and on to volunteering again as worship coordinator,” said Pono Lopez.

This summer season involved four weeks, 20 staff, 12 volunteers, four pastors, 150 campers, 3,450 meals, 600 glow sticks, 1,500 water balloons and 36,000 paint balls. More than 40 kids decided to be baptized, once again highlighting the value of summer camp ministry. Many campers asked for Bible studies, which will be followed up by a volunteer youth worker.

Jesse Seibel

PHOTOS BY PONO LOPEZ
"If Not Me, Who?"

central california officers’ perspective

THE PASSENGER SETTLING HERSELF IN the seat next to me, took an apple, some almonds, and carrot sticks from her bag.

"That looks like healthy food," I said, smiling at the young woman.

"I don’t find airplane food all that healthy," she responded, "so I bring my own snack. This should hold me until we reach Tokyo in seven hours or so."

"You must be a member of the 120 Club," I said.

"The what?" she asked, her eyebrows lifting.

"The 120 Club," I repeated. "You know, people who are living a longevity lifestyle with the goal of living to be 120 years old, if not more."

“Oh my goodness," she said. "I’d love to be a member of that club! I teach in a community where the life-expectancy is half that. There are few health resources and a dearth of plant foods. We have to drive great distances to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. Most of my students arrive at school having not eaten any breakfast, and their lunch often consists of fast-food and soda." She paused for a breath and then asked, "What do you do?"

I explained that as Vice President for Ministries, one of my responsibilities

Continued on page 3 >>
Reconstituting Greenbacks
message from the president

I am constantly amazed and grateful to our Lord for the faithfulness of His people in so many vivid and wonderful ways. God’s church is sustained through the mighty power of Jesus and the people He nudge to volunteer invaluable hours of service, to give of their resources sacrificially and consistently, which in turn are used to share the gospel with the lost in many different ways.

Consider this. Money is sometimes acquired through an inheritance, and sometimes comes our way as a gift. However, the usual means by which financial resources are acquired is by working our 10, 20, 30, 40+ hours per week. In general, we work one hour and, in exchange, are given an hourly wage. In other words, the expenditure of life, when applied to a job, creates money. Those resources can then be exchanged for goods and services.

Logically speaking then, we expend life itself to acquire goods and services. Once that life is expended, it cannot be reclaimed—one hour of our life expended is an hour gone. Or is it? Is there perhaps a way to reconstitute those financial resources that we’ve acquired with our life, back into life itself? I believe so.

I suggest that one of the most effective ways of resurrecting financial resources is by returning our tithe, by committing offerings towards the needs of our local churches, as well as toward evangelism, capital campaign, education, etc. You see, those dollars will be used to birth new souls for the kingdom. Those greenbacks will take the form of many different ministries that will ultimately lead others to the foot of the cross and into a life-giving relationship with Jesus. Those once dead in sin, will experience the new and abundant life promised by God Himself. Thus the donated dollar in a way becomes a living and breathing organism.

And so I say, let’s reconstitute those greenbacks into lives that will count for eternity. As we join together in prayer, in ministry and giving, much like our Adventist pioneers, you and I have the privilege of carrying the torch forward that has been passed on to us.

Jesus reminds us that God so loved the world that He gave.1 What a tremendous example for us to follow. With gratefulness to our Lord and to our Central family members, I call us once again to the altar of faithfulness. I challenge all of us to daily embrace God’s priority of reaching our world at this juncture in earth’s history, and to do all within our power and resources to speak life into our homes, and our communities. What a privilege to join our Lord in this grand work of the ages!

Yes, paper money can, in God’s plan, be reconstituted into new life. In the end, paper will burn, but life in Christ will live for eternity. As we reflect on this challenge, consider with me the powerful chorus lyrics of a song entitled “Thank You,” by artist Ray Boltz.

Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave.

1John 3:16

Ramiro Cano
President, Central California Conference
is health promotion for a conference of over 125 churches. One of my tasks involves conducting wellness seminars, providing appropriate educational materials, and motivating churches to develop and promote health among their own members as well as those in their communities.

"But you’re only one person!" she exclaimed. "What can one person do?"

"Christ was only one person," I replied, "and when He was asked if He was the one who would come and help them or should they look for another, (Matthew 11.) His response was to simply begin helping people. Christ is my model and even though I am only one, I can do something to help others. I ask myself, ‘If not me, who?’ I know that individually I cannot do everything but I absolutely can do something.”

"Hmm-m-m," she murmured, taking a bite of her apple. "Suppose I was a member of one of your churches. Suppose I asked you, ‘What could I possibly do to improve the health of my community? What would you say?’"

"Any number of things," I responded. "Here are some ideas for you to think about. If access to fresh vegetables is a challenge, start a community garden. There may be people who would love to partner with you in this project. And if you can get your students involved in planting, tending, and harvesting food, they will likely be motivated to eat it."

"I never thought of doing that," she pondered. "I would be able to eat from that garden myself. What else?"

"You might partner with medical professionals in the community to provide some basic health education talks for students, parents, and teachers. Topics could be as simple as basic hygiene: brush your teeth and wash your hands. They could include environmental hygiene: take garbage out of the house and put it in a covered trash container to reduce rodent infestations."

We chatted about a few more ideas while she finished her snack and then she opened a book to read.

I settled down for a nap thinking about our conversation. I realized that today, the same question is still being asked: ‘Are you the one to come and help us?’ People everywhere are looking for help. Christ explained that people would know His disciples by seeing them manifest caring, compassionate, and practical expressions of genuine help.

What would that look like in today’s world? When people are hungry, we feed them. When people are thirsty, we give them water to drink. When people are in prison, we write encouraging letters or visit. When people are victims of a major disaster, we assist them in recovering and rebuilding their lives—whatever is most needed at the time. We accept people as they are, where they are just as Christ did. This love is not some periodic outburst of momentary goodwill. It is a lifestyle that manifests a balanced approach to the difference people can make by using the talents and resources that have been entrusted to them by their Creator.

Medical missionary work has been called the right arm of the gospel and is one of the avenues we can use to be the help that Christ said to pray for in Matthew 9. “The harvest is ripe, the laborers are few; pray that the Lord of the harvest will send help.” We are the help. With Isaiah, let us respond: “Here am I. Send me. I am the help!” (Isaiah 6:8) “After all, if not me, who?”

Steve Horton
Vice President for Ministries, Central California Conference

“Christ is my model and even though I am only one, I can do something to help others. I ask myself, ‘If not me, who?’"
What a tremendous camp meeting season 2014 was! Inspiring speakers, memorable music, relevant children’s, youth and young adult experiences, and stories of transformation that are worthy of being told and retold.

If you weren’t able to attend this year, I’d like to point you to a couple of helpful resources. First, we’ll be publishing a multi-page article about camp meeting in the October issue of the Pacific Union Recorder. It’ll be hard to fit it all in, but we’ll give it our best shot! In addition, pictures of this year’s camp meeting will be posted on the Central California Conference Facebook page (Facebook.com/cccsda). Be sure to “Like” both the page and the pictures and share them with your friends and family. Finally, all the messages presented in the main auditorium at the Soquel Conference Center will be available online shortly at ccc.adventist.org/campmeeting.

On a similar note, as we prepared for camp meeting programming, I was impressed with how many stories of memorable ministry projects, divine appointments and transformed lives exist and are taking place daily throughout Central California. I also realized how many stories we did not tell; how many stories never have the chance to inspire someone else to take courage or to respond to the calling in their lives. This year, we hope to tell more inspiring stories from around Central, using multiple vehicles of communication, including social media, print and video. There’s only one challenge: we need to know what those stories are before we can tell them. Take a moment today and tell your story or give us a heads up about a compelling story you’ve heard about at ccc.adventist.org/MyStory.

Costin Jordache
Vice President for Communication, Central California Conference

SHARE YOUR STORIES
of memorable ministry projects,
divine appointments and transformed lives that are taking place daily throughout Central California at ccc.adventist.org/MyStory.
Benjamin Lundquist has a big dream — to reach, love, reclaim and retain young adults for Jesus.

His excitement for ministry was born during a student missionary project that took him to the South Pacific for a year.

“I experienced first-hand the devil trying to take my life,” he recalls vividly. “I saw the power of Jesus prevail as He saved me after a 50-foot fall to a pile of rocks. As a young adult I knew with confidence God had an incredible plan and purpose for my life. I returned to Southern Adventist University and began my studies to be a minister of the gospel.”

In February, Lundquist, young adult ministries director for the Arizona Conference and for the Pacific Union, launched the Millennial Matrix, a comprehensive yearlong pilot program. Over the course of this year, he and his team are partnering with seven Arizona churches, diverse in ethnicity, size and location.

“The term ‘millennial’ refers to the generation of people born between the early 1980s and the early 2000s,” he explains. “A matrix is a situation or set of circumstances in which something else develops or forms. Our purpose is to build local church environments for young adults to develop and grow in Jesus.”

In the autumn of 2013, the North American Division contracted a research project with the Barna Group to study young adult retention in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Findings suggest 60 percent of active Christian young adults ages 18 to 30 are walking away from church after high school graduation — and the majority of them are not coming back.

“We must stop talking about young adults as statistics,” Lundquist exclaims. “These are our sons, daughters, grandchildren and friends.”

During the first six months of the Millennial Matrix project, Lundquist and his team have facilitated an intentional learning journey with local church members, leaders and pastors. This journey included hosting one-day local events, book reading clubs, and monthly video training sessions. Currently strategic planning sessions are taking place at each of the seven churches involved in the Millennial Matrix.

Pastor Charles White says, “Our Young Adults are capable of leadership at a number of levels and are leading in children’s divisions, speaking for church, participating in community outreach projects, and contributing to the focus and mission of the church. Their willingness to use their spiritual gifts and talents for ministry is beneficial for the church, and for them as individuals.”

“Our Adventist millennial generation is proof there is great hope for God’s people,” says church elder and MM supporter Larry Chadwick. “More than any other generation, they long to be mentored by men and women of spiritual maturity. They are not disengaged and simply won’t be led by hypocrisy or playing church. If you show yourself candid and vulnerable, they will listen and learn.”

“The Millennial Matrix is a one-year journey of learning and action,” Lundquist concludes. “If local churches are going to love young adults better, they must recognize there is much to learn about the complexities of today’s young adult generation. When young adults get involved with sharing the gospel, there is no limit to their impact for Jesus.”

To learn more or become involved, visit www.millennialmatrix.com.
Adventist Health Launches New Website and Emphasizes Social Media

Nearly everywhere — at the airport, in line at the grocery store, on the playground, in hospital waiting rooms — nearly everybody is focused on a smart phone or tablet, surfing the web and scrolling their personalized news feeds from a variety of websites and social media. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Pinterest are go-to sources of information in the form of photos, videos, stories and more.

Adventist Health launched its first website in the 1990s. In 2008, it began using social media sites as another opportunity to reach out to patients, volunteers, community members, employees and church members. In July, Adventist Health’s 19 hospitals located in Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii, launched a new systemwide website, which unifies design and functionality for all sites.

The new site features a comprehensive list of physicians, location search, and health library with videos, podcasts, health calculators and more. Visitors to the site will find information that reflects the mission “to share God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.”

“Our website is the virtual front door to our hospitals, clinics and other services that are important to sharing our message of achieving optimal health and wellness,” said Rita Waterman, assistant vice president of corporate marketing and communication. “Our online presence also promotes our church affiliation and provides links to other church resources.”

In addition to the new website, Adventist Health facilities have embraced social media as a real-time communication tool to promote local activities and events, news announcements, health tips, inspirational quotes and scripture. “We appreciate partners such as the North American Division which share our posts on their Facebook pages. This increases our visibility and enables us to reach more people around the world,” said Waterman.

“Social media has proven to be a powerful (and fun!) two-way communication tool for our hospital, allowing us to better engage with our key stakeholders,” adds Whitney Davis, manager of marketing and communications at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles. “That power was most recently revealed when commentary on a John Doe media alert we posted on our Facebook page helped us reunite an unidentified patient with his very concerned family in less than 12 hours.”

Connect with Adventist Health facilities by visiting our new website, liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter.

CARMEN MARTIN

How to Get There

- Adventist Health: www.AdventistHealth.org
- Castle Medical Center: www.AdventistHealth.org/castle
- Central Valley Network: www.AdventistHealth.org/central-valley
- Feather River Hospital: www.AdventistHealth.org/feather-river
- Glendale Adventist Medical Center: www.AdventistHealth.org/glendale
- Howard Memorial Hospital: www.AdventistHealth.org/howard
- St. Helena Hospital Clear Lake: www.AdventistHealth.org/clear-lake
- St. Helena Hospital Napa Valley: www.AdventistHealth.org/napa-valley
- San Joaquin Community Hospital: www.AdventistHealth.org/sjch
- Simi Valley Hospital: www.AdventistHealth.org/simi-valley-hospital
- Sonora Regional Medical Center: www.AdventistHealth.org/sonora-regional
- Ukiah Valley Medical Center: www.AdventistHealth.org/ukiah-valley
- White Memorial Medical Center: www.AdventistHealth.org/white-memorial

The new AdventistHealth.org home page launched in July.
Adventist Job Applicants Face “Sabbath Ceiling” of Epidemic Proportions

A priest, a minister and a rabbi walk into a bar. No, strike that — this is no joke. A Seventh-day Adventist walks into [fill in the blank with the name of any business] and applies for a job. They get called for an interview. As the interview progresses and the managers like the applicant, the question comes up: “Are there any times you are not available to work?” The answer: “I can work any time except from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday.” The most common response: “Sorry, we can’t use you.” The interview ends abruptly.

Fifty years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed employment discrimination, Seventh-day Adventists are still facing these illegal obstacles to employment.

What do Adventists do when they are rejected for jobs because they don’t work on Sabbath? It depends. Many of them just keep looking. Some agree to work on Sabbath, against their better judgment. Very few will ever file charges of religious discrimination.

The Church State Council has established “failure to hire” cases as a top priority. There is a “Sabbath ceiling” for Adventists, who cannot get hired, similar to the “glass ceiling” that has prevented women from obtaining promotions for so long. Many Adventists who are unemployed remain unemployed for months longer than the average applicant, because of their Sabbath observance.

Recently, a part-time bus driver in Los Angeles called, wanting help to become full time. Thanks to a lawsuit filed against the MTA years ago by the U.S. Justice Department, they now have a policy and procedure to accommodate Sabbath-observing bus drivers. Now, we need to expand such transformations to more companies in the private sector.

Among the companies against whom Adventist church members have filed charges in recent months are wireless cell phone carrier AT&T and the large Las Vegas hotel chain, MGM.

Pursuing charges is not easy. But it’s the only way to effect change. The theme for the Church State Council’s 50th anniversary this year has been: “The power to effect change belongs to ordinary people.” If you or someone you know is denied employment because you don’t work on Sabbath, call us. Stand up and be counted.

It’s time to shatter the Sabbath ceiling excluding many Adventists from the job market. The only way to get companies to change their hiring practices is to make them realize that these cases will be filed in court. Be part of the solution, an agent of change.

Alan J. Reinach, Esq.

HOBBY LOBBY: Perception is the Only Reality

The Supreme Court decision regarding Hobby Lobby may be more modest than its critics fear, and it’s actual holding may prove largely irrelevant. Nonetheless, here’s what they said, as well as my take on it:

1. Individuals who form businesses don’t sign away their constitutional rights.
2. Closely held businesses are alter egos of their owners, differently from publicly held corporations.
3. The Greens, owners of Hobby Lobby, had a sincerely held religious belief that certain contraceptives work as abortifacient (drugs that induce abortion/miscarriage), and they cannot conscientiously fund insurance benefits for workers that include these.
4. The Federal Government has set up a system for providing such benefits to those women employed by religious organizations who object to providing these benefits, and the same system can easily be extended to female employees of closely held businesses holding the same religious objection.

So, the Supreme Court applied the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a legal test that protects fundamental rights, and found that upholding the rights of business owners did not require depriving their female employees of access to contraception, so it was the rare case of a “win-win.” Yet the real significance of the case may well lie, not in its actual holding, but in the perception of the case, which has become the reality.

To the religious right, the opinion is a rare oasis of hope in the desert of cultural hostility to religion in general, and religious liberty in particular. To the left, the decision is a harbinger of danger on the horizon, the triumph of corporate rights over individual rights, the triumph of religious wackiness over civil rights and women’s rights.

Both sides are using the case as a political opportunity, spinning it to their advantage. In such a climate, the reality becomes obscured by the perception. The reality is a modest but important win for religious freedom. It is right to recognize that business owners don’t forfeit their rights when they start a business.

The left ignores the Court’s finding that the Feds already have a system in place to provide contraceptive coverage to women whose employers object. Thus, while the left complains about sacrificing the rights of women, the Court didn’t agree that any such sacrifice is necessary. It remains for Congress to make the appropriate adjustments.

But the decision protects a religious belief that most Americans regard as spurious — that certain types of contraception cause abortions and are immoral. The media frenzy surrounding the case only makes religion and religious liberty look bad. It fuels the attitude that God is a myth, and why should the law protect people’s rights to believe what is not real, especially when those beliefs are harmful to the rights of others?

This is the current trend in the legal academy, which increasingly questions whether the law should protect religious freedom at all. In the aftermath of Hobby Lobby, there is a concerted effort to repeal the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. This would be an unmitigated disaster, and is being closely monitored.
Henderson Joins PUC as Campus Chaplain

Pacific Union College and the PUC church welcome Pastor Jonathan Henderson to his new position as Pacific Union College campus chaplain and associate pastor of the PUC church, effective Sept. 1, 2014.

Henderson is a graduate of PUC, where he completed a bachelor’s in theology in 1999. Henderson started his career at the PUC church as outreach minister, followed by three years at the Campus Hill church in Loma Linda, Calif., where his ministry focused on collegiate and young adult groups. Since 2003, Henderson has served as lead pastor at the Grand Advent church in Oakland, Calif.

"Henderson’s vision for connecting students with their Maker, encouraging stronger relationships with Christ, and training leaders to help in this endeavor, make for a good PUC match," said Lisa Bissel Paulson, vice president for student services, in her announcement to the campus about the appointment.

A dynamic and enthusiastic speaker, Henderson is a frequent visitor to PUC, often speaking for Friday vespers, week of prayer, and Sabbath worship services. Henderson looks forward to being on-campus full time as chaplain. "I'm excited to return to the place where I clearly received my call from God," Henderson shares. "It is my desire to help create opportunities for the students to explore their faith, engage their Creator, and be unleashed on a world in need."

As campus chaplain, Henderson will minister to the student body as the spiritual life coordinator on campus, organizing programming, offering counseling and working with student leaders. He replaces Laffit Cortes, who leaves PUC after three years as chaplain to serve as the lead pastor of Miami Temple church in Miami, Fla.

"I'm filled with anticipation in partnering with Jonathan Henderson here on the PUC campus," says Mark Witas, PUC church lead pastor. "His gifts of leadership, teaching and mentoring are going to bring this campus to a new level spiritually. I know that God has His hand in this appointment."

Henderson will make his move to Angwin with his wife, Iris, a nurse; his daughter, Jessica, an incoming PUC freshman; and 22-month old twins, Nathan and Nya.
La Sierra University

Senior Class Fundraising Ride
Seeds Scholarship Endowment

This spring, nine La Sierra University students and staff pedaled their bikes 30 miles to the beach for some fun in the sun, and to help future senior students stay the course with their education.

Called Ride-for-a-Cause, the event raised nearly $1,000 to seed an endowment fund intended to help senior students cover remaining tuition balances prior to graduation. The fund was announced during this year’s commencement on June 15 as one of four gifts from the senior class. The graduates also gave the campus an ATM machine for the student center, chairs and blankets for the last First Service worship event held outdoors each year, and funds to repair the baptismal pool on Founders’ Green. The class raised approximately $4,200 in total for the four gifts.

“Many [class] officers knew about seniors who were struggling,” said religious studies/pre-nursing major Andrew Pedersen, class vice president, in reference to the endowment fund. “We wanted to start something that would last and have a chance to affect people who really need it.”

“We wanted to raise money to start an endowment fund for seniors to pay that last $100. We thought this would be a good way to raise it, and a fun way,” said senior accounting major and class treasurer Jazmyn Williams.

Marjorie Robinson, Student Life associate vice president and dean of students, spearheaded the fund development project and bike ride with the senior class. “I chose this project because, in my interaction with students, I realized that seniors have a particularly arduous burden of trying to pay off their bills, complete their classes, balance work and outside course requirements and many other stressors as they finish up their journey at La Sierra,” she said. “I thought that it would be nice to start a scholarship fund that qualified seniors would be able to access if they were in need of that last bit of money to complete the payment of their bill. It’s the university’s opportunity to make a long-lasting impression on the students as they walk out the door.”

The riders solicited sponsors and paid $20 each to ride. They received jerseys for participating in the event. The group traveled along a scenic paved bike path from the Green River trailhead in nearby Corona to Huntington Beach, sometimes challenged by strong head winds. Obed Olivarria, one of the class sponsors, Michelle Runnels and Kasha Robinson, two project supporters, greeted the riders at the beach with sack lunches. Three riders loaded their bikes into vehicles for the drive back home.

Pedersen and five friends decided to ride their bikes back along the paved path, pedaling a total of 60 miles. “It was not required for us to make the return trip, but we all agreed to do it before we set out,” Pedersen said. “It’s a fun ride.”

Robinson borrowed a friend’s bike to participate in the event. She was determined to go the distance and received a bit of inspiration from a fellow rider at just the right time. “When I was about 12 miles from my destination, [Counseling Center clinical therapist] Dan Nyiradi, a veteran rider who had already arrived, texted me a picture of the beach and said ‘you’re almost there.’ That gave me the inspiration and encouragement to make it the rest of the way.”

Williams rode with Robinson for the five-hour bike trip. “The first 20 miles were fine,” Williams said. “The next five miles I really had to dig deep for some energy. The last five miles it was like, ‘Can somebody come pick us up?’”

“This ride for me has so many analogies to the journey of pursuing and completing an educational degree, but it also very closely relates to our everyday life long journey,” said Robinson. “I was pleased to have accomplished this on behalf of the senior class, and my hope is that it will in so many ways be a continual blessing to others.”

Darla Martin Tucker
Funding a Vision: Local Donors Lead the Way with $100 Million Pledge

History was made July 15 at Loma Linda University Health.
Vision 2020 — a bold strategy to transform health care for millions of families throughout Southern California and beyond, and set a new course for education at Loma Linda University Health — was revealed to more than 2,000 people. They were joined by online viewers from countries around the world.

The highlight of the event was a $100 million commitment from Dennis and Carol Troesh of Riverside, Calif., which will go toward building a new Children’s Hospital tower, scheduled to open in 2020. Theirs is the largest gift to any health care entity in the Inland Empire, as well as the largest single gift in the history of the Adventist Church.

Dennis Troesh is the founder of Robertson’s Ready Mix, a local construction company. His wife, Carol Troesh, is the author of four historical fiction books for children. Their son-in-law, Zareh Sarrafian, recently retired from Loma Linda University Health as the chief administrative officer after 15 years of dedicated service.

Carol said their daughter is a graduate of Loma Linda University’s School of Nursing, and that several of their 12 grandchildren were born at the medical center. Troesh added that his mother had come from Orange County to be treated at Loma Linda University Medical Center because of its outstanding reputation.

“We’re so grateful that neither of us has had to have life-saving treatment here,” Carol said, “but we know that it’s here if we need it, and we want it to be here for all of our communities whenever they need help in the future.”

“This is the Lord’s Day,” Carol Troesh said, looking out over the assembled crowd under tented awnings in the warm sun. “God is the one who gave us the ability to earn this money. We are happy to return it to His use in this place.” Her husband added, “We humbly thank you for allowing us to be part of this wonderful work.”

Richard H. Hart, M.D., Dr.P.H., president of Loma Linda University Health, welcomed the announcement of Vision 2020 by saying it would establish “a new paradigm for education and health care, both locally and throughout the world. It will combine high-tech with high-touch, allowing us to redefine what it means to be healthy.”

Other gifts to the campaign will go toward building a new adult hospital, a free-standing research facility, and establishing scholarships and faculty endowments to train a new generation of health professionals.

In addition to the adult and Children’s Hospital towers, there will be a research and discovery building where collaborative teams will search for new breakthroughs in treatment and care. A distinctive portion of the building will house a new Wholeness Institute, focusing on helping people to live integrated, healthy lives that will allow them to prevent disease and lengthen their lifespans.

Rachelle Bussell, senior vice president for advancement, gave additional details about the campaign. She said in total it will be a $1.2 billion endeavor, bringing together several funding streams to create an “unprecedented and bold” effort. The $350 million to be raised from private
philanthropy represents a figure that is six times larger than any previous fundraising target at LLUH, and will be the largest amount ever raised for a project by any organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Other funding included in the $1.2 billion will be $175 million in California State funding for the Children’s Hospital, additional federal funds and other borrowed monies.

“We are pleased to announce that, with today’s pledge from the Troeshes, we have commitments of $149 million toward the philanthropy portion of our goal,” Bussell said. Her words were greeted with a standing ovation from the audience.

A parade of children, ages 3 to 12, many of whom were present or former patients at the Children’s Hospital, marched down the center aisle, each holding a balloon. Some children were in wheelchairs. “These 100 precious children represent $1 million each, totaling the commitment made by the Troesh family today,” said Hart as the happy children crowded the platform.

Leonard Bailey, M.D., surgeon-in-chief, Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital, spoke movingly in support of the program, and of his own experiences in training to become a physician at LLU’s School of Medicine. He is internationally renowned as founder of the pediatric heart transplant program at Loma Linda, which has saved hundreds of children’s lives over the past 30 years.

Hart said that the administration anticipates breaking ground on the new buildings in about one and a half years, targeted for early 2016. He said the new construction, much of which will take place immediately to the east (in front) of the existing cloverleaf towers and Children’s Hospital, will dramatically change the character of the campus. New adult and children’s inpatient facilities are required for California State seismic standards for hospitals, which go into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

Roger Hadley, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, said via video that Ellen G. White, one of the founders of Loma Linda, came to the site in 1905 and said, “This is the very place the Lord has shown me.” It was to be a place where people would become physically, mentally and spiritually whole. Hadley anticipates an even greater celebration in the year 2020, when Loma Linda University Health will be well positioned to continue to be a leader in clinical care, education and research, and offer its unique whole-person care to the world like never before.

Jiggs Gallagher

“God gave us the ability to earn this money,” Carol Troesh shared. “We’re happy to return it to His use.”
California

NCC ADVENTURER/PATHFINDER
Leadership Convention (Sept. 5-7) Leoni Meadows. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080; Adventurer, 925-603-5082.


“COMFORT FOR THE DAY” SEMINAR

CHURCH STATE COUNCIL
(Sept. 13) 50th Anniversary Celebration. 11 a.m. - worship service, speaker: Orlan Johnson, NAD Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director. 2:30 p.m. - rally, music: Sacramento Adventist Academy choirs, Carmichael church, 4600 Winding Way, Sacramento. Info: 916-446-2552, neva@churchstate.org.

50TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
(Sept. 25-27) Leoni Meadows. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

GRAND OPENING
(Sept. 27) American Canyon Fil-Am company church (110 Theresa Avenue). Info: 925-603-5047.

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH
(Oct. 1-31).

AFRICAN AMERICAN CONVOCATION
(Oct. 10-11) See ad in Northern California Conference pages of this issue.

Pacific Union College

PUBLICATION WORKSHOP
(Sept. 2-4) Academics learn how to make the most of their publications through writing, photography, graphic design, and film courses taught by college educators and industry professionals. Info: publication-workshop.puc.edu.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
(Sept. 17-21) New freshman experience five days of orientation, advising, and spiritual and social programs. Transfer student orientation takes place Sept. 21. Info: www.puc.edu/orientation or 707-965-7362.

FALL QUARTER BEGINS
(Sept. 22) PUC kicks off the 2014-2015 school year with a Welcome Back Celebration. For a full calendar of the year’s events, visit www.puc.edu/calendar.

COLLOQUIY SPEAKERS SERIES


ONE CHURCH
(Sept. 28) 12:15 p.m., PUC church. Lead Pastor Mark Witas speaks for this special, single-service Sabbath. Info: www.pucchurch.org or 707-965-7297.

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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.

HOMECOMING
(Sept. 19-21) Ukiah Junior Academy (180 Stipp Lane) is celebrating 100 years! Come celebrate with us! Featured weekend speaker: Jose Rojas. Golf tournament on Friday. Info: school office, 707-462-6350.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
(Sept. 25-27) Leoni Meadows. Info: Youth Department, 925-603-5080.

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Southern California Conference

RE-CONNECT SEMINAR (Sept. 6) 3 p.m.
Camarillo church, 3975 Las Posas Rd. Info: 818-546-8405


SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT (Sept. 13) 4 p.m., presenting Maksim Velichkin, an accomplished cellist, pianist and harpsichordist. A meet-the-artist reception held following the concert. Glendale City church, 610 E. California Ave. Freewill donations received at the door. Info: www.glendalecitychurch.org; 818-244-7241.

SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER Workshop (Sept. 13-14) Presenter, Gary Swanston, assoc. dir., GC Personal Ministries Dept. (Sept. 13) sessions, 3 p.m., 5 p.m.; 7 p.m. (Sept. 14) sessions, 9 a.m. (continental breakfast); 9:45 a.m., 12 p.m. Free registration: SabbathSchool@sccsda.org. Southern California Conference office, 1553 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 91206. Info: 818-546-8443

THIRD QUARTER BIBLE BOWL (Sept. 13) Topic, The book of Numbers. 3 p.m. Pasadena church. Info: 626-798-0544

FREE HEATING/AIR-CONDITIONING (HVAC) Technical Training (Sept. 17-March 20) 3-6 p.m. For men/women wanting to be certified in air-conditioning/heating repairs. University church, 1135 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles 90037. Students must take the EPA Certification Test for certification. SCC Men’s Ministry sponsor. Registration/Info: 323-734-1276, 323-766-9889, voice message; or e-mail charlesdolcey23@yahoo.com.

“CRAVING GOD” WOMEN’S CONFERENCE (Sept. 27) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Speaker, Tamyra Horst, author, Pennsylvania Conference Communication/Women’s Ministries director. Pacific Union office, 2686 Townsgate Road, Westlake Village 91361. Registration fee, $25. Registration deadline, Sept. 21. Sponsored by the Simi Valley Adventist church Women’s Ministries. Info/Registration: Becky, 805-583-2493; Jan, 706-264-8292


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DEBOOY, PAUL M. – b. March 10, 1926, Sioux City, Iowa; d. June 10, 2014, Walla Walla, Wash. Survivors: wife, Hildeg; sons, David, Tim; daughter, Deborah Hendricksen; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. Served as a youth director in South Dakota, Central California Conference, Mid-America Union, General Conference, Pacific Union Conference; served in Northern California Conference Trust Department and ADRA.


GARRETT, IRIS M. (MACPHERSON) – b. April 22, 1929, Treherne, Manitoba, Canada; d. June 1, 2014, Bakersfield, Calif. Survivors: husband, Gary; son, Donald; daughter, Karen Abbas; four grandchildren.


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